# THE GOOD NEWS OF PEACE

\*Our Vision Statement: Sharing Peace Faithfully \*Our Mission: To bring people into contact with the gospel, and help them grow in their relationship in God in Christ 1900 E. Lincoln Hwy, P.O. Box 205, New Lenox, IL 60451 815-485-5327

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### How Can We Not Be Afraid?

Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, President Franklin Roosevelt said, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." The words were inspirational and have lasted, but then and now, the words are so much easier to speak than it is to live without fear. There are some straightforward fears (phobias) that can be debilitating, like heights, snakes, flying, crowds. And there are a whole more of us who have situational fears. Right now, COVID & the Delta variant have caused many to shrink inward again. Add to that the fears that some have about their health or finances or safety for themselves or their loved ones. There is no shortage of things to fear.

Long before FDR spoke his words, the Bible incorporated numerous stories where people were afraid and the message from God was "do not be afraid." Once again, though we may be inspired by the stories, it sure is easier to read the words as being for somebody else than it is to incorporate the words into our own lifeorientation.

So, what is God trying to say to us? It is really don't be afraid or is it let me help you with your fears? We can't just dismiss our fears - they'll sneak up on us in the middle of the night even! What we can do is figure out how to lessen their grip on our whole being. For our physical bodies, we can learn how to take some deep breaths or do some meditation or use exercise or some other technique. For our mental side, we can journal or talk or reflect on how we have made it through similar circumstances before. God gives us those options and one more critically important one: learn to lean on God more and more in life.

That is what character after character in the Bible demonstrated: This is too much for me alone – God with you and your supply of unending love for us, I can work my way through this. I can't dismiss the situation around me, but you can help me find my way through. And since you've been on this path with others (me) before, I can depend on you to provide what is needed

#### Pastor Dave Hedlin

Please check our website, Facebook and YouTube for the latest information, videos, and more!

#### **Prayers Requested**

Larry Parvin, Alice Harvey, Janice Musak, Cheryl Krieger, Claudia Green, Jack Goesel, Doug Ruth, Lindsay George, Geri Henning, ICU nurses, Linda, Marie, Gerry Wurzburger, Diane Cochran, Barb & Michael, Clair, Grant

### Sympathy

The congregation of Peace wishes to extend its sympathy to:

the family of Sue Rushing, wife of Mark Rushing

### **Congratulations**

Allison (Johnson) & Michael Wolf, parents, Pamela Johnson, grandmother and Mel & Margo Stromberg, great grandparents on the birth of Madelyn Kate Wolf on July 22.

## Welcome to the Lord's Family

Elena Marilyn Mendell was baptized on Aug. 1.

#### New Member Orientation in October

We will be receiving new members again on Sun., Oct. 31 at the 11:00 worship. The orientation will be Sun., Oct. 17 at 9:45am in person or via Zoom. Our usual desire to have sponsors and a luncheon look like they will need to be on hold once again. But please be in prayer for our new members! Please call the church office to let us know if you would like to be included!

# September Begins New Worship Schedule & One More Inside Worship Option

We are partially returning to somewhat previous worship plans (pre-pandemic) starting Sept. 4 & 5. The plan is for Saturday night's worship at 5:00 to remain outdoors for as long as we can. Sunday's schedule goes back to 8:30 and 11:00am - both indoors with masks strongly encouraged. (Starting Sept. 12, the education hour resumes at 9:45 with Sunday School and adult education offerings.) Live-streaming of worship will continue on Saturday nights and at the 8:30 service on Sundays. What won't yet be changing: We will continue to have communion be taken all at once in your seats (bring your own or use our wafers.) We still won't have nursery care or as much liturgy. There won't be printed bulletins or using hymnals (song sheets are available inside and the words to the hymns are available electronically in that bulletin format.) We will have two hymns instead of one. Volunteers will be requested on a week by week basis instead of assigned ahead of time for an usher, lesson reader, greeter. No refreshments after worship.

