

# 2018-2019 Annual Report



Peace United Church of Christ  
1111 North 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue East  
Duluth, Minnesota 55805

**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF  
PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1111 North 11<sup>th</sup> Ave East, Duluth MN 55805

Presented at the Annual Meeting  
of the Congregation  
June 2, 2019

**Coordinating Council**

**Officers**

Moderator	Gary Boelhower
Vice Moderator	Susan Isernhagen
Secretary/Recorder	Cathy Ameal
Treasurer	Kirby Wood
Past Moderator	Marsha Hystead

**Council Representatives**

Christian Education	Karen Sheldon
Acting for Justice	Bill Hardesty
Christian Spiritual Life	Gudrun Wittrak
Christian Stewardship	Dave Courtright

**Members at Large**

Andy Fena	Hope David
Patty Beech	Matt Ryan

**Staff**

Lead Pastor	Rev. Kathryn A. Nelson
Minister for Faith Formation	Nathan Holst
Children's Ministry Coordinator	Kelli Farell
Visitation Minister	Cheryl Walsh
Music Director	Jim Pospisil
Pianist	Wendy Durrwachter
Bookkeeper	Toni Kasell
Office Coordinator	Janell Kohls
Office Coordinator	Nancy Nelson
Custodian	Dan Shepard
Building Use Coordinator	Tim Peters

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**Peace United Church of Christ**  
**Duluth, Minnesota**

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## **ANNUAL REPORTS**

### **Rev. Kathryn A. Nelson, Lead Pastor**

I write this annual report from the couch in our attic; I'm home recovering from surgery to remove a benign brain tumor. The surgery took more out of me than I anticipated, and fatigue has been a major side effect. I am so grateful to the council for allowing me to take the time I need to heal and literally regain my balance. The tumor on my acoustic nerve caused me to lose hearing in my left ear and impacted my balance. The many prayers, cards and meals I received have sustained me in these days of healing. I am also grateful to Rev. Sara Olson Dean who stepped in to cover during my absence and to the rest of our remarkable staff. They truly stepped up and carried on during Holy Week and Easter! Thank you all.

The council and many people in leadership have spent a great deal of time working on our 3-year strategic plan. We had a day together with over 30 folks planning under the leadership of Jim LeDeaux, from Vibrant Faith, and Gary Boelhower, our moderator. Many, many members of our congregation filled out surveys that guided our work. Overall it is clear that we are a very healthy congregation with people really wanting to be part of this community. As we look forward it seems that transition planning, continuing our Just Peace/Sanctuary efforts, and building beloved community through small groups, will all be part of our long range plan. We continue to build on our mission statement: Praising God, Living the Way of Jesus, and Building the Beloved Community.

### **Praising God**

Worship continues to be the most important way we gather together each week. The Spirit is powerfully present through the eclectic music and singing, prayers, laughter, tears and shared word. We continued to have two worship options on Sunday morning. Our early communion service is at 8:30am. This service has the same sermon and scriptures as the 10:30 service and always ends with the breaking of bread and sharing the cup of blessing. The fourth Sunday of each month our early service is a Taizé service, which is a time of singing chants, the reading of scriptures and times of silence.

Our second service at 10:30am continues to be one of wonderful energy and lots of kids. Our sanctuary choir sings on Sundays and for our many special services such as Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful community our choir is!

The music of our congregation is eclectic, expressive of the variety of people and ways we worship our God together. Jim is so good at inviting musicians in and working with them to enhance our worship. Thanks to all the different groups that regularly play—Jane Aas, Dave Winchester, John Erickson, Ron Deters and of course members of the Band Called Truman.

Not only our ears, but also our eyes have been engaged in worship through art. Amanda Hunter has taken over curating our art. As we went through the building together I was amazed by how much original art we have. She has created Visio Divina cards to hang near some of the art pieces. This is a way to look at art and use it as a form of prayer or meditation. Amanda also did an incredible job of collecting and displaying the art of Nathalia Hawley in our gallery space. Nat had used art as a way of creating during her two-and-a-half years of living and dying with osteosarcoma.

Worship and sermon preparation takes a large part of my time each week. I am grateful for the work of our worship and arts committee, which has switched to longer meetings to plan worship 6–8 weeks ahead. Together we have picked themes for each season and built the music, movement and liturgies around these themes. We were also blessed to have Gudrun Witrak and Beth Bartlett lead prayers around the cradle/cross on Wednesday evenings in Advent and Lent. These special services give us a time to pause and reflect in the midst of our work weeks and a wonderful way to offer new forms of prayer to the confirmation and youth group. When I asked the confirmands what they liked about the class, the candle lighting prayer time was often mentioned.

Each week I also meet on Thursday mornings with eight other local clergy for bible study. Every other Wednesday I head to the Chum Drop In Center to make breakfast, and on Thursdays I go to the St. Louis County Jail to do Bible study with the women using Sunday's texts. Naomi Christensen (Tim Peters) joins me at the jail, and I am grateful for the ways she continues to reach out to the women after they are released. All these groups help me to hear the good news in new ways. I am grateful for the opportunities you give me to be active in our community. This sharing of the Gospel has been enriching for me and, I hope, for the people I have shared with and learned from.

## **Living the Way of Jesus**

Each week another large portion of my time goes into preparing for and leading our two confirmation classes. We have a total of 38 high school youth involved in confirmation. Our entire first year is spent studying the Gospel of Mark so that they might really know what it means to live the way of Jesus. This year the confirmands also participated in an Urban Immersion Weekend with the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, March 15–17. It was a great time away of service learning and reflection.

The second year confirmation class focuses on talking about what others believe about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, and then they write/create a statement about what they believe. This year the youth wrote poetry, created videos, painted pictures and wrote essays. We had a final retreat at Camp Amnicon to take time away to really reflect on the confirmation decision and affirm one another.

This Summer about 20 youth and several adults will be heading to Denver to work with DOOR (Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection). We will spend our week working in a wide variety of service organizations and have time for discussion each evening.

The adults of our congregation also learned much through our adult formation offerings on Sunday mornings and through our many small groups. See the adult education report for greater detail.

We also had *Lecto Divina* bible studies every Wednesday evening at 6 pm. This is a great way to study and pray together. I also led the women's monthly brown bag bible study. What a great group of wise women gather each month! And Nancy Carlson continued organizing a Podcast lunch that meets each month.

We also played and learned together at a men's retreat (in March) and a women's retreat (in April) at Clearwater Forest Presbyterian Camp near Deerwood and a family winter camp weekend at Wolf Ridge. Thanks to all who helped with these retreats. These times away provide a necessary break from the hectic ordinary to hear God in our lives and learn how to live in the way of Jesus. We will continue these retreats each year.

## **Building the Beloved Community of God**

I am so grateful for all the teams and committees that work hard to truly build the beloved community. The Acting for Justice Hub meets each month to coordinate the various outreach efforts that our congregation's members are engaged in. We have our Dismantling Racism Team, Open and Affirming Team, Global Ministries Team and FEET (Food, Energy, and Environment) Team. It is incredible all the ways our people of God are working for justice here in our neighborhood and in the wider world.

I cannot say enough about the more than 40 volunteers who built our Sanctuary Living Space. Jim McLean headed up an incredible team! And with the help of the Stewardship Team, we "tore down the wall" with enough monetary donations to completely pay for the renovation. The money was raised in less than a month. We await our first guest, but our sanctuary team is ready, thanks to the hard work of Charlotte Frantz and others.

Much of my work in building the beloved community is through pastoral care, especially in times of grief. This past year we lost many beloved people—Elaine Augustad, Dominic Messina, Deloris Thompson, Ethel Witte, Glen Maxham, Loren Mesedahl, Virginia Nelson, Will Goddard, Dinel Koski, George Birdsong, Conor Lilja, Denise Hamsher, and, unfortunately, several children/youth—Helena Ebarb, Pearl Byrns, Nathalia Hawley, and Celine Provost. Many hours are spent each month with families in times of grief and preparing for services and following up after.

Care for these families also happens through the grief group that Gudrun Witrak and Deb Cooper facilitate each month, and in all the ways our members care for one another—sharing meals, cards and time.

Each week a lot of my time is spent visiting folks—new members, people preparing for marriage, pre-baptismal meetings, and, of course, those who are ill or grieving. I am grateful for all who are a part of our funeral/ memorial service team, led by Nettie Bothwell. This team helps with luncheons following the memorial services. It is such an important ministry to families in times of loss, and our outreach is not only for members, but also others in our community

We continue to reach out to the many people who come through our doors in need of prayer, food, bus tickets, clothing and more. The Gabriel Project, in coordination with Chum, is one way we can meet some of these needs. We have also helped at Chum every other Wednesday by preparing breakfast for the guests at the Drop In Center, and dinner one Thursday a month. Chum continues to be one of the areas we also generously support financially.

I am especially grateful for all the staff I get to work with at Peace Church. They are an amazing group of folks. Jim Pospisil has been leading worship through music for over 22 years. Janell Kohls has been our office coordinator for over 18 years, and she does a great deal of ministry with the wide variety of folks who walk through our doors each day. Nancy Nelson shares the office coordination job with Janell. Nancy is great at the detail work I often miss and is also very good with the constant changes that happen day to day. Toni Kasell has done a great job as our bookkeeper, and her positive attitude is infectious.

