



Your monthly news & updates

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Pastor Judy Jones

Yea!! It's Lent! Let's celebrate with parties and decorations and bright wonderful music! What's that you say? This is Lent a time of introspection, quiet music, self-denial? Really? But isn't Lent the season before Easter? And if Easter is as important as Christmas, shouldn't we be throwing caution to the wind and partying? Shouldn't we be shopping and wrapping up Bunny present and stuffing ourselves with jellybeans and chocolate eggs? What's that? You say we should be taking time to reflect on our prayer life, our faith, and setting aside the frivolous desires we usually give in to? I'm starting to think that Lent is something completely different from Advent, the season before Christmas. I'm starting to see that we are working our way through this season with an eye to Good Friday and the Crucifixion. Now I'm beginning to see that this is not a season of "celebration", but rather a season of "preparation". Lent is an opportunity to grow in faith and draw ourselves closer to God. Lent is a time to take that long look at our lives, our relationship, the way we spend our time, and how we serve God by serving His children. Lent is much more than just the "season" before Easter. Lent is a time to get ourselves and our hearts ready for the greatest celebration, the Resurrection of Christ. This is the great gift of knowledge of the forgiveness of our sins. Christ comes to us as an infant born of humble parents, in a stable. Then Christ comes to us to teach us how to love one another. He teaches us how to reach out to those who are suffering injustice and pains of rejection. Jesus gives His all, even to death, so that we may know the gracious, compassion of God. Then comes the celebration of Easter, the celebration of His resurrection from the grave. The triumph over our worst fear, death, comes to us on each Easter morning.

So what will you do with this season of Lent? Will you spend time preparing for the family dinner after church on April 9th, or will you spend time preparing yourself for the living of the life Christ would have you live? Spend some time "giving up" such things as undeserved anger at others, and setting aside unwarranted prejudices for people who are not exactly like

you. And most of all, spend some time growing closer to God, through prayer, simple quiet time listening to His creation, and offering yourself to those in need.

Yea! It's Lent! Let's celebrate with thanksgiving, service and maybe, just maybe, changing our own lives. This is a wonderful season, given to you as a gift to be cherished and loved. I hope you have a "productive" Lent.

PMC President's Report

Dennis Kirscher

There are a number of new and ongoing committee activities at Peace Memorial that I would like to highlight this month so that all PMC members can be aware of just what is happening.

The pastoral search committee is continuing to interview candidates for the leadership position in our pastorate. Members of this committee are Linnea Rimkus, Dave Skala, Theresa Graben, Cindy White, Sue Freund, Pat Whalen and myself. It has been a difficult task due to the lack of qualified candidates, but we will continue to search for the right person to help insure a bright future for Peace Memorial.

The Constitution Committee is another focused, short-term committee to review and propose changes to the constitution of PMC. There are a number of articles regarding leadership and governance that will be reviewed and proposed changes will be brought to the congregation at the fall congregational meeting after being reviewed by the trustees. The chairperson of this committee is Herb Zimmermann.

The Sound and Lighting Committee will be evaluating the need for new and/or additional lighting in the sanctuary. Presently, due to burned out bulbs, there are some areas of the sanctuary where the lighting is less than adequate. It is costly and very difficult to replace the existing bulbs due to the height of our vaulted ceiling. This committee will evaluate whether replacing bulbs or having all new fixtures would be the most practical long-term solution. Lighting and sound additions will also be considered to allow for better video recording and live streaming from the sanctuary. The chairperson for this committee is Joe Ferrantelli.

These committees and all of our standing committees continue to evaluate changes which will benefit Peace Memorial. Changes will come and change is inevitable. It is necessary to insure a future for our church and our congregation.

See you in church!

Weekly Service Attendance

February 5
9:30 am - 86

February 12

9:30 am - 84

February 19

9:30 am - 80

February 22 - Ash Wednesday

7:00 pm - 25

February 26

9:30 am - TBD

Christian Education

Holly Jones

Can you believe it is March 1st?! It's my favorite day of the year, and not just because it's our wedding anniversary but because it is officially meteorological spring! Now, I know, spring doesn't start for a few weeks, (March 20th if you are counting) but there is always such sense of renewal, and hope in the season change. I love spring the most! I was at Target the other day, and hidden beneath the layer of frost was the very first sign of spring, daffodil sprouts! I absolutely love watching the daffodils, they've weathered the elements and come back year after year, bringing peace and happiness...and of course, remind me of my grandmother's garden.

