CHURCH OF PEACE MESSENGER

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Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

Life is the greatest gift we have ever received because without it, we would not have the opportunity to receive all the other gifts that God pours out upon us. We must also remember that life is now a two-part gift thanks to Jesus Christ. The first part is our faith-filled life here on earth, and the second part is the continuation of our faith-filled life in the kingdom of heaven.

But sometimes we often get caught up in our earthly lives and lose track of God's gift of life because there are so many things to do, so many things to accomplish, so many things we want to enjoy, so many things we can prove we are one of the best. Those endeavors can fill a moment in this life with joy, but if we allow them to consume our time and resources, we can lose sight of the Bread of Life that truly brings the joy of heaven into our hearts. We could even forget the simple commands of Jesus, Love God first, and love everyone as I love you.

The magnificent thing is this, you can enjoy your life and pursue the endeavors you love to do, **and** you can participate in the Body of Christ (the church) by simply remembering the sabbath day, by coming to worship services, and by finding and being a part of a church endeavor that you enjoy. Not only will you enjoy life here, but you will also come closer to understanding the life we are promised in Jesus.

Now, one of the most often asked questions I receive from our youth is, "What is heaven like?" So, I turn to the Bible where we might find a glimpse of what heaven is like. "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field" (Matthew 13:44).

Even though this parable does not describe heaven in a visual sense, I believe it does describe heaven in a life sense. Meaning, the kingdom of heaven is greater in beauty, joy and love than anything we could ever imagine, and when we realize that... we will do any and all things possible to dwell in that place someday. So let us use our faith to achieve our true goal in life, "Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever" (Psalm 23:6). Praise be to God!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Steve

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



IN OUR PRAYERS

Lucy Zahn Janet Rymer Elise Sonnenberg Siera Williams **Cindy Duffy** Janet & Eugene Willis **Bob Hanke Amy Jo** Alice Jaber **Barb Dehring** Theresa Schultz James Kraemer **Marilyn Peters** Diana Candlish Helen Oelke **Ruth Pedix Christine Weimer** Tyler Detweiler **Evelyn Stepp** Tom Whittaker **Elaine Miller Shirley Hanke** Nicole Schendel Jason & Jennifer Donna Blaine Shirley Bell-Elsinger Susan Snider **Carol Carlson**

Heather Reader-Schubert

Grea Baker

Bill Manka
Dave Borchert
Joe Ule
Doris Kastorff
Dorothy Gyr
Gia Del Ponte
Edna Karl
Donna Birkholz
Ron Rowe
Jan Whittaker
Ernest Oelke
John Sandberg
Marvin Oelke
Ron Wilson
Deb Baker

FOOD PANTRY

We are very grateful to receive donations to our food pantry. September Food needs Spaghetti Sauce & Spaghetti Noodles Nonfood needs include Laundry Detergent.





DEATH

Our sympathy to the families of Vicki Goden-Hoch and Debbie Keys on the passing of their father. Ronald was born on August 28, 1938 and passed away on August 12, 2023.



Balance as of June 1, 2023: \$68,098.59

Deposits in June: \$14,700.85

Disbursements in June: \$66,575.00

Balance as of June 30, 2023: \$16,224.44

Remaining balance on Loan 6/30/2023: \$680,177.96

Balance as of July 1, 2023: \$16,224.44

Deposits in July: \$2,798.19

Disbursements in July: \$6,150.00

Balance as of July 31, 2023: \$12,872.63

Remaining balance on Loan 6/30/2023: <u>\$676,467.66</u>

COUNCIL MINUTES from the July 11, 2023 (minutes taken by Matt Moore)

Balance as of June 1, 2023: \$5,849.06

Deposits in June: \$12,513.00

Disbursements in June: \$17,445.24

Balance as of June 30, 2023: \$916.82

Call to Order: Victor called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.

