

CHURCH OF PEACE MESSENGER

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

"Come for all things are prepared," is the sentence of our communion liturgy just before we distribute the bread and the cup. It is a warm and inviting sentence that reminds us that all are welcome to come to Christ's table; all are welcome at God's great banquet. God invites us and all we need to do is accept, put on the robe of Christ, and

come. So, with our invitation through the grace of God and our robe given to us by Christ as the true way to live in faith, we come to the banquet by living our lives in that robe and accepting God's way and Christ's life as our own.

Then because we live Christ's life, we know the difficulty of crossing the threshold. Therefore, we reach out and invite members, neighbors, and strangers to join us. We pray that they too will reach out and join us as we unite in worship and service to God. It is what Jesus did for the disciples when anxiety and uneasiness prevented them from crossing the threshold to go out and make disciples. And when there was still one whose faith was tested, Jesus returned and said, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side" (John 20:27). Jesus came to him. Jesus reached out to him. Jesus invited him to touch and believe. So, we need to make every effort by reaching out with God's invitation to the banquet. We need to invite all to learn about the beautiful robe of life in Christ. Then we all will rejoice as we enter God's great banquet. Praise be to God!

As we begin the month of November, we once again prepare ourselves for the winter ahead. Now I have always seen winter in two parts.

The first part is the exciting part. The first snow fall. The first snowman. The first snowball fight. But more importantly, the First Christmas. "What?" you may say, "First Christmas?" and I would say yes, our celebration of Christmas should always be centered on the First Christmas when Jesus Christ was born.

The second part is the long, long cold winter part when we long for Spring to come.

But let us not get ahead of ourselves, let us first relish November as our time of preparation and excitement as we wait for the first "real" snow and the beginning of Advent.

Finally, let me say thank you to everyone at Church of Peace as I begin my fourth year with you all. FOURTH YEAR! You say... I know really; it's been a little over three years since God called me to serve you. I thank you for your continuing love and support as we continue to move forward in faith on our journey of life together. May God continue to generously bless us so that we may generously bless others with our faith in Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Steve



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



IN OUR PRAYERS

Lucy Zahn	Janet Rymer	Bill Manka
Elise Sonnenberg	Del Weigel	Dave Borchert
Cindy Duffy	Joe Ule	Baby Archer
Bob Hanke	Amy Jo	Doris Kastorff
Janelle Anderson	Barb Dehring	Dorothy Gyr
Theresa Schultz	Kenny Steffen Jr	Wayne Katerski
Marilyn Peters	Diane Candlish	Edna Karl
Helen Oelke	Ruth Pedix	Donna Birkholz
Christine Weimer	Tyler Detweiler	Ron Rowe
Evelyn Stepp	Tom Whittaker	Jan Whittaker
Elaine Miller	Shirley Hanke	Ernest Oelke
Nicole Schendel	Jason & Jennifer	Nancy Schaefer
Donna Blaine	Marvin Oelke	Nathan
Susan Snider	Carol Carlson	Ron Wilson
Deb Baker	Greg Baker	Bailey Gehrt
Terry Burns	Mary Steffen	Evelyn Yantz
Shirley Bell-Elsinger	Jim & Kathy	Stephany
Siera Williams and baby Morgan	Janet & Eugene Willis	
Heather Reader-Schubert		
The family of Terry Burns		

FOOD PANTRY

We are very grateful to receive donations to our food pantry.

November Food needs
Canned Pears, Ramen Noodles, Hamburger Helper, Jelly

Non-food needs include
Paper Towels and Laundry Soap



Investing in the Future (formerly known as Build To Serve)

Balance as of

09/01/23 \$9,688.92

Deposits in September:

\$10,242.90

Disbursements in September:

\$6,200.00

Balance as of

09/30/23: \$13,731.82

Remaining balance on Loan

8/31/2023: \$669,008.04

Balance as of

September 1, 2023: \$6,606.17

Deposits in September: \$12,192.50

Disbursements in September: \$13,778.73

Balance as of September 31, 2023: \$5,019.94

Birthday Card Shower !!!

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.

November birthdays are:

November 8: Lois Zinnel 408 Ashford Ave. Lomira, Wi 53048

November 10: Helen Rose W8114 County Road Y Oakfield, Wi 53065-9571

November 13: Donna Birkholz N9002 Lakeshore Dr. Van Dyne, Wi 54979



MEMORIAL SUNDAY

On Sunday, November 5th, our community will observe All Saints Day. During the worship service at 9:00 am, we will honor the lives of members and friends of Church of Peace United Church of Christ who have passed on into

Volunteer to help this year with the free community meal on November 23rd. Sign up sheet in the church lobby!



