



Your monthly news & updates

Moore thoughts . . .
Pastor Kirk's Ponderings –

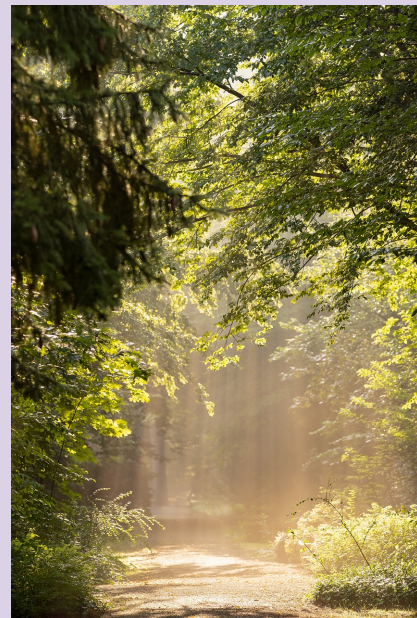
We're Open Every Sunday

We have a worship service at Peace Memorial Church, UCC every Sunday. We have worship services here every Sunday in the fall, winter, spring, and summer. And every Sunday we have reasons for all to join in worship and for all to be a part of our community of faith.

And beginning in the middle of this month, Sunday, April 14, we're going to kick off a season of visioning. Over the next several weeks, we'll spend time together discerning God's vision for Peace Memorial Church.

Please guide us in faith, O God, as we discern your vision for Peace Memorial Church. Amen.

Invite a friend to church! During our season of visioning, we plan to be overflowing with love for God and for everyone EVERY SUNDAY and at every other opportunity to gather as a community to worship, serve, pray, study, and even play! Take a look at our season of visioning calendar:



Week 1 – April 14, 2024 - The start of our Season of Visioning

Week 2 – April 21, 2024 - Seeing the Future with Eyes of Faith sermon.

Discussion after church.

Week 3 – April 28, 2024 - Faithful Imaginations sermon, discussion after church

Week 4 – May 5, 2024 - People of Salt & Light Sermon Series. “Attitude” Sermon. Discussion after church.

Week 5 – May 12, 2024 - “A Church Living for the World” Sermon. Discussion after church.

Week 6 – May 19, 2024 - “A Model for Praying and Acting” Sermon. Discussion after church.

May 26 - Memorial Day Weekend – no events

Week 7 – June 2, 2024 - Discerning Community sermon - Visioning Sunday after Church

What a great season.

A Season of Visioning

Pastor Kirk

PMC Report

Diane Oremovich

Spring has arrived! When I think about Spring, flowers are coming up and trees are showing their leaves. I think of new beginnings and fresh starts. In the past few months, I have been doing articles about our past, as we celebrate 50 years in Palos Park. This month I am thinking about our future and a fresh start for our church. So exactly who are we? What is our vision? Where are we headed?

The Trustees have asked Pastor Moore to help the congregation develop our vision. Starting in April, he will lead us on a journey over the next eight weeks to develop the statement. As a congregation everyone is encouraged to provide their input in planning for our future. Please take some time during coffee hour to participate in these discussions.

I look around the church and see excitement growing. Our Minister and Christian Education Director are bringing new energy to our congregation. I am amazed at all the activity occurring in the church throughout the month. The church seems to love to eat. In March we had a chili cook-off, a well-attended Bunny Breakfast, a special Cooking Club and an Easter breakfast. The Board of Christian Education and our Peace Kids did an amazing job at creating Easter baskets for a local Women's shelter. The kids really enjoyed creating the baskets. What a great way to share with our community. Thank you to everyone that made all these events happen. I can't wait to see what happens in the month of April.

I want to take a moment to give you an update of what is happening regarding capital improvements. The chiller that cools the LifeStyles Academy/Christian Education wing is quickly nearing the end of it's lifespan. The Building and Grounds committee has made recommendations on a replacement. They obtained bids and

have submitted them to the Trustees for approval. Bids for replacement of flooring in the gym are also being completed. If you are not aware the tiles in the gym have been coming up and the floor needs to be replaced. A third concern is the lighting in the Sanctuary. As we read about in a past Messenger article, a committee has been established to make recommendations on how the lightening can be improved. These major projects are crucial and need to be completed this year. I expect the cost will be beyond the capital budget approved for 2024. We may need to come back to the congregation to discuss the funding. The Trustees will be looking at how to fund these projects and possibly others. This may include doing additional fundraising or using some proceeds from the sale of the Peace Memorial Residences. I will do my best to keep you updated on where all of this is headed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to any of the Trustees.

