

November TIDINGS

Volume 88 November 1, 2025

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Office Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9AM—2:30 PM
Thursday 9AM—Noon Pastor Paula in office.

"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."

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



From the "Pen" of Pastor Paula

"Getting ultrareal about the church"—by Martha Tatmic—this headline in the August 2023 THE CHRISTIAN CENTURY magazine stood out in the Table of Contents. A summary of her first two paragraphs speaks to the dilemma we all face in a world where the Christian church seems to be fading, where the numbers of Nones—those who don't attend church at all or profess any kind of religious beliefs--will soon surpass those who are church goers, believers.

Tatmic writes, "Like many leaders in the Christian church, I have fallen into the trap of thinking that one new slant, one new program, one new focus will be the thing that saves us.....The desperate desire to save, grow & transform the church...weighs on the minds and hearts of parish leaders and creates the most anxiety.....programs and trends...blatantly promise numerical growth; others make vaguer promises....speak of transformation and vitality for the institutional church." (p.61)

Instead, Tatmic uses the concept from long-distance running called ultrarealism to address the situation of churches today. She describes it this way, "Runners can easily undo their own efforts by worrying about what is coming next or wishing that things were different." How true! Too often, churches waste time grieving on how times have changed, constantly search for the "right" program.....that will turn the church around and waste time being jealous of churches that seem better at increasing their memberships." (p, 61) Tatmic makes this observation, "...there is very little that is compelling or life-giving about a church that is so obviously desperate and dissatisfied." (p.61)

The change that is needed in the church is for individuals to change rather than try to save the church, Tatmic recommends. Jesus has not given us the task to save the church. "What we are invited to do is to turn around—repent—and open our eyes to the kingdom that with or without us, is already here." (p. 62)

And like it or not, we are connected with every creature on this planet. Tatmic sums up a dilemma we all face; we really cannot pick and choose which parts of God's creation share in our connection. "God is a pretty good door crasher when it comes to the gates of our hearts," she admits. "Our lives are finally and forever bound together." (p. 62)

In conclusion, "We do not have to fearfully manage the powerful reign of God's healing power and love. We don't need to make it something else or wish it were different. We do need to get better at putting our energy, attention, time and love toward what is already happening," Tatmic concludes. (p.62)

What a freeing experience that can be! Have a blessed August!
Pastor Paula

Giving Tree

Our Giving Tree will be set up in the Narthex and ready to receive your gifts for Shepard of the Hills Christmas Toy Drive on Sunday, November 30th. All gifts to go under our tree must be received by Sunday December 7th. Let's see how many gifts we can gather together under our tree!

November

2025

2
NOV, SUN
9 – 10am Worship - Choir sings

3
NOV, MON
9am – 2:30pm Office hours
3 – 4pm Stephen Ministries

4
NOV, TUE
9am – 2:30pm Office hours

5
NOV, WED
9am – 2:30pm Office Hours
5:30 – 6:30pm Bell Choir practice
6:30 – 7:30pm Choir practice
6:30 – 7:30pm Confirmation

6
NOV, THU
9am – 12pm Pastor in office

7
NOV, FRI-Office closed

8
NOV, SAT
Fall Festival bidding begins 10am
(Day 1/15)

9
NOV, SUN
Fall Festival bidding (Day 2/15)
9 – 10am Worship - Choir sings

10
NOV, MON
Fall Festival bidding (Day 3/15)
9am – 2:30pm Office hours
9am – 12pm Auction items on display
in Narthex
5:30 – 6:30pm Council meeting

11
NOV, TUE
Fall Festival bidding (Day 4/15)
9am – 2:30pm Office hours
9am – 12pm Auction items on display
in Narthex

12
NOV, WED
Fall Festival bidding (Day 5/15)
9am – 2:30pm Office Hours
9am – 12pm Auction items on display
in Narthex
5:30 – 6:30pm Bell Choir practice
6:30 – 7:30pm Choir practice
6:30 – 7:30pm Confirmation

13
NOV, THU
Fall Festival bidding (Day 6/15)
9am – 12pm Auction items on display
in Narthex
11 am Memorial Committee Meeting
9am – 12pm Pastor in office
2 – 3pm Peacemakers