Nathan Holst has been an incredible colleague as our faith formation minister. He is licensed by the Minnesota Conference of the UCC and so can help lead communion and officiate at weddings and funerals. Much of his time is spent leading small groups, bible studies and working with our youth. Kelli Farell is doing a fabulous job as our children's ministry coordinator. She has the place hopping on Wednesdays with kids' club, yoga and choir. And Sunday mornings she leads a great crew for Sunday school.

Our doors are open to many community groups, and our custodian, Dan Shepard, keeps the building clean and in great shape for all who use the building. To help coordinate and manage the many, many activities that take place at Peace Church, last year we hired Tim Peters as our building use coordinator. Tim is doing a fantastic job working with the groups and individuals who use our building, including AA, SAA, GA, NA, Al-Anon, NAMI, yoga classes, Girl Scout troops, music lessons, and many one-time events. Tim also fills in for Dan when needed and helps with building maintenance.

Wendy Durrwachter is wonderful as our accompanist on Sunday mornings. Nadine Hubert and her family have been cooking our Wednesday meals for over 16 years. This is such an important way to gather each week—around a table of great food. Cheryl Walsh has been helping as visitation pastor for many, many years, and I am grateful for her gentle and caring ways.

We are so blessed by all our staff. I am grateful for each of them and the ministry we share. We work so well together and help our members and friends to carry out our vision of Praising God, Living the Way of Jesus, and Building the Beloved Community.

I want to say "thank you" to the members and friends of Peace Church. So many folks give so much of their time and energy to this place and people. It is amazing to consider what we can do together with our God. Special thanks to our Coordinating Council members, who meet monthly to oversee the work of our congregation. My appreciation to Gary Boelhower, our moderator this year, whose dedication and wisdom has guided us so well; Kirby Wood, our dedicated treasurer; Cathy Ameel our wonderful council secretary; and all those who serve Peace Church in so many ways.

I am grateful to be in ministry with each of you. I learn so much from everyone, and I am so grateful to share sacred moments with you—baptisms, weddings, memorial services and the many sacred moments we share day to day. I think often of Denise Hamsher, a long time and very active member of Peace who died this past February after living fully with stage-4 breast cancer for over 5 years. As I sat with her and her family to plan her memorial service, I asked her what scriptures wanted me to use in the service. And immediately she answered, Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you but to Do Justice, Love Kindness and Walk Humbly." These were the words she lived by. These are words for all of us to live by. I am glad to walk with each of you as we strive to do justice and love kindness.

Peace friends ~ Kathryn Nelson, Lead Pastor

### **Nathan Holst, Minister for Faith Formation**

*"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."*

~ Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC*

I started this last fall with a series on vocation/calling, and I still believe this is some of the most important work a faith congregation can do—helping each person get clear about where God is calling them and connecting that work to the community. And I would name this work as faith formation—we help encourage our people to live their fullest expressions of themselves, and thereby live out faith in the context of beloved community. There may be many different expressions of calling in different times of life within (or outside) the church, and different ways to nurture these callings, but I try to ground my work in this overall theme. I look forward to another great year together, trusting that the Spirit of Love will lead us in new and transformative ways.

## **Faith Formation**

This year, I continued leadership on the Shared Ministry Team, Dismantling Racism Team, Acting for Justice Hub, Spiritual Journey Team, the Worship and Arts Team, Adult Education Team, and the Children's Ministry Team (whenever I could). Especially as I helped lead many of these teams through the long range planning process, I have started to see how being on all these teams helps with communication between teams, and I will continue to help the teams make connections between the work they are doing. My role in leading the Spiritual Journey Team increased significantly this last year as we did the work of interviewing a cross section of the congregation, and I expect this next year will be full with unpacking what we learned in the process. I also see this as a central part of my faith formation role—helping our congregation reflect overall on how we do faith formation together. I continued my role in preaching roughly once a quarter. I once again renewed with the conference to be a licensed minister, which allowed me to lead a funeral for Kathy while she was on leave, help with a couple baptisms, and give communion on a regular basis.

## **Beloved Community Events/Small Groups**

We hosted our third couple's retreat in November 2018, with about eight couples attending. We had a lot of great feedback about it again, with a desire to continue it next year.

We also had another vibrant Winter Camp experience at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center. We had about 50 people come again this year, and made some changes based on the feedback from the previous year, including shortening the time of the activities to better match the energy level of young kids. It was an awesome experience with all the usual ropes course, chickadee landing, and X-C skiing activities for families to participate in. We plan to go back to Wolf Ridge next year.

I led the Men's Retreat in early March, and we changed locations this year to Clearwater Forest Retreat Center, which is a beautiful space that we plan to go back to next year. This year we focused on sharing stories together, and many commented on how much they value the relationships from the weekend. I also did a lot of outreach to try to increase the number of men at the retreat, and I think that will come to fruition this coming year, as many couldn't come this last year, but indicated they wanted to come the following year. We'll be back at the same retreat center, this time in late April.

As I mentioned in my opening, I led a series on "call" in the fall, as well as a Lenten practice focused on racial justice in spring 2019.

One of our church members and I talked in the fall about how she felt called to create a group at Peace that would allow another form of worship that would be more informal and conversational. After a few conversations, we started a new small group called Beloved Community, which meets on the first Sunday of the month in the afternoon. We have had multiple people lead the gathering, which often incorporates poetry, songs, silence, and conversation together.

## **Middle School Youth Group**

We had another great year in middle school youth group; we consistently had about 20-30 kids in the fall and 10-20 kids in the spring.

We once again began the fall with the Peer Ministry program that has become a staple of youth group. This is a great way to set the culture of youth group, and I believe it is a big part of why youth group has continued to develop into a place where youth love to come and feel welcome. Peer Ministry focuses on the good Samaritan story and does a great job of incorporating fun, bible stories, and experiential learning. Last fall (2018), I brought a group of about eight youth to a Peer Ministry training in the Twin Cities to give a reboot to our youth leadership.

It is now a part of our culture that the youth are leading our opening check-ins, as well as our prayer time together. Youth now know that regardless of how they think about church or God, they will have a space where they get to say how they're doing, share any joys or concerns in their life (and there are often lots shared—including family members with cancer, concern for friends dealing with depression, etc.), and have a great time together.

This year, because of the timing of the birth of our son, I joined five other adults for only part of a trip with about fifteen middle-schoolers to Fenske Lake State Park to camp for two days/nights in August. I look forward to leading another great trip this summer, which will be August 18–20, 2019.

We have had three overnights this year (including the Fenske Lake trip in the summer, the conference youth event in the fall at Pilgrim Point, and a lock-in at Peace in the winter), and the youth are always excited to come together to have fun and build relationship. These experiences are important in faith formation and in helping kids build the kinds of relationships that keep them wanting to hang out with each other and feel a sense of safety with sharing more vulnerably together.

## **OWL**

We had another great year of OWL (Our Whole Lives) sexuality curriculum for 8<sup>th</sup> graders this year. I recruited three new facilitators from Peace and provided administrative (and back up facilitation) support to the facilitators. We once again partnered with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth, which provided another facilitator (for a total of three), and added Pilgrim UCC as a partner. Between the three congregations, we had a little over 20 youth in our class. It was another immensely successful year, and we are just completing the last 90-minute session, for a total of 26 sessions, which began in late September. In the spring, I spent time identifying and recruiting another facilitator for next year, and we are just waiting to hear when the training will be held. I plan to continue to offer the program to 8<sup>th</sup> graders each year (much like 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders have confirmation) and to increase our facilitators until we have a pool of six to eight facilitators that rotate each year to ensure no one gets burned out. I will be sending out letters to incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders soon and will follow up with phone calls to answer any questions parents may have. I look forward to another great year of OWL, making this an important part of our regular programming.

## **High School Youth**

I once again helped Pastor Kathy with confirmation this year, sometimes coming up a little late after youth group finished at 7:30pm on Wednesday evenings. Each year, my relationship with the youth are deeper, and I was grateful to be a part of the Urban Immersion trip in March and to help lead the confirmation trip in May. I hope to continue offering volunteer opportunities for youth on regular basis this year, in addition to going along for the trip to Denver this summer.

## **Other**

I continued with my role on the MN UCC Faith Formation Team (there are about seven of us from different parts of Minnesota), which has continued to be a great help to me in thinking about faith formation in our congregation. This last summer (2018), I participated in a training through the Center for Courage and Renewal, which is sponsored and covered by the MN Conference Faith Formation Team. This two-part retreat helped first to push me to create faith nurturing songs for kids and pair them with children's books (and share some of these with parents of our Sunday School kids), and then more recently helped me continue to reflect on how I integrate my music, my movement building/organizing work, and my congregational work. One way I plan to act on this is to go to a music conference at the end of May that focuses on the intersection of faith songs and justice work. I look forward to sharing more soon.

I finish my report for this year by once again saying how grateful I am to be in this role. I continue to love my work in this community and look forward to years to come.

Nathan Holst, Faith Formation Minister

## **Kelli Farell, Children's Ministry Coordinator**

### **Children**

Childcare: Sunday morning childcare has again undergone some staff changes. Meghan Paul was with us for her fifth year at Peace, and Crystal Kaczmarczyk was here for a second year. Crystal Sjelin worked throughout the year, and Adrianna Hudyma and Katie Hentges joined the staff in the fall and were with us throughout the spring. Katie will return in the fall of 2019. They are great with the kids and are often the face of Peace Church for our many new families!

