

The Peaceful News

The Peace Presbyterian Church of Lakewood Ranch, Florida Newsletter

Spring, 2022

I love this season of Sundays after Epiphany. Let me walk you through recent and coming weeks, so you get a birds' eye view of it. We remember that we belong to God, are marked by Christ, and filled with the Spirit in baptism. We remember Jesus' calling to preach actual good news to those whom the world ignores or denies dignity. We hear that in the Spirit, we are one, and that all of us in the body of Christ matter with our variety of gifts and perspectives. We read stories of the call of two prophets, who seemed overwhelmed by their call and unprepared, yet God's holy words were put in their mouths. We see Jesus blessing the fishermen with an amazing catch after they had searched all night long. Simon Peter repents of questioning Jesus' authority and he, James and John, begin to follow Jesus. With Jesus by our side, we see the profound gift of love, which bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

This season reminds me of the opening of the children's catechism, Belonging to God. Who are you? I am a child of God. What does it mean to be a child of God? That I belong to God who loves me. What makes you a child of God? Grace—God's free gift of love that I do not deserve and cannot earn. Don't you have to be good for God to love you? No, God loves me in spite of all I do wrong. How do you thank God for this gift of love. I promise to love and

trust God with all my heart. How do you love God? By worshiping God, loving others, and respecting what God has created.



When life is hard, we must return to the solid foundation of our Christian faith. These words above and this song, which I have sung with God's children of all ages for thirty-two years of ministry: I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together.... I am grateful to God that our little part of the universal Church, Peace Presbyterian, has remained unified in love—despite many opportunities for division. We have grown in vitality—despite the temptation to diminish. We have stayed engaged in ministry and mission virtually or in person—despite two years of precaution. Our mission is to make God known by growing as disciples of Jesus Christ, building a community of peace, and caring for the needs of others. Our growing, building, and caring has not ceased, because the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable!

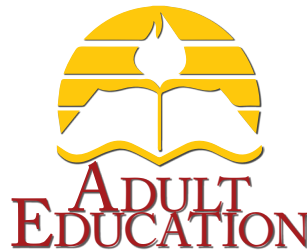
Prayerfully yours,

Elizabeth

Rev. Elizabeth M. Deibert
Pastor, Peace Presbyterian Church

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith -
and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God* Ephesians 2:8

Peace Church is committed to providing opportunities for people to grow in discipleship through education and practice. The Adult Education team supports a number of groups that invite you to ask questions, learn about your faith and find ways to put it into action. Through classes and groups, we build a thriving community of friends. We study the Bible, pray together, discuss books and films, and use devotional materials to grow in faith and care for the needs of others, making God known to ourselves and to the world.



The groups are open to all who would like to participate. No matter where the group is in its study, they will welcome you no matter where you are in your faith journey. During this time of Covid-19, we are conscious of health safety, so some groups meet in person, others over Zoom or streaming, and some are both in-person and through technology. As the disease surges and recedes, we try to respond in terms of meeting space and communication technology. **Check the weekly bulletin and announcements for Zoom information.**

Current and upcoming Adult Education programs are listed below. We hope you find something you'll like.

Peaceful Parents/ Younger Adults

Building Resilient Families is an in-person study for young adults and parents while their children attend CYF classes. This class is led by Elizabeth Deibert and MaryBeth McSwain through the end of February following Sunday Worship and Fellowship.

SUNDAY

Older Adults

Bible Study—Mickey Miller has developed a course of study about the New Testament Book of 1 Peter. This

class will begin on February 6 via Zoom at 11:30. When Covid conditions ease it may be possible to have a hybrid class of Zoom and in-person and hopefully go to all in-person eventually. Classes on 2 Peter, 1 John, and 3 John are planned.

Celebrating Our Faith: An Engaging Conversation with the Catechism—Bill Clough and Richard Deibert lead discussion about Catechism questions and answers through this spring. This class will be offered intermittently with the Bible Study Class.

Bookworm Book Discussion Group

Generally third Mondays at 7:00 pm. on Zoom
Currently shepherded by Patti and

MONDAY

Shannon Jung, this is a group that enjoys reading and discussing books. They choose together the book they would like to read for the month and then gather to talk about it. A group member volunteers to lead the discussion. See page 4 for schedule details.

