The Peaceful News

The Peace Presbyterian Church of Lakewood Ranch, Florida Newsletter

Fall, 2021

Granddaughter Fiona has learned to ask "Why?" As with any preschooler,

the question is repetitive and adorable in its persistent curiosity. "Puppies, plants, or precious grandchildren?" That's what Richard asks when he catches me smiling at my computer or phone—instead of lamenting the problems of our world. The psalmist in lament asks God,

Why, O Lord, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? (Ps. 10)

The other repeated question is

How long, O Lord?

How long must I bear pain in my soul? (Ps. 13)

Fiona's parents run out of answers to her endless questions ...and so do I, with answers to the questions about how we will "do church" and why in the world we have such political posturing about public health. My health and freedom are connected to yours, so protecting others is our goal or should be. Jesus called it loving one another. We have a long way to grow—how long!

Psalm 10 finishes with these encouraging words:

O Lord, you will hear the desire of the meek; you will strengthen their heart, you will incline your ear to do justice for the orphan and the oppressed, so that those from earth may strike terror no more. Psalm 13 reassures us with this ending:

But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord because he has dealt bountifully with me.



We do not know why we must go on and on with COVID-19, even after vaccines are available, and we do not know how it will all end, but we know that God will be with us, encouraging us along the way to love one another. We know that ...

all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to God's purpose. (Romans 8)

We love God and we are called, so let us never stop thinking about how to be creatively faithful in the fulfillment of our goals: inspiring worship, authentic relationships, nurturing discipleship, compassionate outreach, and responsive stewardship.

Prayerfully yours,

Rev. Elizabeth M. Deibert Pastor, Peace Presbyterian Church

INSPIRING WORSHIP · AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS
NURTURING DISCIPLESHIP · COMPASSIONATE OUTREACH · RESPONSIVE STEWARDSHIP

Just a couple of comments from someone who has experienced Covid 19...

We all have two choices related to our response to this pandemic. We can choose to be vaccinated and wear masks when in close contact with others. This approach doesn't eliminate our potential for getting the virus. However, all data to this point show that, if a person does catch the virus, the effects are much less serious than without the vaccines.

Alternately, a person can conjure up a reason to

"...get out and get the recommended vaccinations."

not get vaccinated, but the factual, recognized justifications for avoiding vaccination are near zero. Plenty

of actual cases, however, show that the seriousness of the illness if a person does get Covid without the vaccinations is much, much worse and, in too many cases, ends up in death.

I want to add my plea to everyone to get the vaccinations and to wear the mask. This plea is based on my own experience with the virus. I received both vaccinations (Moderna), the first in February

& the second in March. Subsequently, I practiced the mask recommendation, but not very faithfully. Consequently, I contracted the new Delta strain (I assume) in late July. My symptoms were fever,

headache, tiredness, and diarrhea. These ailments were not debilitating; they just kept me in isolation for 4-5 weeks. This includes the time it took me to get negative test results that signified that my body had overcome the virus. Part



of the issue was that I was getting alternate positive and negative test results. I made it my objective to get two negative tests in a row without using the Rapid Test which is more prone to false results.

Please, everyone, get out and get the recommended vaccinations. The idea that you may get a deadly case, or pass it on to someone else, is not a conscientious way to go about our lives. In my opinion.

Don Simpson

Gratitude Team

Gratitude

The Gratitude Team is currently preparing for Peace's annual General Fund pledge drive. This year we are also preparing for BF-4 - the 4th Building Fund drive to pay off the debt on

our beautiful sanctuary. Our loan holder requires this pay off. Based on preliminary conversations with some building fund supporters, we believe with good support from the entire congregation, this Building Fund Drive may allow us to make the required pay-off of the sanctuary mortgage. That would make it our last Building Fund Drive!

Support of both the General Fund and the Building Fund has shown our congregation is grateful for all Peace is and does! The 2020 General Fund pledge drive produced the best results in the history of Peace Presbyterian Church. Our congregation's financial support has been and is truly

amazing! We are looking forward to seeing that support as we move forward in our service.

