CHURCH OF PEACE MESSENGER

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Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

How does our Fond du Lac community identify with Church of Peace United Church of Christ? Are we the "God Is Still Speaking" church? Are we the "All Are Welcome Here Church? Or perhaps we are the "A Just World For All" church. We may also be known as the "Loaves and Fishes" church or the "Warming Shelter" Church. We might be a food pantry to some or a place to get help with rent or utilities. We could also be the location where ADVOCAP provides a GED/HSED program. We might also be known as one of the free lunch locations on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

There are other ways people have seen us over the past 150 years. But what is most important about how people identify with Church of Peace United Church of Christ is that we are a church that lives the gospel of Jesus Christ. We live in the Good News of salvation and that news shapes us as individuals and as a community of God. Therefore, we live by moving in a direction toward the community formed by early Christians.

"All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need" (Acts 4:32-35).

It sounds like such a simple life of love and sharing, and we must recognize that it is a life of conscious decisions which places great importance on the needs of the many, on the needs of the few and on the needs of the one. It is a life of sacrifice and a life of great joy in the presence of God. I hope the Fond du Lac community identifies with Church of Peace United Church of Christ as all the identities above and more. A church that loves our God above all things and therefore, loves our neighbor, our visitor, and yes, our enemy as we love ourselves.

Thank you my Sisters and Brothers for being who you are, *The Church of Peace United Church of Christ*—the "God Is Still Speaking" "All Are Welcome Here" "A Just World For All" and the much more church in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

I hope that you all have a spectacularly safe 4th of July and the month of July. I hope we see you often this month as we continue or journey with Jesus together.

Grace and peace, Pastor Steve

158 S. Military Rd. Fond du Lac WI 54935 ~ 920-921-8215 ~ Fax: 920-921-8084 Website: www.uccchurchofpeace.com ~ Email: churchofpeaceucc@att.net Facebook page: Church of Peace UCC Fond du Lac

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 Mary Fleischman Doris Kastorff Helen Oelke Janet Rymer Roger Villers Janet & Eugene Willis Amy Jo Barb Dehring Tom Whittaker Diane Candlish Ruth Pedix Tyler Detweiler Rev. Jerry Schrankler Shirley Hanke Jason & Jennifer Dorothy Gyr Dave Borchert Ernst Oelke Bill Manka Abby Joe Ule Brenna Slavik Bev Gia Del Pont Edna Karl Donna Birkholz Ron Rowe Jan Whittaker Eli John Sandberg Rick Karl James Kraemer

FOOD PANTRY

We are very grateful to receive donations to our food pantry. July/Aug Food needs Dinty More Stew & Hot dogs. Nonfood needs include Paper Towel & Body Wash.





Rev. Gerald Schrankler born on December 6, 1932 and passed away on May 28, 2023.

Wayne M Wallschlaeger born on July 28, 1939 and passed away on June 11, 2023.



Reminder

Building to Serve donations should be made using the

Building to Serve envelope or a plain envelope with the words Building to Serve (BTS) on it

and a **separate check** with BTS on the memo line.

Thank you so much!!

Balance as of May 1, 2023: \$19,724.08

Deposits in May: \$54,574.51 Disbursements in May: \$6,200.00 Balance as of May 31, 2023: \$68,098.59 Remaining balance on Loan 5/31/2023: <u>\$810,361.09</u>

COUNCIL MINUTES from the June 13, 2023 (minutes taken by Matt Moore)

Balance as of May 1, 2023: \$11,107.62 Deposits in May: \$14,991.00 Disbursements in May: \$20,249.56 Balance as of May 31, 2023: \$5,849.06

Present: Jerry Johnson, Nancy Pahnke, Victor Abitz, Faye Smith, Bobbi Thomma, Pastor Stephen Stepp, Justin Poirier, Matt Moore, Peter Peterson

Absent: Mike Petersen

Guests: Jean Stepp, Carol Van Norman

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

Opening Prayer: Pastor Steve led the opening prayer.

On behalf of the Ladies of Peace, Jean Stepp let the council know that Jeanette Hinn is being celebrated and recognized for her continuous involvement at COP. She will be throwing the opening pitch at the Dock Spiders game on 6/27. Also, Carol Van Norman, shared and discussed their calendar for set up for the rummage sale on 11/10 and 11/11 which now includes evening hours from 5pm – 8pm the week of 10/30. This will allow members that work during the day to help with setup. Also for members with young children, there will be entertainment (activities, toys, games, movies, for example) and food provided for the children so they will be able to help.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Bobbi noted to add comments regarding no vacation bible school under the Christian Education section, the note regarding the Chili Cook Off should be moved to the Stewardship Ministry section, and comments regarding a new timeframe for the YMCA day should be added and included under the Stewardship Ministry section. A motion was made by Bobbi and seconded by Nancy to accept the May council meeting minutes with the changes/ additions mentioned.

