

# JANUARY TIDINGS

Volume 80, January 1 (2025)

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*“Peace United Church of Christ is a multigenerational community of faith. We welcome people of all ages, race, and life situations to join us in*



## From the “Pen” of Pastor Paula

*Thank you very much for the Christmas presents, cards and cash. And Nova sends her thank you, too, for getting treats. The best part of Christmas is not the gifts but the givers. And the greatest gifts that all of you give to each other and to me is love and joy and.....laughter!*

### BEING GROUNDED

“You’re grounded!” an exasperated parent yelled. Ever hear those words growing up? And what did they mean? It meant that we disobeyed our parents so privileges such as going out at night or to some event were revoked.

Yet, there is another definition of grounded. To be grounded is to be well-balanced and sensible, to keep one’s feet on the ground as the old saying goes. As we enter 2025 with its uncertainty, with the possibility that chaos and confusion may rule the day, it is important to be grounded. Jesus speaks to that when he says that the greatest commandment is love-love of God, love of others, love of ourselves.

In the latest issue of SOJOURNERS magazine, there are 10 ways to ground ourselves as followers of Jesus. They are: 1.Trust ourselves—trust what we see, hear and feel in our guts. Take care of ourselves so that we can take care of others. 2.Don’t be isolated but touch base regularly with other people. Laugh, cry, argue, sing, think together, experience the highs of life as well as the lows. 3. Grieve—it is a pathway to release that gives us the inspiration to take action. 4. Take the Serenity Prayer to heart: “God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.” 5, Find a way to live in healthy ways, to act rather than react, to resist rather than give in and let unhealthy words and actions rule the day. 6. Use the voice and power we have—we have more power than we think especially when we ask the Lord to give us guidance and direction. 7. Accept diverse viewpoints, feel compassion for others, recognize how our actions affect others. 8. Trust in God to give us power to take personal risks for a better future not just for ourselves but others. 9. Fear only hurts if we are scared of fear so act with courage. 10. Rather than being worried about how bad things could get, envisioning a better, brighter future. Nothing lasts forever.

And let us remember—with God, nothing is impossible!

May 2025 be a year of blessings!

Pastor Paula and Nova

# January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office Open Mon, Wed, & Thurs, Fri from 9 AM to noon Tues 8AM to 11AM	* Coffee Fellowship after Worship Services on Sunday Mornings		1	2	3 Happy Birthday Nancy McClure	4
5 9:00 AM Worship With Communion Happy Birthday Corene Burke	6 5:30 PM: Church Council	7	8 5:30 Bell Choir, 6:30 Chancel Happy Birthday Taylor Rentsch- ler	9	10	11 Happy Birthday Larry Huinker
12 9:00 AM Worship	13 Happy Birthday Maddie Burns	14	15 5:30 Bell Choir, 6:30 Chancel Choir	16 1:30 Elkader Care Center Worship 5-6:30 Grace Café	17 Happy Birthday Cooper Burns	18 Happy Birthday Gary DeShaw
19 9:00 AM Worship	20	21	22 5:30 Bell Choir, 6:30 Chancel Choir Happy Birthday Betty Buchholz, Tom Webber	23	24 Happy Birthday Berdina Bell	25 Happy Birthday Virgil Denler
26 9:00 AM Worship Happy Birthday Hila Garms, Dennis Schaefer, Gwen Dettbarn	27 Happy Birthday Mary Ann Heiden	28 Happy Birthday Candyce Marmann, Rylie Kuhse, Carter Miller	29 5:30 Bell Choir, 6:30 Chancel Choir Happy Birthday Andrew Fangman	30	31 Happy Birthday Helen Little, Marnie Burns, Jackson Feickert, Van Brooklin	

## February Tidings Deadline

**February Tidings newsletter deadline will be Monday, January 27. Please submit updates and articles by this date. Please email: [peaceucc@alpinecom.net](mailto:peaceucc@alpinecom.net) or call 563-245 2126. Thanks for all your time and involvement in Peace UCC!**

## Council Minutes

December minutes currently unavailable.

The annual meeting and potluck will tentatively be held on Sunday, February 2, 2025. We still are looking for individuals willing to serve on the council. Please consider volunteering.

## Now Hiring!!

If you or someone you know would be interested in filling the Church Secretary position, please contact the church at 563-245-2126.

We are looking for someone to work part-time, mostly mornings during the week to fulfill secretarial duties which include answering phones, checking and sorting mail, updating the website, scheduling live streams, updating church records as needed, answering emails and inquiries, ordering supplies, creating monthly newsletters, and other duties as requested.

The ideal candidate should be somewhat computer literate, friendly, and use discretion regarding personal information that may be shared.

## Grace Café

December Grace Café brought a snowy, sleety afternoon, so we did what we don't like to do and canceled. Being Christmas the next week we opted not to re-schedule our December meal. That means we have a freezer full of ham, company potatoes and sweet potatoes. With that in mind, guess what we are having for our January Grace Café? It will taste just as good on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> from 5-6:30 pm.

There is no charge for this meal, but should you decide to donate the monies given over food cost go toward mission work of Peace Church. December Grace Café purchased the oranges, soup and wrapping for our Christmas care baskets. We also gave approximately 50 cans of soup to the Clayton County food self and provided pizza to our Christmas carolers. Thank you for supporting Grace Café and giving us the ability to help our community in 2024.