On Wednesday evenings, childcare is provided for an hour-and-a-half by Meghan Paul along with either Katie Hentges or Adrianna Hudyma. We get out the Legos as a special treat for Wednesday nights since first graders and under are using nursery services.

## Sunday School

Curriculum: This was the second year of using our new curriculum entitled *The Joyful Path*, published by progressivechristianity.org. Since the curriculum is not accessible online, I loaded the lessons onto flash drives and uploaded it through emails and our teacher Facebook page so that each teacher was able to access it.

The curriculum is behavior-based and focuses on children walking the path of Jesus by making wise choices. In short, “[I]t teaches interdependence, self-awareness, respect for nature, stillness, forgiveness, prayer, meditation, and integrity. Using the Bible and other wisdom stories, *A Joyful Path* helps children learn how to follow the path of Jesus, other teachers, and real-life heroes in today’s world,” according to the publisher’s description.

One of the most exciting pieces of this curriculum is that it engages teachers in a guided reflection of the theme before introducing the options for teaching it. Additionally, the new curriculum provides a multitude of options for exploring the theme in ways that are easy to tweak for varying ages. A tremendous asset to this curriculum is its consistent inclusion of kinesthetic activities which engage our extremely busy preschoolers and kindergarteners!

Additionally, I send teachers a detailed letter outlining the specifics of the Sunday School lesson. It gives teachers advice on which scripture best fits our lesson, what activities might work, and what supplies we might have or can be provided, as well as tells what story will be told at the opening. This goes out through email and on our private Sunday School Facebook page.

I have continued purchasing picture books that supplement the curriculum, and the Children’s Ministry Team put out requests for certain books for the congregation; these can be used in the opening or by Sunday School teachers in individual classes. They are continuing to be added to the Children’s Library.

Openings: Each Sunday, the kids gather with me for a 20-minute, large-group opening in the sanctuary. Preschoolers through 5th graders gather to sing, celebrate birthdays, collect an offering, and hear the story for that Sunday through the persona of “Kelli Green,” one of the unnamed disciples of Jesus. I share the story in a few ways, either telling the story included with *The Joyful Path* or reading a book that shares the concept in a new way. I planned and led all openings this year, including the songs. By sharing the story as a large group, Sunday School teachers are then free to move directly into discussion and activities when they break into their individual classes.

Additionally, our offering for 2018-2019 has continued to go to Clifford Lee Flores, a boy we support in the Philippines. I maintain a bulletin board in the narthex to share more detailed information regarding Clifford, including his letters and photos.

Teachers: We again had “teacher teams” to help lighten the workload. Each class had two or three teachers who rotated so each teacher team was responsible for certain Sundays. We only had substitute teachers a couple of times throughout the year. We had one teacher meeting to check in on the year’s progress. We currently have a private Facebook group for Sunday School teachers, which we have used for the past two years to share ideas and connect as needed.

Other: I developed a more specific Middle School Sunday School focused on building relationships, stories of the Bible, and donuts! This new format uses *Picture the Bible* curriculum, and we started trying it out in March. We have finally seen regular attendance with this age group.

## Other Programming

Kids’ Club: I continued a program for 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders on Wednesday evenings where kids can create connections with one another and learn ways God is present in their lives. We had 15 regular participants and another 10-12 kids who occasionally participated weekly in a rotation of activities including Book Club, Lego Godly Play, Crafts, and Games. We always began with relationship building and then moved into our lesson for the night. Kids have really opened up to one another and developed close bonds.

We were again blessed by Pat Nelson, who volunteered her time every week with the kids; they’ve adopted her as “Grandma Pat” and their devotion to her is clearly felt.

Throughout the year, kids wrote their prayers on scraps of paper and put them in our God Box. They are hoping to burn the prayer papers and “send” them to God at the close of the school year.

Kids’ Choir: This was the second year of Kids’ Choir on the first and third Wednesday evenings of the month. Susan Larson Kidd did a great job of leading kids ages 4 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade in special songs of silliness and faith. This group of kids performed at the 10:30 worship service on the second Sunday of the month throughout the school year.

Kids' Yoga: For a third year, Elise Courtright led our budding yogis, ages 4 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, in yoga practice. Through the use of animal poses and other themes, Elise gently guided the kids to love and care for themselves. They met on the second and fourth Wednesday evenings of the month.

Christmas Pageant: This year's pageant was called *Christmas: The Inside Story*, and the key participants in the nativity came to life from a wooden creche scene to interact with a reporter and her intern. Kids with speaking parts practiced at Sunday School for the month before the pageant, and all the kids practiced the pageant the day before performing it. The kids did a marvelous job, and Doug Bowen-Bailey posted the pageant to YouTube. People seemed to enjoy the pageant, and, once again, this is one of the most fun parts of Children's Ministry! Following the pageant, we had a Birthday Cake for Jesus at Coffee Hour.

VBS: In June 2018, Peace Church once again partnered with Pilgrim Congregational Church for Vacation Bible School. We had 53 kids, roughly 15 youth, and many adults create *The Peaceable Kingdom*. We explored anti-bullying themes through the use of favorite children's literature characters such as Horton the elephant, Yertle the turtle, Mama and Papa bear, Old Turtle, and Gerald the giraffe. Through our baptismal mandate to "see the face of Jesus in those around us," participants spent time together learning how to be respectful to everyone, to identify what bullying looks like in their worlds, and to find the strength to stand up to bullies. The themes for the five days included Be Your Best Self, A Place for Everyone, Turn the Other Cheek, Made in God's Image, and Be Courageous—all done through Bible stories and children's literature.

This June, we will again hold VBS from June 10–14. The theme this year is *Aslan On the Move*. Dare to go through the wardrobe and enter the world of Narnia! Discover the magic of the fantastic world created by C.S. Lewis including Aslan, the Witch, Father Christmas, the Beavers and more. We will explore how using our imaginations prepares us to respond in faithful ways when confronted with meanness. During the week, we will relate personally to the despair of Lucy at not being believed; to the wretchedness of Edmund, who takes pleasure in bullying younger people; to the faith and commitment of the Beavers who never lose hope that Aslan will return spring to Narnia; and to the fearsome treachery of the White Witch, who strives to control all outcomes in Narnia. Early registrants will get a free copy of the book.

Other: Each year, I help train and schedule our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to acolyte during our 10:30 service. I meet them at the start and close of worship every Sunday and guide them through this important step of worship.

I have planned many additional activities as well, serving the dual purposes of relationship building and celebrating Christian themes, including a summer campfire, Rally Sunday, the Halloween Carnival, the Advent Family Fun Day, the Easter Egg Hunt, and the end of the year Sunday School Celebration. In addition, this year I held a couple of movie and pizza nights during the school year as opportunities for kids to connect and build relationships here at Peace.

We continued offering opportunities for all ages to connect with each other and support each other. We celebrated life landmarks by giving bibles to Kindergartners and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, and we will rejoice with graduating seniors on Graduation Sunday.

I absolutely love working as the Children's Ministry Coordinator, and I am so thankful for this community!

Kelli Farell, Children's Ministry Coordinator

## **Jim Pospisil, Music Director**

It has been thrilling to be Music Director at Peace this year. The large number of diverse musicians makes the music in worship beautiful, exciting, and meaningful. The choir continued to sing an anthem each Sunday at the 10:30 service. The choir also supported the bands with back up singing, singing for special events, and singing descants regularly on hymns. Wendy Durrwachter has continued to offer her skills and creativity with accompaniment of the choir and new compositions. The Peace band consistently provides beautiful music for the first Sunday of each month, with some new collaborations with various artists. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Band, Leon and Friends, continues to rock, taking various shapes and forms. One of the blessings of Peace is the depth of musicians to tap into. When someone is unable to make it to a service, many others are willing to step in and offer their gifts.

The Christmas Cantata featured another creation from the gifts of Gary Boelhower. It was a powerful and meaningful experience in true Peace form. Involved were several readers, new writings, choir, orchestra, and congregational singing.

Once again, the Peace Cabaret was a lovely evening of various talented artists, performing in many styles. It is such a treat to witness the rich talent of Peace members and friends.

Throughout the year, dozens of musicians bless us with their talents. Amateurs to professionals, all feel at home providing special music for Peace. The congregation is welcoming and appreciative, inspiring the musicians to come back and offer their gifts again and again. Upon reviewing what has transpired over the last year, I realize what a truly amazing experience it is to be Music Director at Peace Church.

Respectfully,  
Jim Pospisil, Music Director

### **Coordinating Council – Moderator**

As the Moderator of the Coordinating Council this year I have been inspired by the tireless and dedicated volunteers and staff who are the heart of Peace Church. Over and over I see staff going above and beyond expectations to serve selflessly and compassionately. I am astounded by the number of volunteers who show up week after week to guide and sustain the many ministries of our congregation in the areas of finance, human resources, Christian education, Christian spiritual life, acting for justice, Christian stewardship and property. Each of these areas is served by multiple committees and teams. In particular this year, I want to express immense gratitude in three areas. 1.) Thank you to Jim McLean and all the volunteers who helped in the remodeling of our building so that we can serve as a sanctuary church should the need arise. 2.) Thank you to Rev. Sara Olson Dean who served our congregation with such capability and kindness while Pastor Kathy was on medical leave. 3.) Thank you to all who were involved in the long-range planning efforts to envision how we can most effectively and authentically answer the call to continue to be Peace Church for each other and for our world.

