

From the "Pen" of Pastor Paula

Opening the latest issue of THE CHRISTIAN CENTURY. The column "First Words" by the editor/publisher, Peter W. Marty, produced a light bulb moment: The title of his column is: Words to avoid at church—They might not be what you expect. The congregation Pastor Marty serves makes an effort to avoid certain words or phrases: visitor, attending church, family, taking the collection, join us for.

Visitor: "Nobody entering church deserves to be labeled a visitor. New-comers may be guests in the house of the Lord, but they're not visitors....In most settings visitors hold second class citizenship. They're made to feel as if they don't know or have certain secrets that others know & have.....receive [guests] quietly as [equals] as [people] arriving with faith, depth, complexity & ...many life experiences....think of them as guests—not visitors---&.....[be] the host they need you to be."

Attending church: "Rubbing shoulders with people with whom you may have nothing in common except your humanity and God, but whom you're willing to let impact the shape & substance of whom you are, means it's time to speak of belonging. I [Pastor Marty] wonder if people who talk of *attending* their church for years have yet to discover the beauty & significance of *belonging*."

Family: (This is a word that I use—let us hear what Pastor Marty has written on it.) "No matter how intimate your faith community is, you don't want it to be a family....Families are closed social units...families have scores of customs & conventions that aren't always obvious or welcoming to newcomers. Scripture reminds us that Jesus broke the hearts of many first century families as he called people from their families into a larger life."

Taking the collection: "The moment in worship when people offer up a gift of value from their life is called the offering, not the collection.....people have made material & spiritual offerings on behalf of God, but we don't collect them. How would one even collect the gift of a beautiful offertory sung by choir members giving their best? Offerings are given & received."

Join us for.... "This no-no is an easy slip that creeps into announcements. Unless you're cultivating [a club], try a more open invitation for all to join *in* an activity."

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NEWSFLASH! The UCC has elected its first female general minister & president, Karen Georgia Thompson & the first woman of African descent to lead the UCC. She was born in Jamaica, is currently associate general minister for the UCC's Wider Church ministries & co-executive for global ministries, serves on the Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches & brings experience from other councils & organizations.

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Let us celebrate belonging to Peace UCC! But most importantly, let us celebrate that God loves the world so much that God sent God's Son into the world, to save the world!

Pastor Paula

TIDINGS

September 2023

Volume 76, Number 9

301 North Main Street
PO Box 268
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563-245-2126

Office Hours:

Monday thru Friday, 9am—Noon

Email:

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Facebook:

facebook.com/peacechurchelkader

YouTube Channel:

Peace Church—Elkader

Pinterest:

pinterest.com/peaceucc0618

*"Peace United Church of Christ
is a multigenerational community
of faith.*

*We welcome people of all ages,
races, and life situations to join
us*

*in our calling to serve as the
hands and feet of Christ."*

STEPHEN MINISTRY



September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
* Coffee Fellowship after Worship Services on Sunday Mornings	Office Open Monday thru Fridays from 9 AM to noon				1 Happy Birthday, Linda Meyer!	2
3 9:00 AM Worship with Communion Happy Birthday, Ruth Grau & Hannah Koehn!	4 4:00 PM: Stephen's Ministry Happy Birthday, Debbie Crane & Dawn Anderson!	5	6 5:30 PM: Bell Choir 6:30 PM: Choir Happy Birthday, Sandra Kramer!	7	8	9 Happy Birthday, Jerry Koons, Millie Burns, & Jamison Feickert!
10 10:00 AM Outdoor Worship at the Founder's Park Shelter	11 5:30 PM: Church Council	12 Happy Birthday, Wayne Frentress!	13 5:30 PM: Bell Choir 6:30 PM: Choir	14 2:00 PM: Peacemakers	15 9:00 Am: Memorial Committee Happy Birthday, Jonathan Fangman!	16 Happy Birthday, Don Wilke!
17 9:00 AM Worship Happy Birthday, Brian Wilker!	18 Happy Birthday, JoAnn Butikofer!	19 Happy Birthday, Debbie Wilke! Happy Anniversary, Gerry & Sandy Kramer!	20 5:30 PM: Bell Choir 6:30 PM: Choir	21 1:30pm Care Center 5:00 –6:30pm Grace Café Happy Birthday, Penni Leonard!	22 Happy Birthday, Brenna Buckman!	23
24 9:00 AM Worship & Sunday School	25	26	27 5:30 PM: Bell Choir 6:30 PM: Choir	28	29	30

October Tidings Deadline

October Tidings newsletter deadline will be Thursday, September 21st. Please submit updates and articles by this date. Please email: peaceucc@alpinecom.net or call 563-245 2126. Thanks for all your time and involvement in Peace UCC!

Construction Season

Have you ever heard the joke that there are two seasons in the Midwest? Winter and Road Construction? Well, Peace Church has sure been through their very own construction season! The sidewalk and driveway repair is complete (well mostly) and there is now more handicap parking along the church. They will be coming back to do a little repair work and some epoxy covering by the office doors to help keep the flow of water away from the building.