Financial Report and Approval of Bills

Justin reported that all the special fund accounts are in one back account that currently doesn't gain interest. He also mentioned that the office staff retirement payment needs to be caught up (2 payments). It was noted the council needs to approve financial reports for March and April as there have been outstanding questions that prevented approval by the council. Justin has volunteered to cover treasurer duties and will look back at past questions and find answers. A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Peter to approve bill payments and May's financial reports. Motion carried.

Regarding the coins that were given to the church, Justin will look into these.

Election of Vice President

This is tabled by the council as the council continues to search for more members (three members short).

In the Life of Our Church

Worship

Pastor Steve mentioned the outdoor worship and picnic at Taylor Park is scheduled for 8/13. Christian Education:

Pastor Steve reported he met with Heather and they are planning to hold Sunday School on the 2nd and 3rd Sunday. They will be training Sunday School teachers in August.

Groups in the Church Family

Ladies of Peace: Faye reported the group is taking the summer off. Marthas: No update

Golden Fellowship: Faye reported the group is taking the summer off.

Youth: Peter reported the group has disbanded for the summer.

Outreach

- Loaves & Fishes: Nancy reported that 93 were fed. Victor mentioned they average between 60 and 100 per service. Jerry reported the board met in May and are planning to take the summer off. In September they will address/discuss going back to sit down meals again. River Park: Victor reported they focused on beautification projects for the neighborhood.
- Food Pantry: 13 households were given food assistance and 7 utility assistance. Participation seems to be increasing.
- Stewardship Ministry Team: Matt reported the group discussed how to improve involvement in recent events for next year. They will also be working on getting ready and setting up for the outdoor worship and picnic at Taylor Park on 8/13.

Scholarship Pinkert Fund

- Investment options were reviewed. A motion was made by Peter and seconded by Jerry to use Wells Fargo for a 3-month investment. Motion carried.
- Scholarship Committee. A committee needs to be formed to determine scholarship rules and requirements. The committee members should meet the same requirements, whatever they may be. We need to include something in the Messenger asking for interested members. Peter volunteered to lead this committee.

Church Administration

- Pastor Steve mentioned he will be on vacation for the July 9th and 16th services. Ray B. will cover these services.
- Pastor Steve reported it has been a struggle to resolve the worker's compensation insurance overpayment but it is in process.
- Church constitution review The council needs a new date to work on this. There are resources we can use to help get this done. Our focus needs to be on membership sections.

Buildings and Grounds

- Peter reported he is awaiting the quote for the two exterior doors leading up to the sanctuary (east side of original building).
- Pilgrim told us their railing (for the stairs leading to the altar) was purchased from Home Depot or Lowe's.
- Peter mentioned he still needs the cameras from Mike. Justin will work on this.
- Landscape and fence clean up we may need to hire an outside service to complete this. It may help to schedule set days in May and October to increase church member participation.
- AED received a notice that production of our models have been discontinued. Need to have Jackie research life expectancy of our models to determine if a trade up is necessary yet.
- Peter mentioned Maple Valley Heating and Cooling could be used if we have issues with our boiler. The person that helped with installation works for them.
- Peter requested that Tammy Thurow, the District Executive for the Ledge to Lakes District of the Boy Scouts Bay-Lakes Council, receive a key to the church. There are 3 meetings held at COP each month and Peter is not always available to open the church. The council agreed to provide her with a key.

Capital Campaign: No update

Comments of the Council President: None

Comments of the Pastor: None

Comments of the Council Members: None

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Matt Moore

COUNCIL MINUTES from the May 23 (minutes taken by Justin Poirier)

Present: Bobbi Thomma, Justin Poirier, Nancy Pahnke, Victor Abitz, Jerry Johnson, Pastor Stephen Stepp,

Absent: Mike Petersen, Faye Smith, Peter Peterson, Matt Moore

Call to Order: Victor A. called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Justin P will be acting secretary.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Steve led the opening prayer.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

A motion was made by Jerry and seconded by Bobbi to accept the 4/11/2023 council meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Financial Report and Approval of Bills

Justin to ask Mike P about the coins given to the church and a question was asked about interest earned on the special funds account, Justin will follow up with Jackie. A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Nancy to approve paying the bills and to table the financial report approval until next council meeting. Motion Carried.

