

SEPTEMBER

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

Re-Building the Bridges

In my work one of the things I sometimes end up doing is sitting in waiting rooms of hospitals or nursing homes until it's time for me to go back and see one of you. Often I bring a book with me in my purse to occupy my time, or I scroll through my phone and look at the news headlines, but as often as not I close my eyes and just listen. A few days ago as I was waiting to visit someone after surgery, and after I had read the Reader's Digest from 2013 that was sitting on the table in the waiting room, I sat and began to listen to the conversations around me.

I was enjoying overhearing a hospital volunteer talking animatedly with a woman whose husband was in surgery (they were the only other people in the waiting room with me and they both were a little hard of hearing, so I happened to learn quite a lot about them in that short time). Both of the people talking, who I think had only met then were avid gardeners and the talk was about what vegetables and fruits had been blooming well this season. As a novice gardener, I was soaking in what I was learning about growing climates, and soil types in different parts of town. If ever there was an art in conversation, the two of these people had been well schooled in it. And, as an introvert, there was quiet joy in just listening in and not being obligated to participate in the talk. And then in the midst of conversation about planting seasons the hospital volunteer mentioned global warming and how many changes he had seen in the past twenty years and the woman with which he had been chatting so animatedly with before said firmly, "I don't believe in global warming." And the conversation came to an awkward stop.

I opened my eyes and looked over surreptitiously to see what was going on and then the hospital volunteer hemmed and hawed a bit and I noticed that the woman had put her book up and as he continued to engage her in talk her enthusiasm had waned. He offered a few more topics to change conversation, talked about aphids on roses and how much we'd needed the rain we'd had, but it was clear that he had accidentally meandered into one of those conversational landmine zones without realizing it.

More and more I've become anxious about the ways in which our nation seems to be setting up dividing lines, and if certain lines are crossed, even accidentally, it seems we start shutting each other down. It frightens me, and calls me to examine the way I perpetuate this kind of behavior myself. I ask myself, "Do I turn others away in fear if we disagree?" I wonder, "How can I lead a congregation and allow everyone to know that I honor them even if we disagree."

More and more, I am reminded of the ways in which Jesus constantly looked to the margins to engage with those who he may not disagree with, to reach out to those that others may have inadvertently silenced, who listened even to those with whom he disagreed. I am thankful for the ways in which Peace is a community that seeks conversation and communion, and pray that we might continue in following in the footsteps of Jesus.

The writer Christina Baldwin wrote these words about community, and I'm keeping them on my desk where I can see them to offer myself a lesson I need to remember for times like these. She writes, "Don't blame me; talk with me. Don't sue me; negotiate with me. Don't withdraw from me; step toward me. Don't shun me; embrace me. Don't let our differences blind you to our commonality."

I believe if we carry these wise words as our mantra, we can offer ourselves as love in this hurting world.

Pastor Christen



New Member Class

If you are interested in learning more about what it means to join Peace United Church of Christ, Pastor Christen will be teaching a three week series during the adult Christian Education hour (9:00-10:00) on September 16, 23, and 30. It is a chance for you to get to know more about the history of our denomination and our congregation and to ask your own questions. If you would like to sign up for the class (even if you cannot attend all three sessions), please email pastor Christen at: cpettitmiller@comcast.net or call her at (260)579-5128.

**Let us know...
we may want to go**

Many of us are looking for ways to engage with each other, and love to go to a school musical, sporting event, and other happenings, especially when our church family is involved.

So please share any events you and your family are engaged in: school plays, musicals, sporting events, band events, craft shows, concerts, etc.

We will soon create a space in the fellowship hall to display our church family's goings on. You'll be able to post your event on our display. Look for more information soon!

"Let Us Know, We May Want To Go!"



