

FEBRUARY

NEWSLETTER

Peace United Church of Christ 9123 Aboite Center Rd 260-432-8290

Peace Church Website:- www.peaceucc.net

Email Address:-Peaceucc@frontier.com

Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Family Worship 10:15 a.m.

FROM THE PASTOR....

Questions for Lent

I stumbled upon an article entitled "*40 Ideas for Lent*" on the blog of Rachel Held Evans (www.rachelheldevans.com), who wrote the book *Searching For Sunday*, which we read in our adult Christian Education class a few years back. I found this post so thought provoking, and the ten questions she asks at the beginning so well-written that I knew I wanted to adopt it into my Lenten practice this year. I wanted to share it with you all as well. I think the questions help us to hone in on exactly how we want to focus on growing in our faith in this season of Lent.

It is hard to believe that on February 14th we will be gathering for Ash Wednesday worship (at 6:30 p.m.). This season comes earlier this year and Pastor Nikki and I will be planning some contemplative worship experiences at 6:00 p.m. on the evenings of February 28, March 7, March 14, and March 21 to introduce you to some alternative contemplative worship experiences to draw you closer to God during this sacred season. We welcome you to a brief worship time on those four Wednesday nights to help open yourself in new ways to the sacred in this season.

But as you prepare, I invite you to meditate on the questions posed by Rachel Held Evans. May this season bring you into deeper awareness of the divine.

Ten Questions to Ask Yourself:

1. **When I wake up on Resurrection Sunday morning, how will I be different?**
2. **Is there a habit or sin in my life that repeatedly gets in the way of loving God with my whole heart or loving my neighbor as myself? How do I address that habit over the next forty days?**
3. **Is there anyone in my life from whom I need to ask forgiveness or pursue reconciliation?**
4. **What practical steps can I take to carve out time for daily contemplation?**
5. **What spiritual disciplines do I need to improve upon or want to try?**
6. **What are some things in my life that I tell myself I need but I don't?**
7. **Why am I giving a particular thing up? How does giving it up draw me closer to God and prepare me for Easter?**
8. **What am I going to tell myself when self-denial gets hard?**

9. Is it necessary/helpful for me to share the nature of my fast with others or should I keep it private?
10. What do the ashes mean to me this year?

Pastor Christen



THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
 Will be held on Sunday, February 11th following the worship service.
 We encourage everyone to stay for this meeting.

Head Ushers for February: Rick & Linda Hinton

GREETERS:

- Feb. 4 Jane Thomas & Julie Tompkins
- Feb. 11 Fran & Ann Frellick
- Feb. 18 Thom & Renee Moore
- Feb. 25 Jed & Charlotte Tompkins

SCRIPTURE READER

- Feb. 4 John Paul Rivera
- Feb. 11 Jen Dunn
- Feb. 18 Shelli and/or Paige Vucich
- Feb. 25 Linn Bartling

INFANT CARE

- Feb. 4 John Paul Rivera
- Feb. 11 Jane Thomas
- Feb. 18 Kim Brown
- Feb. 25 Ann Frellick

ACOLYTES

Peace Youth

MONEY COUNTERS

- Feb. 4 Mike Krouse & Marilyn Nussbaum
- Feb. 11 Bev Hauptert & Larry Hoyle
- Feb. 18 George Bartling & Risë Vandenburg
- Feb. 25 Kim Brown & Beth Ring

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.



February~~~Birthdays

Rise Vandenburg.....2
Hannah Shaw.....8
Betsy Krouse.....10
Joyce Dunkle.....11
Joe Brooks.....12
Jean Pfister.....14
Annette Parkerson....14
Paige Vucich.....15
Bernie Miller.....16
Allison Dikeolakos....18
Carter Krouse.....19
Rick Hinton.....23
Millie Tompkins.....27
Ken Dunn.....28

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

Continuing Prayers: Ron Lewellyn at Sage Bluff Health Care and Rehabilitation.

Continuing Prayers: *Karen Moessner, Mike Vandenburg, June Walcott, Brian Thomas, The Family of Deb and Matt Kelly, Spencer and Kelsey Brattain, Vivian Albert and Sherryl Vanner, And we hold in prayer all those concerns that remain unspoken...*

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**On March 16, 2018,** Dorothy Jernigan, Joyce Blosser's mother, will be celebrating her 100th birthday. We want to shower Dorothy with many, many cards on her very special day. You can send Dorothy a card at:

7833 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Augusta Cottage  
Fort Wayne IN 46804

The Member Care Committee would like to have the names of any high school graduate or college graduate in our church family and extended family so we can honor them in June at our Graduate Recognition Sunday. You may contact Nancy Hudson at 436-2673 or by e-mail at [nhud47@comcast.net](mailto:nhud47@comcast.net) to provide the necessary information.





