

PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1503 2ND AVE NE
ROCHESTER, MN 55906

PEACE
CHURCH



www.peacechurchucc.org

(507) 282-6117



OLIVE BRANCH MONTHLY

PEACE  CHURCH

HAPPY FALL! Yes, I said it – Happy Fall! Summer is over and time to engage in new and exciting ways. Many have been asking about our worship and faith formation plan for this fall. The Council and Staff continue conversations about how we can step into this fall season in the midst of COVID.

WORSHIP UPDATE:

At this point, we still do not have a date in which we can regather for in-person, inside worship. Our most important/vital component of our decision-making to reopen for in-person worship is about everyone's safety. We continue to follow guidance from the health care professionals in our community and the Minnesota State officials. We

will also continue our on-line services (thanks to our great tech crew) and possibly explore another outdoor service/experience. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we maneuver through these interesting times. Once we make the determination that we can safely open for in-person worship, we will provide ample notification.

FAITH FORMATION UPDATE:

In addition to not being able to provide in-person worship, we are also not able to begin our Faith Formation program as we normally would. But, our staff has been able to develop an exciting, creative, and inventive model for us to continue our ministry together. Please see the information in this newsletter... and find your own SUPER POWER! I also invite everyone to engage with our new interactive digital platform called DISCORD. Discord will allow us to effectively communicate and dialogue with one another in our newly emerging small groups and study circles. Check it out, and if you have any questions please contact Pastor Winston.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE – Tuesday, September 22 @ 7:00p

Finally, we are scheduled to have our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting in September. While we are not able to meet in person, we are creating a virtual ZOOM meeting opportunity for the congregation on Tuesday, September 22 @ 7p. At this meeting we will elect new Council Members and provide a PROPOSED 2021 budget for your review. This reviewal process provides an opportunity for your input and questions, so the Finance Team and Council can make any necessary adjustments/changes. The 2021 budget is not officially voted on until January 2021. Please join the ZOOM call at : <https://bit.ly/3lqiE36> Email Debby if you have any questions (office@peacechurchucc.org)

PEACE CHURCH TOWN HALL – As part of the Semi-Annual Meeting

As part of the meeting, we want to use this Semi-Annual Meeting time to have a PEACE CHURCH TOWN HALL. This will allow anyone to ask a question of our staff and/or Church Council. Hope to see you soon! Pastor Paul

FAITH FORMATION
KICK-OFF
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
FEATURED EVENTS
FINANCIAL UPDATE /
BIRTHDAYS

September 2020

**SEPTEMBER HAS ALWAYS
BEEN A TIME KNOWN FOR
GETTING BACK TO SCHOOL
AND PREPARING FOR FALL,
BUT 2020 IS ALLOWING US
TO TRY NEW WAYS TO
CONNECT WITH ALL OF
YOU. SEE THE DETAILS
INSIDE FOR WHAT'S BEING
PLANNED!**



We are so excited to share with you that we will be launching our faith formation program on Rally Day - September 27. Needless to say, things are going to be a little different in the COVID-19 era, but we think you are going to like what is coming! This year our theme is "Peace Powers." Our children and teens will be invited to embark on a journey to discover their own inner Super Powers. Here is our faith formation launch plan:

Children (PreK – 5th Grade): On September 27 from 11a-12p, our K-5 children can come by to pick up a super-hero kit. Inside each kit you will find 4 boxes, 1 for each week; new boxes will be given out each month thereafter.

Each weekly box will contain several things:

- A link to a video message from one of our leaders. They will explain the contents of the box and deliver a lesson and reflection on the particular theme of the month, connected to Christian faith, scripture, and our super-hero theme.
- A unique craft activity for your child to enjoy that is connected with the lesson of the week.
- A special superhero "mission" that involves completing a practical service activity or practice.
- Instructions to record and send us a short superhero video clip of your child. Our team will collect these clips for use in a special project that you will find out more about later on.

Each child will also receive a journal so they can reflect on and document their experiences as they engage their Peace Powers for this year's faith formation program. We promise you this is going to be a lot of fun. To help us with preparations for our kits, please sign up your child(ren) by September 20 via this google form: <https://bit.ly/3gw9rm7>

FINANCIAL UPDATE

We continue to be grateful for your continued support to the ministry of Peace United Church of Christ during this unprecedented time. Our giving for July was just a bit shy of our budget; much of this deficit would have been received with fundraisers and building use fees. We also have continued to keep our overall expenses down (\$39,470 for July vs. a budget of \$44,451). In August, we'll begin to fully recognize the expenses associated with our Associate Pastor position.

In the past we have really seen the decreases in pledging through the summer months, but are encouraged with the continued support from everyone!

Please contact Eric Theuer, Financial Liaison, if you have any questions.

	JULY 2020	YEAR-TO-DATE	JULY 2019
Pledges budgeted	\$33,250	\$232,750	\$36,958
Pledges received	\$32,038	\$230,847	\$36,195
Difference	-\$1,212	-\$1,903	+\$763



Image Top and Bottom: Scenes from outdoor worship



September Birthdays

We celebrate with those in our church family who have birthdays in September.