Opening Prayer: Victor led the opening prayer.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

Financial Report and Approval of Bills

Justin reported that the staff retirement has yet to be paid out (2 payments). Justin noted a discrepancy of \$180 in income between the June profit/loss report and the income/expenses reports. Also, there is a \$263.56 discrepancy that needs to be resolved. A motion was made by Peter and seconded by Nancy to transfer \$10,000 from the Kaiser fund to the general fund to pay bills since our checking balance as of 6/30 was \$916.82. Motion carried. A motion was made by Peter and seconded by Justin to approve bill payments but table approval of June's financial reports until the discrepancy is found. Motion carried.

In the Life of Our Church

Worship

Victor noted attendance in worship has declined during the summer.

Christian Education: No update Groups in the Church Family

Ladies of Peace: Nancy reported the group is not meeting during the summer.

Marthas: No update

Golden Fellowship: Group not meeting during the summer.

Youth: Peter asked this be removed from the agenda until participation increases.

Outreach

Loaves & Fishes: Victor mentioned there 110 people served. Aramark donated food recently due to losing the school district account.

River Park: No meeting last month.

Food Pantry: 17 households were given food assistance and 6 utility assistance.

Stewardship Ministry Team: Matt reported the group's focus is preparing for the outdoor worship and picnic at Taylor Park on 8/13. They decided to use the proceeds from the Chili Cook Off toward supplies for a kid's play area.

Scholarship Pinkert Fund:

Peter mentioned that no one has contacted him yet to be on the committee. It would be a good idea to add a call for help in the Messenger. Peter will also make an announcement in church.

Church Administration

Picture directory: Victor shared a brochure from a company that creates directories. The council agreed a new directory would be nice but hold it in the fall when there are more people in attendance at worship to ensure as many people as possible participate.

Buildings and Grounds

Victor shared the options for railing (for the stairs leading to the altar). A motion was made by Peter and seconded by Justin to select the railing with curved ends. Motion carried.

Victor discussed the possibility of hiring a landscape company to help with the landscape projects and to clean up the fence area due to lack of help. Peter will obtain quotes.

Victor reported Soroptomist International of Fond du Lac would like to rent the Fellowship Hall and kitchen from 10 AM to 7:30 PM on Saturday, March 2, 2024. There will be approximately 100 people. The council approved.

Capital Campaign: Justin suggested changing the name of this agenda item to Future Investments. He also reported that a money market line item will be added. Justin will follow up with National Exchange Bank & Trust to see what they offer for long term options. The council agreed to continue to make the minimum payments and any interest earned on the money market accounts will go to Building to Serve and if needed, take money out of the endowment fund to meet the minimum payments.

Comments of the Council President: None

Comments of the Pastor: Not present

Comments of the Council Members: Bobbi mentioned we need to follow up with Jackie Rymer regarding the AED.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 6:30 PM to review the constitution. Next regular council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Matt Moore



The fall rummage sale will be held on November 10 – 11, 2023 this year.

We are trying something new this year to see if we can get some help from people who work during the day. Sunday, October 29th after church we will be setting up tables and racks only. Monday October 30th – November 2rd we will be doing set up from 5 PM – 8 PM only. This could be a night away from your children, or if you need to bring them along, we will entertain them. We will also serve a light lunch for them. We hope this will encourage the working people to help with this event.

From November 6th thru the 9th setup will be during the day like we always have done it in the past from 9 AM – 3 PM.

We really need your help to continue having rummage sales. Last year we made over \$6,000.00 and we would hate to see the church lose this income.

The rummage sale will be Friday, November 10th from 9 AM – 5 PM, and Saturday, November 11th from 9 AM – 2 PM.

More information will be coming in the October Newsletter

Contact Carol Van Norman at (920)238-0514 with any questions.

COUNCIL MINUTES from the August 8, 2023 (minutes taken by Matt Moore)

Balance as of July 1, 2023: \$916.82

Deposits in July: \$23,964.00

Disbursements in July: \$18,476.32

Balance as of July 31, 2023: \$6,404.50

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

Opening Prayer: Pastor Steve led the opening prayer.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

<u>Victor requested the wording in the Worship section be updated to include "due to summer activities"</u> to clarify the reason for the attendance decline this summer. A motion was made by Bobbi and seconded by Faye to accept the July council meeting minutes with the amendment mentioned. Motion carried.

