

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tacoma
2106 South Cushman Ave
Tacoma, WA 98405

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Tacoma, WA
Permit No. 40

THE CALL TO PEACE

Volume 19 ▪ Issue 3 ▪ Fall 2023

Peace Lutheran Church
Worship

We worship Sundays at 8:30 & 11 am. Masks are welcome and encouraged but not required. We require masks the first Sunday of each month for 8:30 am worship so those who need to take additional precautions can participate. If you are experiencing symptoms of illness, please stay home and worship online. Join live stream Sunday worship at 11 am on the church Facebook page (worship video also available later on the YouTube channel).



Summer Bible Adventure - Compassion Camp!

Rally Sunday Is September 17!

It's time to kick off the fall season of opportunities to grow in faith! Make a commitment at the beginning of the school year for your family to grow deeper in relationship with God! We are offering opportunities for children, youth, and adults. **Starting Sunday September 17, on Sunday mornings 9:45 - 10:45 am,** there will be an adult class, the Feet to Faith confirmation class for 7th-8th graders, the Explorers class for 4th-6th graders, and a Godly Play Bible story time for children ages 4 through 3rd grade. Questions? Ask Jayna Detweiler (Coordinator of Children's, Youth, & Family Ministry) or Pastor John.

We continue to post Godly Play videos for children on our YouTube channel every week to use at home.

Commitment Sunday / Ministry Fair Is October 22!

Don't miss **Sunday October 22 at Peace**, the culmination of our stewardship series "All Hands on Deck," as we celebrate the many ministries of Peace Lutheran Church and invite everybody to "get in where you fit in" and make a commitment to share your time, talent, and treasure for God's work through Peace Lutheran Church in 2024. A Ministry Fair in the multipurpose room will showcase lots of Peace ministries and provide opportunities for you to share your gifts in ministry!



Peace Lutheran
Church



Peace youth and adults who participated in the servant learning mission trip with Mending Wings.

Pastor’s Reflection



Confirmation Sunday

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.”
— Colossians 3:12

People of Peace,

Every Sunday in worship we say it: God’s vision for Peace is to be a community that is compassionate. For Jesus, the primary quality of life centered in God is compassion. Jesus’ words in Luke 6:36 can be translated, “Be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.” As followers of Jesus living, worshipping, and serving in community, we show compassion and love and care for one another. This summer moving into fall, Leigh, I, and our kids Luke and Joy have

really experienced the compassion and care of our community at Peace. Luke and Leigh both are journeying with significant medical challenges right now: Luke with seizures and Leigh anticipating surgery in September. We are so grateful for your prayers, support, and love as we make our way through these days and weeks, trusting God and experiencing God’s healing and strength. Thanks be to God for you!

The Care Ministry at Peace Lutheran Church is so important. We have organized ministries: caring visits to people who are sick, hospitalized, grieving, or unable to be present in person to receive Communion in worship; prayer ministry with individuals in worship; the prayer chain; sending out cards; the meal train providing meals in times of transition and need (like after surgery or a new addition to the family); and helping with errands and other special needs. This all falls under the category of “Care Ministry” led by Jeanie Correa and “Inreach” led by Rick Trombley on the Church Council. Please reach out if you’d like to serve in any of these areas. And beyond these ministries, there are the many ways we show care for one another all the time—visits, conversation, prayer, cards, meals, errands, and more.

May you know God’s compassion and care through the compassion and care of the people of Peace. Thanks be to God for your compassion and care for people in the community! May God bless you this fall as we serve God together!

God’s peace,
Pastor John



Outdoor Worship and Outdoor Community Games!



Peace Fall Calendar

September

Sunday Sept. 17: Rally Sunday! Faith education 9:45 - 10:45 am begins again in person on Sundays: adult & older youth class, 7th-8th grade Feet to Faith confirmation, 4th-6th grade Explorers class. Ages 4-3rd grade Godly Play

October

October Weeknights, 5:30 – 6:30 pm: Community Meal Program

Sunday Oct. 1: Stewardship series “All Hands on Deck” kicks off!

Friday - Sunday Oct. 13-15: Women at Peace Retreat

Sunday Oct. 22: Commitment Sunday / Ministry Fair: All are invited to make a pledge of our time, talent, and treasure to God through Peace Lutheran Church for 2024. Please bring your commitment brochure to worship this Sunday or send it to the office. Check out Peace ministries at the Ministry Fair and make a commitment to serve!

