



## Your monthly news & updates

Moore thoughts . . .

*Pastor Kirk's Ponderings – December 2023*

# Christmastime

*Santa Claus is comin' and the kids are gettin' greedy*

*It's Christmastime*

*They know it's in the stores – because they've seen it on the TV*

*It's Christmastime*

Our culture loves Christmas. We spend money buying gifts for Christmas. We argue about whether retailers should be chastised or praised for using the word “Christmas” in their advertising. We spend time, energy, and lots of money on gifts, cards, food, and even vacations this time of year.

Have we lost the true meaning of Christmas? If we have, when did we lose it? Had we lost it when musician Larry Norman wrote the words to the song above? He wrote that song in 1969. Had we lost it long before that?

*“The Feast of Christ’s Nativity is spent in Reveling, Dicing, Carding, Masking, and in all Licentious Liberty ... by Mad Mirth, by long Eating, by hard Drinking, by lewd Gaming, by rude Reveling ...”*

— Congregational Minister Cotton Mather (Pastor of Boston’s Original Old North Church) 1712

It seems like the sentiment is not at all new. We don’t have to be wrapped up in all the stress and strain of the Christmas season, but try as we may, we usually end up stressed and wishing for something simpler. Let us continue to live out love and also continue to live out the mission of Peace Memorial Church. Here’s an invitation to focus on Jesus’ birth this Advent season. Please join us – and bring your friends as well!

- **December 3:** 9:30 am - First Sunday of Advent. Join us each Sunday in Advent as we prepare for the near arrival of Christmas.
- **December 8:** 7:00 pm - Wine Bottle Painting and Wine Tasting (21+)

- **December 10:** 9:30 am - Second Sunday of Advent - followed after the worship service by our Christian Education Christmas Party (11 am) and then Christmas Caroling (1 pm)
- **December 13:** 7:00 pm - Blue Christmas Service – A service of healing and hope in a season that doesn't always feel joyful.
- **December 17:** 9:30 am - Third Sunday of Advent with our Children's Christmas Pageant during the worship service.
- **December 24:** 9:30 am - Fourth Sunday of Advent

and then . . . **Christmas Eve services**

- 4:00 pm - Family service with readings, carols, candles, and the sermon 'Checklist'
- 10:30 pm - Pre-service String Quartet
- 11:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve service with readings, carols, candles, and the sermon 'Checklist'

During this Advent season, let's get ready for God to move – in our lives and all over the world. Join us for the celebration!

# Invitation

*Kirk*

## PMC President's Report

Dennis Kirscher

Greetings to all, may the joy of the Advent season fill your heart! This will be my last Messenger message as president of our congregation. It has been an honor and privilege to serve in this position. That is not to say it hasn't had some difficult and challenging moments, but there are many more fulfilling times to look back on. Looking back over the last several years, as a congregation we have demonstrated the ability to adapt and overcome obstacles none of us had anticipated, but I would rather look forward to a future of new programs, events and possibilities. In our most recent conversations of how we can move forward, many very good ideas have been discussed to attract attention and expand our visibility to the surrounding community in an attempt to stimulate our growth. Music programs, sports programs, academic programs, concerts, mission to the surrounding community and to the wider community are ALL excellent concepts. The Community Garden is one example of this type of initiative, the next to appear is the PMC Cooking Ministry which will launch in early 2024. Moving forward with these initiatives will help to ensure our future.

I have great confidence in our next executive committee and pledge my support and my energy to help our future leadership in moving forward. We have a bright future ahead of us. I look forward to seeing all of these concepts become realities!

See ya in church. Den

**November 5 (Communion Sunday)**  
**9:30 am - 94**

**November 12**  
**9:30 am - 76 (Veteran's Sunday)**

**November 19**  
**9:30 am - 88**

**November 26**  
**9:30 am - 56**

## Christian Education

Holly Jones



The merriment of December is on us! I'd like to be the first to wish you a Merry Christmas...more specifically, a Holly Jolly Christmas! I feel as though this has been the fastest year, but we aren't done yet! Christian Ed is still going strong with fun events throughout the month!

The annual pancake breakfast with Santa is scheduled for Saturday, December 2nd and after your delicious pancakes and photos with Santa, we invite everyone to join us for another round of adorable crafts! (Rumor has it some of our pancake artists even make special shaped pancakes for our kids!)

The fun doesn't stop there! December 10th we invite the entire congregation, and your families to the Christian Ed Christmas Party at 11:00am in the Youth Center! There will be games and crafts, hot cocoa and cookies! We will cap off the afternoon caroling at The Village at 1:00! Please bring your cameras and your smiles as we spread holiday cheer to the residents!

Guess what? We STILL aren't done! Sunday December 17th, our children will be putting on a very special Christmas program during the service, narrated by our very own Father Christmas, Tom Osborne. The kids have been working very hard and we are all very eager to see this year's magic come to life!

