

The Peaceful News

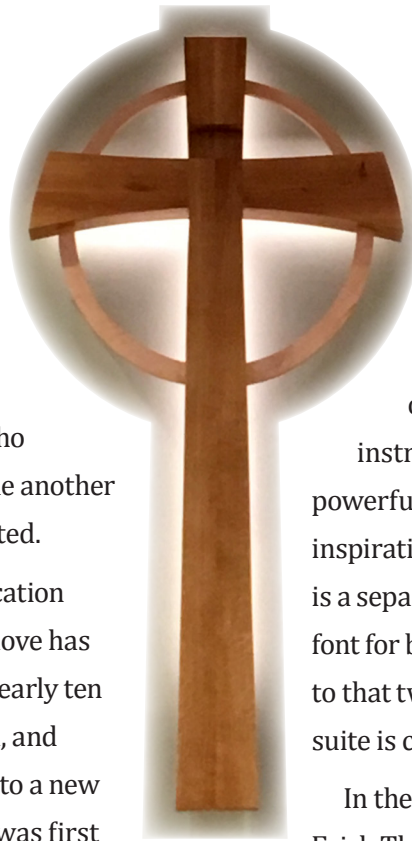
The Peace Presbyterian Church of Lakewood Ranch, Florida Newsletter

SPRING, 2019

Nearly every person who walks into God's sanctuary at Peace is captivated by the welcoming arms of Christ, seen in the backlit Celtic cross, built for the space. We are so grateful to have a cross that looks less like an instrument of 1st century torture and more like the living, resurrected Christ who welcomes us and invites us to welcome one another and to love the whole world that God created.

It is this love that we celebrate on Dedication Day on March 3rd in the afternoon. God's love has brought Peace to this day of celebration, nearly ten years after we were chartered as a church, and fifteen years since the idea of giving birth to a new PCUSA congregation in Lakewood Ranch was first discussed around a kitchen table.

As we await the arrival of the chancel furniture, built from oak from the ground on which our sanctuary sits, let me prepare you for what is coming. The three most theologically significant pieces of furniture in a sanctuary are the pulpit, the baptismal font, and the communion table, as we believe the heart of worship is found in Word and Sacrament.



We will say a prayer of blessing for each of these at our

Sanctuary Dedication, along with a prayer of blessing for our new

organ. Musical instruments are powerful tools for the inspiration of God's people. Another aid to worship is a separate lectern, which can be used near the font for baptismal services and other readings. Add to that two candle/flower stands, and our chancel suite is complete.

In the chancel suite of sacred furniture, built by Erich Thompson, a Presbyterian minister devoted to building sacred furniture, you will find themes of the Holy Trinity, the twelve disciples, and the church as a ship, an early often-used image, which reminds us of God's saving power in the floods and storms of life, and of Jesus' calling of the fishermen.

Prayerfully yours,

Elizabeth

Rev. Elizabeth M. Deibert
Pastor, Peace Presbyterian Church



Sanctuary Dedication

**Sunday,
March 3 at 4PM**

3:00PM

Reflections: songs of Peace
& Dedication

4:00PM

Worship Service with
Dedication

5:15PM

Reception in the Peace
Center

6:00PM

Intro to 2018 Book of
Common Worship
(for ministers and
other worship leaders)



**Featured Preacher and Speaker will be Rev. Dr. David Gambrell,
associate for worship in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Office of Theology and Worship.**



Many Women of Peace Church attended a baby shower on Saturday, Feb. 16 for Emily and Nico Cisneros recent gift from God. This was a wonderful celebration and time of fellowship. That baby girl will be well stocked with books, clothes, quilts, blankets, a car seat and much more. And a last-minute notice—the baby girl was born Sunday, Feb. 17.

Her name is **Fiona Cecilia Cisneros-Deibert**.



Cake, cupcakes, fruit and Pastor Elizabeth with her daughter, Emily.



Sisters of Peace at the baby shower for Emily and Nico Cisneros.



The Sisters of Peace (all women in the church) at the annual Christmas Party at Debby Sunkenberg's on Dec. 8.



Emily, Fiona Cecilia and Nico.

LENTEN SMALL GROUPS

“Cultivating Fruitfulness” - five weeks of prayer and practice for the entire congregation.