Sunday Oct. 29: Reformation Sunday

November

Sunday Nov. 5: All Saints Sunday

Saturday Nov. 11, 9 am - 5 pm: Holiday Bazaar

Saturday Nov. 18, 5:30 pm: Thanksgiving Meal and Worship

December

Sunday Dec. 24: Christmas Eve — We celebrate the birth of Jesus!
10 am Sunday Worship / 5 pm Children’s Christmas Celebration / 7 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Opportunities to Serve

Regular Offering to Peace Thank you for your ongoing financial support of God’s ministry through Peace Lutheran Church. You may bring your offering in person to put in the Offering Box at the Welcome Table on Sunday or send your offering by mail or donate on the church website. If you would like to get set up for regular online giving, please contact Damishe in the church office at 253-383-1317.

Worship Helpers Needed We need readers, greeters, ushers, acolytes, altar guild servers, and tech people to serve and help lead worship. Please contact Pastor John or Damishe in the church office.

Meal Train Ministry As part of our Care Ministry, we use the Meal Train website to organize meals for folks during times of transition and need, including after a surgery or a new addition to the family. Since we started in 2013, we have organized 30 Meal Trains for our Peace family! If you would like to receive invitations to share a meal, please contact Kathy Hanawalt (253.572.0133, kathyhanawalt@gmail.com). Kathy is currently organizing meals for Pastor John and Leigh after Leigh's surgery (<https://mealtrain.com/51e4q7>) and Myrah Ballentine’s family after her surgery (<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/odq3nl>).

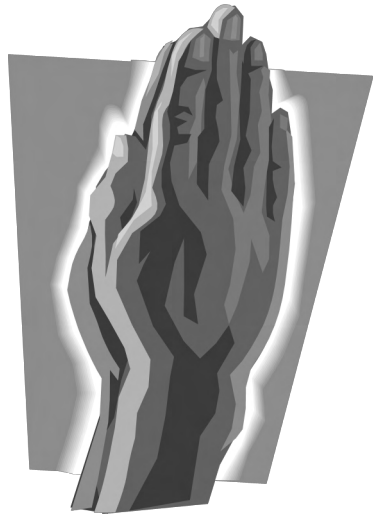
October is Hunger Response Month at Peace!

- **Give A Financial Gift to Fight Hunger.** Write a check to Peace Lutheran Church earmarked “Emergency Food Network” for local food banks. Or write a check to Peace earmarked “ELCA World Hunger Appeal” for global hunger relief, development, education, and advocacy.
- **October Community Meal Program.** Help out as needed October weekdays, 5:30 – 6:30 pm.



Philippians 4:6

⁶Do not worry **about anything**,
but in everything
by prayer
and supplication
with thanksgiving
let your requests be made
known to God.



Remember in Prayer

Those who celebrate...

- Newly baptized: Cazamyah Danials, Andrés Fajardo
- Confirmed in faith: Lucy Asadi-McGlaughlin, Nora Hanawalt, Alex Sanchez, Ebonie Snead
- Newly married: Jordana Seigny and Philip Anderson
- Our community grateful for summer ministries including the youth servant learning mission week, Summer Bible Adventure, Friday Community Meals, Outdoor Worship, & Peace Community Center programs
- The Peace community as we reach out to Hilltop families this fall, especially in academic support, enrichment opportunities, mentoring, & faith offerings for all

Those who are hurting...

- All who suffer racial injustice
- The hungry, all suffering economic poverty, the incarcerated, those without homes, all without hope...
- All who grieve the death of loved ones, who are ill, facing surgery, recovering from hospitalization
- All who struggle financially, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, for hope
- All suffering from the effects of wildfires and turbulent weather
- All who live midst violence, war, or unrest, especially the people of Ukraine, Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Iraq, and the Holy Land

Our work...

- For future directions of Peace Lutheran Church, as we live into our foundational commitment to anti-racism
- Our ministries in community development, especially in housing ministry
- Our ministry of sharing Jesus' love with children, youth, and families
- Our work for justice and peace in our world, building bridges among people

Partners in mission & service...

- Peace Community Center - in this time of transition
- Our global partners: Davis family in Africa; Jane Kagochi & Solid Faith Church in Kenya; the Namibian Lutheran Church (our companion synod); the church in South Sudan; the church in China; Seigny family in Japan; the Navajo Lutheran Church in Arizona
- Living Stones prison congregation in Shelton
- Faith Action Network leading in advocacy for justice for all, and for political leaders

For the complete list, see Sunday's announcements.