Men's Prayer Group and Bible Study

Tuesday mornings at 6:30 am on Zoom
Led by Mickey Miller and Bill Clough. The men have been reading through the Gospels and Acts. They are now reading the Gospel of John.

TUESDAY

Companions in Christ: The Way of Discernment.

Tuesday Evenings in-person.
This is a new group that will meet together to strengthen their spiritual life using the book by Marjorie Thompson. It will require daily study and a commitment to meet weekly for 10 weeks beginning on February 1, 7:00– 9:00 for two hours of instruction and discussion. Led by Jeff Muckafuse with Elizabeth Deibert, this first group is limited to 10 participants

Women's Prayer Group and Bible Study

Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am on Zoom

WEDNESDAY

Susan Hyde and Kathleen Germano lead this group of women in reading and discussing books of the Bible. They are currently studying the Gospel of John using *Life Guide Bible Study Lessons*.

R.O.M.E.O.s (Retired Old Men Eating Oranges)

Thursday afternoons at 2:00 pm on Zoom

THURSDAY

The R.O.M.E.O.s have been considering the fine points of living well though older with *The Gift of Years* by Joan Chitester. Wally Harmon and Dave Thomas are leaders.

Faith and Film

FRIDAY

Second Fridays at 6:30 pm

This is a monthly Zoom group, organized by David and Dottie Thomas. Commercially made films

are viewed and discussed as a means to consider the situations and choices of people and their resulting spiritual growth. Each month a group member volunteers to lead the discussion. See schedule below.



FAITH AND FILM
Second Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

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.

Feb 11, 2022

Burden (2018, R, 1:57)

Denny Noto, Discussion Leader

Forest Whitaker, Garrett Hedlund

The film follows Mike Burden, an orphan raised within the Ku Klux Klan, who attempts to break away when the woman he falls in love with urges him to leave for a better life together. The Klan seeks out Mike for revenge. A Black Baptist church congregation led by Reverent Kennedy agrees to protect Mike, his girlfriend, and her son. Based on a true story.

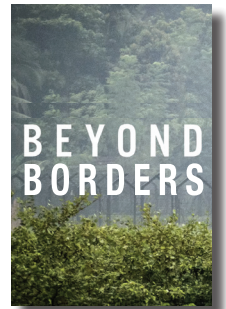


Apr 8, 2022

Beyond Borders: The Threat of Climate Change
(2021, 1:14)

Chris and Eirinn Camphire, Discussion Leaders

Documentary, from the Environmental Justice Foundation. David Attenborough and scientist Johan Rockström examine Earth's biodiversity collapse and how this crisis can still be averted. April is Earth Month, and Peace Presbyterian Church is an Earth Care Congregation. "The climate crisis represents the greatest threat to global peace and security, development and the preservation of human rights in the 21st Century."



Mar 11, 2022

Nomadland (2020, R, 1:48)

Patti Jung, Discussion Leader

Frances McDormand

Spirituality and Practice 2020 Award Winner. Winner of four Oscars, including Best Actor and Best Movie. This is the remarkable odyssey of a feisty woman who finds community and her true self in her home on the road.



May 13, 2022

Two of Us (2019, 1:39)

Amy Cerniglia, Discussion Leader

Barbara Sukowa, Martine Chevallier

Pensioners Nina and Madeleine have hidden their deep and passionate love for many decades, but their bond is put to the test when they are suddenly unable to move freely between each other's apartments. May 17 is Mobilization for International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia.



*An intelligent heart acquires knowledge,
and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.*

Proverbs 18:15

Book Worms

invites all members and friends of Peace Presbyterian Church to join in these activities.

In February Book Worms will discuss Joy Harjo's *Crazy Brave* (2013: 176 pgs.), a memoir based on her imagination, a deep spiritual life, and her connections with the natural world. Harjo is the first Native American Poet Laureate of the U.S. Book Worms will discuss this text on Monday evening, February 21, 2022, at 7:00 pm. Our conversation will be facilitated by David Thomas.

In March, as a special Lenten practice, Book Worms will "pray" a new devotional text written by Cornelius (Neal) Plantinga entitled *Morning and Evening Prayer* (2021: 144 pgs.) It consists of thirty short morning and evening prayers. Plantinga is the president emeritus of Calvin Theological Seminary and the senior research fellow at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. Steve Kersten will lead our conversations about this book.