# **Details for How We Worship** FOR EVERYONE COMING TO PEACE

# \*Masks are strongly encouraged for all for the indoor worship services.

- \*Whether you drive-in, are on the lawn or worship at home, we have a modified communion option. You can take a piece of bread or cracker with you to the service. We will give the Words of Institution on behalf of all of us and invite us to take our bread/cracker at the same time and partake of this modified version of the Lord's Supper.
- \* In order to keep people's safety in mind following the advice of the CDC and Illinois Department of Public Health, there will be a drop box if you wish to bring an offering with you. Otherwise, we will depend on people continuing to contribute online or by mail.
- \* Bathrooms will be available, but people would be encouraged to use them only if necessary, and social distancing would be required. The doors to the bathrooms will be left open to eliminate having to touch them, and for the sake of knowing what kind of distancing/waiting is needed.

# DRIVE-IN WORSHIP ON SATURDAY AT 5:00PM & SUNDAY AT 9:30 – August 28 & 29

- \* Our worship location will be either from the long sidewalk (lawn area) or from under the canopy at the front entrance, depending on the weather.
- \* We will have sound projection/speakers for all to hear, plus our new transmitter for the FM channel (88.3.)
- \* The worship usually lasts about 35 minutes. Worshiping outdoors allows us to sing with gusto!

#### ONLINE OPTIONS CONTINUE

\* We will continue to live-stream our 5:00 & 8:30 worship services. Assuming everything works, all will be available through our Facebook site anytime.

#### INDOOR WORSHIP CONTINUES at 8:30am

Here are the notes if you are planning to come

- \* Masks are strongly encouraged.
- \* Congregational singing of a hymn is now allowed, but wear your masks for singing, and hold down the volume. We'll have some printed copies available.
- \* We will have pews marked off so that socially distanced spaces can be maintained.
- \* We won't be having nursery attendants, acolytes, refreshments, lay liturgists, etc.
- \* We will be sending an email each week asking for lesson readers. If you would like to volunteer for a specific week, please let us know.
- \* Bathrooms will be discouraged from being used but are available.
- \* Communion will have options: continue to be "bring your own bread or cracker," or take one of the wafers (gluten free or regular) or take one of the pre-packaged kind.
- \* The service length will continue to be between 30 and 40 minutes.
- \* If you feel sick or have come in contact with someone who has COVID-19, please stay home and watch via the live-stream.

Please pray for our world's healing, and for our congregation's ongoing attempts to stay faithful to God and God's leading!

## Your Offerings Matter & Are Appreciated!

You can either donate online or mail in your offering (PO Box 205, New Lenox, IL 60451). If you know your envelope #, write that on the check. If you don't, we'll gratefully look it up so that you get credit! No matter how: thanks for your offerings — they are making a difference at Peace, in our community, in our country and around the world!

# Daily Devotionals Available

There is a black bin outside the front door labeled "devotional booklets." You can come by the church and pick one up at your convenience. If you want it mailed to you, just let us know via

peacechurch@peacenewlenox.org. Also, Augsburg has made *Christ in Our Home* available free online: <a href="https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/category/286137/Christ-in-Our-Home">https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/category/286137/Christ-in-Our-Home</a>.

#### Thank You Very Much!

The list that follows is for those who have done something for the first time. (If we miss someone, please let us know!) We are thankful for all the people who give of themselves to make ministry happen, even though their names don't keep getting mentioned here.

#### To:

Peace Youth Band, Pamela Putrich, Hedlin family Adult Choir & Bell Choir – for special music Chuck Vick, Marcel Arenz – lawn mowing From:

Tori Entwistle – for the scholarship
Troop 70248 – for use of the church for meetings
Todd Yetman – for the wonderful retirement
celebration and gifts

Clarendale of Mokena – for the quilts & prayer shawls

#### Quick Reminders

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS Sept. 26.

- \* The Will-Grundy Medical Clinic is accepting patients for free healthcare for the uninsured and those who qualify. Please call 815-726-3377, ext. 228.
- \* Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Cards Suicide is not about wanting to die, but about a powerful need for pain to end. You can help someone today by reaching out, listening, and letting them know you care. Be sure that the person can reach you and several responsible others if the desire to commit suicide becomes strong or if he/she just feels the need to talk to someone. Give them the suicide prevention hotline.

**Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Cards** are always located in the entrance area. Help someone today who is reaching out for help by picking up the cards and being attentive to what people are saying about their lives. Crisis Line – 815-469-6166, text -741741, and online - www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

#### \* Bereavement Support Groups

- *GriefShare* Not currently meeting please watch the newsletter.
- Evening Adult Support Group Meets the third Thursday of the month, (except for the month of March), December June 6:00 7:30 p.m. at Joliet Area Community Hospice, donation appreciated.
- Afternoon Adult Support Group Meets the second Friday of the month, 1:30 3:00 p.m. at Joliet Area Community Hospice, donation appreciated. For other services offered, including individual, parent support and general grief support counseling, please visit the Joliet Area Community Hospice website: www.joliethospice.org or call 815-740-4104.

- \*Thrivent members For those of you who have Thrivent dollars to donate, don't forget Peace is one of those choices.
- \*Crutches, walkers & wheelchairs available Please feel free to contact the church office if you need to borrow one of these items.
- \*Guardian Angel Community Services Sexual assault & rape crisis services, prevention education & outreach. Programs include medical advocacy, legal advocacy, individual counseling, group counseling, prevention education & professional training. 24-hour sexual assault hotline: 815-730-8984.
- \* LSSI's Joshua Arms Website Joshua Arms has a website that makes it easy for visitors to see all that the affordable senior housing development in Joliet has to offer. Visit the site at www.LSSI.org/JoshuaArms. Located at 1315 Rowell in a tree-lined residential area, Joshua Arms offers 186 independent, apartment-style units and 56 supportive living units, where residents can receive three meals a day, housekeeping, and other daily living services.
- \* NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness) Will Grundy offers, at no charge, education programs and support groups to "support individuals with mental illness and their families through advocacy, education and outreach.".

For more information call 815-409-7917 or go to: <a href="mailto:info@namiwillgrundy.org">info@namiwillgrundy.org</a> or <a href="www.namiwillgrundy.org">www.namiwillgrundy.org</a>

Midshipman Trevor Horn Sargent Devin Pafford

# Addresses for Service Personnel

PO Box # 12989 1208 Battery Creek Dr.
Annapolis, MD 21412 Beaufort SC 29902

MA2 Baker, Connor 2 Lieutenant Jakob Swenson 16113 Ryan Place, Apt. C
Norfolk, VA 23502 Fort Polk, LA 71459

# Military Pray for List

Please pray for those who have returned from war who struggle to readjust to life and work through their grief. T.J. Burns, Devin Pafford, Connor Baker, Jake Treasure, Allison DeVitto, Shane Bonarek.

## New Offering Envelopes Available

The offering envelopes boxes that began with the June 6 weekend are available for pick up in the Narthex. Come before or after worship or some other time when the office is open and pick up your box.

#### Looking Ahead

Aug. 29 - Sunday School Open House 10:15am

Sept.  $1 - 7/8^{th}$  Gr. Confirmation Orientation 7pm

Sept. 5 – Peace Page Turners 9:45am

Sept. 6 – Labor Day - Church office closed

Sept. 8 – Strong Seniors Resumes 11:30am

Sept. 12 – Sunday School Rally Day 9:45am Peace 360 Pasta Bar Dinner 6pm

Sept. 15 -Bible Buddies/ 7th Gr. Confirmation 7pm

Sept. 18 – 5th Gr. & Beyond Outdoor Movie 7pm

Sept. 18/19 – Bibles Given to 3<sup>rd</sup> gr. & Up

Sept. 21 – Trailblazers Luncheon 12pm

Oct. 3 – Blessing of the Animals 12:00pm

Oct. 9 – Blood Drive 9:00am - 1:00pm Special Prayers for Healing 5:00pm

Oct. 10 - Flu Clinic 9:15am -12:00pm

Oct. 16 - First Communion Class 3:30pm

5th Gr. & Beyond Bonfire 7pm

Oct. 17 - New Member Orientation 9:45am

Oct. 31 - Reception of New Members 11:00am

Nov. 6 - First Communion Class 10:00am

#### **Groups**

# Ruth Circle Quilting - Sept. 20

Quilting will resume on Monday, Sept. 20, at 9:00 a.m. No experience necessary. You just have to know how to have fun to join. Questions, contact Karen Dircks 815-462-9527 or Syndy Lindbloom 708-479-7338.

