

Tidings of Peace



Newsletter of Peace Memorial EPC

From the Pastor...

Dear friends,

Peace be with you! This is one of the most popular blessings we find in the Bible. Paul uses it as a favorite opening and closing to his epistles. Jesus declares the gift of peace is one of the reasons He has given us His Word. Peace is one of the key blessings of the faith, and yet even followers of Jesus can find ourselves lacking in this key benefit of Christ.

Fear, anger, hatred, aggression, violence- all of these things could be considered the counterpoints to peace. It doesn't take much for us to find our lives filled more with these curses than the blessing of peace does it? With all of the crazy events of the past two years, with politics, the pandemic, economic closures, soaring prices, cultural strife, add to that the sense that much of our culture has willfully disengaged from the concept of objective reality and you have a perfect climate to foster the opposites of peace.

But there is good news. God has entered this world with all of its darkness and drear and has brought peace to the earth. One of the prophetic names for God's promised Messiah was "Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). When Jesus the Messiah was born, the angelic host proclaimed not only the fact, but declared the effect of His coming- God's blessing of "Peace on earth, and goodwill."

Peace is a key factor in God's design for salvation. So why is it so often that we find ourselves more anxious, angry and aggressive than at peace? It's a simple question with a complicated answer, but in short, much of the reason we may miss experiencing the profound peace of Christ is because the peace of

God is nuanced. Peace is not just one thing, it is several. And we can often find it elusive when we err in recognizing its nature.

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When we turn to Scripture, the concept of peace is everywhere. On almost every page, peace is referenced either directly or indirectly. And if you pay attention, you will discover that Peace is a multi-faceted blessing. Here are some thoughts that may assist you in living in the peace of Christ this year...

Peace is a gift from God.

First and foremost, when we talk about peace, Christians are not just talking about a feeling, or even a state of non-combativeness. Peace is a fundamental product of God's saving work through Jesus Christ. Peace is the by-product of Jesus' death on the cross as payment for the sins of the world-

From the Pastor... Continued

In this profound sense, peace is the reconciliation made by Jesus between God and man. Where sin fractured our nature and exiled us from fellowship with God- and left us under the dominion of sin and its consequences (suffering and death), Jesus' death and resurrection paid the full debt of sin, and so restored the relationship connection between humans and God. That reconciliation of course is offered as a gift from God to the world and is received by us through faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Peace is first and foremost a state of being. In Jesus, we are AT PEACE with God. That is an objective, unchangeable reality. The impact of that state of being, gifted to us by the Father, reaches across all aspects of our lives. But start here. Peace is our state of being reconciled with God.

Romans 5:1

1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

John 14:27

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

2 Thessalonians 3:16

16 Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

John 16:33

33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Listen to these declarations of peace: We have peace with God! Jesus' Peace has been given to us! God gives you peace at all times, He is with you! The Word of Christ gives you peace!

And there's a crucial key to understanding and living in the Peace of God: God's peace is also gifted to us in His living presence. When the Prince of Peace made peace with God on the cross and rose from the dead and ascended to Heaven, promising to come again in glory, He did not leave us with merely a promise to hope in. NO. Here's how the Apostle Paul puts it:

"Hope does not disappoint because the Love of God has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit whom He has given" -Romans 5:5

"...when you heard...the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, [you] were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it,"
-Ephesians 1:13,14.

When the Prince of Peace ascended to heaven after making peace between God and humanity, He then sent His Spirit to be the embodiment of that peace with us: "the Love of God" personified, the guarantor of the inheritance (heaven). It may be easy to overlook these texts but they demonstrate that Jesus not only established Peace with God but the Holy Spirit is the living peace of God with us. Peace is a Person. The gift of peace is the gift of fellowship with God.

Peace is a product of trust in Jesus

Since our Heavenly Father has given us this gift of peace with Him, we also have peace within ourselves, "peace of mind" you might call it. The state of peace with God gives us the motivation and substance of emotional and spiritual peace within ourselves. That may sound great and familiar, and you may not have even paused over that concept. "Of course" you may be thinking, "because Jesus spoke the Word, and paid for our sins on the cross and rose from the dead- and promised us heaven- we have great reason to have peace of mind now!"