We will be running these campaigns in October and

November with the General Fund drive being for 2022 and the Building Fund Drive being a three-year commitment for 2022-2024. Support for the Building Fund is not in place of funding the General Fund.

As always, our team and Peace are blessed by the giving of your time, unique talents and

your treasure. You help to make Peace Presbyterian church the place that *makes God known, by growing as disciples of Jesus Christ, building a community of Peace and caring for the needs of others with your responsive stewardship.* Fellowship resumed inside regular Fellowship time after worship several months ago. On Father's Day we incorporated Mother's Day, which we

had missed due to the pandemic, and created Parent's Day. We also had a special celebration for Fourth of July. We did, temporarily, stop having Fellowship in August; however, we hope to resume soon.

We welcomed two new members to our team: Sommer Jandula and Louise Lippert. Sommer has already jumped



in with both feet and helped setting up and baking. Louise is looking forward to baking in the Fall.

The Peace Adventure Seekers

hosted the first day trip. The trip was to Mixon Farms on 8/24/2021 and included the tram tour, a talk with Janet Mixon regarding their transition to growing bamboo, and lunch at Honeybell Hall. Approximately 30 people were on this trip. Looking forward to more Adventures in the future.



Fellowship was enthusiastically welcomed back, but has halted for now.

The Peace Adventure Seekers

This is a fun-loving group of adults who gather together for activities such as day trips to local points of interest, guided tours, stage

guided tours, stage productions, etc.
Lunch or dinner is usually part of the event.
Admission costs are

minimal. Most of the activities will take place on

weekdays with every attempt made to schedule some on weekends or evenings, depending on the event and venue, and possibly future bus trips to further points of interest. Our goal is to get to know one another better through social activities beyond Sunday morning worship.

FUTURE

We have recently taken a tram tour at Mixon Fruit Farm aboard the Orange Blossom Express, seen the rescued

wildlife critters, heard Janet Mixon discuss their transition from growing citrus to cultivating a bamboo crop, and had a delicious lunch in their Honeybell Hall.

The next adventure being planned is an outing to Southeastern Guide Dogs campus in Palmetto for a "Beyond the Dark" experience in October with lunch at a place yet to be determined. Watch for further details as they become available.

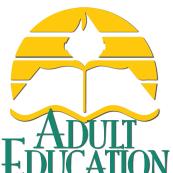
Future outings may include such events as a nature cruise in Sarasota Bay, docent-led tours of Sunken Gardens in St. Pete, backstage at the Van Wezel, Raymond James Stadium (after football season), the original Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City followed by a trip to La Segunda Bakery for Cuban bread, plays or musicals as they are available. You may participate in one trip or as many as you like. A meal will often be included, and carpools could be arranged. Come along for a fun "adventure" in fellowship with your friends from Peace.

Peace Presbyterians have embraced its mission "...to make God known..." through strong education programs—both formal and informal—for all ages.

This is particularly evident for Peace adults who have been blessed with many opportunities to be led by talented, devoted leaders who continue providing educational sessions even through the current pandemic. As we enter this Fall season, health and safety will continue to be a major consideration for educational activities as recommended by the Session. Please consult with their recommendations in the weekly worship bulletin for attending programs.

Current and upcoming Adult Educational programs are listed below:

