CHURCH OF PEACE MESSENGER

| March 2023 | | | |
|------------------------|------|--|--|
| 2023 | | | |
| From Pastor | 1 | | |
| Steve | | | |
| Church News | 2 | | |
| Council | 3-4 | | |
| Minutes | | | |
| Lenten Worship | 5 | | |
| Schedule | | | |
| Historical | 6 | | |
| Corner & | | | |
| Ladies of Peace | | | |
| Council Members & | 7 | | |
| President's Message | | | |
| Wessage | | | |
| More Church | 8 | | |
| News | | | |
| Meet Our | 9-10 | | |
| Confirmands | | | |
| Martha Society | 11 | | |
| Easter Order | | | |
| More Church | 12 | | |
| News | | | |
| Calendar | 13 | | |
| | | | |



Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

After hearing the Confirmation Class of 2023 Faith Statements, I am reminded of something my Uncle Harry from Pennsylvania told me on my 13th birthday. Uncle Harry was 49. Now I must say, this occasion was the only time my uncle and I ever talked at any length since he lived so far from me, and Uncle Harry died a year later. Here is what he said, "You always get good out of what you do, when you always put in good to what you do." I don't claim to be a philosopher or a poet, and I don't think that Uncle Harry would have made that claim of himself either, but those words have stayed with me since that day. It wasn't the seemly awkwardness of his hypothesis. It wasn't that I didn't believe his conclusion. It was the sheer fact that I had just completed my confirmation and remembered this Bible story:

"Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life? (Matthew 19:16) Jesus replies, "keep the commandments" (17) and then he will list some of them. When the young man proudly tells Jesus, "All these I have kept, what do I still lack?" (20) Jesus says, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth" (21-22).

Amazingly, last week I was listening to the sermon "Who is Jesus Christ" by Billy Graham and he referred to this same Scripture.

"For many thousands of people here today, this will be an hour of decision and you will never be the same today. Even if you refuse Christ, you will never be the same. Once you have faced him. Once you have heard the Gospel, and rejected it, you can never be the same. The Bible says when the rich young ruler rejected Christ, he turned away grieved, emotionally disturbed...because when you reject the claims of Christ that is a very serious thing."

Now I see my uncle's insight in a new light. Jesus is the good we put into our efforts and Jesus is the good we get out no matter the result. If we always give in the name of Christ to a person that seems ungrateful, we must believe that person is always and forever changed by our sharing of faith. If we tell a person that they are forgiven in Christ, even if they tell us we are mistaken, we must believe that person is always and forever changed by our sharing of faith.

Therefore, whenever it seems like our labors are in vain, they are not, because God is always at work in the believer and the nonbeliever. That is the reality of faith in God. We don't always see the change, but we believe it is there. So, let us believe with all our heart, mind and soul that God is and always will be at work, whether we see the work or not. Then we will be able to fully share our faith in hopes of bringing others into the life of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace, Pastor Steve

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



IN OUR PRAYERS

Lucy Zahn
Elise Sonnenberg
Cindy Duffy
Bob Hanke
Alice Jaber
Theresa Schultz
Marilyn Peters
Sharon Hensen
Christine Weim
Evelyn Stepp
Elaine Miller
Nicole Schendel
Cassie Poirier
Doris Kastorff

Janet Rymer
Ken Meyn
Janet & Eugene Willis
Amy Jo
Barb Dehring
Randy Resop
Diane Candlish
Ruth Pedix
Tyler Detweiler
Rev. Jerry Schrankler
Shirley Hanke
Jason & Jennifer
Dorothy Gyr

Bill Manka
Abby
Joe Ule
Brenna Slavik
Bev
Gia Del Ponte
Edna Karl
Donna Birkholz
Ron Rowe
Jan Whittaker
Eli
John Sandberg
Rick Karl

FOOD PANTRY

We are very grateful to receive donations to our food pantry. March Food needs Frozen Hot dogs Non-food needs include Kleenex.