## Peace Youth, Children and Christian Education News

### Lent not Lethe

I'm not an online encyclopedia, but luckily, Wikipedia is. Here's what it says about the Greek word "Lethe":

*In Greek mythology, Lethe was one of the five rivers of the underworld of Hades. Also known as the Ameles potamos (river of unmindfulness), the Lethe flowed around the cave of Hypnos and through the Underworld, where all those who drank from it experienced complete forgetfulness. Lethe was also the name of the Greek spirit of forgetfulness and oblivion, with whom the river was often identified.*

*In Classical Greek, the word lethe literally means "oblivion," "forgetfulness," or "concealment." It is related to the Greek word for "truth," aletheia, which ... literally means "un-forgetfulness" or "un-concealment."*

- Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lethe>

It's on my mind because we are soon entering Lent, the time when we do the opposite of un-mindfulness, the opposite of forgetfulness. It's when we remember the work Christ did in the world to turn this world upside-down. It's the work of turning "lethe" into "aletheia." The work of turning concealment to truth, darkness to light, and death to life. But nothing is so disorienting to the human mind as trying to see things from a new angle. Yet, in Scripture we read about this very thing. Christ's message is that if we want to live in the loving world God envisions for us, we must never forget that there is a different way to live. We must never trust systems that toss the poor aside, neglect the widow, ignore the orphan, forget the slave, deny the beggar, spit on the criminal. That Christ message is in every way battling against our human tendency to go with the flow of this world. But if Greek Mythology is any guide, we see that going with the flow in a broken world is to wade right into the River Lethe and forget the great love that Christ has shown us. We forget that the abiding miracle is not the resurrection, but Christ's loving kindness. And we must never forget that we are also capable of love, just like Christ. We can change the world with that love, one discarded person at a time.

May this Lenten season be one of mindfulness and remembering, one of focusing our very being on the upside-down world that Christ showed us, where love conquers hate and the meek inherit the earth.

*Pastor Nikki* Director of Christian Education

*Children's Church*

We are finishing up the epiphany season of learning and heading into a series on Lent. Ask your kids about what they are seeing, hearing, and doing in Children's Church.

*Youth News*

**NEXT MEETING:** February 4, 11:30-1:00 at church.

Our youth served at the rescue mission in January with our youth mentors Liz Graham and Paul McGrath. We were all blessed to be able to serve. Ask Hannah, Carlie, Kate or Claire about their service experience.

*Adult Sunday School*

We continue to meet each Sunday at 9 am to discuss the book "The Bible Makes Sense." Don't worry if you don't have the book or haven't been with us since we started the book study, you're still welcome to join us and we'll catch you up! We'll cover the final three chapters through February 18.

We'll be meeting on February 25 to discuss our next book study lead by Brian Thomas and set dates for a Bible study series on the Book of John, lead by Pastor Nikki. Join us!



**EASTER FLOWERS**

**Easter is coming a little earlier this year, so if you would like to have flowers in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday April 1st, the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board next to the kitchen.**

**Indicate your flower choice, color, price and who they are in honor and /or memory of.**



**Orders will be placed on Wednesday, February 28th.**

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

## Nursery School News

At the time of this writing, we have only had 2 snow day this season! ☺ We have had to spend several days inside due to extremely cold weather, but at least we are able to attend school this year. We spent a couple of days snuggling in at school in our pajamas as Ms. Renee read us some bedtime stories and we gobbled down some delicious pancakes with lots and lots of syrup. It was a great way to finish out the cold month of January. We started registration for the Fall 2018 and the forms are coming in slowly, but surely. If you know of anyone interested, please send them our way. We have space available in every classroom. Family Fun Night is scheduled for Friday, February 23 this year. This is an opportunity for families to come and spend time together and get to know each other and each other's families. The Scholastic Book Fair will be set up during the weekend of February 16<sup>th</sup>. Please feel free to browse the books and purchase one for that someone special on Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Happy  
Valentine's  
Day*

*Tonja Ashton*

Director



## CHURCH BOARD

| 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       |
| Paul McGrath               | Recording Secretary          | 260-438-2432<br>dadmcg53@gmail.com        |
| Karen Masterson            | Congregational Life<br>Chair | 260-436-1704<br>karenam@comcast.net       |
| Christen Pettit-<br>Miller | Pastor                       | 260-338-2913<br>cpettitmiller@comcast.net |



La Cage Aux Folles  
(The Birdcage)

Rated PG

Performing At the Civic Theatre

**Friday, February 23rd @ 8:00pm**

We are trying to get a group together for this performance, if you are interested in going, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board next to the kitchen

**Deadline for tickets is Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>.**

Ticket prices.....\$17.00 age 23 & under  
\$30.00 age 24 to 59  
\$25.00 age 60 & over

Join us for this fun filled evening !!

Please pay cash or write your check to Liz Graham for your tickets.