This entire year has been a year full of magic and wonder, and not just specific to the Christmas season. We welcomed Samantha into the position of Youth Director, shared laughs at an awesome game night, hosted a very successful 3 day Vacation Bible School, made countless crafts and memories, and saw our children shining bright not only in the sanctuary, but in the community as well. May this season of love and beauty be reflected in your hearts, just like Sunday mornings with our group.

Merry Christmas from all of us!  
-The Board of Christian Education





### Mission and Spiritual Care Committee

The Mission Committee would like to express a verybig Thank You to the congregation for the generous food donations to the Thanksgiving meals and upcoming Christmas meals. This generosity provided families with the fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

The tags from the Giving Tree have all been removed from the tree already. Many holiday gifts have been placed at the base of the tree that will delight a child on Christmas morning. We again thank you for opening your

hearts and taking on the task of caring for people in our communities.

We have been blessed with a donation of knitted and crocheted scarves and hats from the Knit and Crochet Club of Peace Village. We are grateful for the time and talents these women lovingly created to share with the children on our Giving Tree.

The Mission Committee is considering a collection of clothes, blankets, towels and wash cloths among many additional items during the month of January. We have been in contact with San Lucas United Church of Christ in Humboldt Park and First Congregational United Church of Christ in Elmhurst about this project. We will provide more information about this endeavor of assisting homeless people living in tents in Humboldt Park in the coming weeks.

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## ALL CHURCH NEWS

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# Community Event Breakfast with Santa



**Peace Memorial Church**  
**Saturday, December 2, 2023**

**8:30 am to 11:30 am**

**10300 W. 131st Street**  
**Palos Park, IL 60464**

**708-448-7833**



**Pictures  
with Santa**

*Christmas crafts for kids*



QR CODE  
PMC  
Website

**FREE WILL Donations**



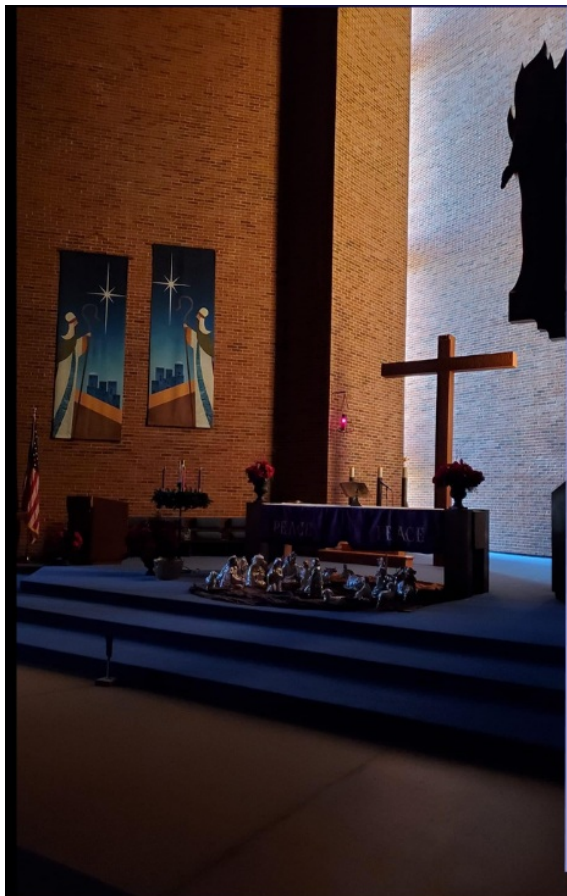
**POINSETTIAS**

Christmas Poinsettias and Memorials  
Forms are on the table in the narthex.

Please include payment when turning in the form.

*Orders for the poinsettias are due by Wednesday, December 6th.*

*Memorials are due by Monday, December 18th.*



## Celebrate Advent with Peace Memorial Church, UCC

Sundays at 9:30 am

December 2 - Breakfast With Santa -  
8:30-11:30 am

December 10 - Christian Education  
Christmas party - 11:00am. Christmas  
caroling - 1pm

December 13 - Blue Christmas service -  
7 pm

December 17 - Children's Christmas  
Pageant - 9:30 am

December 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent  
service - 9:30 am. Christmas Eve services  
at 4 and 11 pm



**Peace Memorial Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**10300 W. 131st Street**  
**Palos Park, IL 60464**  
**708-448-0824**

[pmcucc.org](http://pmcucc.org)



# BOTTLE Painting

AND WINE TASTING EVENT  
AGE 21+ ONLY

JOIN US AT PEACE MEMORIAL  
CHURCH ON FRIDAY,  
DECEMBER 8TH AT 7PM FOR  
HOLIDAY BOTTLE PAINTING  
AND WINE TASTING!