GREAT THANKS!

THIS MONTH JACKIE RYMER RETIRED FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER POSITION FOR OUR CHURCH AFTER 19 YEARS OF SERVICE. THANK YOU JACKIE FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO SERVING OUR CONGREGATION. GOD BLESS YOU!

Our new Office Manager is Wendy Petak. Wendy is a life long member of our congregation and has experience in many aspects of management. She has already stepped into the position and has begun to learn some of the many of the aspects of her new job. It is going to take some time to learn the job, so please be very patient in the coming months.



Thursday, November 16th at 11:00

We will have a presentation by John & Mari Loomans on making Fired Glass pendants, crosses and a few other items. They will also show us some of their special wood-working crafts. Bring your own lunch and drink. We will have coffee and water and a dessert. Please join us!

CROP WALK report

This year we had five walkers who raised \$330. Thank you to all who gave, walked, and supported this important mission of our church!



Sunday School will meet on the following dates:

- *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

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

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

Church of Peace Council Meeting Minutes – October 10, 2023

Present: Victor Abitz, Pastor Stephen Stepp, Matt Moore, Faye Smith, Nancy Pahnke, Mike Petersen, Bobbi Thoma, Justin Poirer

Absent: Peter Peterson, Jerry Johnson

Call to Order: Victor called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Steve led the opening prayer.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

[A motion was made by Bobbi and seconded by Nancy to accept the September council meeting minutes. Motion carried.](#)

Financial Report and Approval of Bills

Bobbi noted the beginning balance on the Abbreviated Financial Report for 9/1/23 doesn't match the 8/31/23 ending balance. This will need to be corrected. Justin reported he will be working on a video review of the 3rd quarter Investing in the Future (formerly Building to Serve) numbers. In support, it was recommended the council attend or take part in the video. Justin reported we may need to use the Endowment Fund to make the minimum building loan payments since giving has reduced. Also, the balance in the General Fund is very low. A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Nancy to move the Malson Memorial and the Air Conditioner Fund into the General Fund. Motion carried. A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Matt to approve the September financials and pay the bills. Motion carried.

In the Life of Our Church

Worship

Pastor Steve reported letters are being sent out for the Memorial Sunday worship on 11/5

The Thanksgiving Eve service is scheduled for Wednesday 11/22

Advent begins on Sunday 12/3

The council held a lengthy discussion on changing the Sunday services on Christmas Eve. It was decided to keep the 4 PM and 6 PM and still forgo the 9 AM service. But if any church member has specific opinions on the subject, we ask that they come forward and discuss with a council member so the council can discuss further at the November council meeting.

Christian Education:

6 children in Sunday School

Activities Assistant

No updates

Groups in the Church Family

Ladies of Peace: Discussed the upcoming Church of Peace Rummage Sale. The council discussed a request to open an E-bay account using COP's tax exemption. E-bay can be used to sell items and generate income for the church. This decision has been tabled until we receive more information.

Marthas: Meeting tonight.

Golden Fellowship: Faye reported that Renee Kiefer and Jane Carter will be discussing organ donation on Thursday 10/19.

Youth: There were 2 youth members that helped redecorate the Upper Room.

Outreach

Loaves & Fishes: Victor reported 98 people were served last night and 122 last week. Reminder that COP serves again on Wednesday 12/13.

River Park: Victor reported the group discussed housing. This group will be changing to their winter schedule (meet every other month).

Food Pantry: 17 households were given food assistance and 7 rent/utility assistance. The Reverse Advent Calendar event in December will help fill the food pantry. Pastor Steve reported we are also looking into a federal program called Feeding America to help keep the pantry stocked but comes with strict guidelines.

Salem UCC in Wayne, WI received a large donation of clothing and winter apparel. They are willing to provide COP with clothing again for our Winter Clothing Rack.

Stewardship Ministry Team: Matt reminded the council of the Crop Walk event happening on Sunday 10/15. The group is planning for that and the upcoming Trunk or Treat on 10/29. They will also be getting ready for the Stewardship Drive, the Angel/Bell Tree, Christmas cards, and coordinating decoration of Christmas cookies for Fellowship Hour between services on Christmas Eve.

