



Your monthly news & updates

Moore thoughts . . .
Pastor Kirk's Ponderings –

So Early!

Will the groundhog say spring arrives early? Lent does this year--

Ash Wednesday is February 14

And even though we usually do a collective, "Wow! That's earlier than we usually have it, right? It's been later the past few years. And next year we get a little more breathing room before it arrives. Regardless, every year we have a time of reflecting, renouncing, and preparing during Lent.

Are you going to do something positive instead of giving up something negative during Lent this year?

In our Thursday Morning Bible Study we're discussing the UCC Lenten Devotional "Bend" The title comes from 2 Corinthians 4:8-10 - *"We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; Struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies."*



Attending Bible Study on Thursdays at 1 is a great positive thing to do for Lent. And there are so many more possibilities.

- Attend church every Sunday.
- Commit to bringing in food or make a donation at least once a month.
- Increase your church, building fund, or benevolence giving.
- Come to one of our Ash Wednesday service on the 14th (7:00 pm – with a

soup supper at 6:00 pm)

- Offer compliments to 5 people every day
- Commit to eating plenty of fruits and vegetables, and maybe just a little chocolate.
- Insert something you think of here _____

Invite your friends and neighbors to experience worship and fellowship here at PMC Let's continue to lean into new and exciting ways to be in ministry together.

So Awesome!

Pastor Kirk

PMC Report

Diane Oremovich

Here are a few details from the combined meeting held on Sunday, January 14th with representatives from the Music and Worship Committee, the Building and Grounds Committee and the Trustees.

There have been ongoing discussions on how best to improve the lighting in the Sanctuary. Many of you have expressed concerns about the diminished lighting conditions, due in large part to the current number of burned-out bulbs, which can make it difficult to read and follow the Sunday bulletin. The lack of proper lighting in the Chancel area, including the pulpit, lectern, altar and choir loft can also adversely affect the worship experience.

As a result, a committee has been formed to research options, including contacting and working with lighting consultants to come up with an acceptable, affordable solution. Members of the committee include Joe Ferrantelli, Dennis Kirscher, Bob Mohr, Pastor Moore and Herb Zimmermann. Please reach out to one of them if you have any thoughts or concerns you wish to share.

On Sunday, January 21st, a group of members came together to clean and organize the loft area above the kitchen in Zion Hall. I want to express my gratitude to everyone for their hard work in sorting through all of the items, including seasonal decorations, banners and event supplies. It was a difficult task but it felt good to ensure that the items are properly organized and stored.

In case you have never noticed, there is a cornerstone to the left of the main doors of the church as you enter the Narthex with the year 1974 on it. This cornerstone recognizes the year that ground was broken to begin construction on our current location. This year marks our 50th year since that event.

In the late 1960's, the decision was made to move from the church's location at 1460 W. 78th Street, in Chicago. The leaders of the church were able to locate, and purchase unimproved, vacant farm land at 131st Street & 104th Avenue in Palos Park. The church building at 78th & Loomis was sold to Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church.

In order to help finance the building of the new church campus in Palos Park, many

church members purchased \$1,000. promissory notes.

Between the time of the sale of the church building in Chicago and the completion of the new church building in Palos Park in 1976, the congregation began a journey which took them to temporary locations at the south end of the First Church of the Nazarene in the 8300 block of Damen Ave., in Chicago, to the lower level at Peace Memorial Convalescent Home at 102nd & Kedzie, in Evergreen Park and to Chicago Christian High School in Palos Heights. It is amazing the dedication and commitment it took to make this journey of faith to our current location. What a beautiful church building they created!

During the coming year, we will be celebrating the history of our church as we start creating our vision for the next 50 years. We will have group meetings and events and we invite all of you to participate as you are able, in creating this vision as we prepare for the future. I look forward to hearing from all of you!

Weekly Service Attendance

January 7 (Communion Sunday)
9:30 am - 83

January 14
9:30 am - 26 (below zero temps)

January 21
9:30 am - 70

January 28
9:30 a.m. - 90

Christian Education

Holly Jones



It's February, the month of love! Everything is rosy and pink, and most likely covered in chocolate! (Or is that just our Sunday School?) What's not to love about a month dedicated to physical hearts and ♥ shaped everything! I've always loved Valentine's Day and it is an excellent time to teach our kids about the love of God and how we can show others just how big God's love is.

