



## Your monthly news & updates

### FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Pastor Judy Jones

The unexpected, the things that catch you off guard, or the unwelcomed changes to your life, those are the things we fear and dread the most. You know the feeling when life is going on as it should, when things happen as planned and you feel life is good. Then it happens, the one thing you were not prepared for, that thing you never thought would come to you. At times the unexpected could be a wonderful thing, perhaps you find out that a much wanted baby is on it's way, or you actually win the prize or the lottery. Those unexpected events are great. But there are other kinds of unexpected happenings that we do not greet with open arms, like a broken bone, a bill that is much larger than expected or the loss of a loved one. These are the unexpected, unwelcomed and even terrifying events that turn our world upside down. These are the unexpected events that cause worry lines to grow, that give us gray hair and that test our faith. We find ourselves feeling alone and frightened, wondering where to turn next. The options may be limited to a handful of friends or family members to turn to in these situations. Choosing the wrong person could leave you feeling worse than when you started. Some people will simply tell you that they have their own problems and can't help you. Others will belittle you and tell you to find your own way out of the predicament. You just might be lucky enough to find a person, a friend or family member that will offer you help and guidance without holding it over you.

Even in your darkest hour, when you doubt there is any way out of the trouble, when you feel on one else understands how you feel, or there is no reason to carry on, there is always one who will be with you. You can always turn to God, you can lean on the Savior, and you can look to the Holy Spirit for guidance. As my Mom used to say "God never promised you a rose garden, but He did promise to be with you no matter where you find yourself". Those words have guided me

through many difficult days. How comforting it is to know that you are not alone and how wonderful it is to become aware of the people that God sends to help you. Again it is often the most unexpected person who will light your way, give you a word of encouragement, or help you feel you are not alone. I have always been surprised by the unlikely folks who have come to my aide.

Perhaps today, or next week or even a year from now you will find yourself faced with the unexpected, frightening, unwelcomed and overwhelming event of life. Open yourself to those around you who will offer you compassion, a hand up or forgiveness to help you deal with the unexpected in life. Open yourself up to the love of God, the strength of Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. As you face the unexpected how will you take it on, with fear and trembling, with anger, or with the faith that you are in the presence of God? May these days of summer bring only wonderful surprises to you. But if you find yourselves caught unprepared, look to God.

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## **PMC President's Report**

Dennis Kirscher

It has been a long time since we had the possibility of having a settled Pastor here at Peace Memorial Church. The post pandemic job market made it even more challenging to find a candidate that was well suited for PMC. The pandemic forced us to think differently and make some changes in our routines here at church, choosing our next settled Pastor was no different. The search committee is committed to Rev. Moore and unanimous in agreement that he will provide great leadership for Peace Memorial Church. It is equally important that the congregation is comfortable with the candidate and that is difficult to accomplish in the hearing of one sermon. Therefore, on Sunday June 25th, we were afforded the opportunity to hold a Meet and Greet with Rev. Moore. On that day after the service, the congregation was able to speak with and get to know Rev. Kirk Moore as the search committee has over the last few months. Rev. Moore displayed his gregarious and outgoing nature as he answered questions posed by members of the congregation. I thought it was very ironic when I looked back and noticed that there were EXACTLY 20 questions submitted. Topics ranged from Rev Moore's family, his second marriage, 5 children in total, most of them grown, the youngest who is a senior in high school, and a cat! His background includes college, his first profession as a radio DJ, and in sales. He became interested in ministry early on when he was working at his home church as a Christian Ed coordinator and at Tower Hill as staff. He then attended seminary earning his degree while working full time. He had several pastorships over the next 20+ years, his last was over 10 years at his home church in Downers Grove. His most recent position was as a hospital chaplain. He is certified in music therapy and plays the guitar.

There were several questions related to the type of service and music we could expect with him as our Senior Pastor. His response was that he is open to all types of music, traditional and contemporary. He went on to

explain that his style of worship would probably not be very different from our present form of worship and that while there may be changes in the future, those changes would occur with congregational input and full consideration. In my opinion, we must expect some kind of change, or alteration, or addition to what we offer for worship in the future. Future is a key word here. We are not a young congregation, to survive and thrive, we will need to consider additional methods of worship which would attract a younger demographic to ensure a future for PMC without abandoning our current membership. Expanding horizons and maintaining a healthy portion of the status quo is not impossible.

I encourage all members who are able to attend church on Sunday July 9th for Rev. Moore's candidate sermon and to experience his style for yourselves and then cast your vote as you may choose.

