
CHURCH OF PEACE

LETTER FROM PASTOR STEVE,

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

The months of July and August hold many memories for me, and as I write this, I realize that memories are truly generational. What I mean by that is simply, I have memories of when I was a very young man, a young man, a slightly older young man, an older young man, and a much older young man. I also realize that soon, I will add very much older young man memories.

By now you have noticed that I refer to myself as a young man, and in the grand scheme of things, I am. Okay, some days I don't feel as young as others, and yes, I may be referring to the feeling inside my soul and not my body, because somedays my body does feel a little older, even a lot older somedays. And I guess that is where I began to draw a distinction between my body and my soul, or as Paul might say, spirit. For example, my spirit really wants to get that garage cleaned up today, but my body feels like tomorrow would be a better day. Or maybe my spirit wants to forgive the kid who punched me in the arm, but that spot still hurts, and the body isn't ready yet. Now, I begin to wonder, is this the body I was supposed to get? or was there a mix up at the body store when my spirit was placed in it? Why, well most of the time my spirit feels ready to go! Hmmmm.

How many times have we wanted to do something, but our body wasn't up to the task. It kind of makes you think, who's in charge here? Well, the Apostle Paul helps us when he wrote these words, "The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so" (Romans 8:6-7).

Therefore, if my spirit is young and my body is not, a conflict arises. If my spirit likes ice cream, but my body is lactose intolerant, a conflict arises. If my spirit is feminine and my body is masculine, a conflict arises. The last example has become disastrous for many churches, and it should not be a point of destruction, but rather a point of unification. Simply, if we are called to love "one another" then we should simply love without judgement. And as far as judging others Jesus tells us,

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Matthew 7:1-2).

Let us all love by accepting all people for who they are and by inviting them into the greatest body ever known, the body of Jesus Christ.

I hope we have a great turnout this year for our outdoor Worship Service and Church Picnic on Sunday, August 17th. I hear there will be another round of Bingo with prizes too! See you there!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Steve

Church Family News

In Our Prayers

Lucy Zahn	Bill Manka	Heather Reader-Schubert
Elise Sonneberg	Evelyn Yantz	Dixie & Dave Borchert
Mary Jean Nicholson	Janet & Eugene Willis	Dave & Diana Candlish
Linda Oelke	Terri Hoffman	Bob & Shirley Hanke
Janelle Anderson	Leo Lefebber	Charlene & Les Abitz
Al Pahnke	Abigail Reader	Kathy Stephany
Marilyn Peters	Greg Baker	Eli & Barb Gustafson
Ruth Pedix	Karl & Doris	Gary & Karen Blazer
Christine Weimer	Amy Mitchell	Theresa Schultz
Pat Grose	Donna Birkholz	Rev. James Martin
Debra Rammer	Nancy Schaefer	Carol Kryzyanowski
Arnold Breitenfeld	Edna Karl	Joan Meiss
Wayne Katerski	Susan Snider	Trent Bergman
Del Weigel	Alexis Hayes	Connie Olson
John	Rick Karl	Jeanette
Barb Kurki	James Lewis	Joe & Family
Jeanette Hinn	Joel	Darcy

General Fund Checking:

Balance as of May 1, 2025: \$-851.62
 Deposits in May: \$16,748.88
 Disbursements in May: \$18,436.67
 Balance as of May 31, 2025: \$-2,539.41
 Petty Cash: \$200.00

Investing In The Future:

Balance as of May 1, 2025: \$19,901.01
 Deposits in May: \$8,317.06
 Disbursements in May: \$6,400.00
 Balance as of May 31, 2025: \$21,818.07
 Remaining balance on Loan as of
 May 31, 2025: \$516,382.52

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE - JULY/AUGUST 2025

The numbers are officially in! We were able to raise \$435.83 for Heifer International!! A HUGE thank you to all of the members of our congregation who contributed to our collection baskets at the end of services in April & May and at our lemonade stand during the rummage sale. We are so blessed to have so much generosity. It also turns out that all donations to Heifer International right now are being matched by a donor, so the money we raised will go even farther to support their mission to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way by supporting and investing alongside local farmers and their communities.

Sunday School will be back on September 7th. For the 25-26 school year we have decided to hold Sunday School on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, starting at 10:00 a.m. This new schedule avoids most conflicts including holidays, the annual meeting, and spring breaks. We welcome all ages. We have some exciting things planned for this school year and can't wait to get started!