There's a lot of love on the other side of the Sunday school doors, which is evident from the smiles on all our kids' faces! Every Sunday includes crafts and Bible stories, games and sometimes sheep wrangling, but the most influential part of our Sunday morning is the friendships that are formed! Our kids are so excited to sit together, to help each other and encourage each other!

We are going to add to the fun and start learning songs the first Sunday of the month. We will still have a lesson and a craft and then be singing for the rest of Sunday school!

February 11th is a busy day for our kids! We will be singing a song in church for children's time, have our Valentine's Day party and then off to the bake sale right after the church service! Our children will be helping to run the sale, in addition to showing off the delicious baked goods & treats they have made!

Another piece of exciting news for you to love...we have set the date for our 2024 VBS! Make sure to add July 11th and 12th to your calendars now, with the possibility of something Saturday July 13th and our celebration in church on the 14th! Hope you are all getting excited for this! We are working on our theme next!

Wishing you all love this month and always!



ONA

Russ Hook

Please watch for great happenings from the PMC ONA committee!

Plans so far are the Rainbow Prom in May and the Rainbow Picnic in August. We'd also like to plan a movie night and discussion for sometime this year.

More info to come after the committee meets in February.

Russ Hook



Get to Know a Trustee

Ruth Van Hecke



I am currently a member of the Peace Village Board of Directors and Vice President of Peace Memorial Church. I became a trustee in 2019 and immediately took on the position as Secretary. In December 2023 I was nominated as Vice President. I have been a member of Peace Memorial Church for nearly 20 years and am on the Mission and Spiritual Care committee. I currently work part time for Edward Jones answering client calls and I truly

love it! I am enjoying the balance of part time work and part time 'me time'. Prior to Edward Jones, I worked for Allstate Insurance Company in Northbrook for 36 years. I know everyone always has a question about insurance, however I can't answer any questions about auto or home owners insurance! My area of expertise is in life insurance and financial services. I have 3 grown sons and treasure any time I can spend with them. I enjoy volunteering my time and energies and am grateful for the opportunity to serve as Vice President of Peace Memorial Church.

Thank You! Vielen Dank! Gracias! Grazie Mile!

This month I'd like to give a shout out to our Buildings & Grounds committee and the Wednesday Volunteers!

Peace Memorial Church is very fortunate to have such dedicated members and volunteers! Many have given of their time and talents without asking for anything in return.

This month, I ask you all to join me in offering a heart-felt Thank You to the members of our Building and Grounds Committee and Wednesday Volunteers. These people are the unsung heroes that dedicate countless hours, and a lot of sweat equity to help ensure that the physical building and the grounds are well maintained. If you ever drive by or stop in at the church during the week, especially on Wednesdays, you will probably find one of more of these people working around the church.

The Building and Grounds Committee has a broad area of responsibility, including, but not limited to, the maintenance of our aging church and out buildings, both inside and out, as well as the weekly maintenance of our landscaping. They assess the needs to ensure the campus is kept in good shape, and when they are able, do as much of the physical labor as possible. They are also responsible for gathering quotes for professional services when necessary.

One of our most recent, and visible upgrades was the replacement of much of the concrete sidewalks around the building. I must say how nice

it looks – and how much safer it is – now that the old crumbling concrete has been replaced.

As our church building ages, the list of maintenance projects seems to grow. The Building and Grounds Committee works with various other committees and with the Trustees to identify and prioritize these projects in order to attempt to complete them in the most cost-efficient manner.

Thank you again to all of the members of the Building and Grounds Committee and Wednesday Volunteers!

The current members of this group are: Herb Zimmermann, Rudy Wehofer, Ken Kamper, Wayne Hoefler, George Holmes, Tom Bockmann, Keith Koch, Dave Skala, Bruce Puhr, Ken Ochsenhofer and Pastor Kirk Moore.

Our Church's History

Peace Memorial Church has long been focused on Mission and Christian Education. In our history, our youth have played a significant role in those missions.

Since our move to Palos Park, the youth group has gone on a mission trip to South Africa to assist in building a school. Other mission trips include a trip to Denver to gather medical equipment for war torn countries and the building a ramp on the home of a physically handicapped person. They also assisted in rehabbing homes after hurricane Katrina, and working with students at a Native American Indian reservation school.