- ROMEOS (Retired Old Men Eating Oranges)—Led by David Thomas and Wally Harman, Romeos began three years ago, and currently meet by Zoom. About 9 to 12 guys meet on Thursdays each week to discuss individual chapters in devotional books. Readings by Richard Rohr, Joan Chittister, Henri Nouwen, and other works as recommended/requested by participants. Currently reading Nouwen's book, "Here and Now."
- Men's Prayer & Bible Study—This group, led by Mickey Miller and Bill Clough, began around 15 years ago meeting on Tuesdays at 6:30 AM, currently via Zoom. Meeting with 9-10 regular attendees and several prayer partners with whom they share prayer concerns. Currently they are going through the Gospels, now in John, Chapters 9-10.
- **Women's Bible Study**—Susan Hyde and Kathleen Germano lead a group of 20–35 women on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 AM—now via Zoom. Using the Life Guide Bible Study curriculum, the women are now studying Acts.
- Bookworms—Meeting on Monday evenings via Zoom in January 2021, but taking a break after July, the Bookworms—also called the Monday Night Book Study—will return in October 18 and meet on the 3rd Monday of each month. Shannon and Patti Jung are coordinating the book selections, "Love Mercy: The Twelve Steps of Forgiveness" by Samuel Wells, "Consider Jesus: Waves of Renewal in Christology" by Elizabeth A. Johnson, and "Call It Grace: Finding Meaning in a Fractured World" by Serene Jones. An average of 16 individuals attended the sessions focusing on six different books with individual



participants volunteering to lead each chapter's session in the books.

• Younger Adults—Mary Beth
McSwain with Cori Rigney began a class
in 2021 for Peace's younger adults. With
an attendance of 4–12, Younger Adults
met on Sundays while children of some
attended CYF classes. This September,
Mary Beth plans to lead an in-person
study for young adults and parents using
a book titled, "More Than Words," by Jill

Santopolo.

- Older Adults—Also meeting on Sundays, classes are currently being planned by Bill Clough, Mickey Miller, Grant Lowe, and others. In September, one class is being planned for Sundays either in-person or Zoom (depending on the pandemic). Bill Clough will lead a class on the Bible's Bad and Good Words. Other class are in the planning stages for subsequent classes with times to be determined.
- **Faith and Film**—Led by David and Dotty Thomas with assistance by Eirinn Camphire and volunteers, Faith and Film begins its 2021-22 new season in September. It will continue to be held by Zoom. (see page 5)
- Christian Century Study of Anti-Racism—Led by Shannon Jung and Grant Lowe, emphasis will be placed on local problems with the the possiblity of elected officials or others beyond Peace to engage in racism issues in more practical ways. Beginning in November on Zoom each Monday night except the 3rd Monday.
- Currently under development is a Wednesday evening small group class using a curriculum, "Companions in Christ," led by Jeff and Diane Muckefuse, with an October start date and with hope of support from Steve Kersten.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2 (NIV)



FAITH AND FILM

For now, we will meet on Zoom to watch and discuss the films. Check the weekly Zoom notifications for the URLs, meeting IDs and passcodes.

Sept 17, 2021

Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (2011, PG-13,

2:09)

David Thomas, Discussion Leader

Thomas Horn, Tom Hanks, Sandra Bullock

A nine-year-old amateur inventor, Francophile, and pacifist searches New York City for the lock that matches a mysterious key left behind by his father, who died in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.



Oct 8, 2021

Rain Man (1988, R, 2:13)

Chet Day, Discussion Leader

Dustin Hoffman, Tom Cruise

Selfish yuppie Charlie Babbitt's father left a fortune to his savant brother Raymond and a pittance to Charlie; they travel cross-country.



Nov 12, 2021

The Father (2020, PG-13, 1:37)

Melissa Carlson Discussion Leader

Anthony Hopkins, Olivia Coleman, Mark Gatiss

A man refuses all assistance from his daughter as he ages. As he tries to make sense of his changing circumstances, he begins to doubt his loved ones, his own mind and even the fabric of his reality.



Dec 10, 2021

Soul (2020, PG, 1:40)

Dirk Brinkmeyer Discussion Leader

Voices of Jamie Foxx, Tina Fey, Graham Norton

After landing the gig of a lifetime, a New York jazz pianist suddenly finds himself trapped in a strange land between Earth and the afterlife.



Property Team

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the Lord have created it. Isaiah 45:8



In addition to righteousness, the Lord has poured down rain and the weeds have sprung up together. We thank Ivy Ruark who joined the team and was quickly crowned, "Queen of the Weeds." Ivy diligently maintains the beds at the entrance to both the Sanctuary and the Peace Center. We

are grateful that she doesn't mind pulling her weight in weeds on a regular basis.