Normally, Book Worms meets only once a month on Mondays, but since we will be "praying" this text on a daily basis (that is, reading one morning and one evening prayer each day in Lent), we plan to gather weekly to share with each other something of our devotional journeys.

We will start this process by briefly discussing the author's introductory remarks on written prayers and we will get some tips on devotional reading from Steve at the close of our discussion of *Crazy Brave* (mentioned above) on February 21st. We will start the individual practice of praying these morning and evening prayers on Ash Wednesday (March 2nd). We will meet together on Zoom at 7:00 pm the following five Thursdays (March 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st and April 7th) to discuss with one another our experience of this spiritual practice. As always, the Zoom Meeting ID Number for Book Worms is **856 7517 5482** and the Password is **165580**.



Fellowship had a cookie stroll on 12/19/2021 during Fellowship Time, following worship on

Sundays. Several people brought cookies and everyone enjoyed them. The same day, in the evening, Fellowship provided cookies, cider and hot chocolate in the hall during the evening for those who were visiting the Living Nativity on the Peaceful Path. Santa made an appearance that evening as well.

The Fellowship Team enjoyed an end of the year Team party at CoraLee and Wayne Cain's house. Team members brought appetizers and desserts and had a pleasant evening under the stars on the Cain's patio.

The Peace Adventure Seekers continued their outings with a Holiday Light Trolley Tour in Sarasota. Another trip is in the process of being planned for mid-February and the planners have lots of ideas for the rest of this year as well.

The Fellowship Team decided to start a new opportunity for the church members and friends—

A Dinner and Musical Movie Night.

To be held in the Fellowship Hall in the Peace Center. First movie is *Come From Away* on 1/28/2022. We hope to have more musical movies at least every other month. Check the bulletin for updates on this activity which could be affected by Covid.



Fellowship Team celebrated the baptism of Emmalyn and Jacob with a special cake for them during Fellowship Time.

EARTH CARE/MATTHEW 25 TEAM



By the time you read this, the LED Light conversion of the Peace Center is complete! Thanks to all who donated to make this a reality. We have renewed our certification as an Earth Care Congregation and continue to live into this commitment. Thank you to those who volunteer to

take our recyclables home to add to your curbside pickup. We will have the trash cleanup of Upper Manatee River Road on Saturday, February 5th from 9am-11pm, all are welcome to join us, supplies are provided.

Matthew 25/STREAM groups

Have you noticed a new Matthew 25 blurb in the bulletin and on our social media? We continue to educate ourselves and others and find ways to build up those who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor.

Manatee Justice Ministry is now called **STREAM**, which stands for **Stronger Together Reaching Equality Across Manatee**. Peace is one of sixteen local congregations involved with STREAM, our county affiliate of the organization, DART. We have six teams of about 35 network members, led by about a dozen team leaders. Those leaders are Eirinn and Chris Camphire, Amy Cerniglia, Elizabeth Deibert, Tom Finnerty, Shannon and Patti Jung, Linda McCallister, Bob and

Carol Orr, Marlene Schmidt, and Ofelia Uribe. Tina Juillerat is volunteering as financial manager and helping set up a website while Elizabeth Deibert is serving as treasurer on the executive board. Many of our team leaders and some network members are participating right now in the research process, as we work on two issues in 2022—CRIMINAL JUSTICE & AFFORDABLE HOUSING. Network members are coming together on Feb 10 at 2:00 in person and by zoom to hear updates on the research and to work on the next step, which is to identify three supporters to bring along to the Nehemiah Action on April 4 at 6:30. If you are willing to be one of those supporters, who attends only one meeting, please let Eirinn know, as she functions as our STREAM coordinator at Peace.



If you would like to contribute to STREAM, we encourage personal checks of \$200 to STREAM and/or \$200 written to Peace with STREAM in memo to help us complete our congregational pledge later this year. Either gift may be mailed to Peace or given in the offering plate. Join us in *doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God.* (Micah 6:8)

Happy New Year to all!

The Outreach Team has accomplished a lot since the last newsletter. We hope you had a chance to be part of *“Carols, Candles and Live Nativity on the Path,”*



presented December 19th at dusk. It was a magical evening, featuring the manger scene, candles (safely) glowing along the Path, shepherds urging us to “come and see,” carolers and musicians here and there, Peace’s very own trumpeting angel, and Santa with candy canes for all. The evening ended with hot beverages and cookies that just happened to be left over from the morning’s Cookie Stroll. Kudos to the Property Team, Fellowship Team, musicians and actors, and many others,

especially Toni Muirhead and Jamie Reagan.