(continued on next page)

Church Administration

Discussion on Pastor's medical and dental coverage will be tabled until next month. This coverage is detailed in the Pastor's call agreement.

Pastor Steve reported he is trying to plan a time to use his remaining vacation.

Wendy Petak, new Office Manager, asked for approval to work extra hours while she is learning as there is a lot yet to learn. A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Faye to approve extra hours for training not to exceed 5 hours per week and the council will review again after 3 weeks. Motion carried.

Buildings and Grounds

Victor discussed obtaining quotes for snow removal. He received one from Prima and will request one from Pionke. We will table further discussion until next month's council meeting.

Victor reported that currently there is no maintenance required for the boilers. He is awaiting an estimate to have Maple Valley check it over once or twice per year.

Victor recommended he purchase the security cameras since the previous project has not progressed. He will purchase up to 6 cameras which will be connected wirelessly. The council agreed and approved.

Scholarship Pinkert Fund:

The council reviewed the application form.

Pastor Steve challenged the council to think about reducing the grant amount and supplement the difference with a scholarship to help applicants want to increase their involvement in the church.

Constitution review has been scheduled to take place after worship service on 10/22.

Investing in the Future (formerly Building to Serve): discussed in the Financial Report and Approval of Bills section of the agenda.

Comments of the Council President: None

Comments of the Pastor: Mentioned that we've seen a decline in giving since May likely due in part to the one-time giving/matching funds event. We need to remind members to continue giving what they normally give and if able a little more. There may be confusion since there are two issues – a decline in giving to the general fund and a decline in giving to the building loan fund. The Pastor also provided some insight after his Fall Clergy Retreat.

Comments of the Council Members: None

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

The next constitution review meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 22, 2023 at about 10:05 AM.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Moore

Church of Peace Council Meeting Minutes – October 5, 2023

Present: Mike Petersen, Victor Abitz, Matt Moore, Bobbi Thomma, Pastor Stephen Stepp

Present via Zoom: Nancy Pahnke, Faye Smith, Justin Poirier

Absent: Peter Peterson, Jerry Johnson

Call to Order: Victor called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Steve led the opening prayer.

Agenda:

This emergency council meeting was scheduled to discuss the resignation and replacement of Jackie Rymer, Office Manager for Church of Peace, effective 10/12/2023.

Victor presented two options:

Use SEEK Careers/Staffing to find a person to help.

Hire applicant, Wendy Petak who is a current member of Church of Peace.

Victor read off her qualifications and past work experience.

She can work Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 8am to 12pm.

She can start working next Monday 10/9.

Jackie is willing to train her replacement until 10/12.

The council discussed in great detail and a motion was made by Nancy and seconded Matt to hire Wendy Petak for the position of Office Manager effective 10/9/2023 at an hourly wage of \$22.00. Motion carried.

The council discussed and agreed on a gift for Jackie for her dedication.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Bazaar News

Dear Members of the Church of Peace, I would like to say thank you for trusting me the last 7 years to handle the Churches Bazaar, it's been interesting and challenging to see how I could improve it from year to year. This year was a huge success, with that said, it also was very stressful for me. With Much thought and prayer, I've decided to step down as Chairperson from the Bazaar. There for we are looking for someone to take over the position of Chair. Please get a hold of me, if your interested in taking over the Challenge. I would be happy to advise. Nancy Pahnke

RUMMAGE SALE

As of writing this, the rummage sale is two weeks away. Items are being brought to church already. That is good. Remember to bring bakery on November 8th and 9th.

So far very few people have signed up to work this event. None of our working members have signed up either, so I don't know if we should be prepared to entertain small children that will be coming with their parents or not. Sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex so I know how to prepare.



Poinsettia & Gifts

If you wish to have a poinsettia placed in the sanctuary for Christmas, please return this form to the church office **no later than Wednesday, November 29, 2023**. You may also sponsor a bulletin or give a cash gift. (Please note into which fund you would like your gift to go.)

Number of poinsettias at \$14.00 each: _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Given by _____

Sponsor a Christmas Bulletin \$25.00

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

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.



Historical Corner Mary Strauss, Historian

Forty years ago in November 1983, our mission to help the sick and suffering around the world and proclaimed the Good News received a change in names. Our Churches World Mission became OUR CHURCHES WIDER MISSION, with the acronym remaining the same, O.C.W.M.

