



# November 2011

## The Peace Visitor

Dear Friends,

I remember console radios and transistor radios. I remember 45 rpm records and eight-track tapes. I remember typewriters and VCR tapes. I remember machines that dispensed soft-drinks in bottles and machines that would dispense cigarettes!

They are all gone now. Unknown to a younger generation, except maybe discovered on YouTube or the Internet or in curio shops. I am sad to say that I think the national holiday we know as "Thanksgiving" seems to be on its way toward obsolescence also. Halloween becomes a bigger commercial event each year and Christmas preparation begins sooner and sooner so Thanksgiving is relegated to being just another day of indulgence in the expanding "Holiday Season." **Even our Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service has been unplugged this year due to poor attendance!**

There are many good reasons for having a national day of thanks and many good reasons to remind ourselves of the deep debt of gratitude we owe to God and to so many people who make our life possible. Still a Christian Thanksgiving has a different quality than a secular feast. Even if the national day of thanks goes obsolete the Christian Thanksgiving is always new because our blessings are new every day.

One of the Hebrew words that translates to Thanksgiving is "yadah" which indicates open and outstretched hands. I resonate with that image of our open hands ready to receive and ready to give; open hands ready to touch and be touched in appreciation; open hands paused and poised for praise and gratitude.

So much of our culture seems to be based on grabbing, clutching, holding, taking, winning and keeping. Perhaps we would be a happier people, a healthier people, and a holier people if we rediscovered THANKSGIVING with open hands and open hearts. At least I'm going to try this year to give God and others "yadah" and to offer true gratitude for all my blessings. I invite you to think about this with me.

Shalom,  
Pastor Hal

## Peace United Church of Christ

October 20, 2011

Present: Pastor Hal Spann, Jay Yunek, Chet Johnson, Karen Johnson, Mark Hoff, Shirley Hoff  
Opening prayer led by Pastor Hal.

Secretary's Report: September meeting minutes approved as printed in the October Visitor.

Financial Secretary's Report: No report.

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed and accepted. Bills for the month have been paid and we are in the black but just barely. The electric and gas were higher than usual but this was mostly due to the annual adjustment from being on the budget helper plan.

Pastor's Report: Since I last reported to the Council in August I have led worship seven times and we have received communion on September 11<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- I officiated at the wedding of Bridget Kiley and Matt Bjorge on August 27<sup>th</sup>.
- I was on vacation on September 4. Lela Clark, Michelle Dettmann, and Chet Johnson filled in for me. Thanks so much.
- Met with Christian Education on September 8 and discussed the first day of Sunday School set for September 18. Since the kitchen was still under construction it was deemed unwise to have a potluck on the first day of Sunday School.
- On Sunday September 11 we rejoiced at the baptism of Hailey Annette Manea and Makenzie Genevieve Manea.
- I left for a vacation to Michigan and Indiana later that afternoon and returned on September 19. Nona Peterson, Wendy Forbregd, and Fred Grunke filled in while I was gone. Thanks for your help.
- On September 23 I met with Kelly Reich and Juan Rivera concerning their upcoming wedding scheduled for October 22.
- On September 28 Jon Tufte and I met with a group of community folk concerned about how to address the Marriage Equality issue in churches.
- Autumn Fest was October 1. A lot of hard work and dedication made it a wonderful event. Thanks to the Women's Fellowship and all who helped.
- On October 12 Reach Out, Deacons and Time, Talent, Treasure Committees met. The TTT committee assembled the packets for the First Stewardship mailing. The Reach Out Committee worked on the "Getting To Know You" forms. The Deacons talked about Advent.
- On October 13 the Christian Education Committee met to talk about Advent and Christmas. Tentatively planned a Pot Luck for December 18 following worship.
- I attended the Hospital Ethics Committee Meetings on September 7 and October 5. I also attended the hospital's annual Clergy Luncheon on October 13.
- Led the Sunday morning Adult Group on September 25, October 2, 9, & 16. We have finished the book of Acts and will begin First Corinthians on October 23.
- Led the Tuesday evening Study of "Confessing The Beatitudes" on October 11 & 18.
- Attended and had a great time at the Singles Luncheon.
- Visited Ron Vierkant. Saw Janette Weis in the hospital and at Country Manor. Saw Rose Gronau and Bernice Hofstater also. Visited with Delores Olson at her assisted living apt. in Sartell. Visited with Marlys Burke on October 14 after her heart procedure.

Respectfully,  
Rev. Hal Spann

Deacons: Met 10/12/2011 with Hal, Mark Hoff, Lela Clark and Deb & Jay Yunek attending. Themes for Advent were discussed and we tentatively agreed on reviving the Chrismon ornaments. Arrangements were made for performing communion 11/6/2011 and we agreed to decorate the church for the holiday season after Sunday

service on 11/27/2011. Our next meeting is scheduled for 11/9/2011.

