

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

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Family Worship 10:15 a.m.

FROM THE PASTOR....

Starting Places and Staying Places

I'm a worrier. I have always been. I was one of those kids who was afraid of monsters in my closet, was afraid of the dark, and was afraid of being away from my parents. I sucked my thumb for so long that I developed a callous on my knuckle and forever changed my bite so that my two front teeth jutted out like a rabbit. I worried about the potential for tornados and car crashes, that I'd contract rabies from the chipmunk that bit me and salmonella from the plants that grew in our garden. I worried about whether my teachers would like me, and if I would throw up on the bus. Worrying was my primary occupation.

Fast forward thirty-eight years or so, and that worried little girl occasionally rears up within me. As I've grown older and after some counseling at times, and some anti-anxiety medication at other times (particularly on airplanes), and much more life experience under my belt, I've learned that worry isn't especially productive anymore. Whenever I mention that I've been "thinking about something..." my spouse is quick to remind me that in my overthinking can be "a dangerous pastime." Recently I was reading a book that Pastor Nikki recommended to me by Sybil MacBeth called Praying in Color. It is about a new way of using journaling as a form of prayer. One of the quotes which jumped off the page at me was this one, "There's...the risk that instead of praying for [people or situations], I'll just worry about them. And worry is not a substitute for prayer. Worry is a *starting place*, but not a *staying place*." Wow! What a helpful way to name it. Worry can lead me into some ways that I want to pray, but ultimately, prayer is about letting go, yielding. Worry, ultimately, can be the tool that brings us to God but it isn't what keeps us there.

I've been thinking about what that means not only for me but for our congregation. Sometimes we tend to be worriers. We worry about our budget. We worry about whether we are welcoming enough. We worry about where we should prioritize mission. We worry about our corporate and individual health. And perhaps rather than worrying, we may feel more empowered if we recognized that worry is not a state in which we should stay. Perhaps instead of worrying we step into a new space of listening for the voice of God, and acting on the prompts that feel God-given. Perhaps worrying can be our invitation into new graced places where we look for how we can serve.

You've probably picked up on some of the messages the board and staff have been giving you about the state of Peace right now. We need a little help to meet our budget this year. We need a few more people to step into some leadership roles. We need a few more hands to serve at the Rescue Mission. All those messages are true. But, I want you to hear me say as your pastor that I am not worrying about those things. Instead, I'm going to choose to stay in the place where I trust that each of us will hear the call of God to continue to fulfill Peace's mission and ministry. I believe that God is alive and well in this church. I see God among this congregation.

And so I'd like to issue you an invitation to seek God's call in your own lives, that we may together move into our future. A future filled not with worry, but with hope for where God is calling us next.

Pastor Christen

Foods Resource Bank Joint Worship with Pleasant Chapel

A reminder that on August 20th we will have our combined worship at Pleasant Chapel Church of the Brethren at 10:00 a.m. There will be **NO SERVICE** in our building that morning. After worship we will gather for a carry-in lunch. Peace members have been invited to bring **bread & desserts** for the meal. If you would like to car-pool to Ashley, you can meet in the church parking lot at 9:15 a.m. and travel along with others. Directions to the church can be provided if need be!



Peace Church Mission Statement:

Peace United Church of Christ is a family of God's people who strives daily to demonstrate Christian witness in the community by celebrating worship, learning and teaching, caring for others and seeking justice and peace. As an open and affirming congregation, our door is open to all.

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

Please keep the following friends and families in your prayers:

Jinny Cocherille, hospitalized at Lutheran.

Continuing Prayers: *Ron Lewellyn, Jim Reams, Jim Waggoner, Spencer and Kelsey Brattain, Vivian Albert, Mike, LouAnn & Sam Stone, Rose Gaskill, Frank Hudson and Judy Miller.*

And we hold in prayer all those concerns that remain unspoken...

We celebrate new life in our congregation:-

Congratulations to Loyal & Carrie Vandenburg on the birth of Joel Michael, born on July 3rd.
Proud grandparents are Mike & Rise Vandenburg.

Congratulations to David & Carrie Norton on the birth of Jack Douglas, born on July 7th..

Congratulations to Jed & Charlotte Tompkins on the birth of Roya Beth, on July 23rd. She joins big sister Millie. They are the grandchildren of Julie Tompkins.





Peace Children and Youth News

*Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him;
and he vanished from their sight.*

—Luke 24:31

The youth are off to Emmaus Homes, Inc., in St. Charles, Missouri, this first week of August. Emmaus Homes began in 1893 as a mission of the Evangelical Synod of the West, one of the United Church of Christ's forerunners. They continue to serve the developmentally disabled today, as they have since their founding. "Developmentally disabled." It's a necessary part of service, defining those you serve. Labels help us to understand the needs of the people we serve. The youth will want to know about the people we'll meet. How will they act and talk? How should we act and talk back to them? What does it mean to be developmentally disabled?