As always, there are some unexpected adventures, including one where the windows of the bus they were traveling on had its windows shot out on the anniversary of Custer's Last Stand. Fortunately, no one was on the bus at the time of the incident, and no one was hurt!

These experiences often help to energize our youth, and in some cases have helped move them toward careers in service to others. Bob Puhr, Kate Kozinski and Jim Hollendonner have all gone into the ministry. Samantha Miulli is now our Director of Christian Education here at Peace Memorial Church, and Jamie Kirscher and Theresa Graben have agreed to take on the roll of co-directors of this year's Godstock Camp at Tower Hill in Sawyer, Michigan.

We are truly blessed by great leaders in Christian Education!

Mission and Spiritual Care Committee



Sunday, February 4th is the beginning of the annual Heart Healthy cereal collection in memory of Louise Smith. Last year the congregation donated 81 boxes of cereal. Our goal this year is to surpass the 81 to at least 100 cartons of Heart Healthy breakfast food that will be donated to local community food pantries.

On February 25th, the final Sunday day of the collection drive the Mission Committee plans to provide a little entertainment with the cereal boxes during the coffee/social hour. Thank you in advance for your assistance in providing Heart Healthy food to people in need.

ALL CHURCH NEWS

Do you love to bake or do you
just love a good sweet treat?

Join us for our
Peace Kids &
Youth

BAKE SALE

Sunday,
February 11th



All proceeds to benefit Christian Education committee

SUBS FOR THE ★SUPER BOWL★

Order forms available in the Narthex

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11TH

**GET YOUR ORDERS IN
BY SUNDAY FEB. 4TH**

**SANDWICHES WILL BE
\$6 EACH**



**HAM
TURKEY
SALAMI**



**COMBO (HAM TURKEY & SALAMI)
ROAST BEEF**

UPCOMING EVENTS



Mark Your Calendars!

What: **Chili Cook-Off**
When: **Sunday, March 4th at 11:00 a.m.**

A Chili Cook off is being planned!
Get your award-winning recipes ready!

Sign-up in the Narthex



Chicago's Premier
Handbell Ensemble

www.AgapeRingers.org

KC Congdon, Artistic Director

Sunday, March 17th 4:00pm

Peace Memorial Church, UCC

In Concert

10300 W. 131st St, Palos Park

pmcucc.org

-Free admission-

**We will be collecting a free-will
offering for the Agape Ringers**



This program is partially
supported by a grant from the
Illinois Arts Council Agency.



Please join us at Peace Memorial Church on Sunday, March 17, at 4:00 pm for a concert by The Agape Ringers, Chicago's premier handbell ensemble. You can learn more about the ensemble at their website AgapeRingers.org, and on Facebook and YouTube by searching for "The Agape Ringers."

The program encompasses a wide variety of musical styles, including an arrangement of Ravel's *Bolero*, an arrangement of Karl Jenkins' *Palladio*,

"*Malaguena*" from the Spanish Suite *Andalucia*, and many more original compositions for handbells. Admission is free, and we'll have a freewill offering for the Agape Ringers.



Peace Memorial Cooking Club

Decorate Easter Eggs and
Learn to Make Rice Krispy Treat Eggs

DATE: March 23, 2024

PLACE: Zion Hall

TIME: 11 AM to 1 PM

COST: \$5.00 per Participant (paid on date of event)

All Supplies Provided at the Event

Open to all PMC Members – Family & Friends.

(Children under age 15 must be accompanied by an Adult)

Sign Up Sheet

ALONG THE NEW PATH

Gaile Sprissler

Self-Actualization - what a man can be, he must be.

Inside of every living thing is an inner drive, a Divine impulse, to completely and wondrously self-express. To be what is, totally. When you're willing to listen to yourself and be fearless, figuring out your next step becomes easy. Our lives are made up of a complex network of pathways that we can use to move from one

phase of life to the next. There are many ways to discover what the next step on your life path should be. If you are someone who seeks to satisfy your soul, it is vital that you make this inquiry. Often, your inner voice will counsel you that it's time for a change, and it is very important to trust yourself because only you know what is best for you.

