



## Your monthly news & updates

### FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Pastor Judy Jones

February is often referred to as the month of love. I began to think of that idea this week and wondered if anyone had ever set out rules or guidelines for the love the February is supposed to represent. Should February only celebrate the love of one person for another? Or could we include the love of our pets into the equation? What if we were to list our love of ideals or rights and privileges? Surely we would begin to act differently toward some people if we celebrated the love of equality for all during this month of love. What about the love of money? That one is surely on the top of the list for some people. Should we also then include the love of possessions? We all tend to get hung up with things, our "stuff". Perhaps that is where I am coming from this week. I need to relieve myself of some possessions that I once held so dear, but now find that they don't fit into my lifestyle. I want to believe that when the clutter is all gone and the rooms are all in order and neat, I will have a sense of accomplishment and freedom, but at this stage in the process it just feels like a loss, a death of an old way of living (not that that old way was all that great).

I remind myself that I am not the only one going through this process, many others have gone before me in this re-ordering of life. Many others have not been as lucky as I am, they had no choice because of a fire or flood or illness. I on the other hand have the luxury of taking my time, weighing my options, and making informed decisions. All this being true, I still have to ask myself, "why is this so difficult?" Why is this "weeding out" taking so long and causing such anguish? I suppose, if I were to be honest with myself, I would say that these possessions have become more important to me than they should have. Perhaps even more important than some of the people or ideals in my life. Whoa, now there is a slap upside the head, an awakening to the reality of life, a reminder of what I am really called to do and be in my life! So I pull myself back up and finish the weeding-out, giving away that which I really don't need and allow someone else to enjoy it now.

Maybe this is the beginning of the rules or guidelines to live by during this month of February, the month of love. Perhaps one measurement of love would be to calculate what is really important to you or should I say who is important to you and then show your love in abundance. To spend time giving thanks for the people in your life and the joy they bring to you. To know love is a precious gift, a gift from God. To know how to love is a gift taught to us by Christ himself. Use these gifts wisely, not just during the month of February, but all throughout the year.

February also finds us beginning the season of Lent. This is a liturgical season that calls us to sacrifice and to give. Perhaps, it is your custom to give up something for lent,

you will find a way to give "away" too. Find new ways to give your caring to those around you, to give your helping hand to those in need, and to give your love to those who need it the most. So let February be your month of change and growth in the ability to love.

## PMC President's Report

Dennis Kirscher

The PMC Planning Committee met on Sunday January 22 to discuss events and activities here at Peace for the coming months. The listing below is the monthly breakdown of those events and activities now on the church calendar beginning with February.

### **FEBRUARY:**

**Sunday, Feb. 12** - The Christian Education Committee will be collecting "canned goods" to donate to a local food pantry. Bring your items to church on Superbowl Sunday.

**Sunday, Feb. 19, 11:00 AM** - Chili Cook-off. Prepare your best chili recipe and bring a batch to church to be tasted by chili lovers of all ages. Winners in several categories will be selected for bragging rights! Sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex prior to the event. Ruth Van Hecke is taking the point with the Fellowship Committee for this event.

**Sunday, Feb 26** - Cheerios will be served in addition to the usual coffee and donuts at coffee hour in honor of Louise Smith's birthday and in recognition of February being American Heart Month! The Mission Committee will be taking the point on this event.

### **MARCH:**

**Saturday, March 11, 4:00-6:00 PM** - Games Night. Bring your family and friends to Zion Hall to play your favorite board games! Bring your own or play one of ours. Make your own pizza from our pizza set-ups under the direction of Den and Judy Kirscher. Free-will donations will be accepted to help defray costs. Information and sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex. Christian Education Committee will be taking point for this evening of fun and pizza!

**Saturday, March 4, 9:00 to Noon** - PMC Planning Committee. This meeting will discuss programs and events for the months to come at PMC. If you have an idea please come to the meeting and let everyone hear it. This group includes the Trustees and members of all committees. Anyone interested in presenting a proposal for an event or program is invited to this meeting.

