



MAY 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.

Pastor's Page

Plus One

If you are single when a wedding invitation comes your way, you'll sometimes be invited to attend with a "plus-one." In other words, the wedding invitation can sometimes seem to be saying, "We know you're all alone in the world, and have no one significant in your life, so, just bring along *someone*. Anyone." Can you hear that sad trombone playing?

But what's wrong with a plus one? Not having the option for a plus-one suggests a world in which all of your invitations are already filled out for you. Your wedding invitations say mister and missus—or mister and mister or missus and missus—and there's no possibility for bringing your best friend or your new neighbor. The invitations seem to say, "Here's who we expect you to bring to the party. We're sure your bestie who is also a fire-jumping fire fighter in Oregon would be a fascinating person to meet, but we'd appreciate the same old, same old, thanks."

What if a "plus one" is exactly what the wedding banquet, or your school board, or your community outreach group, or your book club—or your church—needs? Maybe your new idea is the idea the world has been waiting for. Maybe the person you take spin class with is the right person to introduce to our Rescue Mission volunteering each month. Maybe the guy you sometimes carpool to work with has a great idea for youth programming. Maybe the person in your local Facebook group has a new perspective on how to conduct worship.

When God sent Godself into the world, incarnate, in the body of Jesus of Nazareth, it was a whole new way of being, not just for the world, but for God who is with us. Instead of the same old, same old, God provided us with a unique plus one whose ideas and perspective changed the way the people who followed him looked at love, service, community, and eternity.

And when that special Son was his mother's plus-one at a family wedding in Cana, whole new worlds of understanding were opened to those assembled. Jesus turned water into wine, by unconventional means using vessels reserved for holding purified water, and not only did he make wine, but the *best* wine. "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now" (John 2:10).

So bring your plus one. Whether it's a friend from yoga class or an idea that you aren't sure will work out, bring it and share it with us here at Peace, because it might just be the best wine yet.

Blessed are the innovators,

Pastor Nikki

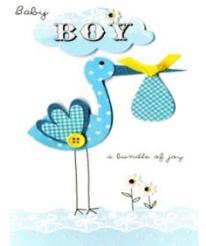
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**PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

Celebrations of new life:

*Congratulations* to Daren & Heather Blasius, on the birth of their son Parker Gene. Parker was born on April 9th and he has a big brother Landon.

*Congratulations* to Joe & Hilary Lisinicchia, on the birth of their son James Joseph. James was born on April 17th and he has a big brother Lewis.



**Continuing Prayers:** *Mike Vandenburg, Vivian Albert, Ron Lewellyn, Nate Ross and Judy Miller*  
*And we hold in prayer all those concerns that remain unspoken...*

**During Pastor Christen's Sabbatical:** Pastor Nikki is in the office each Tuesday, 9-2, and Wednesday through Friday by appointment. The staff meeting is every Tuesday at 10 am. If you need pastoral care or to schedule an appointment, please contact the office 432-8290 or Pastor Nikki 617-512-8692.



Thank you to Lorie Krouse, Brenda Palmer & a little help from Susan Tite for cleaning and reorganizing the library. It looks amazing.

**LADIES** - We have a 5th Tuesday this month. Unfortunately Susan Tite is not available to organize the dinner this time. If you are interested in planning a ladies night out on Tuesday, May 29th please contact the church office 432-8290.

Pastor: Christen Pettit Miller  
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  
Directors of Children's Music: Lorie Krouse and Bekki Vail  
Children's Nursery School Director: Tonja Ashton



Peace Youth, Children and Christian Education News



## Babble On!

May showers bring Vacation Bible School flowers, at least, that's how it goes in my world. As we prepare for the June 18-22 evening VBS—the theme is Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity—I'm remembering that it takes a lot of time, talent, and treasure to make for a successful week of Bible stories and fellowship.

