

JUNE 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 Sunday 10:15 a.m.

First Steps

Every Tuesday at 10 in the morning we have a staff meeting here at church. We start with a prayer and then a time of sharing. In a recent meeting, Susan, our administrative assistant, shared that her one-year-old granddaughter, Veronica, had taken her first steps.

Susan was delighted, of course, but so was Veronica. I know what that delight looks and feels like. I bet many of you do, too. I have a video of my youngest, Henry, toddling toward me, taking his first steps. He was delighted, too. Squealing, smiling, filled with joy and amazement.

When Susan shared with us about Veronica's first steps, and as I recalled Henry's, I felt at first a twang of regret; it's too bad they can't remember that moment the way we can. But when I re-watch Henry's video, a better thought emerges. Joy is eternal and doesn't require us to make a memory of every happy moment.

I believe all of our best moments happen in the present, when we are involved in the will and purposes that God has for our daily living. Baby's first steps are no less valuable than those moments that happen when we are old enough to turn them into memories. Joy is joy. It's not increased simply because we can remember it later.

This month we are also honoring our graduates who are part of the larger Peace Church family. They, too, are taking first steps of a sort. Someday they'll look back at graduation pictures or diplomas hanging on the wall and remember the happiness and sense of achievement that comes with graduation. And that remembering will be good, but not better than the moment in which it first happened. Joy comes to life with first steps.

God is with us in our present moments. Who's to say that a baby's first steps and the laughter and giggles that come with them, aren't really living on forever, held by God, for whom all things remain present? What a wonderful heaven that would be, where we all share in the wonder of being witnesses to baby steps and graduations.

May you have the joy of knowing God is with you – now,

Pastor Nikki

Peace Youth, Children and Christian Education News

Why Vacation Bible School Matters

We average 40 attendees at vacation bible school (VBS). I've heard that in years past, we've had double that. And as far as I know, almost none of those who attend who aren't already Peace Church members end up joining our church family.

We have dozens of volunteers every year. Some come every night, some donate supplies, some take photos. I spend countless hours on VBS, and I know that those who have organized it over the years, who are still volunteering today, have spent countless hours on VBS, too. And as far as I know, some of those volunteers and directors and supplies donors have left Peace Church for other churches.

We have crafted and sung and heard Bible stories each year. Sometimes we've met during the day. More recently we've met at night. We try to slide our program around so that long-time devotees and folks who are new to the program can attend and volunteer. And as far as I know, moving the times and dates hasn't significantly increased or decreased our attendees.

So why do it at all? VBS doesn't seem to bring in new church members. VBS doesn't seem to retain existing members. Tweaks to VBS don't seem to affect the number of attendees. Maybe it's a program that we shouldn't bother with, what with the organizing demands and the time demands. Maybe the numbers aren't adding up and we should consider letting this go.

Except that Jesus didn't come as a Holy Accountant. Jesus didn't come to build a program or a church. Jesus came to speak to us about love. About God. About being in fellowship with each other.

Peace Church's VBS program is, in that light, one of the most successful programs at our church. It calls for a heaping dose of love for each other. It calls for our attention, young and less-young, on the mission of Christ and the work of God recorded in the Bible stories we share. It calls for us to be in fellowship together, coordinating our activities and making new friendships that lead to lasting relationship.

So, VBS matters. Because we do what we do to serve the God who is love, not to recruit church members or be the biggest VBS in town. Thank you for being a part of what matters.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Nikki
Director of Christian Education





Children's Church

- We are wrapped up for the 2017-2018 school year. Children's church will be on summer break until September of 2018. A huge, heartfelt, prayerful thanks to the volunteers who make children's church possible: Renee Moore, Chris Campbell, Traci Rivera, Liz Graham, Karen Masterson, and Mike Krouse. We are also thankful for our youth volunteers. You are all amazing!

TEAM Peace

- What a great inaugural year for TEAM Peace (Together Everyone in Arts and Music)! They wrapped up with an end-of-year party in May and we are deeply indebted to the time and talent that Lorie Krouse and Bekki Vail put into TEAM Peace. We are excited to see it return in September.