### **APRIL:**

**Saturday, April 1** - Easter Bunny Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt.

**Saturday, April 22** - Wine Bottle Art! Join a real artist, our own Amanda Ambrose and a small cadre of artistic amateurs to create your own wine bottle masterpiece. With instructions and advice of our artistic volunteers, you will be able to paint a wine bottle work of art from a selection of various examples! All materials will be provided.

### **MAY:**

**Saturday, May 6** - PMC Rummage Sale. Bring all of that clutter you've accumulated to Zion Hall for our annual Rummage Sale! Set up for the sale will begin on Wednesday May 3. Gaile Sprissler will be taking point on this event.

**Sunday, May 14** - Mother's Day. There will be flowers for every mom, grandma, aunt, sister, daughter in attendance!

**Saturday, May 19** - The second annual Rainbow Prom. The ONA committee will be planning and supervising this worthwhile event!

---

### Weekly Service Attendance

**January 1**  
9:30 am - 20

**January 8**  
9:30 am - 55

**January 15**  
9:30 am - 84

**January 22**  
9:30 am - 70

**January 29**  
9:30 am - 58

---

### Christian Education

Holly Jones



when I slowed down enough to realize what I was gaining.

So often that mentality is evident in our daily lives as well. The things that bring you the greatest joys are sometimes overlooked and lost in the daily shuffle of living. We are so busy doing that we forget to BE. We talk a lot of being present, being in the moment, but what does that actually mean? A very observant seven year old teaches me constantly about noticing the minute details that I would normally miss, slowing me down to capture a fleeting moment, reveling in the most genuine innocence.

That innocence and wonder of details is also found in Sunday school with our great group of kids, but we could use your help! Jamie leaving last month left a hole in our hearts, and our Sunday school room. Our kids finally have a space to call their own, and we need to keep their excitement building. We installed cork boards to highlight their weekly projects and the kids have created beautiful canvas paintings that will be displayed proudly in the Sunday school

room. These art pieces truly express the talents of even our youngest members, and we are all so glad to share our children's gifts with you.

We are in need of volunteers to assist with helping our teachers Sunday mornings and also in helping make all of our events a success! ("We tell jokes, I do tricks, with my fellow candlesticks" Sometimes it really does feel like a Disney movie!)

LOOKING AHEAD:

Please save the date for Saturday, March 11th for our annual GAME NIGHT!  
More details to follow!

-Holly Jones

---

### From Community Garden



On March 1st we begin reserving our raised garden beds for the upcoming growing season. We set aside 7 beds for church members and 18 for the community as our objective is to involve others in this recreational and educational experience.

Please contact Mary Anne in the church office at 708-448-7833 to reserve your bed.

---

### Missions



**February:**

In memory of Louise Smith, the Mission Committee will continue the tradition of collecting Heart Healthy boxes of cereal during the month of February. The month of February is heart month and beginning February 5, 2023 there will be bins in the Narthex to

collect the boxes of cereal until the last day of collection on February 25, 2023. The heart healthy cereal will be delivered to a local food pantry after the completion of the collections

Examples of heart healthy cereal are: Cheerios, Smart Start, Quaker Oats, Special K, Kashi, Barbara's Puffins.

**In other Mission News:**

- Peace Memorial Church now has two PADS committees that prepared a total of 18 meals in 2022 that fed 50 people each time, or a total of 900 dinners.
- Many of the leftover coats and jackets that remained after the September rummage sale were delivered to the PADS organization. PADS was extremely grateful for these gifts.
- The Mission Committee also provide monthly lunches once a month for the homeless through the organization of Beds Plus. With your generous monetary gifts for Beds Plus and PADS, the committee is able to reach out to support people in the community that struggle to care for themselves and their families.

Please remember to donate to the Mission Committee by using the pink envelopes each month. The Mission Committee relies on your support and greatly appreciates your generosity as a caring member of Peace Memorial Church. **New members and new ideas are also welcome!**

---

**ALL CHURCH NEWS**

---



**Lockport Elementary School District 91**  
**808 Adams Street**  
**Lockport, Illinois 60441**  
**[www.d91.net](http://www.d91.net)**  
***"Education is our connection to the future"***

January 11, 2022

Dear Peace Memorial Church,

Thank you for the donation to provide holiday help for Lockport School District 91 families! Your generosity really makes a difference for the children in our schools.