Peace Youth, Children, and Christian Education News

Children's Church

- Welcome back! We'll start taking our kids, grades K-5, out of the sanctuary after Children's Message, beginning September 16. We are grateful for our teachers who help sustain this ministry, and for the kids who make it worthwhile. Here's what's in store for September:
 - **September 16**, we'll learn about the Book of James, which encourages us to live our faith, to act like we love God and Christ. Talk with your kids about the way you volunteer or work to create kindness, encourage compassion, and serve others.
 - **September 23**, we'll discuss what Jesus means in the Gospel of Mark when he talks about how to really be "great." The emphasis is that greatness is achieved not when we succeed personally, but when we serve others.
 - **September 30**, we're talking again about the Book of James and prayer. The kids will be encouraged to explore the many reasons and ways to pray. This is a good segue to talking with your kids about prayer at home, and maybe inviting them to say a prayer before dinner or bed, or to try a new prayer practice at home.
- We are thrilled to have our returning teachers, Renee Moore, Chris Campbell, Liz Graham, Traci Rivera, and Mike Krouse. We welcome on board Barb Treleven, who is joining our children's church volunteer teachers this year! We'll have a Children's Church teacher workday on **September 8, 10-12 noon**.

TEAM Peace

- TEAM Peace is our children's arts group, open to all ages of kids, that meets periodically for fun and fellowship. We create together with projects around music, arts, and culture. Our first TEAM Peace meeting will be **September 16th, immediately after worship**. We'll be celebrating the UCC's Just Peace Sunday with origami butterflies.
- Look for more news from Lorie Krouse or Bekki Vail, including a fall TEAM Peace calendar. . If you have an idea for TEAM Peace, please be in touch with Nikki Shaw or Lorie Krouse. Our contact information is in the church directory.

Nursery

- Parents of our youngest children have begun to volunteer to staff the nursery. We are looking to have a volunteer list that includes, at minimum, 9 people. This way, individual volunteers will only need to commit to nursery duty approximately once

every two months. If you'd like to help out in the nursery during worship, contact Nikki Shaw.

Youth News

- Youth Group will be meeting for the **first meeting of the year on September 9, 11:30-1 pm**. We'll kick off with a pizza and some games, and we'll discuss plans for the year. Parents are welcome!
- Salem UCC has asked for youth help on September 30 from 12-1:30, as Salem celebrates their 150th anniversary. Youth members will act as tray and drink runners for some of Salem's less mobile members. Let Nikki Shaw know if you're able to help.

Adult Sunday School

- Starting on September 16, adult Sunday school will meet for three sessions to discuss the book *Struggling with Scripture*. Nikki Shaw will lead the three-week session from 9-10 am on Sunday mornings September 16, 23, and 30. You can order the book yourself (you can find it on Amazon here: <http://a.co/d/2zTJ4LC>), or contact Nikki Shaw and she will order a copy for you. Deadline for orders through Nikki is September 7.
- In October, Pastor Christen will lead a reading and discussion group on White Privilege, based on her study and reflection over sabbatical. More information to come!

If you have questions, or want to volunteer or participate in any of our youth, children, or adult education events, please contact our Christian Education Director, Nikki Shaw (nicoleleighshaw@gmail.com or call/text 617-512-8692).

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

Please keep these people who we love in your prayers.

With Sympathy, Rosemarie Long, mother-in-law of Brian Migliore passed away on August 23rd. Funeral services were held at Trinity Episcopal Church, Fort Wayne. Followed by the burial in Michigan City.

Ruth Squadrito, recovering from surgery at Kingston Care on Washington Center Road.

Trina LaShay Johnson, recovering at home.

Continuing Prayers: *Judy Miller, Beth Ring, Dorothy Jernigan, Vivian Albert and Nate Ross.*
And we hold in prayer all those concerns that remain unspoken...

A BIG THANK YOU !! to Samantha and Allison Dikeolakos, Susan Tite, Kent Clark, Nikki Shaw, Tonja and Jeremy Ashton for helping out, while the carpets and floors were being cleaned and waxed. Your help was very much appreciated.

Bill Blosser.....Facilities Chair.

The Peace Crafters will meet on Saturday, October 6, at 9:30 am to 4 pm at the church. We will be making cards, and all materials will be furnished. However, if you are not interested in cardmaking, bring a craft that you would like to work on or just come and see what we are doing and stay as long as you want. We have a fun time sharing ideas. See you then.

A Reminder that the Fort Wayne Table Tennis Club still meets/plays at Peace Church on Thursday nights. Join us between 7:00 and 9:00PM to play or simply watch some of the best players in Northeastern Indiana battle it out.

No charge for Peace church members and free coaching is available. Just be sure to wear proper, rubber-soled gym shoes. I look forward to seeing you there!