14
NOV, FRI
Fall Festival bidding (Day 7/15)
Office closed
9am – 12pm Auction items on display
in Narthex

15
NOV, SAT
Fall Festival bidding (Day 8/15)

16
NOV, SUN
Fall Festival bidding (Day 9/15)
9 – 10am Worship - Bells play

17
NOV, MON
Fall Festival bidding (Day 10/15)
9am – 2:30pm Office hours
9am – 12pm Auction items on display
in Narthex

18
NOV, TUE
Fall Festival bidding (Day 11/15)
9am – 2:30pm Office hours
9am – 12pm Auction items on display
in Narthex

19
NOV, WED
Fall Festival bidding (Day 12/15)
9am – 2:30pm Office Hours
9am – 12pm Auction items on display
in Narthex
5:30 – 6:30pm Bell Choir practice
6:30 – 7:30pm Choir practice
6:30 – 7:30pm Confirmation

20
NOV, THU
Fall Festival bidding (Day 13/15)
9am – 12pm Auction items on display
in Narthex
9am – 12pm Pastor in office
1:30 – 2:30pm Elkader Care Center
Worship
5 – 6:30pm Grace Cafe

21
NOV, FRI
Fall Festival bidding (Day 14/15)
Office closed
9am – 12pm Auction items on display
in Narthex

22
NOV, SAT
Fall Festival bidding (Day 15/15)

23
NOV, SUN
Fall Festival –Dinner after Worship
9 – 10am Worship
3pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving
Worship at Bethany

24
NOV, MON
9am – 2:30pm Office hours

25
NOV, TUE
Tidings articles are due
9am – 2:30pm Office hours

26
NOV, WED
9am – 2:30pm Office Hours
5:30 – 6:30pm Bell Choir practice
6:30 – 7:30pm Confirmation

27
NOV, THU
Thanksgiving, office closed

28
NOV, FRI-Office closed

29
NOV, SAT
Herbster's Hall Reserved

30
NOV, SUN
Christmas decorating
9 – 10am Worship

Prayer Requests

Bob, Cheryl, Greg Anderson, Eli Belser, Betty Buchholz, Jonah Burns and Burns family, Deb Dennler, Wayne & Kim Frentress, Karen Glesne, Linda Glesne, Penny Jacobson, Dee Koehn, Joyce M, Pat M, Elaine Radloff, Ruth Grau, Sharon Reichert, Father James, Fred, Roger, Sam, Dalen Moser, Sandra Kramer, Jane I, Brian and Thea Rentschler, family of Don Wilke and family of Duane Klink

Care Center/Assisted Living Residents

Karen Glesne, Joyce Hoth, Ruth Grau, Ruth Olson

HOSPITAL VISITATION: Due to patient privacy laws, pastors are not notified when parishioners are hospitalized unless parishioners or family members ask that the pastor be notified. When contacting Pastor Paula in regard to a person who is hospitalized, please indicate which hospital. If the hospital is some distance away, Pastor Paula will contact chaplaincy services there.

Contact information: Church: 563-245-2126
Landline Home phone: 563-245-8022 Cell phone
(flip, not smart phone): 1-618-292-5105 **DO NOT TEXT**
BLESSINGS & WELCOME!

***We are updating our contact list and will need member's email addresses. Please call 245-2126 or email peaceucc@alpinecom.net with your email address. It is possible the Tidings newsletter will be sent via email in the future. ***

Bread for the Journey

November 2, 2025

Isa 1:10-18 and Ps 32:1-7
2 Thess 1:1-4, 11-12
Luke 19:1-10

November 9, 2025

Job 19:23-27a and Ps 17:1-9
2 Thess 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38

