

CHURCH OF PEACE MESSENGER

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Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

In the year, 2022, The Church of Peace United Church of Christ flourished with vigor as we continued to emerge for the COVID pandemic. In fact, I find it difficult to remember all the details of our emergence, but I do know that we are continuing to build and rebuild as well as maintain and grow our attendance and activities, but more importantly, our community of faith with devotion and love. If I turn to the groups of the church, I see wonderful things happening.

The Martha's Society continued to be a vital part of our ministry by bringing the "Thinking of You" bags to our members who needed a cheerful reminder of their importance to our church. They also expanded the number of members who receive those special bags, which has helped us identify more members who would benefit from our visitation ministry. The Martha's also send "Thinking of You" cards to our members who need a little sunshine in their life. Thank you, members of the Martha's Society for your service to our members and friends!

The Ladies of Peace brought back the "Soup of the Month" and continued to organize The Church of Peace Spring and Fall Rummage Sales. Those sales were not only well attended, but they were also well stocked with many items which brought bargain hunters through our doors. The Ladies of Peace continue to be a driving force for fellowship, fundraising and fun. Thank you for your ministry in our midst!

The Fall Bazaar Committee expanded their fundraising efforts by reentering the church dinner scene with a wonderful Swiss Steak Dinner, and they continued a long legacy which has been a strong presence in our community. The Fall Bazaar brought members and visitors alike into our church giving us the chance to be witnesses for Jesus Christ. They also tried some new things which kept the Bazaar fresh and inviting. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this year's Bazaar fun and exciting!

Our Golden Fellowship group got off to a great start this year reviving their monthly meeting events with movies, speakers, and other activities. They also have a meal and or treats to share as they enjoy each other's fellowship. Thank you for bringing joy and fun into our church.

Our Stewardship Team provided leadership and involvement in many activities within and without our walls throughout the 2022 year. From Baseball with the Dock Spiders to basketball with the Wisconsin Herd, Trunk or Treat to the CROP WALK, Christmas Cards to our church picnic, and many other things in between, the Stewardship Team has brought fun and excitement to our church community and beyond. Thank you for your continued ministry within and without our walls!

The Sunday School teachers and students have engaged in many fun and important lessons by putting together new ideas and activities to help each other learn about God and grow in their faith together. One of those new ideas was to offer Sunday School once a month with a 3-station, learning rotation on one specific faith story from the Bible. They finished off the day with a family, community-building meal so that the teachers, students, and parents can get to know one another better. We also enjoyed another fantastic Christmas Program on Christmas Eve. Thank you to our teachers, students, and parents for making learning about God fun! Continue page 10





CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

IN OUR PRAYERS

Lucy Zahn	Janet Rymer	Bill Manka
Elise Sonnenberg	Pat Grose	Abby
Cindy Duffy	Janet & Eugene Willis	Joe Ule
Bob Hanke	Amy Jo	Brenna Slavik
Alice Jaber	Barb Dehring	Bev
Theresa Schultz	Randy Resop	Katri & Jakob
Marilyn Peters	Diane Candlish	Edna Karl
Sharon Hensen	Ruth Pedix	Donna Birkholz
Christine Weimer	Tyler Detweiler	Lisa Peterson
Ron Rowe	Evelyn Stepp	Ray Beilke
Jan Whittaker	Elaine Miller	Shirley Hanke
Eli	Nicole Schendel	Jason & Jennifer
John & Sandy Sandberg		Tom Schultz
Carol Van Norman	Rev. Jerry Schrankler	Kathy Meyn
Cassie Poirier	Ken Meyn	Gia Del Ponte

FOOD PANTRY

We are very grateful to receive donations to our food pantry. **February** Food needs **Frozen Hamburger** Non-food needs include **Laundry Detergent**.



Balance as of December 1, 2022: \$17,958.44

Deposits in December: \$12,864.09

Disbursements in December: \$7,000.00

Balance as of December 31, 2022: \$23,822.53

Remaining balance on Loan 12/31/2022: \$853,389.92

DEATHS

Margaret A. Langolf, born on July 6, 1932 and passed away on January 1, 2023.