Our families were able to have a special winter holiday season that was only made possible by your contributions! You made the eyes of a child shine!

We are sincerely grateful for your ongoing support of our community.

On behalf of District 91 families, thank you,

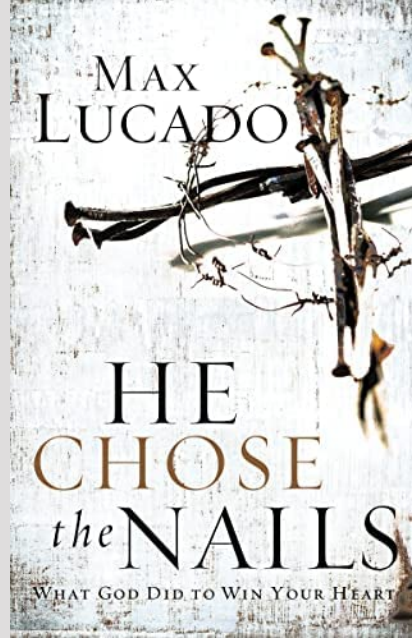
Alisha Carrescia, Nikki Kubik, & Melisse Reynolds  
Kelvin Grove & Milne Grove Schools  
Lockport, IL

---

## **LENTEN BIBLE STUDY**

Beginning March 2, 2023, I will be offering an opportunity to join together for Lenten Bible study. I will be using the Max Lucado book "He Chose The Nails: What God Did To Win Your Heart". We will meet each Thursday from March 2<sup>nd</sup> to March 30<sup>th</sup>. You have your choice of two different times, the usual 1:00 p.m. session or the 6:30 session. Before the 6:30 session we will gather at 6:00 for a light soup supper. If

you would like to take a turn at providing soup for the group, there will be a sign up sheet at the café. I hope to see you all there.



**February Sneak Peek  
Mark Your Calendars!**

What: **Chili Cook Off**

When: Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00

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

Watch for more information!

**Happy Hearts**

Gaile Sprissler

♪ “Clap along if you know that happiness is the truth, clap along if you know what happiness is to you...” ♪

song by Pharrell Williams

When our heart leads us somewhere, it's always for a reason. We need to find out what that reason is. Usually, this change brings us closer to who we really are, to discover our true self, and to be more authentic. Research in the new discipline of neurocardiology shows that the heart is a sensory organ and a sophisticated center for receiving and processing information. The heart communicates information to the brain and throughout the body via electromagnetic field interactions.

The heart generates the body's most powerful and most extensive rhythmic electromagnetic field.

As pulsing waves of energy radiate out from the heart, they interact with organs. Positive emotions, such as love or appreciation, are associated with a smooth, ordered, coherent pattern in the heart's rhythmic activity. At the physiological level, this mode is characterized by increased efficiency and harmony in the activity and interactions of the body's systems. Psychologically, it's linked with a notable reduction in perceptions of stress, increased emotional balance and mental clarity, and cognitive performance.

It's so easy to be busy, busy going along in our lives, that we tend to forget that happiness need not come with conditions. Many of the happiest people on earth are those coping with the most serious challenges. They've learned to make time for simple pleasures that can be enjoyed quickly and easily. Cultivating a happy heart takes no more than five minutes. The delightful result will be profound and remind us that there is always a reason to smile.

In five minutes, we can enjoy an aromatic cup of tea, stroll through the garden, doodle while daydreaming, or breathe deeply while we listen to music or even silence. We can share a few silly jokes, turn up the volume on YouTube and dance around the room, play a fast-paced hand of cards, or reconnect through lighthearted conversation. When we allow ourselves the freedom to do whatever brings us pleasure, five minutes out of our day can brighten our lives.

It is often when we have the least free time or energy to devote to joy, that we need to unwind and enjoy ourselves the most. Making happiness a priority will help us find five minutes every day to indulge in the things that inspire happiness within us. Eventually, our happiness breaks will become an established part of our routine. We can start by pursuing activities we already enjoy and then gradually think up new and different ways to fill our daily five minutes of happiness, and nurturing a healthy and happy heart.