- 01 Noah Winter
- 02 Jacob Petit
- 03 Dale McCamish, Rose Zerby
- 06 Wendy Nevala, April Oelkers, Logan Petit
- 07 Evelyn Stiller
- 08 Aubrey Burkhard, Kaylene Geiger
- 09 Nate Barker, Mike Hawkins, Erick Rist
- 10 Ken Fritz, Tamara Haack
- 11 Vivien LeQuire, Shelley Schmitt
- 14 Margie Barrows, Joel Gordon
- 15 Anthony Cook, Ernie Roeber
- 16 David Arns, Carlton Swan
- 17 Thomas Winters, Bryan Winters
- 18 Joan Bietz, Becca Schliep, Anya Theuer
- 21 Jennifer Newton
- 22 Judy Berg
- 23 Benjamin Bedard, Quintin Dykes, Betsy Jorgensen, Carrie Wieland
- 24 Sharon Franklin, Sarah Gordon
- 25 Cassidy Harmon
- 28 Bruce Franklin
- 29 Karla Hamilton, Kim Tande
- 30 Judi Bjork, Melissa McLaurin, Carter Wortman



CALENDAR

September Events

WEDNESDAY 2: Sunday service recording, 6p

SUNDAY 6: Orpington Acres Vegetable Stand - parking lot, 10a

WEDNESDAY 9: Sunday service recording, 6p

SATURDAY 12: Confirmation (at individual homes), 10a-2p

SUNDAY 13: Orpington Acres Vegetable Stand - parking lot, 10a

SUNDAY 13: Confirmation (at individual homes), 10a-2p

WEDNESDAY 16: Sunday service recording, 6p

SUNDAY 20: Sign Ups for Faith Formation Due (see inside details); Orpington Acres Vegetable Stand - parking lot, 10a (Last time for the season)

TUESDAY 22: Semi-Annual Meeting/Town Hall Zoom, 7p
(Join the Zoom here: <https://bit.ly/3lqiE36>)

WEDNESDAY 23: Sunday service recording, 6p

SUNDAY 27: Rally Day Ride By, 11a-12p; Pastor Winston's Ordination Service (on-line), 3p

Pastor Winton's Ordination Service

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 3p:

Friends and Members of Peace UCC are invited to witness and celebrate this special occasion with Pastor Winston. His ordination - a special rite of dedication and commissioning to becoming a minister in the UCC - will involve the 'virtual' laying of hands and

special blessings from his home church in Massachusetts, the Minnesota UCC Conference, and Peace UCC. This celebration will take place via ZOOM and will be broadcast live from our web page.



SEPTEMBER REOCCURRING EVENTS

MEN OF PEACE
Every Tuesday, 7a
(ZOOM)

BEVERAGE AND BIBLE
Every Tuesday, 5p
(ZOOM)

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
Every Thursday, 7a
(ZOOM)

COMING THIS MONTH

Read the details about our Faith Formation kick-off and our Adult Small Group programming (including the Virtual Book Study - "The Cross and the Lynching Tree")

A new on-line community platform will be used for our teens and adults (Discord). Watch Pastor Winston's overview of how Discord will be used: <https://youtu.be/PUd992mMqGE>



We have face masks with the Peace Logo for sale. Price is \$10 ea. They are triple-ply 100% cotton with cotton binding ear loops. One size fits most adults; hand washable. Call the office (507.282.6117) if you'll like to make a purchase.

Teens (6th – 12th Grade): Our teens will also be participating, but we have tailored it to be more fun and relevant for them. While we won't be distributing "kits", we will communicate with them digitally to share many of the same things: a weekly video message, a service "mission", a video project and journal.

In addition, our teens will have access to a new on-line community that Peace Church is launching through the Discord platform. This is a very useful and private communication tool that we hope will be utilized by our whole church community. The teens will be able to communicate with each other about the faith formation activities they are doing, with adult leaders to monitor those conversations so that we can keep it a safe and protected environment for on-line discussion. Per our safe-child guidelines, these adult leaders will have a current back-ground check on file, as well as periodic check-ins with Pastor Winston.

To help us with preparations for these communications, please sign up your teen by September 20 via this google form: <https://bit.ly/3gw9rm7> (Note: to make this easier for families, the same form is being used to sign up all your children – we are not requiring one form for each child).

We are so excited about this year's faith formation and how we can use our Peace Powers to make this a better world! Please be sure to sign up your child(ren) ASAP!

Adult Fall Programming

This fall we will also be offering several new adult small groups that you can participate in. On our website, under "Get Involved" - Small Groups (<https://www.peacechurchucc.org/get-involved>) you will be able to browse, read descriptions, and find out all the details for these new small groups. In addition to the groups that are already meeting, you can join any of the following new small groups:

- Mental Health and Spirituality
- Divorce Support Group
- Meditation, Contemplation, and Prayer Practices Group
- The Cross and the Lynching Tree Book Study Group
- 30's and 40's Fellowship Group
- Enormous Africa: A Continent, Not a Country
- Race Forward: Hosting the Discussion on Race
- Community Art Projects Group

This COVID-19 era is also re-vamping our small group participation. The same on-line community platform (Discord) that is being used for our teens will be used for our small groups.