Balance as of January 1, 2023: \$23,822.53

Deposits in January: \$23,198.47
Disbursements in January: \$8,500.00
Balance as of January 31, 2023: \$38,521.00

Remaining balance on Loan 1/31/2023: \$848,014.50



March 16th at 11:00 a.m.

Join us for a presentation by Ella Stenelle on How to preserve your family heritage.

Bring your own lunch and beverage, dessert will be furnished.



Corned Beef & Cabbage 1 qt. \$8.00 2 qt. \$15.00

Sign up by Feb. 26th.

Pick Mar. 5th After Worship

Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex.

"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 February 14, 2023 (minutes taken by Matt Moore

Balance as of January 1, 2023: \$22,097.81

Deposits in January: \$33,079.00

Disbursements in January: \$26,095.14

Balance as of January 31, 2023: \$29,081.67

Call to Order: Victor A. called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Steve led the opening prayer.

Install Council Members

This was conducted during worship service on 1/29. Need to determine who wasn't in attendance and still needs installation.

Election of Officers

President - Victor Abitz

Vice President - Bobbi Thomma

Treasurer - Mike Petersen

Secretary - Matt Moore

Custodian - Peter Peterson

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

A motion was made by Bobbi and seconded by Peter to accept the January 10th and 17th council meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Financial Report and Approval of Bills

It was noted the money from the Pinkert Estate needs to be deposited into the Special Funds account. Peter inquired about the January payment for the sign board as it doesn't appear one was made. Bobbi asked about the office staff retirement – it appears we're a year behind. Justin will send Mike an email for follow-up. A motion was made by Peter and seconded by Nancy to approve the January financials pending the questions for Mike. Motion carried.

In the Life of Our Church

Worship

Pastor Steve reminded us that Confirmation is this Sunday.

Pastor Steve mentioned that Ash Wednesday is 2/22.

Pastor Steve reported that Wednesday 3/22 is the COP's Lenten worship service.

Fellowship Hour: Reminder that group 2 from the council serves on Confirmation Sunday 2/19. Bobbi will be picking up a cake and Peter will bring ice cream. It was also noted that Nancy will join group 1 so the number of people in each group remains somewhat even. Group 1: Victor Abitz, Jerry Johnson, Matt Moore, Nancy Pahnke and Group 2: Mike Petersen, Peter Peterson, Justin Poirier, Faye Smith, Bobbi Thomma.

Activities Assistant: Reviewed report. Brenda asked about researching and purchasing new green paraments and new plexi-glass for the altar and communion table. Once the costs are determined, the council will discuss how to pay for them.

Christian Education

Pastor Steve discussed the Kid's Night In/Parent's Night Out event. We will need 4 to 6 volunteers. Dinner will be served. For now, this will be offered to church members only.

Confirmation Class

Faith statements were read on 2/5 and 2/12. The council was in agreement that all the Confirmands did a great job.

Pastor Parish Relations: Pastor Steve reported he is visiting Doris Karstorff in the hospital as she is scheduled for surgery.

Groups in the Church Family

Ladies of Peace: Bobbi and Nancy reported the group recently gathered for a Fun Day.

Marthas: No update, meeting tonight.

Golden Fellowship: No report.

Youth: Peter reported the group discussed the activities and fund raisers they will schedule between now and the end of the year.

Outreach

Loaves & Fishes: Victor reported there were 76 people served last night. They typically serve between 60 and 80.

River Park: Victor reported the meeting is scheduled for March.

Food Pantry: The Souper Bowl event has helped fill the food pantry.

Stewardship Ministry Team: Matt reported the group met last month to fill in the events calendar for the year. Pastor Steve provided a copy for the council.

Scholarship Administration

Tom Schultz has overseen the scholarship program in the past. Pastor Steve will reach out to him.