**February 2**  
Joanne Bockmann

**February 3**  
James Dorencz  
Gail Korbitz  
Jeff Korbitz Sr.  
Rebecca Mischler

**February 4**  
Joey Sciacchitano

**February 11**  
Judy Dagys  
Cody White

**February 13**  
Abigail Finn

**February 14**  
Joan Frase  
Josephine Kujawa  
Terry Ostrowski

**February 15**

**February 24**  
George Macauley

**February 25**  
George Holmes

**February 26**  
Emily Freund  
Janet Hansen  
Bettejane Jaeger  
Hanna Johnson



Barbara Kamper

**February 6**  
Ron Rudnicki  
Ellen Swenson

**February 18**  
Autumn Fijolek

**February 27**  
Christine Ferrantelli  
Rose Signore

**February 7**  
Kenneth Miller Jr.  
Adam White

**February 20**  
Eleanor Cochonour

**February 28**  
Cheryl Channic

**February 21**  
Harrison Gehrs

# FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 am Volunteers 3:00 p.m. PADS 4-8:30 Zion Hall rental	2 1 pm Bible Study 3:30-8:30 pm Zion rental 7:00 Choir	3	4
5 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Zion Hall closet cleanout	6 7-9 pm Zion PMCMC	7 7-9 pm Zion Hall rental	8 7:00 am Volunteers 3:00 p.m. PADS 4-8:30 Zion Hall rental 7pm CE meeting	9 1 pm Bible Study 3:30-8:30 pm Zion rental 6:30 Foundation meeting 7:00 Choir	10	11
12 9:30 am Worship "Soup"er Bowl Sunday  10:30 Worship & Music	13 7-9 pm Zion PMCMC	14  7-9 pm Zion Hall rental	15 7:00 am Volunteers 7 CE meets 4-8:30 Zion Hall rental 7:00 Trustees	16 1 pm Bible Study 3:30-8:30 pm Zion rental 7:00 Choir	17	18
19 9:30 am Worship  Chili Cook Off	20 <b>MESSENGER ARTICLES DEADLINE</b> 7-9 pm Zion PMCMC	21 7:00 pm Alzheimer's meeting 7-9 pm Zion Hall rental	22 7:00 am Volunteers 4-8:30 Zion Hall rental 7pm Ash Wednesday service	23 1 pm Bible Study 3:30-8:30 pm Zion rental 7:00 Choir	24	25 10 - 4 Stitchers - Chapel
26 9:30 am Worship  Cheerios @Coffee Hour	27 7-9 pm Zion PMCMC	28 7-9 pm Zion Hall rental			* PMCMC = Peace Memorial Church Monday Men's Club	



**Peace Memorial Church**

10300 W. 131st Street  
Palos Park, IL 60464  
Phone (708) 448-7833  
Fax (708) 448-0824

**Church Office Hours**

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

**Pastor Judy Jones**

Interim Senior Minister  
quiltrev@gmail.com

**Robert Mohr**

Director of Music  
peacememohrial@gmail.com

**Thomas R. Osborne**

Organist  
mmued@yahoo.com

**Mary Anne Bixler**

Administrative Assistant  
mbixler@pmcucc.org

**Lily Field**

Accountant  
lfield@pmcucc.org

**Peace Memorial Residence**

3200 W. 101st Street  
Evergreen Park, IL 60805

**Peace Village**

10300 Village Circle Drive  
Palos Park, IL 60464  
(708) 361-6091  
Roger Ellens .....CEO/Executive Director

**Peace Village Circle Inn**

(708) 671-2470

**Visit our website Peace  
Memorial Church**

**Visit our Facebook  
page Peace Memorial  
Church UCC**

Peace Memorial Church UCC | 10300 W 131st St #1, Palos Park, IL 60464

[Unsubscribe mbixler@pmcucc.org](mailto:mbixler@pmcucc.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data  
Notice](#)

Sent by mbixler@pmcucc.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!