Financial Report and Approval of Bills

Bobbi pointed out on the Incoming & Expense Comparison report for July 2023 and the year-to-date report, the line item "Loan From Special Funds" should be changed to "Transfer From Special Funds" and list the specific fund the money was transferred from. Pastor Steve also suggested moving the "Transfer From Special Funds" line item under "Total Regular Offerings" so when we look at offering/giving, it doesn't include any transfers. Bobbi also noted on the Abbreviated Financial Report, in the BTS section, the date for the remaining balance should be changed from 6/30/2023 to 7/31/2023. Regarding the church insurance overpayment, Pastor Steve reported he was able to contact the insurance company and they told him they are depositing two checks into our account to credit the church for the overcharges. Lastly, Bobbi noted date typos on the July 2023 Expenses report in the Christian Outreach section and the final total. Both state 2021 instead of 2023. A motion was made by Nancy and seconded by Bobbi to table approval of the financial report, make the changes as noted above, and pay the bills. Motion carried.

In the Life of Our Church

Worship

Pastor Steve reminded the council of next Sunday's outdoor worship at 10:00 AM at Taylor Park. He mentioned there is also free swimming after worship.

Pastor Steve mentioned he is performing a baptism on 9/3.

Christian Education:

Pastor Steve reported that Sunday School is still in need of more teachers.

Sunday School will be held the second and third Sundays each month. In September, Family Sunday is on 9/10 and regular Sunday School on 9/17.

Movies

The church is in need of one or two people to coordinate the movies along with any snacks/drinks, etc.

Groups in the Church Family

Ladies of Peace: Will start meeting again in September.

Marthas: No update

Golden Fellowship: Faye reported she has a person willing to discuss kidney transplants. This could possibly be scheduled during the fellowship hour after worship.

Youth: No update

Outreach

Loaves & Fishes: Victor mentioned 105 people were served last night.

River Park: Victor reported the group discussed the lack of available affordable housing in Fond du Lac.

Food Pantry: 22 households were given food assistance and 9 rent/utility assistance.

Pastor Steve reported Holy Family is working to find donors to buy a building for a new homeless shelter large enough for about 40 people.

Stewardship Ministry Team: Matt reported the group did not meet last month but their focus has been preparing for the outdoor worship and picnic at Taylor Park on 8/13.

Scholarship Pinkert Fund:

The council reviewed the newly created application form and agreed on a few revisions: Add a signature line and verbiage regarding the costs covered like tuition, room/board, etc.

The council suggested up to \$5,000 per year and a \$20,000 cap.

Start date should be ASAP.

A motion was made by Matt and seconded by Nancy to add the above revisions to the application form. Motion carried.

Church Administration

Pastor Steve mentioned that Pat Siekierke would like the electric piano from the balcony brought down so she can play it for the Sunday School children. The council agreed to pay her \$20 each time she plays for Sunday School.

Picture directory: We are in need of a coordinator. We would like Jackie Rymer to contact the directory company to find out the responsibilities of the coordinator. At the last council meeting it was discussed to coordinate it this fall but due to church activities (bazaar and rummage sale) along with the holiday activities soon after, it would be best to push this to after the first of next year.

Pastor Steve reviewed his thoughts on his flow chart of the church and how the church operates with God at the center of it all.

Buildings and Grounds

Discussion regarding estimates for the doors leading to the Sanctuary and bell tower ladder will be tabled.

We need estimates from landscaping companies for fall clean up

Hall use for a baby shower has been approved

AED follow-up - Pastor Steve to ask Jackie Rymer

Constitution review has been scheduled for after worship service on 8/20.

Capital Campaign: A motion was made by Bobbi and seconded by Nancy to change the name from Capital Campaign to Investing in the Future. Motion carried.

