



Your monthly news & updates

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Pastor Judy Jones

Well here we are at the beginning of a new year and I wish you all a bright and healthy New Year! For the last couple of years we have wished everyone we know a better new year than the last one. We all hoped that the battle against COVID would end early in that new year, but here we are, about to start the year 2023 wishing the very same wishes.

There is a wonderful book by Dr. Suess entitled "Oh The Places You Will Go" I enjoyed reading it with my boys when they were young and now I hope to read it to my granddaughter. I have even listened to a College Graduation speech that quoted a few of its passages. The speaker was encouraging the graduates to go forth from their years of study and to be productive and members of their communities. The book takes a fictitious youngster on a walk around a community full of wonderful sites and sounds. The underlying message is to keep one's eyes open to see all the wonders, one's ears open to hear all the wonderful sounds, and one's mind open to new ideas and possibilities.

The ideals of this book set my mind whirling with ideas for the new year we are heading into. The adventures that a new year can open up for us are as varied and exciting as those in Dr. Suess's book. What if we all started to look around our own neighborhood, our city, even our church looking for opportunities to serve God and share the love of Christ with the people we meet? What an impact we could have on, not just our communities, our church, and the world, but our own faith! If we could start out this year of 2023 with eyes open to needs of others,

ears open to hear the cries of people who are hurting and minds open to our own talents that we can offer to fulfill those needs.

I try to make suggestions to you each week that move you on the adventures of living out your faith. What do you do with that guidance? Do you simply hear it, agree that there are things you can do, and then go right back to doing what you have always done? My challenge to you for 2023 is to think about the places you might go, the people whose lives you might brighten, and the way in which you could share the love of Christ. Oh, the places you can go in the name of Christ our Savior! May this new year be filled with increasing faith and with all the opportunities you will have to brighten the lives of others. Keep your eye, ears and mind open and you will see marvelous things.

PMC President's Report

Dennis Kirscher

JANUARY 2023 WOW!! We have arrived on the doorstep of another “new” year! Once again, a time to look forward and a time to look back. Looking back, we are a few steps further away from the curse of COVID and the disruption of normal life the pandemic brought us, but we are still not totally free from its grip. COVID has created havoc in almost every area of our lives and certainly in our church life. Though it is no consolation, we are not alone, the vast majority of organized religion has experienced a serious decline in active church participation.

Looking back at the life and activities at PMC in 2022, I can see many promising and positive signs of recovery and rejuvenation. Successful events like the Easter Bunny and Santa pancake breakfasts, a very successful Oktoberfest and Habitat for Humanity build project are evidence of our continuing “recovery” from the limitations we have experienced, and evidence of restored participation in church activities. The presence of Pastor Judy Jones and her spiritual leadership has been a true blessing to our church and is a significant part of our return to a more normal church existence.

But what about our future? What do we see for PMC in the next year? Plans for 2023 already include a “Beat the Winter Blues” evening, a chili cook off, a snow day off event, games night, a “Soup and Scripture” Lenten Bible study, and that’s just the first 3 months of the year! All of this in addition to regular church and Lenten services. One question mark, I am sure on the minds of many is will we see a settled pastor in the near future? I cannot, and will not promise we will fill the position in the first three months of 2023, but I can promise that the committee will do it’s very best to make it happen before the end of 2023. What I can

promise is that change will occur as we move forward next year and in the future, and we as a church will only grow and move forward with the participation of every one in our congregation! God Bless and happy New Year!
Den

Weekly Service Attendance

December 4
9:30 am - 61

December 11
9:30 am - 72

December 18
9:30 am - 63

December 24
4:00 pm - 44
11:00 pm - 68

December 25
9:30 am - 20

From Our Youth Director

Jamie S Meehan

Last week I was at the grocery store walking down the laundry aisle looking for some static guard spray when I happened to see that they have some sprays that I had never seen before. They were labeled “dry wash spray.” From what I understood, the idea was that if you needed a certain item of clothing before you got a chance to wash it, you could spray this spray



onto the item, and it would refresh the clothing enough to wear it again. The concept makes sense, and it sounds convenient, but I know that a spray is no replacement for washing clothing. I think we get caught into patterns like this in our lives and in our faith as well. We look for things to refresh without looking at the root of the problem and tackling it there. The thing is the wash takes time and energy. It takes time to put it in, let it wash, then switch it to the dryer, and fold all the other clothing when it comes out so that it can be worn fresh again. When there are issues and conflict in our lives, it can be easy to look for the easy and quick solution. Something that doesn't take much thought or planning so that we can keep going, but the easy answer does not address deeper problems, and the reality is, the spray only works once or twice before the clothing needs to be washed in earnest. As we step into the new year, with everyone looking to new resolutions, we must remember to ask ourselves if what we are resolving is the easy solution or are we stepping into something deeper that will last and help us to be transformed long term. Jesus' teachings shied away from the easy answers and sought long-term change. The peace

on earth that Jesus brought was not a temporary band-aid that stopped arguments or rid the world forever from conflict, but rather was a way to live that helps us to live with one another through the hard times and the good times. God's peace comes with work on our parts to continue to bring about good in the world, and it takes time and effort to continue to bring about this change. In this season of change and new beginnings, I encourage us all to look to the ways that we can continue to bring forth lasting peace that looks like doing laundry instead of a refreshing spray.

