

MARCH

NEWSLETTER

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

PEACE CHURCH WEBSITE:-WWW.PEACEUCC.NET

E-MAIL ADDRESS:-PEACEUCC@FRONTIER.COM

Adult Sunday school 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:15 a.m.

PASTOR'S PAGE....

Pastor Nicole Shaw

I'm feeling inspired by this 2018 Lenten message from Pope Francis and wanted to share it with you.

"I would also like my invitation to extend beyond the bounds of the Catholic Church, and to reach all of you, men and women of good will, who are open to hearing God's voice. Perhaps, like ourselves, you are disturbed by the spread of iniquity in the world, you are concerned about the chill that paralyzes hearts and actions, and you see a weakening in our sense of being members of the one human family. Join us, then, in raising our plea to God, in fasting, and in offering whatever you can to our brothers and sisters in need!"

Lent is almost here. During Lent we have an opportunity to unite in attentiveness. Attentiveness, I think, is the root of Lenten practices. For example, you might be about to give something up for Lent. Growing up Catholic, at a minimum, we gave up eating meat on Fridays--growing up I had A LOT of accidental bites of pepperoni pizza on a Friday that sent me into a fit of Hail Marys. But I was missing the point, it wasn't about substituting steak with fish fry. It was about being attentive to my own bounty so that it also highlighted for me the dearth that others suffer. It was about connecting to the human condition, looking up and away from the personal, individual condition.

Fasting and other Lenten rituals and practices should aim to increase our awareness of the God who became incarnate so that God could participate in our reality in a radical way. The model for Lent, then, is to become more attentive, more aware. Particularly, we need to be aware of two things: God's unique participation in human life through Jesus Christ, and the way that that love-act binds us to each other so that we, too, share in the reality of our neighbors' lives. For better or for worse.

So do not be of the mind to give up for Lent, be of the mind to give in to God's wish for us: to love each other, as we are, with reckless abandon. It means putting on the hurt of others, not so that we all become swallowed up in it, but so that together we can lift what is too heavy

otherwise. In Lent we strive to strengthen the human family that God so loves that it even includes God's son, who loved and died as we do.

(By the way, you can click through the link to read the entirety of Pope Francis's message: <http://press.vatican.va/.../.../pubblico/2018/02/06/180206c.html>.)

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### **Opportunities for Contemplation**

During the Lenten season, Pastor Christen wanted to add some worship experiences which would be more contemplative in nature and would invite parishioners to consider new ways of prayer. And so, you are invited to a time of worship on the following Wednesday nights: *February 28<sup>th</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup>, and March 14<sup>th</sup>*. Each worship experience will begin at 6:00 p.m. Some of the spiritual exercises we will be practicing in these worship services involve lectio divina (or Divine Reading of Scripture), Guided Meditation, Prayer Walking, and anointing. You are all cordially invited to these worship services for a few moments of reflection in the midst of your busy week in this season of Lent.

### **Holy Week Worship Opportunities!**

We begin Holy week on March 25<sup>th</sup> with a Palm/Passion Sunday worship service at 10:15 a.m. which ends with the stripping of the altar in preparation for the events of the next week. On Thursday evening, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. we will have a classic Tenebrae Service for Maundy Thursday and share communion together. On Easter morning we will gather for a hot breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and then celebrate the Risen Christ in worship with the flowering of the cross at 10:15a.m. Immediately following worship, we will have an Easter Egg hunt for our little ones outside. We welcome all to these Holy Week events!

### **Peace Easter Sunday Breakfast**

**April 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall**

Sign-up on the bulletin board for attendance and makers of breakfast casseroles &/or baked goods.

Beverages will be provided.





**"Timely" Reminder: March 11th Daylight Saving Time begins.**  
**Please be sure to set your clocks *one hour ahead* on Saturday evening so you won't miss Sunday morning worship!!!**

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

**Please keep the following friends and families in your prayers:**

**Judy Miller**, whose cancer has returned, she has started treatment again.

**Continuing Prayers:** *Nate Ross, Jan Miller, Mike Vandenburg, Ron Lewellyn, The Family of Helen and Wayne Donnell, and Vivian Albert.*

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

**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

**Once Again**

In March we will be doing it again. Doing what? We will be having another double diaper shower. Both Heather Blasius and Hilary Lisinicchia are expecting in April. So stock up with diapers and save those coupons. Of course that means special refreshments too! See you there. Watch for the date in the Sunday bulletin.