We invite all members and friends of Peace to join in five weeks of prayer and small groups, from March 10 until April 13.

This year we are using the book, **“Cultivating Fruitfulness”** by Robert Schnase. You may order your book by signing up in the church lobby. Our small groups will be DIFFERENT from last year:

1. They will meet at various times and in homes as well as at church.
2. They will have snacks instead of a meal. (Unless your group chooses to have a meal)
3. The discussion will be based on the sermon and bible text from the previous Sunday. Pastor Elizabeth will be printing the discussion questions in the bulletin. The questions will also coincide with the chapters in the book.

WHY are we doing this? Because this book was a resource that was used at Peace when the church began, and the FIVE GOALS of our church coincide with the five practices listed in the book. We can learn these goals and recommit to them as a whole congregation.

Here are the Five Goals and the (five practices in the book):

1. Authentic Relationships (Radical Hospitality)
2. Inspiring Worship (Passionate Worship)
3. Nurturing Discipleship (Intentional Faith Development)
4. Compassionate Outreach (Risk Taking Mission and Service)
5. Responsible Stewardship (Extravagant Generosity)

If you would be willing to lead a group or host a small group in your home, please contact Steve Kersten at kerstenstephen@gmail.com, or if you have questions about the campaign.

There are sign-ups sheets in the Peace Center.

As Jesus said in John 15:8, *“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”*

The daily devotional books “Cultivating Fruitfulness” will be available on March 10 after worship services. If you are able, please make a check out to PEACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH for \$8.00 and give it to Steve Kersten or your small group leader.



We hope you enjoyed your Christmas ornament from the Fellowship team. We have a few left over if someone didn't get one and would like one. Just ask the Fellowship team.

We hope you enjoyed the light lunch after the Congregational Meeting. Thank you to all who contributed food and helped setup/cleanup.

Our team continues to look for contributions towards weekly Fellowship Coffee Time, either homemade or store-bought. Cookies, brownies, cheese/crackers, fruit or any other treat of your choice. Just signup in Fellowship Hall in the Peace Center.

As you can tell, the attendance at Coffee Time has greatly increased. We enjoy providing this fellowship to the congregation.



For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.

Matthew 18:20 ESV



MOVIES SET FOR 2018-19 FAITH AND FILM

This group meets on the 2nd Friday of each month, Sept. to May. We gather at church at 6:30 to visit with each other. The movies begin at 7:00 p.m. SHARP, followed by discussion.

There is no need to sign up or make any advance plans. Just show up on the correct Friday and enjoy the movie. This group is a great way to ease into the "+2, as in Worship +2 is what we do." **BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS AND ANY REFRESHMENTS**

Mar. 8, 2019

The Way (2010, PG-13, 2:03)

A father heads overseas to recover the body of his estranged son who died while traveling the "El camino de Santiago," and decides to take the pilgrimage himself.

Apr. 12, 2019

Woman Walks Ahead (2017, R, 1:41)

Catherine Weldon, a portrait painter from 1890s Brooklyn, travels to Dakota to paint a portrait of Sitting Bull and becomes embroiled in the Lakota peoples' struggle over the rights to their land

May 10, 2019

Leave No Trace (2018, G, 1:49)

A father and his thirteen year-old daughter are living an ideal existence in a vast urban park in Portland, Oregon, when a small mistake derails their lives forever.



MISSION TEAM

Four Mission Team members, Sally, Nancy, Dean and Agnes, attended an engaging discussion titled: "Doing Good.....Says Who," presented Feb 9 at First Presbyterian, Sarasota. Dr. Hunter Farrell, Director, World Mission Initiative, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary discussed how to do "with" rather than

"for" based on respect, trust and collaboration. A renowned author, speaker, and Presbyterian world-wide missionary, we found Hunter to be approachable, humble, and down to earth! His clear message was that "The mission of Jesus Christ is not

a program. It's a relationship." We plan to use what we learned as we move forward with Mission Team ideas.

The Mission Team is so grateful to a generous Peace congregation for its recent donation of 4,833 pounds of food donated to The Manatee County Food Bank! This represents a combination of actual non-perishable items plus cash donations, where \$1 dollar can purchase 6 pounds of food. There is a constant need for food to stock the various local pantries.

