

Friday, July 26, 2024



Peace Weekly



From the Pastor
Rev. Kirk Moore



Haircut

If you've been in the worship service or watched the online edition of the PMC service the last few weeks, you may have noticed that I got my hair cut short.

Prior to the pandemic, I had worn short hair for most of my life. During the first couple of years of the pandemic, I didn't visit any hair cutting or styling establishment and let it grow long. You've probably heard the story that as it grew out, it was curly and my mother was thrilled.

Fast forward to a few weeks ago, I was hot and my hair was in my eyes and when pulled it back it hurt and then I was so hot again . . . so I decided to get it cut short again.

All this leads up to this part . . . This Friday's preview video is the last one I recorded with long hair. If you miss the long hair, you can always go back to watch past sermon preview videos or church services. If you prefer the short hair, it'll be here for at least the time being.

With my short hair, I've been on a family vacation in California this week. This Sunday, Pastor Judy Jones is leading the worship service. While I'm not sure what she'll be preaching exactly, I have a preview related to the same Bible reading below.

And, as always, please let me know if there are any who could use a pastoral

A Peace sermon possible preview for Sunday, July 28, 2024



Not seeing a video still frame? [Check here](#) for a whole playlist of sermon previews.



Eating before swimming

This week's Bible reading from John 6:1-21 describes two very familiar miracles of Jesus from the Gospels: The Feeding of the 5000 and Jesus walking on water.

Eating before Swimming? Did Jesus wait at least an hour? :)

In the first miracle – Jesus fed the multitude - starting with just five barley loaves and two fish. And there was much more left over.

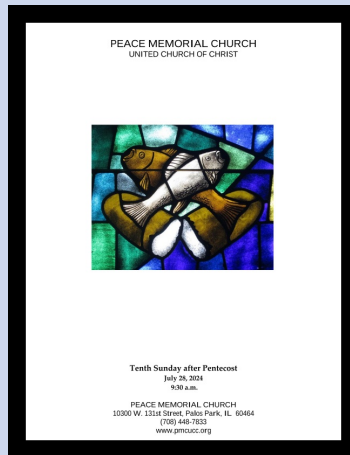
In the second one, Jesus – after retreating from the group that had just experienced the miracle and wanted to take him by force to make him king – joined the disciples 3 or 4 miles out - by walking on the water – and then brought the disciples from a storm to safety.

What's going on in this week's reading?

What's significant about the food? Is it that the people were starving and Jesus

came to the rescue? Is it that the people needed to be fed, or they would become sick and die? Is it that Jesus understood that people like to share a meal together, and he gave them the opportunity to get together and share a meal? Is it that out of almost nothing, there was enough? Is it looking at an impossible situation and finding out we truly can imagine what's impossible?

And what's significant about the water? Is it that there's always the possibility of storms in our lives? Is it that no matter how far we try to row out from Jesus, he's still near? Is it that when we think we're in dire straits that God has already been guiding us to safety? Is it looking at an impossible situation and finding out we can truly imagine what's impossible?



Bulletin for Sunday, July 28, 2024

Calendar for the week of July 28- August 4, 2024

Sunday, July 28

ALL DAY PAVILION RENTAL

9:30 a.m. – Sunday Worship service

10:45 a.m. – Fellowship

Wednesday, July 31

7:00 a.m. – Volunteers

Saturday, August 3

12:00 – 6:00 p.m. – Pavilion/Youth Center rental

Sunday, August 4

ALL DAY PAVILION RENTAL

9:30 a.m. – Sunday Worship service

10:45 a.m. – Fellowship

This Week's Birthdays

July 28

Elaine Angone

Kaitlyn Nestor

News, Announcements, Gifts, Memorials, and Prayer Concerns

Ushers 7-28-24– Keith Koch, Diane Oremovich, William Bayer

Ushers 8-4-24 – Jim Keyser, Rudy Wehofer, Alan White, Karen Blaser

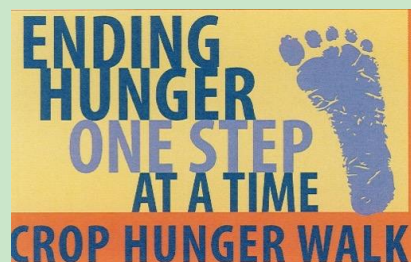
New Prayers: The Family of **Kathy Szymanski**, sister-in-law of Elaine Schneider, after her death July 18.