**Nursery School News**

This has been a very unique winter for us at CNS. We have spent time playing indoors do to the cold and rain, but not due to snow. We were very fortunate to get to go sledding down our little hill for a couple of days in January and in February. The children were very, very excited when it did snow this month, but unfortunately it was too cold to go outside. There are lots of activities happening in the Nursery School during the month of March. Ms. Renee will be coming to share some stories with us. We will celebrate St. Patrick's Day by wearing green. The month finishes with our second set of Parent/Teacher conferences and celebrating March Madness by wearing our favorite sports team colors. We will start spring break on March 30 and resume classes on April 9. We continue to take registrations for the Fall 2018 school year. If you know of anyone looking for a quality preschool, please send them our way.

*Tonja Ashton*  
 Director

### **Kingston Cardmaking**

On Saturday afternoon, February 3, five Peace cardmakers traveled to Kingston on Winchester Road to help residents make Valentine cards. A fun time it was being with Phyllis, Bee, Joan, Reva, Bronna Beth, Ana, Jodi, Barbara, Ruth, Margaret, and Margaret. We all liked Phyllis's special Valentine socks that read, "Love you like no otter."

### **Valentine Envelopes**

Thanks to those people who so generously donated to the College Valentine Project. Envelopes, which included a \$5 Starbucks card, a \$5 Subway card, a Valentine card, plus a small sack of candy, were sent to: Allison, Aryn, Audrey, Conor, Ellie, Madison, Megan, Parker, and Sam.

### **Birthday List**

The Member Care Committee wants to send parishioners a birthday card. If your name and birthday are not on the Church Birthday List and you would like to receive a birthday card, please contact Nancy Hudson at [nhud47@comcast.net](mailto:nhud47@comcast.net)

### **Graduates**

Our high school and college graduates will be honored in June with a special Graduate Recognition Sunday. The Member Care Committee wants to make sure that all graduates are recognized for their achievement. You may contact Nancy Hudson at [nhud47@comcast.net](mailto:nhud47@comcast.net) if your son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter will be graduating.

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Head Ushers for March: Denny & Bev Hauptert

GREETERS:

March 4 Pat Sterling & Bekki Vail
March 11 Mike Krouse & Randy Metzger
March 18 Dave & Zo Matson
March 25 Jim & Bernie Miller

SCRIPTURE READERS:

March 4 Ann Frellick
March 11
March 18 Linn Bartling
March 25 Robert Pettit

INFANT CARE

March 4 John Paul Rivera
March 11 Jane Thomas
March 18 Kim Brown
March 25 Ann Frellick

ACOLYTES

Peace Youth

COUNTERS

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



Peace Youth, Children and Christian Education News

Meet Me at the Crossroad

There's a room on the Crossroad Child and Family Services campus that is called the play therapy room. I know this because I recently toured the facility with Kyle Zanker, the same woman who spoke with our congregation at worship on February 18. Kyle showed me lots of rooms. I saw dorm rooms and classrooms. I saw therapists' offices and emergency shelters. But the play therapy room is the one I most remember.

In the play therapy room, children can work out and share their difficult experiences without having to say a word. They communicate who the monsters and heroes are in their lives by situating action figures in a sandbox – the snarling Wolfman is in the bathroom and he's mean, the sweet-faced teddy is in the kitchen, and he's kind. What observers learn while they watch the playing that goes on in this room is invaluable for helping these kids to name and move past traumatic events. It gives them a safe space to name the monsters and identify the heroes. Between the terrible past these children have known and the bright future Crossroad is trying to secure for them, there are doorways they have to walk through and the play room is one of those doorways.

It's easy, thinking on the darkness in these children's lives, to feel like we have to stay there, sorry for their pain, frozen into a place of sympathy. But we don't. We need to be like these kids are, willing to peek through the door at the other side of their lives, a future that is kinder and warmer. When we think of the work Crossroad does to secure services for children who have so much hurt and so much need, we can't let ourselves live in the shadowy feelings. Crossroad does exist to harbor fear, but to bring light and hope.

Soon Crossroad will be launching a capital campaign to open up more opportunities to treat the many, almost exclusively Allen County kids that are still waiting for services. And we can be part of the bright hope for the over 60 kids on waiting lists for services at Crossroad. On May 17, 2018, Crossroad will host its annual dinner and I will be launching a campaign here at Peace to raise \$500 to sponsor a table. Eight church members would be able to attend the dinner and our church's name would appear on some of the sponsorship signage. Or, we can raise even more money – I certainly won't stand in the way of anyone's giving! – and be a bigger contributor to the mission of Crossroad to serve *every* child that comes to them.