Nursery

- Nursery service will continue through the summer. But do take a moment to thank our year-round volunteers: John Paul Rivera, Jane Thomas, Kim Brown, Ann Frellick, and Barb Bauer. Another big thank you to our rotating youth volunteers! **If you'd like to volunteer in the nursery, please do! Just contact Pastor Nikki or the church office.**

Youth News

- Youth events for this summer include: serving at the Rescue Mission in June, TinCaps outing on June 10, a fun fellowship visit to an Escape Room, service projects for The Children's Nursery School, and an overnight retreat.
- More details to come.

Adult Sunday School

- In June we will study the Gospel of John each Sunday at 9 am. Join us! Bring a friend! All are welcome. An outline for the Bible study is online here:
http://peaceucc.net/?post_type=cpt_events&p=656

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**Tuesday Prayer at Ten.** The church staff meets at 10 am each week and begins with prayer. Set your phones to remind you, or jot in down in your calendar. Wherever you are this June, pray with us each Tuesday (silently if you like) this line from the Christian mystic and theologian, Julian of Norwich: "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well."

## 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 June: Mike and Lorie Krouse

#### GREETERS

June 3 Dan & June Walcott  
 June 10 Rivera Family  
 June 17 Yoder Family  
 June 24 Paul McGrath & Liz Graham

#### SCRIPTURE READER

June 3 John Paul Rivera  
 June 10 Elyse Yoder  
 June 17 Dodie Graham  
 June 24

#### INFANT CARE

June 3 John Paul Rivera  
 June 10 Ann Frellick  
 June 17 Kim Brown  
 June 24 Ann Frellick

#### ACOLYTES

Peace Youth

#### OFFERING COUNTERS

June 3 Mike Krouse & Marilyn Nussbaum  
 June 10 Bev Hauptert & Larry Hoyle  
 June 17 George Bartling & Rise Vandenburg  
 June 24 Kim Brown & Beth Ring

## NEWS OF THE FAMILY

**Continuing Prayers:** *Brian Thomas, Renee Moore, Mike Vandenburg, Vivian Albert, Ron Lewellyn, Nate Ross and Judy Miller*

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



We celebrate new life of the birth of Miriam Vandenburg on May 12th. Proud grandparents are Mike & Risë Vandenburg.

***We hold in prayer the family of Mike & Lorie Krouse.***

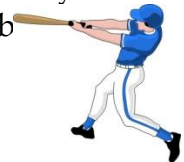
Mike's father Bob passed away on May 28th after receiving hospice care at home.



***Funeral Arrangements as follows:***

Calling on Monday, June 4, 2-4 and 6-8 pm at The Catholic Cemetery, Divine Mercy, 3500 Lake Avenue, Fort Wayne. Funeral Tuesday, June 5 at 10 am at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church, 1515 Barthold St., Fort Wayne, with calling one hour prior.

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TinCaps Outing! Sunday, June 10, 3:05 pm. Tickets are \$10 per person. Make checks payable to Peace UCC (or through Tithe.ly) with the memo line "TinCaps Game." Payment due by June 6. Contact Pastor Nikki or the church office to let us know you will be and how many tickets you'll be buying.



Graduate Recognition Sunday

Our outstanding graduates will be recognized during the worship service on June 10, 2018, and a reception in their honor will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Mission House May collection:

Karen & Jeremy delivered 120 pounds of food, which included 73 boxes of Mac & Cheese from the children in Deb Kelly & Beth Ring's classroom 6. Thank you children for your generous gift. This was the last delivery for Karen & Jeremy and we thank you for your dedication.

Now we are looking for a volunteer to take food items over to the Mission House once a month. If that's something you would like to do please contact the church office. 432-8290. Thanks to everyone for your continued giving!!!

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.

June~~~Birthdays

Rose Gaskill	3
Sharon Lewellyn	3
Shanna Burns	4
Dennis Hauptert	8
Christ Dikeolakos	14
Wayne Donnell	17
Tyler Hoyle	19
Elise Yoder	22
Stephanie Hoyle	23
Garsy Thomas	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 & Bekki Vail
Director of Children's Nursery School Director: Tonja Ashton

Just a Reminder



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 than the state benchmark)