



## Your monthly news & updates

Moore thoughts . . .  
*Pastor Kirk's Ponderings –*

# Beginnings

***“School has started again --  
so lets go back to Church”***

*Said, statistically, by fewer people  
every year.*

It used to be . . .

- That the church building was the center of folks' social lives. They spent time there not only every Sunday, but also several times during the week.
- That folks didn't take off summers from Church -- they just went year-round.
- That sports, schools, and other organizations didn't schedule events on Sundays so that folks could go to church.
- That after the summer was over, folks who took off church for the season came back excited for a new year.



And you can insert your own, “It used to be” phrase, too. And I'm sure that most of them would relate to the importance folks used to place on attending church and how many people there were who were active in the life of the church.

And things are not the same as they used to be.

We can spend our time complaining that things aren't the way they used to be. We can lament and say that if only things would be the way they used to be, we'd be right back on track.

Or . . . we could continue to look for more ways to be a vibrant and vital congregation who serve God and each other in a world where things are the way they are.

Remember what a beautiful congregation we have at Peace Memorial Church. Celebrate our wonderful worship services, service opportunities, giving opportunities, social gatherings, education, welcome inclusivity, and all the things that make PMC wonderful.

And invite more and more and more people to experience it, too. Even though, statistically, there are less and less people who are interested in being part of a church community, there still are many who are. So let's invite as many people as possible.

And then let's all continue to stay involved with our time, our talent, our financial support, our presence, and all our love as we seek to grow in spirit, strength, and numbers.

And we can start it all . . .

# Now

*Pastor Kirk*

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## PMC Report

Diane Oremovich

I can't believe it is almost fall. Summer seems to always goes by quickly. The great news is we are seeing more activity at the church!

Over the last few weeks, a group of members have come together and have created a draft vision statement for our church. It was good to hear the congregation share their thoughts. We will be sharing the statement soon. Thank you to Pastor Moore for leading us through this process. The Trustees are taking this feedback to decide where we want our programming and mission activity to go in the future.

On August 18th, we had the blessing of the backpacks to kick off the start of Sunday School on September 8th, which will also be our annual Celebration Sunday. Please try to join us and see the many groups in our church that are working on our mission. The celebration will take place in the pavilion, after worship, weather permitting. Wear your jeans and join the fun!

Quick update on the gym as the contract for replacement flooring has been signed. The steps for completing this project include, floor prep, tile placement, sports markings, and waxing. We look forward to seeing the gym project completed!

This year's Big Build is coming up quickly approaching on September 20th & 21st. It is a great event that brings people together from the community to see one of

the many missions of our church. Please consider joining the activity and show what it means to be part of Peace Memorial Church.

**Follow the link for registration:**

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/PeaceMemorial1/CREWBigBuild2024>

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## Weekly Service Attendance

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**August 4 (Communion Sunday)**

**9:30 am - 103**

**August 11**

**9:30 am - 42**

**August 18**

**9:30 am - 73**

**August 25**

**9:30 am - 50**

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## MISSION COMMITTEE



The changing of the seasons from summer to autumn re-energizes us with cooler temperatures and more organized activities.

The collection of Kleenex, paper towels, and Lysol wipes was much appreciated by the two schools that received your donations. The schools receiving your contributions were the Orland Park School District #35 and Kelvin Grove School in Lockport. Thank you for participating in this project.

On August 7th several members of the Mission Committee hosted an ice cream social for the residents of Peace Village Circle Memory Care. Everyone enjoyed their ice cream covered in sprinkles and whipped cream with homemade cookies on the side.

Earlier this year the members of the Knitting and Crochet Club at Peace Village were approached to make scarves and hats with yarn we supplied for them. The yarn we provided were in colors that would appeal more to the masculine preferences. The seven scarves and eight hats were picked up last week and will be used for our holiday gifts this year. The ladies at Peace Village created a wonderful collection for us.

During the month of September, we are requesting your participation in collecting "pop tops" from your beverages, soup cans or other items with "pop tops". These will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Oak Lawn. The Ronald McDonald House partners with United Scrap Metal by selling the "pop tops" to them. The funds from the sale will help provide resources for families in need at the Ronald McDonald charities. A box will be available to receive your donations of the "pop tops" at the "Welcome" desk during the month of September. Remember, doing this as a congregation, will help those families in need.