Chicken Wild Rice

1 qt. \$8.00 2 qt. \$15.00

Peanut Butter Cookies

½ doz. \$2.50

1 doz. \$4.75

Sign up by Jan. 29th.

Pick Feb. 5th After Worship

"YOUTH GROUP"

Join us on the 2nd & 4th Sunday
of each month .
at 10:00.

Confirmation age through

Contact Pete Peterson at
(920)266-2731

for more information.

COUNCIL MINUTES from the January 10, 2023
(minutes taken by Matt Moore)

Balance as of December 1, 2022: \$21,174.61

Deposits in December: \$20,843.80

Disbursements in December: \$19,920.60

Balance as of December 31, 2022: \$22,097.81

Church of Peace Council Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2023

Present: Victor Abitz, Jerry Johnson, Matt Moore, Mike Petersen, Peter Peterson, Justin Poirier, Faye Smith, Pastor Steve Stepp, Bobbi Thomma
Absent: Liz Groeschel

Call to Order: Victor A. called the meeting to order at 6:29 PM.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Steve led the opening prayer.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Peter to accept the December council meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Financial Report and Approval of Bills

Mike reported the financial reports are not matching and he asked that another meeting be scheduled to discuss the reports after he's had time to double-check for the discrepancy. The council decided to meet next Tuesday 1/17 at 6 PM. This will also allow Mike time to present to the council the financial presentation for the annual congregational meeting.

Additionally, Peter asked about the \$300 youth ministries expense and the GFL \$1,583.96 invoice in December. The GFL cost might be for multiple months. Mike will review and provide a response during the 1/17 meeting.

In the Life of Our Church

Worship

Overview of Christmas services. Those in attendance thought it went well.

Ash Wednesday 2/22 service scheduled at COP. We will need ushers. Pastor Steve reported he is still working to find other UCC churches willing to participate like last year.

We will also need ushers for the Lenten worship services.

Capital Campaign

3rd video has been posted on Facebook. It was suggested to play it during a worship service.

Justin reviewed the survey results in detail citing we had approximately 38 submissions.

The council discussed an idea for the meetings for pledges.

Fellowship Hour. Reminder that group 1 (last name beginning with A – M) serves next Sunday 1/22. Due to the annual meeting, it was decided to hold fellowship hour in the sanctuary immediately following worship with beverages and snacks available at the back of the sanctuary.

Activities Assistant. Reviewed report. It was noted to make sure greeters/ushers are ensuring people sign in.

Christian Education. Heather Reader-Schubert has accepted the Sunday School Superintendent position. This is great news for the church.

Confirmation Class

Faith Statements are scheduled on Sunday 2/5 and 2/12. There will be 4 during each worship service.

Confirmation is scheduled for Sunday 2/19.

The youth/acolyte robes need to be replaced. New robes cost approximately \$25 for the cheapest material. A motion was made by Peter and seconded by Faye to order approximately 12 new robes using monies from the Confirmation Fund and spend what is needed so as not to have the see-through material like what we currently have.

Groups in the Church Family

Ladies of Peace: A report was provided showing all the church items/projects the group paid for in 2022.

Marthas: No update

Golden Fellowship: Faye reported the next event is a movie.

Youth: Peter reported on the group's activities and fund raiser ideas for 2023.

Stewardship Ministry Team. No updates. No meeting since last council meeting as they met early last month.

Church Administration

Mail drop box – discuss at next meeting.

Congregational Annual Meeting 1/22

Agenda and ballot were reviewed.

We still have a lot of open Council and Committee positions.

Exception to the Constitution for term limits. Mike is open to another term. This can be voted on at the annual meeting.

Buildings and Grounds

The project to build steps to the floor with a rail by the organ will be completed this Thursday by Victor and Jody Marcoe.

Mike to schedule time to install the security cameras.

Peter requested use of the church for Scouts committee meetings Sunday nights once per month.

Peter will open and close the church. A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Bobbi to allow the Scouts to use the church for these meetings. Motion carried.