"After all," you might continue, "isn't that Paul's point in Romans 8 when he says, 'I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us?'" You would be partially right. Certainly the victory of the resurrection puts all worldly suffering into a context

From the Pastor... Continued

of eternal paradise and that alone is reason to be at peace- to not worry.

But for the Christian, there is MUCH more to “peace of mind” than JUST setting your mind on the good things of God, or even trusting in Jesus’ work and words. That is crucial- may God’s Word be in your mind and in your heart and upon your hands (more on that last one in a minute) BUT if you miss this key point, you miss it all:

As the Father gifts peace to us, the Son delivers it. Jesus is our peace. This is a somewhat complex concept but as the second Person of the Godhead (The eternal Word of God), when Jesus took on human flesh with all of its weakness, when He suffered and died, He effectively bore in His body all of the sufferings of human-kind: physical, emotional and spiritual. He bore those weaknesses all the way to and through the grave. And in His resurrection, He has conquered all of that suffering. God then raises with Jesus all those who have faith in Him, that we too might live even now, in the peace of eternal victory. Listen to some of the many scriptures that express this reality:

Isaiah 12:2

2 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense ; he has become my salvation.”

Psalms 4:8

8 In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Psalms 119:165

165 Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.

Romans 8:6

6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

1 Peter 5:7

7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Colossians 3:15

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Because of Jesus’ victory on our behalf- and the benefits of that victory- peace with God,

Peace is a Pursuit

In the first section I said that the Peace of God was fellowship with God. The fellowship with God then translates into peace in fellowship with each other. In fact, God’s Word makes it clear that because God has made peace with us, we are called to pursue peace with those around us.

“as far as it depends upon you- live at peace with everyone.” -Romans 12:18.

“9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For, “Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. 11 They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.” -1 Peter 3:9-11

Peace is a calling to pursue. Seek to make peace wherever you go. As God has gifted you peace, do what you can to be a person who does the same. While this is a call to be at peace with everyone- it is especially important we pursue this in the Church. As God’s adopted children- those who have been reconciled with God through Jesus, we MUST show the love of God to one another in the same manner that He showed it to us.

From the Pastor... Continued

When we wrong one another, or are wronged, a key component to our identity is that we are a people who seek and offer reconciliation- we confess our sins against each other and are eager to forgive. We confess and forgive because we have been forgiven. This is the moral of Jesus' parable of the unforgiving servant (see Matthew 18:21-35).

Look for ways to be at peace- to make peace with those around you.

Often times we fail to experience peace because we are not mindful of its nature- that peace is not just a feeling but a state of being in relationship with God. Want peace- focus on Jesus- pray- commune with the Spirit, meditate on His Word. Give thanks and trust in the Word and the Presence of God. And put that Peace into practice.

Perhaps we miss experiencing the peace of God because we have forgotten to offer it to others.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and PEACE as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

Pastor Aaron

QUILT AND AFGHAN SHOW COMING SATURDAY, MAY 14th

Plans for the Peace Memorial Women's Missionary Group's annual **Quilt and Afghan Show, Saturday, May 14** are well underway. Six gals revved up their sewing machines to put together a "Legacy Star" quilt to raffle and it is now in Linda Dart's oh-so-capable hands to be quilted and the binding attached. Noreen Rhoades has donated a beautiful "River of Life" afghan to be raffled as well. Invitations have gone out to our local quilting clubs. Now it's your turn.

For those of you new to the Quilt Show, here's what it's all about. The Women's Group hosts this annual event as a community fellowship time, and a chance to raise a little money for local projects. We ask any one and every one who has a quilt or afghan (or several) to share their treasures with the rest of us. Maybe it's something you made yourself. Maybe it's a wedding gift. Maybe it's that heirloom piece from Great-Grandma. It might even be a quilt you've shared before, but we always have new people coming by who haven't seen it, or just want to appreciate it again. We display all those beauties in the Fellowship Hall, turning it into a gallery of art, history and love. All during the show, we also turn our Fireside Room into a cozy cafe and serve scones and beverages.

We use the proceeds from our raffle ticket sales and \$4 admission donations to support a variety of organizations. This year we will split the proceeds between Ukraine Support through the EPC and our Klamath Falls Gospel Mission.