Weekly Service Attendance

March 3 (Communion Sunday)

9:30 am - 85

March 10

9:30 am - 86

March 17

9:30 am - 82

March 24

9:30 am - 96

March 28 (Maundy Thursday and Communion)

7:00 pm - 39

March 29 (Good Friday)

7:00 pm - 52

March 31 (Easter Sunday)

9:30 a.m. - 174

**Come Celebrate Communion Sunday, April 7th,
with guest Minister, Reverend Donna Freeman**



Rev. Donna Freeman, daughter of Alvin J. Freeman, Jr and Juanita S Freeman.

A graduate of McCormick Theological Seminary
A UCC minister for 29years. Married to Bernard Lott. Membership at Trinity UCC, Chicago and Advocate UCC. A broad Certified Chaplain and A Kingdon Scholar.

MEET RACHEL



Rachel is 8½! She loves to read, especially The Babysitters Club series and likes to play basketball! Her favorite color is teal and her favorite food is pizza !

Do you have a favorite stuffed animal?

That's easy! Tickle... but I also love Bamboo!

What do you want to be when you grow up?

Vet or firefighter

What do you like most about Sunday School?

I love the crafts, my friends and Ms. Sam!

Do you have a favorite song we sing?

Come be a Piece of Peace

What makes you the happiest?

Books and art make me the happiest!

Why do you like Peace Memorial?

The church is really special to me because I feel like I belong there!

I look at "all things spring" and I hear "awe- inspiring". That's always been my feeling in April, and there is no shortage from Christian Ed in the last month either! Let's just look at what our kids have accomplished. In addition to learning a fun song for Easter, our kids spent their time (and their day off) making and donating Easter baskets for the Crisis Center of South Suburbia. We made 20 Easter baskets that were blessed and sent off to families in need! Our kids were very excited to be able to share their love with others. That love and generosity did not end there! This past month, you may have noticed some of our Peace Kids looking a little lighter up top! We would like to

congratulate the AWE- INSPIRING efforts of Rachel and Austin who both are sporting "new 'do's"! Rachel donated 9 inches of her hair to Children With Hair Loss and Austin shaved his head for St. Baldricks! Way to go! We are all so proud of you!!



Another thing that never fails to amaze me is how fast hundreds of eggs get scooped up at our Bunny Breakfast egg hunt! As much fun as the egg hunt itself is, what I love most is the "after party". There is such a sense of community in our Peace Kids welcoming newcomers, and I just adore watching all of them getting along, trading candy and stickers and even helping to recollect the eggs. These kids are just incredible and that's why I am so excited to start highlighting their stories with you!

Be sure to join us for our next event: GAME NIGHT Friday April 19th! We will be making pizzas and sharing even more of that infamous Peace hospitality!



Get to Know a Trustee

Alan White, Secretary



I joined Peace Memorial Church with my wife, Cindy and two sons, Cody and Adam, in 2001. My sons both went to the daycare here in the building, and we are related to the Skala's (Cindy and Kim are sisters).

I grew up in a small rural town in Northwest Iowa, (where my mom still lives). I am a graduate of Iowa State University (go Cyclones!), with a degree in Computer Engineering. I have always worked in the Information Technology field. I used to work for ComEd, then IBM, and currently work for Lenovo. I am a little removed from much of the real-world computer use, so I am not that great at "helping people with their computer problems" anymore.

I was fortunate enough to go on a few Youth Mission trips when my son's were in high-school, where I learned a lot and had some very memorable experiences. My wife and I have also helped out at Tower Hill summer camp for a few years (thank you to the Kirscher's for getting us involved with that!). I used to enjoy playing basketball, then my knees and back made other suggestions to me. I like to golf and take a leisurely bike rides when I get some time away from work. Then of course, it is definitely a treat when I can fit in a vacation trip with Cindy.

Thank You! Vielen Dank! Gracias! Grazie Mile!

