



Your monthly news & updates

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY HAPPY

Pastor Judy Jones

"Just for the thrill of it", a direct quote from a young man caught in the midst of a crime. Thrills come to us in so many different ways. We all know that old saying about climbing Mt. Everest, "Just because it's there". Well, I don't know about you, but as far as I am concerned, that mountain has been there a long time and will continue to be there even longer. I have never had the urge to climb it. But can you remember the last time you did something for "the thrill of it"? When was the last time you had that sense of goose-bump-causing, shiver-down-your spine excitement. I'm sure that we don't have to climb a mountain or commit a crime to get a thrill out of life. But what can thrill us? We get so complacent, things become so run-of-the-mill, and humdrum that we might forget to wait for the thrill. Those things that thrilled you as a child may seem so silly now. Things like waiting for your birthday to arrive, or the first day of school, or even that first date have been replaced by trying to pay the bills on time and getting each day's work done. Well, I don't know about you, but I am absolutely sure that there are still plenty of thrills left for me to experience. I only have to take the time, be open and aware of the excitement of each day, and feel the thrill all those little things can bring me.

We are in the midst of Holy Week here at Peace Memorial with all its opportunity for special times of worship and remembrance of Christ's resurrection. There has always been a thrill for me on Easter morning, to see all the folks that come to church and all the beautiful flowers. This year again there will be the Brass Quartet playing before and during the service. That surely will give you a thrill. Just to listen to the music and the familiar Scripture readings can take me back to so many Easter celebrations. If we open ourselves up to the message of Easter, the gift of God's grace and forgiveness, we will find a thrilling experience.

We can find thrills in so many simple things. For me I still feel a thrill holding a baby about to be baptized or looking into the faces of folks choosing to become new members of the church. I sense the thrill of being with friends or

sharing a cup of tea with someone. And as we finally begin to feel the warmth of Spring, there is that great thrill of stepping out into the sunshine and listening to the birds sing and smelling the sweet aroma of fresh flowers. When you open yourself up to the world God has provided for us, you begin to see the wonder and the thrilling excitement it offers. When you open yourself up to God's world and His Word you will once again know "the thrill of it all". Each time I re-read a passage of Scripture, even those which are most familiar to me, I hear something new, something fresh, and something that speaks directly to me. I pray that as you approach this Easter's celebration and listen to those familiar readings, you too will find something new and thrilling in the retelling of the story of resurrection.

Yes, the world, your world, is full of thrilling experiences and messages for you. But playing it safe, only having the same experiences, or even always expecting the same message from the Scripture passages you read, will rob you of the thrill of life. It's Spring, a time to wake up to the world, a time to look for the "thrill of it all" and experience life, the life God has given you. Happy Easter, Happy Spring!

PMC President's Report

Dennis Kirscher

Spring is always an active time at our church, this April is certainly no exception. Starting with day one, April 1, no foolin,' the Easter Bunny will be visiting Peace Memorial at the Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg hunt. Palm Sunday on April 2nd starts off Holy week, then after services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday we will celebrate Easter Sunday and Jesus Christ rising from the dead. Before the Easter service the Fellowship Committee is hosting a free will offering Easter Morning Breakfast.

The pastoral search committee will move forward this month with interviews of potential candidates for the Senior Pastor position. The search for a suitable candidate, which is normally a lengthy process, has been lengthened by the lack of candidates applying for the position. We will continue to consider qualified applicants and hopefully present a candidate to the congregation in the near future.

Later this month, on the 22nd, we are looking forward to a social, creative event for adults. This event was initially planned for the spring of 2020, but had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Participants will receive instruction in painting on a wine bottle and will create their own "masterpiece" to decorate their home. More information on this event appears in a separate entry to this month's Messenger.

Weekly Service Attendance

9:30 am - 83

March 12
9:30 am - 62

March 19
9:30 am - 68

March 26
9:30 am - 117

Christian Education

Holly Jones

April already!! Weren't we just marveling at March 1st? Didn't 2023 just start? The kids have already had their spring breaks, we are already planning confirmations: spring is finally here! My frost laden daffodils from last month are really making their appearance known now and the morning doves who set up in my flower box last year are already scouting out their territory again, and still, April is my favorite! (I know, I tell you that every month, and every season, but it's true: there is always something to find happiness in!)

April brings the greatest happiness to me! In our immediate family there are 3 April birthdays (2 of which are 3 days apart!) There are always flowers, balloons and of course, cake! Celebrations tend to last for days, with cards and well wishes and a genuine happiness! You can see that happiness come to life in the way we carry ourselves, and even in clothes we are wearing! Colors are prevalent and everyone just feels so much better thanks to that added boost of sunshine!