### **Weekly Service Attendance**

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**June 4 (Communion Sunday)**  
9:30 am - 59

**June 11 (Congregational Meeting)**  
9:30 am - 112

**June 18**  
9:30 am - 62

**June 25**  
9:30 am - 102 (Meet and Greet with Reverend Kirk Moore)

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### **Christian Education**

Holly Jones



Can you believe it's July? Summer is in full swing, and this one has been one of the best! We all have been so busy! Vacations, fireworks, park hopping, summer reading challenges, lemonade stands, friends and of course... who could forget VBS? Christian Ed is eagerly awaiting the kick off of our Vacation Bible School, "Pets Unleashed", July 6th



and 7th! Our paw print sponsorships were a great success and the kids are getting so excited! Thank you to everyone who has helped get us to this point! Be sure to watch the bulletin and weekly emails for information on the Animal Encounter presentation on Saturday July 8th and be sure to join us to view our highlight reel during the church service on July 9th!

\*If you are still looking for a way to help VBS, we are asking for donations of old but clean t-shirts! We are hoping for about 30! Your donated shirt can be left in the bin by the Sunday School room. We will be collecting these the first weekend of July!

Just a reminder to our VBS Families: please send your child with a labeled water bottle and please sunscreen up! We are looking forward to an amazing event! Remember, Jesus cares FUR you!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
THURSDAY & FRIDAY  
July 6th-7th, 2023

\*Special Presentation\*  
Animal Encounters



July 8th  
12:30pm



**Open and Affirming Committee**

Russel Hook

On August 13th the ONA committee will be hosting the 2nd annual Rainbow Picnic in support of the South Suburban LGBTQ community.

There will be food, beverages, games, and information tables for those that attend. This picnic is open to everyone in the surrounding communities and of course open to all PMC members who would like to attend.

This picnic is not necessarily meant to gain new church members, but to let the LGBTQ community that PMC is a safe space for them, and of course are welcome to worship with us if they so choose to.

If you would like to help us that day, please contact Russ Hook or Linnea Rimkus

**Come one, come all! ALL ARE WELCOME!!!**

Russ Hook  
ONA Chairperson



Hello Summer! The PADS volunteers have been busy preparing meals for the homeless, not only in the winter, but every month of the year. You are entitled to an update on the meals prepared and the expenses involved to continue this program on behalf of Peace Memorial Church.

A picture is included in this message to share with you the complete meal that is prepared. The picture shows only one of the two pans of the casserole that is prepared. One of the large casserole pans has a cheese topping while the second one does not have a cheese topping. Additional items to complete the meal is 3 loaves of bread, a pan of green beans, a 5 pound pan of coleslaw, a small cup of peaches, and usually cookies for dessert. This dinner feeds 50 people each time we undertake the task of delivering this to our PADS contact person.

We are very conscious of food costs and attempt to grocery shop carefully to deliver a delicious, nutritious and economical dinner each and every time. During the last 6 months we have been able to provide this meal 9 times, for a total of 450 meals at a cost of \$1.85 per person. This cost besides the groceries purchased includes the variety of ingredients that go into the casseroles and the aluminum pans and lids necessary for transportable purposes.

PADS is very appreciative of the commitment Peace Memorial Church has continued to bring to many people struggling to adequately feed themselves and their families. **Thank you for your donations in the pink Mission envelopes that allows our church volunteers to keep this program moving forward.**

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### *Resilience*

Gaile Sprissler

We all have the ability to be resilient, but we need to



know and grow the skills that boost that quality. It's our ability to withstand life's challenges and bounce back. It's a trait you cultivate by working on certain skills that can help you cope with the myriad challenges of life. Resilient people are more resourceful. They experience more uplifting emotions, are physically healthier, and have better relationships.

There are different types of resilience that we need to develop in order to support ourselves during challenging times. These include physical resilience, mental resilience, emotional resilience and social resilience.

The cycles of life present themselves, play themselves out, and make smooth every passage and terrain. Try not to get caught up in the moment. Rather in looking forward will you find your peace. The cycles will redeem this moment, if you let them, and even this shall pass. We can plot out where we want to be and how we will get there through our own practice of prayer, meditation, study and ritual. Then when unexpected experiences throw us of course, we can make corrections and keep moving forward.

A perception error is the inability to judge humans, things or situations fairly and accurately. How do you deal with others' negative perceptions of you? Know that they ultimately only have as much power as you're willing to give them. Often they come from a place of fear or insecurity. You just have to have confidence in yourself and who you are. Learn to allow only opinions you value to matter. Determine the people that can best speak into your life and help give you direction. To be more resilient, stop, recognize the disruption, and take a minute to think about how you want to respond. Opt for solutions that represent your principles and protect your interests. Remember happy moments, the people who support you, your strengths, your purpose, and what you believe in.

Recognizing our purpose helps us focus our energy, fills us with courage, and bolsters resilience. Purpose can come from abiding by a set of values. To be resilient, take back your power and spend your energy toward actions that fulfill your life's purpose. And from this, what I hope you get most, is that whatever you do next, should be for the joy it brings you.