With deep gratitude,  
Gary Boelhower, Moderator

### **Coordinating Council – Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee is composed of Gary Boelhower (moderator of Coordinating Council), Kirby Wood (church treasurer), Dick Goese, Betty Greene, Leon Rohrbaugh, John Ameal. (Special thanks to Mike Schrage who served on the committee several years and resigned in February). We meet monthly with our bookkeeper, Toni Kasell. Our primary job is to review the monthly financial statements and to pass any recommendations, concerns or questions along to Council. We also discuss and make recommendations concerning any other matter related to the financial status and policies of our church.

For calendar year 2019, our church's annual budget is \$539,041. This budget reflects realistic income and expenses in all areas. Included in the budget is a planned withdrawal of \$4,123 from the Special Building Fund Designated Account to pay for special projects related to the building. It must be noted that the budget could not foresee the additional expenses in payroll related to Pastor Kathy's medical leave and the hiring of Rev. Sara Olson Dean for 6-8 weeks part time. We are confident that the generosity of the congregation will respond to this special circumstance.

For the 2018 fiscal year, income exceeded expenses by \$1,238. We are blessed with strong and generous giving. We were able to complete remodeling of our building to house an individual or family in need of sanctuary based on special giving outside of our regular budget.

Finally, we recommended and council approved the investment of \$150,000 in Certificates of Deposit from designated funds in order to reap benefits beyond what we were receiving from money market or regular bank account interest.

In summary, our financial standing is solid based on the continuing generosity of the congregation.

Gary Boelhower, Finance Committee Chair

### **Coordinating Council – Human Resources Committee**

Peace Church is at full staff and there is harmony and excellent work by all staff. During the summer 2018 yearly reviews, Pastor Kathy and an HR representative learned details of this strong work, creativity and energy.

During the yearly reviews staff also suggest how they would like to improve their position and these ideas are shared with and assisted in implementation by Pastor Kathy Nelson.

Nathan Holst, Faith Formation Minister, was highly recommended to be licensed again by UCC. His work is increasing and expanding.

Retirement options for qualifying staff are on the table for more discussion this year.

HR worked with Pastor Kathy and Pastor Sara Olson Dean for assistance in designing a part time position during a LOA.

Strategic planning will be completed in May.

Church members all appreciate the welcoming atmosphere created by pastors and staff. Thank you!

Submitted by Sue Isernhagen, Council Vice Moderator and HR Committee chair.

## **Coordinating Council – Jubilee Fund**

The Jubilee Fund was created in 2009, funded by a tithe from the Haller bequest. Its intentions are to “build the beloved community,” as it gives our congregation a concrete way to make connections with the wider community. Like the oil lamps that are celebrated during the Jewish festival, the fund has continued beyond our original projections. What we thought would be a 5-year process of spending out the money has instead been sustained by the generosity of the estate of Peggy and George Maske and by Peace Church members who continue to support our commitment that Peace Church does not exist only within these walls but will always spill out into the community.

This year, the Jubilee Fund contributed \$7,000 to support the bus for the youth work camp in Phillippi, West Virginia. We also provided \$2,500 to support the group of high school students that traveled to Montgomery to learn about the history of the civil rights movement and the ongoing struggle for racial justice. After their return, a group presented their experiences in the adult forum on November 11, 2018. The Jubilee Fund has also provided \$2,000 as start-up money for the “Peace Housing Project” that is being facilitated by Jim McLean and is taking some of the same skill and energy that helped complete our sanctuary project at church. This project will address some of the housing needs in the community.

The Jubilee Fund committee consists of Sarah Holst, Gail Blum, Tim Peters, Jim McLean, and Doug Bowen-Bailey. We invite you to get involved with an activity supported by the fund, or come up with an idea that you can bring forward as a way for us to continue to build the beloved community. And there will be continuing opportunities for you to donate to this fund. We currently have over \$55,000 in the account—a sign that it truly is possible to be generous and live with a sense of abundance and that our lamps burning for justice will continue on into the nights to come.

For more information on the Jubilee Fund and the application process, please visit:  
<http://www.peaceucc.org/acting-for-justice-hub/jubilee-fund/>

Submitted by Doug Bowen-Bailey

## **Christian Education – Children’s Ministry Team**

Diane Swanoski, Karen Sheldon, Holly Bowen-Bailey, Elise Courtright, Pat Nelson, and Katey Fornear have participated in the Children’s Ministry Team. Kelli Farell has been our Children’s Ministry Coordinator, and Nathan Holst, our Faith Formation Minister, is her direct supervisor. Both have attended most of our meetings this year.

Sunday School: We began a curriculum called The Joyful Path. We began building our children’s library to supplement many of the lessons with contemporary and relevant picture books.

Library Updates: A book drive was conducted that provided a refresh of our library options for children and young adults.

Wednesday Night Programming: Kelli worked on Wednesday nights to provide programming for kids in 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades; the program is called Kids’ Club. Kids rotated through four different activities each month: book club, crafts, Legos, and games. Nine to fourteen kids attended regularly, and other kids joined in occasionally.

Annual CM Events: Seasonal activities, including the Halloween Fundraising carnival, a family activity time for the Advent Workshop on Thanksgiving weekend, and the Easter Egg Hunt were generally well-received. We hope to continue to recruit family members to take part in some of these activities together throughout the year.

Last summer's Vacation Bible School was The Peaceable Kingdom; 45 kids participated. The Christmas Pageant was called Christmas: The Big Story, a previously written pageant by Holly and Doug Bowen-Bailey and adapted by Kelli Farell and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school students to accommodate our kids. Approximately 35-40 kids participated in the pageant.

Nursery: Our childcare on Sunday mornings during both services and Wednesday evenings has been a success. We have great nursery staff, Meghan Paul, Adrianna Hudyma, Crystal Sjelín, Katie Hedges, and Crystal Kaczmarczyk, who have been working with us all year. They are fantastic. They rotate on Sunday mornings. On Wednesday evenings, childcare is available from 6-7:30 p.m. for kids 1<sup>st</sup> grade and under; special "Wednesday night only" activities are available: board games and Legos. Generally, a few kids attend, with the exception of Wednesdays when there is an Inquirers Class; we often see increased numbers in the nursery on these evenings.

Youth Programming: This past year, youth group met weekly, with anywhere from 10-20 middle school students participating, depending on the time of year. Nathan, our Faith Formation Minister, plans the activities and involves parent volunteers weekly to assist with snacks. There were four lock-ins and a number of events, and over the summer there will be one event each month to keep the youth connected. In the fall, there will once again be a peer ministry program, as well as a continuation of the OWL (our whole lives) program offered for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. We trained three new facilitators this spring and hope to have a pool of OWL facilitators moving forward as we continue to partner with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation and Pilgrim UCC.

Numbers: According to our database, there are 316 "children" in the church between 0 and 18 years old, breaking down as follows:

- 0-3 years old: 42
- 4 years old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade: 123
- Youth Group (6<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup>): 68
- Confirmation (9<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup>): 39
- Senior High (11<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup>): 44

Submitted by Karen Sheldon, Council Rep for Christian Education

## **Christian Education – Adult Education Team**

The Adult Education Team plans the Sunday morning forums that happen each week and coordinates a wide variety of other learning events.

Adult Forums: This year's theme was "Belonging: listening to the stories of others for understanding and deepening connections".

- September 16: Realistic Jones actors Christine Johnson and John Pokrzywinski shared thoughts about being in this play and acted out several scenes from the play.
- September 23: Stories of some of our farmers—Belonging to the Land. This week, Nathan & Veronica Gaidelis Langer and Rick & Karola Dalen shared their stories of beginning farms and learning from the land. What got them started? What has it meant to them? What sustains them?
- September 30: Stories of some of our farmers—Belonging to the Land. This week, Lucie Amundsen of Locally Laid and Emily Richey from the Duluth Community Garden Program will share some of their stories
- October 7: Juan & Kirsten Gonzalez of our congregation shared their family's story as Juan immigrated from Mexico.
- October 14: Clare Bransky shared about her work in Guatemala.
- October 21: Diana Oestreich shared about her work with Pre-emptive Love and people in Syria.
- November 4: Lyz Jaakola, professor and activist, spoke about treaties.

- November 11: Linda LeGarde Grover, author and professor, spoke on the importance of naming places.
- November 18: Njoki Kamau and Bilin Tsai shared their fathers stories, especially focusing on immigration and faith.
- November 25: Rev. Nancy Deever spoke about her trip to Cuba.
- December 2: Advent Family Fun Workshop in the Fellowship Hall.
- December 9: Regina Laroche shared her family immigration stories.
- December 16: No Forum because scheduled speaker couldn't make it.
- December 23: Jebbeh Edmunds shared her immigration story.
- December 30: Potluck brunch for all.
- January 6: Gary Boelhower talked about Epiphany stories.
- January 13: Donna Howard from the Loaves and Fishes Community.
- January 20: Georgia Lane on being a dementia-friendly congregation.
- January 27: Chaplain Liz Liebenstein on her work with people living with dementia.
- February 3: Amanda Hunter on Visio Divina.
- February 10: Xavier Bell from the Family Freedom School.
- February 17: Jordan & Terese Moses from Blackbird Revolt.
- February 24: Representative from AICHO (American Indian Community Housing Organization)—Indigenous Art
- March 3: Long Range Planning Retreat follow-up.
- March 10 & 17: Ann Herrington
- March 24, 31, and April 7: Ted Lewis on restorative justice using clips from the film Healing Justice.
- April 14: Kathy Hermes talked about Together for Youth.
- April 28: Sheila Lamb talked about missing and exploited Indigenous women.
- May 5, 12, 19: So How Are the Children—A discussion about Palestine with Jim Bailey.