Jack Riggenbach, and his brother Larry, have unloaded their electrical talents on various areas such as the Sanctuary HVAC

system, courtyard fountain, the pond fountain/aerator and the irrigation control box. We are beyond appreciative for their knowledge and willingness to do the work.

Looking forward to cooler weather means more time to be outside so that we can color our campus with flowers and plants and trees. There will be some wonderful improvements, inside and out, in the coming months including new flooring in the west hallway and Admin areas of the Peace Center. It takes a village to keep our property looking good and well maintained, and our village needs more residents. Do you have a knack for plumbing, electrical or HVAC projects? Are you a gardener who is willing to lend a hand in maintaining and creating new areas of beauty on the property? Do you secretly lie in bed and think about how to build a better mousetrap? If so, we're the team for you. Contact team leader Dee Romito or Elder Piotr Sliwowski.

The Earth Care/Matthew 25 Team is offering some great opportunities! With your help, we will be changing our lighting in the Peace Center to power-saving LEDs! You can adopt a favorite room and be recognized for your donation. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Peace Center.

There will be a tour of the Manatee County
Landfill on Monday, September 20th at 10am.
Learn what happens to the items we throw
away during this air-conditioned van tour
through the site. Free of charge, sign up in the Peace Center.

Forty Peace folks attended our Manatee Justice Ministry informational meeting to learn more about DART (Direct Action Research & Training Center). Good news: house meetings will be starting soon for our local Manatee Justice



Peaceful Path News

You'll find peace and a whole lot more on the path! Summer rains have brought the new orchids on the orchid archway and the 24 new bromeliads already donated to Peace's Bromeliad Wall sing

"Alleluia." Thank you, Hazell Miller for sharing your orchid expertise and some of your orchids. Another thanks to all who donated to honor, celebrate, or remember loved ones. Pick up your Bromeliad Wall flyer at the church office if you'd like to contribute.

We will soon be installing two pieces of our music and sensory section at the path. Part of the funding for this project came from the Elizabeth Eaton grant that we were awarded in June. Two large outdoor musical flowers of different colors, sizes, and heights will produce sweet soft gong sounds. The flowers are so sculptural they will be enjoyed as soon as they are seen, but they will enchant you with their tones for additional delight. "Stay tuned" for their installation date.

Close to forty gorgeous trail markers have been created by artists in our church and community. What talent we have! You must walk the path now just to see the terrific variety of markers on our Peaceful Path. We truly have a natural museum on our church property for the entire community to behold.



Ministry. This is an opportunity to share our local justice concerns with others in an informal setting. If you would like to attend one of our six house meetings, email cyf@peacepcusa.com Come join our events and help make a difference in our community and world!

The crowd at Manatee Justice
Ministry informational meeting.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, September 12: Peaceful Path committee meeting after church. Come have some fun planning future path projects and events. All input is welcome.

Saturday, October 9: Peaceful Path churchwide clean-up day. Bring gloves, clippers, water, bug spray and smiles!

Saturday, October 23: Peace Presbyterian's Pumpkin Patch from 12-6 p.m. Enjoy two Spooktacular organ concerts, the pumpkin patch, and a Not-So-Haunted Path



The Orchid Archway on the Peaceful Path



Outreach Team

The Outreach Team's biggest project right now is a series of seven concerts, scheduled from August to April (see page 8). We kicked off the season with "On the



departs, please give yourself a treat and come visit. The Earth Care Team has taken the lead on this ambitious project, and Outreach offers support when we can. There

Road Again," presented in our sanctuary on August 4th by the Florida Studio Theatre. We didn't heed the suggestion in Psalm 96:1 ("Sing to the Lord a new song") but we sang a lot of oldies! It was delightful to hear everyone providing the four claps in "Deep in the Heart of Texas" and following the cue cards to sing "Ba, ba, ba" in "Sweet Caroline." It was well-attended and much enjoyed.