We are also looking to increase our numbers. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE consider signing up your kids and grandkids—even if they can only attend once in a while. Our youth is the future of our church. The sign-up sheet will be available soon. You can also sign up on September 7th or the first day of attendance. Please email me with any questions you may have at the email address below.

Also, don't forget to follow us on our Church of Peace Sunday School Facebook page for updates and look for updates in the worship bulletin.

Cheerfully in Christ,
 Heather Reader-Schubert
 Sunday School Superintendent
SundaySchool@churchofpeaceuccfdl.org



CHURCH OF PEACE COUNCIL MINUTES – JUNE 10, 2025

Present: Rob Giese, Pastor Stephen Stepp, Nancy Pahnke, Inge Adelmeyer, Bill McIntosh, Heather Reader-Schubert, Jerry Johnson, Dawn Sabel, Robert Schmidkonz

Absent: Peter Peterson, Deb Baker, Tom Schultz

Call to Order

Rob G. called the meeting to order at 6:37PM

Opening Prayer

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

A motion was made by Nancy P. and seconded by Dawn S. to approve the May Council meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Financial Report and Approval of Bills

Financial report was reviewed and discussed. Offerings are up as well as expenses. A discussion was held on the price of the dumpsters and that we need to flatten all boxes going into the dumpster to maximize the space. Jerry J. will put up signs to remind people of this. A motion was made by Jerry J. and seconded by Robert S. to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Worship

- The new router and touchpad are fully operational in church.
- Two volunteers are needed for the Visitation Ministry.

In the Life of Our Church

Administration

- Heather R-S attended the annual Wisconsin Conference meeting at Green Lake.
- Time clock – we will be moving forward with implementing it.
- Google for Nonprofits – Heather R-S will set up a workshop on how to use it.
- Human Resources – have received an application for the organist position.
- Janitor – Steve Hurd's pay increase was not forwarded to Jackie. It will be retroactive to April 16th
- UCC Survey – tabled until July meeting.

Sunday School

Heather R-S reported that the Sunday School raised \$435.00 for Heifer International. Thank you to everyone that donated to this project.

Groups in the Church Family

- Ladies of Peace – met June 3rd for their picnic. They have given \$6,000.00 to Investing in the Future to be applied to the principal, \$3,000.00 to the General Fund and \$1,000.00 to be used for freezer items for the Food Pantry.
- Swiss Steak Dinner Committee – they will be paying for the lawn mowing services.
- Martha Society – held their summer picnic and made Thinking of You bags on June 3rd.
- Golden Fellowship – group has been disbanded

Outreach

- River Park – Still need someone to volunteer to represent the church.
- Food Pantry – 51 people were helped with food this past month. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the Post Office food drive.
- Summer Lunch Program – The Salvation Army hand out lunches Tuesday's at 11:30-noon and Holy Family on Thursday's from 11:30-11:50.

Stewardship Ministry Team

- Dock Spiders game is on July 1st.
- The church picnic is on August 17th at Taylor Park.

Continued

CHURCH OF PEACE COUNCIL MINUTES - CONTINUED

Building and Grounds

- The insurance company is covering most of the repairs for the breaker, sound system and boiler circuit board that were damaged back in December.
- The exhaust fan for the dishwasher has been fixed and the exhaust fan over the gas range had its annual inspection.
- There was a roof leak in the kitchen. One of the drains on the flat roof was plugged up. It was cleaned out and the problem was repaired.
- A young man has a lawn mowing service and is willing to mow the church lawn. He will be paid per cutting.
- Looking into mulching the flower beds for cost and volunteers to help.
- Steve H. and Jerry J. will address the bird's nest in the carport soffit.
- Thank you to Victor A. and Steve H. for the great job they did on waxing the floors.

Investing in the Future

- We have a balance of \$19,901.01. The remaining balance on the loan is \$516,382.52

Grants/Scholarships

- Applications for the Pinkert Grant and the Church of Peace Scholarship are in the office.

Council Gathering

- The current Council and the Council members from the past five years and their families will meet on June 26th at Taylor Park at 5:30pm to recognize and celebrate those members who served on the Council during the past 5 years.