We take care of our own locally, but OUR OWN includes EVERYBODY outside our congregation.

Sixty years ago in 1963 the Exchange Club in Fond Du Lac started a new service award titled the Book of Golden Deeds Award. Its first recipient was our retiring pastor, Karl Koehler. Annually they hope to recognize a resident for unselfish devotion and dedication to Neighbor and community. Rev. Koehler was described as a "a fervent worker behind the scenes, one who did not want chairmanship of a committee, but rather preferred to be a hard-working committee member, shunning publicity, for what he might do."

Rev. Karl Koehler was listed as a member on the Visiting Nurse Assoc. board of directors, past officer and member of every committee of the FDL Ministerial Assoc. sponsor of the religious instruction project at Taycheedah Prison, helping the needy of the community and supporting the Big Brothers' program, and former Santa Pals. He was instrumental in establishing the Youth Center, Golden Agers Club, and a supporter of the surplus food program for the needy. He largely founded the St. Mark's UCC Church in FDL.

His son, Rev. Martin and wife were ushered into the room to be with him, and his wife when he was presented a plaque and certificate. In response, he humbly expressed his gratitude and cited the many achievements of the Exchange Club.

MARTHA SOCIETY

November...the month that reminds us to be thankful and grateful for our many blessings.

The Martha's October meeting was our Penny Bag Social which we held at Sunset on the Water. We were pleased to have a special guest, Jean Stepp. We were grateful for good food and good friends; and, thankful we didn't have to cook and do dishes. We could sit and share friendly conversations (on grandchildren, great-grandchildren, friends, and family). A motion was made at our September meeting to pay a portion of each member's meal as a "Thank you" for all the snacks they have purchased for the additional "Thinking of you" bags. We are thankful that we have been able to continue with this project, but sorry we never reach the end of the over 80 list. Many of our members no longer drive, spend more time alone, or physically are unable to get out; and, really appreciate a little visit and a bag of snacks. If you are 80 or over, we have not reached out to you (we may not have a phone number or correct address), please let the church office know you would like a visit and we will put you on the list, as soon as possible.

Jeanette made a special card "Thanking Jackie", signed by all the Martha's, and delivered on her last day with an "Appreciation" bag of snacks.

Next business meeting will be November 14th in the Fellowship Hall. Visitors welcome.

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	jjohnson@charter.net	920-238-9716
Nancy Pahnke	alnan_pahnke@hotmail.com	920-979-3454
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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 Members and Friends,

October is going by so fast, and I hope you all are enjoying the beautiful fall colors because I sure am. The Church Council is very busy finishing some last-minute items to make sure everything is going smoothly.

Our Bazaar is over, and it was a very big success. Thank you to everyone who helped in many ways. Our Rummage Sale is our next big fund raiser and there is a signup sheet in the lobby for those who are available to help.

The Church Council will be looking for 7 members to replace expiring terms and to fill open seats. We need a total of 12 members for the council. Please prayerfully consider being a representative for our Congregation.

Blessing to All,
Victor Abitz



Giving Tree 2023

We will again this year have a Giving Tree set up in the Narthex area for you to choose a family member to purchase a gift for a less fortunate person. This tree will be set up for December 3rd, the 1st Sunday of Advent.

Please watch for more information in the December Messenger.

**Thanks,
Brenda Roehl & Jean Stepp**



HELP WANTED!!!

We are looking for volunteers to help us with decorating the Church for Advent.

**Date: Saturday,
December 9, 2023**

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Many hands make light the work.

**Questions: Contact:
Brenda Roehl 920-929-9084**

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2023 6:30 pm

Present: Ron Roehl, Sammy Schmidkonz, Nancy Steffen, Pastor Steve Stepp, Matt Moore, Dave Borchardt, Pat Hanke

Absent: Brenda Klapperich

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM. Pastor Steve led the opening prayer.

Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Pat and seconded by Ron to approve the September meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Old Business

- CROP Walk last Sunday 10/15
 - Low turnout. 5 walkers and they collected a little of \$300.
 - The team is going to try it again next year. Some different ideas: plan it for September, possibly after Sunday School and potentially have a potluck meal afterward.