November 16, 2025

Jer 23:1-6 and Ps 46
Col 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

November 23, 2025

Jer 23:1-6 and Ps 46
Col 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

November 30, 2025

Ps 122
Rom 13:11-14
Matt 24:36-44

TIME AND TALENT

Sign up for Weekly Volunteer Opportunities by scanning this **NEW** QR Code



Opening/Closing		Usher/Greeter	
11/2/25	Bruce Landis	11/2/25	Gerald & Arlene Reimer
11/9/25	Dean & Joanne Gray	11/9/25	Dean & Joanne Gray
11/16/25	Sue Stott	11/16/25	Lucy Sharp
11/23/25	volunteers needed	11/23/25	Kim Frentress
11/30/25	volunteers needed	11/30/25	volunteers needed
	Reader		Fellowship
11/2/25	Arlene Reimer	11/2/25	volunteers needed
11/9/25	Lucy Sharp	11/9/25	volunteers needed
11/16/25	Sue Stott	11/16/25	Mary Webber
11/23/25	Mary Webber	11/23/25	Fall Festival
11/30/25	volunteers needed	11/30/25	Decorating Committee
	Communion Prep & Clean Up		Food Shelf Donation Driver
11/2/25	Bruce Landis		Ann McCorkindale

If you cannot volunteer for the date, please call or email the office.

Thank you for volunteering!

Fall Festival 2025

Silent Auction

Bidding: November 9 – November 23
(ending at 2:00 p.m.)

The church entry way will be open
for viewing and bidding of auction
items on:

**November 10th through November 14th
9am-noon and**

**November 17th through November 21st,
9am-noon**

***Also view and bid on our Facebook
page***

Dinner Menu

Join us on **Sunday, November 23**
from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

*Ham, meatballs, cheesy
potatoes, salads, desserts,
lemonade and milk*

***We offer take-out meals and deliveries

IN ELKADER. Call our church

office with name & address for delivery.

563-245-2126

Free will donation

Council Minutes for 10-13-2025

Financial Report: Through 9 months we are looking at a deficit of \$8,000 from our budgeted income to actual expenses. Water billing was up for the month and electricity was down slightly. Council approved to close the Freedom Bank savings account (100 year Anniversary tree project, \$226.46) and move the money into the general fund.

Pastor's Report: In the past month, Pastor Paula has prepped for 4 Sunday worships, Tidings article, calls, emails and visitations, Elkader Care Center Service, four confirmation classes, 2 Fall Festival meetings, 2 Seeker meetings, 1 council meeting, 4 Bell choir practices, 1 Grace cafe, NAMI presentation to Stephen Ministers, preparing for visit by Managing Director of International Health Partners-Tanzania, Paula Lofstrom and her son David West. Paula is planning to relocate by October 31st, a group will be organized to help. **Building and Grounds:** Dave Dennler installed 5 of the 6 windows planned to be replaced in the parsonage basement. The cost for window replacement was \$1300. Dave also installed a new exhaust fan in the parsonage bathroom. Replacing the door between the garage and house is still outstanding, as well as evaluating the space under basement stairs in the parsonage. . Dave also fixed the door between the library and sanctuary. The tree by parsonage was trimmed by John Thompson. Plan to get a quote and plan from Mark Kempel about next steps in tuck pointing the church.

Worship and Altar: No meeting, Sunday the 26th we will be having a potluck in honor of our guests from Tanzania.

Christian Education: Confirmation going well for Cooper.

Memorial: Christmas display fees at the city park have increased to \$40 per lot, including sign, lights and timer, fees paid. Website pages are under development and some draft pages are available for the committee to edit. Photographer will be joining us for church activities to capture pictures for the web-site. The initial bid for electronic sign was reviewed, waiting for additional competitive bids.

Old Business: Phones: Alpine was able to review the 2-line phone system and make the necessary adjustments to the lines to allow the system to function. Caller ID is now operational.

New Business: Christmas Dinner: Grace cafe team proposed doing the dinner with no Grace Cafe in December. Motion for approval was made by Elaine and seconded by Donna, motion carried. More volunteers will be needed. **Audit:** Plan to have Kurt Dennler audit the books before the end of the year. **2026 Budget:** Kristina will send out forms for budget requests by the end of October. **Fall Festival:** Dinner on the 11-23, silent auction begins 11-9. **Genesis Room** Cub Scout have 30 plus Scouts, using Herbster Hall for now but would like to use the Genesis Room if additional tables could be placed there as well as removing the existing pool table. The next meeting is November 10th at 5:30.

