



Your monthly news & updates

Moore thoughts . . .
Pastor Kirk's Ponderings –

50

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Acts 2:1-2

This month we celebrate Pentecost – the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church. It takes place 50 days after Easter, and it celebrates when a mighty wind came into the room where Peter and the other disciples were worshipping.



The Holy Spirit of God isn't tame. It doesn't make you feel comfortable. God's Spirit (wind) challenges us to reach beyond where we're comfortable into the adventurous, provocative, and maybe even dangerous world of living our faith and being a people of love and justice.

Join us each Sunday as we celebrate!

Sunday, May 5: On this first Sunday of May we continue our Season of Visioning. Join us during the worship service for a sermon about the Beatitudes and then afterward, as we discuss the ways to be in community.

Sunday, May 12: It's Mother's Day! We'll celebrate the love and care of mothers. Invite a friend to church as we think about and honor those who care

for all of us. We'll also continue our Season of visioning with a sermon about being the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We'll have a discussion after the service as well.

Sunday, May 19: It's Pentecost Sunday! We're going to be celebrating the birth of the Church as the Holy Spirit arrived like a rush of a violent wind. It's going to be one exciting time in worship! The sermon is about prayer and action, and we'll have a lively discussion after the worship service as well.

Sunday May 26: It's Memorial Day Sunday. We'll honor the holiday with a special Memorial Day litany. And we'll take a holiday week break from our Season of Visioning.

The same Spirit that moves us and sends us on our faith journey adventure is also the Spirit that breathes life into us. This month, join us for the adventure; join us for the celebration; join us for the compassion; join us for the Spirit!

Days

Pastor Kirk

PMC Report

Diane Oremovich

I want to take this opportunity to update you on several projects that are happening this month at church. At the recommendation of the Building and Grounds Committee, the Trustees approved the replacement of the chiller located outside the Christian Education/Lifestyle Academy wing. The chiller was installed soon after the church was built to keep the wing cool in the summer. The replacement of the chiller will occur sometime this month. The process has already begun and should be completed before the end of May.

If you have been in the gym lately, you might have noticed many of the tiles on the floor have become loose. Each week more and more tiles have been popping up. In working to resolve this issue, we learned the glue and tiles have asbestos. Building and Grounds committee has recommended that the tiles and the glue be removed through the process of asbestos abatement. The trustees have approved a bid and a qualified company has been contracted to undertake this project. The project is scheduled to begin May 20th and will take 1-2 weeks to complete. During this time the gym will be completely sealed off and no one will be able to enter this area. We want to assure no one is exposed to the asbestos during the removal process. A plan for the refinishing of the floor will be identified once this is completed.

At the October Congregational meeting funds were allocated for capital improvement. These funds are being used to cover these two projects. The cost of these projects is using a majority of this money. Should other issues arise this coming year, we may need to come to the congregation to identify alternative ways to fund these additional projects.

In an effort to meet ADA requirements, the center sanctuary doors were modified to have an automatic opener.

As you may or may not know, the old blue church van has been sold because it was beyond repair. Additionally, the decision was made to sell the church trailer.

Game Night continues to grow and over 60 people attended this past month's

event. The music program, Music, The Language of Faith, was a wonderful evening. Both of these events were suggested by members of our congregation. Thank you to all the people who made these great events happen.

Unfortunately, the weather put a damper on the Blessing of the Motorcycles event. It was great to see those people who made it to the event to have their motorcycles blessed and to pray for their safety this year. Thank you to everyone who welcomed them to our church and to Joey's Food Truck which added a fun element to the event. To help cover some of the cost of the food truck a 50/50 raffle occurred. This is one of the ways the Outreach Committee is looking at bringing new people to our church. We are looking to identify more opportunities to showcase what a beautiful and vibrant church we have in this community.

We will soon be hosting a UCC conference event. It will be focused on Church Stewardship. We look forward to showing other churches in our conference our beautiful church.

I look forward to our congregation completing the "Season of Visioning" process under the leadership of Pastor Moore. it is exciting to participate in the planning of the future vision of our church. Please continue to attend the brief sessions after our church service.

Weekly Service Attendance

April 7 (Communion Sunday)
9:30 am - 75

April 14
9:30 am - 78

April 21
9:30 am - 85

April 28
9:30 am - 86

Christian Education

Holly Jones

MEET JANE



Jane is 9! She does figure skating and likes to read the DogMan series! Her favorite color is green and her favorite food is buttered noodles!

