

From the Pastor Rev. Kirk Moore

Laetare

Lent is a season of self-reflection, prayer, fasting, and acts of love. It is a more somber time in the church year as we prepare for the celebration of Easter.

And, of course, within those 40 days of Lent are little celebration days -- the Sundays - which are like little Easters.

And then there is Laetare. It's the 4th Sunday of Lent. 2/3 of the way to Easter,



and a little larger reminder of the rejoicing that is to come.

Laetare means Rejoice in Latin. And on this Sunday we pay special attention to God's love, our relationship with God, and the importance of seeing and loving God in everyone. It's similar to the third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete.

In a time of world turmoil and awfulness, how is it possible to rejoice?

We can continue to advocate for a just peace, liberation of the oppressed, and for all to be treated with dignity and respect. We can rejoice in the innate value of every person.

Remember that during Lent, through April 8, the 5 UCC Congregations in the area, (Christ Memorial Blue Island, Immanuel Evergreen Park, Salem and Pilgrim Faith Oak Lawn, and PMC) are combining to offer a Bible study on Zoom. We start at 6:30 pm Tuesday evenings and will go to about 7:30. Pastor Kirk will be leading this Tuesday's sessions. If you're interested, you can pick up or order a copy of the book at <u>most bookstores</u> or <u>online booksellers.</u>

Join in any or all of the study times.<u>Here's a link to head to Tuesdays at 6:30 pm.</u>

We're also continuing with our Lenten Devotional, "Into the Deep" study every Thursday at 1 pm.

For this Fourth Sunday of Lent, please join us for worship, when we're going to be talking about some familiar lost things from Luke 15.. See below for a sermon preview.

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

Grace and Peace

Pastor Kírk



A Peace sermon preview for March 30, 2025

Not seeing a video still frame? <u>Check here for a whole playlist of sermon previews</u>.



Punishment

Sometimes people get into trouble. Sometimes it's because of being in the wrong place at the time. **Sometimes** wrong iť's because of making mistakes. Sometimes it's because of saying the right thing to the wrong people. All too often it's

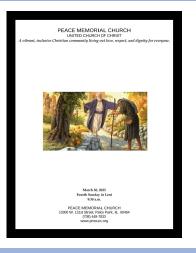
because people in places of power have stacked the deck to make things better for them at the expense of people who aren't in positions of power.

And the people in positions of power want to punish the ones who are now in trouble.

- Throw those thugs in jail.
- Build a wall to keep those criminals out.
- Drug test the poor people so they don't steal food stamps.
- Stop paying your bills and then demonize the folks who now can't pay their bills because of it.
- Attempt to marginalize the voices of those who call for equality and justice with the politics of fear of "the other"
- Punish, punish, punish. Never forgive.

The people listening to Jesus in the "lost things" parables from Luke 15 may have had a sense who was in and who was out and about what God would do for them. And, as usual, Jesus had something to say on the matter that turned things in a different direction.

There are three "lost things" parables that Jesus' told in reaction to the Pharisee's grumbling about the people Jesus welcomed. We'll explore them this Sunday.



Bulletin for Sunday, March 30, 2025

<u>Calendar</u>

Sunday, March 30 9:30 a.m. – Sunday Worship service 10:30 a.m. – Fellowship 10:45 a.m. – ONA meeting

7:00 p.m. - Zion Hall rental

Monday, March 31 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. – PMCMMC/ Zion Hall Tuesday, April 1 6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. - voting/Zion Hall

Wednesday, April 2 7:00 a.m. – Volunteers 6:00 p.m. – Choir practice 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. – Open Play Pickleball/Zion Hall

Thursday, April 3 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Open Play Pickleball/Zion Hall 1:00 p.m. – Bible study

Saturday, April 5

8:30 - 11:30 a.m. - Easter Bunny Breakfast/Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 6

9:30 a.m. – Sunday Worship service 10:30 a.m. – Annual Congregational Meeting 10:45 a.m. – Fellowship 11:30 a.m. – Chapel rental

Birthdays

March 31 Lillian Matkovich Pam Cornyn

April 1 Eleanor Gehrs

April 2 Theresa Kamphius Sarah Zuniga

News, Announcements, Gifts, Memorials, and Prayer Concerns

Ushers 3-30-25 – Gordon Sieveke, Keith Koch, Diane Oremovich **Ushers 4-6-25** – Shawn Roorda, Darryl Onak, David Johnson, Joey Sciacchitano

Memorials in Honor of:

Judi Lisak remembered on the day of her passing, March 24, 2021, by Rich Lisak and family.

Jeanine Gerard remembered by Alan & Theresa Kloos; Janet Hansen.

New Prayers: **Bryan Berry** after his passing by Patricia Burger; prayer of gratitude for **Joe & Lawrence Spoors and Gail Jefchak** for the amazing Easter display in Zion Hall.

Continued Prayers: For Kathy Kozlowski strength & healing as she begins another aggressive round of chemo by Bill & Karen Blaser; Janet Evertsen bypass surgery by Chris & Joe Ferrantelli; Kenneth Koch, brother of Carl Brian Koch, passed away March 2nd; Malik, the son of Linda Kallemeyn's friend Christy; Cathy Onak who had major shoulder surgery on the 13th, prayers for strength and healing; Carol Vitello, dear friend of Michael Horn and Ken Ochsenhofer, prayers for strength & healing; Claire Schneider prayers for healing and strength; Pat Finn beginning testing to be placed on the lung transplant list; Roger Jacobson, lifelong friend of Ray & Jo Kujawa after recovering after heart transplant surgery; Michelle Vondrak, Carmen's daughter-in-law, going through cancer treatment; Jan Pratscher recovering after cancer surgery; Nancy Di Novo rehabbing after her surgery; Russ Hook for healing and strength; Gordon Sieveke prayers for strength and healing.

