

JULY NEWSLETTER

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

Peace Church Website:- www.peaceucc.net

Email Address:-Peaceucc@frontier.com

Family Worship 10:15 a.m.

FROM THE PASTOR....

Embedded Church

In a recent conversation with a theologian friend, we were chatting about what ways God is calling people into ministry – professional and lay ministry – in the church today. He offered this: essentially, what makes people committed to the work of the church is the experience of the church. His analogy was to people who join the Armed Forces. For everyone who goes on to become a career military professional, they must begin as someone involved in the everyday, sometimes harrowing work of the military. You have to be embedded in the work before you can realize your gifts and bring them to light.

In theological terms, we know something similar. No one chooses their theology, not entirely. A large part of what we call our theology, that is, what we think and say about God and faith, is embedded in our hearts and minds. Here's an example of what I mean. If I were to ask most people of Christian faith (even myself!), how it is that the Holy Trinity works, we might answer, "It's a mystery!" But we would also be a little shocked to realize that while we know very well, and even believe deeply in, the union of God–Christ–Holy Spirit, we can't really say how or why we know and believe. That part of our understanding is embedded, we've experienced it and so it is part of our faith.

So, too, do we experience church not as a thing we understand before we serve, but as a thing, a group, a family, a coming together in Christ, that we engage with and then slowly realize we don't only understand church and God and faith better, but church has helped us to better understand ourselves. We go from willing participants with God to "instruments of your peace," as Saint Francis wrote in the 12th century. We find that our gifts were embedded inside us all along, and what we learn in church is how best to share them and sharpen them.

For those of us (including your very own seminarian pastor) who like to have our thinking arranged before we go about our doing, let us surrender some portion of our pursuit of knowledge in favor of our discovery of gifts. Let us ask ourselves, what has God fashioned us for, and how do our unique talents serve what we know and believe about God? How can we let ourselves join in the life of the church so that we come to know better the ways in which we can give the glory to God?

Yours in the mystery and the reality of God's love,

Pastor Nikki

First Ever Parents of Preschoolers Play Date

Join us on July 10, from 10:30 am to 12 pm, for a Peace/Children's Nursery School Play Date! You're welcome to invite friends and to bring your children of all ages to play under adult and youth supervision while the parents (or other caregivers) meet in the sanctuary to share parenting stories and to have a discussion lead by Pastor Nikki about how to see our littlest ones as people in their own right, not just offshoots of their parents. We'll also talk about the way in which defining ourselves separately from our children helps them to do the same, and how that leads to healthier relationships now and in our children's futures. Please sign up online through Sign-Up Genius here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f48acae2fa6fe3-childrens>. We will have refreshments available. Sign up by July 6 is appreciated, so we can provide enough childcare and refreshment for all attendees.

Youth Updates

- We would like to have as many youth as possible on hand for the Peace/CNS Play Date to help watch and play with the children. Please let Pastor Nikki know if you can volunteer.
- We'll be planning an Escape Room outing for fun and fellowship in late August. Youth members and parents, please check your email for more information.

Two Volunteer Opportunities

1) We'd like to organize a group to help repaint the nursery school playhouse and to add plastic edging to the rock beds around the playground to keep the rocks from spilling out onto the walkways. Please contact the office if you'd like to help out, we'll set a date after we get a sense of our volunteer availability.

2) We need a volunteer to teach Children's church for the 2018-19 school year. You would be asked to help prepare classroom materials and to teach one Sunday per month, September through May. Please contact Pastor Nikki at nicoleleighshaw@gmail.com or 617-512-8692 if you would like to volunteer.

Tuesday Prayer at Ten: We invite you to pray along with the pastoral and office staff every Tuesday at 10 am. For July our prayer is "I am still. I am in the presence of God."

PRIDE FEST:

Join Peace UCC at Fort Wayne Pride 2018. We'll have a booth at the event on Saturday, July 28 at Headwaters Park in Downtown Fort Wayne. We invite you to volunteer to manage the booth or just swing by and visit and have fun at Fort Wayne Pride.