Comments of the Council President: None

Comments of the Pastor: Andrew Warner emailed Pastor Steve about the UCC Leadership Forward program and asked about coming to discuss the program with the council. The council agreed to schedule this.

Comments of the Council Members: None

Next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 20, 2023 at about 10:05 AM to review the constitution.

Next regular council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Matt Moore

Historical Corner

Mary Strauss, Historian



150 years ago on 8-26-1870 an article was placed in the Fond Du Lac Daily newspaper as our church was being built asking for help getting it ready for winter. This is what was written:

" The church enterprise in progress on the corner of military and Ruggles Sts - known as the Friedens Gemelude, or Salem congregation, is worthy of the consideration and help of the Christian public. The little band of Christian workers have been struggling hard and making great sacrifices to secure a house of worship. They have put in a solid, handsome foundation of stone and built up the walls with brick ready for the roof. Up to this point, they have paid the bills as they have gone along. They're available means are about exhausted. They are very anxious so far to finish the house that they can worship in the basement this winter. The house when done will be an ornament to the city, as well as a centre of wholesome influence.

All the friends of Evangelical, religion and morality, should feel interested in the success of this enterprise - and all the more because it is German. A small sum contributed by all such would very much help and cheer the hearts of the struggling Christian band.

For the purpose of raising funds, those belonging to the congregation propose to give a Festival in Amory Hall, Monday evening, September 5, consisting of music, speaking, refreshments, and articles of choice handiwork, which will be disposed of for the benefit of those present."

This sure sounds like it's our FIRST BAZAAR!

MARTHA SOCIETY

I love autumn, the one **season** of the year that God seemed to have put there just for the beauty of it.

Lee Maynard

Summer is over...the Martha's will resume meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The members served social hour after church on August 6th and were reminded that our first meeting of the year will be September 12th. They were asked to bring suggestions for new activities or ways to improve our present activities. We will be counting the money each member donates to their "Penny Bag Challenge" team. In September of 2022, we divided into 2 teams (Red & Blue). The team with the most money wins and the team with the least money will plan a social for the October meeting. The money from both teams goes into our treasury. The Martha's treasury is donations from the members. We also will fill our 40 Fall "Thinking of You" bags. Each member brings a snack item for the bags. We appreciate the help from Visitation Ministry to distribute 23 of the bags on their visits. We also washed the Children's Activity Bags from the sanctuary and will purchase new books, crayons, and miscellaneous items we find appropriate for little ones. Our September meeting will be busy....but never too busy to welcome YOU. Would you like to know more about the Martha's activities? You are welcome to visit our meetings anytime.

LADIES OF PEACE

Next Meeting

September 5th at 11:30am

All are welcomed!



2023-2024 starts September 10th!!

We have some changes and exciting new things planned for Sunday School this coming school year! Our theme will be "Dream God's Dream" based on the song of the same name by Bryan Sirchio. We will be doing a close study of the lyrics and will be performing the song. For our curriculum, we will be utilizing *Picture the Bible, which is "a creative approach to Bible study that fosters biblical literacy and interpretation, and encourages people to see connections between their lives and the biblical story". We will be spending a lot of time asking questions, analyzing pictures of Bible stories, and reading contemporary children's books that will help us make these connections and help us grow as Christians.*

After feedback and much reflection, we have decided to increase Sunday School to TWO Sundays per month, plus Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday.

<u>Sunday School will meet on the following dates:</u>

- September 10th & 17th
- October 8th & 15th
- November 12th & 19th
- December 10th & 17th
- December 24th**: Christmas Eve Program (TBD)
- January 14th & 21st:
- February 11th & 18th
- March 10th & 17th
- March 31st**: Easter Sunday (TBD)
- April 14th & 21st
- May 12th** & 19th

Sunday School will begin at 10:00 a.m. (just after the worship service) and will conclude at 11:15 a.m. Our official kickoff will be Family Sunday on September 10th right after the worship service. Families will have an opportunity to sign up for Sunday School at that time or can sign up before then by scanning this QR Code:

If you have any questions, please contact Heather Reader-Schubert using the methods below. We look forward to seeing all of you this school year as we Dream God's Dream together! Sincerely in Christ,

Heather Reader-Schubert
Supt. of Christian Education
Church of Peace UCC
SundaySchool@churchofpeaceuccfdl.org (920) 979-4277

^{**}Students will be doing something special during these services.