**This month I'd like to give a shout out to our
Music and Worship Committee**

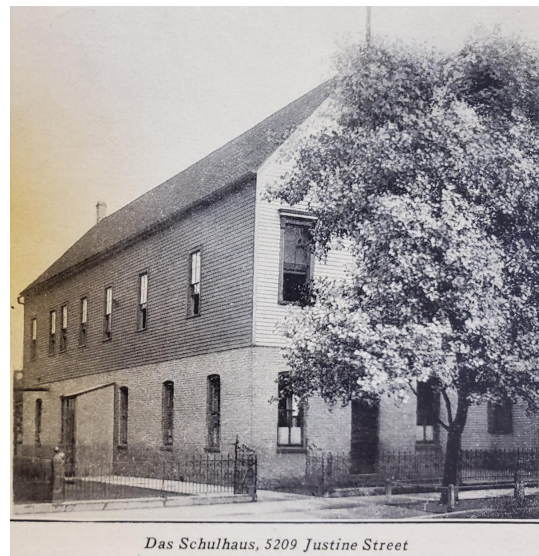
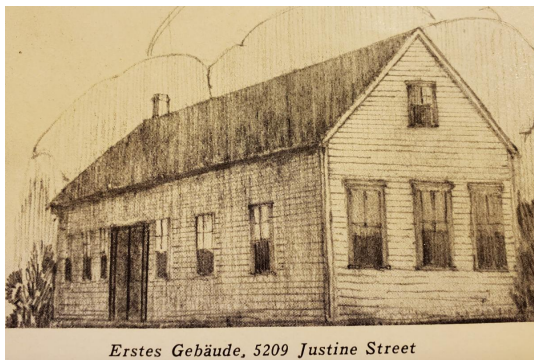
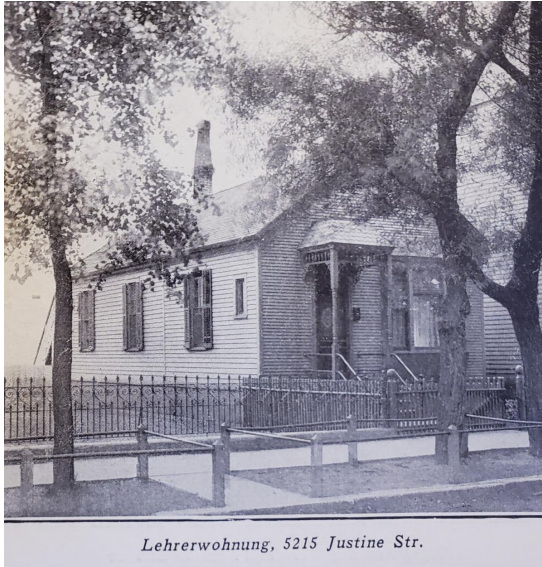
I'd like to offer a big thank you to all the members of our committee. You all bring great ideas and share your thoughts on how we can make our worship experience more meaningful and moving for the congregation! We will continue to meet as often as we can, which is generally the second Sunday of each month at 10:45 am. We do appreciate input from members of the congregation on what will make your worship experience more meaningful. We discuss various topics such as church lighting, video, the usher and altar guild groups, and all aspects of music presentations during worship. Please feel free to contact either myself or Rev. Kirk if there's anything you'd like us to discuss and bring to the Trustees.

Again, thank you to the committee for your continued dedication! Linnea Rimkus, Susan Kukla, Kathy Faulkner, Gordon Sieveke. Staff members, Rev. Kirk Moore, Bob Mohr and Tom Osborne.

I'd also like to thank Beverly Wehofer for her dedication in 2022-23. Also we are welcoming Nancy Di Novo who joins the committee in April!

Peace Memorial Church, A View to Our Church's History, Chapter One

Dennis Kirscher, Trustee



Although I don't want this effort to become a series of boring history lectures, I think much of this information will be new to many of our younger members and new congregants. Sometimes it's important to know where we've come from to get a better idea of where we may be headed. I would encourage anyone with questions regarding the history of PMC, or suggestions of what they would like to see in future articles to let me know. From the very beginning, here we go! On August 9, 1886 fourteen immigrant men from Germany and Austria formed "Die Evangelischen Friedens Gemeinde" (The

Evangelical Church of Peace) at 1309 W. 47th Street in the “Back of the Yards” community. Nine days later construction was begun on the church’s first building, a schoolhouse and teacher’s residence! Classes at the school were taught in German in an attempt to preserve the culture. By October of 1886, a constitution for the church was established and signed by its 41 members. The first confirmation class, of 10 students was confirmed in 1887. Just five years later that number had more than tripled with 34 confirmands!