\$30

BOTTLE PAINTING INCLUDES:  
WINE BOTTLE, PAINT,  
BRUSHES AND  
INSTRUCTION.

\$8

WINE TASTING INCLUDES:  
4 TASTINGS OF MICHIGAN  
WINES SWEET TO DRY

\$6

FIND A WINE YOU REALLY  
LIKE? HAVE A GLASS  
OR TWO!

COMPLIMENTARY  
CHARCUTERIE AND SWEETS!

All proceeds go towards PMC CREW Big Build 2024





**ALL ARE INVITED!**  
**Please join us for our**  
**Cocoa & Carols**  
**Christmas party!**

**•Sunday December 10th**  
**11:00 am**  
**PMC Youth Center**

BRING YOUR FAMILY

•GAMES •CRAFTS  
•CAROLING AT 1PM



•HOT COCOA  
&  
SNACKS



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**Community Events**

Chicago Children's Theatre hosts The **Beatrix Potter Holiday Tea Party**. Best suited for children 8 years old and younger. 100 S. Racine St.; tickets from \$42.25. Runs Nov 20 – Dec 24, 2021 You are cordially invited to meet our friends Jeremy Fisher, Simpkin the Cat, Peter Rabbit, and Tom Kitten! Beatrix Potter favorites come to life in this mesmerizing, interactive trunk and puppet show, complete with original music. Levers are pulled and cranks are turned to reveal images that surprise and delight. Our charming storytellers interweave the classic narration and guide gentle interactive moments, recruiting young watchers to join the adventure. After the show, come up on stage to gently play with the puppets and take pictures. Then, head to the lobby for a festive spread of chocolate milk and cookies!

New this year, Navy Pier brings back its **fireworks show** for the winter. Bundle up with the whole family and enjoy the spectacle on Saturdays from Nov. 25-Dec. 23 and on New Year's Eve. *Free*.

**Park Forest Winter Holiday Market.** Dec 9<sup>th</sup>. The Village is hosting its Holiday Market, which includes, Santa, reindeer, hot chocolate, plenty of vendors and much more on the Village Green in downtown Park Forest.

REINDEER ON THE GREEN – Dec 9<sup>th</sup>. Breidert Green, Kansas & White Streets, Frankfort, IL 815-469-2177 . Free holiday fun for everyone! Experience an up-close encounter with two Alaskan reindeer while listening to live holiday music performances. Stop by the arts and craft table to make and take your own holiday ornament and mix together a batch of magical reindeer food. Complimentary hot cocoa and cookies will be served.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA Dec 17. Waters Edge Bar and Grill  
7205 West 115th Street, Worth, IL 708-671-1032 Visit Website December 17th 2023 Breakfast with Santa Seatings at 9AM and 1:30PM RSVP Only.

THE POLAR EXPRESS STORYTIME TRAIN - Dec 10. Hickory Creek Metra Station 9430 Hickory Creek Drive, Mokena, IL 815-469-9400 ALL ABOARD... children & their parents take this special train ride to the North Pole. On the way to the "North Pole," Santa's elves will be busy making balloon animals while you enjoy listening to the "Polar Express" story. When we reach the "North Pole", we will find Santa Claus & bring him back with us on the train to the Hickory Creek Metra Station. Enjoy holiday cookies & music on our way home. A parent or guardian must accompany all children. Due to the popularity of this event, a maximum of six tickets per household are available to purchase at time of registration.

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS CHEER & GREAT CRAFT BEER Dec 13 - December 24, 2023 Flossmoor Station Restaurant & Brewery 1035 Sterling Avenue, Flossmoor, IL 708-957-2739 Visit Website Celebrate 12 Days of Christmas at Flossmoor Station with craft beer release, giveaways, specials and events!

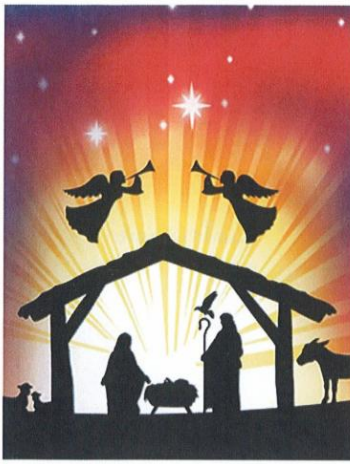
Chicago Sinfonietta presents "Holidays of Light" on Dec. 15 at the Auditorium Theatre. Conductor Chelsea Tipton will lead a showcase that ranges from Christmas classics to traditional Jewish and Latin-American music. 50 East Ida B. Wells Dr.; tickets from \$25.