Contact Brian or Garsy Thomas to volunteer (see their contact info in the directory). As an Open and Affirming Congregation, we are proud to be a part of Fort Wayne Pride 2018. For more information, visit the Fort Wayne Pride web site: <http://www.fwpride.org/>.

Christmas in July for Crossroad Child and Family Services!



This July we'll be collecting donations to support our annual Christmas gifts collection for the children of Crossroad Child and Family Services, a group that serves abused and medically fragile children in Allen County. One of the most important gifts the kids request are personal DVD players and noise-cancelling headphones. These items give the children a way to create personal space in an environment in which they live in groups and with roommates – this personal space is vital to their improved mental health. But because they are the most expensive items on the children's wish lists, we often find they don't fit into our already tight Christmas gift budgets come December. That's why we are celebrating **Christmas in July** this month! You may make a donation to "Christmas in July for Crossroad," through the church office, the collection plate, or online through Tithely. We'll use the money to purchase DVD players and noise cancelling headphones in December. This July let's make it a Christmas to remember!



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 than the state benchmark)

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

Please keep the following friends and families in your prayers:

Continuing Prayers: Dorothy Jernigan, Kent Clark, Brian Thomas, Mike Vandenburg, Vivian Albert, Ron Lewellyn, Nate Ross and Judy Miller.

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



Look who has been busy moving house:

Carl & Beth Ring have a new address
2427 Cheverly Lane
Fort Wayne, In. 46804



Ron & Sharon Lewellyn
6723 S. Anthony Blvd. Apt. 232
Fort Wayne, In. 46816

Peace Church Family:

Have you ever wondered what you would do if we had to evacuate the building or if we had to take shelter within the building?

It is important to know how to collectively respond in the event of an emergency. As a guide for responding to an event, Peace has developed an Emergency Response Plan. To learn more, you are invited to attend an informational meeting on **Sunday, July 15 @ 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall.**

THESE DAY'S DEVOTIONAL BOOKS FORJuly, August and September are on the back table in the sanctuary.

LADIES WE HAVE A FIFTH TUESDAY IN JULY

**So keep July 31st free for a night out for fun and conversation.
We will announce the restaurant in an upcoming Sunday bulletin.**

Prayer Beads Available We've been blessed with a donation of prayer beads, handmade by Kim Hunziker, a jewelry artist and friend of Pastor Nikki. If you'd like to take a string of prayer beads for yourself or someone else, please do. A free will donation of \$10 is welcomed, but not necessary. \$5 of the donation will go back to Kim to support her bead ministry. \$5 will go to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), which supports the Indiana-Kentucky Conference, of which Peace Church is a member. Make donations payable to Peace Church, with an indication that they are for "Prayer Beads."

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.

HEAD USHERS FOR JULY - BILL & JOYCE BLOSSER

GREETERS:

July 1 Salzmann Family
 July 8 Ed & Cindy Schultz
 July 15 Karen Masterson & Julie Tompkins
 July 22 Bill & Judy Hogg
 July 29 Kim Brown & Susan Tite

SCRIPTURE READER:

July 1 Amy Barrett
 July 8 Jan Reams
 July 15 Rise Vandenburg
 July 22
 July 29 Judy Hogg

INFANT CARE

July 1 John Paul Rivera
 July 8 Jane Thomas
 July 15 Kim Brown
 July 22 Ann Frellick
 July 29 Barbara Bauer

OFFERING COUNTERS

July 1 Mike Krouse & Marilyn Nussbaum
 July 8 Bev Hauptert & Larry Hoyle
 July 15 George Bartling & Risë Vandenburg
 July 22 Joyce Blosser & Kim Brown
 July 29 George Bartling & Risë Vandenburg

ACOLYTES FOR THE SUMMER

Peace Youth

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Faithful Giving as of May 31, 2018

Month	Faithful Giving Actual YTD	Faithful Giving Budget YTD	YTD Over/(Under)	Current Bank Balance
May	73,240	73,668	(448)	35,354
April	57,283	57,882	(599)	34,952
March	49,414	43,850	5564	29,812

VACATION REMINDER

As we approach July 4th, many Peace Church families will thinking about taking a well-deserved vacation to a new place or a favorite familiar place. However, church bills such as salaries and utilities don't take a vacation and must be paid as usual all summer long. Please put Peace Church on your vacation check list and be sure to keep your giving current even while you are out of town. That way we'll be able to meet our financial responsibilities all summer long and you won't be in a catch-up mode when you return from your trip. Thanks for your generous continuing financial support!

