

The Peaceful News

The Peace Presbyterian Church of Lakewood Ranch, Florida Newsletter

SPRING, 2018



Every afternoon after the builders leave,

I walk over to the sanctuary to see what's new. The building construction site like the community of people—the real church—is ever changing. People coming, people going. Supplies and parts moving around. Yet there are some things that are constant, while other pieces get added on. It reminds me of God's word to us in Ephesians,

²⁰ As God's household, you are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ The whole building is joined together in him, and it grows up into a temple that is dedicated to the Lord. ²² Christ is building you into a place where God lives through the Spirit. (Eph 2:20-22 CEB)

I wonder if you think of yourselves as being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone. Think of yourselves as soffits and light fixtures, dry wall and roof shingles, ceiling tiles and air handlers. Your name is on the insulated concrete forms that fit together like legos. God has pieced us together, built us up into a place where God lives through the Spirit which dwells in us. The church named Peace would not be here apart from God's Spirit dwelling in us.

The church named Peace would not be here without your piece of insulated concrete form holding that wall up. We will not continue to be here securely to share Christ's peace with the neighbors without your donation to the building fund, paying for that piece of soffit, that roof, that choir loft, that narthex for gathering, that parking lot light for visibility, that landscaping, that communion table, cross, baptismal font, and pulpit for inspiration.



Imagine a lego wall with your piece missing. We need everyone to step up for the first time or for the third or fourth time and say, "I've got this piece. You can count on me." The whole structure is joined together in Christ, but Christ needs you to do your part, so this dwelling place can welcome more people to see that **Christ is our peace**, and we are just the pieces.

Prayerfully yours,

Elizabeth

Rev. Elizabeth M. Deibert

Pastor, Peace Presbyterian Church

Outreach



Peace Clean Up Day, April 21. One day before Earth Day, meeting at 8:30 to help keep the Upper Manatee River Road free of litter, which helps to keep the church advertised to all the drivers between Fort Hamer Bridge and St. Rd. 64. Email tonimuirhead@aol.com to find out where we are meeting.

PEACE FORUM

“Global Warming: Manasota” is the title of a Peace Forum on the Environment to be held on Earth Day, Sunday afternoon, April 22, at 5:00 pm at Peace Presbyterian Church. The Forum will focus on the impact of climate change in Manatee and Sarasota counties and how we might lessen its impact. Our exciting panel includes:

Scott Norris, a realtor from Manatee county, thinking about real estate in the future;

Sofia Uribe, musing on the impact of sea level rise for her generation;

Darcy Thomas, Sarasota Bay Estuary Project Executive Director;

Shannon Jung, author of *We are Home: A Spirituality of the Environment*;

...and perhaps a surprise guest or two!

Come to consider the future of the only planet you and I have.

A poster with a teal background. At the top, the text 'Global Warming Manasota' is written in a large, white, stylized font. Below it, '-22 APRIL.' is written in a smaller font. In the center is a graphic of a globe with green continents and blue oceans, surrounded by white, swirling lines. To the right of the globe, the text 'Peace PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH' is written in a white, cursive font. Below the globe, the text 'EARTH DAY' is written in a white, bold font. At the bottom, the text 'discussion panel with:' is followed by the names and titles of the panelists: 'Darcy Young, Outreach Manager at Sarasota Bay Estuary Program', 'Shannon Jung, author of We Are Home: A Spirituality of the Environment', 'Sofia Uribe, LWR High School Student', and 'Scott Norris, Manatee Realtor'. At the very bottom, the text 'Join Us Sunday, April 22, 5:00pm at Peace Presbyterian Church, 12705 SR 64 East, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34212, (941) 753-7778' is written in a white font.

We will be concentrating in the Forum on sea level rise and how it will impact Manatee and Sarasota counties (hence, the Manasota label). Sometimes climate change seems like it is a future event, but we are now seeing the effects right now. (Just ask the folks in Miami!)



Have you enjoyed the treats between worship services? How about the cute hearts on Valentine’s Day and the eggs on Easter. And Gia’s going-away party—that was a blast! A lot (and sometimes ALL) the credit goes to the Fellowship Team.

They do need help. Someone has to do all the work—from preparing food to setting up tables and chairs and cleaning up afterward. That’s every single Sunday and other special events.