Do you have a favorite stuffed animal?

Tiggy and Teddy, both I have had since I was little.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

I want to work with animals.

What do you like most about Sunday School?

My friends and crafts!

Do you have a favorite song we sing in church?

(she shook her head no!)

What makes you happiest?

Pandas!!

Why do you like Peace Memorial?

I like having donuts with my friends at coffee hour!

We would like to congratulate our young artists, Charlotte Haase and Ella Finn, who were selected for the Sandburg Spring art show! Excellent work ladies! We are very impressed with your talents!



Spring has sprung and we are ready! As I was walking out of church last week, our beautiful narcissus blooms caught my breath! Surely I had to stop and take a picture of them, to indulge not only my senses, but my heart as well. Tulips, daffodils, lilacs....all the spring blooms bring me such happiness! A few years ago, I purchased an Asiatic lily and every year for the past 5 seasons, it has continued to sprout and bloom, and completely astound me each season that it comes back!

In early April we met for the Community Garden's seed swap, and our youngest gardeners were so excited to get their box again! This year we are blooming in the Broccoli box! We are so excited! We will be planting corn, snap peas, carrots, lettuce, tomatoes, and cucumbers! We are hopeful to turn that harvest into a salad over the summer to share with friends!

Among the friends we are planting with are the friends we are playing with! Our annual pizza & game night drew over 60 people to Zion Hall! Another amazing night of fun and fellowship! We all made delicious pizzas and ice cream sundaes and everyone found a new game to enjoy! A HEARTFELT thank you to everyone who was able to join us for another successful night! From setup to cleanup, from pizza making to memory making, this continues to be one of our favorite nights!

Our kids are continuing to thrive in Sunday school and our numbers are showing that as we have doubled our Peace Kids in just a year! We are eagerly working on our plans for Vacation Bible School (July 11th and 12th, 2024) and hope that this serves as your save the date for our Outback adventure! Volunteer and donation opportunities, along with more information will be coming soon!





Get to Know a Trustee

Kathy Koch



My family joined Peace Memorial Church in 1984. We were introduced to the church by my father-in-law, Brian Koch. My family includes my husband Keith and children, Brian, Nicole and Michael and four grandchildren. I have been blessed and thankful over the years to have served in various roles to support the missions of the church. I have been a trustee for three months and am the liaison to the Building and Grounds committee.

I grew up on the southeast side of Chicago. I attended nursing school at South Chicago School of Nursing and I graduated with a diploma in nursing. I later went back to school and graduated from Loyola with a Master's of Science in Nursing. I worked for the Advocate system for 46 years in many different roles and recently have retired. I am so thankful I get to spend more time with my husband, Keith.

I found a definition for a church trustee:

"Trustees are elected by a congregation to help manage and care for the facility and grounds and the organizational life of the congregation. They are employing wisdom to ensure that the care for and best use of the resources that God has given to the church."

As a trustee, my goal is to serve, asking myself what is the need of the church

versus the want. If we lead with always placing the congregation at the core of our decision making, this church will flourish. I look forward to the future and creating a vision for what can be achieved.

Thank You to the Finance and Stewardship Committee

Dave Cornyn

Serving as advisors to the Trustees in all matters relating to the financial well-being of the church and finding ways to promote stewardship within the congregation... that's the role of the Stewardship and Finance Committee.

We owe a great deal of thanks to past committee members that helped us through some lean years leading up to and through COVID... Jayne Przybylski, Rudy Wehofer and the late Jim Vondrak.

Now we're taking another step forward in the evolution of PMC and have 2 "new" members to thank. Charley Smith (not so new as he's been through this before) and Steve Stille have stepped up to serve, and we will work to ensure that the church is equipped to take on the challenges still ahead of us!

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

Dennis Kirscher, Trustee

Looking at the long history of Peace Memorial it is obvious that there are periods of expansion and growth beyond the walls of the church itself. From the first church structure, a schoolhouse in the 1880's, to the beginnings of Peace Village in the 1990's, our church has demonstrated a history of movement and expansion with an emphasis on mission and taking care of those in need.

I will focus on one particular effort that began a chain of mission expansion in the 1950's that is still serving those needs today, but first a list of events that bring us to where we are today.