Shepherd of the Hills Ministries NOVEMBER 2025

*Our Hog Roast was a huge success! It is one of our biggest fundraisers and this year did not disappoint. We served over 450 people in both dine-in and carry-out. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible. Our next event will be Christmas for Kids, where we will be expecting around 500 children. **This event is by referral only and will be December 17-18.** Toys for Tots has announced they will not be able to sponsor children age 14 and older. I am hoping that we, as a community, can come together to fill this void. Please consider gifts that would benefit these age groups. **Public drop off dates are December 11-12 from 9am-4pm.** If you are unable to drop off during those dates/times,*

Shepherd of the Hills Clothing Center Updates:

We are in the fall and winter clothing season (we will not be accepting spring and summer items until March). Thank you for scheduling your drop-offs as this allows us to get things sorted a lot faster. Some items we are in need of are: bedding, housewares, blankets, bath towels and belts. If you have excess of these items, please consider donating them. I wanted to thank all the wonderful volunteers that help in the clothing center. They are a big part of our success. They are such a delight and we have way too much fun doing what we love. Follow us on Facebook to see the highlights and when the next sale dates are.

"Home of the \$1.00 thrift store".

Food Shelf

Peace's food shelf box was overflowing in October! Yea! What a wonderful problem to have. We had 78 pounds of goodies in it. Let us see if we can repeat it this problem for November. Paper goods are always appreciated (paper towels, Kleenex, toilet paper, woman supplies) but the foods are welcome too. A few years mission did an item a day in November to help through the holiday season of Thanksgiving and Christmas. So, if you would like some ideas let's try it again. We will deliver on November 24th to the food shelf. Let's have fun!

November 1st - box of Kleenex
November 2nd - can of hearty soup
November 3rd - box of pasta
November 4th - box of stuffing mix
November 5th - muffin mix
November 6th - instant mashed potatoes
November 7th - can of sweet potatoes
November 8th - can of green beans
November 9th - box of cereal
November 10th - 5 lbs bag of flour
November 11th - jar of applesauce
November 12th - can of corn

November 13th - can of cream soup
November 14th - can of peas
November 15th - can of pumpkin
November 16th - can of peaches
November 17th - can/jar of spaghetti sauce
November 18th - spaghetti noodles
November 19th - box of rice
November 20th - jar of cinnamon
November 21st - oatmeal
November 22nd - can of baked beans
November 23rd - can of pears



The Memorial Fund has purchased two creche scenes for Peace Church- one for the Elkader Holiday Lights Display in city park and one for the church lawn in front of the education wing. These were made possible by a donation from the Fred Knoke family. The assembly and set up will be extensive. The white figures are life-sized! If you would like to help, contact Gary Kuehl, John Gnagy, Jay Moser or call Becky at the church office 245-2126.



Grace Café

Wow! We had an exceptional October Grace Café! We served 87 meals, and the donations over food costs were \$425. With our donations from our September Grace Café and October's meal we were able to give enough the Central School Lunch program to buy 198 meals. Wow! Thank You!

Our next meal will be on Thursday, November 20th from 5-6:30pm. We will be serving turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, squash, cranberry crack salad, and pumpkin crisp. There is no charge for this meal though should you decide to donate the money given over food costs go towards the mission work of Peace Church, this month it will go to the Christmas Shop at Shephard of the Hills.

We do provide take outs and will deliver within city limits. For delivery, please call our church office at 563-245-2126. Come and join us for our meal and bring a friend.

Christmas Poinsettias available

Order by November 30th in honor or memory of your loved ones. Choice of colors are red, white or pink. (Indicate how many if ordering more than one). \$23 each.

Make checks payable to Peace United Church of Christ. Place order in the offering plate or drop off at the office.



- 6 Abby Gifford , Stephanie Koons
- 7 Lizzie Gifford, Ed Patrick
- 8 Ashlyn Koehn
- 9 Ken Seney
- 13 Sharon Seney and Tom Gifford
- 16 Dixie Wilker
- 20 Michael Anderson
- 21 Hazel Koehn
- 22 Paula Puelz Ehrnhardt
- 25 Anita Moon
- 26 Thelma Wilke
- 30 Maddi Buckman



Hanging of the Greens!

We will be "Hanging the Greens" on Sunday, November 30th following worship. This is a fun way help make our church festive for the season. All elves are welcome to come if only to give instructions. Please come and share the fun and help decorate our beautiful church. Following all our hard work we will have lunch provided by Grace Café and share fellowship. Mark your calendars and plan to help and get the first view of Advent at Peace!

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November 2025