They are politely asking for some assistance, but your editor is pushing much harder for everyone to sign up to bring goodies and fruit on Sunday mornings and help with the set-up and

cleaning for special events. They could also use more people to join the team. If one of your Gifts from God is hospitality, please contact Ellen Walch at ewhallrays@verizon.net or call her at 941-713-9198. You can also sign up in the narthex or in the café. You don’t have to worry about set-up, coffee or break-down.

Also a note from the team—We know it gets crowded in the cafe at times. Please bear with us. We are looking forward to moving to our bigger space once the new Sanctuary is built.

Look forward to special upcoming Sundays, like Mother’s Day and Father’s Day.



Making Headway on New Sanctuary

The Sanctuary building is on schedule for a June finish. The interior sheet rock and painting are nearing completion. The raised Chancel stage framing will be the next to be installed and the Choir permanent risers are in the design/

pricing process currently. The exterior sidewalk and paving has begun. The Liturgical furniture is in the design stage. *-Building Vision Team*

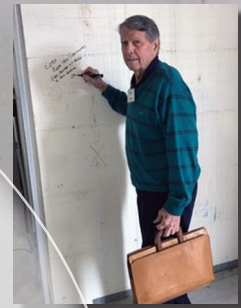
Greta VanderWeerd, age 8, was one of dozens of church members who inscribed scripture verses or other well wishes Sunday on the walls of their soon to be finished sanctuary at Peace Presbyterian Church.

“Spiritual Graffiti” was the description of the wall covering verbiage offered by retired pastor Grant Lowe. Others described the verses as “praise.”

“It is a very special experience to do this; an indescribable feeling of communicating with God that is not speaking,” explained Pastor Elizabeth Deibert. “Even though these walls will be covered over in a few days, we and God will know what is on those walls.” Deibert said she wrote instructions to her congregation: “Beloved let us love one another.”

Greta’s younger sister, Cora, age 5, drew her rendition of the building itself, while Don Simpson, a member involved in the planning of the building, wrote, “Bless this sanctuary and the people of Peace to your service.”

Jamie Holt, 13, sketched a cross and offered that he liked Peace Church because it was “simple.” “A lot of churches have TV channels and all, but I wanted a church that was simple that I could go to and feel loved,” he explained.

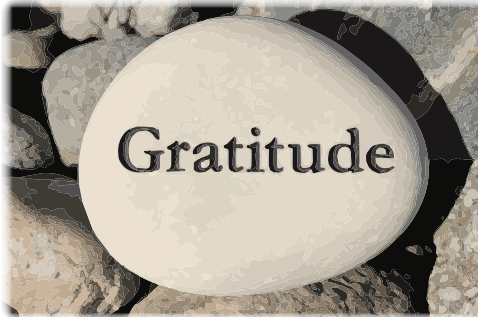




Gratitude for Everyone

Members of the Gratitude Team have joined members of the Building Vision Team for “The Dream Continues” capital campaign. Dinners are being held on April 15, April 29, and May 20 for members of the congregation to hear about this next capital campaign and to answer their questions regarding how they can help make it a success.

The Gratitude Team will also host a “Youth Dinner” on April 22nd. Members of the team will speak with the youth about various financial pitfalls that they will encounter in the next few years of their lives and how to make smart decisions to avoid these pitfalls.



Sunday, November 11 has been designated as the annual “Ingathering” for the annual giving campaign. Special Gratitude classes are being planned for the four weeks prior. They will focus on how God’s grace allows us to be a grateful and generous people.

We also appreciate the past generous support of the Peace Presbyterian congregation in the giving of their time, talents, and money. Each of you make a difference and we thank you for being a difference maker.

*Unless the Lord
builds the house,
those who build it
labor in vain.*

Psalms 127: 1a



MOVIES SET FOR FAITH AND FILM

This group meets on the 2nd Friday of each month, Sept. to May. We gather at church at 6:30 to visit with each other. The movies begin at 7:00 p.m. SHARP, followed by discussion. The theme for this year's films is "Challenges."

There is no need to sign up or make any advance plans. Just show up on the correct Friday and enjoy the movie. This group is a great way to ease into the "+2, as in Worship +2 is what we do." **NEW THIS YEAR: BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS AND ANY REFRESHMENTS**

May 11, 2018

A MAN CALLED OVE (2016)

Discussion Leader: Dirk Brinkmeyer

A Swedish comedy-drama film based on author Fredrik Backman's 2012 book of the same name. In the leading role as Ove is Rolf Lassgård. Ove is the quintessential angry old man next door. An isolated retiree with strict principles and a short fuse, he spends his days enforcing block association rules that only he cares about, and visiting his wife's grave. Ove has given up on life until a boisterous young family moves next door.