The congregation grew by leaps and bounds to 1,000 members in 1904 and 1,725 members by 1905. This growth in numbers was undoubtedly aided by land acquisition, new construction and opening of branches in surrounding communities. Land was donated and additional land purchased at 52nd and Justine, not far from the original structure, and construction of a gothic style church began. The entire cost of this endeavor was \$7,450.00! The branch Sunday schools operated at 49th and Western and 62nd and Lincoln (now Wolcott), both closed in the early 1920’s.

Shortly after the closings of the remote branches, in 1922, the church purchased an entire block of property bounded by 78th Street on the south, 77th Street on the north, Laflin to the west, and Bishop to the east. This acquisition was to be the site of a very large church, a parish house (community center), and a parsonage. The cost of an entire city block in 1922? A whopping \$21,000.00!! In addition to the property designated for the church construction, 26 individual lots (30’ by 170’) were purchased by church members to offset construction costs. This same land acquisition concept helped fund the Peace Memorial Convalescent Home in Evergreen Park several years later, but that’s a story for another day.

In future chapters of this series, we will cover more church history with at least one dedicated to PMC leadership, Lay and Pastoral, and visions for our future. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or suggestions for inclusion in future chapters.

Mission and Spiritual Care Committee

Welcome Spring! The Mission Committee will meet on Sunday, April 7th after church for a planning session.

We received a thank you note from Redeemer Lutheran Church of Oak Forest for the 100 boxes of cereal delivered to their food pantry.



Hi!

I WANT TO THANK THE CHURCH
FOR THE DONATION OF 100 BOXES
OF CEREAL! CEREAL IS ONE OF THE
ITEMS I RARELY GET DONATED SO
IT IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!
THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO
SUPPORT THE PANTRY.

MARILYN FISHER
PANTRY STEWARD

ONA

The ONA Committee met in March to continue working on the plans and logistics for the Rainbow Prom to be held in Zion Hall on Friday May 17th. Once again we look forward to hosting teens in the LGBTQ+ community in the area. Those that attended in 2022 really enjoyed the event and hoped we would hold it again, so now is the time! If you would like to help at the event please contact myself, or Linnea Rimkus. We'll find something for you to do. Also, if you know any teens who would enjoy the Prom, please share the info with them!

Russ Hook

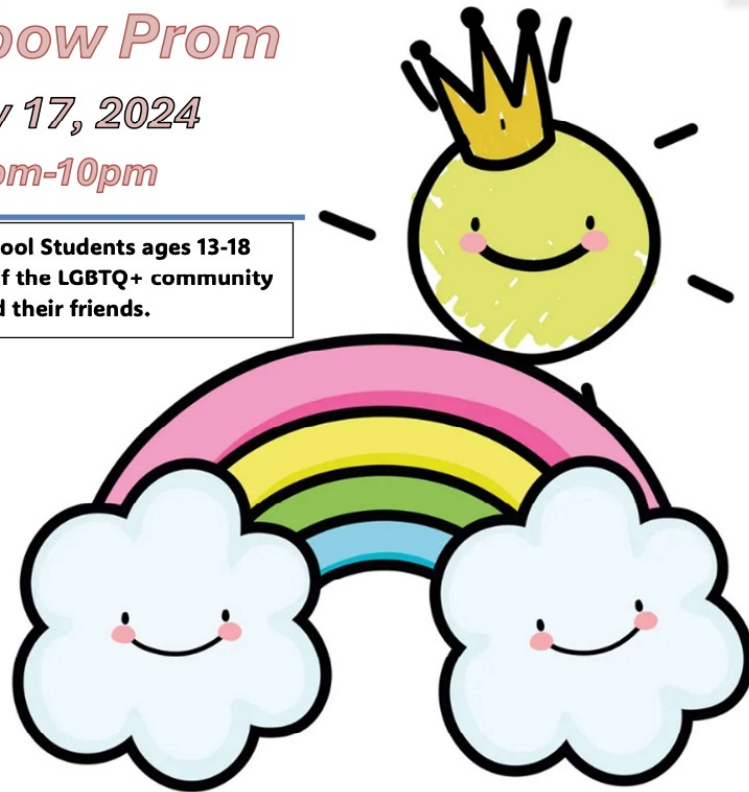
ONA chairperson

Rainbow Prom

May 17, 2024

7pm-10pm

For High School Students ages 13-18
who are part of the LGBTQ+ community
and their friends.



Games, Dancing, Snacks
and a
Rainbow Runway Competition!