Other Activities: The Adult Education Team also sponsored the following activities:

- Lenox Women's Spiritual Life Group meets on the third Monday of the month at noon at Lenox Place Apartment 710 (701 W. Superior St.) for lunch and fellowship. All women are welcome. Facilitated by Cheryl Walsh, our visitation pastor.
- Women's Brown Bag Study Group meets on the fourth Wednesdays at noon in the Fireside Room. Pastor Kathy facilitated this time to share lunch, conversation and devotions.
- "On Being" podcast and lunch meets on the third Tuesday of each month at noon in the conference room. The group listens to great speakers online, followed by good conversation. Facilitated by Nancy Carlson, who also brings a delicious lunch.
- Peace Grief Support Group meets on the third Sunday of the month, September through May, at 11:30am in the Chapel. Facilitators are Chaplain Deborah Cooper and Chaplain Gudrun Witrak. This support group is for individuals dealing with the death of a loved one or other life changing losses.
- Soma Yoga Class meets on Mondays 9:00-10:15am in the Fireside Room. The class is taught by Robin Davidson of our congregation. This safe and gentle yoga involves a combination of chair, standing, and mat poses and is suited for all levels of ability.
- Centering Prayer meets in the Chapel Wednesdays at 5pm. Centering Prayer is a method of silent, contemplative prayer, in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself.

- Wednesday Evening Bible Study meets at 6pm in the Fireside Room. Participants read the Gospel lesson for the coming Sunday using the Lectio Divina method. Lectio Divina is listening for the still, small voice of God that speaks to us. We read the passage three times to hear what it is touching in each of our lives.
- Retreats: Men's Retreat at Turning Point Retreat Center. Winter Camp on the second weekend in February for all ages at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center. Women's Retreat, April 26–27 at Clearwater Forest Presbyterian Camp near Deerwood. Ann Carlander for showing us how to weave and using "weaver: as a metaphor for life.

Submitted by Pastor Kathy Nelson for the Adult Education Team

## **Christian Education – Library Team**

Members and Workers: Sharon Crosby, Janell Kohls, Marlis Cran, Lynn Lanier, Denise Perry, Lynn Watson and Kathy Wood

Our Mission Statement begins with the Peace Church Vision Statement and continues as follows: "The purpose of the church library is to support the ministry of the congregation in accordance with the above vision statement. We seek to provide print and non-print material for all ages, which strengthens the educational work of the church, increases our knowledge of our own faith and others, enriches our worship life, provides information on social and economic issues, fosters an appreciation of good literature and nurtures spiritual growth."

The statistics for the past year show a slight increase in usage of the Adult Library. The Children's Library has seen a slight decrease in usage during the past year. As in previous years, more books are being checked out than are returned. We also have some DVDs available for check out and we will be adding more in the next few months. We are seeing a number of books leaving the shelves without being checked out, some of which have not returned. This is a concern, and we ask that you take time to write your name on the card in the book and place it in the file box, either on the card catalog or on the display shelves in the entry. There is also a box in the children's area.

Work continues on a card catalog for the Childrens' Library. It should be complete in the next few months.

We are happy to receive donated books as this helps us to stretch our budget. Sharon Crosby has been working most Wednesdays to accession books, enter information into the database and print and file the new catalog cards. She continues to update the Adult Library catalog and database as new books are added to the library. We welcome anyone who has the interest and time to help out in the library to come in at their convenience—you do not need to be a member of the team. No knowledge of processing or covering books is necessary. We can give you direction. We would also welcome reviews of books in the library and suggestions for new books. Call Sharon Crosby at 624-5582 if you are interested in helping.

We appreciate your help and your donations and hope that you will visit the Peace Church libraries and use the materials available there.

Submitted by Sharon Crosby

## **Christian Education – Historical Team**

Members: Bill Kehtel, Bill Kohlts, Marge Anderson, Marg Paulson, Marlis Cran, Joan Severson, Joan Hatlestad and Sharon Crosby

The team has been meeting monthly to organize the records, photos and newspaper clippings. We still have many pictures that need to have names and dates recorded and need to be organized into albums. This is an ongoing project.

A letter and current photos must be sent each year, in June, to the Department of the Navy regarding the bell from the USS ASCELLA that has been on loan to us since 1959. As requested by the Navy, we had a plaque made stating that the "Ascella" bell is on indefinite loan. It was placed on the bell tower.

We continue to organize the "New Member Photos."

We are still trying to collect a copy of each cookbook the church has compiled over the years. We have the most current ones (1956, 1976, 1989, 2006 and 2017) but we continue to look for the older ones. Please watch for them at rummage sales and as older members pare down their possessions.

We still do not have pictures of some of our more recent Confirmation Classes, if anyone has pictures of these classes please let us know. We can get copies made and return the originals to you. We will be compiling a list of the specific years that are missing and will publish it in the Peace Bell.

We continue to index the archives, photo albums and scrapbooks. Most of these indexes have been entered into the computer so that they may be more easily searched.

We continue to do research for people who are creating family histories. We did genealogical research for Jay Sonnenburg on the Friedrich\Sonnenburg family and for Carolyn Drews on the Fritz Reed family.

We also retrieved files relating to Sanctuary activities for Jim Larson and found material for Lyn Clark Pegg and Bill Hardesty on the "Just Peace" movement and when our church became a "Just Peace" congregation.

Marge Anderson has been taking Peace Bells and making summaries of each year and thus creating a history of Peace Church.

Bill Kehtel, Bill Kohlts, Joan Severson and Sharon Crosby attended a meeting of the second-year confirmation class and gave a talk on the history of our congregation.

We have started working on a new picture display for all the pastors who have served this church. We have received several additional photos from the Eden Theological Seminary archive in Missouri.

If anyone has a memory, old photograph, or a document about an event or happening related to the church, the committee would be interested in hearing about it. We are always looking for additional committee members who recognize the value of "remembering the past". Please contact a team member if you are interested in being on the Historical Team and helping to organize and archive the important documents from our past.

Submitted by Sharon Crosby

## **Acting for Justice – Acting for Justice Hub**

"... and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

The Acting for Justice Hub provides a focus for Peace Church's commitment to justice in both the local and global community. The Hub meets monthly and serves as the umbrella for the action teams: Dismantling Racism, Food, Energy and Environment (FEET), Global Ministries, Open and Affirming (ONA), CHUM involvement, Gun Violence Issues, and Sanctuary Congregation. The Hub submits regular columns to the Peace Bell, including Voices for Justice, which highlights the justice efforts of a different member of the congregation each month.

Peace Church volunteers provide meals for Loaves and Fishes, Damiano Soup Kitchen, and CHUM Drop In Center. The congregation provides Christmas gifts to Hildegard House, Life House, and Loaves and Fishes Catholic Worker Houses. Peace Church members sign petitions, comment on potential regulations, and send emails to legislators to advocate on issues such as gun violence, immigration, and climate justice.

We hosted the MLK interfaith service in January. We hosted a variety of Adult Forum sessions on this year's broad theme of Belonging. Justice for Palestine is a focus in May.

We are planning to celebrate 30 years of being a Just Peace Church on Sunday, June 9, 2019. Jack Nelson Pallmeyer will preach, and we will have a taco luncheon after church. Please come and learn more about what it means to be a Just Peace Church and about our efforts over the last 30 years.

In addition to action team funding support for Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial, NAACP and AICHO events, U.S. Peace Memorial, and a group of indigenous women who traveled to The United Nations to present on the trafficking of Native girls and women, we donate to the following justice ministries as part of our budgeted giving; Our Church's Wider Mission (UCC), CHUM, Campus Ministry, Gabriel Project, Habitat for Humanity, St Mark AME Church, One Roof, Loaves & Fishes, The Liddles (missionaries in East Timor), UTS Seminary, Seafarer's Ministry, Damiano Soup Kitchen, and Witness for Peace. On top of budgeted giving, members of the congregation give to four UCC mission offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and Veterans of the Cross (Christmas Fund).

To learn more about specific activities in the past year, please read the summaries from our Action Teams:

Food, Energy, and Environment - Bill Mittlefehldt

Global Ministries - Jessica Olson

Open and Affirming - Nathan Holst

CHUM Involvement - Terese Tomanek

Dismantling Racism - Betty Greene

Sanctuary Congregation - Charlotte Frantz

Gun Violence Prevention - Joan Peterson

Submitted by Betty Greene

### **Acting for Justice – Food, Energy and Environment Team (FEET)**

Over the last year, the FEET team has been working with area institutions and partners to share our concern for Creation. Late in 2018, three global reports echoed the fact that we have 12 years to change our carbon course before climate catastrophes converge to challenge our culture and community. This is why the FEET team has been developing relationships with the city of Duluth, Sierra Club, Duluth's Sister Cities International, UMD, CSS and Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light. Our situation is novel and unprecedented in our culture. We need new focus and new teamwork. Our approach is part of what has been called a Blessed Unrest on earth, shared by all Homo sapiens who sense that our future is not like our past. It is clear to most analysts that our religious sensibility will be a critical part of our shared response. This is why we face enormous challenges and many hidden opportunities as we deal with challenges never before addressed by our leaders, culture or institutions. FEET needs more talent and teamwork if we hope to help manage this threatening global challenge to all.

