



Your monthly news & updates

Moore thoughts . . .
Pastor Kirk's Ponderings –

Early Easter

Why is Easter so early this year? Even though it's at the end of March, it's still really early. Why is that?

Blame the moon.

Really?

Yup. Here's how it works:

Easter comes at a time related to the Jewish Passover celebration – as Jesus and the disciples were sharing a Passover meal on the night we call Maundy Thursday. The date of the Passover celebration moves according to the Hebrew calendar, which is based on lunar cycles rather than solar cycles. And since 325 CE, the date for Easter in Western Churches has been fixed (in a movable way) as the Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox. (Wait – the equinox is about the sun – not the moon. I guess we can blame the moon and the sun!)

You probably glossed over that paragraph – didn't you?

I know I did.

So . . . Easter moves around. One day it may be set on a more specific calendar date. (It's been suggested the Easter always fall on the first Sunday



after the second Saturday in April.) But for now – we can let the moon and sun determine when the celebration happens – and we can concentrate on the celebration!

Jesus' resurrection is a big -- HUGE-- deal. It's the resurrection that makes Christmas important. It's the resurrection that makes every Sunday morning a 'mini-easter' celebration. It's the resurrection that gives us hope and joy as we sing praises to God. It's the resurrection that reminds us that Jesus came to give us life – abundantly.

Easter is a great time to invite your friends and neighbors to experience the celebration. Here are some great opportunities to bring your friends to church!

- **Thursdays:** We've been exploring the same Lenten devotional book, "*Bend*" on Thursday afternoons at 1 pm – Join us! We'll continue the series through March 28.
- **March 3:** The Chili Cookoff - 11:00 am
- **March 10:** Daylight Savings time is back!
- **Saturday, March 16:** Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt. 8:30 - 11 am (egg hunt at 11)
- **March 17: (early)** Blessing of the Baskets, Scout Sunday, One Great Hour of Sharing, (9:30 am), and then after the worship service, our Congregational Meeting (10:30 am)
- **March 17: (later)** The Agape Ringers Concert - 4:00 pm - We'll receive a free will offering for the Agape Ringers.
- **Palm Sunday** (March 24) we'll have the Procession of the Palms and also learn how to make palm crosses (9:30 am)
- **Maundy Thursday:** (March 28) We have a soup supper at 6:00 pm, and a worship service with communion at 7:00 pm
- **Good Friday:** (March 29) Join us for a service of darkness (Tenebrae) at 7 pm
- **Saturday, March 30** - Peace Cooking Club Easter Egg Decorating and Easter Egg Rice Krispie treat making. 1-3 pm
- **Easter Sunday:** Our Easter breakfast at 8:30 am and then our celebration service with communion and the living cross at 9:30 am.

Invite your friends to join with us -- we're in a season of getting ready and this month we're having a great

Celebration!

Pastor Kirk

PMC Report

Diane Oremovich

You would expect January and February to be a quiet months in our church, but you would be wrong. In January we had the Beat the Winter Blues dinner. The event is centered around getting to know others and participants are asked answer a series of questions to get everyone talking. You then switch tables to meet a new group of people. I heard members share what a great meal it was and the event was so much fun. Thank you to Kathy and Larry

Graben for organizing the event. Also to Alan and Cindy White for pitching in to get the meal out. It is an event you should definitely attend next year.

The next event was the kick off for the Cooking Club. This event was sponsored by the Peace Memorial Church Foundation. The event led by Kate Whalen and Cindy White. The event taught all the budding chefs how to make homemade macaroni and cheese. The event was topped off by Valentine cookie decorating. This is a great family event! Ask your family members and friends to join the next event planned on March 30th.

Who can forget Super Bowl Sunday? Thank you for to the Fellowship Committee who assisted with the Super Bowl subs. A big thank you goes out to Jason's Deli in Oak Brook for donating the bread, lettuce, tomatoes and onions. It was nice that so many members brought and purchased the bakery goods sold at this event. It was a great fundraiser for our churches youth program.

Every year the Mission Committee collects heart healthy cereals to donate to local food banks in honor of Louise Smith. This year's event was elevated by our own children having a cereal challenge. On the final day of the collection, the cereal boxes were lined up like dominos in front of the altar. The kids were able to knock down the row of cereal boxes. What a fun way to end the month. Thank you to the Mission Committee for coming up with this event and topping last years collection. We are definitely looking forward to next year's collection. Hopefully, again, bringing it to a new level.