In the past few weeks Samantha Miulli has been leading Sunday school, our kids have enjoyed new crafts, treated the congregation to a special Valentine's Day performance where they reminded everyone that God Loves You and then passed out over 70 handmade Valentine's cards to the congregation! They have even taken part in an early morning obstacle course!

The collection of canned goods on Super Bowl Sunday was a SOUPER success and Elsie's Pantry in Palos Park was very grateful for our donation! Thank you to Ray and Jo Kujawa for making the drop off with some of our youngest members!

COMING UP:

Join us Saturday March 11th from 4-7pm for our annual GAME NIGHT! We will have games, pizza, and dessert! It's one of our favorite events and we cannot wait to see you, and your families! Bring your games and a friend to share the fun!

As always, we are always looking for volunteers to assist with helping our teachers!



Join us for a night of fun!

Bring your own
games or enjoy
some of ours!



Build your
own pizza!

PIZZA & GAME NIGHT

Saturday March 11th

4:00-7:00pm

Zion Hall

Sign up in the Narthex by
March 5th



From Community Garden

Sign-up started today, March 1st, so don't forget to sign-up for your garden bed. We set aside 7 beds for church members and 18 for the community as our objective is to involve others in this recreational and educational experience. Please contact Mary Anne in the



church office at 708-448-7833 to reserve your bed.

Missions



Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Chicagoland & Northwest Indiana

In the month of March, the Mission and Spiritual Care Committee will be Creating Toiletry Kits for families at the Ronald McDonald House in Oak Lawn. When

parents have to travel far from home to stay near their hospitalized child, simple things like toothbrushes, shampoo or hand lotions are often forgotten. But these items make a huge difference in helping parents feel refreshed and ready to face the day. How can you help? Glad you asked, we are asking for the following TRAVEL SIZED donations:

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush (individually packaged and sealed)
- Body Wash or Bar Soap
- Body Lotion

Bins for donations will be in the Narthex the entire month of March for donations.

Thank you in advance for all of your support!

Search Committee

Before the end of January, the Search Committee had not received any Ministerial Profiles since last October, and the prospect we had been talking to decided to stay at the church they are now serving. The committee was at a standstill, but we received a very promising profile at the end of January. We have had one interview with this pastor and will be having another discussion with them in the near future. As always, we appreciate the support of our congregation during this Search process.

Search Committee: Pat Whalen, Dave Skala, Cindy White, Sue Freund, Dennis Kirscher, Pastor Judy Jones, Theresa Graben, Linnea Rimkus

Worship & Music

Lent is upon us! Hope everyone will come to church for worship and other Lenten activities. We could use more Ushers for our services. The simple duties are greeting, lighting candles and offering. We'd like to expand the duties a bit, but could use more people. If you can volunteer one Sunday a month or every six weeks or so, please let Russ Hook or Carmen Vondrak know. We'd love to have you!

ONA

ONA will be planning the 2023 Rainbow Prom in May and the Rainbow Picnic in August. Also we'd like to have a movie/discussion session, as well. We could use volunteers during the events, as well as in the planning. If your interest in being a part of the committee or just volunteering your help for one of the functions, please contact Russ Hook or Linnea Rimkus. PMC being a safe space for the suburban LGBTQ(+) community is important and hope you will support our efforts.

ALL CHURCH NEWS

**Thank you to everyone for making the
2023 Chili Cook Off
a great success!**

We had 11 chili entries and 40 people who voted for their favorite chili. I

know everyone enjoyed trying all the different varieties of chili! This year's Chili Champion was Kathy Faulkner! Kathy won a gift certificate to Chili's Restaurant! And if you enjoyed the corn muffins, Kathy also made those for us to enjoy with our chili! This event was a team effort and many hands made light work! THANK YOU to all who helped set up, clean up, eat up and plan this fun event! Can't wait to see what new chili recipes are cooked up next time!



**Please have your annual
reports submitted to the
office by March 9th.**

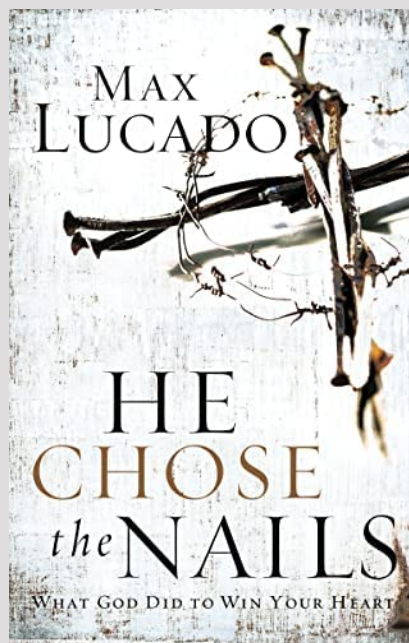
SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sunday, March 26th – 10:30 a.m.

