

JANUARY

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

The Seeds of Our Future

There is a story of the Jewish Hasidic tradition that is told in this way:

In a dream, I entered a store. I asked "What do you sell?"

"Whatever you want," answered the angel.

"Really?" I said, "I want peace on earth, an end to oppression and hunger, a home for refugees."

"Wait a minute," the angel said, "you don't understand, we do not sell the fruits, just the seeds."

As we begin another new year at Peace I have been reflecting on what seeds we may want to focus on planting this year. What new mission will we feel swept up in serving? How will we work to extend our love in the community, the nation, and the world? How will we spread the good news of Peace United Church of Christ here in Fort Wayne so that we might grow?

This past year we had the joy of adding to our Growing Hope Internationally (formerly known as Food Resource Bank) partnership by adding another "city church" into the mix as Plymouth United Church of Christ joined us in our mission with Pleasant Chapel. This past year we maintained our over thirty-year commitment to serving at the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission once a month. This year we have continued to provide Christmas gifts (including Christmas in July this year!) for children at Crossroad Children's School. When Fort Wayne Pride asked for the presence of churches that were Open and Affirming in the community we were there both marching and maintaining a booth to offer communion. When the city celebrated an Interfaith Thanksgiving service at Congregation Achduth Vesholom, our church was invited to add our presence to this ecumenical gathering, and I was honored to go in your name. This past year Nikki established a group for young mothers at the Jorgensen Family Y to provide support and space to learn and share with one another. We continue our partnership with enthusiasm with The Children's Nursery School. There is so much that we have done in the past year, so much we continue to do.

And now as we continue to grow, even in the face of the deaths of beloved members in the past year, it is time to ask again, "What other seeds do we want to plant? What other ways do we want to grow? How else are we called to serve? How deep do we want to grow in our own faith and as a community that lives together in Christian love?"

I want to thank the members of the board who have served their terms so faithfully in the past year, just as we welcome new members onto that board to continue the work of the church. With gratitude I would like to offer my appreciation to Mike Krouse for serving as the board chair, Gary Dexheimer for serving as Community and Wider Ministries chair, and Bill Blosser for serving as Facilities chair. Our board has conscientiously “steered the ship” that is Peace Church in 2018 and we welcome into leadership Paul McGrath as board chair, Brian Thomas as Community and Wider Ministries Chair, Bob Kensill as Facilities chair, and Amy Barrett as Board Secretary.

May we now ask God, “What’s next? Where do you want us to go now? Where are we called in this time?”

I am so thankful to be your pastor and journey with you.

Pastor Christen



BOARD REPORTS FOR 2018

Peace Church congregational business meeting will be held on Sunday, February 10th following the worship service. Board reports need to be submitted to Susan in the church office by January 22nd. Please type and have copy ready or email to peaceucc@frontier.com as an attachment. Your help in getting these reports in on time is greatly appreciated. Please call Susan at 432-8290 if you have any questions.



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 January 12, 20, and 27 . 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.





NEWS OF THE FAMILY

Please keep the following friends and families in your prayers:

Clare Walter, hospitalized in intensive care at Lutheran Hospital.

Continuing Prayers: *Nate Ross.*

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

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"These Days" devotional books for January, February, March are on the  
back table of the sanctuary.

**LADY CLEO'S FIFTH TUESDAY DINNER OUT**

**January 29th @ 6:30pm**

**AT BANDIDO'S**

**On Illinois Road**

**Sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall next to the kitchen.**



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  
Children's Nursery School Director: Lisa Wietlisbach

## Head Ushers for January: Ryan & Stephanie Mallory

### GREETERS:

Jan. 6 Nancy Hudson & LeAnn Doll  
Jan. 13 Paul McGrath & Liz Graham  
Jan. 20 The Sennett Family  
Jan. 27 Larry & Stephanie Hoyle

### SCRIPTURE READER:

Jan. 6 Trish Brooks  
Jan. 13 Larry Hoyle  
Jan. 20 Carrie Norton  
Jan. 27 Liz Graham

### INFANT CARE

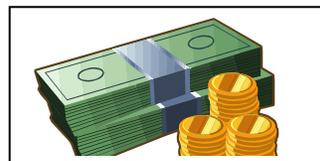
Jan. 6 Kim Brown  
Jan. 13 Charlotte Tompkins  
Jan. 20 Barb Bauer  
Jan. 27 Hilary Lisinicchia