Vice President Election

This is tabled by the council as the council continues to search for more members.

In the Life of Our Church

Worship

Christian Education:

A review of last years schedule and attendance is taking place as the planning for next years schedule is in progress

Pastor Steve is looking into the schedule for confirmands.

No Vacation Bible School

Groups in the Church Family

Ladies of Peace: Presented the monthly report, Noted a donation to the "Match May" for BTS.

Outreach

Loaves & Fishes: Served 105 people, COP serves on June 5th.

River Park: Victor discussed the updates coming to the area, including Hamilton Park. The group is now meeting every Month.

Food Pantry: 17 families served this month.

Stewardship Ministry Team

Chili-Cookoff: The team is looking into new dates for the next cookoff. YMCA 2024

Scholarship Pinkert Fund

- A review of the 3 financial institutions was presented by Justin, Paster Steve and Victor. Discussion followed including pros and cons of each institution. It was determined that a decision needs to be made when more council members are in attendance. A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Nancy to allow the funds to be invested in a short term CD and allow the financial institutions to provide a 3 month investment breakdown for review by the council. Motion carried.
- A Second motion was made by Justin to invest the Malson, Grunewald, one-half of the Kaiser funds and amount left in the endowment fund after the "Match-May" to be invested in a short term CD. The second half of the Kaiser funds to be moved to a higher yield money market account with NEBT. Motion Carried

Church Administration Pastor Steve mentioned he will be taking vacation. Insurance overpayment Continue to review Constitution Buildings and Grounds: Tabled Capital Campaign: June 4th is the celebration brunch. Some sweets will be provided and Justin will give an update on BTS. Comments of the Council President: None Comments of the Pastor: None Comments of the Council Members: None Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM with the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully submitted, Justin Poirier

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

GALATIANS 5: 13-14

Historical Corner

Mary Strauss, Historian



In 1983 Rev. Martin Koehler was to begin his Doctoral Studies and asked for the Council's approval. He wanted to enroll in a program being offered by the McCormick Theological Seminary. The 3-yr. course in "Parish Revitalization" began January 31st and involved nine courses -- 3 each year through 1985 – and a 2week residence at McCormick located in Chicago, IL, during the summer of the second year.

All courses were offered at Pilgrim Conference Center at Green Lake, WI, and necessitated his being away Monday-Friday for each course.

The schedule of courses reported so far in 1983 by Council President, Ginny Boyke was:

Jan. 31- Feb. 4, April 25- 29, Sept. 12-16, Jan. 30 – Feb. 3 1984, July 2 -13 at McCormick Seminary.

The remaining four electives were yet to be determined.

Approximately 16 ministers from Wisconsin were enrolled in the program, several from the United Church of Christ, and others from the Presbyterian Church, which sponsors the Seminary. They currently in 2023 have had 189 graduations since they were founded in 1829, with Rev. Martin Koehler being one of the 215 Postgraduates.

The cost of the degree was about \$3,500, which was born by Rev. Martin. There was no cost to the congregation. When it was completed, he was able to add "Dr." to his title.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

for 2023-2024!

Have you ever thought about becoming a Sunday School teacher?

Are you at least 16 years old?

We'd love for you to join our team!

No experience necessary...

Little prep required...

Multi-age classroom...

If interested, contact Heather Reader-Schubert ASAP at <u>msreaderschu-</u> <u>bert@gmail.com</u> or call/text (920) 979-4277.





CHURCH COUNCIL

Victor Abitz, President	abitzvictor@gmail.com	920-579-6008
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, BTS	poirier.bubba@gmail.com	262-623-8857
Faye Smith	dzsm8445@gmail.com	920-266-6035
Bobbi Thomma	bthomma@charter.net	920-921-5544

FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Greetings,

Coming from your Church Council President things are looking very good. I want to thank you all for the May Match on the Building to Serve campaign. We are happy the principal is going down. We are making strides.

We have taken some of the Special Funds money and we have made some investments. This was done to help the church for the long term financial needs.

Deb and myself would like to share some of our experience of the Annual Church Conference that we attended on June 9-11. We both had a great time. We met a lot of UCC members from all over the state. Our message for everyone is "Change don't fight, it embrace it". I believe our faith is stronger. We learned what some other churches are doing and that gave us some ideas that may help us in the future.