*Dear Congregation of the Peace Memorial Church,*

*Thank you very much for the donation of school supply items for our students and classrooms. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is greatly appreciated!*

*Sincerely,  
Kelvin Grove School*



## ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST 2024

Plans for our Annual Oktoberfest are well underway for Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Food – Bratwurst, hotdogs, hamburgers, green beans, German potato salad, sauerkraut, desserts, and assorted beverages.

The Schnitzel's are again returning for your listening, singing, & dancing pleasure. Those who attended last year will remember what a great band they were.

There will be a silent auction and a 50/50 raffle with proceeds going to PADS. We will also have games and activities that will be set up for the children.

This year I am asking for our church members to help donate items to make gift baskets to support our cause. Ideas for basket items below or feel free to bring a ready-made basket.

- Baking ware (pans, spatulas, mixes, sprinkles)
- Beer, wine (glasses, steins, coasters)
- Books
- Christmas (decorations, towels, knickknacks)
- Coffee & tea
- Crafts
- Children's games & toys
- Halloween (games, decorations)
- Ice cream (cups, cones, sprinkles, bowls)
- Movie (tickets, popcorn, candy)
- Sports (balls, games, trading cards)
- Spa (towels, masks, creams)

If there are any other ideas, GO FOR IT!! Monetary donations are always welcome.

Help is always wanted and needed in all areas of the event. Any questions, please call or see me in the church.

Thank you, Pam Cornyn

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## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Holly Jones

# MEET LILY



Lily is 9 years old!  
She likes to ice skate and has a lot of friends! Her favorite color is blue and she likes hot dogs!

Do you have a favorite stuffed animal?

My favorite blanket (knitted by Pam Cornyn) stuffed into a teddy bear.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

Teacher

What do you like most about Sunday School?

Crafts and Aunt Sam

Do you have a favorite song we sing in church?

Songs from VBS

What makes you happiest?

All of the Sunday School kids

Why do you like Peace Memorial?

Because we get donuts

after church!



We're back! Welcome to September! This summer seemed to fly by, but here we are! Our kids have been in school for a while and Sunday School is finally starting back up September 8th! I recently had the joy of asking our kids what their favorite parts of the summer were, and their answers really surprised me. These gracious kids



loved everything; "delivering gifts to TLC Animal Shelter, holding cats, going to Wisconsin, visiting the petting zoo, going tubing, going to Ohio, and the Taylor Swift impersonator show". At first, I thought their responses would have been more generalized, "being off school" "going swimming"... but what I heard instead was deeper than that. These elementary aged kids all had one message. All the things they loved most about this summer could be summarized in one word; LOVE. The trips to Wisconsin and Ohio were family vacations, spending the afternoon at

the animal shelter with friends (and adorable kittens) was love, the concerts were with friends who became family, and all of it was something to fill their hearts. Every week I am blessed to interact with our Sunday School kids and watch the friendships they have formed blossom, both inside and outside of the church, fills MY heart.

August was a big month for our generous kids. We visited both the TLC Animal Shelter, and a womens' shelter. We had made homemade dog and cat toys and were finally able to donate them to animals who really appreciated them! The dogs really seemed to enjoy their braided chew toys! The 6 week old kittens were everyone's favorites (especially mine!)

Our next donation was a gift to the Crisis Center which were our handmade Australian favorite "wash-a-roos"! During this summer's VBS, we shaped washcloths into kangaroos who held a bar of soap! The shelter was gracious to accept these for any of their incoming children. While this experience was different than playing with kittens, the love and the generosity was exactly the same. Our "Peace Kids" sure know how to give back!

Give back.... Welcome back... Backpack! We also celebrated the beginning of a new school year with our annual Blessing of the Backpacks! Each year we invite all our students, teachers and pretty much anyone with a bag to start September off full of prayer and positivity. I know for a fact the prayer tags hold strong through an entire school year, just like the prayers themselves. It's going to be a great school year!