While these groups are just the start, the possibility of new groups will be created as we come up with more ideas and find more volunteers to help facilitate. The excitement for our 2020 fall programming is building. If you have an idea for a small group or would like to help facilitate one, please contact Pastor Winston (ypastor@peacechurchucc.org or 507-282-6117). We look forward to connecting with you!

FEATURED EVENTS

Confirmation

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12-13: 10a-2p— Please pray for this year's confirmation class as we celebrate the cumulation of their hard work. Due to COVID, Pastor Paul, Pastor Winston, Debby, Ben Bedard and church leadership will visit each confirmand's home for this special occasion. Videos of each celebration will be taken so that we can share with the entire congregation later. Help us in congratulating the following:

Keondre Bryant	Lainey LeQuire
Haylee Carlson	Mya Omdahl
Lucas Diekvoss	Kaleb Siewert
Alissa Giere	Lexie Walton
Elena Kesselring	

Faith Formation Sign Up

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20: To help us prepare for this year's faith formation, we are asking you to register your child(ren) by this date. To register: <https://bit.ly/3gw9rm7>. Questions? Clare Tarr (aoffice@peacechurchucc.org)

Semi-Annual / Town Hall Meeting

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 7p: While we are not able to meet in person, we are creating a virtual ZOOM meeting opportunity for the congregation on Tuesday, September 22 @ 7p. At this meeting we will elect new Council Members and provide a PROPOSED 2021 budget for your review. This review process provides an opportunity for your input and questions, so the Finance Team and Council can make any necessary adjustments/changes. The 2021 budget is not officially voted on until January 2021.

As part of the Semi-Annual Meeting, we want to use this time to have a PEACE CHURCH TOWN HALL. This will allow anyone to ask a question of our staff and/or Church Council.

Please join the ZOOM call at : <https://bit.ly/3lqiE36> Email Debby if you have any questions (office@peacechurchucc.org)

Rally Day Ride By

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27: 10a — Our pre-K through 5th graders are invited to bring your parents and stop by to pick up your first Super Hero faith formation kits. Each month we will be providing new kids for the coming month. Questions? Clare Tarr (aoffice@peacechurchucc.org)

Pastor Winston's Ordination Service

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27: 3p — Watch the live broadcast of Pastor Winston's ordination from our web page. This special occasion - a rite of dedication and commissioning to becoming a minister in the UCC - will involve the 'virtual' laying of hands and special blessings from his home church in Massachusetts, the Minnesota UCC Conference, and Peace UCC.

Adult Fall Programming

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER: Get signed up now for Discord and begin to connect with others as we launch our Adult Fall Programming. To sign up and for additional questions, see Pastor Winston (ypastor@peacechurchucc.org).



Image Below: Confirmation Student shares the highlights of her confirmation stole during the outdoor worship



Pastor Winston Update

Greetings Peace Church!

I just wanted to update you all on how my family and I are doing settling in. As you might imagine, there are a lot of things to get used to as I get to know the Peace Church community, how things are done, and getting acclimated in my new role. Despite COVID 19, I am excited about the things that we are working on and I feel very hopeful about the future and about the ministry of Peace Church.

We have been blessed to be able to buy a house early in August, up near Century High School. We are so happy and we love the neighborhood, everyone has been very friendly to us and we are starting to make a few friends. At the same time, managing the 3 kids, unpacking, and everything that comes along with a major transition has been predictably stressful. One of our sons clogged the upstairs toilet and we didn't realize it until the water had leaked through the main floor even made it to the basement ceiling. So, there has been a lot to deal with at home! Settling in takes time, so we are trying to have patience!

Jessica and the kids are still adjusting to the newness of everything, but I think overall they are happy and doing well. Once again, I think it will just take time for things to start becoming familiar, to really start feeling like home, and getting into a routine and rhythm of life. I know all of us have been struggling with that to some degree lately with the way that COVID 19 has affected our lives. I am just grateful and feel so blessed that we are healthy and that I have been given the opportunity to fulfill my calling here in this beautiful community. Although I know it will take time, I am looking forward to getting to know all of you better. Thank you once again for welcoming me and my family into the Peace Church family!

Yours in Christ,

Winston Janusz



PEACE CHURCH
Little Free Pantry

YOU CAN HELP— Our LITTLE FREE PANTRY is being utilized by those in need. Donations can still be dropped off in the bin located in the coat hallway - specifically needed is bottled water, toothbrushes, tampons, ravioli/SpaghettiOs (pull tab tops), granola bars and ramen noodles. For a list of other suggestions, go to: <https://bit.ly/3hCl1gN>

Monetary donations can be dropped off at the Welcome Desk. Questions? Contact Dawn Bradley (dgkilian@hotmail.com).