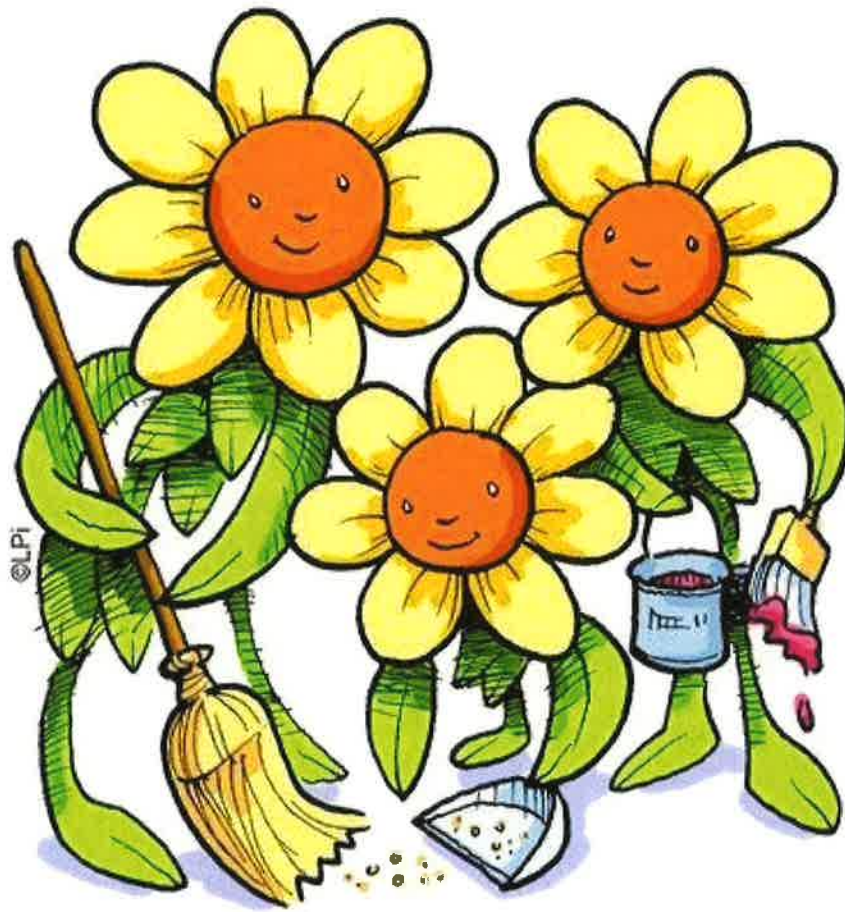
If you are willing to share your quilt or afghan during the show, there are registration forms by the greeter's table for you. And pick up some extra to give to your friends.

And for you quilters: If you've been thinking, "I have GOT to clear out some of my material stash and craft magazines," now's your chance. We'll set up a "Share the Stash" table so other quilters can put that material to good use.

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

April 8, 2022

9:00 am



Lunch will be provided

**Contact Jim Zeller for more
information: 541-274-1942**

HUMAN TRAFFICKING BRAINSTORMING SESSION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 6:00 PM

Back in September, Peace Memorial hosted a Human Trafficking Community Awareness Event. Many in our community attended and left armed with a ton of information to digest. Our own Mission Committee has been praying over what we should do now, and we've come up with a few ideas. It occurred to us that there are probably other churches and organizations who have been thinking along the same lines as we have, and wouldn't it be great to get together with them, find out what their plans are and see how we can work together?

To that end, we'll be hosting an **informal Brainstorming Session on Wednesday, April 20th at 6:00pm**. We've sent out invitations to churches and organizations who came to our September event to share what they have been called to do in the fight against human trafficking. The emphasis is on "informal"- no presenters, no leaders (other than us hosts)- just people joined in a common cause discussing how best to pool our resources and energies to improve and protect our communities. The time is right around dinner so we'll have soup and sandwiches available for those who want to eat.

Any one interested is invited to come and add to the discussion, or just hear what's going on out there.




PREGNANCY
HOPE CENTER

expressing love

speaking truth

sharing hope

2022 Fundraisers

Pregnancy Hope Center is planning three fundraisers in 2022.