Submitted by Bill Mittlefehldt

### **Acting for Justice – Global Ministries Team**

We were glad to have the Liddle family (Peace Church members) visit Duluth in August of 2018 during their month-long visit to America. Tom, Monica, Hannah and Simon have been living in community with the people of Lospalos, East Timor, since 2016, with plans to return to the United States in 2020. Monica serves as a physician, providing primary care at the Clinic Immanuel in Lospalos and working with local staff to implement public health outreach programs, as well as maternity and nutrition programs. Tom works as pastor, helping develop pastoral leaders for rural congregations and assisting the Protestant Church of East Timor (IPTL) Ministries with its social outreach program. The Liddles first spent time in East Timor in 2003, when Monica was completing the midwifery program at Bastyr University in Seattle, WA. They returned to the country with their daughter Hannah, for another stay from 2009 through 2012, during which time their son, Simon, was born.

Amena Cristovao Cooper grew up in Lospalos and was part of our Peace Church community from 2014 to 2016. She graduated from Lake Superior College as a medical laboratory technician in 2016 and continues to work alongside Monica at Clinic Immanuel in Lospalos. She and Joel Cooper—who met while both were working as camp counselors in the United States—married in early 2017 in a traditional ceremony in East Timor, with a church ceremony taking place later in the year. Joel and Amena have plans to return to the United States in 2019 for Amena to pursue further schooling.

Peace UCC continues to support the Liddle family with our prayers and financial contributions. We have been Skype-ing with the Liddles about once a month since late 2017 and have appreciated the opportunity to learn more about their day-to-day experiences this way, and to share with them the goings-on at Peace Church and the broader community.

The Liddles keep an active online blog about their experiences (<https://timorsite.wordpress.com>). The following is Tom's post from March 2019:

#### ***SIN ISN'T ABOUT EATING TOO MANY TRUFFLES***

*Benildo died with a cry of exhaustion in the early morning of March 14, 2019. He'd been sick for 2 years. This morning as we walked up to his family's house in the seaside village of Teno we heard the sound of women wailing. People were crowded about the front of the house where inside the boy's body was nestled inside a wood coffin*

covered with colorful tais cloth. A small table sat beside the coffin. On top were two pictures of Benildo. Candles burned beside and a cup of juice and plate of crackers were there too. This is the custom when someone dies in Timor. The family holds a vigil with the dead until everyone arrives, a burial site is prepared and various cultural and religious traditions are duly observed. Sometimes it goes on for a week or more.

*I have been to many such events in Timor and they never cease to be a “thin place” for me. A “thin place” is a space or occasion where the boundary between the finite and the infinite is particularly transparent. Death has a way of bringing the richness and giftedness of life closer to the surface. Things we usually take for granted spring forth with meaning and urgency. In Timor it’s a time of grief but one rich with consolation, solidarity and a stark confrontation with reality. Here a death means that the entire community surrounds the family helping with everything from cooking and keeping vigil to serving coffee, digging a grave and attending to guests. I believe this is a concrete expression of God’s presence alongside people in the midst of grief.*

*Benildo had a heart condition. Over these two years he’d been to the national hospital in Dili and a private clinic multiple times. A solid diagnosis was illusive and treatment more so. In the end they gave up and told his family to take him home. And there he died. In all likelihood, in a more developed country Benildo’s death could have been prevented. His heart condition would have been caught earlier and dealt with. Not so here in Timor-Leste. Here, medical care beyond the very basic is not available. We know it’s not right, but we accept it as “the way things are.” But we shouldn’t.*

*We shouldn’t because to do so is actually a sin. I recently read an essay on the contemporary meaning of “original sin.” The author, Marjorie Suchocki, lamented the fact that in many churches the concept of sin has “fallen on hard times.” We’ve reduced its meaning to eating too many truffles. But original sin points to the reality that as humans we’re all connected. And therefore we’re responsible for each other. Her idea is simple: original sin is a “depth reality” that reminds us of our interconnected existence whereby “one affects all others and all others affect each one.” Sin, says Suchocki, is actually a positive not a negative though. By naming a reality sin we “call upon a standard of justice derived from the gospel for the sake of transformation.” One example of original sin she names is our tendency to accept as “normal” and “ordinary” serious brokenness and injustice. Accepting such things constitutes a primal malformation of our conscience and consciousness. One such case we can name is the death of Benildo. May it call forth a new standard of justice for the sake of transformation.*

Submitted by Jessica Olson

## **Acting for Justice – Open and Affirming Team (ONA)**

ONA has largely continued a Sabbath this last year (because of lack of capacity), but we do have movement on the horizon for 2019.

In the spring of 2019, Kathy Hermes came for an Adult Forum and did an amazing training on a broad range of gender identities. We hope to have her back to share more this next year.

Nathan Holst met with representatives from the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Gloria Dei, and First Lutheran in the spring of 2019 to talk about the new LGBTQ center going in at Gloria Dei, as well as discussing how our faith communities might come together again to support our LGBTQ community. It was a great first meeting, and the group plans to meet again either this spring or in the fall.

Submitted by Nathan Holst

## **Acting for Justice – CHUM Involvement**

Our church plays a very active role in CHUM, with significant financial support as well as volunteer time and effort. CHUM is quite unique, having now grown to 39 local congregations who have chosen to work together on a goal all agree on—to help those in our community in need of support, be it shelter, food or spiritual. Many thanks to all who support CHUM in so many ways throughout the year! Some specific areas where Peace Church participates include:

- Use of our building once a month for CHUM Church, providing a worship and fellowship experience for those with developmental disabilities.
- Peace Church volunteers make breakfast at the CHUM Drop In Center every other Wednesday. There are at least 30 people who are involved and regularly contribute to these meals.

- Peace Church members donate the food for and cook and serve dinner on the third Thursday evening each month at the Drop In Center. Many thanks to Cathy Carlson for cooking, serving and coordinating this, and to our many generous volunteers who keep the food donations coming in, as well as helping to serve the meal at the Drop In Center.
- Volunteers make pies for the annual Rhubarb Festival, CHUM's biggest fundraising effort of the year. For several years Peace Church also has donated two baskets of new and gently read books (many written by our own Peace members) and gift cards to a local bookstore for the silent auction.
- Participation in the Gabriel Project, providing emergency financial help to those in need. Peace Church provides financial support, as well as staff support with banking and check signing.
- Contributing significant financial support to the overall mission of CHUM. Peace Church is the top congregational supporter of CHUM.
- Participation in the mail carriers' food drive. This year's drive was on May 12.
- Many individual contributions of time and money by our members.
- Participation by Peace delegates and members in both the CHUM Spring and Fall Assembly.
- Peace Church gardeners raised over 500 pounds of produce in our backyard garden and donated it to the CHUM Food Shelf.
- Peace members contributed over \$1100 and many pounds of food for the March Food Share Drive.

Submitted by Terese Tomanek, Peace Church CHUM Representative

### **Acting for Justice – Dismantling Racism Team**

The Dismantling Racism team meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 3:30 p.m. At our August retreat we created a plan to address needs within Peace Church and in the broader community, noting that our anti-racism work is a faith response. Our work included the following:

- We refined our Dismantling Racism Team mission statement.
- We participated in fundraising for the Foy Scholarship, St Mark AME Church, and Witness for Peace.
- Along with the Sanctuary team, we participated in a series of online sanctuary webinars.
- The Dismantling Racism team supported a Jubilee Fund request for \$2500 for the Alabama 35 #2 trip—a student delegation to Montgomery, AL, organized by Henry Banks. High school students from the Duluth, Superior, and St. Paul schools attended, along with school professionals as chaperones, from October 25-28, 2019. The full budget was \$19,425, which covered bus transportation, food, lodging, and museum entries. After their return, a small group presented their experiences at an Adult Forum on November 11, 2019.
- We also hosted Adult Forums with Lyz Jaakola, Linda LeGarde Grover, and Jebbeh Edmunds in the fall and with the Family Freedom Center, Blackbird Revolt, and AICHO in February.
- We supported the work of the NAACP through the Soles to the Polls event and Freedom Fund dinner as well as the Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial through its annual dinner.
- In January we hosted the MLK Interfaith Service and a reception afterward.
- In March we invited the wider community to a showing of the movie *The Hate U Give*.
- During Lent, a number of Peace members participated in an introspective, anti-racism 28-Day Challenge using the workbook *Me and White Supremacy*.
- In April we began work on the justice goal of the church's new long-range plan.

Submitted by Betty Greene

## **Acting for Justice – Sanctuary Congregation Team**

During the 2018-2019 program year, Peace's sanctuary work continued, often quietly, but nonetheless with impact on both the congregation and the Twin Ports community.

The most visible work was the creation of space that is available for housing a person or couple seeking sanctuary. The Youth Room on the lower level next to the stairwell was remodeled and furnished into a simple living space. The bathroom across the hall now includes a shower and laundry facility. A new Youth Room was created off the Fellowship Hall. Jim McLean led the remodeling effort and spent countless Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons with volunteers who did much of the work. Gail Blum served as designer and coordinator of furnishings. The space was dedicated on January 20, 2019.