During that preparation time, there's a lot of babbling that goes on. I babble about plans. I babble to volunteers about decorations and food for our snack table. I babble to our office administrator, Susan about shipments and supplies. I babble on phone calls and over emails. My excessive communication is partly a nervous release, but it's mostly idea exchange. When I process my plans out loud, with conversation partners, church family, it makes room for new ideas and inspiration. There's a healthy, holy back-and-forth.

Or maybe it's a byproduct of spending time with so many kids, my own and our church kids, who also have a tendency to process out loud. Whether it's about their day, some tough bit of homework, or last week's sporting event, kids come to any conversation with details to spare. Sometimes we think these details may not be important, but if we are really listening, listening like our Shepherd God listens to us, we will find that new ideas and exciting possibilities open up. When we take the time to give up our own thoughts and plans, we give ourselves over to the things that God has planned for us.

So, babble on! Inspiration is in the spaces between conversations.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Nikki*

Director of Christian Education



### ***Children's Church***

May will wrap up Children's Church for the season. Stories your kids will hear about include:

- Abiding in God's love (John 15:9-17). This section in John talks a lot about what it means to be in God through Christ. Maybe talk with your kids about what it means to be in love, in all the ways that love manifests itself.
- In the book of Acts we learn that Matthias is chosen to replace Judas, who betrayed Jesus before the crucifixion. Sometimes people do inexplicable things, like when Judas betrayed Christ. Talk to your kids about what it means to let go of blame and take responsibility for moving on with what's important.
- At Pentecost, we learn in the book of Acts how the Holy Spirit is given to those who would do the work of God on earth. Did you know that the Pentecost festival was originally a Jewish celebration commemorating the reception of God's law through Moses?

**Youth News**

**NEXT MEETING:** Sunday, May 6. **ALL THE CHILDREN**, pre-k through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, are invited to participate in a group event in which we will examine poetry and expression, with our guest Youth Group Leader, Trina Leshay-Johnson, poet and chaplain. We'll have some found poetry making, limerick fun, and other crafty, poetry-related activities. Children will meet from 11:30-12:30, youth will stay until 1 pm to work with Trina on creating poetry of their own to share, as they choose, in our June 3 worship service.

**Look for information on summer events to come home soon!**

**Adult Sunday School**

We will finish up our study of the book *Glorify* this month, and make plans for a Bible study on the Gospel of John. Please join us at 9 am each Sunday!



**Nursery School News**

It has been a wonderful year full of new ideas, new experiences, and lots of fun filled days. The month of May closes out another school year at CNS. We have spent the year working on the skills needed for the next steps in our lives and made many new friends during that process.

The month of May brings a bus visit from Southwest Allen County school system for the 4 and 5 year olds as well as a visit to the playground of Haverhill Elementary. We will spend our last two days of classes with our parents having lunch and ice cream.

It has been another amazing year at the Nursery School. Thank you to all the Church Members that supported us throughout the year. We appreciate you support, kind words and prayers for our children, families, and staff. Have a great summer—see you in September.

*Tonja Ashton*  
Director



**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

**If you are interested in attending the IKC Annual Gathering, please contact Bill Hogg or Mike Krouse.**

## CHURCH BOARD

| <b>Name</b>                | <b>Title</b>                 | <b>Contact Info</b>                       |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 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          |
| Jon Vucich                 | Financial Secretary          | 412-977-6790<br>jgv740@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        |
| Liz Graham                 | Congregational Life<br>Chair | 260-704-5499<br>grahame800@aol.com        |
| Christen Pettit-<br>Miller | Pastor                       | 260-338-2913<br>cpettitmiller@comcast.net |

### Head Ushers for May - Amy Barrett & Sharon Lewellyn

#### GREETERS:

May 6 Pat Sterling & Susan Tite  
 May 13 Bill & Joyce Blosser  
 May 20 The Dunn Family  
 May 27 Carl & Barbara Bauer