### Christian Education UPCOMING DATES

- Celebration Sunday September 8th
- Trunk or Treat October 26th





**Peace Memorial Church, A View to Our Church's History**  
**Chapter Three**  
**Part 1: Our Pastoral Leadership 1886-1956**

Over the course of the history of Peace Memorial Church, we have employed 15 Called (Senior) Pastors as well as a large number of associate and interim ministers to serve our congregation. I have been around long enough to have experienced the various pastoral leadership styles and personalities of nearly half of them. I am neither bragging nor complaining about that, it's just because I am that old! I will cover the first 70 years in this section and the next 68 years in Part 2 and I will try to cover associate ministers and other staff in part 3! In 1886, when Peace Memorial was in its infancy it was called "Die Evangelische Friedens Gemeinde" (The Evangelical Peace Community) and had no designated pastor. History tells me the Rev. W. Hattendorf conducted



the services until 1887 when the congregation called its first pastor, Rev R. Heinze. Rev Heinze was with the congregation for a short time and resigned 1889, during a "very turbulent period!" In 1889 the second pastor, Rev V. Henning was called, and served at the astounding rate of \$40.00 per month until 1891 when he resigned due to issues regarding the church's indebtedness after the construction of the first church building. The cost of that building was \$7,450.00!

Our next pastor, Rev Karl Frietag was with PMC for a period of 13 years. Under Rev Frietag's leadership, history tells me the congregation grew from 345 to over 1,000 members in spite of turmoil and conflict within the congregation. During this period the "Mutual Aid Society" was founded, society members were assessed "premiums" that were used as death benefits to pay for expenses! Also, a second branch congregation was created, St Philipus at 36<sup>th</sup> and Seely, AND a savings bank was founded due to the questionable reliability of other community banks at the time!

The fourth called pastor at PMC was Rev. Louis Kohlmann, described as "a mild-mannered man with a participative style of leadership". During his years of service, the first Parsonage was built at 52<sup>nd</sup> and Justine. Rev Kohlmann is responsible for the "Bote" which was the first PMC Messenger, published at that time only in German! Additionally, Rev Kohlmann directed the mission efforts of PMC toward healthcare endeavors, providing active leadership and church financial support to the German Deaconess Hospital at 5400 S Morgan St, a forerunner of today's Advocate Health Care System! SEVERAL years later, I was born at that hospital! Rev Kohlmann was a very interactive pastor and during the Flu pandemic of 1919 made frequent home visits to members suffering from the flu, also conducting 140 funerals in one year! Unfortunately, he became a victim of that pandemic and passed away in late 1919.

Our fifth called pastor Rev Herbert J. Brodt who had served as an intern to Rev Frietag in 1904 while in seminary, was called shortly after Rev Kohlmann's passing in 1919. Pastor Brodt has been described as "futuristic and business oriented". I have heard him described by some of our long-time members as very firm in his methods and at times at odds with some of the congregation! Our church history tells me he had some pretty good ideas on how to grow a church. Under his direction two city blocks of Chicago in the area of 78<sup>th</sup> and Laflin were purchased and sold to church members to fund future building and provide a community for members. In 1922 it was decided to offer a second Sunday service in English at the request of many of the younger members at the time who did not speak German. In 1923 the Parish House was constructed and Sunday services were held there as plans were made for a larger sanctuary to serve the congregation. The Great Depression of the 1930's and World War II significantly delayed the construction of the sanctuary which was not completed until 1951. Both of these structures still stand at 78<sup>th</sup> and Laflin in Chicago. In the late 30's, after Celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the church's name was changed from Die Evangelische Friedens Gemeinde to Peace Memorial Church. In the early 40's the parsonage at 78<sup>th</sup> street was converted into a nursing home staffed by volunteers serving PMC members only. This set the path for a future nursing home in Evergreen Park. Living up to his strong (many may have called it stubborn) constitution, Pastor Herbert Brodt had a "falling out" with the denomination and Elmhurst College and PMC pulled out of the Evangelical and Reformed (E&R) denomination. Not long after that while seeking contributions to build a

hospital, Pastor Herbert Brodt passed away.

In 1954, PMC called its 7<sup>th</sup> Senior Pastor, Rev Robert D. Brodt, the son of pastor Herbert Brodt. I am told that Robert had a kinder, gentler style of leadership than his father. He re-established membership in the E&R denomination and established the first Board of Christian Education at Peace Memorial Church. He was a family man who lived with his wife and children just a short walk from the church. Unfortunately, Rev. Bob as many called him, passed away at a very young age in his own home and was unable to continue the legacy his father had started.