Throughout the journey, many people choose to question life, strive for improvement, seek out knowledge, and search for the Divine. Simply put, this is the essence of spirituality. While many people do relate their spirituality to God, this quest for the Divine, or oneness with the universe, always springs from within. It doesn't matter where you find your spiritual path. We are all fundamentally spiritual beings and the essence of that lies in knowing one's true self and finding a peace that comes from within rather than the outside world. It is in remembering this that we awaken to our personal path.

Taking care of yourself can be a part of a spiritual life, and is one of the fundamentals of a balanced holistic self. Remember that this is a process. Accepting the importance of spirituality can be a healthy decision because a spiritual practice tends to include habits that promote healthy living. Take the time to carefully determine the action, thought, and ritual that most speaks to your soul. Your most profound spiritual experiences may also come from the simple intricacies that make up your life. See the interconnectedness of all things. As you explore your inner world, you will be walking your spiritual path and feeling your oneness with the universe.

Connecting with your spirit guides is a fun and exciting thing you can do. It brings you clarity, direction and purpose. The Holy Spirit connects to us through them. Being able to sense the voice of your guides gives you access to trusted guidance. Hearing your inner voice and the voice of your guides is refreshing in these challenging times. Your guides are powerful and loving, they know your life purpose and are constantly guiding you toward it. They steer you in the right direction and protect you from harm's way. Masterful guides are filled with love and wisdom. Your guides are positive and reassuring, and will support your journey along your new pathway.



February 2
Joanne Bockmann

February 3
Gail Korbitz
Jeff Korbitz Sr.
Rebecca Mischler

February 4
Joey Sciacchitano

February 13
Abigail Finn

February 14
Joan Frase
Josephine Kujawa
Terry Ostrowski

February 15
Barbara Kamper

February 21
Harrison Gehrs

February 24
George Macauley

February 25
George Holmes

February 26
Emily Freund

February 6
Ron Rudnicki
Ellen Swenson

February 7
Kenneth Miller Jr.
Adam White

February 11
Judy Dagys
Cody White

February 18
Autumn Fijolek

February 19
Cathy Onak

February 20
Eleanor Cochonour

Janet Hansen
Bettejane Jaeger
Hanna Johnson

February 27
Christine Ferrantelli
Rose Signore

February 28
Cheryl Channic

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 1 pm Bible Study 4 – 8:30 pm Zion rental	2	3 11:00 am Cooking class Zion Hall
4 9:30 am Worship 10:45 Fellowship 11:00 Confirmation	5 7-9 pm Zion PMCMMC	6 6:30 pm Zion Hall rental	7 7:00 am Volunteers 4-8:30 Zion Hall rental 6:30 pm chapel rental 7:00 pm CE meeting	8 1 pm Bible Study 4 – 8:30 pm Zion rental	9	10
11 9:30 am Worship 10:45 Fellowship 10:45 am Sub & Bake sale	12 7-9 pm Zion PMCMMC	13 6:30 pm Zion Hall rental 7:00 Alzheimer's meeting	14 7:00 am Volunteers 3:00 p.m. PADS 4-8:30 Zion Hall rental 6:00 pm soup 7:00 pm Ash Wed service	15 1 pm Bible Study 4 – 8:30 pm Zion rental	16	17 10 – 4 Stitchers – Chapel
18 9:30 Worship 10:45 Fellowship 11:00 Confirmation	19 MESSENGER DEADLINE 7-9 pm Zion PMCMMC	20 6:30 pm Zion Hall rental	21 7:00 am Volunteers 4-8:30 Zion Hall rental 7:00 Trustees	22 1 pm Bible Study 4 – 8:30 pm Zion rental	23	24
25 9:30 am Worship 10:45 Fellowship 11:00 am Heart Healthy Coffee Hour	26 7-9 pm Zion PMCMMC	27 6:30 pm Zion Hall rental	28 7:00 am Volunteers 4-8:30 Zion Hall rental	29 1 pm Bible Study 4 – 8:30 pm Zion rental 6:30 Foundation meeting		* PMCMMC = Peace Memorial Church Monday Men's Club

**Church Office Hours**

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

Reverend Kirk Moore

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Samantha Miulli

Director of Christian Education
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Peace Village

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Roger EllensCEO/Executive Director

Peace Village Circle Inn

(708) 671-2470

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