Coffee Hour Schedule

July 6th – Group 1

Comments of the Council President - None

Comments of the Pastor - None

Comments of the Council Members -None

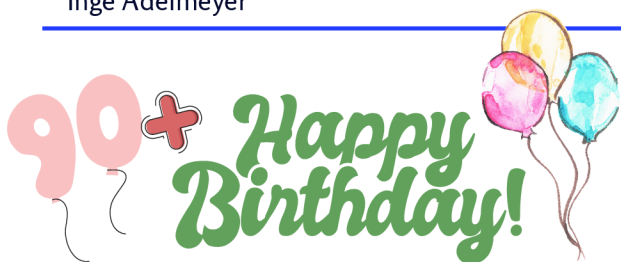
Next Meeting is Tuesday, July 8, 2025

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

A motion was made by Jerry J. to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Nancy P.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Inge Adelmeyer



Birthday Card Shower:

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



Church of Peace
Outdoor Service & Picnic
August 17th at 10:00 AM

ANNUAL CONFERENCE ARTICLE

On June 6-7, Pastor Steve, Jean, Katelyn, and I had the privilege of attending the 2025 UCC Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting at the Green Lake Conference Center. First off, if you have never been to the GLCC, you are missing out! It is absolutely beautiful and peaceful. Perfect for reflection and getting down to business. We all had the opportunity to attend different workshops and learn, grow, and connect with pastors, laypersons, and delegates from across the state. The live music throughout the conference was upbeat and moving thanks to some incredibly talented musicians: The Rev. Andra Moran, The Rev. Dr. Christopher Grundy, The Rev. Jacob Nault, The Rev. Bryan Sirchio (who wrote "Dream God's Dream"), The Rev. Nathan Holst, and Richard Bruxvoort Colligan. We also had the honor to have The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson speak for the Saturday morning keynote. She is the General Minister, President, and CEO of the United Church of Christ, the first woman and woman of African descent to hold this role. She presents her messages through her poetry, which focuses on faith, hope, unity, and social justice. It was incredibly moving.

The theme of the conference this year was transformation, as told through the life cycle of butterflies. The art team did a fantastic job! On the main stage, there was a butterfly display that changed throughout the days of the conference, with eggs growing into caterpillars and caterpillars going through the stages of metamorphosis. Every time you looked at it, something had changed. It was super cool! The theme of transformation was moving. There are a lot of challenges facing both the UCC and churches nationwide. To meet those challenges may mean that "church" will look a lot different in the rest of the 21st century and into the 22nd century. But just as a caterpillar goes through the tough "smoothie" stage, as our closing keynote speaker, Rev. Jen Petricca Bloesch, called it, ultimately a beautiful butterfly emerges. It will not always be easy, and it will involve some struggle, but God truly makes all things possible.

Next year the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting will be moving to April. So, if you haven't ever been, I highly recommend you give it a try -- April 10-11, 2026, at the Green Lake Conference Center.



Respectfully submitted,
Heather Reader-Schubert

LADIES OF PEACE (LOP)

LADIES OF PEACE

Ladies of Peace closed out their fiscal year with a wonderful picnic at Taylor Park in June. Nancy Pahnke prepared a pork roast for sandwiches and everybody brought a dish to pass.

It was quite a feast, and no one went away hungry. Beth Pelland from Generations Hospice in FDL. spoke to us about volunteering our time by visiting with those who need a little bit of human connection during their final days.

We had a short business meeting where we elected officers and discussed plans for September when we come back in full swing and ready to embark on God's work.

May you all have a glorious summer relaxing and enjoying the beauty of God's creation which God has set before us. May Peace and Kindness surround you as you share the same with everyone you meet.

Respectively Co Chairs,
Lois Abitz, Jean Stepp

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES -JUNE 17, 2025

Present: Steve Hurd, Pastor Stephen Stepp, Jean Stepp, Matt Moore, Nancy Steffen, Marlene Schubert, Dave Borchert, Robert Schmidkonz (council rep)

Absent: Denise Tyner, Sharon Bartley, Ron Roehl

Meeting called to order at 6:34 PM.

Opening Prayer

Minutes of last meeting

- A motion was made by Steve H. & seconded by Marlene to approve May's meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Old and Recurring Business

- No birthday cards to sign for July
- Dock Spider game - are we ready?
 - About 22 people signed up
 - Scheduled for Tuesday, July 1st at 6:35 PM (playing against WI Rapids Rafters)
 - Nancy volunteered Sammy Schmidkonz to drop off the tickets at the church.