Music Ministry

Hello Peace Family,

We continue to experience the beauty of the gifts and talents of the musicians and song leaders throughout the year at Peace. The Outdoor worship was enhanced this summer with Karina playing the flute, Aaron playing the saxophone, Craig playing the Accordion, William playing the drums, myself playing the keyboard, along with Antonio singing.

As we move into Fall, pray for the Music Department as we continue to grow, maneuver around sickness, schedules, and vacations. In this season, the Choir is back and singing once a month until further notice. The practice and Sunday singing schedules are published in the weekly bulletin. As always, we are looking to expand the Music Department and welcome song leaders, song assistants and musicians. As part of the growth, there will be singers and musicians in training assisting during the Sunday services.



Lastly, A special thanks and shout out to all the song leaders and musicians that currently participate in worship. The Music Department would not be successful without YOU. We are still in need of song leaders and musicians for rotation as we continue to carry out the rest of the year as well as soloists, musicians, or groups to share special music. Contact twylla@peacetacoma.org if interested.

Community Resources Meal Ministry



We provide free meals to the community every Friday night from 5:30-6:30 pm. We have been blessed to have several churches, organizations, Bible study groups, and members of Peace Lutheran Church partner with us to provide the meals that are enjoyed by those in attendance. With the help of Craig Cogger and others, we are supplied with freshly picked produce from Peace Lutheran's garden. We are excited to have Charissa Carroll as our Resource Navigator assisting those in need with resources. If you have a need, please email Charissa at charissa@peacetacoma.org.

We work cooperatively with the April and October Meal Coordinator, Aida Perez, to assist as needed so that in those months, meals are served Monday-Friday. If you would like to be involved please contact Damishe Greenwood-Walker at plcadmin@peacetacoma.org. God bless you,

Community Resources Meal Ministry Team

More Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Women's Ministry Gatherings: Women of Peace, keep your eyes open for upcoming events for women for connection and fellowship. Please speak with Charissa Carroll or Leigh Wong if you have questions.

Holiday Bazaar: The Holiday Bazaar is **Saturday November 11 from 9 am - 5 pm**. It will be an opportunity to purchase low-cost holiday-related items, including toys. Questions? Ask Teresa Jackson (253-290-7951).

Future Directions at Peace

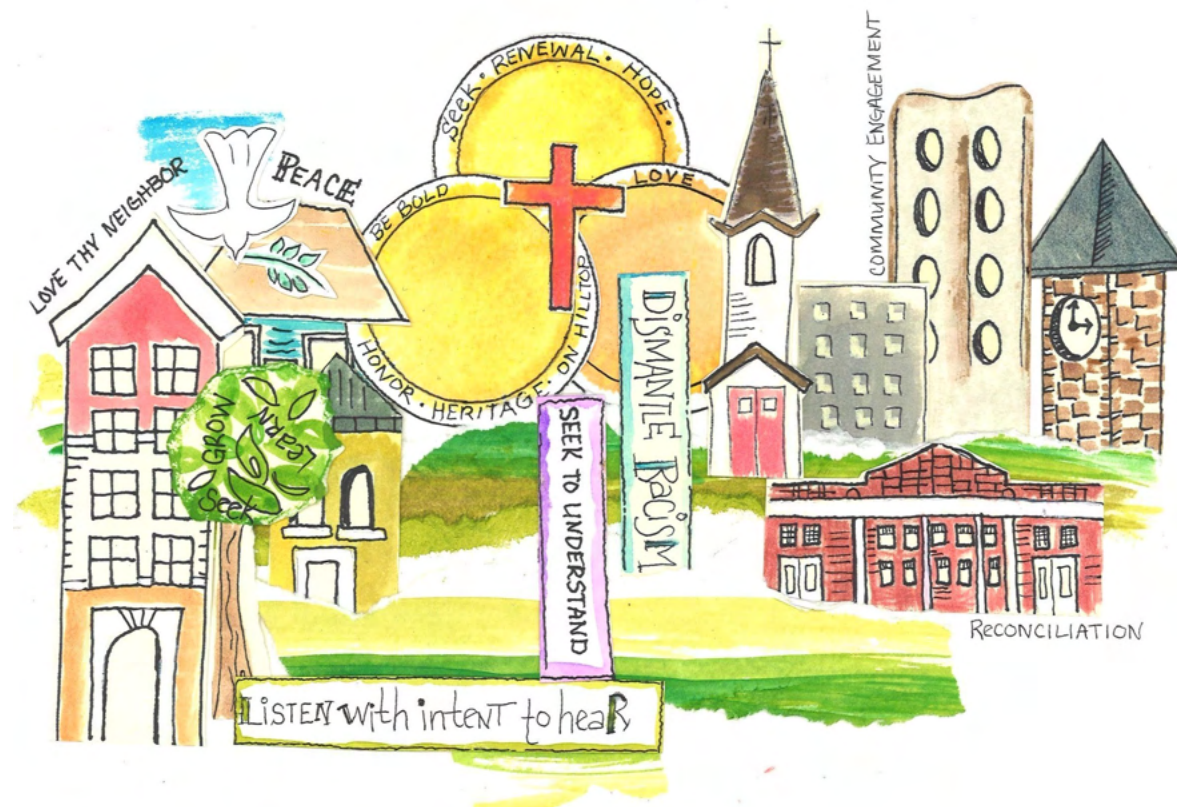
Where are we now as we live into our Future Directions at Peace Lutheran Church? Here's a recap and an update.

