

The Peace Visitor



"Believing in Christ's resurrection therefore does not mean affirming a fact. It means being possessed by the life-giving Spirit and participating in the powers of the age to come." — Jürgen Moltmann

By the time you read this, we are all now basking in the light of Easter. We have celebrated the resurrection of Jesus. Our days that follow Easter are a season in which the risen Christ is made known to disciples. Jesus is shoring up the foundation that will be grown into the church that will follow his ministry. This period of stirring the spirit in the church will lead to its birth on the day we call Pentecost.

As we journey toward Pentecost it might be an appropriate time to begin looking into ourselves and our roles in the church. As Jesus was made known, persons answered for themselves how their lives were to unfold with each other. As groups came together small churches found their fledgling start. Some disciples would lead and others would come together to sing hymns, read scripture and be fed by their connection. Church is so often a voyage of give and take, leading and following.

This being the year of our 125th Anniversary, invites us to look at our connections even more closely. Conversations about how to mark this year are already ongoing. We are looking at calling back scattered children and friends for whom distance might not allow them to worship here regularly but in their hearts still call this church their home. I am amazed at the number of persons who identify this church as their church, refer to themselves as members... even if over the last two and half years we have never met. Perhaps all they need is a good reason and fresh invitation to come sit at our table again.

In that spirit, I invite us all to examine ourselves and ask what our membership and connections here at Peace mean. How are we as resurrection people being called into participating in the powers of the age to come? How are we to be the Church? As we

journey through the season of Easter toward Pentecost, let us make ourselves ready again for the stirring of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor John

*He is not here;
he has Risen!*

Luke 24:6

April 2017

Pastor John's Theology Word of the Month: pe·ric·o·pe [\pə- 'ri-kə-pē\] VERB

A pericope (/pə'rikəpi:/; Greek περικοπή, "a cutting-out") in rhetoric is a set of verses that forms one coherent unit or thought, suitable for public reading from a text, now usually of sacred scripture.

You just never know which pericope will catch Pastor John for his Sunday Sermon.

Peace United Church of Christ March Meeting – 3-19-2017

Opening Prayer: Mark H

Meeting Gathering Activity: Good & New Sharing around the table.

Approval of Agenda (By consent)

Minutes Accepted, Moved by Val, seconded by Mark H Approved by Unanimous vote

Pot Luck For April 30th (Champion Shirley) Bring Items to donate MS garage sale. Michelle to put in bulletins.

Reports:

- Pastor's Report Pastor John Fiscus (Accepted)
- Financial Secretary's Report Michelle Dettmann (Accepted) but Attendance Chart needs explanation or deletion
- Treasurer's Report Brad Hanson working on learning systems needs clarity on budgeted items not visible.

Old Business:

- By-Laws Update By-Laws Team to meet in April

Pastor/Parish Committee

Coffee Hour Update (Rick Fine Champion)

Donation Item Pick-Up/Deliveries Champion?? John working with local groups to get items, Val and Becka to work toward this too.

Flags for Outside to be used during service, etc. Jon Tufte and Michelle Dettmann

Sermon Talk Groups Jon Tufte Champion—needs to be in bulletin as announcement.

125th Anniversary Council Event calendar to be created and Championed John / Brad / Val / Shirley

Jon to work on Video Presentation for anniversary. Live video submission. Ron S provided feedback and help.

New Business:

Thermostat for Sanctuary Jon Tufte

It was agreed that there will be a thermostat setting of 72 for all worship. Friday or Saturday to set by Pastor or designate. This will occur until a working programmable thermostat is in place

Sanctuary—Removal of back pews discussed. Moved Mark second Rick To be presented to congregation in Bulletin and Visitor before it happens.

Art project in upper Fellowship Room Linda

ONA make sure we are living into the Identity. Review our statement. Send out request to congregation. Why are you here? Jon to ask for input. Who's willing to help reaffirm?

Just Peace designation

Calendar to include Dates of Council Meetings both bulletin and Visitor.

Other Business:

Contact Back Bay about mailboxes and liability. Seeking to duplicate the success of their program.