# Prayer Shawls - Sept. 2 & 16

Do you crochet or knit? The Prayer Shawl Ministry is meeting again! A prayer shawl is a shawl prepared for and prayed over for someone that is hurting so they can wrap themselves in God's love. We could provide you with simple patterns or you could create your own. We meet every other Thursday at 6:00pm. You may also create shawls at home and drop them at church if you are not able to attend in person. Any questions, please contact the church office.

# Trailblazers - Tues., Sept. 21

We invite anyone who'd like to get together with some others who are anything but "over the hill" to come together on Sept. 21 at noon at church. Bring \$5; the food will be provided. Email or call the church office for more information.

#### Peace Page Turners – Sun., Sept. 5

What do Charles Lindbergh, Babe Ruth, Cal Coolidge, Al Capone, flagpole sitting and a whole lot more have in common? You'll want to read *One Summer - America 1927* by Bill Bryson. You will not believe all that happened that summer that made such an impact on American history and folklore. A copy of the book is available at church (sign-out which copy) if you wish. The date will be Sept. 5 and the time will be 9:45am. You may come in person or attend via Zoom. (Be sure to let us know if you're attending online so we can give you the Zoom codes you'll need.)

#### Strong Seniors Exercise Resumes – Sept. 8

Join us for a low impact, do what you can exercise program for seniors. We meet twice a week: Mondays 12 noon -1:00pm and Wednesdays 11:30am-12:30pm. Questions, contact the church office.

### Addiction and Family Support Group

The Addiction & Family Support Group meets at Peace on Tuesday nights from 7:00-8:30pm. This support group meeting is for those struggling, those who love someone struggling, or those who just want to learn about the epidemic of heroin and prescription pain medications in our community. For more information, contact the church office.

## **GriefShare Ministry**

Please watch the newsletter & bulletin for when we will be able to resume meeting. GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you heal after losing a loved one. The group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult days. For more information, please contact Janet at griefshare.plc.60451@gmail.com.

# Peace Circle of Prayer Ministry

If you would like special prayers said for someone, just let the office know of a particular need. We will send out an email to the volunteers with that need. (If you would like to be a part of this Peace Circle of Prayer, let us know, including what email address we should use.)

### Faith Development/Education

#### Wednesday Bible Study

We meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am in person or via Zoom. If you have any questions, call the office. Any version of the Bible you have will work. You do not need to know anything about the Bible to join us!

# Pastor Dave to Receive Distinguished Alumni Award from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago has announced that our own Pastor Dave will receive its Excellence in Parish Ministry Award on October 14 along with four other alumni who will receive awards in other categories. (The event will be shown virtually if anyone would like to join in; details to be shared when get them.)

### Everybody Read

Our desire to have people read a common Bible passage is part of our Book of Faith effort. Each month we will pick a passage, invite everyone to read it sometime that month, and then those who are willing, write a sentence or two (or more if you'd like) about what you got out of the passage. September's passage is Hosea 11:1-4.

# Summer Adult Class - Sun., Aug. 29

Please join us at 10:30am on Sun. Aug. 29 for another of our summer adult classes. The topic will be "Instead of 'Why Me?' Ask 'What Can I Learn?'" God doesn't bring us difficulties in life ever, including to teach us a lesson. But God is very interested in the moments of life's challenges to help us grow through them. The class will look at the big theological picture of why bad things happen at all, plus concentrate on the next steps that can make a difference.

## Sunday Adult Education Classes

Adult Education class meets at 9:55 a.m. after the Sunday School opening in the sanctuary.