- In August 1886, construction of a school and a teacher's residence was begun.
- June 1890, construction of a new church was begun at 52nd and Justine.
- In 1908 and 1916, branch Sunday Schools are opened 49th and Western and 62nd and Wolcott (teaching in German only in both until being closed in 1920).
- March 1921 property purchased at 78th and Laflin Streets for residential dwellings, a Parish house and parsonage. The Parish House and parsonage constructed in 1922-1923.
- In 1943 the parsonage was converted into the first convalescent home for 16 residences.
- In 1944 the church purchased land in Evergreen Park for "church development and 185 homesites.
- In 1951 the sanctuary was built at 78th and Laflin. In 1960 the first 50 bed wing of Peace Memorial Convalescent Home opens.

- In 1962 the Christian Education wing is added to connect the Parish house and the Parsonage (converted back after the Evergreen Park facility is opened). Moving into the 1960's, Bob Dylan was right on the money with his song The Times They Are A-Changin'!
- In 1966 the church debt is retired, by 1968 we are worshipping at three locations Chicago, Evergreen Park, and Palos (at the Palos Community Center). The current church property, a 75-acre plot is purchased.
- In 1969, the 78th Street property is sold to Zion Hill Baptist Church. Worship in Chicago is moved to a wing of First Church of the Nazarene at 84th and Damen.
- In 1970 Peace Memorial Residences opens with 28 apartments, this is a lower cost housing for 30+ years until it's sale in 2022.
- In 1972 the congregation approves plans for the construction of our present location.
- In 1976 our present facility is dedicated. Groundbreaking for Peace Memorial Village begins in 1987.
- The village opens in 1991 and the model for the Village apartments is moved to it's present location and converted into the Youth Center and Family Life Center (now the Montessori school).

Having made it all the way to here, I think you can see the point, our congregation has a LONG history of change and development. That brings me to hopefully tie things together and relate our history to our current status. We are now in a time of "VISIONING"! With looking to the future of our church, it is the same VISIONING that has brought us to where we are today! In 1957 an expansion project had begun and was a VISIONING for the future of Peace Memorial and it's missions. I would like to use a small portion of that endeavor to connect us with our past and help open us to our future.

Here is a quote from that visioning endeavor from Dr. Frederick H Wezeman that, to me, strikes a chord today. "If we could turn back the clock to 1920 and hear the discussions that preceded the purchase of our present church property, we would marvel at the faith and daring of the men and women of that day. Those whose courage, sacrifice and foresight went into the creation of this beautiful structure wherein we now worship likewise merit our boundless admiration. To me this congregation has always represented vitality, youthfulness and the spirit of progress. No page of it's history is dull. Each illustrious chapter vibrates with imagination, resourcefulness and the will to move forward."

On the front cover of the brochure developed for this (visioning) fund raising event is a simple prayer which goes, "O, keep us building Master, may our hands Ne'er falter when the dream is in our hearts."

Here you will find two recent photos that echo these thoughts!

Eyes of Faith:

- Trust
- Believe
- To be found

Power of Vision

- Future and Past
- Reflect on future
- Goals

- Open to new things
- Imagination

→ Experience

- Uncertainty
- Fear
- Unknown
- Moving to Pilos Park from Chgo
- Leap of faith
- Movement/Career

Mission and Spiritual Care Committee

Looking forward to the May flowers, warmer days, the chirping of the birds as they make their nests, and planting our gardens that all are God's gifts of abundance.

The Mission Committee for the month of May will be collecting groceries for the food pantry of Pilgrim Faith UCC in Oak Lawn. They have provided us with a list of the canned and packaged foods that are distributed from the pantry.

The Pilgrim Faith food pantry collection will begin on Sunday, May 5th through and including May 19th. Bins will be available by the information desk for your donations. As you select your canned and packaged groceries, please check the expiration dates as many stores have outdated goods on their shelves.

Our PADS volunteers from PMC are in the process of creating Mother's Day gift bags to recognize, acknowledge, and celebrate the women that we cook meals for and their families. We are most grateful for the Sunday School Children for their creative artwork that will be included in the Mother's Day gift bags.

We are in the process of finalizing several additional projects that will be forthcoming. Thank you always for your generous support. May every woman at Peace Memorial Church celebrate Mother's Day, whether you are a mother, aunt, sister, or a friend.