Opening Prayer Next Meeting: Pastor John

Next Scheduled meeting is May 21st smaller working groups to work in April
Adjournment – The Lord's Prayer

BOLD were in attendance:

Moderator: Jon Tufte

Vice Moderator: Ron Seibring

Secretary: Linda Vierkant

Treasurer: Brad Hanson

Financial Secretary: Michelle Dettmann

Member at large: Curt Hutchens

Member at large: Val Broste

Trustees: Bruce Michaels

Mission: Rick Fine

TTT: Mark Hoff

ROSE: Beverly Tallent

Deacons: Jeryl Michaels

Faith Formation: TBD

Pastor/Parish: TBD

Shirley Hoff

Pastor John Fiscus

FAITH FORMATION

Our Civility Project

Make the World More Civil, Idea #35— “Believe in something beyond yourself to keep your ego in check. Sometimes simply looking at a picture of Earth taken from space is enough to remind you that there are more important things in the universe than your crisis of the day.”

For this month, put yourself in a different world—micro or macro—and ponder the amazing wide-ness of creation.

Faith Formation is not just Sunday School classes or a moment of the service. It’s the day-to-day wrestling with how to be God’s people, doing God’s will in the world. I share this book to start conversations. Try on these suggestions for a week or so. A few more (of the book’s 365) are printed on the Fridays of the calendar. Then discuss your experiences. Was it obvious? Easy? Hard? Ridiculous? Did trying a particular suggestion lead to a different or interesting experience?

Talk, share, wrestle, discuss. Discuss them with neighbors in your pew the following Sunday. Start your own list. What did you find overwhelming, awe-inspiring, miraculous, or amazing this month?

Let me know how it goes. —*Michelle Dettmann, Faith Formation Rep Pro-tem*

Return to Civility: a Speed of Laughter Project, John Sweeney & The Brave New Workshop. 2007



Tiny things we might walk by every day...

A mouse door by Minneapolis artist Mows510 near Dangerous Man Brewing, with a gift of a house-plant from the brewery to welcome him to the neighborhood!



Things on a universal scale...

Saturn's rings and moons, taken from the Cassini satellite.

“Leaning Into the Wilderness”

In a recent Sunday’s Gospel reading we heard of the Spirit leading Jesus into the wilderness where he was tempted by the devil. This passage stirred an inquisitiveness in me, “what is the wilderness that I am in now?” How am I being challenged to remain true the life and calling God has for me? What “things” are being placed in front of me, tempting me to not follow and develop myself as a spiritual being continuing my faith journey? Am I truly leaning into “Being the Church” for those I encounter in my day-to-day activities?

Pastor John’s sermon on this Gospel lesson brought many questions into focus for me. I am wondering if God is calling each of you the same way? And, if so, is God leading us into the “wilderness of change” at our church to help us, as a church family, to realize what our calling is to our community from God’s reference point. Are you and I trusting our faith, our calling, and not walking away from what is possibly hard for us to do, but leaning into what God is wanting us to do in our “neighborhood?” Do we bring a light of hope into a struggling community - meeting those at the breach - fulfilling God’s love to all? Are we meeting people at their point of need, by being in covenant with them?

Is God preparing our faith community to go into “the desert,” or “the wilderness” - to listen to God, where once we focus on what God is asking us to do, we forget about our self-centered needs, etc.? Are each us of willing to address the “conflict” we are being introduced to in a way that is product and brings the fullest meaning of being followers of Jesus into fruition?

My hope for us as we journey beyond Lenten season is that we each listen closely for God’s calling for us individually and for us as the faith community at Peace United Church of Christ. May we be the light so desperately needed to meet the challenges of our community members head on - allowing them to feel the love God has for them - our “Being the Church.” May we joyously answer God’s challenges for us in developing a deeper faith as we serve those in need.

How is God asking you to “lean into . . .”?

Jon Tufte
Moderator



What You Never Know You Miss By Skipping Sunday Morning– Sarah Piercy

From <http://careynieuwhof.com/what-you-never-know-you-miss-by-skipping-sunday-morning/>

I thought missing a Sunday morning service wasn't a big deal. I have worked at Connexus Church for 8 years and would only miss a Sunday because I was away on vacation. Quite honestly, I didn't think missing a Sunday was a big deal. It's not a sin. It's not earth-shattering. No one notices (or do they?). Right? Then I had a baby and went on maternity leave.