The offices are looking AMAZING and will be getting put back together in the coming weeks with the last of the painting to be completed on the book shelves. Be sure to stop by and enjoy the new look of the office!

Shepherd of the Hills recently sent out a request for help with their own construction project that is needed for their clothing center. They need to replace their front entryway due to cracking, shifting, and safety issues. It is a costly project for them and they are asking for help from the community. If you would like to make a monetary donation to them, please send it to the SOTH office at P.O. Box 36, St. Olaf, IA 52072. And if you have any fundraising ideas or ideas for ways Peace Church could contribute, please let Paula or Debbie know!

Grace Café

Wow another successful Grace Café in August! We lost count of people we served, but know it was over 70, and raising \$375 to go Hawaii Relief through our UCC. Pastor Paula did some research and believes there are at least 60 UCC churches in the state of Hawaii and at least one was lost to the wildfire. They need our help. If you wish to contribute, please contact the church office.

Thursday, September 21st from 5-6:30 pm, will be our next Grace Café. This month the menu is spaghetti, lettuce salad, garlic toast and cake for dessert. Come and join us! This is a free meal, but should you decide to donate all proceeds go towards our mission work at Peace UCC. Everyone is welcome so please bring a neighbor or friend. We do provide carry outs and will deliver within city limits, just call 563-245-2126 (church office) before noon on Thursday for delivery.

July Council Minute Recap

The council met on Monday, July 10th at 5:40 PM.

Finance Report—It was reported that we are slightly behind on expenses and income. It was requested that the rental revenue from the parsonage be shown on the Statement of Activity.

Pastor Report—Pastor reported on the meetings she has held including committees, Stephen Ministers, the service at the care center, and three hospital visits.

Christian Education—No report

Buildings & Grounds—Waiting for a written bid from Mark Kempal to compare to the others. The boiler gauge needs ordered and placed by Meyer Mechanical. Jay contacted Culligan regarding a water softener and payment plan, the smaller size will be sufficient. The back porch at the parsonage is rotten and needs replaced.

Missions—No report

Worship—No report

Memorial—Council passed the replacement of the carpet and the painting in both offices. The committee is looking into purchasing new banners and also other options to the electronic display for the narthex as the proposed set up is expensive and will require ongoing maintenance to keep it current.

New Business—

We received a donation for a chair that tilts forward to help the person rise. The July outdoor service was well attended so another one will be planned for September 10. The AED order was canceled by the supplier and a new one was found. The Fall Festival Committee declined incorporating a 100th anniversary celebration into their event. A program for a tree planting to commemorate the 100th anniversary where people could purchase a reasonably priced tree and plant it wherever they want was suggested.

The next meeting was scheduled for August 14th.

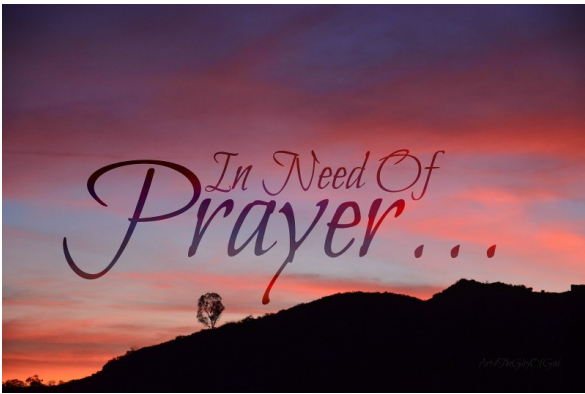
Outdoor Worship in September

Outdoor Worship will be held at the Founder's Park Shelter on Sunday, September 10 at 10 AM. Please bring your own drink and lawn chair.



Attendance & Worship Offerings

August 6, 2023	43	\$2,722.00
August 13, 2023	47	\$1,567.00
August 20, 2023	41	\$1,997.00
August 27, 2023	Unknown at	Time of Printing



Sign up for Weekly Volunteer Opportunities by visiting our link at [SignUP.com](https://signup.com/go/GvtgeeP) or scan this QR Code
<https://signup.com/go/GvtgeeP>



Greg Anderson	Gus Auguston
Linda Cranston	Abby Folsom
Tom Gifford	Linda Glesne
Nancy Kuehl	Marilyn Nielson
Marilyn Nielson	Ruth Olson
Jenny Olson	Floyd Possehl
Sharon Reichart	Harry Robbins
Gloria Robbins	

Care Center/Assisted Living Residents

Inge Baumgartner, Karen Glesne, Connie Koehn,
 Marlene Marmann, Eydie Seeland, Elvera Palas

Bread for the Journey

Readings for 9/3-9/9

Exodus 3:1-15 & Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b or Jeremiah 15:15-21 & Psalm 26:1-8

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

Readings for 9/10-9/16

Exodus 12:1-14 & Psalm 149 or Ezekiel 33:7-11 & Psalm 119:33-40
 Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

