### July 2025 Vol. CXVIII No. 7



### Your monthly news & updates

Moore thoughts . . . Pastor Kirk's Ponderings –

# Attendance



# "It's not about the numbers."

Spoken by a pastor from any church - even though they don't mean it

Truth is – in the Palos/Orland area, it's pretty easy to gauge the vitality of a congregation by the number of folks in the pews on Sunday morning. Fill up the sanctuary - and feel the energy and the vitality – conduct worship in a sparsely attended service - and feel the weariness and the weakness.

Some Sundays at PMC, we're filled with energy and vitality. Other Sundays, not so much.

So what do we do about it? How do we live as an energetic and vital congregation every Sunday – and all the days in between?

The most important thing to remember is that it isn't all about the numbers. It's about remembering that we are a vibrant, inclusive Christian community living out love, respect, and dignity for everyone. It's about remembering that we are a community dedicated to loving God and to loving one another. And It's about living out that dedication as we attend to one another and share God's love with all we meet.

And in that process, we need to be present in the community. That means joining together in Sunday worship and during other worship and social events at church. It also means inviting as many folks as we can to join in our times of worship, education, prayer, praise and fun. It means being present, as Peace Memorial Church, UCC, at events all over the community, too.

### How many folks?

Between now and the end of the year – we can invite – as a congregation – at least 100 new friends to join in worship. We can also encourage another 100 folks who are members here to come back to experience energetic and vital worship Sunday mornings.

Am I serious? Yes.

### 100 new friends and 100 returning folks in worship? How will we have enough room?

We'll sit closer together, and celebrate when we're so full that a few of us have to stand during worship. And we definitely can seat around 400 people in the sanctuary if need be.

### Who should we invite?

Invite friends and neighbors who don't attend a church. Invite friends and neighbors who have told you that they don't like church. Tell them about your experience here at PMC and invite them to share that experience, too.

### Will all of those 200 people stay?

No. Sadly, not all of the 200 folks we'll invite will come back again or start attending regularly. But some of them will. And some of them will invite their friends too!

When do we start? Now.

# Increasing

Pastor Kirk

**Weekly Service Attendance** 

June 1 (Communion Sunday) 9:30 am - 66

June 8 9:30 am - 85

June 15 9:30 am - 62

June 22 9:30 am - 61

June 29 9:30 am - 59

#### **PMC Report** Diane Oremovich

Our first of three scheduled Food Truck Fridays was held on June 2<sup>th</sup>. The event was attended by over one hundred people including many from the surrounding community. Thank you to all of those who helped make this event a great success!

Many of you have asked why Pastor Moore has not officially been installed as our Senior Pastor by the leadership of the United Church of Christ (UCC). We continue to wait for Pastor Moore's "Ordained Ministerial Standing" in the Fox Valley Association to be transferred to the Chicago Metropolitan Association by the UCC. Due to staffing shortages in the Illinois Conference office, they have asked for patience in completing this process. A service of installation will be scheduled at a later date.

July brings two great events. Vacation Bible School will take place here at church on July 10th through July 13th. Tower Hill Camp in Sawyer Michigan is scheduled for the week of July 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance for your anticipated support of both of these programs!

Several exterior doors on the church that were not properly locking have been repaired. We are now in the process of strategically identifying, and limiting the number of exterior doors to the building which will be accessible by new locks. This will allow us to better control and monitor access to the building. Over the years, countless numbers of keys have been given or temporarily loaned out that have never been returned. Security of the church building must be a concern!

The Trustees will not be meeting in July; however, we will shortly begin the budgeting process for 2026. All Committees are asked to identify and begin preparing your budget requests for the next fiscal year. Here's hoping you all have a great Summer!

#### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Holly Jones









Our kids have fluttered by, popped in and are now diving into summer!

We kicked off our summer with two butterfly releases! The butterflies taught us all about patience and finding your right time to bloom. Our release delighted everyone as those

butterflies even stuck around for a photo op. On Father's Day, our Peace Kids passed out popcorn to all the men in the congregation reminding them they are "top pop." I'm out of sentences that end in 'op', so I'll just stop.

There is no stopping this month though. It's the most fun part of the summer. Vacation Bible School plans are in full swing, our volunteers are donning their SCUBA masks, donations from our generous supporters are filling our aquarium. Our Sunday School (of fish) are very eager to "Dive into a Friendship with God!" We will be meeting friends along the way like Octavia the Octopus and Waylon the Whale Shark, who all have a special message "God is a friend who loves." We will be learning Bible verses and songs, and once again, have a special presentation scheduled for Sunday July 14th during our children's time. It's going to be a 'splash-tastic' adventure and I cannot wait to share all the pictures!

I hope you continue to have a wonderful summer full of fun! Happy July PMC!