Sept. 12 –Do I Have to? (Are there mixed messages in the Bible about what you need to do?)

Sept. 19 – Presentation on Estate Planning (guest presenter)

Sept. 26 – Anger & Hate Take Too Much Energy (Letting God assist us with those emotions)
Oct. 3 – Infant Baptism or Not?

#### **General Announcements**

### A Message from Todd Yetman

Dear Members of Peace Lutheran Church,

It is with mixed emotions that I say good-bye and retire my position as organist/accompanist at Peace Lutheran Church. I served this congregation initially for five years and, upon my return, for an additional ten years. During that time, I have made many friendships that I know will last even though I may not see you every week.

I would like to thank everyone who has spoken words of encouragement and appreciation to me over those fifteen years. They meant and still mean more to me than you might realize. Those kind words are what motivated me to continue my ministry at Peace. Thanks to everyone who helped me in my ministry by volunteering to share their many vocal and instrumental talents with the congregation.

I would also like to thank Pastor Dave Hedlin for his leadership. I couldn't ask for a more encouraging and appreciative boss. He never failed to express his appreciation for my efforts and for that I am extremely grateful.

Lastly, I would like to say thanks to all the members who expressed to me in my final weeks their appreciation through cards and gifts. Thank you so much for your very generous expressions of appreciation.

I will miss you all – of that I am certain. But I am very grateful to have shared this time with you. You have enriched my life immensely. God bless you all!

#### Todd Yetman

# Confirmation Orientation – Wed., Sept. 1

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> gr. parents, you will have your choice of inperson on Sept. 1 at 7:00pm, or you can do a live Zoom during those same times. Please let us know which you plan to do, and especially if you plan to do the Zoom so we can give you the codes you'll need. You can register your youth online here, <u>Confirmation Registration</u>.

# Sunday School Rally Day – Sun., Sept. 12

Sunday School begins Sept. 12. Our theme is *Conductors of Faith!!* We look forward to another great year! We rely on the registration forms to give us updates and to help us know who will be available to help with Sunday School. Please fill out a registration form (located on the narthex counter in an upright holder), register on-line <u>Sunday School Registration</u>, or call the church office.

#### From Deacon Shari Trotter

Dear Members and friends of Peace,

This past month our wonderful Trailblazers group met for the first time since the pandemic started. What a joy it was to see everyone. You forget what it feels like just to share an in person laugh and it was so good for the soul. The Trailblazer meals are one of those events that just feel like home. Have you ever experienced that? They are an event where I can just come as I am and feel excepted and comfortable.

The Trailblazers are one of my sounding boards. They give the best advice and a reassuring, comforting, and listening ear. Currently all our Trailblazers are women and after recently losing my mom it was such a joy to be wrapped in the presence of moms. What a gift they are to our congregation and to me.

We had delicious roast and vegetables made by the amazing Jess Lindeman! When asked what I made I proudly responded, "I brought the cornstarch". We played a rowdy game of Scattergories and decided that we would play that again for sure!

This month we will be gathering on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup>. The menu will be a spaghetti bar, garlic bread and side salad. If you are a Trailblazer and interested in coming, please do! I promise you will not be disappointed with the food or the company!

God's Peace,

Deacon Shari Trotter

# Bibles to Be Given to Third Graders & Up – Sept. 18 & 19

Our church has great joy in giving each child a Bible of his/her own. We invite children from third grade on up, who haven't received theirs yet, to come forward during a worship service on Sept. 18 or 19.

### Blood Drive - Sat., Oct. 9

Thank you to everyone who donated in August. We saw 21 donors (no deferrals and only 1 unsuccessful). 2 donors completed double red cell donations. Together, we saved 66 lives through the use of red blood cells, platelets, and plasma of each pint of blood. Our next Versiti blood drive will be Sat., Oct. 9 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Please use the Versiti website to make an appointment.

#### Special Prayers for Healing – Sat., Oct. 9

Sat., Oct. 9, will be the next opportunity for special prayers for healing of body, mind and spirit for yourself or on behalf of someone else. We offer this as a part of the 5:00 worship service that day.