I'm praying that at some point their eyes (and mine) will be opened. I'm praying that at some point they (and I) will recognize Christ in the people we'll meet in St. Charles, and that their label will disappear from our sight. I'm hoping that we'll see them not as developmentally disabled people, but as people we've come to know better than their labels.

Because when Jesus, the Risen Christ, walked with two men on the road to Emmaus, they did not recognize him at first. They talked with him; they walked with him. They described for him his own death and resurrection. But it wasn't until he finally broke bread and blessed the meal they shared at the end of their trip together, that they saw him as he was. They saw Jesus, the person that that fully reflected the God who sent him, the Son who came to show us all love. But they first had to journey with him. They first had to be close enough, spend time enough, and share enough with him to see him as God wanted them to see him.

That's how I hope we can try to see all people, as reflections of God's love. And I hope it we see it right here in St. Charles, Missouri, with the people served by Emmaus Homes, when their disabilities vanish from our sight.

May our eyes be opened,

Pastor Nikki



Pastor: Christen Pettit Miller
Associate Pastor / Director of Christian Education: Nikki Shaw
Administrative Assistant: Susan Tite
Organist: Dennis Bowman
Director of Celebration Choir: Jan Reams
Director of Angelus Bells: Rochelle Starnes
Director of Children's Music: Lorie Krouse
Children's Nursery School Director: Tonja Ashton

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**Cardmaking Get-together:**

When: Saturday, August 16, 2017  
Where: at church in the back carpeted area by the windows  
Time: 9:30 a.m. to ?  
Once again, we will be ordering \$5 box lunches.  
Come join us for a fun day of cardmaking that will help replenish the supply for our different card ministries.

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URGENT REQUEST.....It has been our practice to bring in magazines to the church office for Lutheran Hospital. We have been asked by the volunteers who collect the magazines to remind you to continue this small but important mission. Their surplus is getting low. !!

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**MISSION HOUSE.....**Karen and Jeremy delivered 42lbs of food in July. Well Done !!

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LADY CLEO'S 5th TUESDAY DINNER OUT.
August 29th @ 6:30pm
At Casa's Ristorante on Jefferson Blvd.
Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board next to the kitchen.

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**Did You Know...**

We are in "Ordinary Times," also called the "The Time of the Church?" It is the longest season in the liturgical year. It explores the mission of the church and uses the color green, symbolizing growth. Congregations in the United Church of Christ have the freedom to use any combination of colors (or no particular color) as seems best to them. The use of traditional colors, however, connects us to the wider Body of Christ and provides worshippers a visual aid that marks the transition from one season to another.

### **Did You Know...**

The Care Committee is sponsoring a "Prayer Wall?" It will be constructed immediately to the right as you leave the sanctuary through the east doors next to the nursery. It will be in view of our cross and provide anyone to leave a prayer concern in our church home both in full view or more privately.

***"Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known."***

***Jeremiah 33:3***

### **Did You Know...**

Congregational Life would love to hear your ideas for fellowship get togethers? We have the annual "Hanging of the Greens" & a

"Soup"er Bowl Chili & Soup Cook Off that is on the calendar for Super Bowl Sunday 2018 immediately after service. But, we would love ideas, maybe a card night, trivia night, movie nights out, pumpkin carving luncheon, recipe exchange with samples to taste, Yoga, book club, really nothing is off the table. Please leave your suggestions in the brown envelope on the bulletin board next to the kitchen.

Blank cards are attached for your use.

## **A Tale of Two Choir Directors Part One**

Vivian's first date with Vaughn Albert was listening to a performance of Vaughn's Barbershop Quartet. Music was a large part of Vivian's world, so she did not think it was too out of the ordinary to attend a concert while her date was one of the performers. Vivian was raised with a grandfather who directed a church choir so music centered around church was second nature, but her love for all kinds of music grew as did her relationship with Vaughn. They shared four wonderful children, grandchildren and 63 years of Barbershop music along with their love of music in the church.

As Peace Church was beginning to become an established church under the direction of Pastor Krueger, Vaughn did his part as Peace's Choir Director with developing a music ministry that included members of his own family. Vivian and Vaughn opened up their home to choir practices and meetings when there was no church building, their dedication of including music in worship was never ending. Vaughn, along with Pastor Krueger and many others, had the large task of starting a new church, growing a congregation, growing a music program with an incredible pianist and raising money. A song that Vivian still remembers from those early days was one Pastor Krueger always had everyone sing, "This little seed, it won't grow-but it did!"