We have a unique opportunity here. We can help without ever having to step into the shadows at all; we can be heroes. The folks at Crossroad are brave, caring people willing to go into the wilderness with these kids and help them achieve better, happier, healthier lives. All they need us to do is to support their efforts. We've heard the parable of the lost sheep from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 18; here, with Crossroad, is an opportunity to do something that rises to the inspiration this parable give us.

¹⁰ "Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. ¹² What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³ And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴ So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

May God's peace be with you this Lent,

Pastor Nikki

Director of Christian Education

Children's Church

The Lenten lessons are underway. Here's a few questions you might ask your children this month:

Who did God give the ten commandments to? (Moses, see Exodus 20:1-17)

What do you know about the story of Moses and the Bronze serpent? (See Numbers 21:4-9)

What happens when we plant a seed? (See John 12:2-26. The author of John relates a metaphor through Jesus about death and rebirth.)

What animal did Jesus ride into Jerusalem? (A young donkey, called a colt, see Mark 11:1-11)

Youth News

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, March 3 our youth will serve at Community Harvest Food Bank on that Saturday, in lieu of a Sunday meeting. We'll meet at church at 8 am and carpool to Community Harvest for arrival at 8:30 am. If you'd like to meet us there by 8:30, the address is 999 E. Tillman Road, Ft. Wayne, IN 46816. We'll be at the facility until approximately 11:30, then those who would like may join us for a group lunch. Everyone who chooses to go for lunch will pay for their own meal. **IMPORTANT:** To sign up you **MUST** register through this link <http://www.peace.communityharvest.volunteerhub.com/>. The link will bring you to our event page where you will be asked to create a user account in order to register for the event. **IF YOU DO NOT** register, you cannot volunteer on March 3.

We will gather at Pastor Nikki's house at 6 pm on Thursday, March 29th to stuff Easter eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt which will take place immediately following worship on Easter Sunday, April 1. Stuffing the eggs and hosting the egg hunt will be our youth activity for the month of April. Look for an email to come home with more details.

Adult Sunday School

We will continue to meet in March, discussion topic(s) to be announced.



CHURCH BOARD

Name	Title	Contact Info
Bill Blosser	Facilities Chair	260-432-7005 wlbns@yahoo.com
Kim Brown	Treasurer	260-437-4015 dandkbrown715@msn.com
Rise Vandenburg	Pastor Relations Rep	260-436-2827 teachrv@juno.com
Jon Vucich	Financial Secretary	412-977-6790 jgv740@gmail.com
Gary Dexheimer	Mission Chair	206-436-1954 Garyd8949@aol.com
Michael Krouse	President	260-436-6205 mkrouse@comcast.net
Paul McGrath	Recording Secretary	260-438-2432 dadmcg53@gmail.com
Karen Masterson	Congregational Life Chair	260-436-1704 karenam@comcast.net
Christen Pettit-Miller	Pastor	260-338-2913 cpettitmiller@comcast.net

The IKC Annual Gathering 2018 is scheduled for June 1-2 with Education Day May 31, 2018 at Friedens UCC, Indianapolis.

Peace UCC would like to send a dedicated contingent to be Ignited by:

- A concert with singer-songwriter and author **Carrie Newcomer**
- Worship, workshops and keynote with Marcia McFee, **Worship Design Studio**
- Preaching by Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser and Rev. Vince Amlin
- Church vitality and research Education Day with Rev. Dr. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi
- Opportunities for conversation that will fuel your fire for mission and outreach
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If you are interested in attending the IKC Annual Gathering, please contact Bill Hogg or Mike Krouse.

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.

March~~~Birthdays

Jennifer Schenkel 1
Angie Talley (Pick) 2
Carl Huber 4
Joe Donnell 4
Ed Salzman 8
Vivian Blundall 9
John Kelly 10
Laura Parkerson 10
Matt Blundall 12
Marilyn Nussbaum 13
Sarah Huber 15
Emily Pasquali (Ring) 16
Dennis Bowman 19
Patty Leslie 20

Becky Dexheimer 21
Kati Vail 21
Clara Blundall 22
Bill Hogg 24
Mary Riecke 26
Nancy Hudson 26
Traci Anders 28
Grayson Pettit 28
Paco Michelson 30
Emily Salzman 31



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



THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR CONTINUING TO FEED THE PAPER GATOR.

This is a great and easy fund raiser. You can put your newspapers, catalogues, junk mail and phone books. NO cardboard or cereal boxes. The church and the Children's Nursery school gets paid by the weight so please help.

Thank you !!