As 2022 begins, we find ourselves still constrained to be very careful as we meet and interact. Mark your calendar for

these upcoming concerts: **Lakewood Ranch Wind Ensemble** on March 27 at 2 p.m. (their audience filled our sanctuary in November!) and April 10 at 4 p.m., **“Ring Sarasota”**—possibly outdoors. There is a modest charge for these events.

We keep finding ways to get together and support each other. “Outreach” can also be “in-reach” as we take care of ourselves and our Peace family. Please be careful and safe, and keep praying. Better days ahead!

THE PEACEFUL PATH ACTIVITIES



Peace children enjoy a picnic on the Peaceful Path, while other Peace Kids assembled on the new bridge over the ditch leading to the Peaceful Path.



Joe Certo visited the Peaceful Path.



CROP Hunger Walk Day is February 27. After worship we will have an intergenerational learning moment in the sanctuary, enjoy some snacks and coffee, then walk the Peaceful Path at 11:45. We hope you will walk and/or give to alleviate hunger. Just think for a moment about the people of Haiti, Ukraine, Afghanistan, or Yemen who need our support. Remember that 25% of our Offering will go to Our Daily Bread, where hungry folks in Manatee County are fed. Write checks to Peace with CROP in the memo. Share the walk on FB to raise support and awareness among your friends.



Peace's CROP Walk last year took place on the Peaceful Path

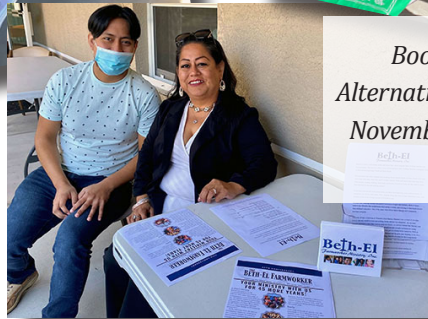
The Adventurer Seekers took a holiday light tour of Sarasota on the Trolley.





The Mission Team

sponsored the Alternative Gift Fair in November, raising over \$2000 for Presbyterian gift catalog, Beth-El, Books for Kids, Turning Points, Cedarkirk, Manatee Food Bank, Manatee Justice (STREAM), Habitat for Humanity, and Family Promise.



Books for Kids was one of the charities at the Alternative Gift Mart sponsored by the Mission Team in November and December, along with Beth El mission, Cedarkirk and others.

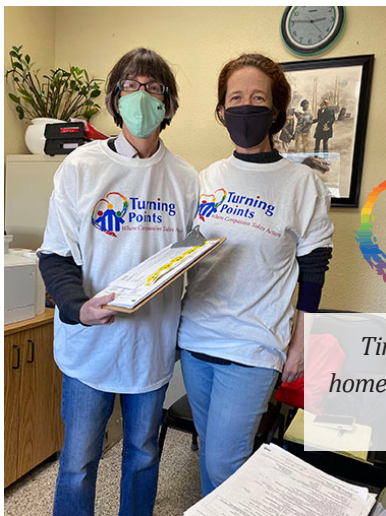
Congregational Care Team



Happy New Year greetings from the Congregational Care Team. It's a new year but our 3 teams continue in their "quiet" ways to support our congregation with prayers every day for everyone, life crisis support when needed, and regular contact from Care Cluster leaders. As the Covid situation

continues to influence all of our in-person church activities our Care Cluster leaders are trying to be vigilant in reaching out to folks who are worshipping at home and prefer for now to avoid group situations. We are just a phone call or email away - please let us know if we can be of help in any way.

As this newsletter goes out we are almost into February so we send Happy Valentine's Day wishes, too!



Tina is assisting in the Turning Points census of homeless people in Manatee County and acquired the help of Eirinn and Jamie.



Worship Events



The Hardesty Family lighted the Advent Candles on Christmas Eve.



Peaceful Ringers and Peaceful Voices both added to the joy of Christmas Eve worship.



Sydney and Camryn at the Christmas Eve candlelight service.