Trustees: Met on Thursday, October 20, 2011. Grateful that there are no issues to address. Paul Naegeli has replaced Vera and is doing a good job of cleaning. He is currently volunteering his services. Discussed responsibilities of the choir and music selection.

Time, Talents and Treasure: Met on 10/12/11 and assembled the stewardship packets.

Christian Ed: Christian Education committee met 10/13/2011. Hal, Lisa Poster, Jay Yunek, and Daryl & Wendy Forbregd attended. Attendance has been good at Children of God group; and older class led by Jim Thares has increased numbers. Wendy & Daryl led the Children of God in an animated performance of 5 classic children's Christian tunes during service on Sunday 10/16/2011. We confirmed that the Children of God will not be meeting on 10/23/2011. A Christmas program of readings and carols is scheduled for Sunday 12/18/2011. Details of the program are still in the works, however, we are planning a potluck meal after the program. Our next meeting is scheduled for 11/10/2011

Special Events: No report

Pastor Parish: No meeting

Mission Committee: Food Shelf donations were taken to the Salvation Army. The current mission focus is on the "Mission 1" food collection from November 1 – 11.

Reach Out: Met on Oct 12<sup>th</sup>. Special Events and Reach Out committees are working together on Bring a Friend to Church Sunday Nov. 6. There will be special Coffee Hour treats. We discussed name tags for everyone and visitor bags. The Visitor Newsletter will be included. Everyone is encouraged to invite friends, neighbors and family.

We've had problems ordering a replacement banner for the exterior corner that was vandalized. Deb will try ordering. A gift will pay for it.

Getting to Know You bulletin board will be set up in the basement by Mark and Shirley; starting with the committee's Spot Lights. We hope members of the congregation will fill out forms during coffee hour and turn them in. Experience with our own committee was that once the forms go home they don't get returned. We discussed doing "In House Pot Lucks" again and decided to wait until after Easter.

Next meeting: November 17, 2011

Meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen Johnson.

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## **Santa will be visiting Peace UCC**

Have your picture taken with Santa!

Saturday November 5th, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Saturday November 12th, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

\$15.00 covers the sitting and one of the following:

- One 8 X 10 photo
- Two 5 X 7 photos
- Four 3 X 5 photos
- Nine billfold sized photos
- or a CD with 4 different poses



**Use these photographs for Holiday cards or as Christmas gifts. Call Bruce Price at 345-2103 for an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome. Santa is looking forward to seeing you!**

**(All proceeds go to the elevator fund.)**

*To commemorate her birthday, actress/vocalist, Julie Andrews sang this version of "My Favorite Things" at a benefit for AARP.*

## **Julie Andrews' Birthday Song**

Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting,  
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,  
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,  
These are a few of my favorite things.

Cadillacs and cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,  
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,  
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,  
These are a few of my favorite things.

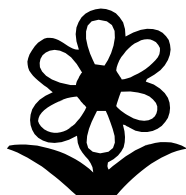
When the pipes leak, When the bones creak,  
When the knees go bad,  
I simply remember my favorite things,  
And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpet and corn pads for bunions,  
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,  
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,  
These are a few of my favorite things.

Back pain, confused brains and no need to sinnin',  
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',  
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,  
When we remember our favorite things.

When the joints ache, when the hips break,  
When the eyes grow dim,  
Then I remember the great life I've had  
And then I don't feel so bad!

Submitted by Genny Manea. Reprinted from the "The Bright Side of 50" magazine.



**Mary Hannah** is the only "circle" as such at Peace UCC. We are a group of women who support the Autumn Fest. We make hand towels, scrubbies, quilt tops, embroidered towels and anything we like. We have desert & coffee, that we take turns preparing, and a small program.

We meet for 1 1/2 hours on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. Anyone wanting to join us is very welcome.