Please remember a couple of events planned for this month. Our Semi-Annual Congregational meeting on March 17th. We also have the Agape Ringers performing on the 17th at 4pm. Please share with your friends this event. Hope to see you all there.

Weekly Service Attendance

February 4 (Communion Sunday)
9:30 am - 101

February 11
9:30 am - 120

February 18
9:30 am - 82

February 14 (Ash Wednesday)
7:00 pm - 41

February 25
9:30 a.m. - 96

Christian Education

Holly Jones



It feels like I was just starting my journey of writing for the Messenger, but in actuality, it's already been a year! I want to thank you all for putting up with my whims, and sharing in my most real and truest excitement as I get to share all that is happening within Christian Ed and Sunday School. Writing for the Messenger, allowing everyone to relive some of Sunday's finest moments (a monthly glimmer, if you will) is one of my favorite things. Admittedly, I'm not always the most punctual in getting my article in on time. Usually, Mary Anne is sending me a text..."Did you have something for me?" and it always comes just after I think "Oh man! That article was due yesterday!" I always have a lot to say, usually it's too many great ideas, but more often than not, the ideas live more in my head than on paper. Christian Ed is the same way, there are always so many things happening. Let's look at February. Our Peace Kids and Peace Youth hosted a very successful Bake Sale in connection with the annual Sub sandwich sale for Super Bowl. Our kids raised over \$700 and treated us all to some delicious treats and memories that will last forever as they baked with friends and family, sharing recipes and laughter! We also passed out over 100 handmade beaded heart Valentine's to the congregation, reminding everyone that God Loves You! That couldn't be it for February though. We are working with the talents of Jamie Kirscher and Theresa Graben to bring even more music into church. In February the kids treated us to the J-E-S-U-S Valentine's song, and are already working diligently on their Easter morning performance. In addition to Easter songs, Christian Ed is preparing for Easter in many ways. We are working on creating Easter baskets for a women's shelter and once again, we will be having everyone's favorite event: our PMC egg hunt & Breakfast with the Bunny March 16th! We would like to thank everyone for helping fill our plastic eggs. Please return all filled eggs by March 10th!

March is just as busy as February was; here are some of the dates you need to know:

3/10 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME! Don't forget to spring forward!

3/10 Filled Easter Eggs Returned

3/16 Bunny Breakfast 8:30 -11:00am and Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 SHARP

3/17 Blessing of the Baskets

We are starting a new segment in my little corner of the world, "Meet our Peace Kids!" Every month we will highlight a Sunday School kid with a photo and a story. As we learned last month, our kids are great at fundraising, so don't be surprised if they offer to sell you and autographed copy of their piece from the Messenger.

Wishing you all the luck o' the Irish, the beauty of the first buds of spring, and of course, a very Happy Easter season!



Music and Worship

Russ Hook

The committee is off to an enthusiastic start to 2024. In January we had a joint meeting with the Trustees and the Building and Grounds Committee to discuss the sanctuary light both for congregational area and altar lighting. This upgrade is necessary as hopefully in the near future we will be able to stream live services. A professional lighting contractor has been contacted and will be giving the Trustees an estimate very soon.

In February we discussed how happy we are with Rev. Moore's leadership and are encouraged by some of the changes he is making. He is very receptive to new ideas. Feel free to approach him with your thoughts.

The Bible study group continues to meet on Thursday afternoons and is discussing the Lenten devotion book "Bend"

There will be a Brass Quartet playing for Easter Services, and we will have services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

We have an opening for a committee member. Please contact myself, Linnea Rimkus or Rev. Moore if you're interested in joining us. We appreciate you!

Russ Hook
Chairperson
Trustee Liaison

Get to Know a Trustee

Dave Cornyn, Treasurer



Although I didn't make my membership official until 2015, I've been around awhile... married at Peace to Pam in 1981, we've raised our 2 daughters here and get to brag about 3 wonderful grandchildren.

An engineer by education (BS Electrical/Computer Engineering), I am not a Finance guy; rather, I've worked 45 years in design, sales and marketing of custom electronics in telecom, industrial, military

and healthcare applications. I've had great opportunities to meet and work with great people around the world, and Finance just comes with the territory.

My favorite hobby these days? Watching those grandchildren grow into big humans and find their ways in this crazy world. I look forward to every bit of it!

Thank You! Vielen Dank! Gracias! Grazie Mile!