We hope you come and join us for a meal of fellowship and laughter. We do provide takeouts and will deliver within city limits. For delivery, please call the church office at 563-245-2126.

## Storing of the Greens

Sunday, January 5th is our Epiphany service. With Holy Communion. Following worship, we will be hoping all our church elves will help to make our sanctuary beautiful and help us to take down the Christmas decorations.

# Prayer Requests

Greg Anderson, Gus Augustson, Dave & Diane B-H, Eli Belser, Betty Buchholz, Jonah Burns and Burns family, Deb Dennler, Wayne Frentress, Karen Glesne, Linda Glesne, Penny Jacobson, Karla, Ruth Grau, Gerry Kramer, Gary & Nancy Kuehl, Marilyn Nielsen, Ruth and Jenny Olson, Lucena Phelps, Sharon Reichert, Payton Renschler, Teena, Father James, Kim's friend Kris, Mary W's brother, Mike

## Care Center/Assisted Living Residents

Karen Glesne, Joyce Hoth, Connie Koehn, Marlene Marmann, Marilyn Nielsen, Eydie Seeland, Gary & Nancy Kuehl

## Attendance & Worship Offerings

December 1, 2024	43	\$3260
December 8, 2024	51	\$2067
December 15, 2024	Cancelled	\$510
December 22, 2024	47	\$2962.31

### New Address!

Gerry & Sandra Kramer  
1900 Stoney Point Road Apt. 128  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

### HISTORY LOVERS!

- Do you have an interest in the church history with a passion to bring it up to current state? Here is an opportunity for you!! The memorial committee recently purchased a new mounted photo display, replacing the broken one in the Narthex. The original pictures, which end in 2016, were restored in the new frames..BUT...there is room for more! We are looking for interested persons to bring the church history up to date! If you have an interest in being on a working group to do this important task, please contact Elaine Knoke Martin at [martinelaine76@yahoo.com](mailto:martinelaine76@yahoo.com) | or 563-446-2135.

Sign up for Weekly Volunteer



# Time & Talent

## Bread for the Journey

### Readings for 1/5/25

Epiphany Service  
Isa 60:1-6 + Ps 72:1-7, 10-14  
Eph 3:1-12, Matt 2:1-12

1/5  
1/12  
1/19  
1/26

### Opening/Closing

Bruce Landis  
Gary Kuehl  
Sue Stott  
Steve McCorkindale

1/5  
1/12  
1/19  
1/26

### Usher/Greeter

Gerald & Arlene Reimer  
Kristina Miller  
Florence Gifford  
Dean & Joanne Gray

### Readings for 1/12/25

Isa 43:1-7 + Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

1/5  
1/12  
1/19  
1/26

### Reader

Steve McCorkindale  
Mary Webber  
Laura Moser  
Bruce Landis

1/5  
1/12  
1/19  
1/26

### Fellowship

Volunteer Needed  
Volunteer Needed  
Volunteer Needed  
Volunteer Needed

### Readings for 1/19/25

Is 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10, 1Cor. 12:1-11, John 2:1-11

### Readings for 1/26/25

Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6, 8-10 + Ps 19

### Communion Prep & Clean Up

1/5 Bruce Landis

### Food Shelf Donation Driver

Deb DeShaw

If you can Not volunteer on the date, Please call Or email the office.

Thank you for volunteer-  
ing !

# Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

## UPDATE – JANUARY 2025



*Shepherd of the Hills Ministries will be closed from December 23 through January 5. I need to take some time to recover from my surgery and focus on being healthy for me and all of you. Happy New Year from all of us at Shepherd of the Hills.*

### **Clothing Center Updates:**

*We are getting some wonderful donations. Some of the items we are still in need of are: pots and pans, bath towels, wash cloths, baking dishes/pans, small kitchen gadgets, bedding (all sizes) sheets (all sizes/flat/fitted). Girls clothing from NB-size 18 youth. (Pants/shirt), Men's jeans (all sizes). We appreciate a scheduled appointment to donate as this allows us to plan our day/ schedule volunteers/schedule more donations. We do not require a set "time" just a day that the donation will be brought. Thank you for your continued support!*

### **Shepherd Conference News:**

*If you are wanting to serve on the SOTH board, we will have openings for secretary (2 yr term) property (2 yr term) and the Synod Representative (3 yr term). If you have an interest in joining the board, please let me know by January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025.*

*Conference Assembly will be February 16 @ 2:00 pm with a snow date of February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2025. This year St. Paul Volga, Iowa will be hosting the conference.*

The **Operating Fund** pays the utilities, insurance on the building, supplies, salaries and Lawn/Snow Care.

The **Crisis Fund** is used to help families with emergency rent or utilities and our sponsored events throughout the year

Please utilize the **MEMO LINE** on your check to specify **Crisis or Operating Fund!**

Please indicate what church you are from as well to provide better bookkeeping.

### **IMPORTANT EVENTS/DATES:**

**Conference Assembly  
February 16th (Tentative)  
St. Paul, Volga**

**\*Any event may be subject to change**

### **Shepherd of the Hills:**

Heather Hageman

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**Business Hours: Monday-Friday  
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*January 2025*