Coming up next, on September 26 during morning worship, the Ring Side Handbell Ensemble, a sub-group of the Raleigh Ringers, will provide much of our service music. Then on Saturday, October 23, if you are brave enough, come to hear Amy Cerniglia's version of "Organ Spooktacular," which will be presented at 2 p.m. and again at 4 p.m. (Feel free to wear your Halloween costume.) Pick up a flyer listing all seven concerts next time you're in the narthex, and plan to attend! And please remember to invite friends and neighbors. That's the "Outreach" part.

Have you visited the Peaceful Path lately? These days it seems to be the "Puddle Path," but when the rainy season

are now two "musical flowers" at the start of the Path; kids especially will enjoy ringing the chimes. We want to thank all the Peace folks who show up to rake, weed, decorate, and keep the path well-groomed. And another thank-you to the Scouts who meet at Peace; they help with cleanup on the Path.

Some of us are great with technology, some of us are novices. Have you taken the time to Google Peace? If you put in our address, 12705 SR 64, 34212, you will be able to see a virtual photographic tour of the grounds and both buildings; fun to show your family and friends. Also, remember we are all listed on the CCB website. Go to peacepcusa.com and click "Connect" and you'll find the CCB connection. If you have ever had your photo taken at Peace, you are probably in the database. You can find contact information that will help you stay in touch when it doesn't seem safe to gather in person. Let's take care of each other as we continue to pray for the pandemic to end.

Lynda Harman, Outreach Chair





August 4, 6PM

Florida Studio Theatre On the Road Again Free to all

October 23, 2рм & 4рм

Amy Cerniglia Organ Spooktacular \$10 suggested donation for adults; 100% of proceeds to Youth Music

January 30, 2PM

Lakewood Ranch Wind Ensemble \$10 for all ages

April 10, 4PM

Ring Sarasota \$15 adults; under 18 free September 26, 10_{AM}

Ring Side Handbell Ensemble Live in Sunday Worship Free to all

November 28, 2_{PM}

Lakewood Ranch Wind Ensemble \$10 for all ages

March 27, 2_{PM}

Lakewood Ranch Wind Ensemble \$10 for all ages

Peace Presbyterian Church

12705 SR-64 E • Lakewood Ranch, FL 34212

Congregational Care

Care Cluster #15 is now being led by Glenda Kragt. Welcome Glenda! Her quiet, caring spirit is a great

addition to our Care Cluster leadership.

needs within the congregation.

The Congregational Care Team was recognized recently during the Sunday worship Call to Discipleship on August 8. We are hopeful that we were able to convey our 3-part mission using daily Pray-ers, Stephen Ministers and Care Cluster groups. We are behind-the-scenes folks as we pray, contact members and offer confidential care through Stephen Ministry. Our eyes and ears, however, are always open at worship and through prayer concerns for

Referring to the current Covid status and how it continues to affect our lives, one year ago in the Fall 2020

edition of this newsletter we wrote:

"Congregational Care is always On.
In these days of frequent concern,
decision making and frustration we
strive to support each member of the
Peace congregation in whatever way we
may be helpful."

This August 2021 we continue to do the same.

Saturday Night Social via Zoom

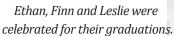
Are you longing for the day when you feel safe going out with friends and socializing on a Saturday evening? Well, let's do this from the comfort of our homes! Saturday September 11th from 7:30-8:30pm, tune in to visit with Peace friends; everyone invited. Grab your favorite beverage and snack, sit in your favorite chair and join Peace friends for an hour of happy and interesting conversation. Debbie Bauman and Nancy Hogue will be hosting this social hour with a fun activity planned to reconnect and become better acquainted. Below is the Zoom link and login details. See you soon!

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88595336032?pw d=bUZId0ZDT0pUVmZLeHFqcGR6VkVpZz09

Meeting ID: 885 9533 6032

Passcode: 051011







The Worship and Music Team have continued to meet monthly by Zoom throughout the year. The purpose for the Team is to be of service to the Ministers, the Session and the Congregation in preparation for worship and fellowship. There were significant challenges in dealing with the Covid pandemic and maintaining safety for all at Peace Church, adhering to CDC guidelines.