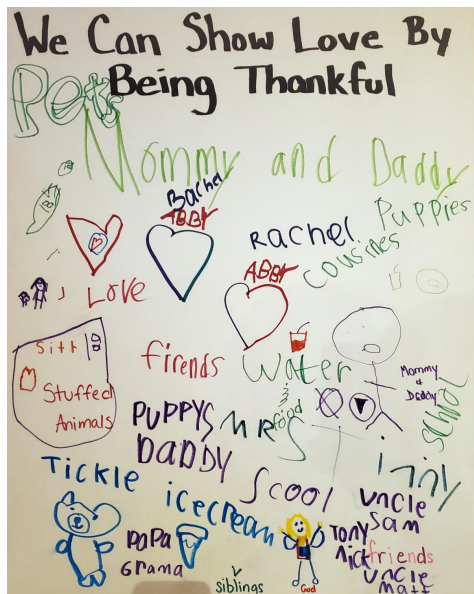
We are also so blessed to share beautiful April with Easter, the greatest renewal of all! I absolutely adore our Easter service, from the way the sun hits the cross at just the right angle, to the way we all come together to build the flower cross. The joy we all share on that Sunday morning with lightness in our hearts and hope in our soul is truly one of God's greatest gifts.

I have a lot of love for April, but let's not forget all the magic that happened in March! March 11th nearly 50 people came out to Zion Hall for another fabulous Game Night! Our pizzas were delicious, our BINGO game was uproarious, and everyone who attended had a wonderful time! Thank you to everyone who made this event a continued success!

Our children's sermon and Sunday School continues to be a

great place of growth, love and learning (and laughter over donkeys and Lucky Charms). After a question of "Can I sit with my friends?" was raised, an idea was born. You may have noticed, we have reserved the first two pews in the sanctuary for our Peace Kids. Our children are learning from each other and sitting together, mirroring what they see from their friends. Sunday morning is for love, grace and thankfulness. We have created a poster of what all the kids are thankful for, on top of making beautiful crafts and forming a deeper understanding of faith. Our children have worked together to create a musical masterpiece for the congregation on Palm Sunday and are always working on something special. We welcome any child from Kindergarten-6th grade to join us for Sunday School, and as always, are looking for volunteers to assist our team for an hour on Sunday mornings.

COMING SOON: We are planning a Sunday School Open House where we invite you to see all that our children have been working on! More details to come! Date: TBD





From Community Garden



Beginning our seventh year, your community garden has again been sold out by April 1st! This was our first growing season which the garden beds did not require new amended soil. We are thankful for less work! Most of our gardeners have had a bed at one point in our seven years. We look at return gardeners as a positive sign that each of them enjoy the recreational and educational experience. The

annual meet and greet seed exchange is today, April 1st, with some our gardeners planning to attend the Pancake breakfast. In the past 7 years we have seen fruit trees, a vineyard and more recently a butterfly garden added to the area. It has developed in ways that we could not have imagined! Our 24 beds support 7 church members planting activities and the balance of 17 beds from our friends in the community. Thank you for supporting this educational and recreational activity!

Missions

Mission & Spiritual Care Committee News!

1. **February:** We collected 81 boxes of Heart Healthy Cereal which were delivered to the FISH food pantry in Lockport. Thanks to Barb Kamper who delivered the cereal – the volunteers were waiting for the delivery and were in

need of cereal to replenish their dwindling supplies. Thank you to everyone who made this such an overwhelming success!

2. **March: Ronald McDonald Toiletry drive** is complete and the committee is working to prepare the kits! Thank you for your donations, we know they will be greatly appreciated by those needing to stay at Ronald McDonald house.
3. **April:** In April we will be focusing on Spiritual Care by sending Easter Cards along with a bookmark to members who are unable to attend regularly. Thank you to Karen Rakauskas for taking on this important part of our mission.
4. **May:** The committee is planning a Food Drive in May. Once we know what items are needed by a local food pantry we will let you know!
5. **Beds Plus:** We continue to provide sack lunches once a month to this organization. Thank you to Janet Hansen who single handedly keeps this important mission going.
6. **Pads:** We continue to prepare a supper meal once or twice a month and are fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers keeping this mission alive. Thank you to Barb Kamper who is critical to the success of this mission.

Search Committee

The Search committee conducted another interview with our prospect in late February. We were about to request a third interview, but were advised by the prospect that they were about to accept an offer from another church.

In the meantime, we have received two new profiles, one of which we will retain for further consideration.