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**Comfort and Joy**

Gaile Sprissler





Angels aren't always floating around singing 🎵 Hallelujah 🎵 or hovering above the manger. There are times when someone comes into our life at precisely the right time and says or does precisely the right thing. Their words or actions may help us through a difficult incidence, or help us to understand a complexity. The experience reminds us that things can turn out for the best, or that we can cope. These people are human angels — individuals designated by the universe to be of service to those in need at specific points in time. All human angels come into our lives when we least expect them and when we can benefit from their presence.

Some are in helping professions, others are regular people, going about their daily lives until called upon to bring peace, joy, help, or healing to someone when they most need it. They may offer nothing more than a kind word or a smile, but they will offer it when you can draw the most strength and support from their simple actions. You may have met a human angel who helped you out of a trying situation, or gave you a piece of advice that touched your soul and influenced your path.

You can be a human angel. Your fate or intuition may guide you toward someone's challenging or distressing situation. Recognizing yourself as a human angel can help you deal with the pain you see and understand that you are there to help and comfort another during their time of need. Human angels give their inner light to all who need it, coming into our lives and often changing us forever. Their task has its challenges, but they have the capability to teach, bring joy, or find hope in times of despair.

As you go about your day, imagine that you have a light in the center of your body that continually glows with the warmth of wisdom and love. Visualize passing this light on to others as you come in contact with them and to lift the spirits of those around you. Allow yourself to be a human angel for others, and also to be open to receive when *you* need. You may *see*, or *be*, an angel this Christmas Season!



**December 1**  
Amanda Ambrose

**December 2**  
Kyle Lisak  
Lauren Mann  
Shayne Stille

**December 5**  
Nancy Polzin

**December 10**  
Jack Cochonour  
Laura Polzin  
Bruce Puhr  
Debra Stille

**December 13**  
Scott Przybylski  
Renee Puckett

**December 24**  
Mary Lou Skala

**December 25**  
Carol Mozwecz

**December 26**  
Barbara Kollaritsch

**December 27**



**December 6**

Robert Nolan

**December 7**

Marian Klemme

**December 8**

Sarah Hecker

Kenley Kruse

**December 9**

Larry Overbey

**December 17**

Edward Polzin Jr.

**December 19**

Jennifer Mack

**December 22**

William Blaser

Eric Przybylski

**December 23**

Sharon Kozinski

Elaine Schneider

Sean Nestor

Tracey Signore

**December 28**

Cathy Miller

**December 30**

David Cornyn

Rosemary Freebeck

**December 31**

Carmen Urbauer

# December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 8:30 – 11:30 Breakfast with Santa
3 9:30 am Communion Sunday 10:30 am Confirmation 10:30 am PMR & PMC congregational meeting	4  7pm Zion hall- PMCMMC	5  6:30 pm Zion hall rental	6 7:00 am Volunteers 4-8:30 Zion rental 6:30 Chapel rental 7:00 pm CE meeting	7  1 pm Bible Study 4-8:30 Zion rental 7:00 pm Choir	8  7:00 pm Bottle Painting	9
10 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Music & Worship 11:00 am Christmas party 1:00 pm Christmas caroling	11  7pm Zion hall- PMCMMC	12  6:30 pm Zion hall rental 7:00 pm Alzheimer's meeting	13 7:00 am Volunteers 3:00 PADS 4-8:30 Zion rental 7:00 Blue Christmas service	14 1 pm Bible Study 4-8:30 Zion rental 7:00 pm Choir	15	16 9:00 – 11:00am Christmas Pageant rehearsal 3:00 pm Narthex rental
17 9:30 am Worship Christmas Pageant 11:00 am Confirmation	18 <b>MESSANGER ARTICLES DUE</b> 7pm Zion hall- PMCMMC	19 6:30 pm Zion hall rental	20 7:00 am Volunteers 4-8:30 Zion rental 7:00 Trustees meeting	21 10 :00 am – 2:00 pm LifeStyles in Zion Hall 1 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir	22	23 10:00 – 4:00 Stitchers - Chapel
24 9:30 am Worship 4:00 & 11:00 pm Christmas Eve worship	25  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	26 6:30 pm Zion hall rental	27 7:00 am Volunteers	28 1 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir	29	30
31 9:30 am Worship						

\* 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.

## Reverend Kirk Moore

Senior Pastor  
kmoore@pmcucc.org

## Samantha Miulli

Director of Christian Education  
smiulli@pmcucc.org

## Robert Mohr

Director of Music  
peacememohrial@gmail.com

Palos Park, IL 60464  
(708) 361-6091  
Roger Ellens .....CEO/Executive Director

**Peace Village Circle Inn**  
(708) 671-2470

**Peace Memorial Church**  
10300 W. 131st Street  
Palos Park, IL 60464  
Phone (708) 448-7833  
Fax (708) 448-0824

**Thomas R. Osborne**  
Organist  
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**Mary Anne Bixler**  
Office Manager  
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**Lily Field**  
Accountant  
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