- Our Dirty Pelican Bike Paddle Run Adventure Race will be 9 AM on Saturday, May 21, 2022 at Moore Park. This is an important outreach to engage new generations of supporters for our life-saving ministry. If you know someone who loves to kayak, mountain bike, or run, have them check out the race web site at www.bikepaddlerunrace.com.
- Baby Bottle Campaign will run from Mothers Day to Fathers Day.
- The Dessert Fundraiser will take place in the fall this year. This has traditionally been held in February at the Shilo Inn. We are considering different venues. Please stay tuned for more details!

April 2022

April 2022							May 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1 Office Closed	2
3 Celebration Sunday 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Communion 10:30am Worship	4 6:00pm Theology on Tap	5 3:00pm Peace Ringers Practice	6	7	8 Office Closed	9
10 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship 11:45am Worship Comm	11 1:00pm Session	12 10:30am PMWVG Mtg 3:00pm Peace Ringers Practice	13	14 1:30pm Bible Discovery w/LB	15 Office Closed	16
17 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship 11:30am Deacons	18 4:00pm Stewardship/Finance 6:00pm Theology on Tap	19 3:00pm Peace Ringers Practice	20 10:00am Ladies Fellowship 6:00pm Human Trafficking Brainstorm Session	21 11:00am Missions & Outreach	22 Office Closed	23
24 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship	25 4:00pm Building & Grounds	26 10:30am Shopping at Walmart (Walmart) 3:00pm Peace Ringers Practice	27 12:30pm PMWVG Study (Fireside Room)	28 1:30pm Bible Discovery w/LB	29 Office Closed 10:00am Bucket Brigade	30

15 March 2022

Dear Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your continued support of God's work in establishing a local church for our neighbors in Port Orchard! You have likely heard that we are going by a new name, "Kitsap House." We've shared about that name change and especially why it's effective for sharing Jesus in Kitsap County. We sent out a blog to share that exciting news.

I also want to share with you and our community of those giving to the ministry here, what does that mean for your giving? And what is support looking like now?

Please continue giving to Kitsap House via Chapel Hill Church.

Our online giving is through the same Chapel Hill platform, and there is no need to make any changes to recurring gifts. Checks can continue to be made out to Chapel Hill Church with "Port Orchard" in the memo line.

The plan is for Kitsap House to become its own entity within a year.

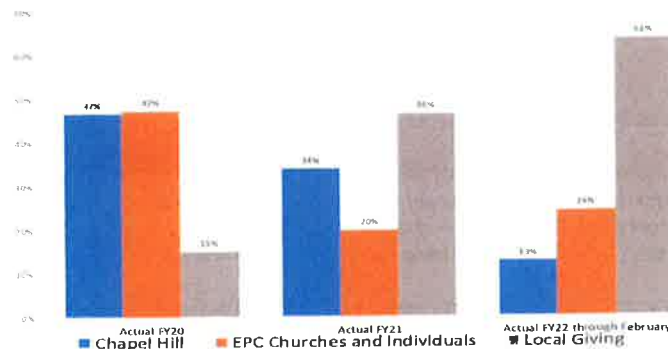
It will be at that point that we will ask you to either redirect your online giving to Kitsap House through a new platform or write checks to "Kitsap House." Dawn Davis and the team at Chapel Hill are graciously assisting Pastor Larry as he leads the back-end transitions. We will need our own accounting system, EIN, bylaws, and other details. These are important steps, and they take time to do thoroughly and well.

We are on pace, noticing that God is providing for us as a unique local church.

Our current designation is a "mission church." We are being led by an administrative commission, training elders, walking alongside people new in their faith and new to the area, and noticing the levels of engagement of people close to the Kitsap House community growing. Please join us in praying that God would entrust to us those seeking Him!

Celebrate with us!

Here's one graph that indicates God's provision for Kitsap House— including through your generous giving! This demonstrates the change in percentages of support coming from Chapel Hill Church directly, our fellow EPC supporting churches, and local giving. We hope that over the next two years we will see our local support providing for our day-to-day operating costs and see Kitsap House making its own significant contribution to church-planting in the Puget Sound area!



We sincerely hoped back in 2019 as we answered this call that God would allow Chapel Hill to gradually step back its financial support as local giving increased. We hoped that in 3-5 years we would be able to redeploy the Beyond These Walls giving of Chapel Hill and the denominational support alongside a percentage of Port Orchard's local giving to future church-planting initiatives. Those conversations are beginning, and we are excited about that!