The love of church and music in Vaughn and Vivian's lives was and still is so strong that it continues in the generations of the Albert blood and Peace Church has been the beneficiary of their and their family's amazing love of music.

Next month is the second part of how this family's love of music has developed into our Peace Celebration Choir that we have today.

## August~~~Birthdays

|                |    |                 |    |
|----------------|----|-----------------|----|
| Judy Miller    | 3  | Linn Bartling   | 14 |
| Roger Miller   | 4  | Kenton Clark    | 15 |
| Lois Hess      | 5  | Ian Dikeolakos  | 16 |
| Roger Doll     | 7  | Heather Blasius | 17 |
| Joyce Blosser  | 8  | Jillian Shaw    | 24 |
| Gary Dexheimer | 9  | Lydia Shaw      | 24 |
| Aidan Rivera   | 11 | Wesley Brooks   | 24 |
| Lorie Krouse   | 12 | Richard Thayer  | 26 |
| Megan Salzmann | 13 | Tim Shaw        | 27 |
| Judy Hogg      | 13 | Mike Vandenburg | 29 |



### HEAD USHERS FOR AUGUST - FRAN & ANN FRELICK

#### GREETERS:

|         |                            |
|---------|----------------------------|
| Aug. 6  | Mike Krouse & Paul McGrath |
| Aug. 13 | Denny & Bev Hauptert       |
| Aug. 20 | Mike & Lorie Krouse        |
| Aug. 27 | Mike & Rise Vandenburg     |

#### SCRIPTURE READER

|         |              |
|---------|--------------|
| Aug. 6  | Jan Reams    |
| Aug. 13 | Dodie Graham |
| Aug. 20 | Lorie Krouse |
| Aug. 27 | Larry Hoyle  |

#### INFANT CARE

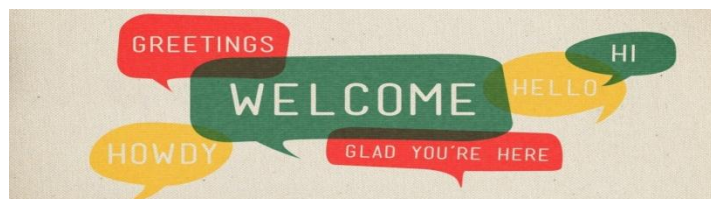
|         |                  |
|---------|------------------|
| Aug. 6  | John Paul Rivera |
| Aug. 13 | Jane Thomas      |
| Aug. 20 | Kim Brown        |
| Aug. 27 | Ann Frellick     |

#### OFFERING COUNTERS

|         |                                |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| Aug. 6  | Mike Krouse & Marilyn Nussbaum |
| Aug. 13 | Bev Hauptert & Larry Hoyle     |
| Aug. 20 | George Bartling & Rise V.      |
| Aug. 27 | Joyce Blosser & Kim Brown      |

#### ACOLYTES

Peace Youth





| Name                   | Title                     | Contact Info                              |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Bill Blosser           | Facilities Chair          | 260-432-7005<br>wlbns@yahoo.com           |
| Kim Brown              | Treasurer                 | 260-437-4015<br>dandkbrown715 @msn.com    |
| Rise Vandenburg        | Pastor Relations Rep      | 260-436-2827<br>teachrv@juno.com          |
| Sarah Huber            | Financial Secretary       | 260-672-8400<br>sehuber10@gmail.com       |
| Gary Dexheimer         | Mission Chair             | 206-436-1954<br>Garyd8949@aol.com         |
| Michael Krouse         | President                 | 260-436-6205<br>mkrouse@comcast.net       |
| Stephanie Mallory      | Recording Secretary       | 260-459-1817<br>smuhrick@hotmail.com      |
| Karen Masterson        | Congregational Life Chair | 260-436-1704<br>karenam@comcast.net       |
| Christen Pettit-Miller | Pastor                    | 260-338-2913<br>cpettitmiller@comcast.net |

This table will be included in all future newsletters.

## Back-To-School Supplies

For August & September we will have a Back-To-School Cart next to our Food Cart in the Narthex. We are looking to supply our Children's Nursery School & the teachers in our congregation with much needed items!

Every week the bulletin will have a list & the cart will have handouts with the requested items. Great Back-To-School promotions are right around the corner & it's the perfect time to stock up!

Some items are Tissues, Hand Sanitizer, Notebook Filler Paper, Pencils, Color Pencils, Crayons, look for more items in the bulletins. It will be exciting to hear who catches the best sales & buys a box of crayons for a quarter or a ruler for a penny!

Check out those sales that are coming up!