Church Administration

John and Sandy Sandberg would like to rejoin the church. Since John is in hospice care, Pastor Steve would like to reinstate them at hospice with a member of the council present. The council agreed this is acceptable.

Mail drop box: The post office let us know there are times when they aren't able to drop off our mail before noon when the office closes so they asked if we could install a mail drop box. The council discussed options for location and installation as we don't necessarily want anything mounted to the building. Peter will research options. A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Bobbi to purchase a lockable mailbox and install into the ground on the carport island. Motion carried.

Pastor Steve mentioned that Sister Julia from the St. Francis Home asked him via letter if he would be interested in conducting a worship service there once a month. Jean Stepp is willing to read and Pat Siekierke is willing to provide music. The council agreed this is okay. Church members should be able to attend.

Constitution Review: We need to get this underway and would like to have a person with legal background on the committee. Victor will make an announcement in church asking for volunteers so a committee can be formed. Peter volunteered to be a part of the committee.

Buildings and Grounds

Lights in the kitchen need to be updated. Peter will research options to discuss at the next council meeting.

VA reported the organ steps project has been completed.

Regarding the security cameras, Mike and Peter are working on scheduling time for installation.

Capital Campaign: Justin reported there is another video coming soon. There are questions on the one-time giving/matching funds event which he will clarify. He is looking into the question regarding required minimum distributions. He needs someone with expertise in this area to discuss.

Comments of the Council President: Victor reminded the council that ADVOCAP would like to use the church to hold board meetings in February, April, June, August, and October. Due to being a nonprofit agency the council agreed to only charge the custodial fee and not the hall rental fee but ask for a donation if they so choose.

Comments of the Pastor: None

Comments of the Council Members: None

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Matt Moore

| <u>Lenten Services</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Service Time</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Wednesday, March 1 | Pilgrim FDL | 7:00 pm |
| Wednesday, March 8 | Salem Wayne | 7:00 pm |
| Wednesday, March 15 | Union Waupun | 7:00 pm |
| Wednesday, March 22 | COP FDL | 7:00 pm |
| Wednesday, March 29 | Pilgrim FDL | 7:00 pm |
| Maundy Thursday, April 6 | COP FDL | 7:00 pm |
| Good Friday, April 7 | Pilgrim FDL | 12:00 pm |

Pilgrim FDL 535 Stow Street, Fond du Lac, WI 54935 Salem UCC 8925 County Rd W, Wayne, WI 53010 Union Congregational UCC 125 Beaver Dam St, Waupun, WI 53963



One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

Envelope enclosed

Historical Corner

Mary Strauss, Historian





We can see the workings of our congregation back in the day.

70 years ago in 1953 our pastors were Rev. Karl Koehler, Martin Koehler asst., Fred Fieker-(Student Pastor 1953-54). Our President was Arthur Laehn, Sunday Sch. Supt. was Lucinda Oathout. Leading the 3 choirs was Harry Smith. The 3 services were at 7:15 (German), and English at 8am and 10:30am with Sunday School at 9:15.

Our budget was \$22,973.70.

In 1963, 60 years ago there were Pastors Karl Koehler and son Martin with Student Pastor David Martens coming in June.

Joe Michalowske led the congregation while Harry Smith continued as the Choir Director. Our Organist was Arlene Waehler and we continued with the same 3 services. Confirmation classes were held Sat. at 9am and Wed. at 4:15. Boy Scouts met on Tues., Dartball League on Wed. with Prayer Meetings on Thurs. at the Parsonage at 9am and 7pm at Koehler Hall. The Budget was \$58,377.50.