I will continue next month's article with Senior Pastor Rev Robert T. Fauth. Pastor Fauth is the first of all the PMC pastors that I can contribute personal accounts. Please let me know if you have questions or comments regarding these PMC history segments. Thanks!

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### Get to Know a Trustee

Michael Koch



Greetings, my name is Michael Koch. I have been a member of Peace Memorial Church since 1986. My family includes my wife Elizabeth (Liz), and our amazing little girl, Micah. My mother and father (Kathy and Keith Koch) are members of the church and have shown me through the years what service looks like in supporting a church. My sister Nicole Bubash, her children; Alex and Addy are also members of the church. I was active in the many supported youth initiatives and was blessed to have participated in the mission trips. It taught me to look outside our walls and help anyone who is in need. I have been a trustee for a year and am the liaison to the Fellowship committee.

I grew up in Tinley Park and currently reside there. I recently began a new role as Merchandising Manager of Cook's Direct in Woodridge, IL. Before that, I spent over 10 years at Restaurant Depot as a Senior Buyer.

I am one of the younger members of the trustees and hope to encourage younger people to really take a look at our church and to see what it has to offer. Our family has seen many changes throughout the years in the life of the church. One thing which remains constant is the members of the church

are always there for each other. I have been blessed over the years to have received a strong foundation and will do all I can to support our growth.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Koch

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## **Thank You to the Fellowship Committee**

Michael Koch

A huge thank you goes out to the Fellowship committee. This group of dedicated church members plans, presents activities and events which encourage a sense of fellowship and community within the congregation, their families and the community at large. A few examples of the events presented are the Easter breakfast and the sponsoring of Super Bowl subs. We believe these events, and others, nurture the congregation through meaningful fellowship experiences. The dedication of this community of volunteers, dedicated to providing growth within the congregation is amazing!

Please extend a big thank you to the members of the Fellowship committee: Mandy Ambrose, Donna Kallemeyn, Pat Ostrowski, and Gaile Sprissler.

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### **ALL CHURCH NEWS**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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\*Come be a Piece of Peace!  
Join us for

# CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Sunday September 8th!

Come for worship &  
stay for the FUN!

**Music!**  
and so much more

**Games!**  
for kids & adults

**Food will  
be provided!**

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

**708-448-7833**

Connect with us!  
Visit us @pmcucc.org  
Follow us on Facebook  
tiktok: @tooldforthishtiktok



**C.R.E.W.**   
the hand that extends

**BIG BUILD  
WEEKEND**

**SEPTEMBER  
20TH & 21ST  
2024**



• **Day 1 Sept 20th 3:30-6pm**

Cut and sort materials. Experienced professionals needed for cut. All welcome to help sort.



• **Day 2 Sept 21st 7:30am-1:30pm**

Build and assemble wall sections. Individuals 5+ at all skill levels welcome! Join us for the dedication of the completed project and loading the walls for transport.




## Join us!

Help construct the walls of two houses to benefit Habitat For Humanity! Saturday participants will receive continental breakfast, lunch, and a T-shirt.

### DONATION AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Peace Memorial Church UCC 

[pmc.ucc.crew@gmail.com](mailto:pmc.ucc.crew@gmail.com) 

[www.pmcucc.org](http://www.pmcucc.org) 



*Join us for the next installment  
on our continuing journey  
through the music of the church  
for the last several hundred  
years*

**Saturday September 28th  
6:00pm**



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



Peace Memorial Church  
**Oktoberfest**

Friday, October 11th, 5 - 9 PM  
10300 W 131st, Palos Park

**LIVE MUSIC, DANCING,  
GREAT FOOD & DRINK!**

To benefit Peace Memorial Church  
and PADS Ministries

Adults: \$15

Children 5-9: \$8

50/50  
RAFFLE

CHILDREN'S  
ACTIVITIES

SILENT  
AUCTION

Tickets Available at  
Church Office 708-448-7833

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## *FLOW*

Gaile Sprissler

“We all accept too easily that life has to be hard and forget to make sure we have the most fun we can.” \_\_\_Amy Schumer

It's easy, everything is supposed to be easy. Sometimes we're surrounded by illusions. And illusions can change what we are thinking. Often our negative or fatalistic thinking about ordeals and hardships we're presently suffering sets us down a dark path.