### ACOLYTES FOR JANUARY

Peace Youth

### OFFERING COUNTERS

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



## January~~~Birthdays

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Larry Hoyle       | 9  |
| Kathy Salzmann    | 12 |
| Dave Matson       | 21 |
| Jon Vucich        | 21 |
| Stephanie Mallory | 27 |
| John A. Roth      | 29 |
| John-Paul Rivera  | 30 |
| Shelli Vucich     | 31 |



### **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.



## Peace Youth, Children, and Christian Education News

### Children's Church

- Hello 2019! Here's what to look forward to this January:
  - **January 13**, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 tells the story of Jesus' baptism. This story is in the Mark and Mark Gospel accounts, too. Look up Matthew 3:13-17 and Mark 1:9-11. How are the stories similar? How are they different?
  - **January 20**, We'll look at John 2:1-11. This is the story of Jesus turning water into wine at a family wedding in Cana. In John's Gospel, this is the first sign of Jesus' special nature. What signs do we show, what things do we do, that show people our special nature at Christians? There's a song about just this, called "They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love." Check it out on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugQwh-phnZY>.
  - **January 27**, Paul was the earliest Christian writer. We have in the Bible a bunch of letters written by him, and some that weren't written by him, but are attributed to him. In 1 Corinthians, one of the letters definitely written by Paul, he writes to the new church at Corinth, explaining to them at 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a, that we are all special parts of the body of Christ. What does it mean to you to be part of the body of Christ? What part are you?

### TEAM Peace

- TEAM Peace (Together Everyone in Arts and Music) leader Lorie Krouse will be sending out an email with updates on the new year schedule. If you want to be included on her email list, please contact her at [mkrouse@comcast.net](mailto:mkrouse@comcast.net).
- TEAM Peace did an INCREDIBLE job with the children's service on Christmas Eve. Thank you for allowing your children to bless us!

### Nursery

- If you need the nursery volunteer schedule, contact Nikki Shaw.

### Youth News

- Youth Group will be meeting for the **fifth meeting of the year on January 13, 11:30-1 pm**.
- The theme of the year for youth group is Help, Thanks, Wow. We are in looking at gratefulness and thanksgiving. The Scripture focus for the winter session is John 13:34-35, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

## **Adult Sunday School/New Member Classes**

- New member classes meet with Pastor Christen in the library for three consecutive sessions beginning at 9 am on January 13. If you're interested in joining our church, or just want to brush up on your church knowledge and UCC understanding, join her!
- We'll begin a 6-week study of the Gospel of Mark with Nikki Shaw on February 3 at 9 am. If you can't attend in person, we'll be offering the opportunity to attend remotely via video. This Mark study will focus on Biblical storytelling. How do we hear the story of the Good News? Join us!

**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).**

The children were overly excited about the Christmas Season. The smell of cinnamon was fragrant throughout the building as homemade ornaments were being made. Some of them spent special times with family at VIP days, making cookies and singing songs.



The children have enjoyed participating in "The Mitten Tree" community project. We were able to donate lots of mittens to the children at a Head Start program here in Fort Wayne.

The cookie dough fundraiser was another big success this year. Thank you to everyone that purchased cookies.

Classes resume January 7<sup>th</sup> and the New Year brings colder weather and playing inside. At the end of January, the children and staff will participate in PJ and Pancake days with bedtime stories read by Renee Moore. We will also begin registration for the 2019-2020 school year on January 23. Please let your friends and family know.

Have a wonderful and blessed New Year!

Lisa Wietlisbach  
Director

*Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. Psalm 98:1*

## CHURCH BOARD



| Name                   | Title                     | Contact Info                              |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 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 Chair | 260-704-5499<br>grahame800@aol.com        |
| Christen Pettit-Miller | Pastor                    | 260-338-2913<br>cpettitmiller@comcast.net |

### Upcoming dates to put on your calendar!

Peace Crafters will meet Saturday, February 2, 2019 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.  
Bring your favorite craft or join us in making paper crafts.

The Member Care Committee will be making Valentine's Cards with Kingston Care Center residents on Saturday, February 9, 2019 at 2 pm.

**Our annual Chili Cook-Off lunch**  
will be after service on February 10th following the  
Annual Congregational Meeting.

So, get out your favorite chili & soup recipes to share & vote for your favorite!  
We are also looking at ways to offer to-go options for those  
wants to have a nice, warm, homemade dinner at home.  
**Look for more details in the weekly bulletin.**