This Sunday, the Peace Café will be sponsored by Russ Hook.

PMC Peace Pickleball is getting started. - Wahoo!!!! This will be a place and time for us to: have fun, meet people, learn about and play pickleball. Tuesday and Thursdays: 10:00am-2:00pm - Open Play Wednesday evenings: 6:30pm-8:30pm - Open Play

Please join us for **Bible Study on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m** in the Chapel.



Any time -- even during the worship service -You can donate electronically to PMC through tithe.ly. Simply scan this QR Code, or use the <u>"donate" link</u> on our church website or at the bottom of this email. Thank you!



Community Screening May 4 - 2:00 pm

We've arranged with the distributors of this year's Academy award-winning documentary, "No Other Land," to host a community screening here at PMC. We're planning on hosting the screening Sunday, May 4 at 2 pm, after which we'll have a panel discussion with local experts.

No Other Land is a 2024 documentary film directed by Basel Adra, Hamdan Ballal, Yuval Abraham and Rachel Szor in their directorial debut. The film was made by a Palestinian-Israeli collective of four activists in what they

describe as an act of resistance on the path to justice.

Church Directory Updates

We're updating contact info in our Church Directory in anticipation of a new edition in April. If you have any change of address or contact information, please submit it to the church office no later than this Sunday, March 30. Thank you!



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



Anniversary

Thinking of You



New Baby Thank You Sympathy



Free will donations to benefit Christian Ed



BUNNY BREAKFAST BAKE SALE

WE ARE LOOKING FOR DONATIONS OF BAKED GOODS SATURDAY APRIL 5TH!



PMC & Community Event BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY & EASTER EGG HUNT

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday April 5, 2025 8:30 am to 11:00 am Peace Memorial Church 10300 W. 131st Street Palos Park, IL 60464 708-448-7833 Free Will Donation Appreciated EASTER EGG HUNT AT 11:00 AM BRING YOUR OWN BASKET

> GAMES & CRAFTS Bake Sale Too!

GREAT TIME!

TAKE PICTURES WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

HOP IN FOR

Easter Memorials and Lily Order Form
Easter Memorials For:
From:

Lily Plants in Memory or in Honor of @ \$15.00 each Quantity
In Memory/Honor of
Person/persons Ordering
IF ORDERING LILIES PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH YOUR PAYMENT BY Sunday, April 6, 2025 MEMORIALS ARE DUE Sunday, April 13, 2025

Join us Friday April 11th 7:00pm

includes bottle, paint supplies & instruction

B wine tasting

Find a wine you liked? Have a glass or two!

Complimentary charcuterie and sweets

Any questions? Contact Dennis Kirscher

> Email: info@pmcucc.org

Proceeds to benefit PMC CREW

RSVP by April 6th

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

21+ EVENT ONLY

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HOLY WEEK PEACE MEMORIAL CHURCH

Maundy Thursday 4/17 Maundy Thursday Soup Supper 6:00pm Service with Communion 7:00pm

> Good Friday 4/18 Service 7:00pm

Easter Sunday 4/20 Breakfast 8:30am Service with the Living Cross and Communion 9:30am

> Peace Memorial Church 10300 W. 131st St, Palos Park 708-448-7833 pmcucc.org



Easter morning

potluck breakfast



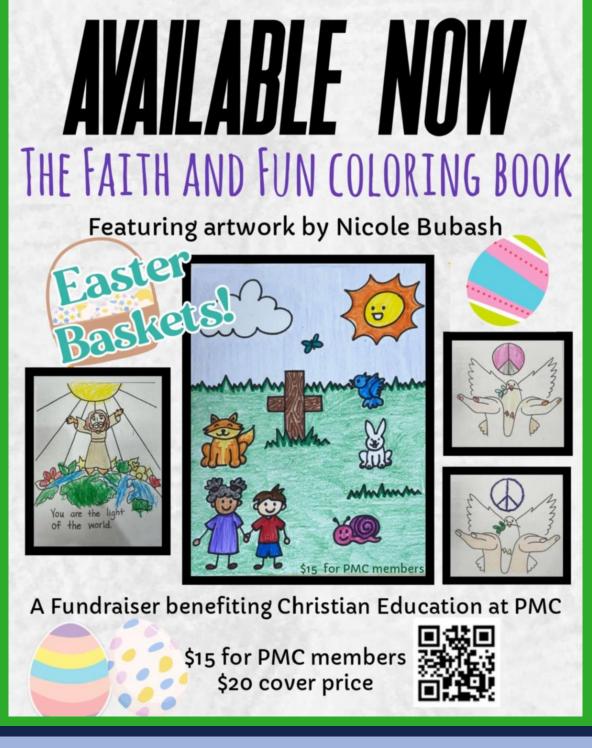
8:30am*

We will provide bacon, sausage, eggs and fruit! *Please have your dishes ready to serve in Zion Hall by 8:00am

Sign up sheets in the Narthex or on signupgenius.com



See Mandi Ambrose for more information



A vibrant, inclusive Christian community living out love, respect, and dignity for everyone.



Peace Memorial Church An Open and Affirming Congregation of the UCC Church Office Hours Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Pastor Kirk Moore Senior Minister kmoore@pmcucc.org

Samantha Miulli Director of Christian Education smiulli@pmcucc.org

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

Peace Village 10300 Village Circle Drive Palos Park, IL 60464 (708) 361-6091

Peace Village Circle Inn (708) 671-2470

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> Peace Memorial Church, UCC Facebook Page

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