**Community Garden** 





It's has been a great year for our cherry and peach trees. Our weather was without any freezing nights while our trees were flowering which has resulted in a large number of cherries, pears and peaches. Previously we have had good years for peaches but this year is exceptional! And we have two cherry trees that are matched for pollination. The large number of cherries are wild! Take a peek at the photos to better illustrate our comments. Now it is true these trees were not part of our community garden planning but they really add to our allure. You add

our vineyard and two pollination gardens to the mix and you have a wonderful location to enjoy God's work. If you think about this blossoming area, it is slowing becoming a meditation garden, its benches built by the Boy Scouts provide a restful spot to pray or meditate. Enjoy the gift, we are fortunate to have the land to broaden our missions.

### ALL CHURCH NEWS

### PMC's Program Coordinator Holly Jones



### A note from the Program Coordinator

Another busy month is upon us, and we all know the summer season is my favorite! Here's a look at what the summer has brought so far and what we can look forward to!

In June we hosted our first in the series of Food Truck Fridays! Joey's Red Hots, TCBY New Lenox, and Travelin' Tom's Coffee truck came out! Letter the Lawn enticed people off 131st Street with their fabulous sign! I'd like to extend a huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this successful! My gift basket raffle will continue for the next 2 months, with a different theme for July and August!

June 29th ONA met at the Tinley Park train station with Pastor Kirk! We handed out blessings and silicone keychains with our information on them!

I ordered nylon frisbees with the phrase "PMC: Where God's Love Flies" which made their debut at Food Truck Friday and are also going to be featured in the Palos Park Welcoming Committee's welcome bags, along with an informative handout as well!

> July Upcoming Events: 7/18 FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY 7/27 CHURCH PICNIC

#### Outreach Kathi Graben



Thanks to EVERYONE that came out to support our First Food Truck Friday! It was a perfect night and we feel it was a great success. We hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did and are looking forward to our next one on July 18, same time, same place, same fun! We have Joey's Tacos along with Peppo's as the main food and are finalizing our drink and dessert

truck. We will be selling water and chips as well. If you have any suggestions please let someone from the committee know, Dennis Kirscher, Kathi Graben or Theresa Graben or our Program Coordinator Holly Jones. Please invite your friends, family, neighbors, coworkers or people off the street! The more the

### merrier! Also some prays for great weather are always appreciated!





















July 2 Barbara Ritter

**July 3** Rylee Kruse Tasha Sulek

**July 4** Adam Kueltzo **July 10** Charlie Mack Gerry Przybylski Mattison Schneider

July 12 Jacqueline Medyk

July 14

**July 21** Joseph Miulli Deborah Swieringa

> July 22 Alan White

July 23 Chris Jones Stacy Pratscher

**July 6** Cynthia Ward

**July 7** David Johnson

July 8 Patricia Johnson Karen Blaser Raymond Kruse IV

July 15 Jason Schneider

**July 17** Samantha Miulli

**July 19** William Jerry Darryl Onak

July 20 Scott Mason **July 24** Thomas Kamphius Sr. James Keyser

> **July 28** Elaine Angone Kaitlyn Nestor

> > July 29 Beth Tooth

| JULY 2025   |   |  |   |  |   |   |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| Sunday  | Monday                                  | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday  |
|   |   | 1<br>7 pm Bunco<br>Chapel                        | 2<br>7:00 am<br>Volunteers  | 3  | ·   | 5   |
| 6<br>9:30 am<br>Worship   | 7                                       | 8<br>VBS set up<br>Youth center<br>and Zion Hall | 9<br>7:00 am<br>Volunteers<br>10 am B&G<br>meeting<br>VBS set up<br>Youth center<br>and Zion Hall | 10<br>8:00 am to 1:00<br>VBS Youth<br>center and<br>Zion Hall                | 11<br>8:00 am to 1:00<br>VBS Youth<br>center and<br>Zion Hall | 12<br>9:00 am to 1:00<br>VBS Youth<br>center and<br>Zion Hall<br>1:00 pm<br>pavilion/YC<br>rental |
| 13<br>9:30 am Worship<br>All day<br>Pavilion/YC<br>rental<br>12 pm OES /<br>Narthex | 14                                      | 15<br>9 – 2<br>LifeStyles –<br>Zion Hall         | 16<br>7:00 am<br>Volunteers   | 17<br>10 – 11 am<br>Montessori-<br>Zion Hall                                 | 18<br>6-9 pm<br>Food Truck<br>Pavilion                        | 19<br>10 - 4 pm<br>Stitchers /<br>chapel<br>3:00 pm Zion<br>Hall rental                           |
| 20<br>9:30 am Worship<br>All day<br>Pavilion/YC<br>rental                           | 21<br>MESSENGER<br>ARTICLES<br>DEADLINE | 22   | 23<br>7:00 am<br>Volunteers   | 24<br>10 – 11 am<br>Montessori-<br>Zion Hall<br>7:00 pm OES<br>study Narthex | 25  | 26<br>9am ALL<br>COMMITTEE<br>planning mtg<br>4 pm Zion<br>Hall rental                            |
| 27<br>9:30 am<br>Worship<br>11:00 am ALL<br>CHURCH<br>PICNIC                        | 28                                      | 29   | 30<br>7:00 am<br>Volunteers   | 31<br>10 – 11 am<br>Montessori-<br>Zion Hall<br>6:30<br>Foundation           |   |   |



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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 **Church Office Hours** Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

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