The Church Council adopted two important documents in 2021, a Foundational Commitment to Anti-Racism and Future Directions Recommendations (Ministry of Place, Catechism of Peace, and Priesthood of All Believers). After months of prayerful discernment, these guiding statements are a solid foundation and framework to help our congregation move forward in ministry as God is calling us. This commitment and these recommendations emerged as we reflected on the question: As a faith community of followers of Jesus in the Hilltop neighborhood, how is God calling us to love God and love our neighbor at this time and in this place into the future?

Recently a Future Directions Action Plan Team met regularly to develop two Work Groups together with action plans to guide us in carrying out our Future Directions. The two Work Groups are now meeting:

- **Anti-racism Work Group** (facilitated by Julia Kagochi with Pastor John as church staff lead) with a list of actions to prioritize and lead: survey congregation (completed), create anti-racism decision-making screen, assess current church functions with anti-racism commitment, strengthen racially diverse leadership, integrate anti-racism in church education, determine anti-racism training offerings, and build individual learning library.
- **Ministry of Place & Activation Work Group** (facilitated by Joey Ager and Bill Hanawalt with Brendan Nelson as church staff lead) with a list of actions to prioritize and lead: capture history of Hilltop and church, codify housing ministry and future vision, redefine partnership with Peace Community Center, engage the community to discover their gifts, and activate people for local service.

Thanks to all who are serving on these Work Groups. Through our action plans, we're hoping to involve the whole congregation more fully in ministry at Peace!



Peace Community Center



People of Peace,

Please welcome new Peace Community Center Interim Executive Director Alanna Rodgers! Alanna has assumed leadership in a challenging time, partnering with our community to discern the unique ways we can serve the children and families of the Hilltop into the future. Thanks be to God for you, Alanna!

The Board of Directors of Peace Community Center asks for our community's continued care, service to students, prayers, and ongoing financial support as we engage the challenging, but necessary work, of building a more sustainable future for Peace Community Center.

In Partnership, *Peace Community Center*

Opportunities for Adults & Older Youth to Grow in Faith

Upcoming Adult & Older Youth Education Sundays from 9:45 - 10:45 am

Sept. 17: Sharing Ideas for Upcoming Faith Education. Join a conversation hosted by Michaela Cox to share your thoughts and ideas for future faith growth opportunities for adults & older youth at Peace.

Sept. 24: God's Call to Mission. Loretta Carter (Pam Asadi's mother) will share her personal call to serve in God's global mission. She was one of the first missionaries in the new ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), serving in Nigeria, Tanzania, Madagascar, and Namibia.

Oct. 1 – 22: A series called "All Hands on Deck." Last fall's theme "What's in Your Hand?" helped us explore our different gifts, abilities, and experiences and wonder how God might use these in our everyday lives. This fall we encourage our community to put these gifts, abilities, and experiences to work for God — all hands on deck on this "steward-ship." We'll explore worship, disciple-ship, companion-ship, & partner-ship.

Community Bible Study Starting September 28, Pastor John is facilitating a Community Bible Study in person in the church Conference Room and on Zoom (your choice) **Thursdays from 1 to 2 pm** on the scripture readings for worship the following Sunday. We will read scripture, share conversation, and pray as we listen for God to speak to us and through us. Email Pastor John if you need the Zoom link.