Thank you for partnering with us as God expands his Kingdom through his local churches.

Very gratefully,

Pastor Megan Hackman
(New email! megan@kitsaphouse.org)

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

4TH Wednesday of the month @ 12:30 in the Fireside Room

The Women's Missionary Group has settled on "His Last Words" what Jesus taught and prayed in His last hours, by Kim Erickson. It impacts the importance of Jesus's last words of eternal life, powerful and full of love. If you've been longing for more intimacy in your relationship with God, more meaning in your life and more boldness in your witness, "His Last Words" will draw you into what you need: The Word of God. Ladies, if you are interested, join our Ladies Bible Study on the 4th Wednesday of the month. See Noreen Rhoades to purchase the book "His Last Words" for \$14.00.

Noreen Rhoades

BUCKET BRIGADE CHANGING OUR BATTLE PLAN

FRIDAY April 29th

Long ago (okay, so it's been since the Fall of 2020) and far away (okay, so it's right here), a group of volunteers began meeting once a month to clean an inside area of the church rather than trying to do it all during Buildings and Grounds work days. These volunteers have done a great job, even if I do say so myself. We met on the 4th Monday of the month, thinking it would be more convenient to do our work before the B&G monthly meeting so we would be able to bring attention to any concerns (like breaking the electrical wire to one of the hallway lights, but let's not talk about that). It was reasoned thinking.

Well, after a year and a half, we're deciding Monday just isn't working for us any longer, so we're moving our Bucket Brigade to the LAST Friday of the month. For April, we'll meet **Friday, April 29th at 10:00 am** and go where no man has gone before- upstairs. We'll work our way up the stairs and divide our forces- some to the balcony, some to the restrooms, catching cobwebs along the way. If you'd like to give some time and elbow grease to help keep our church home looking nice, come join us. As always, coming once does not mean you're committed for life (even if it seems that way).



DEACON'S DOINGS

As many of you know, the Mission Committee has "adopted" Stearns Elementary School and has been providing the teachers and students there with a variety of needed supplies. It's sad to think that today, "school supplies" has gone beyond the pencils, paper and PE tennis shoes we got for our kids. Teachers are asking for more basic items- children's underwear, socks, shoe laces and even hygiene products. And there are other schools asking, "Could you help our students as well?"

To help out, the Deacons are organizing a "**Let's Shop!**" day, **Tuesday, April 26th**. We'll meet at WalMart at 10:30 am, and go shopping. Linda Dart, chair of the Mission Committee, has made a list of needed items, and by shopping as a group, we can avoid duplication and pretty much get everything on the list. After shopping, we'll bring our purchases back to the church then hop over to Casey's Restaurant for lunch. A little bit of fun and fellowship while we work on a worthy cause.

If you won't be joining us but still want to help out, here's the shopping list Linda gave us:

UNDERWEAR: Boys and Girls, sizes children's small, medium and large, and adult small. There is a particular need for size 6 in both boys and girls, as well as girls size 4.

SOCKS: Boys and Girls sizes small, medium and large.

SHOES and SHOELACES

HYGIENE PRODUCTS: Body wash, shampoo and conditioner, and deodorant.

SWEATPANTS: one school has requested both boys and girls sweatpants because, you know, sometimes life happens.

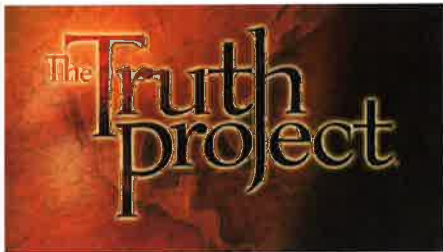
Sunday Bible Class

9:00-10:00 AM
Fireside Room

The Inheritance of Israel from *JUDGES* to *KINGS* (1 & 2 *SAMUEL*)



Join us in the Fellowship hall as Pastor Aaron Beaty and Geri Coker guide us through the story of the development of the Nation of Israel and how God worked to make a people for Himself. This winter and spring we will prayerfully follow the emergence of Kings in the land and how God has always pointed toward the one King, Jesus, who would deliver His people and sit on the Throne forever.