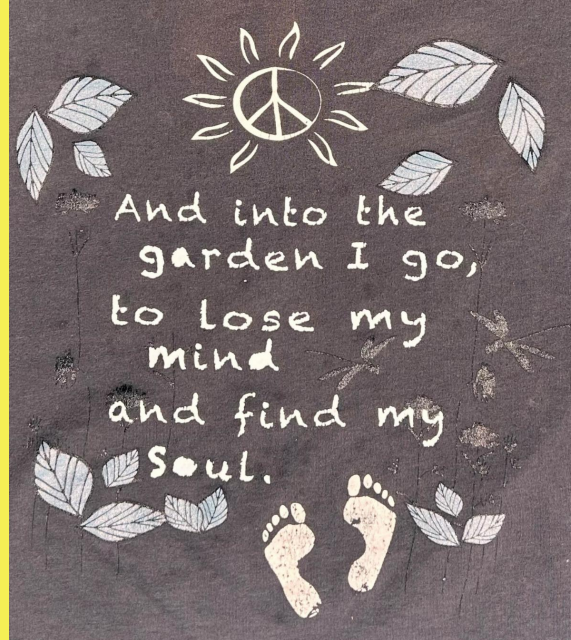
GROCERIES IN NEED:

Box of Cereal
Box of Spaghetti
Pasta Sauce
Canned Beans
Canned Fruit
Canned Tuna
Canned Chili
Canned Vegetables
Canned Soup
Instant Mashed Potatoes
Rice-a-Roni
Pudding/Jell-O Mix
Canned Pork & Beans
Ramen Noodles
Instant Oatmeal
Canned Beans
One Can Meals (ie, Chef Bo-ar-dee)
Pasta/rice sides (Lipton, Knorr, etc.)



COMMUNITY GARDEN

Blooming Blessings: A Joyful Update from the Community Garden



The gardeners have eagerly started getting their beds ready to sow their seeds. With each tender touch, we sow not just plants, but also seeds of community and togetherness.

As the days lengthen and the sun's warmth caresses the earth, signs of new life will emerge – delicate shoots pushing through the soil, reaching skyward in silent praise.

The Garden has become a sanctuary, a space where we find solace in nature's embrace. Amidst the hustle and bustle of daily life, it offers a refuge, a place to pause and reflect on the wonders of creation.

But the true beauty of the garden lies not just in its blossoms but in the lessons it imparts. It teaches us patience as we wait for seeds to sprout, perseverance as we tend to the fragile seedlings, and gratitude as we witness the fruits of our labor.

Let us rejoice in the deeper significance of the Community Garden – a symbol of growth, renewal, and the ever-present grace of God.

May our Community Garden continue to be a source of inspiration and joy for all who encounter its beauty, reminding us of the abundant blessings that surround us each day.

OUTREACH



Thank you for your support of our new program at PMC. This past Saturday's Music: The Language of Faith event was a harmonious success. Thank you to Michael Horn, Pastor Kirk, Tom Bockman, Linda Kim, Linnea Rinkus, Bob Mohr, and the PMC Choir for helping to put on such a great event. The first event was part of a planned 4-event series. Look for announcements about part 2 coming soon!

Blessing of the Bikes Pictures!



ALL CHURCH NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS



Please turn in your Mother's Day memorials into the office by May 8th.

RED GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST May 19th

Celebrate someone special
Celebrate the mission and ministry of our church
Celebrate the blessings and power of God in your life

Order a red geranium (or two or more)...

- In memory of
- In appreciation of someone
- Or to celebrate something special



For our Pentecost celebration on Sunday, May 19th, we would like to fill the sanctuary with red geranium to symbolize the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

So please feel free to order as many as you want!

Cost is \$10 per 8-inch potted Red Geranium.

PERSON ORDERING _____

Number of Geraniums @ \$10 _____

Total Due: \$ _____

In memory of _____

In appreciation of _____

In celebration of _____

(You can order on behalf of living friends, relatives, pastors, Sunday School teachers, church staff and special occasions)

PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH YOUR PAYMENT BY SUNDAY, MAY 12TH



In our season of new paths and new visions,
we'd like to help those walking a difficult path – with shoes.

