

MARCH TIDINGS

Volume 82, March 1, 2025

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"Peace United Church of Christ is a multigenerational community of faith. We welcome people of all ages, races, and life situations to join with us in service."

Office Hours:
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday 9AM—Noon
Tuesday 8AM-11AM

Website:
www.peacechurchelkader.org
Facebook:
facebook.com/peacechurchelkader
YouTube Channel:
Peace Church—Elkader



From the "Pen" of Pastor Paula

It was Valentine's Day, 2025. Brian Gibbs, the Education Park Ranger for the Effigy Mounds National Monument at Harper's Ferry, Iowa, joined hundreds of other National Park Service employees as well as thousands of other federal employees abruptly, cruelly and in some cases, illegally fired from their positions. Gibbs wrote on Facebook that he "was a dedicated civil servant...that [he had] a work evaluation that exceeds expectations...a United States flag raiser and folder," etc. "I am the voice for 19 American Indian cultures. I am the protector of 2500 year old American Indian burial and ceremonial mounds. I am the defender of your public lands and water...I am the highlight of your child's school day... I am the lesson that showed your children that we live in a world of gifts—not commodities, that gratitude and reciprocity are the doorway to true abundance, not power, money or fear. I am the one who taught your kid the thrush's song and the hawk's cry. I am the wildflower that brought your student joy. I am the one who told your child that they belong on this planet, their unique gifts and existence matters.....I am tired of waking up every morning at 2 a.m., wondering how I am going to provide for my family if I lose my job. I am tired of wiping away my wife's tears and reassuring her that things will be ok for us and our growing little family that she is carrying. Things are not ok. I am not ok. This is the second time in 5 years that a dream job I worked has been eliminated. Now I may need to uproot [again]."

Gibbs' story of pain and grief is multiplied across this nation and among American citizens around the globe, people from all types of backgrounds who have been working hard to provide us with safe lives, food, water, transportation, worked to keep us safe from disease and protect us from destructive forces. The stories of these people and their firings are vivid reminders of the consequences of hatred and fear, corruption and cruelty, revenge and retaliation.

As Gibbs so eloquently expresses, "... we live in a world of gifts—not commodities, that gratitude and reciprocity are the doorway to true abundance, not power, money or fear.....I am the one who told your child that they belong on this planet, their unique gifts and existence matters."

Is healing possible for all involved? Or is it too late? The answer lies in us, our words, our actions in the time ahead. A few years ago, a UCC T-shirt offered this message: Rise Up! Spirituality Is Resistance. Spiritual resistance does not use evil, inhumane methods designed that inflict pain on others. Instead, Jesus teaches us that spiritual resistance involves living a healthier way; a way that builds love, bestows grace, encourages harmony and acceptance, a way that breaks the cycle of physical and verbal violence. This way is found in the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew, chapters 5-7 and the Sermon on the Plain found in Luke, chapters 16:17-49. Please reflect on those passages in the coming season of Lent and use them as a guide for living.

Pastor Paula

March 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>* Coffee Fellowship after Worship Services on Sunday Mornings</p>	<p>Office Open Mon, Wed, & Thurs, Fri from 9 AM to noon Tues 8AM to 11AM</p>					<p>1 Happy Birthday James Bunting</p> <p>9:30 Visitation & 11AM Funeral Service for Gerry Kramer</p>
<p>2 9:00 AM Worship With Holy Communion</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 5:00 Bell Choir, 5:45 Chancel Choir 7PM Ash Wednesday With Holy Communion</p>	<p>6 Happy Birthday Lucena Phelps, Donna Anderson, Steve McCorkindale</p>	<p>7 10:30AM World Day of Prayer @ St. Joseph's Catholic Church</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 9:00 AM Worship "In the Shadow of the Wilderness"</p>	<p>10 3PM Stephen's Ministers: Guest speaker Lynn Fettketter 5:30 PM: Church Council 6:30 Cub Scout Pack Mtg.</p>	<p>11 Happy Birthday Deb DeShaw</p>	<p>12 5:30 Bell Choir, 6:30 Chancel Choir Happy Birthday Fran Derhammer</p>	<p>13 2PM Peacemakers</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 9:00 AM Worship "In the Shadow of King Herod"</p>	<p>17 Happy St. Patrick's Day!</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 5:30 Bell Choir, 6:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>20 1:30 Elkader Care Center Worship 5-6:30 Grace Café</p>	<p>21 Happy Birthday Sue Gnagy Lucy Sharp</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 9:00 AM Worship "In the Shadow of the Fig Tree"</p> <p>30 9:00 AM Worship "In the Shadow of the Prodigal Son"</p>	<p>24 Happy Birthday Janis Lerch 6:30 Cub Scouts</p> <p>31 Happy Birthday Roger Buchholz, Jay Moser, Karen Tieden</p>	<p>25 Happy Birthday Bonnie Syverson, Mary Webber</p>	<p>26 5:30 Bell Choir, 6:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>27 Happy Birthday Luke Buchholz</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Happy Birthday John Storbeck</p> <p><u>April Tidings Deadline</u> April Tidings newsletter deadline will be Monday, March 24</p>

Council Minutes

Special Peace UCC Council meeting was held January 28, 2025. President Jay Moser called the meeting to order at 5:33pm. Council members present were Jay Moser, Steve McCorkindale, Marlis Hunker, Mike Anderson, Thersea Freitag and Pastor Paula Anderson. This meeting was to approve the 2025 Budget to be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

1. 2025 Budget report was presented for review. Steve motioned to approve the Budget Report and Thersea seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. Joanne Gray requested the council to approve a check to be written out for \$312 off Grace Café funds and be issued to United Church of Christ for the California Wildfires 2025. Mike motioned to approve. Thersea seconded. Motion carried.
3. Nominations were opened for the New Church Council for 2025, the two new council members were present, Donna Buckman and Elaine Knoke-Martin.