Theology On Tap (TnT)

1st and 3rd Mondays
6-7:30PM

Church Fireside Room

Join Pastor Aaron as we continue the video series,
"The Truth Project" with Dr. Dell Tackett.

Here are a few words about this powerful study from Focus on the Family:

"In a 2003 study, the Barna Research Group revealed a stunning statistic that continues to reverberate throughout the evangelical world – *only nine percent of professing Christians have a biblical worldview. The Barna Update, "A Biblical Worldview Has a Radical Effect on a Person's Life,"* December 1, 2003.

Because of this, today's believers live very similarly to non-believers. A personal sense of significance is rarely experienced, we spend our money and time on things that fail to satisfy, and we begin to wonder what life's ultimate purpose really is. We are, in short, losing our bearings as a people and a nation.

To counter this downward slide within the body of Christ, Focus on the Family has launched one of the most ambitious and powerful projects in the history of our ministry – *Focus on the Family's The Truth Project®*.

The Truth Project is a DVD-based small group curriculum comprised of 12 video lessons taught by Dr. Del Tackett, instructor of Christian Worldview at the Focus Leadership Institute and a former Senior Vice President of our ministry. This study is the starting point for looking at life from a biblical perspective. Each lesson discusses in great detail the relevance and importance of living the Christian worldview in daily life.

We believe this curriculum can be a catalyst for exponential change within the body of Christ, as thousands of people are "transformed by the renewing of [their] mind" (Romans 12:2). As He has throughout history, God continues to call ordinary people to make an eternal difference in our world."

Bring your own dinner and join us together as we re-construct a Biblical world-view by diving into the TRUTH.

Stewardship & Finance Committee

February 2022

Here is our monthly update on finance:

Operating Income:.....	\$9,547.00
Operating Expenses:.....	\$11,016.60
Monthly Net:.....	(\$ 1,469.60)
YTD /Net:.....	(\$ 1,814.95)
Checking 2/28/22:.....	\$56,288.96
Money Market 1/31/22:	\$60,564.20

Hi Friends,

Expenses in February beyond regular operations: Presbytery expenses.

Thank you for your continued support of Peace Church, and we look forward to learning and sharing God's Word together this year!

Many Blessings to All!

Kathy Todd

PEACE MEMORIAL WOMENS MISSIONARY GROUP

COMING LADIES !!!

Wednesday March 16, 2022, 10am till noon in the Fireside Room. Bring your craft items, knitting, crocheting or whatever you enjoy doing and enjoy a time of coffee, crafts and fellowship. We plan on meeting the third Wednesday of each month.

This may be a time to start working on bazaar items.

Noreen Rhoades

April Birthdays

1st Susan Orton

3rd Emily Bellm

16th Sally Lovins

27th Asher Green

30th Grace Johnson

April Anniversaries

10th Chuck & Geri Coker



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Pastor: pastoraaronepc@yahoo.com

We're on the web!

www.peaceEPC.com

"like" us on Facebook

"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight"
-Prov. 3:6



The Gospel of Mark:
4/3 - LENT V
Predictions IV: The Lesson of the Fig Tree
Mark 13:28-31

4/10 - **The Gospel of Mark :**
PALM SUNDAY
Predictions V: No one Knows the Time
Mark 13:32-37

4/14- Maundy Thursday
The New Commandment
John 13:1-20

4/15- Good Friday
The Deep of Submission
Jonah 1:17 - 2:10

4/17 - **RESURRECTION I: (EASTER)**
The Resurrection has Come
1 Corinthians 15:1-23

4/24 - **RESURRECTION II:**
The Plot and the Perfume
Mark 14:1-11

Your SESSION

Elders

Pastor Aaron Beaty-	Session Moderator
Noreen Rhoades-	Clerk of Session
Kathy Todd-	Finance & Stewardship
Bob Wincentsen-	Christian Education
Linda Dart-	Mission and Outreach
Jim Zeller-	Building and Grounds
Betty Shaw-	Worship
Stephen Goode-	

Your DEACONS

Geri Coker– Chair

Susan Orton

Jocelyn Shellito

Vicki Zeller

Bertra Bratton

The Deacons meet the third Sunday of each month following worship.

Your

TRUSTEES

Harold Heaton

Stephen Goode

Sharron Goode

Sharon Haddock

Session meets the 2nd Monday of each month from 1-3PM.