Refreshments will be in the narthex
following the meeting

**Reports will be available in the narthex
the week before the meeting.**

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Beginning tomorrow, March 2, 2023, I will be offering an opportunity to join together for Lenten Bible study. I will be using the Max Lucado book "He Chose The Nails: What God Did To Win Your Heart". We will meet each Thursday from March 2nd to March 30th. You have your choice of two different times, the usual 1:00 p.m. session or the 6:30 session. Before the 6:30 session we will gather at 6:00 for a light soup supper. If you would like to take a turn at providing soup for the group, there will be a sign up sheet at the café. I hope to see you all there.



All-inclusive Spring Cleaning

Gaile Sprissler



As we approach the coming spring its time to clean out a diverse number of things. Our closets, kitchen and garage may need some room to breathe and provide items for donation or the trash.

Every home has the potential to be beautiful. Our conscious, loving intentions can transform the spaces in which we live. Our homes then become spiritual dwellings that feel soulful and alive. When you're clutter free, you can infuse the walls of your home with your energy, your emotional sensitivity, and your generosity of spirit, turning it into a haven of affection, joy, laughter, and togetherness.

Our menu planning and eating habits can be converted towards a

healthier and energetic body. Possibly do one of the types of internal cleanses for a day or two. Clean out the couch-munching addiction and replace it with a get-moving habit. Rid yourself of that sluggish feeling. Think of your evening search for a snack while you're shopping at the grocery store.

How about thoughts that are not serving you best. Maybe change some attitudes that don't reflect you as a loving and kind person. How long has it been since you paid attention to your soul? There are many ways to nourish the soul. Is there a book, a personal growth workshop, or a lecture you can fit into your busy cluttered life? Or, scheduling a time each day or week to sit and be still and reconnect.

Once you get the momentum going, you'll probably find many ways to "spring clean" your home, body and soul. Go for it! Then each time you do, throw your arms in the air and yell "Yea me!"

MARCH

March 3

Julie Sersland

March 6

Shirley Fijolek

March 9

Susan Bugajsky
Richard Schultz

March 11

James Hevel

March 12

Joseph Spoors

March 13

Logan Przybylski

March 16

Lawrence Spoors

March 19

Matthew Freund

March 21

Laura Haase

March 27

Lily Finn

March 31

Pamela Cornyn
Lillian Matkovich

MARCH 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 am Volunteers 3:00 p.m. PADS 4-8:30 Zion Hall rental	2 1 pm Bible Study 3:30-8:30 pm Zion rental 6:30 Soup & Scripture 7:30 Choir	3	4 9am – 12pm All Committee meeting
5 9:30 am Worship	6 7-9 pm Zion PMCMMC	7 7-9 pm Zion Hall rental	8 7:00 am Volunteers 3:00 p.m. PADS 7pm CE	9 1 pm Bible Study 6:30 Soup & Scripture 6:30 Foundation 7:30 Choir Annual reports DUE	10	11 4-7 p.m. Game Night
12 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Worship & Music	13 7-9 pm Zion PMCMMC	14 7-9 pm Zion Hall rental	15 7:00 am Volunteers 7:00 Trustees	16 1 pm Bible Study 6:30 Soup & Scripture 7:30 Choir	17 	18
19 9:30 am Worship	20 MESSENGER ARTICLES DEADLINE 7-9 pm Zion PMCMMC	21 7:00 pm Alzheimer's meeting 7-9 pm Zion Hall rental	22 7:00 am Volunteers	23 1 pm Bible Study 6:30 Soup & Scripture 7:30 Choir	24	25 10 – 4 Stitchers – Chapel
26 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Annual Congregational meeting	27 7-9 pm Zion PMCMMC	28 7-9 pm Zion Hall rental	29 7:00 am Volunteers 7:00 p.m. chapel rental	30 1 pm Bible Study 6:30 Soup & Scripture 7:30 Choir	* PMCMMC = Peace Memorial Church Monday Men's Club	



Peace Village
10300 Village Circle Drive

Church Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday
8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Pastor Judy Jones

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**Visit our website Peace
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