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	
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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

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

From your Council President letting you know that the Council is working hard to get things done to make our church stronger.

We have the new railings installed and we are working on few other projects that we need to get done before the Bazaar and Rummage Sale.

We had 58 people at the outdoor worship service and picnic it was a good turn out, a little chilly but a good time for all.

If you have a little time you can spare each month we could use your help on the Council or our other committees.

I would like to thank Jodie Marcoe for his help and any one else who has assisted on other church activities. We still have a lot to get done.

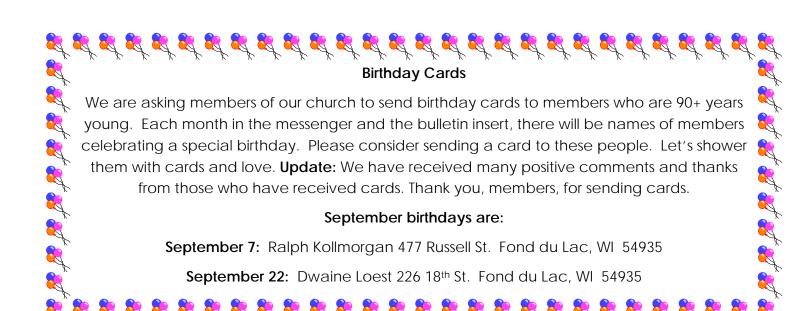
So, in closing I would like to say keep up the faith. And may God bless you all.

Blessings, Victor



Greetings Brothers and Sisters, our " Adopt a Backpack " mission was a great success!!

THANK YOU for your participation and generosity helping 24 local children begin the new school year with confidence. Your faith in Jesus Christ and unbounding generosity in your hearts continues to show that the Church of Peace United Church of Christ is a Church of word and action helping ALL people in our community.



STEWARDSHIP MINUTES (minutes taken by Brenda Klapperich & Pastor Steve)

Pastor Steve gave the opening prayer

Minutes of the June 20, 2023 meeting were approved

Old Business

Outdoor Worship Service and Church Picnic at Taylor Park 8-13-2023

All present thought this year went very well and made suggestions for next year.

More help with set-up and breakdown.

New main dish like pulled pork or hamburger bar

New/Current Business

Family Fun Day on Sunday, September 17

Pastor Steve shared the Sunday School lesson for the day is "Jesus feeds the 5000" Stewardship agreed to help with making your own pizzas.

CROP WALK October 15th time 3:00 pm.

Date was finalized and we will consider a new walk route to freshen up the event.

Stewardship will take care of the sign up table and treats following.

Jackie will make a treat sign up sheet.

Trunk or Treat Sunday, October 29 from 3:30-5:00 pm. Reduced the time by 30 minutes on the end.

Pastor Steve will design flyers

Jackie will print the flyers and make a sign up list

Stewardship will distribute in the neighborhood

Stewardship will take care of beverage station inside the church.

November Stewardship drive. Pastor Steve will write the letter and Jackie will prepare the statements, envelopes and labels.

Stewardship will put together the letters, statements and envelopes.

Christmas Cards and Angel Tree

Pastor Steve will design the card. Jackie will print the card, get envelopes and print labels.. Stewardship will put together the cards and put up the Angel Tree and help as needed

Christmas Eve fellowship between services.

Stewardship will help bake and/or decorate cookies with children and members.

The Stewardship Committee will plan dates for the 2024 yearly calendar of events at the November meeting

Next meeting date Tuesday, September 19 Adjourn with prayer Heavenly 🖺 Handbags for Church of Peace Bazaar

It's time to start collecting 🔷 Handbags,

A Hats and Scarves, etc. for the Church of Peace Bazaar in October.