50 years ago in 1973 Rev. Martin Koehler was the lead pastor with Kurt Traugott arriving in March. Our President was Gene Greve and Jeanne Detweiler as the Sunday Sch. Sec'y. Our Choir Director was Joan Wegner with Joan Miess as Ass't. Dir., Donna Springborn and Nancy Parman helped with the Carol Choir. The 3 services, all in English were at 8, 9:15, and 10:30am. A nursery was at the old parsonage for 9:15 service. Confirmation was divided into 2 separate Sat. classes. Sundays YMCA Church Basketball meets, Mon. Sea Scout Ship #1000, Tues. Cub and Boy Scouts, Wed. Dartball in fall-winter, Thurs. YMCA Church Softball in winter.

The budget was \$103,967.

Ladies of Peace



I've been thinking and thinking about what to write about this month and coming up empty (to the point of skipping it all together) when it sort of fell into my lap. As so often happens!

I just got off the phone with Michael from Las Vegas who was calling to tell me that I had won a \$3.5 million cash award from Mega Millions in Cash and all I had to do was pay the \$499.95 shipping and handling charge. The prize was or was not being delivered today, (Michael seemed a little confused by this) and I should have the \$499.95 in Amazon gift cards available at that time. As the conversation progressed I told Michael that I knew this was a scam, and illegal, but unfortunately I also knew that the scammers are rarely prosecuted. Then I told Michael to take my name off the call list and not call again. Apparently that didn't work because not 10 minutes later I got a call from John with the same deal.......

So where am I going with this? Just please be aware, you have worked too hard to give your financial security to an obvious scammer, and they are out there.

The days are getting longer, the snow is melting faster, and the crocuses will soon be showing their faces to the sun. Thank you Jesus for another chance to make things right.

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 | jljohnson@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 | | |

FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Hello,

I hope everyone is doing well. We still need people for our committees if you could share a couple hours once a month let us know we would be glad to have your assistance.

Things are moving along with the new church year. All the committees are busy getting everyone on the same page. Thank you to all our committee members for what you do.

We are continuing with the greeters on Sunday mornings. A list will be posted on the bulletin board and a reminder will be emailed to the greeter. Any questions come see me, email me or call. I would rather you come see me though.

Congrats to our confirmands on your confirmation and on your Faith Statements, they were very well done.

Please keep everyone on the prayer list in your prayers.

That is all for now with blessings, Victor

RETURNING

We are pleased to announce that we are welcoming back short presentations starting in March.

Our first will be a presentation on Alcohol and Drug Addiction on Monday, March 27th at 6:00. We will have a speaker from our community doing a presentation on spotting problems and giving information on how to give and receive help in our community. There will be a short Q & A time also.

Please join us!

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. March birthdays are:

March 24: Eldon Kohnke 18 S. Sallie Ave. Fond du Lac, WI 54935

March 24: Kenneth Meyn N6212 Prairieview Rd. Fond du Lac, WI 54937





Totals: NFC: 174 Total: AFC: 242

= 416 total items!



Stewardship has set a date for the Chili Cookoff. It is Saturday, April 22. Please watch for more information in the upcoming weeks.

Come and join in wonderful food and fellow-ship for our 2nd Annual Church of Peace Swiss Steak Dinner on Thursday, March 30, 2023. The entre' is a Swiss Steak Dinner prepared with a traditional "swissing" process with special herbs and spices served with mashed potatoes and gravy, a dinner roll, and vegetable. It is a true dining delight! Especially considering that dessert and a beverage are included. Watch your Thursday Greeting and the bulletin insert for more in-



Sunday March 26TH Swiss Steak Dinner March 30 4 -7 pm. Dine in or carry out



Meet Our Confirmands

Lilyana Grace Albrecht is the daughter of Justin and Lisa (Liedke) Albrecht. She was born on January 21, 2008. Lily attends Fond du Lac High School where she is in 9th grade. Her hobbies include soccer, cross country and playing the piano. As a member of the church, she hopes to build more connections and friendships. Lily was baptized August 31, 2008, and her God parents are James Liedke & Jodell Albrecht.