Believe and our life will be transformed. If we can imagine it, we can have it. We are not

You don't always need a plan.  
Sometimes you just need to  
breathe, trust, let go and see  
what happens.



limited by logic, the past, or the world around us. Miracles and luck are the outcomes of dreaming and acting despite appearances.

Life takes us where we need to go for reasons that are deeper than our own understanding. Sometimes God uses struggles to build us. Trials can deepen our life experience and spiritual belief system. Surrendering to the moment can help us let go of the stress of trying to force a certain outcome, and provide opportunities for new joys to come our way. It's not about throwing up our hands in resignation, but rather lifting the burden of worrying about the things we can't influence or predict. Letting go of control doesn't mean giving up or being passive

in life. It's realizing that for whatever reason we are meant to go through this. Recognizing that there are some things we can't do anything about, and that focusing on what we can do to make the best of the situation, will often bring surprising results. It allows us to be more present and live more fully.

In our response to difficulty, we can see all the patterns and unresolved emotional baggage that stands in the way of our joy. Joy exists within us whether things go our way or not. We can still trust that we can find it if we are willing to surrender to the situation. It's not that we go through it, it's how we become on the other side. We can emerge transformed – lighter, braver, and more confident for having been through it.

When we move with the flow, rather than resisting it, we trust that we are taken where we need to be at all times. Are we willing to go with it or resist it.

Stepping into the flow can help us feel a connection to a force that is greater than us and is always there to support us. It can be effortless, exhilarating, and unexpected. We open ourselves to possibilities that exist beyond the grasp of our control. Our souls are comfortable when we flow with the universe. We just have to make the choice to do so. It's easy.



**September 2**  
Patricia Ostrowski

**September 3**  
Alan Kloos  
Susan Kukla

**September 6**  
Theresa Graben  
Derek Hevel  
Mark Schmeltzer

**September 7**  
Rachel Jones

**September 9**

**September 14**  
Miriam Sciacchitano

**September 15**  
Connie Nolan

**September 16**  
Joan Murray

**September 17**  
Morgan Miller

**September 18**  
Linnea Rimkus

**September 21**  
Melissa Maguire

**September 23**  
Brooke Miller  
Evelyn Gleisner  
Charley Smith  
Steven Stille

**September 25**  
Annabelle Fazekas  
Mary Overbey  
Susan Schneider-Misale

**September 27**



Zane Gill

**September 10**

Jada Perry

**September 11**

Amanda Ferris

Eric Kueltzo

**September 12**

Carlton Meyer

Carol Ritter

**September 19**

Matthew Rudnicki

Cheryl Watson

**September 20**

Steven Baker

Keith Koch

Debra Reed

Michele Kiela

Lisa Korbitz

Ruth Van Hecke

**September 28**

Beverly Baker-Meyer

Lori Mason

**September 29**

Chloe Schneider

Richard Przybylski

# SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 7:00 am Volunteers	5	6	7 12 – 8:00 pm YC/pavilion usage
8 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am Celebration Sunday Picnic	9	10  7:00 pm Alzheimer's meeting	11 7:00 am Volunteers 10 am B&G 3 PM PADS 7:00 pm CE meeting	12	13	14
15 9:30 am Worship  11 am to 6 pm pavilion youth center usage	16	17	18 7:00 am Volunteers 7:00 pm Trustees meeting	19 MESSENGER ARTICLES DEADLINE  6:30 pm Foundation	20  3:30 – 6 pm BIG BUILD	21 7:30 am – 1:30 pm BIG BUILD  10 am – 4 pm Stitchers/ chapel
22 9:30 am Worship	23	24	25 7:00 am Volunteers	26	27	28  6 pm Music The Language of Faith
29 9:30 am Worship	30					

**Church Office Hours**

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

**Reverend Kirk Moore**

Senior Pastor  
kmoore@pmcucc.org

**Samantha Miulli**

Director of Christian Education  
smiulli@pmcucc.org

**Robert Mohr**

Director of Music  
peacememohrial@gmail.com

**Thomas R. Osborne**

Organist  
mmued@yahoo.com

**Mary Anne Bixler**

Office Manager  
mbixler@pmcucc.org

**Lily Field**

Accountant  
lfield@pmcucc.org

**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

**Peace Memorial Church**

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

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