New/Current Business

- Trunk or Treat Sunday, 10/29 from 3:30-5:00 pm
 - Jean Stepp will put flyers up in the neighborhood and will be decorating a trunk for the church. Anyone that can hang a flyer up at their workplace took one.
 - The team finished bagging candy for the church's trunk.
 - Sammy and Robert Schmidkonz will take care of the beverages. Nancy will purchase the hot chocolate mix.
- November:
 - The Stewardship Drive for 2024. We will plan to stuff envelopes and add address labels.
 - We will begin filling out the 2024 Calendar of Events for Stewardship.
- December:
 - We will hold December's Stewardship Team meeting on 12/5 to accommodate planned events.
 - Christmas Angel/Bell Tree update: There may be up to 5 families, 2 gifts/child, gift for the adults, a Christmas dinner, etc. There will be more info at the November meeting.
 - The team will be sending out Christmas cards.
 - Christmas Eve fellowship between services
 - Nancy will submit a note to add to the December Messenger (which is due 11/21) asking church members to donate dough or baked unfrosted cookies before 12/17.
 - The cookies will then be decorated on 12/17 after worship service (after Fellowship Hour). We need to determine who will take care of the frosting. Also need to determine who will be here on 12/17 to help decorate and on 12/24 to help pass cookies out.
- Beyond:
 - Pat reached out to the Blue Line Family Ice Center about tickets for a Fond du Lac Bears hockey game. The team decided to plan an event for Saturday 1/13/2024. The Blue Line will donate the tickets. We can give back by partaking in the concessions. The game starts at 8pm. We will meet at the Blue Line. Sammy will coordinate the singing of the national anthem and Nancy will write up a notice for the December Messenger (due by 11/21). We will need to hang a sign up sheet in December.

Next meeting date November 21, 2023 @ 6:30 pm

Adjourned at 7:28pm with a prayer by Pastor Steve.

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Moore

Special Spices and Seasonings

Looking for a little something special for a gift idea? Well look no further than your Church of Peace Fall Rummage Sale. On November 10th & 11th you can pick up a bottle of homemade Organic Vanilla Extract for that baker in your life.

Perhaps they prefer to cook?? We have a solution for that too!! Organic salt free spices, Taco seasoning, Fajita seasoning, Italian seasoning, Garlic Spread seasoning and an All-purpose Salt Free seasoning.

These will be available for purchase in the Bakery area during the rummage sale.

Prices are as follows: Vanilla is \$5.00 each Spices are \$8.00 each.

Quantities are limited so ... when they are gone, they are gone!!



LIFE IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

FUN IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST

JOY IN SERVICE TO GOD



November 2023

Church of Peace
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 <i>faith, hope & love</i>	30 RUMMAGE SALE SETUP 5-8 PM	31 RUMMAGE SALE SETUP 5-8 PM	1 RUMMAGE SALE SETUP 5-8 PM <small>Loans & Pkcs</small>	2 RUMMAGE SALE SETUP 5-8 PM	3	4
5 9:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE MEMORIAL SUNDAY WITH COMMUNION BARBIE CLUB 12PM SOCIAL HOUR STEWARDSHIP	6 RUMMAGE SALE SETUP 9AM-3 PM <small>Loans & Pkcs</small>	7 RUMMAGE SALE SETUP 9AM-3 PM	8 RUMMAGE SALE SETUP 9AM-3 PM <small>Loans & Pkcs</small>	9 9AM-5PM NEA ETHICS COM. RUMMAGE SALE SETUP 9AM-3 PM	10 RUMMAGE SALE 9AM-5PM	11 RUMMAGE SALE 9AM-2PM
12 9:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:AM SUNDAY SCHOOL SOCIAL HOUR HOSPITALITY	13 <small>Loans & Pkcs</small>	14 6:30PM CHURCH COUNCIL	15 <small>Loans & Pkcs</small>	16 11:00 AM FAMA MEETING	17	18
19 9:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:AM SUNDAY SCHOOL SOCIAL HOUR PASTOR STEVE/JEAN	20 1:30 PM BIBLE STUDY <small>Loans & Pkcs</small>	21 6:30PM STEWARDSHIP TEAM MESSENGER ARTICLES DUE	22 THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP SERVICE 6:00 PM <small>Loans & Pkcs</small>	23 THANKSGIVING MEAL 11 AM-1PM OFFICE CLOSED	24	25
26 9:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE SOCIAL HOUR WORSHIP ENHANCEMENT	27 <small>Loans & Pkcs</small>	28	29 <small>Loans & Pkcs</small>	30		

CHURCH OF PEACE
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FOND DU LAC, WI 54935

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November

**TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ON
SATURDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 4**