Readings for 9/17-9/23

Exodus 14:19-31 & Psalm 114 or Genesis 50:15-21 & Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

Readings for 9/24-9/30

Exodus 16:2-15 & Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 or Jonah 3:10-4:11 & Psalm 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

SEPTEMBER 2023 RESPONSIBILITIES			
Acolyte		Usher/Greeter	
NAME	NAME	NAME	NAME
9/3	Jamison & Jackson F	9/3	Barb Chandler
9/10	Reese & Rylie Kuhse	9/10	Dean & Joanne Gray
9/17	Isaiah & Jonah Burns	9/17	Ed & Melissa Patrick
9/24	Kendall Wagner	9/24	Steve & Ann M
Reader		Opening/Closing	
NAME	NAME	NAME	NAME
9/3	Sue Stott	9/3	Bruce Landis
9/10	Laura Moser	9/10	Dean & Joanne Gray
9/17	Ann McCorkindale	9/17	Sue Stott
9/24	Steve McCorkindale	9/24	Nancy McClure
Fellowship		Food Shelf Donation Driver (1x per month)	
NAME	NAME	NAME	NAME
9/3	Sue Stott	9/3	
9/10	Dean & Joanne Gray	9/10	
9/17	Volunteer Needed	9/17	
9/24	Volunteer Needed	9/24	Gwen Dettbarn
Communion Prep & Clean Up (1x per month)		Grace Café Meal Prep	
NAME	NAME	NAME	NAME
	Bruce Landis	9/21	Dean & Joanne Gray

Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2023



WOW! We expected up to 300 children for our Back-to-School event and we actually had 335. That is 97 more backpacks than the previous year. My volunteers knocked it out of the park yet again. Thank you to those who help us in every way to make this a successful event. The Thrivent donations, monetary donations and supply donations were remarkable. Seeing the excitement on the children's faces (picking out their bags) makes all the hours of set up and planning worthwhile. (Parents were excited too but to see them go back to school) Our surplus of inventory has dwindled down, so if you see any supplies or backpacks on clearance, please pick them up. We will defiantly need them for next year. Thank you for your continued compassion for our children and the programs we host for them. It takes all of us to make good things great!

CLOTHING CENTER UPDATES

We are doing a "much needed" repair to the front steps and landing to the entrance of the building. The project is necessary as the cement is pulling away from the building and cracking. We have received bids from \$10,000 up to \$15,000. We are hoping to alleviate some of the cost by doing some work ourselves. But this is still leaving a heavy cost that we need help with. We would really appreciate your donation to keep our beautiful building safe for all to enjoy. If you are able to contribute to this project, please send your donations to Shepherd of the Hills office.

Clayton County Food Shelf Items for the Month: **Rice, Pasta, Spaghetti Sauce, Tomato Sauce, Canned Tomatoes**

Items Needed Every Month:

Canned food, paper goods, toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, dish detergent, powdered laundry detergent, baby diapers (all sizes), baby wipes, baby powder, tuna, peanut butter, mac & cheese.

Needs:

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.

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

IMPORTANT DATES:

Annual Hog Roast:
Oct. 1st 4:00-7:00 pm

Little Flock Cluster B Fall Gathering: Oct 28th, 9:00-1:00 @ Hope Lutheran Church, Littleport.

Any event may be subject to change

Shepherd of the Hills

Heather Hageman

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Business Hours: Monday-Friday
9am-12pm and 1pm-4 pm

Shepherd Conference News:

Please help me in welcoming East Clermont Lutheran Church in Clermont, Iowa and their Pastor, Ron Roberts to our conference.

Calling All Music Lovers

Rehearsals for the Peace Church Choir and Bell Choir have begun, but it is not too late to join! Our first rehearsal was on Wednesday, August 23.

The bells practice from 5:30 - 6:30 pm, and the choir meets from 6:30 - 7:30 pm every Wednesday. These are both dedicated and fun groups.

We welcome all those interested in joining us! If you have ever thought about being in one or both groups, please give it some prayerful consideration and say, "YES!" It is a wonderful way to share talent and fellowship, and praise God through music. For more information contact Anne Franta at (319) 899-2879



Change in Office Hours

It has been so nice to have a pastor in the office and available full-time. Pastor Paula will continue to have her office hours of availability Monday through Thursday from 9 AM to Noon, but mine will be changing.

I have been given the opportunity to take another job at the school working with kids and I am able to see my own kiddos throughout the day, which is probably the best perk I could think of!

I will still be working for Peace Church but my hours will look a little different. With school having just begun (and with a partial week) I still need to figure out what my days will look like, but I plan on being in the office on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons for sure and popping in as needed/as I am available on other days throughout the week.

Please feel free to email the church at peaceucc@alpinecom.net with requests or questions and calling the church at 563-245-2126 is also a good way to get ahold of me. Please leave a message if no one answers. I will be starting a communication notebook for my desk and will be checking that for messages when I come in too.

It has been a pleasure working for you all and I look forward to continuing to do so!

~Debbie Johnson, Secretary

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