George Bartling for the Finance Committee

Scripture Readers Needed!

It's that time of year again when we are in the process of creating a new schedule for the 2018-2019 worship season for Pastor Christen. If you have not been a **Scripture reader** before and would like to be added to the list, we'd love to have more folks to join in sharing the word during worship! Please email Pastor Christen at cpettitmiller@comcast.net if you are interested in serving the church in this way.

Also we will be working on the 2018-2019 **Head Ushers and Greeters list**. Susan, with the help of Brenda Palmer, will be doing the same format as before by scheduling you to greet on a particular Sunday during the year. **Head Ushers**, we truly appreciate your presence on a Sunday morning greeting everyone at the front door for the month you are given. We hope you will continue, and anyone who would be interested to be a Head Usher for a month or if you feel you can no longer fill that commitment, please let the church office know 432-8290. We would be delighted to add you to the list.

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### CHURCH BOARD

| Name                   | Title                     | Contact Info                                                                             |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bill Blosser           | Facilities Chair          | 260-432-7005<br><a href="mailto:wlbns@yahoo.com">wlbns@yahoo.com</a>                     |
| Kim Brown              | Treasurer                 | 260-437-4015<br><a href="mailto:dandkbrown715@msn.com">dandkbrown715@msn.com</a>         |
| Rise Vandenburg        | Pastor Relations Rep      | 260-436-2827<br><a href="mailto:teachrv@juno.com">teachrv@juno.com</a>                   |
| Jon Vucich             | Financial Secretary       | 412-977-6790<br><a href="mailto:jgv740@gmail.com">jgv740@gmail.com</a>                   |
| Gary Dexheimer         | Mission Chair             | 206-436-1954<br><a href="mailto:Garyd8949@aol.com">Garyd8949@aol.com</a>                 |
| Michael Krouse         | President                 | 260-436-6205<br><a href="mailto:mkrouse@comcast.net">mkrouse@comcast.net</a>             |
| Paul McGrath           | Recording Secretary       | 260-438-2432<br><a href="mailto:dadmcg53@gmail.com">dadmcg53@gmail.com</a>               |
| Liz Graham             | Congregational Life Chair | 260-704-5499<br><a href="mailto:grahame800@aol.com">grahame800@aol.com</a>               |
| Christen Pettit-Miller | Pastor                    | 260-338-2913<br><a href="mailto:cpettitmiller@comcast.net">cpettitmiller@comcast.net</a> |

**August 19<sup>th</sup>** 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 breads & 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!

## July~~~Birthdays

|                                                                                   |                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| LouAnn Stone                                                                      | 1                   |
| Kylie Kennedy                                                                     | 1                   |
| Shane McQuillan                                                                   | 1                   |
| Jeff Pick                                                                         | 3                   |
| Dan Walcott                                                                       | 3                   |
| Chris Henniger                                                                    | 4                   |
| Darlene Collins                                                                   | 6                   |
| David Schenkel                                                                    | 7                   |
| Daren Blasius                                                                     | 7                   |
| Aria Jones                                                                        | 10                  |
| Amayla Jones                                                                      | 11                  |
|  | Gillian Anders 12   |
|                                                                                   | Korban Anders 12    |
|                                                                                   | Josephine Dunn 12   |
|                                                                                   | Rochelle Starnes 14 |
|                                                                                   | Titus Burns 15      |
|                                                                                   | Makenna Burns 16    |
|                                                                                   | Hee Eun Park 17     |
|                                                                                   | Lena Wilder 20      |
|                                                                                   | Renee Moore 21      |
|                                                                                   | Kevin Vail 22       |
|                                                                                   | Susan Tite 25       |
|                                                                                   | Ryan Yoder 25       |
|                                                                                   | Christian Wilder 27 |
|                                                                                   | James Miller 27     |

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  
Director of Children's Music: Lorie Krouse  
Children's Nursery School Director: Tonja Ashton