Hosted at:

Peace Memorial Church
10300 131st Street, Palos Park

\$5 suggested donation at the door – Proceeds go to Youth Outlook

Register online at:

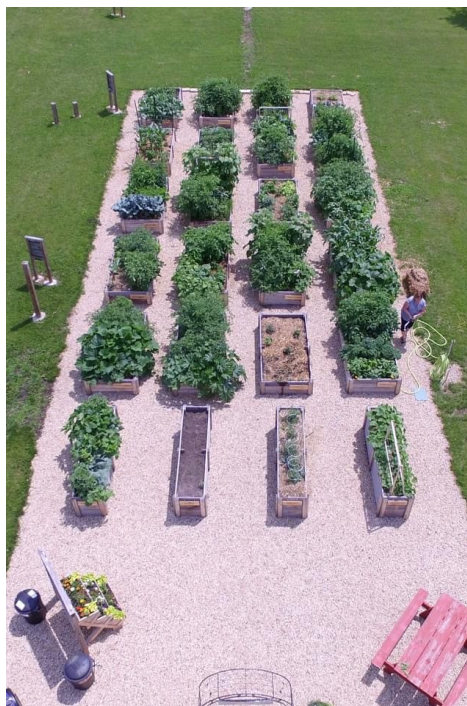
<http://bit.ly/rainbowprom24>

COMMUNITY GARDEN



We are really pleased to announce for the 8th consecutive year we have sold out our 24 raised garden beds. This year we have added 5 new gardeners to our list but we are most proud of including 3 new community people to our team this year. Our growing season begins on April 1st and our annual seed exchange is scheduled for Saturday, April 6th @ 10am. With a new group of gardeners we will be focusing on our mission statement of providing a superior recreational and educational experience. In addition, our congregation should be aware that we expanded our lending library to include any and all books and magazines, including children's books and activities. Stop by the garden and drop off a book or take a book. Reading is a great way to teach children and ...adults.

Bruce



ALL CHURCH NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us for a night of fun!

Bring your own
games or enjoy
some of ours!



Build your
own pizza!

PIZZA & GAME NIGHT

Friday April 19th

4:00-7:00pm

Zion Hall

Sign up in the Narthex by
April 7th



Any questions, please
contact the church office!



Join us on a journey through the music of the church over the last several hundred years.



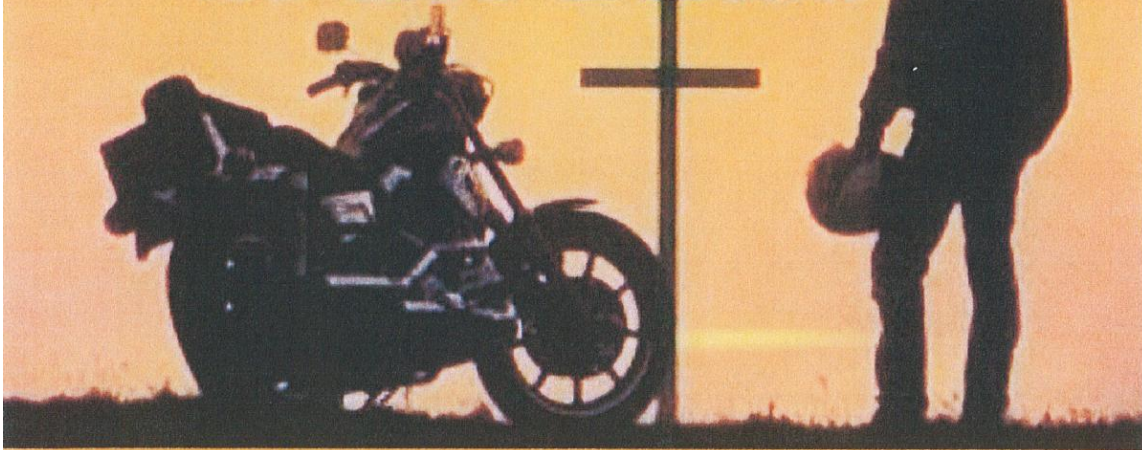
Includes a journey through traditional hymns, spirituals, gospel, and contemporary music

Saturday
April 20th 6:00pm

Peace Memorial Church
10300 W. 131st St
Palos Park, IL
pmcucc.org



Blessing of the Bikes



Calling all motorcyclists:

**Whether you ride a "Boss" Hog or a 90 cc minibike,
we want to bless you and your bike to help you
ride safely this season.**