Christ in Our Home Would you like to receive a copy of the daily devotional "Christ in Our Home" for October-December? Pick one up on Sunday or contact the office, and we will mail you one.



Resource Navigator Ministry

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”
- 1 Peter 4:10

Greetings Peace family. I hope you all have been able to enjoy the plentiful sunshine that we have had all summer. The community meals are going well, we are very thankful for those who have volunteered to prepare food and serve on Fridays. The meals will continue throughout the summer on Friday evenings from 5:30-6:30. If you have any interest in preparing meal or helping to serve, please reach out and I can provide you with more information. As the Resource Navigator, I am often asked for leads or names of agencies that are able to help meet various needs, if you come across any resources or agencies that you think would be helpful to others, please feel free to call, email or drop the information off at the church office. Additionally, if you know of any resources or people that assist in helping low-income families with car repair, please forward that information to me. Thank you again for your partnership in this ministry. We are making a difference in the lives of others and it’s a privilege to be able to serve in this way.



Have a great end of summer,
Charissa Carroll, Resource Navigator

Women’s Ministry



“It is truly wonderful when the people of God live together in peace.”
— Psalm 133:1

We had a wonderful time at the Women’s Tea! There was a great turnout, delicious food and a fun time was had by all. Thank you to all who came, served, gave of their resources, time and talent. We appreciate you. In addition, the women’s ministry had almost a full year of Saturday morning breakfast and fellowship. We look forward to meeting again in the fall to catch up and reconnect.



We are planning a Fall retreat for October 13th -15th, 2023, the cost is \$140, and we would love for you to join us. Registration is open now and will be closed September 10th. You will have an opportunity to register on Sundays or by reaching out to Charissa Carroll. Our theme is “Refreshed, Refilled, Renewed” and that is what we hope you will experience as we lean into the Word, eat, laugh, pray and just have a good time getting to know each other better. Do you have craft you love to do, a fun activity that a group would enjoy? We would love to hear your ideas!

We welcome any new women to the church, you don’t have to know anyone to be involved, come join us and you will be known. We also want to encourage any women who have been around for a while and have not yet gotten involved, to get involved, we would love to connect with you and get to know you better too.

The current leadership team of the women’s ministry at Peace is Leigh Wong, Sarah ButlerWills and Charissa Carroll. If you have ideas of events, Bible studies, or any suggestions please feel free to reach out to any of us.

Women’s Ministry

Care Ministry



The Care Ministry is here to offer limited services and to bring home-bound communion to anyone that would like it.

Inreach & Maintenance
I have been taking a little break from Celebration cards, but plan to be back on track this month. *HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY* to all those I missed this year.

If you are interested in helping with our card ministry, for example: addressing the cards, keeping a calendar, etc., please let me know.

We are still in need of individuals to help with repairs. If you live in the area and would like to be a blessing, please call or email the office. Damishe will provide you with a list of repair items that may fit your skills.

Clothing Closet
Our clothing closet is thriving! We have a special need for winter items to include undergarments, socks, sleeping bags, warm coats, gloves, scarves, & bedding. Questions, email me at jeanie@peacetacoma.org. Peace and love to all.

Jeanie Correa, Care Ministry and Facility Coordinator

Small Group Opportunities to Grow and Serve This Fall

Here Are the Ongoing Small Groups for Growing in Faith and Fellowship

- Book Club: Kit Thompson: 229-5766
- Christians Concerned with Homelessness prayer group: Sarah ButlerWills. Bryant Neighborhood Center, 1615 6th Ave., first Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 pm
- College Care Package Team: Pat Ferguson: 627-1349
- Conversations Around Race: Ted Johnstone: 752-9514
- Community Bible Study: Pastor John: 383-1317 ext 101, Thursdays, 1-2 pm, starts Sept. 28
- Gospel Choir: Twylla Moore: 592-2473
- Men’s Breakfast: Antonio Yune: 227-1995, 2nd Saturdays, 9 am at church
- Papers of Peace (card-making): Nancy Heavey: 752-8450
- Prayer Chain: Kit Thompson: 229-5766, for prayer requests email: kkit.thompson@gmail.com
- Writing Group: Shari Shelton: 906-3769. 4th Tuesdays, 6 pm at church

Who’s Who on the Peace Lutheran Church Staff

Pastor: John Stroeh, 253-383-1317 ext 101, pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org

Director of Community Engagement and Outreach: Brendan Nelson, 253-383-1317 ext 103, brendan@peacetacoma.org