The Thomas Faith and Film group is thrilled to have David Thomas back at Peace and willing to lead the film discussions. The Team will meet in June to pick the movies for next year.

Mark your calendar for the 2nd Friday of the month, October through May. Movies start promptly at 7 p.m. so we have plenty of time for discussion. Please bring your own drinks and snacks to share if you wish.

Mother's Day Comes Early

Fill the Suitcase



This year, in honor of our Moms, we are supporting children in Haiti. You have probably heard about the Life Connection Mission. Founded in 1998, this

school provides educational programs for more than 500 children, medical assistance, ministry, nutritional meals, and other humanitarian outreach. The medical center treats many people in the community where the school is located.



They are in need of general first aid supplies, over the counter pain relievers/fever reducers, etc. We will be collecting such items from April 29 through no later than May 6 (the week before Mother's Day). Our own **Craig Hardesty** will be carrying the supplies with him to Haiti, leaving on May 9.

We need: Band aids, gauze pads, tape, Neosporin, any First Aid supplies, Ibuprofen products, acetaminophen products, tooth brushes, toothpaste, children's vitamins. (All items must be unopened and un-expired.)

Also, we need prayers for Craig on this trip to visit the mission in Haiti!

Music Mission



We are continuing regular rehearsals for music groups here at Peace, with the exception of the Gospel Guys. This wonderful group will get together only for special occasions, such as a dedication of the new sanctuary.

Sometime in the near future, we hope to have rehearsals for a men's chorus. Thanks to everyone who has helped me to ease into this transition.

The job description for the new music director is in the process of being posted on several websites. The committee would also appreciate anyone in the congregation passing information along to friends and family.

Linda McCallister
Interim Music Director

WANT AT PEACE

Opportunities for Faith, Friendship, and Following Christ with Peace

(meeting at Peace unless otherwise noted, email listed for contact person)

Multiple Music Groups—listed on back of bulletin. **Music Director**, lmccallister348@gmail.com

Communion Servers—Sunday Services. **Don Deibert**, bigd55@bellsouth.net

Liturgists—Sundays Services. **Suzi Regulski**, ikslugers@gmail.com

Life Groups—meeting twice/month in homes or church for strengthening faith and friendships.

We are hoping to form some new groups soon. **Steve Kersten**, kerstenstephen@gmail.com

Faith & Film—2nd Fridays at 6:30pm, May 11—*The Man Called Ove*, egmiller1126@gmail.com

Monthly Kids Club (3rd-5th)—Next one is on April 29th. **Youth Director**, e.eirinn@gmail.com

Peace Forums—Sunday 5:00pm April 22 on *Global Warming: Manasota*, shannon.jung@spst.edu

Poetry as Prayer Group—4th Mondays 6:30pm at **Barbara McIlwain's**, bmcilwain@tampabay.rr.com

Men's Weekly Bible & Prayer—Tuesdays 6:45-8:00 am **Mickey Miller**, mickeymiller314@gmail.com

Walk to Emmaus Spiritual Retreats—**Jo-Anne McLaughlin**, jopsl@hotmail.com

Women's Weekly Bible Study—Wednesdays 9:30-10:30. *Gospel of Mark*, hyde.susank@gmail.com

Youth Group (6th to 12th)—Most Sundays for service or fun, e.eirinn@gmail.com

Stephen Ministry of One-on-One Caregiving—**Pastor**, edeibert@peacepcusa.com

Beth-El Volunteers—assisting with local food pantry (Thursday mornings), juniemiller1@verizon.net

Reading Pals—weekly reading to elementary kids **Joy Kottra**, kottra@sbcglobal.net

Books for Kids—monthly reading to kids with Rotary LWR, books housed at Peace, stlind88@aol.com

Peace Crafters—1st & 3rd Fridays 10-12 Make something or chat **Ellen Walch**, ewhallrays@verizon.net

Peace Road Clean-up—Monthly clean up adopted section of Ft. Hamer Rd., tonimuirhead@aol.com

Single Women's Fellowship—occasional dinners or activities, ivyruark@gmail.com

Men's Lunch Group—restaurant lunch conversation **Henry Sunkenberg**, onehas@gmail.com

Peaceful Parents—Dinners and activities **Aubrey Sammons**, asladybug03@gmail.com