#### Flu Shots & More – Sun., Oct. 10

Once again, the staff from Jewel-Osco will be coming here to give flu and other vaccines (like pneumonia.) The date will be Sun., Oct. 10 from 9:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. They'll work with you on insurance and Medicare issues. If you do not have insurance that covers the shot, the likely cost will be \$30 per person. Bring any insurance information with you. No appointments are necessary.

# First Communion Class - Sat., Oct. 16 or Sat., Nov. 6

Each year we seek to prepare children in the fifth grade (and above) for receiving their first communion. We do it in a one-hour concentrated class. A parent/other adult (or two) should attend along with the child. The class will be offered on Sat., Oct. 16, at 3:30 p.m. or if you prefer, on Sat., Nov. 6, at 10:00 a.m. You need only attend one class or the other. Contact the church office for questions or to register.

#### Away From Home Addresses/Emails

It's that time of year when we ask for the addresses and email addresses for young people who are away from home. We like to email them the newsletter and let them know we're thinking about them.

# Cinderella – Nov. 10 - Jan. 9 at the Paramount

Experience one of the most beloved and cherished fairy tales live on Paramount's stage, with a re-imagined take on the story families have returned to over and over across generations. Experience magic as you've never seen before. From pumpkins into carriages to tattered rags into a beautiful gown, this show should delight and enchant young and old alike. Tickets are available from \$45 to \$79. (And note that the Paramount will be fully decorated for the Christmas season by then!)

Also looking ahead....We definitely will be getting group tickets for downtown shows: Simon & Garfunkel (the musical) in Feb. and Jesus Christ Superstar in July 2022.

#### A Motown Christmas - Tues., Dec. 14

"A Motown Christmas" starring the Motown Experience could be just what you need to kick off the holiday season with a family- oriented, sing-along holiday spectacular at the Rialto Square Theatre on Tues., Dec, 14 at 7:30 pm. A Motown Christmas features a world-class vocal group assembled from past and present members of three of Motown's most legendary groups: The Temptations, The Miracles and The Contours. Tickets are available from \$39.50 and higher (plus fees if bought online.) Go to the box office or look at the Rialto's website: <a href="https://rialtosquare.com/shows/">https://rialtosquare.com/shows/</a> (Interested as a group from church? <a href="Let us know by Aug. 30">Let us know by Aug. 30</a>.)

#### Questions Kids Ask About God

While we wait for more opportunities to share our Questions Kids Ask About God book with others, we recognize the questions don't stop. Here are two more.

1) Does God look like us? More important than looks is how we are inside. In that most important area, we have been created in God's image: to love God and others. Sometimes we don't do it. Then we don't look (act) like God. As to how we look physically, no, God doesn't look like us because God doesn't live in time or space. One day we will look like God in all aspects of life.

2) Does God have to go to the dentist? (My guess is the writer of the question was going to the dentist!) No, God doesn't have to go to the dentist because God doesn't need teeth where God lives.

Parents/grandparents, please keep sending in your kids questions! Go ahead and ask them specifically what questions they have about God!

# Caregiver Tip of the Month

One of many books on our display table includes valuable information and helpful tips. In 'The Good Caregiver' book you can find: The Home Safety Checklist and How to Make them Safer which includes: windows and doors, floors, steps, stairs, walkways, appliances, kitchen and bath, storage, electrical outlets, switches and alarms. Other excellent chapters include: Finding a Good Doctor, Caring for Yourself, Money and the Law and Moving Time. Making a decision is not easy, sometimes confusing and difficult, but many resources can help. You don't have to go on resource overload, just getting a few tips here and there can make your life and the life of your loved one a little easier. (For more information about being a caregiver and other related topics - see our display in the narthex)

# Updates Regarding a Replacement for Todd

No one needs to pretend we can replace Todd, but we are going to have a quality musician helping us worship together! That person will bring gifts of their own and we will all get used to the changes. We are concentrating on finding a quality pianist as the lead instrument because our efforts to find an organist as the lead instrument produced zero applicants! (Part-time quality organists are a dying breed.)