Abigail Martha Hanke was born on July 9, 2009, to Patrick and Jennifer (Van Ark) Hanke and baptized on March 28, 2010. Her God parents are Eve Cassel and Jason Shepherd. Abigail is in 8th grade at Sabish Middle School. Her hobbies include drawing, listening to music, choir, volleyball, Theatre, hanging out with friends and family, going to sporting events, watching movies/tv and shopping. She loves the church because the people are very nice and very helpful. As a church member she plans to come to church when she can and to help out at church.

Kylie Ann Marcoe was born on May 29, 2009, to Jody and Tanya (Opperman) Marcoe. Her hobbies include playing softball, basketball, and volleyball. Kylie is an 8th grader with the School District of Oakfield. Kylie was baptized on June 9, 2009, and her God parents are Jenna Marcoe, Aaron Anderson, Nancy & Mike Pfeifer. She will be an active member of the church and lend a hand when needed.

Allison Marie Now is the daughter of Jason and Melissa (Springborn) Now. She was born on January 1, 2008. She is in 9th grade at Horace Mann High School. Her hobbies are basketball, volleyball, softball, ice fishing and hunting. Allison loves the church because of the people she meets and how very welcoming and comfortable she is at church. As a member of the church she plans to be the best person she can be and to continue to grow in her faith by coming to church, helping out whenever possible at church and in the community. Allison was baptized on February 24, 2008, here God parents are Brad & Keri Sabel & Dawn Springborn.

Meet Our Confirmands Continues

Peyton JoEvie Portier is the daughter of Clare (CJ) and Kimberly (Geldnich) Portier. She was born on December 13, 2008. She is in 8th grade at Theisen Middle School. Peyton's hobbies include soccer, basketball, volleyball, skiing and camping. She loves the church because of how nice everyone is and how everyone participates to help the church. As a member she plans to come to fundraisers and maybe join a group that is part of the church. Peyton was baptized on March 22, 2009, and her God parents are Ryan Diebert and Jacqueline Rymer.

Brenna Mae Slavík was born on July 20, 2009, to Jeremy and Christina (Fields) Slavik. Brenna was baptized on October 25, 2009, her godparents are Angie Winter and Chris Slavik. Brenna is a student at Woodworth Middle School and likes to play soccer and volleyball. Her hobbies are listening to music and hanging out with her friends. She loves the church because of the people and will continue to come to church and help out when she can.

Hannah Rose Treptow is the daughter of Steve and Traci (Shultis) Treptow. Hannah was born on November 11, 2008. She attends Besie Allen Middle School and is in the 8th grade. She plays in the band and loves to swim, go shopping and just have fun. She intends to be more involved in church and loves it when she gets to see her great-aunt Doris in church. Hannah was baptized on January 25, 2009, and her God parents are Kylie Treptow, Jennifer Treptow and Michelle Schubring.

Bren Evelyn Whittaker was born on March 29, 2009, to Todd and Dawn (Driscoll) Whittaker. Her hobbies include volleyball, softball and drawing. She is in 8th grade at Bessie Allen Middle School. Bren was baptized on May 10, 2009, her God parents are Ann Maul, Tara Whittaker & Mark Klapperich. As a member of the church, she will help with fundraisers. She loves the church because of how nice the people are.



Easter Flowers & Gifts

If you wish to have a flower placed in the sanctuary for Easter, please return this form to the church office **no later than Sunday, March 12th.** You may also sponsor a bulletin or give a cash gift. (Please note into which fund you would like your gift to go.)