#### SCRIPTURE READER:

May 6 Liz Graham  
 May 13 Lorie Krouse  
 May 20 Carrie Norton  
 May 27 Bev Hauptert

#### INFANT CARE

May 6 John Paul Rivera  
 May 13 Jane Thomas  
 May 20 Kim Brown  
 May 27 Ann Frellick

#### ACOLYTES

Peace Youth

#### COUNTERS

May 6 Mike Krouse & Marilyn Nussbaum  
 May 13 Bev Hauptert & Larry Hoyle  
 May 20 George Bartling & Rise Vandenburg  
 May 27 Kim Brown & Beth Ring

## May~~~Birthdays



|                       |    |                |    |
|-----------------------|----|----------------|----|
| Zach Leslie           | 1  | Meggie Vail    | 17 |
| Griffin Leslie        | 1  | Evan Mallory   | 19 |
| Frank Hudson          | 1  | Chris Campbell | 24 |
| Nick Starnes          | 1  | Beth Ring      | 26 |
| Ann Frellick          | 5  | Beth Donnell   | 26 |
| Addison Jones         | 8  | Pat Sterling   | 27 |
| Amy Unterfranz (Ring) | 9  | Traci Rivera   | 30 |
| Leah Mallory          | 9  | Brian Migliore | 31 |
| Amelie Rivera         | 12 | Paul McGrath   | 31 |
| John Nussbaum         | 14 |                |    |
| Ethan Thomas          | 16 |                |    |

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SUBJECT: Help Peace Church's resident ballet dancer to fundraise for JUNTOS Collective

Peace Church Family,

I will be traveling to Granada Nicaragua this June for 3 weeks to teach dance. I am going as an ambassador through an organization called JUNTOS Collective and I will be working with four organizations while I'm there: Casa Xalteva (a Spanish school that runs an after-school program for at risk kids. They provide homework help, supplies and extra curricular activities.), Hogar de Ninas (is a home for girls coming from difficult family situations and can no longer reside with their families.), Hospicio de ancianos Hermanas de la caridad (is a nursing home) and the last is La casa de los tres mundos (a communi center).

Your support would be greatly appreciated! Here is the link to my fundraising page <http://bit.ly/dance-makes-a-difference>



Thanks!

Rena Bernadini

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.



Christmas in July

During the month of July we will be having a special offering each of the 5 Sundays called "**Christmas in July**" !!!

There will be special offering envelopes available and you will also be able to give through Tithely.

This special offering is to help offset the cost of purchasing portable DVD players and noise-cancelling headphones for the clients of Crossroad Child & Family Services, as we think ahead to our annual mission of providing them with Christmas gifts.

These items are especially important to the clients as they live in open dorms with very little privacy, and portable DVD players and noise-cancelling headphones allow them to have time to themselves.

Be on the lookout for more details next month!!



CROSSROAD
Child & Family Services

They serve hundreds of children daily...

135 Outpatient Clients

60 Community Based Clients

22 Alternative Education Students

60 Residential Clients

Sadly young people arrive at Crossroad facing a number of traumatizing factors in their lives. Recent statistics for children in our psychiatric residential facility revealed:

61% witnessed domestic violence

46% are victims of sexual abuse

43% are victims of physical abuse

56.5% have a parent with a psychiatric diagnosis

45% are victims of parental neglect

50% are special education students

54.5% have a parent with a substance abuse problem

Our Successes:

92.86% of Children in our intense Residential program successfully complete their treatment plan and have planned positive discharges (21% higher than the state program benchmark)

80% of our children in our Community Based services successfully complete their treatment plan and have a planned positive discharge (16% higher than the state benchmark)

85% of children in our Outpatient Services successfully complete their treatment plan and have a planned, positive discharge (31.5% higher than the state benchmark)

87% of children in our Alternative Education program achieve education success as defined by improvements in attendance, achievement and behavior (33.4 % higher that the state benchmark)