Peter requested use of the church for the Scouts Order of the Arrow group meetings. There would be up to 8 Scouts and 2 adults. These meetings are held the last Thursday each month. Peter will also open and close the church for them. A motion was made by Jerry and seconded by Mike to allow the Scouts to use the church for these meetings. Motion carried.

Comments of the Council President: None

Comments of the Pastor:

Pastor Steve asked, and the council agreed that the Installation of the Council members be completed on 1/29 during worship.

Comments of the Council Members:

Mike noted he received an email from OCWM showing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarter giving by COP.

The goal given to our church is \$12,000.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 6:00 PM to review and approve the December financial reports. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14 at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Matt Moore

Church of Peace Council Meeting Minutes – January 17, 2023

Present: Victor Abitz, Jerry Johnson, Matt Moore, Mike Petersen, Pastor Steve Stepp, Bobbi Thomma (via Zoom)

Absent: Liz Groeschel, Peter Peterson, Justin Poirier, Faye Smith

Call to Order: Victor A. called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Steve led the opening prayer.

Financial Report and Approval of Bills

Following up on the questions from the last meeting, Mike reported the \$300 expense in the youth ministries fund was a deposit into their checking account from the general fund. The GFL invoice was in fact October, November, and December expenses paid for in December.

Mike reviewed the financial reports and the presentation for the annual meeting. There was some discussion but no further questions or issues. A motion was made by Bobbi and seconded by Jerry to approve the December financial reports. Motion carried.

Mike reported the estate of Delores Pinkert sent the check as discussed during December's council meeting. A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Jerry to deposit the check into designated funds at National Exchange Bank. Motion carried.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Matt Moore

Church of Peace 153rd Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes – January 22, 2023

Minutes of Congregational Meetings in the Past Year: A motion was made by Rob Giese and seconded by Jeanette Hinn to approve the February 6, 2022, Church of Peace 152nd Annual Congregational Meeting minutes. Motion carried.

2022 Financial Report: Mike Petersen discussed the finances and reasons for the -\$19,291.62 net income. A motion was made by Ray Bielke and seconded by Renee Kiefer to approve the 2022 financial report. Motion carried.

Proposed 2023 Church Budget: A motion was made by Dave Candlish and seconded by Nancy Pahnke to approve the 2023 church budget. Motion carried.

Report of the Nominating Committee and Elections:

Council Members Election

Victor read the nominations:

Matt Moore, 3rd 2-year term

Faye Smith, 3rd 2-year term

Mike Petersen, 4th 2-year term (*exception to the Constitution)

Peter Peterson, 1st 2-year term

Victor also read the current council members:

Victor Abitz, 2nd year of 3rd term

Justin Poirier, 2nd year of 3rd term

Jerry Johnson, 2nd year of 1st term

Bobbi Thomma, 2nd year of 3rd term

Victor asked the floor for additional nominees. Nancy Pahnke volunteered to serve a 2-year term. A motion was made by Nancy Pahnke and seconded by Peter Peterson to allow Mike Petersen to serve his 4th consecutive 2-year term. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Rob Giese and seconded by Shirley Hanke to accept the nominations for Church Council as presented. Motion carried.

Stewardship Committee Election

Victor read the only nomination: Samantha Schmidkonz, 3rd 2-year term

Victor asked the floor for additional nominees. Brenda Klapperich volunteered to serve a 2-year term.

A motion was made by Peter Peterson and seconded by Bob Hanke to accept the nominations for the Stewardship Committee as presented. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee Election

Victor noted there were no nominees for the committee and asked for nominees. Brenda Roehl and Cassie Poirier both volunteered to serve a 2-year term.

A motion was made by Nancy Pahnke and seconded by Bob Hanke to accept the nominations as presented. Motion carried.

Reports of Officers and Committees: Victor asked the congregation to review the reports included in the handout.

Reports of Organizations: Victor asked the congregation to review the reports included in the handout.

Report of the Pastor: Pastor Steve's report is also included in the handout, but he mentioned Loaves and Fishes and the coat rack in the entryway from the carport are also other important ministries of our church and community.