And I started to participate in our church community like most people do. And everything changed. Because, when I miss a Sunday service, I miss way more than I ever thought.

From birthday parties to a sick baby, a variety of reasons had kept me from participating on Sunday mornings. I would watch online. And online is great to keep me connected when I can't be there in person. Or to share with friends and neighbors who are curious about church but not ready to come. So easy!

But – given the choice – attending on Sunday morning trumps all else. Every time. Why?
When I skip Sunday morning...

1. I Miss Uninterrupted Time To Listen For God's Wisdom

Sunday's practical teaching translates into godly wisdom that I can apply daily life – it is so valuable. Sure, you can hear great teaching in a variety of ways. But listening online is different than listening in the service.

I don't know about you, but when I listen at home I have a long to-do list. A child that loves attention. A phone that rings. Floors to sweep. Laundry to fold. Neighbors' dogs barking. I almost never absorb the message in the same way as I do when physically present on Sunday.

When I'm in the service, I have uninterrupted time. Time to focus on what God is teaching me and reflect on how He wants me to grow. My child is being cared for, my phone is on silent, and there are no chores waiting for me.

I can focus. I can engage my heart and mind.

2. I Miss The Value Of Worshiping God Through Music With Others

This one is interesting. And might even be surprising to you.

There's something intangible that happens when we worship God – out loud – with hundreds of people who share faith in Jesus.

Sundays are an irreplaceable opportunity to take a step back from the busy day-to-day and directly praise the God that loves me and is incredibly worthy of my worship.

Music roots my heart and mind in the truth of who God is. It remembers and celebrates powerful scripture. It leads me to humble myself before God's majesty in a way that doesn't always happen when music playing in the car or in the background while I do the dishes.

Worshiping God through music on Sunday's – with hundreds of people – grounds and fuels my faith. It inspires me to keep worshiping, keep believing, keep serving, keep loving.

3. I Miss The Power And Movement Of The Church

The Church has a mission and purpose. And every believer is part of it. We get to spread the amazing news that Jesus Christ loves you, died to forgive you, and he is alive, bringing new life to all who believe in him. What an incredible message to sit on.

We can be a Christian and not actively participate in the local Church. Our salvation is not dependent on that. It's dependent on Jesus.

But there's more at stake than that...

Imagine this:

Your life is a babbling brook. It twists and turns and bubbles and splashes. It's beautiful. But has little strength.

But, what happens when you cross paths with another brook. And another. And another?

Something bigger starts to happen. Something one babbling brook can't do on its own.

Momentum happens. Then power happens. Then Niagara falls happens! (Note: did you know Niagara falls generates enough energy to power almost 4 million homes? No babbling brook does that.)

In the same way, hundreds (or thousands) of people moving in the same God-given direction is POWERFUL. And it doesn't happen when we are disengaged.



When I miss Sunday mornings, I miss how God is moving our church community to action.

When I miss the host's welcome, connecting opportunities and the stories of God at work, I miss getting to be part of it because I don't know how.

I don't want to miss being part of the power and movement of God's Church.

Plus, if I'm not there, then how can I bring anyone with me?

So – I do everything I can to attend a Sunday morning service.

Because when I miss a Sunday, I miss way more than I ever thought.

Will you make a commitment to Sunday mornings with me, too?



2017 Minnesota Open and Affirming Celebration.

Saturday, April 29th

Workshops @ 11:00 AM | Lunch @ 12:15 PM |

Worship @ 1:30 PM

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God." [1 John 4:7] The scriptures of our faith call us to be loving. We grow in and sustain our love for God and one another by gathering in sacred community. With a call from God and with the human need to be together, we gather to form the "beloved community" that is church.