There is a community outreach program that distributes food and clothing and is in desperate need of shoes. **ANY SIZE, ANY STYLE, ANY CONDITION.** For the next month the Fellowship Committee is collecting shoes, boots, sandals, etc.

There will be a bin in the narthex to put your footwear donations in.

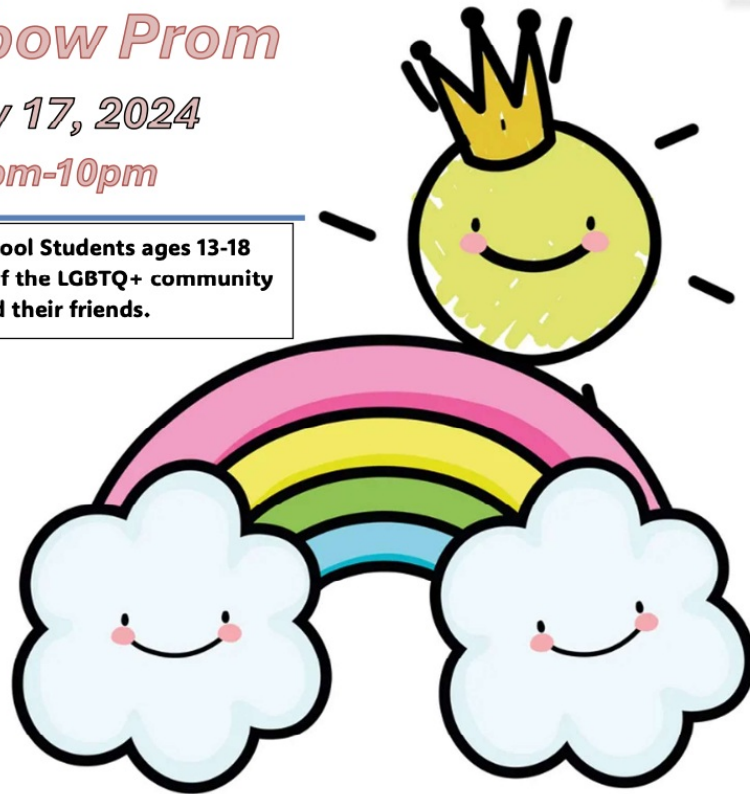


Rainbow Prom

May 17, 2024

7pm-10pm

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



Games, Dancing, Snacks
and a
Rainbow Runway Competition!

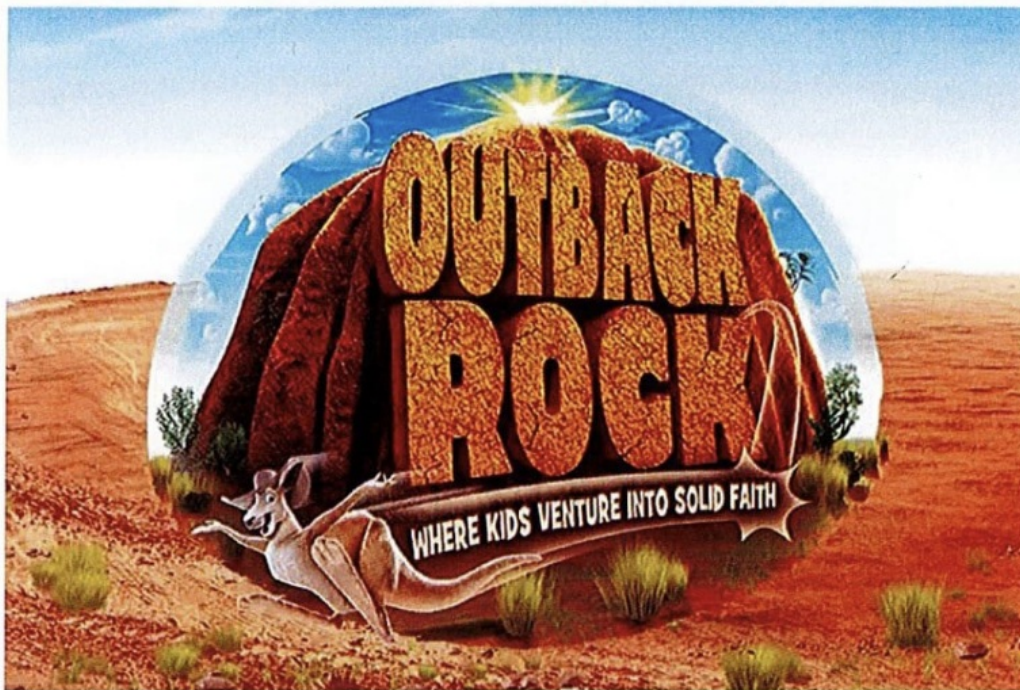


Hosted at:
Peace Memorial Church
10300 131st Street, Palos Park

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

Register online at:

<http://bit.ly/rainbowprom24>



JOIN US FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 11th and 12th, 2024

With special events scheduled on Saturday & Sunday

Stay tuned for more information!