**This month I'd like to give a shout out to our
Mission and Spiritual Care Volunteers!**

The Mission & Spiritual Care Committee deserves a round of applause, pat on the back and a heartfelt THANK YOU! The truth is that the entire congregation deserves the same recognition for all they do to support this committee in its various campaigns. The committee strives to find various ways to reach outside the walls of our building to provide support for those who are in need of assistance. On a monthly basis, we provide meals to PADS and lunches to Beds Plus. Beyond that the committee provides many other opportunities to share our blessings, including; food drives, laundry supplies drives, toiletry drives and the CROP Walk. This joint effort of the committee and congregation is the magic that makes it all happen!

The committee also supports the UCC's Wider Mission and all four special mission offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and The Christmas Fund.

Thank you to the committee and congregation for the success we've shared over the years! PMC always responds when asked for anything!

Pam Cornyn, Janet Hansen, Ellen Holmes, Barb Kamper, Lori Mason, and Karen Rakauskas

Our Church's History

When you look at the history of Peace Memorial Church, one name often comes to mind. Anyone over the age of 20 can share a least one story about Louise Smith. She left us too soon at 102. I want to share with you a few of the stories that others have shared with me.

Many Sunday School kids used to ask where Louise's bedroom was. She must have had to live at the church because every time they came to church, Louise was there.

On mission trips Louise could be found sitting in the church bus at night in the dark. She was there to catch any kid trying to sneak out to cause

mischief. I am sure she caught a few kids.

Louise was the person that organized many adventures and trips for both the adults and children of the church. There were always new places to explore. She was known as the face of Peace Memorial Church at our UCC conferences.

Louise knew all the ins and outs of the church. I believe her hands touched everything that came into the church. She must have had a secret hiding places hidden in the church. I swear if you asked her for anything she would walk around and find it. If anything needed to be found, Louise knew where to find it. To this day, the Craft Closet in Zion Hall is affectionally known as "Louise's Closet."

You could always count on Louise, no matter what was going on in church. She had everything under control and ready to go. From robes for Confirmation, to weddings and funerals. I remember working in the church kitchen for an event when Louise was home recovering from a car accident while leaving the church. From home, she gave me very specific directions on how to cook the Chicken Kiev and where everything I needed was.

Louise never had a bad word to say about anyone. When conflicts over the years occurred, she remained that calm constant in the storm. She would smile and just nod her head. Spending time with her, you knew everything would be okay.

According to Louise, calories do not count on Sunday. So, when grabbing your doughnut and coffee on Sunday morning enjoy them because "calories do not count on Sunday." Thank you to Louise for being there for our church and looking out for us from heaven.

Mission and Spiritual Care Committee

The Mission and Outreach Committee congratulate the congregation for the outpouring of donations of clothing, winter jackets, personal items, socks, gloves, underwear, plastic silverware, paper plates, towels, wash cloths, blankets, shoes, and other assorted items to aid the homeless people of San Lucas United Church of Christ in the Humboldt Park community. The items were picked up on February 8th and nearly filled the van from San Lucas Church. The church is extremely grateful for the aid that is being given to the many homeless of their community and church.





WOW! YOU DID IT!!

Congratulations on achieving the Heart Healthy Cereal challenge of 200 boxes!! Such an AWESOME congregation!!

We delivered 100 boxes of cereal to the food pantry of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Oak Forest and 100 boxes of cereal to the food pantry at the Irene H.

King Elementary School in Romeoville.

How much fun it was to watch as the Sunday School children began the chain reaction of the cereal boxes falling down like dominoes! The experiment of the falling boxes is having plenty of views on Facebook!

Thank you for all of your support and donations to the area community food pantries and honoring the memory of Louise Smith. The two food pantries selected are very grateful to be receiving these gifts from Peace Memorial Church.



In March all donations received in the Pink Mission Envelopes will be donated to the UCC One Great Hour of Sharing, which will also have its own envelope Sunday March 17th. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

ALL CHURCH NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS



The weather seems to be slowly changing and on March 1st we started to take reservations for the raised garden bed in our Community Garden. Our community garden is part of our community outreach, so we reserve a small number of beds for our church members with the balance reserved for our community. If you wish to reserve a raised garden bed please email us at communitygarden@pmcucc.org to reserve your spot.



Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, March 3th at 11:00 a.m.

Get your award-winning recipes ready!



PMC & Community Event
BREAKFAST WITH
THE EASTER BUNNY
& EASTER EGG HUNT
PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday March 16, 2024

8:30 am to 11:00 am

Peace Memorial Church

10300 W. 131st Street

Palos Park, IL 60464

708-448-7833

Free Will Donation Appreciated

EASTER EGG HUNT AT

11:00 AM

BRING YOUR OWN BASKET

HOP IN FOR A
GREAT TIME!