Indicate which Easter flower(s) you would like to purchase, and how many:

| Easter Lily \$15.00 each: |
|---|
| Daisy \$15.00 each: |
| Azaleas \$28.00 each: |
| Hydrangea \$29.00 each: (pink or blue) circle which one |
| |
| In Memory of |
| In Honor of |
| Given by |
| |
| Sponsor a Easter Bulletin \$25.00 |
| |
| In Memory of |
| In Honor of |
| III TIONOLOI |
| |
| Gift of Cash or Check (amount): |
| In Memory of |
| |
| In Honor of |
| |
| Fund: |
| |
| |
| Please include your check/cash with this form. |
| Thank you for returning your order forms and money early. |
| |

Martha Society

In winter, I plot and plan. In spring, I move."
--Henry Rollins

Welcome to March! When the days get longer, the weather MIGHT get warmer, and we are fully into the Easter season! March also means time to celebrate birthdays for the Martha Society members. We utilize the March meeting to celebrate everyone at once for the year with some quick business and then a birthday treat! As always, we are planning what direction we need to move in next.

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





We are excited to be doing a plant sale fundraiser sale again this year. Mark your calendars Spring in on the way.

Our plant sale information will available soon.

The delivery date is scheduled for Saturday May 20th.



Social Hour AKA "Coffee Hour

I would like to say "thank you" to these groups within the church community who continue to help with serving the Social Hour on Sunday mornings after worship. They are: Church Council, Hospitality, Ladies of Peace, Martha Society, Stewardship Committee and Worship Enhancement Team. Your dedication is much appreciated by all.

Over the years, some of these groups have grown, some have gotten smaller and as in life, some of these members have joined the "golden years of life" and this task is becoming more difficult. I have divided some of the larger groups into 2 or 3 smaller groups just to fill the weeks. This requires each main group to serve at least once a month. Everyone serves special treats to all of you who attend. Now, I am asking for volunteers to help out by taking a turn in the rotation of hosting. We could use at least 2-3 more groups or families to take a turn in the rotation. Please consider hosting one of our Social Hours. You just might meet a new friend and you will enjoy some great fellowship.

Please contact Diane Reiter 920-960-1133.

March 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|--|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | 3 4 0 11 2 3 7 18 9 10 14 25 16 17 | Apr 2023 T W T F S 1 4 5 6 7 8 11 12 13 14 15 18 19 20 21 22 25 26 27 28 29 | 8:30 AM River Park Meeting 7:00 PM Mid-Week Lenten Worship Pilgrim | 2 5:30 PM -7:00 PM TOPS Meeting | 3 | 4 11:30 AM WI Herd Game |
| 5 9:00 AM Worship Communion Sunday | 6 | 7 11:30 AM Ladies of Peace | 6:30 PM Boy Scout Meeting 7:00 PM Mid-Week Lenten Worship at Salem Wayne | 9 5:30 PM -7:00 PM TOPS Meeting | 10 | 11 |
| 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Youth Group Easter Flower Order Deadline | 13 | 6:00 PM Martha Society 6:30 PM Council Meeting | 7:00 PM Mid-Week Lenten Worship Union Waupun | 11:00 AM Golden Fellowship 5:30 PM Boy Scouts 5:30 PM -7:00 PM TOPS Meeting | Happy St. Patricks Day | 18 |
| 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Sunday School OGHS Offering | 20 1:30 PM Bible Study | 6:30 PM Stewardship Meeting | 7:00 PM Mid-Week Lenten Worship COP | 23 5:30 PM -7:00 PM TOPS Meeting | 24 | 25 |
| 26 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM "Movie Day" 10:00 AM Youth Group | 6:00 PM Drug & Alcohol Presentation (speaker) | 28 1:00 PM Community Practices Messenger Articles Due! | 7:00 PM Mid-Week Lenten Worship Pilgrim | 4:00 PM -7:00 PM Swiss Steak Dinner 5:30 PM -7:00 PM TOPS Meeting | 31 | |

CHURCH OF PEACE

158 SOUTH MILITARY ROAD

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If you are worried about the people outside, the most unreasonable thing you can do is remain outside yourself. Christians are Christ's body...every addition to that body enables Him to do more. If you want to help those outside you must add your own little cell to the body of Christ who along can help them. Cutting off a man's fingers would be a odd way of getting him to do more work.

<u>C. S. Lewis</u>