Christian Education

Jamie Sladkey Meehan

CE Christmas Party

Our Christmas party was a blast! Enjoy some pictures from the event!



Cookie Decorating!



Even more decorating, with Santa hats!

We divided into 3 teams and had a "Human Christmas Tree" decorating competition!





Rachel Teaches Soren all about Christmas, especially about elves who sit on shelves!



The Red team!

The Green Team!



The Silver Team!



Sunday School

Sunday School is for children all the way up to 6th grade, we have separate materials for the older kids, and craft projects that relate to our Bible lessons for the younger kids.

ALL CHURCH NEWS



There will be a Congregational meeting on Sunday, January 15th to vote on the new trustees.

The Peace Memorial Residence Board will be holding their annual meeting to take place after the Congregational meeting on January 15th.



2023 Offering envelopes are ready to be picked up. They will be in the Narthex on the table.

BEAT THE WINTER BLUES

Peace Memorial Church
Saturday, January 28, 2023

6:00 pm Appetizers
7:00 pm Dinner & Fun!

Want to help shake off those winter blues? Meet us for a nice evening of friendship, food and fun!



Tickets available at the
Cafe \$10.00 per person.
Invite your friends to come with you!
Please contact Kathi Graben for more information



February Sneak Peek
Mark Your Calendars!

What: **Chili Cook Off**

When: Sunday, February 19th at 11:00

A Chili Cook off is being planned!

The Giving Tree

On behalf of District 91,
we would like to thank all
that participated in making
it a very Merry Christmas
for those families.

Pam Cornyn



Adventure Into the New Year

Gaile Sprissler



Like the New Year's baby, we begin the year covering our holistic self with just a small piece of material. What shall we *clothe* ourselves with in this coming year? Perhaps the way we make changes to our body or our style. Maybe our perceptions and judgments. Or, being open to new ideas and adventures. We could speak up, or speak out. Set the example, be the change. Delve into our deeper self by arranging more spiritual pursuits, looking within and strengthening our closeness to God.

We could give our adventurous spirit free reign with our imagination to create new possibilities in our life. Every goal must begin within us and then be nourished by heart, mind, and spirit before it can be manifested in the material world. We can take the first step on the journey of building our dreams when

we let our adventurous spirit lead the way.

Somewhere deep within each of us, we all yearn for a more inspired life and to feel the joy that comes from doing what we love. Discover what is holding you back and reconnect with your path and purpose. Using the power of our imaginations to create opportunities, we can learn to consciously harness the power of our creative thoughts and channel them toward the pursuit of our goals and dreams. We expand our possibilities. Enthusiasm knows no bounds when it is connected to the innermost desires of our soul.

Whether it's traveling to new places, a large purchase, a personal change, or a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit - don't put off till tomorrow what or where you could be today. You may like it and want to be in that place again tomorrow! *Clothe* your new self in wondrous ways. What will you be like next New Year!



January 1

Ruth Gross
Kathleen Krauss

January 3

Jillian Jerry
Donald Stille
Jane Sulek

January 4

Judith Jensen

January 6

Carmen Vondrak

January 9

Helen Lisak
Kellyn Maguire

January 10

Kelly Gansauer

January 11

Donna Cochonour

January 13

Russell Hook
Raymond Kujawa

January 15

Robert Anderson
Daniel Blaser

January 18

Charlotte Haase

January 20

Helen Espinoza
Scott Stille

January 25

Carter Sersland

January 26

Austin Stille

January 30

Mackenzie Tooth

JANUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am Worship 	2 7-9 pm Zion PMCMC	3 7-9 pm Zion Hall rental	4 7:00 am Volunteers 4-8:30 Zion Hall rental	5 3:30-9 pm Zion rental 7:00 Choir	6	7
8 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Worship & Music meeting Taking down the greens	9 7-9 pm Zion PMCMC	10 7-9 pm Zion Hall rental	11 7:00 am Volunteers 3:00 p.m. PADS 4-8:30 Zion Hall rental 7pm CE meeting	12 1 pm Bible Study 3:30-9 pm Zion rental 6:30 Foundation meeting 7:00 Choir	13	14
15 9:30 am Worship Congregational meeting	16 7-9 pm Zion PMCMC	17 7-9 pm Zion Hall rental 7:00 Alzheimer's meeting	18 7:00 am Volunteers 7 CE meets 4-8:30 Zion Hall rental 7:00 Trustees	19 1 pm Bible Study 3:30-9 pm Zion rental 7:00 Choir	20	21 Possible Zion Hall rental
22 9:30 Worship Joint Planning Committee meeting	23 MESSENGER DEADLINE 7-9 pm Zion PMCMC	24 7-9 pm Zion Hall rental	25 7:00 am Volunteers 4-8:30 Zion Hall rental	26 1 pm Bible Study 3:30-9 pm Zion rental 7:00 Choir	27	28 10 - 4 Stitchers - Chapel 6:30 Winter Blues dinner
29 9:30 am Worship	30 7-9 pm Zion PMCMC	31 7-9 pm Zion Hall rental				
	* PMCMC = Peace Memorial Church Monday Men's Club					



Peace Memorial Residence

Peace Memorial Church

10300 W. 131st Street
Palos Park, IL 60464
Phone (708) 448-7833
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Church Office Hours

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

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quiltrev@gmail.com

Jamie Sladkey Meehan

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**Visit our website Peace
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