GAMES & CRAFTS

TAKE PICTURES WITH
THE EASTER BUNNY





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 current program encompasses a wide variety of musical styles, from classical to boogie, with arrangements of well-known pieces such as Andrea Bocelli's "Time to Say Goodbye;" "Flight of the Bumblebee," arranged as "Bumble Boogie;" "For Good" from the Broadway hit Wicked; and many more 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 30, 2024

PLACE: Zion Hall

TIME: 1 PM to 3 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 is in the church Narthex

PAINTING OUR PATH

Gaile Sprissler



As we are traveling along this new pathway, it's important that we take frequent pauses to reflect on what we are designing. This is a pathway to discover and live in the very truth of ourselves so that we may experience more joy, peace, meaning, fulfillment, freedom, and Divine connection.

It can be done when we are no longer chained to false ways of thinking. We have to identify patterns and then think of ways to free ourselves of

some of those patterns. Closing the doors on some attitudes, judgments, old hurts, and maybe some people. And opening the windows of limitless opportunities. To embrace and embody the very truth of who we are, and to live in that self and share that with the world. Our relationships can be so much deeper and more authentic, as we acknowledge this and have the courage to share that with others. While our past history has certainly shaped who we are, it no longer dictates or controls our life, choices, or relationships. We're working on developing our unbounded, expansive, infinite self.

We may want to spend time alone to reflect on what's important. By allowing time for peace and solitude, we can gain a fresh perspective about life. Often, we can only hear our inner voice when we allow ourselves to be silent and still. Creating this balance is an ongoing process that takes time, and by working to establish balance in our life, we can learn to make wiser decisions that will create the harmony we desire.

When we make a conscious effort to schedule more time for relaxation, we experience a more stable balance of energy. By understanding that our bodies are wise enough to know when to work and when to rest, when to play and when to pray, we can learn to follow our natural rhythms. When we do, we create a consistent store of physical and spiritual energy that helps us to accomplish more than we would have by pushing ourselves. Best of all, we are able to feel peaceful and relaxed in the process, rather than strained and stressed. And, oh what a lovely path on which to travel.



March 3
Julie Sersland

March 6
Shirley Fijolek

March 9
Susan Bugajsky

March 10
Kathy Faulkner

March 11
James Hevel

March 12
Joseph Spoors

March 13
Logan Przybylski

March 16
Lawrence Spoors

March 19
Matthew Freund

March 21
Laura Haase

March 27
Lily Finn

March 31
Pam Cornyn
Lillian Matkovich



MARCH 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:30 am Worship 11 am Chili Cook-off 11 am Confirmation	4 7 pm Zion *PMCMMC	5 6:30 pm Zion Hall rental	6 7:00 am Volunteers 4-8:30 pm Zion rental	7 1 pm Bible Study 4-8:30 pm Zion rental 6:30 Foundation 7 pm Choir	8	9
10 9:30 am Worship 1pm Chapel rental	11 7 pm Zion *PMCMMC	12 6:30 pm Zion Hall rental 7:00 pm Alzheimer's meeting	13 7:00 am Volunteers 3:00 p.m. PADS 4-8:30 pm Zion rental	14 1 pm Bible Study 4-8:30 pm Zion rental 7 pm Choir	15	16  Breakfast with the Easter Bunny 10-4 Stitchers
17 OGHS 9:30 am Worship Blessing of the Baskets 10:30 am Annual Congregational Meeting Confirmation 4pm Agape singers 5-11 pm Zion hall rental	18 MESSENGER ARTICLES DEADLINE 7-9 pm Zion *PMCMMC	19 Primary Election Voting in Zion Hall	20 7:00 am Volunteers 4-8:30 pm Zion rental 7:00 Trustees	21 1 pm Bible Study 4-8:30 pm Zion rental 7 pm Choir	22	23
24 9:30 am Worship Palm Sunday	25 7-9 pm Zion *PMCMMC	26 6:30 pm Zion Hall rental	27 7:00 am Volunteers 4-8:30 pm Zion rental	28 1 pm Bible Study 4-8:30 pm Zion rental 6pm Potluck 7pm Maundy Thurs Service	29 7pm Good Friday service	30 1-3 pm Cooking Club
31 8:30 Easter Breakfast 9:30 am Worship					* PMCMMC =	Peace Memorial Church Monday Men's Club



Peace Village
10300 Village Circle Drive

Church Office Hours

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

Reverend Kirk Moore

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