George Bartling

Head Ushers for September: Carl & Barbara Bauer

GREETERS:

Sept. 2 Karen Masterson & Julie Tompkins
Sept. 9 Blundall Family
Sept. 16 Daren & Heather Blasius
Sept. 23 Brian & Garsy Thomas
Sept. 30 Brooks Family

SCRIPTURE READER:

Sept. 2 Robert Pettit
Sept. 9 Amy Barrett
Sept. 16 George Bartling
Sept. 23 Vucich family
Sept. 30 Brian Thomas

INFANT CARE:

Sept. 2 John Paul Rivera
Sept. 9 Jane Thomas
Sept. 16 Kim Brown
Sept. 23 Charlotte Tompkins
Sept. 30 Barbara Bauer

OFFERING COUNTERS:

Sept. 2 Mike Krouse & Marilyn Nussbaum
Sept. 9 Bev Hauptert & Larry Hoyle
Sept. 16 George Bartling & Risë V.
Sept. 23 Kim Brown & Beth Ring
Sept. 30 George Bartling & Risë V.

ACOLYTES:

Peace Youth

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.



Things are a buzzin' at the Nursery School. August was spent giving tours, filling out paperwork and preparing classrooms. Classes are set up, files are put together and class lists have been formed. We are officially ready for the children to arrive. The children and parents visited the classrooms and met the teachers the last week of August. It was exciting to have the children in the building and to listen to the interaction between them and their new teachers. The children will begin classes on Tuesday, September 4.

Please pray that the teachers will have patience and understanding with the students and that the students will have a fun and enjoyable school year.

I send a big hug and a huge thank you to the congregation of Peace UCC. I wanted to let you know how much I have enjoyed my time here. Thank you all for your support, patience, and friendship over the past 10 years. You are a special group of people and I will miss you.

Tonja Ashton

Director

Two Kinds of Gratitude

If you've read the sweet message above, or seen the church emails, or been in church when we've announced it, you know our preschool director of ten years, Tonja Ashton, has moved on to a new position. While we will miss her, and are still smiling about the way she has brightened our days here in the office or guided the staff of the nursery school to be the kind, skillful teachers they are, we are very glad to celebrate her new ventures and wish her great success.

For those of you who don't know Tonja well, she's a humble person and one who would rather the spotlight be focused on her work, rather than herself. In fact, she declined a public farewell. But rest assured that the staff and board at Peace took time to show our appreciation. We presented her with lunch on her last day at work. We quietly slipped her a gift (a piece of hand-thrown pottery from Peace's Linn Bartling), and took time to tell her in cards and in person, how much she has meant to us. We recognized her, as much as she was comfortable with, at our blessing of educators on August 26.

In short, we expressed our gratitude for taking our nursery school this far. A gratitude for the wonderful things that have gone on under her direction.

And it is with a gratitude full of optimism, future-looking, and new perspectives that we welcome Lisa Wietlisbach, the new CNS director. Lisa, like Tonja, is an advocate for teacher creativity and child-focused, play-based early childhood education. Lisa brings to bear her 23 years in education—she has a degree in elementary ed.—and 18 years in early childhood education with Early Childhood Alliance. Lisa was involved there with the On My Way Pre-K program, which helped prepare young children for kindergarten.

We wish Tonja and her family the best as new and exciting opportunities unfold. And we welcome Lisa (and her family, sons Braden and Owen, and husband Alan) to our family, while we walk together on our own new paths.

Pastor Christen and the Peace Board and Staff

September~~~Birthdays



| | |
|-----------------|----|
| George Bartling | 2 |
| Elizabeth Huber | 2 |
| Rosann Thayer | 3 |
| Carl Bauer | 7 |
| Mike Krouse | 8 |
| Bev Hauptert | 8 |
| Marcy Blundall | 11 |
| Ryan Mallory | 13 |
| Barb Bauer | 14 |
| Tim Jones | 16 |
| Randy Metzger | 17 |
| Jed Tompkins | 21 |
| Judith Beineke | 22 |
| Dean Pfister | 30 |

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: Lisa Wietlisbach



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 |
| Liz Graham | Congregational Life Chair | 260-704-5499 grahame800@aol.com |
| Christen Pettit-Miller | Pastor | 260-338-2913 cpettitmiller@comcast.net |