New/Current Business

- Outdoor Worship Service and Picnic at Taylor Park - August 17th
 - Potluck picnic but we will provide the meat
 - Announce in the worship bulletin (and potluck)
 - Preparation list:
 - Pulled pork - Nancy volunteered to cook/prepare the meat again (will plan for 75 attendees)
 - Supplies needed:
 - Pork
 - Buns
 - Condiments (BBQ sauce, mustard, ketchup)
 - Water/lemonade (borrow the Stepp's water cooler and Matt's water cooler)
 - Ice
 - Sectioned plates, silverware, napkins, ice
 - Items from the church:
 - Styrofoam cups from the kitchen pantry (since they aren't being used)
 - Serving spoons
 - Bingo game (Jean will check the games out to make sure they are complete and we have enough bingo cards). Ladies of Peace should have prizes again.
 - Cleaning supplies (pail, dish rag, soap)
 - Extension cords, power supplies
 - Please keep track of receipts and costs so they can be added to the minutes
 - Worship equipment needed:
 - Podium, tables, chairs, sound equipment, piano, alter items, extension cords, power supplies
 - Arrive at 8:30 AM at Taylor Park to set up and clean tables at the shelter and blow off or sweep off the concrete pad under the shelter
 - Arrive at 8:30 AM at church to transport everything
 - Use Pastor Steve's van to haul the sound equipment & Matt's truck to haul everything else
 - Worship Enhancement Team to haul alter items? Need to find out.
- Other ideas for Fellowship:
 - Steve H. to look into the bowling alley for a possible bowling event
 - Game night or casino night
 - Trivia night

Continued

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES -CONTINUED

- CROP Walk coming in October. We will likely change the route this year.
- Reminder that Stewardship hosts social hour THIS SUNDAY June 22nd and on August 31st.

Next meeting date is Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Adjourned at 7:15 PM with a prayer from Pastor Steve.

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Moore

Historical Corner

2025-July & August

Mary Strauss, Church Historian

In 2006, Jeanette Hinn wrote about how blest we are with the generosity of our congregation. They showed what it means to be a real church, and give freely of their time, talents, and gifts to help others all the while showing love and respect for each other.

26 years ago the fundraisers and their approximate totals listed were:

Blanket Sunday, \$900
Hurricane Katrina Relief, \$1,000
Neighbors in Need, \$500
Church Bazaar, \$14,600
Student Scholarship, \$100
UCC Christmas, \$400
Campaign, \$400
OCWM, \$3,600

The way they showed their love for others was through:

Christmas Baskets for Shut-ins
"Angel Tree" families' gifts at Christmas
Food Pantry donations
Loaves and Fishes Meals

We at Church of Peace have a lot to be proud of as the generosity continues as well in 2025. I have witnessed it in action most recently. Thank you one and all!

Martha Society

"The earth laughs in flowers."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Summer is the season to enjoy our flowers. Geraniums, Coleus and Sweet Potato vines were purchased with our Dutch Touch Buck and planted in the courtyard pots. We look forward to watching the big colorful blossoms add beauty to the courtyard. We filled 40 "Thinking of You" bags for summer. Pastor Steve shared a prayer and we gathered for a picnic of sloppy joes, potato salad, beans, chips, dip, and a yummy chocolate éclair dessert. Following the meal we played a few games of card bingo and had a short meeting. It was a busy night. We will not be meeting in July or August, but you can say "Hello" to us at the July 20th Social Hour. We will return to meeting on September 9th, new members are welcome, please think about joining us.

Church Council

Rob Giese, President	rdgiese1927@gmail.com	920-209-0410
Nancy Pahnke, VP	alnan_pahnke@hotmail.com	920-979-3454
Inge Adelmeyer, Secretary	rladelmeyer@gmail.com	920-269-4636
Bill McIntosh, Treasurer	billmcintosh1234@gmail.com	920-579-8885
Pete Peterson	Peter_Peterson32@yahoo.com	920-266-2731
Jerry Johnson, Custodian	jljohnson@charter.net	920-238-9716
Robert Schmidkonz	kenoshakid68@gmail.com	920-517-6046
Dawn Sabel	aasabel@execpc.com	920-948-4767
Heather Reader Schubert	sundayschool@churchofpeaceuccfdl.org	920-979-4277
Deb Baker	waitress1958@gmail.com	920-960-8482
Ted Schultz	doclawnmower@gmail.com	920-948-3130

FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters.