Peace will once again participate in the annual CROP Hunger Walk, known as "the grand- daddy of charitable walks" on Sunday, Feb 24. 25 % of funds raised stays at our local food bank.

Crafters News

The Peace Crafters meet on the first and third Fridays of the month from 10-12. We are continuing with our plastic bag mats for the homeless. This is crocheting used plastic bags into sleeping mats. We have completed about 8 so far. Please continue to bring your plastic bags to church.



Peggy Donaldson has been making wonderful cards and bookmarks for the congregation. We are very thankful for her gifts and talent.

We are always looking for new projects. So, if anyone wants to bring something to us, please do.



Some of the Crafters display a quilt and plastic bag sleeping mat.

Report from Peace Music Department

On Christmas Eve, over 50 volunteer musicians led us in two beautiful services of Lessons and Carols, with 350 in attendance. Our new Children of Peace Choir sang during their Living Nativity play on Dec. 23.

The past few months saw the kickoff of our inaugural concert series with Isabella Bank and Amy Cerniglia at the Family Fun Fest, the Dave Lewis Singers leading worship in December, Tim Zimmerman and The King's Brass in January, and Crosby Lane on February 19. Proceeds raised money for the youth music scholarship fund and next year's concert series, already shaping up to be a fantastic season (no spoilers yet).

Looking ahead...

At the Sanctuary Dedication, the Voices of Peace will offer an anthem with lyrics by David Gambrell, our guest speaker and preacher that day. Symphony trumpeter Aaron Romm will provide the joyful sound of the trumpet.

Maundy Thursday will debut a new drama at Peace led by Amy and Tim Christiansen. This drama focuses on the incredible moment in which Jesus washes the feet of his followers. The next night, Good Friday, provides reverent musical responses to each Scripture reading that follows the crucifixion story.

To celebrate the resurrection on Easter Sunday, Deb Daff-Siggins and others will lead an early bluegrass service. At the later service, the Voices of Peace, Harmonizing Women, Ringers of Peace, and Youth Orchestra will uplift us in worship.

On May 5, the Children of Peace Choir will sing again in worship.

Finally, Amy received a nomination from the Sarasota/Manatee Chapter of the American Guild of Organists for sub-dean, and will be installed on May 6.



Voices of Peace singing at the Christmas Eve service.



Children's Choir singing on Dec. 24.

The Dave Lewis Singers brought new sounds to the Dec. 9 worship services.



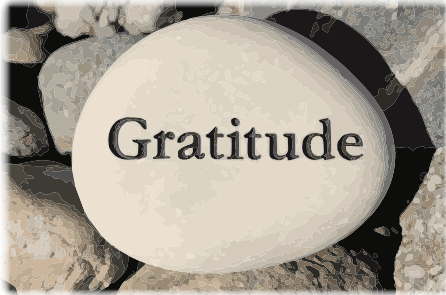
A special concert by the King's Brass Jan. 15 kicked off the 2019 concert series.



Gratitude Team

The Gratitude Team is thankful for each and every pledge received for the 2019 operational costs. The generosity of Peach Church members continues to amaze us. During the fall campaign, we received 22 new pledges and 36 increased pledges. We sincerely thank all who pledged to support Peace!

Fast from discontent and feast on gratitude. We are working on an intergenerational activity during Lent to increase



awareness of our abundance. Stay tuned for further details.

Dedication Sunday is March 3 at 4:00 p.m. A reception will be held in the Peace

Center following at 5:15 p.m. Refreshments will be provided by the Fellowship and Gratitude teams.

We are looking forward to welcoming new members into Peace the weekend of March 16–17. Gratitude team will assist with a luncheon for the new members.

A reminder—we now have a “giving station” in the narthex for those who wish to give by credit card or debit card. Please contact a member of the Gratitude team or Elizabeth Walch if assistance is needed.



The Peace Clean-up crew on Jan. 12 improved the look of Upper Manatee River Road.



Outreach Team

Y'all Come and Participate!

The Outreach Team is working toward a Health and Wellness Fair to be held on the church grounds on May 4. We are contacting health care professionals who would be interested in educating us and maybe taking blood pressures and the like. If you have suggestions or wish to contact someone to participate, please email Toni Muirhead or Shannon Jung.