Peace Church members performed a Live Nativity, surrounded by luminaries, on the Peaceful Path, Dec. 19.

This Team has continued to function well, meeting monthly on the first Thursday of each month at 7 PM by Zoom. The Team assists Pastor Elizabeth, Amy Cerniglia, Director of Music and Outreach, Eirinn Camphire, Director of Ministries to Children, Youth and Families, the Session, and the Congregation to prepare meaningful worship experiences. We help the Pastor and the Session adapt with changing strategies to maintain compliance with CDC guidelines for dealing with the ongoing pandemic, for the safety of our Congregation.

One task the team performs is compiling a schedule of volunteer liturgists who participate in every Sunday Service after undergoing training. The Team has also set up the elements for Communion every Sunday as served by Pastor Elizabeth. The AV Sub-team has worked hard to master the equipment and techniques to live-stream Sunday Services for those at home and unable to attend on site. The Bell Ringers have presented beautiful music, and the Voices of Peace were able to rehearse and sing for on-site services for a period of time before the most recent surge of the pandemic. The Drama Ministry has made presentations in Church. The Lakewood Ranch Wind Ensemble has begun a series of concerts at Peace.

We successfully helped with planning for the Christmas Season with the Children's Nativity Play, and Carols, Candles, and Living Nativity on the Peaceful Path. Inside the sanctuary, Stephen Ministers were available at that time to support those who came to light a prayer candle.

The Christmas Eve Service was very well-attended with over 300 worshipers and glorious music presented by the Voices of Peace, and many other vocal and instrumental musicians. Our Youth eloquently read the Scriptures that night.

The Worship and Music Team continues to help with worship experiences throughout the year and we invite others in the Congregation to join this Team.

Chet Day, Team Leader



The Christmas season was a wonderful time for our Children, Youth and Families at Peace! Our youth and children volunteered at Turning Points during Thanksgiving Break, sorting warm coat donations and decorating their Christmas trees. We are grateful for our friendship with the Beth El Youth group. We invited them down to Peace to create some

original acrylic art, taught by Julia Sammons! We look forward to our next joint outing in February. Our Kids Club met in December and made cards to send to some Peace folks. We'll have Kids Night In on February 12, right in time for Valentine's Day fun! The Nativity Play was a joy to create and film, we hope you enjoyed it. If you missed it, you can view it on Peace's YouTube channel. Our Peace children are so talented! We will be inviting them to participate in worship in new ways this year. Rev. Mary Beth McSwain has been offering a wonderful class for parents "Faithful Families" after worship, while the kids are in Godly Play.

We are spending a lot of time outdoors since the weather is so lovely, with scavenger hunts and picnics on the Peaceful Path. We look forward to the CROP Walk on 2/27, where we will offer fun ways to raise funds for Church World Service to help the hungry. We will also be collecting for the Souper Bowl of Caring on 2/13 – vote for your team by donating into the soup pot! The Easter Egg Hunt will return on Easter Sunday after worship.

Our Peace Family Retreat will be a full day spent at Cedarkirk on 4/23: canoeing, zip line, swimming and preparing for the youth-led worship. Parents and grandparents: Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School at Peace June 13-17. So many great things are happening at Peace with our faith-full and fabulous families!



Pastor Elizabeth discusses baptism with the Wednesday Kids.



Steve Miller invited the Wednesday Kids to his home to see his impressive model train set-up.



Peace Youth eating around a bonfire.



Some of the children taped a unique version of the Christmas Story. It is still available on the PeacePCUSA.com website.



Youth from Peace and Beth El held a joint meeting on December 5.

PEACE MEMORIAL GARDEN

Dedication of the Memorial Garden (postponed in 2020 due to COVID) will happen on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd at the end of the 7:00 service in the sanctuary.

The Memorial Garden is established as a place of meditation and prayer and for placement of the cremated remains of members and affiliates of Peace

Presbyterian Church, along with their spouses/partners and children. Those who wish to schedule and plan for the interment of a family member's cremains are encouraged to reach out to Pastor Elizabeth and to complete the application process in the office at cost of \$500 which includes the engraving on the granite wall and maintenance of the courtyard garden.

DON'T FORGET ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2022

**Masks are
strongly encouraged and appreciated in the sanctuary.**



**Thanks for the extra effort
for at-risk neighbors while numbers are high.**

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