Report on the Build to Serve and Capital Campaign:

Justin Poirier shared a PowerPoint presentation and gave an overview of the current status of Building to Serve. Question and answer session followed.

Remarks for the welfare of this congregation from members present: None

Adjournment: A motion was made by Peter Peterson and seconded by Dave Candlish to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 AM.

Pastor Steve provided the benediction.

Respectfully submitted, Matt Moore

Historical Corner

Mary Strauss, Historian

Ladies of Peace



Today we are going back 90 years to 1933 and the sad news of the sudden death of our pastor's wife. Mrs. Irene Koehler, wife of our Rev. Karl Koehler who had pneumonia in December, 1933. She was to be a soloist in the rendition of The Messiah by the Civic Chorus at Fond du Lac's Division Street Methodist church, but was forced to cancel due to her illness that began Dec. 12. Mrs. Koehler died Dec. 23, 1933.

She was born in Alton, Illinois, the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. William Hackmann, who moved in retirement into the Koehler's Fond du Lac rectory in 1932. She had lived with her family in St. Joseph, MO, and St. Louis, MO before marrying Rev. Karl on Jan. 17, 1923. They resided in Tripoli, IA and Berlin, WI before coming to Church of Peace in July, 1933.

Surviving was her grieving husband, children William, 10, Ruth, 8, Martin, 4, her parents and a sister Ruth Albrecht and her husband, missionaries in India.



GOLDEN FELLOWSHIP

Thursday, February 16th at 11:00

Join us for a Valentine themed get together!

Bring your own lunch. Dessert will be served.

And so January is gone, and February is here. It's still way too cold for me, but at least it stays light a tiny bit longer each day.

Our Historian (Mary Strauss) pointed out that the Ladies of Peace, formerly known as the Ladies Aid, is 120 years old this year. 120 years and going strong!

Our next meeting is our February Fun Day, with games and good food. It is February 6, at 11:30 at the church. Our meetings are always fun, just some are more fun than others!

Martha Society

"Let us welcome February and take every chance to show love to all we meet."

--Anonymous

Spring is right around the corner! My apologies to those of you who love winter. The days get longer, the weather hopefully gets a little warmer, and before you know it, everything is starting to green and bloom again. The Martha's will be meeting in February to continue to plan for future events. While we don't know quite what will unfold with the spring, there's always fun in planning.

The Martha Society's next meeting will be February 14th at 6. New members are always welcome to attend.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Victor Abitz, President	abitzvictor@gmail.com	920-579-6008
Bobbi Thomma, VP	bthomma@charter.net	920-921-5544
Matt Moore, Secretary	mjmooreplus3@gmail.com	920-979-4309
Mike Petersen, Treasurer	michael.d.petersen@outlook.com	920-266-2036
Jerry Johnson	jjohnson@charter.net	920-238-9716
Nancy Pahnke	alnan_pahnke@hotmail.com	920-269-4885
Peter Peterson	Peter_Peterson32@yahoo.com	920-266-2731
Justin Poirier	poirier.bubba@gmail.com	262-623-8857
Faye Smith	dzsm8445@gmail.com	920-266-6035

FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Hello Church Family,

Here we are, at the start of a new year. The outlook for the church is bright and busy. Lots is going on again this year. When you read or hear about an activity going, please join in the fun or even volunteer in any way that you can. As always, even an hour of your time helps a lot.

We accomplished a lot of projects last year. We still have things to do. As in our own homes, there is always something to do to maintain or enhance your home.

We held our 153rd Annual Meeting on January 22nd. I feel we had a very good meeting. A quorum of 35 people is required for us to hold a meeting. This meeting we offered in-person and virtual for those who can't be here. We had 55 members in church and 2 attending the meeting virtually. We want to thank everyone for attending.

There are two men on Council that worked very hard to have the financials and the Building to Serve information ready for the Annual Meeting. Please join me in saying "thank you" to Mike Petersen and Justin Poirier for the hours they put into their presentations. Our Q&A time had some good questions and discussion.