Continued Prayers: **Ralph Swenson** (Sue Freund's dad), recovering after a fall; **Dave Cornyn** after his surgery; **Carmen Vondrak** after hip replacement surgery; **Kim Skala** recovering after knee surgery; **David Hook**, prayers for healing and strength; **Carol Dreger** after a fall and she will need a shoulder replacement; **Russ Hook** for healing and strength; **Joe Heilmann** recovering after a stroke; **Jeanine Gerard** in long term care, prayers for healing and strength; **Helen Espinoza** prayers for healing and strength; **Kathy Szymanski**, sister-in-law of Elaine Schneider, prayers for continued healing; **Gordon Sieveke** prayers for strength and healing.

The Mission Committee's newest project for the month of July and also including Sunday, August 4th is collecting **KLEENEX, PAPER TOWELS, and LYSOL WIPES**. These items will be donated to two local grade school districts prior to the beginning of the upcoming fall school sessions. The schools selected are very excited to be receiving these important products that most teachers supply out of their own pockets for their students. Bins for your donations will be in the Narthex by the Welcome Table. Thank you for participating with your donations to these two elementary schools.

PMC Prayer Bears are a symbolic source of spiritual comfort for physical and emotional wellbeing. If you have a loved one who is experiencing any health conditions who may be hospitalized or undergoing chronic treatment for illness, please take one of the bears. They are located in the small wagon behind the last row of Pews in the sanctuary. They represent the connection to our church's spiritual message and prayers that resonate each Sunday. Please contact either of us for additional information. *Mimi Sciacchitano and Sue Freund*

SAVE THE DATE!! CROP WALK 2024
The BIG event is October 6th at Lake Katherine



Any time -- even during the worship service -
You can donate electronically to PMC through



tithe.ly. Simply scan this QR Code, or use the [“donate” link](#) on our church website or at the bottom of this email. Thank you!



On August 4, Peace Memorial Church, UCC, in Palos Park welcomes guest speaker [Rev. Dr. Munter Isaac](#). He is a Palestinian Christian pastor and theologian. He presently pastors the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem and the Lutheran Church in Beit Sahour. He also holds the pivotal roles of academic dean at Bethlehem Bible College and is director of the highly lauded "Christ at the Checkpoint" conferences. Rev. Isaac is the author of ["The Other Side of the Wall: A Palestinian Christian Narrative of Lament and Hope."](#) Last year, he gave the powerful Christmas sermon ["Christ in the Rubble."](#) The sermon that resonated around the world.

During the 3 week long US speaking tour, Rev. Isaac will only be preaching on two or three Sundays. PMC will be the only location in the Midwest where he'll be preaching a Sunday sermon.

Please join us for worship August 4. Rev Isaac will also be present during coffee hour for conversation and questions.



The United Church of Christ has issued this [Prophetic Call for Justice and Peace in Palestine](#)

"They have treated the wound of my people carelessly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace." (Jeremiah 6:14)

Throughout the history of humankind, generations have witnessed the trauma of wars and killings, actions that denied the humanity of some, by the cruelty of others. These days are no different. Wars rage among us. Currently there are

over 100 conflicts documented globally. Even modern war has its rules of engagement, conventions written to ensure the safety of those whose lives are threatened by escalating situations of conflict.

Well before these days of social media, even to Biblical times the world has witnessed and documented the ways in which communities and people – identified as less than, different from, or in other ways deemed problematic – were targeted and annihilated during armed conflict. In each case, the world watched from a distance, counting the dead and identifying mass graves in the aftermath, with the resolve that genocide would not occur again. The historical record shows the resolution to prevent these actions from repeating among us has not been kept.

Once again, the world is witnessing escalating deaths due to armed conflict. The death toll in Gaza continues to rise with almost 40,000 Palestinians dead and thousands missing. We are counting the dead daily and pleading for the killing to end and the war to cease. The Gaza Strip is the size of Las Vegas with three times the population. The investment of resources and weapons acquired and used by the Israeli army – overwhelmingly supplied by the United States – are signs of the intent to bring about the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people and destruction of their society.