Please put your donations (in good condition) in the tote at the bottom of the stairs going up to church.

Thank you for supporting the Church of Peace Bazaar 😊





GOLDEN FELLOWSHIP WE ARE BACK!!

We hope you had a wonderful summer. Mark your calendars for our next meeting time....September 21, 2023 at 11:00 in Fellowship Hall.

We will be having a picnic. Brats, burgers and buns will be furnished. Bring a dish to pass. Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in by office.

There will be a game time and a short discussion on our upcoming gatherings. Did you know that you don't have to be **GOLDEN** to attend our social time? **NO**, you don't. All ages are invited to attend.

We hope you will join us!!

CHURCH BAZAAR

The Church Bazaar is fast approaching. October 7, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Things are changing this year. We are having a new and improved bazaar. This is not your grandma's church bazaar.

Our raffle is new this year. We are not having a silent auction. The prizes this year are:

1st prize - \$500 Walmart Gift Card

2nd prize - \$250 Kwik Trip Gas Card

3rd prize - \$100 Schmitty's Bar and Grill Gift Card

We are also going to have a separate raffle for a gently used (two or three times) propane generator.

Ticket prices are \$5 each or 6 for \$25.

We are asking each church member to please sell at least five tickets or more. If you can't sell them, at least buy five tickets. This raffle should go over big. You can pick up additional tickets at the church office during office hours.

We are still doing the basket raffles. That goes over great. If you want to donate something to put into a basket or put a basket together by yourself we would greatly appreciate it. Maybe a non-used regift. This might be the place to donate it, or you could purchase something to put in a basket. We will put the baskets together. Gift cards are always welcome. These items should be brought to church by September 17th.

These are the booths we are having this year: Yesterdays' Treasures (no clothing, clothing can be brought in for the fall rummage sale), Candy, Caramel Apples, Market Place, Plants, Kids Painting Booth, Popcorn, Handbags (brought in by September 17th), designer clothes, bakery, books, jewelry.

We need help the week of the Bazaar for set up and take down.

In the kitchen and dining room we need waitresses, cashiers and people serving food.

Thanks to your generosity last year, we were able to donate \$10,000.00 toward the principal of our church loan. Let's see if we can shoot for \$12,000.00 this year.

These are things we need you to bring to church right now. Gallon jars, quart and pint canning jars, any quart jars that are not canning jars all with lids, real inside flowers and flower pots, baskets that are medium to large size, coffee mugs, clear 5 x 7 and 8 x 10 clear acrylic picture frames, a lot of roma tomatoes.

Closer to the event, we need apples, squash, tomatoes, cucumbers, pumpkins, gourds and other produce.

Thank you in advance.

Any questions Contact: Nancy Pahnke at (920)269-4885

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	S M T W T 1 2 3 6 7 8 9 10 1 13 14 15 16 17 1 20 21 22 23 24 2 27 28 29 30 31	F S M T 1 1 2 3 11 12 8 9 10 18 19 15 16 17	W T F S 4 5 6 7 11 12 13 14 18 19 20 21 25 26 27 28		1	2
9:00 AM Worship w/communion How COMMUNION	Office Closed Value V	5 11:30 AM Ladies of Peace	8:30 AM River Park Meeting 6:30 PM Boy Scout Meeting	7	8	9
10 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM -11:15 AM First Day of Sunday School	11	6:00 PM Martha Society 6:30 PM Council Meeting	6:30 PM Boy Scout Meeting COP Serves L & F	9:30 AM Ethics Committee	15	16
9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM -11:15 AM Sunday School	18 1:30 PM Bible Study	6:30 PM Stewardship Meeting	20	21 11:00 AM Golden Fellowship	22	23
24 9:00 AM Worship	25	26 Messenger Articles Duel	27	28	29	30

CHURCH OF PEACE

158 SOUTH MILITARY ROAD

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SEPTEMBER