### Seniors Meals on Wheels Lunch Cafe

Seniors 60 and older are invited to the Meals on Wheels Café at the Guy Sell Senior Apartments, 1090 South Cedar Rd. Monday through Friday, 11:15am-12:30pm. Seating is limited. Please register & RSVP 1 week in advance to Cynthia or Flo at 815-351-6954.

### Because of You

Your generosity to ELCA makes new congregations possible by supporting mission developers such as Rev. Maria Rojas at Unidad Latinx Mission in Berwyn, Illinois. Mission developers are unique church leaders with the skills and vocation required to walk alongside communities as they build new spiritual homes. "Mission developers need to go to those communities and just observe, learn and listen," Rev. Maria says. "When you bring somebody new, a new group or a new idea or new church, we need to acknowledge that these are people that have their own ideas, that have their own way of seeing things, that they have their own power, their own love, and if they put what they have in with what we have, we will be creating something very new. Because at the end of the day, this is going to be their congregation, this is going to be their church, this is going to be their home." This is Unidad at its core celebrating the diversity of its community.

## Helping Santa Cruz's Food Pantry

Santa Cruz has a food and resource pantry for people of their neighborhood who are hungry or in need. The pantry needs the following specific items: especially cereals, canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly, toilet paper, paper towels, household cleaning products, personal care items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, easy-open snack-type items (protein bars, cookies, chips, nuts), coffee (ground), creamers (powdered), hand soap (bar & liquid), disposable diapers, dish soap, toothpaste, juices.

#### Youth Events

# $\overline{Peace\ 360-7^{th}}\ grade\ and\ Beyond!$

We are expanding our youth group! From now on our 7/8th graders and our high school graduates are invited to join our high school youth group! Peace 360 will be open to youth going into 8<sup>th</sup> grade through our graduated youth, as well!

**Sept. 5** - No meeting

**Sept. 12** – We will have a pasta bar dinner! We also invite our newest 7<sup>th</sup> graders to join us! **6-8pm.** Sign up here Pasta Bar dinner sign up

Sept. 18 – Movie night Outdoor Movie sign up

**Sept. 19** – No meeting

**Sept. 26** – Discussions/ in house service project

# Sunday School Open House this Sunday! Aug. 29

Parents/Guardians and families please join us on Sun., Aug. 29 at 10:15am to meet the amazing teachers and helpers of our Sunday School program! We haven't been in person for a while and we hope this will give parents, and children, a chance to meet their new teachers. Refreshments will be provided.

# 5<sup>th</sup> Grade and Beyond – Sat., Sept. 18

Outdoor Movie Night 7:00pm -5<sup>th</sup> graders and beyond, please join us for an outdoor movie! Movie is TBD so far, but it will be a fun time! Bring a snack. water bottle, and a chair or blanket to sit on. If the weather is bad, we will move the movie inside. Please use the sign up to attend. Outdoor Movie sign up

# 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Graders Bible Buddies – Wed., Sept. 15 & 22

We are bringing back Bible Buddies!! Starting Wed., Sept. 5 during 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation class, we invite our 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders to come and hang out with Miss Jess, from 7:00-8:00pm. We will have a lesson and play some games! Please let us know if your youth is interested in attending. Bible Buddies sign up

## National Youth Gathering - Sun., Sept. 19

Meetings will be held at 3pm. Deposits are due at this meeting in September. Registration forms will be provided, as well. Next meeting will be Oct. 10, 2021

## Sunday School Plans to Help Keep Kids Safe

We are trying to follow as many good practices as we can to keep kids safe in Sunday School. We have bought special air purifying equipment for each classroom. We are requiring masks be worn by all involved. We will space people out as best we can. All children will have their own box of supplies that will be only theirs each week. We will use our special virus killing sprayer before Sunday School each week. Until the situation improves, opening exercises will be out on the lawn in decent weather with designated meeting areas for each class.