I hope July is finding everyone well. We celebrate our Nation's Independence Day this month. It means picnics, music, and fireworks for many. Hopefully we can find the time to relax and enjoy the warmth of the sun, the long days, and the vibrant colors of the world around us.

Most have planted their vegetable gardens or potted their flowers by now. The work is done and we just have to sit back and periodically weed and water the plants as needed. The time we spend in caring for our plants results in a bountiful harvest and beautiful flowers.

For our family, July finds us in the garden for hours. Such is the life of a plant-a-holic. I am referring to my wife who loves flowers that much. As a result, I'm helping where I can. Summer means constant planting of new varieties and moving existing plants to new locations. The gardener is constantly looking for that missing puzzle piece that completes their garden. Many plants are moved because they become too large, don't thrive in a location, or become the wrong color for the vision. Planting doesn't end here until the first frost in fall. The hard work is rewarded when we take the time to sit and view the results and share it with friends and family.

This leads me to the reflection in this message. We as Christians need to tend to our garden. The seed of faith has been planted. We need to routinely tend to our faith through worship, reading the Bible, and praying. Just as weeds may take over or lack of water may result in a weak plant, we must care for our faith.

My hope is that your garden and faith will flourish and be bountiful. Then we can share it with others and thank God for all that we have been given.

Peace be with you.

Rob Giese

Church of Peace
158 South Military Road
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

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JUNE & AUGUST MESSENGER







July 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00 AM Advocap 11:30 AM Holy Family Lunches 6:35 PM Dock Spiders	2 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes	3 9:00 AM Advocap 9:30 AM TOPS (No Bag Lunches)	4 	5
6 9:00 Worship w/Communion Social Hour: Council #1	7 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes	8 9:00 AM Advocap 11:30 AM Holy Family Lunches 6:30 PM Council Meeting	9 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes	10 9:00 AM Advocap 9:30 AM TOPS 11:00 AM S.A. Lunches	11 Synod	12 Synod
13 9:00 Worship Social Hour: LOP #1 Synod	14 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes Synod	15 9:00 AM Advocap 11:30 AM Holy Family Lunches 6:30 PM Stewardship Mtg. Synod	16 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes	17 9:00 AM Advocap 9:30 AM TOPS 11:00 AM S.A. Lunches	18	19
20 9:00 Worship Social Hour: Martha's	21 1:30 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes	22 9:00 AM Advocap 10:30 St. Francis 11:30 AM Holy Family Lunches	23 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes	24 9:00 AM Advocap 9:30 AM TOPS 11:00 AM S.A. Lunches	25	26
27 9:00 Worship Social Hour: Pastor Steve & Jean	28 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes	29 9:00 AM Advocap 11:30 AM Holy Family Lunches	30 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes	31 9:00 AM Advocap 9:30 AM TOPS 11:00 AM S.A. Lunches		



August 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00 AM Worship Social Hour: Stewardship	4 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes served by Church of Peace	5 9:00 AM Advocap 11:30 AM Holy Family Lunches	6 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes	7 9:00 AM Advocap 9:30 AM TOPS 11:00 AM S.A. Lunches	8	9
10 9:00 AM Worship Social Hour: Ladies of Peace #2	11 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes	12 9:00 AM Advocap 11:30 AM Holy Family Lunches 6:30 PM Council Meeting	13 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes	14 9:00 AM Advocap 9:30 AM TOPS 11:00 AM S.A. Lunches	15	16
17 10:00 AM Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic Social Hour: Hospitality	18 1:30 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes	19 9:00 AM Advocap Messenger Articles Due 11:30 AM Holy Family Lunches 6:30 PM Stewardship Mtg.	20 9:00 AM Red Cross Blood Drive 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes	21 9:00 AM Advocap 9:30 AM TOPS 11:00 AM S.A. Lunches	22	23
24 9:00 AM Worship Social Hour: Council #2	25 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes	26 9:00 AM Advocap 10:30 AM St. Francis	27 Messenger Assembly 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes	28 9:00 AM Advocap 9:30 AM TOPS	29	30
31 9:00 AM Worship Social Hour: Stewardship						