We have had some inquiries about using the space. According to our guidelines, sanctuary can be offered while a person is seeking to resolve a situation otherwise likely to result in deportation. The decision to appeal a deportation order is not an easy decision for an immigrant family to make. Although we have not had anyone living in our space, we have offered a hospitable option for families to consider. We have also made an important witness to the wider community that our faith calls us to offer hospitality even in the face of an inhospitable government.

A less visible, but nevertheless important, aspect of our sanctuary work has been fostering conversation and education within Peace Church and other communities of faith. During the summer, a few members of Peace participated in an on-line discussion of sanctuary practices made available through the American Friends Service Committee. In October 2018, Peace hosted a panel discussion planned and publicized by the Oreck-Alpern Inter-religious Forum. Five panelists were asked to talk about how caring for the stranger had become a "sacred obligation" in their religious or spiritual tradition. Rev. Charlotte Frantz represented Peace Church and progressive Christianity traditions. This event was well attended and individuals from other faith communities later contacted Peace for more information and resources.

During November and December, Peace encouraged citizen participation in commenting on regulations proposed by the Department of Homeland Security that would make it easier for the Department to deny immigrant requests based on what is called "public charge." Lyn Clark Pegg, Dr. Shannon Walsh of UMD, and Charlotte Frantz presented a program "Report from the Border" at Peace and again at UMD. About 200 people attended one of the two events.

This spring a group from First Lutheran Church invited communities of faith to participate together in a vigil related to our common concerns for immigrants, their humane treatment, and the increasing effort of the current administration to deport, detain or refuse requests for asylum. This event will be held at several locations in downtown Duluth on Pentecost, June 9, at 2:00pm. Peace has been a part of the planning and leadership of this community event.

Submitted by Charlotte Frantz, Sanctuary Congregation Team

## **Acting for Justice – Gun Violence Prevention**

Last year the Gun Violence subcommittee of the Acting for Justice Hub worked to get Peace Church to co-sponsor several events for gun safety reform. We co-sponsored the December 14 memorial to Sandy Hook and other gun violence victims. Pastor Kathy spoke at a memorial to the victims of the Pulse Nightclub shooting on the second anniversary in June. Peace members wrote post cards to legislators and Congress members several times during the year. Communities of Faith all over the country are now involved in the issue of gun violence prevention and the UCC has a position on the issue. The Gun Violence subcommittee will continue to educate the congregation and ask for support in the coming year. As shootings continue in places of worship, gun violence is an issue of great concern to all faith communities.

Submitted by Joan Peterson

## **Christian Spiritual Life – Worship and Arts Team**

Peace Church's mission statement, Praising God; Living the Way of Jesus; Building the Beloved Community of God, and our vision statement, to be an accessible, open and affirming community growing in Christian faith, committed to peace and justice, and reaching out in healing love to all of creation..., underlie the discussions and actions of the Worship and Arts Team. This has been evident this past year in the variety of guest presenters and

messages from our pulpit, which are all representative of our congregation's diversity and our community activities and interests. Again, special thanks to Pastor Kathy Nelson's generosity in sharing the pulpit and seeking out varied messengers. Special thanks also to Music Director Jim Pospisil for his creative flexibility in putting together music settings and offerings in keeping with this inclusivity. Providing sanctuary, a major theme this year with the remodeling project, drove much of our church programming and worship. Special thanks to Moderator Gary Boelhower for working with Jim Pospisil to create a sanctuary-themed Christmas Cantata. Medical challenges, especially cancer, consumed much of our collective psychological and emotional resources this year. Worship experiences were so important and helpful in bringing together the congregation's generosity and support. The Worship and Arts Team consistently focuses on ensuring consistency with congregational life and worship and welcomes input and commentary from everyone. Special thanks and recognition also to:

- Nathan Holst, Faith Formation Minister, for his role with Worship and Arts, and his gifts and sharing of music.
- Kelli Farell, Children's Ministry Coordinator, for making worship special and meaningful for the children.
- Wendy Durrwachter, pianist for the choir and worship services.
- Susan Larson Kidd, for leading the children's choir.
- Peace Church Choir, faithfully showing up to be led, driven, and coaxed by Jim Pospisil.
- All the musicians, within and beyond our congregation, who have made this a wonderful year of music.
- Marilyn Mayry, the creative force behind Beloved Community sessions.
- Our many guest pulpit speakers who have enlightened us and broadened our horizons.
- Rev. Sarah Olson Dean, for two months of dynamic preaching, insightful commentary, infectious enthusiasm, and professional leadership while Pastor Kathy was out on medical leave.

Peace Church worship opportunities this year have included:

- Services of remembrance and celebration for those who have left us.
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday worship, more quiet and meditative, including once-a-month Taizé service.
- 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship, while usually following a traditional format, includes a wide variety of music and participants.
- 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Centering Prayer and meditation in the downstairs chapel.
- 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Lectio Divina Bible discussion.
- Advent and Lenten 7:00 p.m. services including Prayers Around the Cradle/Cross.
- Maundy Thursday service.
- Joint Thanksgiving and Good Friday services with neighboring congregations.
- New this year, first Sunday of the month at 3 p.m., Beloved Community session of worship, sharing, inclusion.

Submitted by Jerry Cleveland

## **Christian Spiritual Life – Shared Ministry Team**

Members: Cindy McLean, Cindy Macaulay, Janell Kohls, Molly Watson; Jan Nugent

Staffed and led by Nathan Holst

Purpose Statement: It is our goal to receive all who come through our doors as welcomed guests, to provide a path for finding connection and means for sharing unique gifts. We do this remembering that the journey of long-term attendees of Peace may bring them to a place where renewed connectivity is needed.

New Member Picnic: The new member picnic was held at the home of Cindy Macaulay on Sunday, September 16, 2018. It was well attended and went very well. It was decided that formal questions or presentation was not needed as informal conversation was so successful.

Inquirers' Classes: Inquirers Classes are held three times a year. Cindy Macaulay has been doing it for years and enthusiastically agreed to continue.

Usher and Greeter Training: Tim Peters gave training on October 21, 2018.

Slide Shows: Janell Kohls continued to create slide shows of events happening at Peace, which are shown as people enter the sanctuary for worship.

Celebrating Milestones: We currently send birthday and new home recognition cards. Additional ways for milestone recognition is still being discussed.

New Member Sponsors: One couple who recently joined requested sponsors and this was arranged. It was decided that sponsors will be provided when requested but that the program will not formally continue.

Prayer Chain: To assure people are aware that prayer may be requested, it was decided that the Prayer Chain will be mentioned in each edition of the Peace Bell.

Volunteer Recognition: One Sunday of each month we will recognize various volunteer groups by asking them to give a short mission moment during worship and asking all who have participated in that type of volunteer recognition to stand. A list of questions has been prepared to help speakers with their presentation.

Shared Ministry Fair: The Shared Ministry Fair was held on May 6, 2019. Cindy Macaulay and Molly Watson did a skit. Lemonade and popcorn was served in the Fireside Room. Reminders of the fair were sent to team and committee heads.

Submitted by Cindy Mclean, Member of the Shared Ministry Team

## **Christian Spiritual Life – Food and Fellowship Team**

The Food and Fellowship Team completed another busy and fun year planning and implementing food-centered church activities. The year began with the annual church picnic in August after the outdoor tent service. We were excited to learn that Tom and Monica Liddle and family (our mission workers in East Timor) were to visit Duluth in September. Their presence was celebrated after the 10:30 worship service. A Minnesota-themed potluck with a heavy emphasis on hotdish was enjoyed by all. The committee also worked with the Stewardship Committee and hosted a ham dinner after Sunday worship in November. Treats were provided and served during the intermission of the Artists Cabaret in January. Other activities during the year were a St Patrick's/St Urho's Day themed potluck, and breakfast for the confirmands and families in May. Plans are underway for the church picnic on August 4. We would love to have you join our team!

Submitted by Cathy Ameal

## **Christian Spiritual Life – Health and Wellness Team**

During the past year the Health and Wellness team met only sporadically with an emphasis on continuing to offer Advance Directives workshops in September, October, November, January, February, March and April. Materials are available to assist folks in clarifying their wishes and a team member can assist in completing this legal document.

The Loan Closet for Durable Medical Equipment continues to loan out items and receive donations of items in good condition. Equipment can be signed out and returned when no longer needed. Donations are welcome, but "soft goods" cannot be accepted.

The twice yearly Blood Drive will now be held in December only, due to the difficulty of scheduling and sign-up in May (always a very busy month at Peace).

While the team has supported a variety of forums in the area of Health and Wellness, no specific forums are planned at this time. Areas of strong interest include dementia and mental health, and we welcome any offers to provide presentations in these areas.

New members for the team are always welcome.

Submitted by Ellen Shelton

## **Christian Spiritual Life – Prayer Chain Team**

The Peace Church Prayer Chain provides a way for joys and concerns to be brought to a group of people who have volunteered to pray specifically for those needs. Being able to pray for others is a gift that honors God and brings hope and encouragement to those for whom we pray. Each person's method of praying is a personal choice. Volunteers for this important Peace Church ministry have three options for sharing prayer concerns: phone calls, text messages, or emails. Our caring and prayers mean a great deal to the many people who contact the Prayer Chain each year.

Mechanics: Coordinators receive a prayer request; they call team leaders; team leaders pass the request on to the next person on their list; that person passes the request on etc., until the last person on each list has been contacted. Volunteer commitment for each request is one phone call, text, or email to the next person on the list as soon as possible.