Come and join!!  
Shirley Hoff

**Happy  
November  
Birthday!**

Mark Neil - 1  
Pamela Hartung - 3  
Barbara Schleicher - 5  
Ryan Broste - 16  
Callie Kayser - 20  
Val Broste - 20  
Bev Tallent - 21  
Steve Poster - 22  
Stephanie Petersen - 27  
Connie Taylor - 27  
Jolene Joyce - 29



**Charlotte Naegeli**  
900 14th Ave S  
St. Cloud, MN 56301

**Deloris Olson**  
835 N 31st Ave  
St. Cloud, MN 56303

**Laura Schroeder**  
5914 5th Ave NE  
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

**Lucy Siercks**  
Shepherd Apts.  
330 - 13th St. N #39 A  
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

**Ron Vierkant**  
520 - 1st Street NE  
Sartell, MN 56377

**Betty Butterfield**  
1211 4th Ave N # 313  
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

**Betsy Dablow**  
12533 355th St  
Avon, MN 56310

**Lillian Fors**  
520 - 1st Street NE  
Sartell, MN 56377

**Winnie Galbraith**  
2509 15th Street N.  
St. Cloud, MN 56303

**Rose Gronau**  
520 - 1st Street NE  
Sartell, MN 56377

**Bernice Hofstater**  
358 3rd St. NE  
Sartell, MN 56377

**Lief Larsen**  
1790 W Mill Street  
Paynesville, MN

*Are you able to visit or send  
a note to these members  
who are homebound, or  
living in long-term care?*



*They would love  
to hear from you.*



***Joy's & Concerns***

Get well: Janette Weis

Thinking of you: Kevan Rosenow

Thinking of you: Marlys Burke

Sympathy: Gerald & Jeanenne Anhorn

***Please let the office know  
if there are mistakes on this page,  
or information that should be added.***

***Thanks!***

## **“Each One Bring One Sunday”**

**On November 6th please invite friends & family to share worship.**

“Each One Bring One Sunday” falls during **“Mission: 1,”** the UCC's 11-day campaign to raise awareness and aid to combat food-related injustice. During “Mission: 1,” Nov. 1-11, churches will donate 1 million food items to local pantries; raise \$111,111 for national food-related justice ministries and \$111,111 for East Africa famine relief; and send 11,111 letters about food-related justice to Congress as part of Bread for the World's “Offering of Letters” campaign. This is a great opportunity to show the UCC’s involvement in local, national and global ministry to visitors we've invited to worship.

## **“God is Still Speaking, About Extravagant Welcome”**

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### **Pumpkin Pie Squares**

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

**1.** Mix and press into an ungreased 9” X 13” pan:

1 cup flour

1/2 cup quick oats

1/2 cup brown sugar

1/2 cup butter, melted

Bake at 350 degrees 15 minutes.

**2.** Mix in order and pour over crust:

3/4 cup sugar

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon ginger

1/4 teaspoon cloves

2 eggs

a 15 ounce can pumpkin

A 12 ounce can evaporated milk

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

**3.** Meanwhile mix:

1/2 cup chopped pecans

1/2 cup brown sugar

2 tablespoons soft butter

Sprinkle over pumpkin filling.

Bake another 20 minutes, until knife inserted in center comes out clean.

Serve with whipped cream, or ice cream.

Serves 12.

Submitted by Sibyl Pelz

(This treat was served at the Singles Luncheon and Sibyl received several requests for the recipe.)



## **COUNT YOURSELF BLESSED**

The Greek word for 'blessed' means to be proclaimed, or to be named, or to be recognized as 'happy,' or as 'close to God,' or even as a 'recipient of God's favor.' Other people can announce our blessedness to us. But, we can also praise God and announce it for ourselves!

As the theme for our annual Stewardship Campaign **COUNT YOURSELF BLESSED** invites us to do just that: to praise God and announce that we are indeed blessed by God. We are of course recipients of God's favor in Christ Jesus. We are the recipients of life. We are recipients of God's gift of the Holy Spirit who brings us comfort and discernment and guidance. We are recipients of strengths and skills and various spiritual gifts. So our stewardship is our opportunity to respond to what we have received from God and to bless others in turn. To be close to God and to know the happiness of supporting Christ's ministry in this time and place is to **COUNT YOURSELF BLESSED**.

Hopefully you have received a letter from the Time, Talent and Treasure Committee including the 2012 Time and Talent Survey, and an Estimate of Giving Card. Please prayerfully consider your blessings and take a step up in your support of God's work. Look in your heart and **COUNT YOURSELF BLESSED**.

Sunday November 13, 2011 is Stewardship Sunday this year and we will have a special ingathering service for our commitments to God's work through Peace United Church of Christ. Please complete and bring your Time and Talent Survey, and Estimate of Giving Card that day. You can, of course, place it in the offering before that day, or mail it to the church, or drop it off at the church office during office hours. We want everyone to be included.

**COUNT YOURSELF BLESSED** and announce that you are a happy recipient of God's favors, not only for your sake, but also for the sake of world.

Thank you,

The Time, Talent and Treasure Committee

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### **Peace United Church of Christ**

Pastor: Rev. Hal Spann

Office: (320) 251-6289

Church Office Hours: Tuesday -Friday 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

**email: [Peaceucc1908@yahoo.com](mailto:Peaceucc1908@yahoo.com)**