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## Summer Local Events Concerts, Fairs, and Festivals

### **Frankfort Bluegrass Festival**

The Travelin' McCourys and Tim O'Brien Band headline this 11th annual event at 10 a.m. **JULY 8** and 9 on Briedert Green. Admission is free. At Kansas and Oak streets. 815-469-6321 (Steve Haberichter at Down Home Guitars); [frankfortbluegrassfest.com](http://frankfortbluegrassfest.com).

### **Palos Hills' Friendship Fest**

A carnival and live music are included from 6 to 10:30 p.m. **JULY 13**, 6 p.m. to midnight **JULY 14**, noon to midnight **JULY 15** and 1 to 10:30 p.m. **JULY 16** at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills. Admission is free. At 9000 W. College Parkway. 708-430-4500; [paloshillsweb.org](http://paloshillsweb.org) and click on Friendship Fest under Parks & Recreation in Departments.

## Taste of Orland Park

Local restaurants and live music are part of this 20th anniversary event from 5 to 11 p.m. **AUG. 4**, 1 to 11 p.m. **AUG 5** and 1 to 9 p.m. **AUG 6** outside Village Hall. Admission is free. At 14700 Ravinia Ave. 708-403-6283; [orlandpark.org](http://orlandpark.org).

## Will County Fair

Will County Fair Association event is from 8 a.m. to midnight **AUG. 23** to 27 at Will County Fairgrounds in Peotone. Admission is \$1 **AUG. 23** for Family Day, \$2 **AUG. 24** for Seniors & Veterans Day and \$5 daily **AUG. 24** to 27; free for ages 9 and younger daily. At 710 S. West St. 708-258-9359; [willcountyfair.org](http://willcountyfair.org).

## Hickory Hills Carnival

This sixth annual event is from 5 to 10 p.m. **AUG. 24**, 5 to 11 p.m. **AUG. 25**, noon to 11 p.m. **AUG. 26** and noon to 10 p.m. **AUG 27** at Kasey Meadow Park. Mega Pass is sold **JULY 31** to **AUG. 23** for \$55. Daily passes are sold on-site. At 8047 W. 91st Place. 708-598-1233; [hhparkdistrict.org](http://hhparkdistrict.org) can click on Special Events under Events & Activities in Programs & Registration.



### July 1

Alexis Mack

### July 2

Barbara Ritter

### July 3

Rylee Kruse  
Tasha Sulek

### July 4

Adam Kueltzo  
Stacy Pratscher

### July 6

Cynthia Ward

### July 7

David Johnson

### July 8

Patricia Johnson

### July 10

Charlie Mack  
Gerry Przybylski  
Mattison Schneider

### July 12

Thomas Angone  
Jacqueline Medyk

### July 14

Karen Blaser  
Raymond Kruse IV

### July 15

Jason Schneider

### July 17

Samantha Miulli

### July 18

Peggy Mann

### July 19

William Jerry  
Darryl Onak

### July 20

Scott Mason

### July 21

Joey Miulli  
Deborah Swieringa

### July 22

Alan White

### July 23

Chris Jones

### July 24

Thomas Kamphuis Sr.  
James Keyser

### July 28

Elaine Angone  
Kaitlyn Nestor

### July 29

Beth Tooth

# JULY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30 am Communion Sunday Worship	3	4 OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY 4 <sup>th</sup> of JULY 	5 7:00 am Volunteers  7pm CE	6 9:00 – 12:00 p.m. VBS  1 pm Bible Study	7 9:00 – 12:00 p.m. VBS	8 12:30 p.m. VBS Animal Presentation Pavilion or Zion Hall 2:00 p.m. Youth center rental
9 All day Pavilion rental 9:30amWorship VBS presentation Congregational meeting/ Pastoral vote	10	11	12 7:00 am Volunteers 3:00 p.m. PADS 7:00 p.m. ONA meeting	13 1 pm Bible Study  6:30 p.m. Foundation meeting	14	15
16 All day Pavilion rental 9:30 am Worship 10:45 Music & Worship	17 MESSENGER ARTICLES DEADLINE	18 7:00 pm Alzheimer's meeting	19 7:00 am Volunteers 11-1 Lifestyles pavilion 7:00 Trustees	20 1 pm Bible Study	21	22 10:00 – 4:00 Stitchers - Chapel
23 Godstock at Tower Hill All day Pavilion rental 9:30 am Worship	24 Godstock at Tower Hill	25 Godstock at Tower Hill	26 Godstock at Tower Hill  7:00 am Volunteers	27 Godstock at Tower Hill  1 pm Bible Study	28 Godstock at Tower Hill last day	29
30 9:30 am Worship 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Pavilion rental SWIFT picnic	31					



## Church Office Hours

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

## Pastor Judy Jones

Interim Senior Minister  
quiltrev@gmail.com

## Samantha Miulli

Interim Christian Education Coordinator  
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## Robert Mohr



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Roger Ellens .....CEO/Executive Director

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