Steve nominated Mike Anderson for President and Thersea seconded. Motion carried.

Marlis nominated Elaine Knoke-Martin for secretary,. Mike seconded. Motion carried.

2025 Peace UCC Council Officers:

Mike Anderson, President

Steve McCorkindale, Vice President

Elaine Knoke-Martin, Secretary

Marlis Huinker, Finance

Steve motioned to adjourn the meeting: Thersea seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:50pm

Respectfully submitted, Marlis Huinker

LENTEN SERIES

This year's Sunday Lenten series is entitled "In the Shadow of the Cross". The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5th with a 7PM service.

Sunday March 9th. "In the Shadow of the Cross: The Wilderness"

Sunday March 16th: "In the Shadow of the Cross: King Herod"

Sunday March 23rd: "In the Shadow of the Cross: :The Fig Tree"

Sunday March 30: "In the Shadow of the Cross: The Prodigal Son"

Sunday, April 6th: "In the Shadow of the Cross: the Anointing"

Sunday, April 13th: "In the Shadow of the Cross: the Parade of Palms/the Passion"

Friday, April 18th: "In the Shadow of the Cross: Death"

Sunday, April 20th: Easter Sunday "In the Light of the Empty tomb"

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

February's Grace Café's chili and hot dogs was delicious and served approximately 45 people. Most of the input costs were donated so we were able to donate \$200 to the Belser family to help with ongoing medical care for Eli. [Thursday, March 20](#) th from 5pm-6:30pm, will be our next Grace Café. We have excellent ham left from our December/January meal, so our main dish for March will be scalloped potatoes with ham. We also have a variety of vegetables that are in the freezer so we will be serving what we like to call a vegetable medley. Dessert will be Pat Lange's 4-layer Dessert.

Everyone is welcome to join us for this meal, there is no charge but should you decide to donate, the proceeds over input costs go towards mission work of Peace church. We do provide take outs and will deliver within city limits. For delivery please call 563-245-2126.

Prayer Requests

Attendance & Worship Offerings

Greg Anderson, Gus Augustson, Eli Belser, Betty Buchholz, Jonah Burns and Burns family, Deb Dennler, Wayne Frentress, Karen Glesne, Linda Glesne, Penny Jacobson, Karla, Ruth Grau, Marilyn Nielsen, the family of Ruth Olson, Lucena Phelps, Sharon Reichert, Payton Renschler, Father James, Mary W's brother, Mike

February 2, 2025	56	\$1447
February 9, 2025	49	\$1333
February 16, 2025	41	\$742
February 23, 2025	49	\$2116

Care Center/Assisted Living Residents

Karen Glesne, Joyce Hoth, Ruth Grau, Marilyn Nielsen, Eydie Seeland, Ruth Olson,

New Address:
Sandy Kramer
3400 Alburnett
Road Marion, IA

SPECIAL EVENTS! Friday, March 7th 10:30AM World Day of Prayer. St. Joseph's Catholic Church Elkader. Worship service created by Women's group in Cook Island NE of New Zealand
Monday, March 10th 3PM in Herbster Hall Stephen's Ministers will have a guest speaker: Lynn Fettketter from the St. Croix Hospice.

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 | or 563-446-2135.

Sign up for Weekly Volunteer



Time & Talent

Bread for the Journey

Readings for 3/2/25

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

Readings for 3/9/25

Deuteronomy 26:1—11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:13

Readings for 3/16/25

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35

Readings for 3/23/25

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

Readings for 3/30/25

Joshua 5:9-12,
Psalm 32 2
Corinthians 5:16-21,
Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

Opening/Closing

3/2	Bruce Landis	3/2
3/9	Carl & Laura Moser	3/9
3/16	Gary Kuehl	3/16
3/23	Sue Stott	3/26
3/30	Dean & Joanne Gray	3/30

Reader

3/2	Arlene Reimer	3/2
3/9	Kristina Miller	3/9
3/16	Laura Moser	3/16
3/23	Sue Stott	3/23
3/30	Ann McCorkindale	3/30

Communion Prep & Clean Up

3/2	Bruce Landis
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Usher/Greeter

Sue Stott
Deb DeShaw & Diane Finley
Florence Gifford
Kenny & Penny Leonard
Barb Chandler

Fellowship

Bruce Landis
Kristina Miller
Mary H. Betty M. Jane W.
Kenny & Penny Leonard
Dean & Joanne Gray

Food Shelf Donation Driver

Susan Johnson

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 – MARCH 2025



Shepherd of the Hills Ministries is a conference and cooperative ministry effort of ELCA congregations in the NE IA Synod. This heartfelt message from our director: "This was supposed to be just a job. But over time, it's become my life. I am back to work and realized I missed it all. I do love my job and the wonderful people I get to call friends. Thank you for your patience and understanding these past few weeks." As promised last month we had a great 1/2 off sale in February...a customer appreciation sale.

Clothing Center Updates:

We are open for regular business again. Stop in and shop! Please call to arrange your donation drop offs! It feels good to be back!

Shepherd News:

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:

Watch the Shepherd of the Hills Ministries Facebook Page for updates!

**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**



March

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NON-PROFIT
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March 2025