Where is the threshold at which the world will say “enough” as we watch children dying of starvation because the delivery of humanitarian aid is being prevented and is stopped or destroyed, and not allowed to get to them? Where is the line at which we will be compelled to name that the killing of civilians is disproportionately high in the veiled quest for defense, disguised as the pursuit of justice, following the events of October 7, 2023? And when will the world come to terms with the consequences of this long-standing conflict, the oppression of the Palestinian people by Israeli military forces, the on-going illegal occupation and denial of the human rights of Palestinians, and discrimination which amounts to the crime of apartheid?

Rwandans. Cambodians. Armenians. Darfuris. These are among the millions killed over the centuries while outcries for the attention and intervention of global leaders were ignored.

These are now a part of the historical record, times when the world did not intervene, places where the cries of the people went unheard, and the perpetrators not held accountable for committing genocide. Over the last nine months, we have witnessed the atrocities as they have occurred in Palestine, horrors that could have and can be stopped if global leaders and public pressure demand it. As people of faith, we cannot be silent, waiting for the years to pass to verify that Israel is perpetrating genocide against Palestinians.

- We call for an end to this genocide.
- We call for the end to Israel’s war in the Middle East.
- We call for the return of all Israeli hostages and Palestinian detainees.
- We call for humanitarian corridors to be open, and that abundant relief – including food, water, medical supplies, and care – immediately and safely be provided to those in need.
- We call on U.S. policymakers and governments of all nations to end the

sale of weapons to Israel and withhold all military aid.

- We call for the identification and prosecution of those responsible for the deaths of civilians and support the call from the International Criminal Court prosecutor for warrants for the arrest of Israeli and Hamas leaders.
- We call on the United Nations General Assembly to take clear and decisive action in support of the advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice on July 19, 2024, that Israel's occupation of Palestinian land is illegal and should end immediately, that the international community must not recognize Israel's unlawful presence, and that the UN consider ways to end this illegal occupation.
- We call for root causes and historical claims to be addressed so that a just and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians is finally achieved, Israel's systems of apartheid are dismantled, and the national, human, and civil rights of Palestinians are fully realized.
- We call upon the global community to hold Israeli leaders accountable for Palestinian losses, including the necessary reparatory justice Palestinians are owed, even as we recognize there is no way to recover lives, homes, and communities.
- We call the church to confession, recognizing the church has been complicit, with some churches promoting theologies which justify violence, emphasize superiority, privilege, and supremacy, and support harmful colonial acts.

The historical record will show that global leaders were once again complicit in their silence and inactive in their witness to atrocities and crimes against humanity, failing to uphold the international "norms" for war and conventions they established.

The United Church of Christ has had a missional presence in the Middle East for two centuries. Our relationships with partners in the Middle East today are ones of steadfast support, critical presence, and mutual blessing. The voices and experiences of our partners in Palestine and the region today compel us to speak clearly and courageously amid horrific suffering. As people of faith, and as a Just Peace Church, we cannot claim peace as our prayer if we are not willing to boldly name the injustices we see.

We call upon all to be courageous peacemakers in this moment.

Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson
General Minister and President/Chief Executive Officer

Rev. Shari Prestemon
Acting Associate General Minister and
Co-Executive for Global Ministries

Rev. Dr. Bentley DeBardelaben-Phillips
Transitional Executive



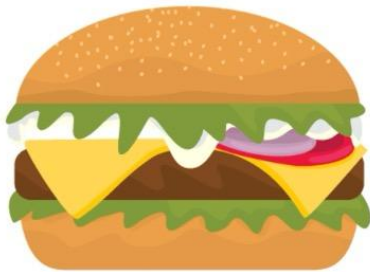
Did you miss church? [Catch up on last Sunday's service here.](#) And feel free to share recordings of past services with others who might like to learn more about Peace! You can subscribe to our [youtube channel](#) and also the [Worship Services Playlist.](#)

Join us for our

RAINBOW PICNIC



Sunday August 11th
11:00am-3pm



Open to
EVERYONE



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pmcucc.org



Church Office Hours

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

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