As always, we appreciate the patience and support of our congregation.

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

Worship & Music

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!

ALL CHURCH NEWS

This Sunday, April 2nd, is your last chance to sign up for the Traditional Easter Morning Breakfast. We will be collecting the lists and calling the caterer on Monday to give them the final count for the food order and making a master list of who will be attending the breakfast.

Join us for a delicious start to the holiday.

Gaile
Fellowship Committee



Please Sign Up on the Attendee Sheet



**Come join us for an evening of Wine,
and Wine Bottle Art**

Who: Anyone over 21

What: Painting, Wine, Charcuterie (Snacks),
Desserts

Where: Zion Hall

When: Saturday April 22nd 7:00–9:00PM

Why: Because it's FUN!

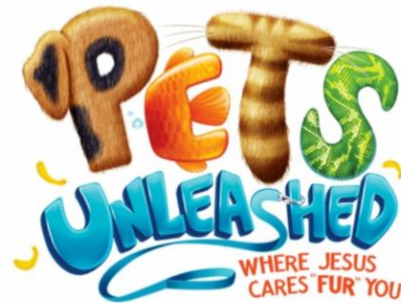
Donation: \$20.00

We will provide the (empty) bottle, the paint, the instruction by Amanda

Ambrose (a real artist) which will allow you to create your own "masterpiece"! Sign up sheets available at coffee hour or contact Den or Judy Kirscher.

SAVE THE DATE

JOIN US FOR
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
July 6th-7th, 2023
Special Presentations
July 8th & 9th



more details to follow

Who Are You? - Who? Who?

Gaile Sprissler

We are spiritual beings, and in this human existence when we encounter conflict and stress it is important to immerse ourselves in our spirituality. We find solace in our spiritual practices, whatever they are for each one of us. Then we can bring that good energy into all aspects of our lives, so that feeling of spirit is always with us. The soul living the life of prayer is supported, filled, and transformed in beauty by a vitality and power from the Spirit.

When we surrender to a higher power we do not do so in defeat but in release. Spiritually, we are connected to infinite energy, but our bodies need rest and proper care, and our minds need spaces. Our inspiration and inner guidance comes from the times spent in the silent space within us where we are connected to the universe. Watch yourself this day. Look at what you are doing moment to moment...and why. Ask yourself, "What does this have to do with my real reason for being here? Is this what I have come all the way to the Earth to experience?" If the answer is a resounding Yes, keep doing it. If the answer is No, ask yourself, "What in the world am I doing? What am I

involved in every day, and what does this have to do with my soul?"

Life offers you an amazing opportunity in every moment to see and experience WHO YOU really are.



April 1

Eleanor Gehrs

April 2

Theresa Kamphius
Sarah Zuniga

April 4

Mark Rimkus
Stacey Swieringa

April 5

Judy Jones
Chris Schneider Sr.

April 8

Holly Jones

April 12

Lori Rudnicki

April 13

Carol Baumler
Tom Bockmann
Eric Miulli
John Robbins
Sydney Wasyliv

April 16

Joe Graben
Cassidy Medyk
James Murray

April 17

Gail Jefchak
Debbie Jerry

April 18

Phyllis Karner
Bradley Nolan
Lawrence Ostrowski Jr.

April 20

Emily Kutz

April 21

Halle Mack

April 24

Maria Nestor
Brett Nolan

April 26

Henry Freund
Elliot Hevel

April 27

Marsha Bockmann

April 28

Beverly Wehofer

APRIL 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:30 am Easter Bunny Breakfast 
2 9:30 am Palm Sunday Communion Worship Service	3 7:00 pm Residence Board	4 6:00 am Voting Zion Hall 7:00 pm CE meeting	5 7:00 am Volunteers	6 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Communion Worship	7 12:00 pm Good Friday Worship Service	8
9 8:30 am Easter breakfast 9:10 am Brass Quartet 9:30 am Easter Sunday Worship Service	10	11 7-9 pm Zion Hall rental	12 7:00 am Volunteers 3:00 pm PADS	13 7:00 pm Choir	14	15
16 9:30 Worship 10:45 am Mission 10:45 am Worship & Music	17 MESSENGER DEADLINE	18 7:00 pm Zion Hall rental 7:00 pm Alzheimer's	19 7:00 am Volunteers 7:00 pm Trustees	20 1:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Foundation 7:00 Choir	21	22 10:00 am Stitchers 7:00 pm Wine & Bottle Painting
23 9:30 am Worship	24	25 7-9 pm Zion Hall rental	26 7:00 am Volunteers	27 1:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir	28	29
30 9:30 am Worship						



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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