On Saturday, April 29, 2017, the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ (UCC) will offer workshops and celebrate in worship with the Open and Affirming ministry settings from across Minnesota. The 2017 Minnesota Celebration, "Open and Affirming as Beloved Community," will be held at Hazel Park Congregational UCC, 1831 Minnehaha Avenue East in Saint Paul. The day will include workshops at 11:00 AM, a time of kinship over lunch, and worship at 1:30 PM.

In worship we will acknowledge the various "Open and Affirming" ministry settings in Minnesota. The preachers will be the Rev. John Fiscus, pastor of Peace UCC in St. Cloud, and the Rev. Leslie Moughty, pastor of First Congregational UCC in Brainerd. Both of these pastors serve Open and Affirming congregations in greater Minnesota and bring a unique understanding of "beloved community."

125

years



2017 is our 125th Anniversary!

Throughout the year, we will celebrate this milestone. Invite people who would want to come back for anniversary events!

On the Anniversary Calendar already:

Sunday, August 13, 10 AM—Annual Picnic at Riverside Park Pavilion

Sunday, December 3, 10 AM—Formal Anniversary Worship with guest preacher Shari Prestemon, Conference Minister—A lunch at a local restaurant will follow. This will be an RSVP-needed event! More details as we get closer. :-)

If anyone is interested in creating a reunion of a Youth Group gang or Confirmation class, a Couple's Club, Women's Fellowship, Quilters gathering, or any other event, please talk to a member of the Council and we'll see how we can help make it happen!

Please also submit addresses of former members, family, and friends who should be added to any mailings related to the 125 year celebrations.

Thank you for the quarters brought in for Laundry Love's Second Annual Noisy Offering on Palm Sunday!

Laundry Love is always in need of laundry soap and quarters. AND you are invited to come check it out for yourself! Laundry Love is held on the first and third (and fifth if there is one) Tuesday of each month from 11 AM—2 PM at Kipp's Laundromat on the corner of 9th Avenue and University Drive. There's always food and fellowship!



Remember to keep us up-to-date on your address and other contact info.

Did we miss your birthday on the calendar? Let us know!

Thought of the Month

If you could appear as a guest star on any television show, which show would you choose?

From *The Conversation Piece: Creative Questions to Tickle the Mind*

Remember to let us know if you are ill or hospitalized. The hospital can't let us know you are there, due to HIPAA and other privacy concerns. The only way we know to put you on the prayer list and come visit is if you call the office and leave us the information.

Also, let us know if you **wish** to be put on the prayer chain or the prayer list in the bulletin. We want to know how much information you are comfortable sharing.

Thanks so much!



Are you able to visit or send a note to members who are homebound or living in long-term care?

They would love to hear from you.

Marlys Burke
218 22nd Ave N
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Genny Manea
330 13th St N, Apt 35A
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

Dolores Honl
2000 15th Ave SE # 217
St. Cloud, MN 56304

Dorothy Matakis
2511 15th St N
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Bev Killeen
1115 4th Ave N NS 227
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

Gary Naegeli
Edgewood Sr. Living
12450 Cloud Dr NE, #128
Blaine, MN 55449
763-754-1723

Leif Larsen
1790 W Mill Street
Paynesville, MN 56362

The Sunshine Report—Joys and Concerns

Shirley Hoff, get well following a brief hospital stay

Eleanor Conrad, get well following a brief hospital stay

Alina Manea, get well following hip replacement surgery

7 Easter greeting cards



PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Staff	Minister: Rev. John Fiscus Cell: (320) 428-8686 E-mail: pastorfiscus@gmail.com	Conference Minister: Rev. Shari Prestemon Associate Conference Minister: Rick Wagner Customian: WACOSA	Organizer: Roger Towler Choir Director: Mark Ochnio Church Office Hours: Tu-F, 2 – 5 PM	Church Council Moderator: Jon Tufte Vice Moderator: Ron Seibring Treasurer: Brad Hansson Financial Secretary: Michelle Dettmann Council Secretary: Linda Vielkant Deacons: Jerry Michaeles ROS: Beverly Tallent TIT: Mark Hoff Mission: Rick Fine Trustees: Bruce Michaeles Museum: Ron Seibring Pastor/Parish: TBD	Members at Large: Curt Hutchens, 1 TBD Faith Formation: TBD
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