Follow us on



**Peace Memorial Church
10300 W. 131st St.
Palos Park**

**708-448-7833
pmcucc.org**

THANKFULNESS

Gaile Sprissler

One of the qualities to consider on our newly created path is thankfulness. Often when we practice being thankful, we go through the process of counting our blessings, acknowledging the wonderful people, things, and places that make up our reality. True thankfulness stems from a powerful understanding of the gift of simply being alive regardless of our circumstances. In this deep state of gratitude, we recognize the intensity of the experience of being, and our thankfulness

is part of our awareness that we are one with this great mystery that is life.

It's hard for most of us to access this level of consciousness as we often get caught up in the ups and downs of our individual experiences in the world. But the thing to remember about our life in the world is, it ebbs and flows, gives and takes, and is by its very nature somewhat unreliable. If we only feel gratitude when it serves our desires, this is not true thankfulness. No one is exempt from the twists of fate, which may take the possessions, situations, and people we love away from us. Ironically, it is sometimes this kind of loss that awakens us to a thankfulness that goes deeper than just being grateful when things go our way.

We do not have to wait to be shaken to experience this state of being truly thankful for our lives. We can just be quiet and feel as one with God. Tuning into our breath and trying to be fully present for a set period of time each day can do wonders for our ability to connect with true gratitude. We also can awaken ourselves with the intention to be more aware of the unconditional generosity of God's love and the ability to find peace from within the life force that flows through us regardless of our circumstances.



May 3

Brian Rudnicki

May 5

Karen Rhein

May 7

Barbara Miller

May 8

Rachel Pokorski

May 10

Maddy Clarke

May 12

Kathi Graben
Larry Graben

May 15

Zachary Fijolek
William Jerry II

May 18

Shelby Stille

May 20

Alexander Bubash
Rudolph Wehofer

May 22

Kathleen Koch
Carol Landow
Christopher Schneider Jr.

May 23

Francesca Miulli

May 23

Francesca Miulli

May 24

Charlie Schmeltzer

May 25

Nancy Di Novo

May 27

Joseph Ferrantelli
Ronald Kozinski
Richard Lisak

May 31

Priscilla Hook

MAY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 am Volunteers 6:30 Chapel rental	2 NO BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm choir	3	4 10-4 pm Narthex rental
5 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am Confirmation 1 p.m. Zion Hall rental	6	7	8 7:00 am Volunteers 3:00 p.m. PADS 7 p.m. CE	9 1 pm Bible Study 7 pm Choir	10 9 – 11 a.m. Palos Dist. 118 Zion Hall usage	11
12 9:30 am Worship Happy Mother's Day 	13	14 7:00 pm Alzheimer's meeting	15 7:00 am Volunteers 7:00 Trustees	16 1 pm Bible Study 7 pm Choir	17 7– 10:30 p.m. ONA prom Zion Hall	18 8 – 1 PV parking lot usage 10-4 Stitches/ Chapel 12:30 Sandburg HS parking lot usage
19 9:30 am Worship 11 a.m. Confirmation class	20 MESSENGER ARTICLES DEADLINE ZION HALL CLOSED	21 ZION HALL CLOSED	22 7:00 am Volunteers ZION HALL CLOSED	23 1 pm Bible Study 7 pm Choir ZION HALL CLOSED	24 ZION HALL CLOSED	25 Pavilion/ Youth Center rental ZION HALL CLOSED
26 9:30 am Worship ZION HALL CLOSED	27 ZION HALL CLOSED	28	29 7:00 am Volunteers	30 1 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Foundation 7 pm Choir	31	



Peace Village
10300 Village Circle Drive

Church Office Hours

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

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Robert Mohr

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