This past year the 42 members of our chain have prayed for over 135 requests involving Peace members, their families, friends and our wider community.

Coordinators: Bob and Kay Stevens (*Note: After many dedicated years of coordinating the prayer chain, Bob and Kay are moving on to new ways of service and would like someone else to facilitate this important ministry here at Peace Church. Please contact the church office if you could be our new Prayer Chain Coordinator. Call Bob and Kay for more info about this, 724-4865*).

## **Christian Spiritual Life – Spiritual Journey Team**

The Spiritual Journey Team is relatively new at Peace Church, and the main purpose of the team is to reflect on overall faith formation in our congregation. In early February, we completed an initial spiritual interview process (listening sessions) with a cross-section of 30 people in our congregation and wrote up an initial report for our long range retreat. This took a lot of effort from the team, but it was a rich experience and we are excited to digest the interviews further.

## **Christian Spiritual Life – The Sunday Special**

The Sunday Special is a new ministry formed during the late summer of 2018. The group started because of the interest from two "Autism Moms": Amy Sullivan and Penny Cragun. Since the first gathering the group has been a thriving, loving ministry at Peace United Church of Christ.

The Sunday Special is a spiritual and social support group for individuals, families, caregivers, and workers who live and work with disabilities and special needs. The name, Sunday Special, is a combination of: we meet on Sundays and we minister to and support people with special needs. We meet once a month after the 10:30 worship service, either in the Fireside Room or Music Room. At our meetings this year we've had an attendance of six to sixteen people.

Our first meeting was on Sunday, August 19, with a picnic style potluck in the Music Room at Peace UCC. At least a dozen people gathered to share, laugh, pray, and help decide in which direction(s) this group should go and grow.

Sunday, September 16: Another meet and greeting gathering. We spent some time getting to know each other and hearing each other's stories.

Sunday, October 2: A big Resource meeting. Our very own Laurie Berner and Dr. Susan Larson Kidd, both of whom work with special needs in the community, presented our group with an abundance of resources and information.

Sunday, November 18: A meeting on Gratitude. We brought our blessings to the group and took turns sharing what we are thankful for despite our struggles and stresses.

The Sunday Special didn't meet formally during the months of December and January. We did, however, have a casual check in during Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall. Those who were interested sat at a designated table and checked in with each other and chatted over coffee. We had two meetings in February.

Sunday, February 3: The importance of Self-Care. We shared all the ways in which we take care of ourselves.

Sunday, February 24: Dr. Susan Larson Kidd presented to us on The Brain. Due to low attendance because of the weather, Susan is willing to present to us again in the fall (2019).

Sunday, March 24: Stress and Mental Health, presented by Bob Sullivan, who works in Duluth in the field of mental health. We have noticed a lot of crossover in the group with both physical disabilities and mental health issues.

Sunday, April 28: Last meeting of the Season. We had a very casual potluck, shared some fun and games, and brainstormed for next year's gatherings.

GOALS FOR 2019-2020:

Expand the Sunday Special to include people with mental health issues.

Be Resource Advocates/Navigators for people seeking information and assistance.

Establish a Resource Corner for books, pamphlets, etc for people.

Bring in more Speakers from the community.

Become more involved with Chum Church and NAMI.

We can't thank you enough for letting us put our energies and our passions into this much needed ministry at Peace UCC. Your love, support, and prayers are an added blessing to The Sunday Special. We look forward to going and growing in new directions in the years to come. God Bless You!

Amy Sullivan and Penny Cragun

## **Christian Stewardship – Stewardship Team**

The Stewardship Team is pleased to report that the members of Peace Church, with their financial support, again affirmed the importance of this community in their lives. The monies pledged during last year's fall campaign have enabled a robust operating budget for 2019. Our campaign theme was a "Journey to Generosity." As a target guideline for that generosity, one of our messages was that—for member families capable of doing so—5% of income be pledged to the ministry of this special place.

These tasks of stewardship were readily accomplished by Team members whose individual talents, energies, and necessary mirth made the process a delight. The typically unnatural task of asking fellow Minnesotans for financial gifts was made infinitely easier knowing the deeply nurturing value made possible with that support.

Submitted by Geof Witrak

## **Christian Stewardship – Property Team**

This year brought change to our building as well as the committee structure. Thanks so much to Tim Peters, Guy Hubert, Jim McLean, Mike Schrage, Dennis Hamsher, Dan Shepard (custodian), John Thoennes, David Courtright, and Doug Bowen-Bailey for your dedication. We greatly appreciate the assistance of Rick Morgan, Ron Deters, Tim Carpenter, Warren Post, and all the sanctuary building partners. While the remodel for the sanctuary space was not part of the Property Committee's agenda, we greatly appreciated the regular updates provided by Jim McLean. Any changes to electrical, heating and plumbing inevitably affect the operation of the building. It appears that we may have resolved a couple of long-standing issues with the heat and the roof, although future upgrades will certainly remain on our long-term outlook.

We are sorry to lose Mike Schrage who has decided to pursue other interests. Mike has provided an important voice for us on the finance committee and played an important role in decision-making.

Accomplishments:

- Completed installation of the two hydronic cabinet heaters in the Fireside Room and replaced thermostat control for this area.
- Established contract with Larson Elevator (local company) for quarterly and annual inspections and terminated contract with ThyssenKrupp Elevator.

- Rewired sound systems for nursery and children's rooms.
- Purchased and installed a storage shed; designed and built (by Tim Peters) ramp for moving equipment in and out of shed.
- Constructed false ceiling in day care closet (former elevator shaft) (Rick Morgan) creating a more energy efficient space; moved and replaced sprinklers in this same area.
- Replaced all flood lights in Sanctuary with LED fixtures.

The Property Team is an entirely inclusive group. You don't have to join the committee to be a welcomed participant. There is much to be done including, but not limited to, dropping by for a committee meeting, giving us suggestions on improvements, working on a construction or cleaning project, or contacting a contractor for estimates. Watch the Peace Bell for upcoming projects or ask a committee member where you would be most needed.

As we move forward in 2019/20, we anticipate fewer crises, continue to find ways to reduce energy costs, and remain proactive in forecasting monetary needs to support the mission of this committee and Peace Church. Thanks to all for supporting us.

Respectfully submitted, Denise Perry, Chairperson

### **Christian Stewardship – Technology Team**

The Peace Church Technology Team oversees the installation and maintenance of the various types of technology throughout the church, primarily the computer system in the office, the sound/light system in the Sanctuary, the sound system in the Fellowship Hall, the web site, and the Facebook page.

The Technology Team seldom meets. Everyone's busy schedule makes it difficult to find a suitable meeting time, so team members communicate primarily via email.

Thanks to all the volunteers who help keep the church's technology functioning. This year, Tim Carpenter selected and set-up a new laptop computer for Jim Pospisil to use. Dick Goese ran the sanctuary sound system on Sunday mornings. Tim Carpenter handled the various issues that came up during the year, such as maintaining the sound systems, periodically reprogramming the Sanctuary lighting system, and resolving problems with Windows 10, Outlook, and MS Word.

Faith Formation Minister Nathan Holst and Pastor Kathy Nelson regularly posted news on the Facebook page. Office Coordinator Janell Kohls kept the church web site updated. Peace Church member Hope David was hired to design and create a new Peace Church web site, which should be online in June 2019.

Submitted by Nancy Nelson, Office Coordinator

## **Statistics: June 2018 – May 2019**

### **New Members (12)**

Justin and Laura Beth Boysen  
Greg Clemons  
Maria Corradi and JT Haines  
Harriet Crofts  
Sara Olson Dean  
Patty Guist  
Alice and Sam Marks  
Kaitlyn McKechnie and Scott Nelson  
Deb and Paul O'Brien  
Danny O'Neill  
Mary Parks  
Tim and Monica White

### **Confirmands (23)**

Milo Amundsen  
Claire Barlass  
Bo Brown  
Torstein Derauf  
Maxton Devlin  
Isaac Fink  
Nore Heinitz  
Austin Hudyma  
Crystal Kaczmarczyk  
Mia Kraker  
Ty Kruger  
Nicole Libey  
Everett Lundberg  
Elsa Mowers  
McKenzie Radloff  
Maari Rohrbaugh  
Joseph Rudd  
Ezra Schomberg  
Kiyoshi Sudoh  
Fred Taallerud  
Jade Westrum  
Nina Wilkowske  
Elijah Zaun

### **Weddings (5)**

Patty Beech and Thad Dziuk  
Charla Buxbaum and Kelly Grgas  
Holly Sorensen and Michael Karstens  
Kelsey Nielsen and Brendan O'Neil  
Emily Ramsey and McKenzie Orvedahl

### **Baptisms (8)**

Milo Amundsen  
Chloe Bittner  
Keian Johnson  
Nicole Libey  
Johnathan Parkins  
Lucy Spurgeon  
Penelope Waldoch  
Trygg White

### **Funerals/Memorial Services (19)**

Elaine Augustad  
Pearl Byrns  
Helena Ebarb  
Denise Hamsher  
Nathalia Hawley  
Conor Lilja  
Glenn Maxham  
Virginia Nelson  
Celine Provost  
Deloris Thompson  
Ethel Witte  
Dominic Messina  
Dinel Koski  
Loren Mesedahl  
Wilfred Goddard  
Steve Goines, Jr.  
George Birdsong  
Greg Miller  
Melanie Burke