I will be contacting some of our seniors who still attend in-person worship and have limitations as to how they can help, to become greeters on Sunday mornings. I hope that you will consider this task and say "YES" when I call. This is something you can do sitting, if necessary. It is always nice to be greeted as we enter the church. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

With the Blessing of our Lord, Victor

Dear Members, A Bazaar meeting has been scheduled for Feb. 7th, at 6:00 p.m. We will discuss the possibility of combining the Bazaar and the Rummage Sale, or leaving them as separate events. People from both events, please come with your ideas. Thank you!

Nancy Pahnke , Chairman.

Birthday Cards

A new idea for 2023! We are asking members of our church to send birthday cards to members who are 90+ years young. Each month in the messenger and the bulletin insert, there will be names of members celebrating a special birthday. Please consider sending a card to these people. Let's shower them with cards and love. February's birthday is:

February 19th: Rose Randall 1087 Primrose Lane Fond du Lac, WI 54935



FEB 12, 2023

Support our Food Pantry by participating in our Souper Bowl food drive.

Donated items may be placed on the decorated tables in the Narthex.

Anything is appreciated, but here are some suggestions of items that go fast:

Cereal

Pancake Mix

Syrup

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Mac 'n Cheese (family size box or individual cups)

Dessert Items (cake or brownie mix, frosting, cookies)

Have you changed your phone number/or only have a cell-phone? Do we have your email address?

Please let the church know so we can update our data base.

The Worship Enhancement team has again done a wonderful job in decorating our sanctuary and church building throughout the year. They change things up and shift things around which helps us enjoy our time together in the name of Jesus Christ. Thank you to all the members for your work and keen eye for beautification!

The Church Council continued to be a positive force in the leadership of our community in Christ. They moved throughout the year with 10 members, 2 short of our Constitutional 12. This did not slow down their resolve to be a part of our continued emergence from the pandemic. They all worked together to pick up the slack and make 2022 a wonder-filled year of possibility. My hope is that we will have a full Council of 12 members in 2023.

Our Visitation Ministry continues to be a strong connection for our members who are unable to attend church on a regular basis. The group of nine volunteers visit monthly and offer Communion. Their calling is one of compassion and service for our members. Thank you, Visitation Ministry, for your love and dedication to Jesus Christ!

The Council also helped us by filling a great need in our ministry by creating a new position called Activities Assistant to the pastor. Brenda Roehl stepped forward and took on the new position and has done a fantastic job. Her first focus was to begin the "Welcome Back" program which sends out cards to members we have not seen recently and invites them back to worship and fellowship activities in the church. The program continues to evolve and identify new ways to welcome our members home to Church of Peace. She has also taken on many other projects which has helped me make the best use of my time for our ministry in and outside our walls. Thank you, Brenda, for going above and beyond in 2022!

We also saw Victor Abitz add to his resume' by becoming our custodian when Norbert retired. Victor has done a wonderful job from one end of the building to the other. A few special projects he has done this year include cleaning all the cushions in sanctuary and putting a bright, new, wax shine on our fellowship floor. He and Deb also made and put up the wonderful curtains in fellowship hall which brings not only beauty to the space, but also improved the functionality of the space for movies and other events. Thank you, Victor, for taking over this challenging position for our community!

There are many other people who have contributed to the life of our church community. There are many people who have contributed to the mission and ministry of our church. There are many people who have given to support our ministry and the obligation we have for the building. Without each and every member of our church, we would not have accomplished all the wonderful things we did in 2022 for the glory of God. So, I say thank you to every single person, group, and our entire community because you have helped us make fantastic strides in reaching our members, visitors, and the people in need in our community.

You know what? God has seen what we have done, and I believe God would say it was good. I also believe that God will continue to call us to new levels of mission and ministry in 2023, and I believe we will answer that call with a big YES, as we walk side-by-side with Jesus at our side and fulfill his call, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).

Thank you, my beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ! I am blessed and thankful to be serving you in the name of Jesus Christ! Praise be to God!

Grace and peace, Pastor Steve

CHURCH OF PEACE
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FOND DU LAC, WI 54935

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FEBRUARY