ALSO—the Team is aiming at a cleanup date of April 6, 8:30a.m., for Upper Manatee River Road from SR 64 to the Ft Hamer bridge. We had a good crew last time and appreciate the response. A good intergenerational activity as well!

Peace Church is trying to share Peace news, activities and caring with our congregation, friends and neighbors through social media (i.e. Facebook). By logging onto Facebook and “friending” our pages (there are two of them, Peace Presbyterian Church and Peace Presbyterian Church, Lakewood Ranch, Florida) you’ll receive the most up to date information about church happenings as well as inspirational messages and images. Participate in the “online conversation” about everything Peace by sharing and commenting. We post short messages about 4-5 times each week.



Facebook friends+likes+shares+comments=more friends at PPC

Last but certainly not least, Dee Romito and Tom Finnerty, Linda Harman, and Kevin McNulty are part of the team working towards a Peace Festival next November.



Peace Pop Quiz

Can you name at least three locations that Peace has held worship services since its beginning?



This Spring and Summer we have a lot going on for our Children, Youth and Families!

April 12-14 our families will head to the Cedarkirk Family Retreat! We will play and pray together and deepen our bond with each other and with God. Registration forms are available at church.

April 27 we present the Italian Rat Pack Dinner Dance at 5pm! Don't miss this great annual event—a delicious Italian Dinner (from Valentino's Restaurant) followed by a silent auction and dance with a DJ in the Sanctuary! All ages welcome and free childcare is provided. Tickets are \$30. This is a fundraiser to help our Peace kids pay for summer camps. Get your tickets now!

Summer will bring some incredible camp opportunities for our children at Peace:

June 2 – Aug 2 Cedarkirk Camp in Lithia, FL. (Weekly) Various themes to choose from: art, culinary, explorer, etc. (3 day/2 night camp for grades 1-3 and 6 day/5 night camp for grades 4-12) Prices vary from \$235-\$600 depending on program. Visit Cedarkirk.org for more information and registration. Check the master calendar on the CYF bulletin board to see who from Peace is attending which week.

June 22-29 Montreat Music and Worship Conference in North Carolina, for those who finished grades 8-12. \$300

July 8-12 Traveling Vacation Bible School at Peace, led by Cedarkirk Staff. For children entering VPK – 6th grade. 30 spots available, \$95, \$85 for siblings

July 20-27 Montreat Youth Conference in North Carolina for those who finished grades 8-12 \$300



Toni and Julia working at the pottery wheel Jan. 27. The youth were learning about meditation through art.



Peace Youth at a paint ball activity.



The Kids' Club made a fun trip to Crowley Nature Park.

Cedarkirk Summer Camp Registration is Open



Registration for Cedarkirk's 2019 Summer Camps is open! Whether you are in first grade or high school, a family with young children or a grandparent seeking time with your grandchild, Cedarkirk's summer programs have something for you. Cedarkirk offers camps for all

ages and stages of life, emphasizing opportunities for fun, community-building, and spiritual growth in a beautiful, natural environment. To ensure your choice of programs, pick up a brochure in the church office or visit www.cedarkirk.org today. If you have any questions, please contact the camp office at 813.685.4224 x2 or camps@cedarkirk.org.



Peace Youth made dog treats at Nate's Honor Rescue.



Peace children preparing for the Dec. 24 Nativity Pageant.



A large crowd was present for the Christmas Eve services.



Youth performing the Vision Rap at the Congregational Meeting in January.



Luminaries light up the entrance to the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve.



John Daniel DeBevoise brought a powerful message Feb. 10.

The Peaceful News is published quarterly by:
Peace Presbyterian Church
12705 State Road 64 East
Lakewood Ranch, Florida 34212
941-753-7778
www.PEACEpcusa.com
Pastor: *Elizabeth Deibert*
Editor: *Diane Brinkmeyer*
Graphic Design: *Peter Miller*
Photos: *Eirinn Camphire, Amy Cerniglia, Elizabeth Deibert, Jo-Anne Mc Laughlin, Emily Miller, Toni Muirhead and Dee Romito.*