The Team assisted Pastor Elizabeth in preparation of the elements for Communion. Liturgists were scheduled and notified by a member of the team. An audio-visual sub-team was created to plan for and then carry out live streaming of services within the Sanctuary when they would begin again. The return of indoor worship began on Pentecost Sunday.

That joyous event was succeeded by the return of Voices of Peace Chancel Choir, leading the Congregation in singing the hymns, while enthusiastically returning to Wednesday night on-site rehearsals. A Music potluck dinner on July 10 was well-attended and plans for the year were discussed. The Team was pleased to learn that the Choir would soon resume singing anthems on Sundays.

Unfortunately, as we all know, with the rapid spreading Delta variant of Covid, new CDC guidelines indicate the need to resume masks in indoor spaces. The Session has made the decision to limit indoor singing by the Congregation and the Choir will not be in the Chancel.

However the spirit and the determination to contribute to meaningful worship services remain very strong with the Worship and Music Ministry Team. Live streaming of services will continue. There are plans for multiple instrumental music presentations during Sunday worship including the bell choir.

Worship Even's

The first in the concert series at Peace was performed by Florida Studio Theatre on Wednesday August 4 with performers and attendees complying with the mask requirement.

We know that Peace Presbyterian Church will continue undeterred in its mission to minister to the spiritual needs of its Congregation and the greater community, while being evermindful of the health and well-being of its people.





Children, Family and Youth

We closed out the 2020/21 school year with our wonderful Youth-Led Worship on May 16th. What a joyful collaboration of our youth, children and worship leaders! We also

celebrated the graduation of Finn Camphire and Ethan Pino that day. If you missed that service, remember you can always revisit older services on YouTube.

The Creation Care Day Camp was held at Peace for a week in June, with 13 elementary children attending for a full day of faith and fun. We also welcomed special guests such as Manatee County Recycling and wildlife rescuer Justin Matthews who helped us all find new ways to take care of the earth and the creatures who live upon it.

The Montreat Youth Conference was a faith-building week as always. We had 7 boys in the Peace house, including two new friends from Beth-El and for some of them it was the final summer conference. Next summer we look forward not only to Montreat from July 9–16, but an opportunity for high-schoolers to attend Triennium, a once-every-three-year gathering of thousands of youth in Indianapolis, IN. This will take place July 24–27, 2022.

This fall the CYF Team looks forward to continuing children's lively learning on Sundays, Take-a-Break Wednesdays for elementary children, and Youth Group on Sunday evenings for middle and high schoolers. On October 23rd we will host a Pumpkin Patch at Peace! This event will sell pumpkins to benefit the youth fund and will also offer many fun, free attractions: face painting, a "not-so-spooky" path and bouncy house. We will be welcoming anyone from the community who would like to attend. Amy will also have two Organ Spooktacular concerts that afternoon. Don't miss this new, fun event for all ages! Stay posted to hear about our annual Thanksgiving break mission trip November 21-24! It's going to be another great year with our children and youth at Peace!





2021, boys from Peace and Beth-El pose with John Daniel DeBevoise



At CYF Summer Kickoff Michael in a Limbo contest.



Volunteer Opportunities



Turning points is always in need of volunteers in their particular departments, especially in the computer lab helping with job applications, resumes, and looking for affordable housing. There is also a new customer service volunteer position in the donation center. Peace church has several volunteers serving at Turning Points- Patti and Shannon Jung, Linda McCallister, Tina Juillerat, and Steve Kersten. Turning Points is holding a Warm Coat Drive from October 4-November 23. Please start bringing in your adult and kids' coats, hats, and gloves to church anytime, or drop off at Turning Points. Dropoff hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30-4.



THANK YOU!
PEACE PRES. - LAKEWOOD
RANCH

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry, Onc.

Workers prepare the area and install the walk-in refrigerator that Peace donations helped to purchase. The new facilities will assist in the distribution of food to the migrant farmworkers.



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