Your Church Council are working hard to make us better and stronger together. If you need anything or have any concerns or would just like to talk our numbers are listed above.

Blessings Victor



Birthday Cards

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. **Update:** We have received many positive comments and thanks from those who have received cards. Thank you, members, for sending cards.

NO July birthdays

August birthday is:

August 23 - Mr. Melvin Streeter 35 Streeter Ct. Fond du Lac, WI 54935

STEWARDSHIP MINUTES (minutes taken by Matt Moore)

Present: Sammy Schmidkonz, Nancy Steffen, Ron Roehl, Pastor Steve Stepp, Matt Moore Absent: Dave Borcherdt, Brenda Klapperich, Pat Hanke

Meeting called to order at 6:37 PM. Pastor Steve led the opening prayer.

Minutes of last meeting: A motion was made by Ron and seconded by Sammy to approve the May minutes. Motion carried.

New/Current Business

8

* Outdoor worship and picnic at Taylor Park scheduled for August 13th

- * Announcement to Jackie to put in Messenger Matt to create the flyer
- * We will do a hot dog bar again this year and also ask members bring a dish to pass
- * We can again provide coolers for water and lemonade
- * Taylor Park is reserved (thank you Jackie R)
- * Plan to have board games, kid's game, and bingo

* Nancy reported Johnsonville donated 50 natural casing hot dogs. Nancy and Sam my will send them a thank you card.

- * Pickup truck to transport Ron will be able to use his work van
- * Crop Walk and Trunk or Treat

* The team agreed that we would start advertising for these events right after the outdoor service/picnic.

- * Pastor Steve to look into joining with other churches for a possible joint outdoor service * Pastor Steve reported that he will be meeting with other pastors in August to discuss this idea.
- * Dock Spiders No update; however, it was noted Pat made an announcement prior to last Sunday's church service.

* Need to print and pass out copies of the yearly events calendar for the team

- * For next meeting, we can start plugging in event dates for 2024
- * New ideas?
 - * Pastor Steve mentioned a soup luncheon
 - * Nancy mentioned a painting class

* The team needs to think about new/fresh ideas over the next couple months

* Proceeds from Chili Cook Off

* A motion was made by Matt and seconded by Sammy to use the proceeds from the 2023

Chili Cook Off toward toys, games, or storage totes for a kid's playroom. Motion carried.

* Stewardship hosts social hour on 7/2 and 8/6.

Next meeting date July 18, 2023 @ 6:30 pm Adjourned at 7:22pm with a prayer by Pastor Steve.

July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	S M 7 4 5 11 12 1 18 19 2	Jun 2023 T W T F S 1 2 3 6 7 8 9 10 13 14 15 16 17 20 21 22 23 24 27 28 29 30	Aug 2023 S M T W T F 1 2 3 4 6 7 8 9 10 11 13 14 15 16 17 18 20 21 22 23 24 22 27 28 29 30 31	5 12 3 19		1
2 9:00 AM Worship w/communion	3	4 Happy 4th! Office Closed	5	6	7	8
9 9:00 AM Worship	10	11 6:30 PM Council Meeting	12	13 9:30 AM Ethics Committee 6:30 PM Bazaar Meeting	14	15
16 9:00 AM Worship	17	18 6:30 PM Stewardship Meeting	19	20	21	22
23 9:00 AM Worship	24 1:30 PM Bible Study	25 6:30 PM Council Meeting	26	27	28	29
30 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM New Members Informational Meeting	31					

August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jul 2023 S M T W 2 3 4 5 9 10 11 12 16 17 18 19 23 24 25 26 30 31	T F S 1 1 1 6 7 8 13 14 15 20 21 22 27 28 29	1	2	3	4	5
6 9:00 AM Worship w/communion Huy COMMUNION	7	8 6:30 PM Council Meeting	9	10 9:30 AM Ethics Committee	11	12
13 10:00 AM Outdoor Worship & Picnic at Taylor Park Pool	14	15 8:00 AM -2:00 PM Advocap Meeting 6:30 PM Stewardship Meeting	16	17	18	19
20 9:00 AM Worship	21 1:30 PM Bible Study	22 Messenger Articles Due!	23 10:00 AM Blood Drive	24	25	26
27 9:00 AM Worship	28	29	30	31	10 11 12 1 17 18 19 2	W T F S 1 2 2 5 7 8 9 3 14 15 16

CHURCH OF PEACE 158 SOUTH MILITARY ROAD FOND DU LAC, WI 54935 Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Fond du Lac, WI Permit No. 10

Mr (AUGUST