**Get your motor runnin' and Head out on the Highway
Join us for the Blessing on Sunday April 28th!**

**This special event is at Peace Memorial Church
10300 W. 131st Street Palos Park Il.**

**Come for church at 9:30 am or just the blessing at
10:30(ish)**

Refreshments will be available (Food Truck)

A freewill offering will be gratefully accepted

**Feel free to let us know you'll be attending on our
Facebook page, website, or call 708 448 7833**

NEW BUDS ON OUR PATH

Gaile Sprissler

Earth awakens from the cold winter with her blossoming flowers and new growth, and we too feel this awakening within ourselves as the seasons transition. It's an opportunity for us to plant our new intentions and embrace new beginnings, so we can flourish. Just as new things are growing and starting to bloom



outdoors, so are things beginning to bloom within us on our new path. Spring exemplifies balance and renewal, reflected in the Spring Equinox, where day and night are of equal length, reminding us of the importance of harmony and balance in our lives.

Taking care of our bodies supports our health and allows us to do things we love, which energizes and inspires us. Sometimes we feel overwhelmed, disconnected, or unhappy. But there is a profound spiritual energy that comes with embracing and celebrating who we are authentically, at whatever age we are. It's important to balance the doing and the being. The more we've awakened within and are living fully, the more our bodies can

radiate that conscious energy and well-being.

Taking care of ourselves holistically by nourishing our bodies with whole, nutrient- rich foods, staying hydrated, getting regular exercise, prioritizing self-care rituals, and staying spiritually grounded, all play a significant role in supporting our vitality. Staying in tune to how our bodies change over time, we can choose foods that make sense for the life phase we are in. We can choose activities and workouts that keep us feeling strong and vibrant.

Every chapter in life is an opportunity. Seize this moment by reflecting on what your present needs are, to feel your most radiant self. By taking small steps we can achieve big changes through continuous improvement. We can release physical, mental, and emotional clutter, from the inside out. Soon we will realize many new beautiful characteristic blooms within our personal path.



April 1

Eleanor Gehrs

April 2

Theresa Kamphius
Sarah Zuniga

April 4

Mark Rimkus
Stacey Swieringa

April 5

April 13

Carol Baumler
Tom Bockmann
Eric Miulli
John Robbins
Sydney Wasyliw

April 16

Joseph Graben
Cassidy Medyk
James Murray

April 20

Emily Kutz

April 21

Halle Mack

April 24

Maria Nestor
Brett Nolan

April 26

Henry Freund

Judy Jones
Chris Schneider Sr.

April 8
Holly Jones

April 12
Lori Rudnicki

April 17
Gail Jefchak
Debbie Jerry

April 18
Phyllis Karner
Bradley Nolan
Lawrence Ostrowski Jr.

Elliot Hevel

April 27
Marsha Bockmann

April 28
Beverly Wehofer

APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7 pm Zion *PMCMMC	2 6:30 pm Zion Hall rental	3 7 am Volunteers 6:30 pm Chapel rental	4 NO Bible Study 7 pm Choir	5	6
7 9:30 am Worship/with guest Minister Donna Freeman 10:45 Mission meeting	8 7 pm Zion *PMCMMC	9 6:30 pm Zion Hall rental 7:00 pm Alzheimer's meeting	10 7 am Volunteers 3 p.m. PADS 6:30 Zion Hall rental 7pm CE meeting	11 1 pm Bible Study 7 pm Choir	12	13
14 9:30 am Worship	15 7 pm Zion *PMCMMC	16 6:30 pm Zion Hall rental	17 7:00 am Volunteers 7:00 Trustees	18 1 pm Bible Study 7 pm Choir	19 4-7 pm CE Game Night Zion Hall	20 10-4 Stitches/ chapel 6 pm Music of the Language/ Sanctuary
21 9:30 am Worship Confirmation	22 MESSENGER ARTICLES DEADLINE 7-9 pm Zion *PMCMMC	23 6:30 pm Zion Hall rental	24 7:00 am Volunteers 3:00 p.m. PADS	25 1 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Foundation 7 pm Choir	26 6:30 pm Chapel rental	27
28 9:30 am Worship Blessing of the Bikes	29 7-9 pm Zion *PMCMMC	30 6:30 pm Zion Hall rental				
					* PMCMMC =	Peace Memorial Church Monday Men's Club

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



Reverend Kirk Moore

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Roger EllensCEO/Executive Director

Peace Village Circle Inn

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Peace Memorial Church

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**Visit our website Peace
Memorial Church**

**Visit our Facebook
page Peace Memorial
Church UCC**

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