Children’s, Youth & Intergenerational Coordinator: Jayna Detweiler, 253-383-1317 ext 100, (leave a message) jayna@peacetacoma.org

Music Director: Twylla Moore, twylla@peacetacoma.org

Nursery Attendant: Rebecca Valencia, rebecca@peacetacoma.org

Office Manager & Community Meals Contact Person: Damishe Greenwood-Walker, 253-383-1317 ext 100, plcadmin@peacetacoma.org

Resource Navigator: Charissa Carroll, 253-383-1317 ext 100, (leave a message), charissa@peacetacoma.org

Finance Coordinator: Jenny Haferbecker, jenny@peacetacoma.org

Stewardship Highlight - All Hands on Deck!



The word “stewardship” helps us to live with the perspective that God is the giver of all good gifts, and we are stewards, or managers, of what God has given — time, talent, treasure — all to be used for God’s purposes in the world.

Last fall we encouraged everyone to explore the question, “What is in your hand?” Inspired by the story of Moses asked by God the same question, we wondered about our abilities, gifts, and experiences and how God might use them. This fall we lift up a new theme, “**All Hands on Deck.**” It’s a ship theme, and yes, it’s a little corny. In our church community, how will you put your hands on deck to serve God on this steward-ship? We need everybody! It’s time for everyone to “get in where you fit in” at Peace! On **Sundays October 1-22** in worship and adult/youth education, we will look at wor-ship, disciple-ship, companion-ship, and partner-ship. Our special emphasis will culminate on **Commitment Sunday October 22 with a Ministry Fair!**

Peace Stewardship Team

Stay Connected with Peace Lutheran Church!



Find worship services and faith resources, see ministry pictures, get updates, and stay on top of what’s going on! Call the church office to get on the email list!

Facebook Peace Lutheran Church Tacoma:

<https://www.facebook.com/PeaceLutheranChurchTacoma/>

Peace’s website: <http://www.peacelutherantacoma.org/>

Peace’s YouTube channel with worship services and faith videos [here](#).

Mission Statement

Compelled by the love of God and our faith in Jesus Christ, Peace Lutheran Church, a diverse people of faith, in partnership with Peace community Center, seeks to realize God’s dream for the world through worship, learning, giving, and serving.

Core Values...

Serve with **COURAGE**

Embrace **DIVERSITY**

Cultivate **COMMUNITY**

Seek **JUSTICE**

Vision Statement

We believe God’s **vision** for Peace is to be a **diverse** community of faith **in the Hilltop** where all are welcome—a community that is **Spirit-filled, compassionate, healthy, reconciled, and just.**

Foundational Commitment to Anti-racism

As followers of Jesus, we believe that God created all people in God’s image (Genesis 1:27), Jesus breaks down all dividing walls (Ephesians 2:14), and the Holy Spirit connects and unites all people. The whole church looks forward to God’s future when people will be gathered from all cultures and peoples in the reign of God (Revelation 7). This church names racism (individual and systemic) as sin. We affirm that the diversity of cultures is a God-given gift, and we seek to extend God’s love to all our neighbors. We believe Jesus calls us to understand, address, and dismantle racism in individuals, communities, systems, and structures, joining God in bringing about justice for the oppressed and transformation of all society (Luke 4).

From the Church Council

From the Council President:

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable summer. We as a Council are gearing up for the fall with several programs that will be starting. I am excited to see new offerings and ways for everyone to fit in. For those of you that signed up to participate, you should be getting information soon. Peace Community Center Board recently sent out a letter about recent struggles at the Community Center. As new information becomes available we will let the congregation know. I feel blessed to have a strong working Council. We all strive to welcome everyone and have a church that remains active in the community. Many of us will find a shift in our schedules as we move into fall. May God’s blessings be with you and your families as school resumes and teachers return to work.

“Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.” — Psalm 37:3.

Pam Asadi, Council President

Your 2023 Church Council:

President – Pam Asadi; Vice President – Joseph Anderson; Treasurer – Erik Tou; Secretary – Gail Storrs; Community Resources – Craig Cogger; Education – Michaela Cox; Evangelism/Outreach – Neoma Clay; Inreach – Rick Trombley; Stewardship – Melody Duke; Worship – Antonio Yune; Youth – Lillie Brooks-Walker; Ex-Officio – Pastor John and PCC Interim Exec. Director - Alanna Rodgers

Children, Youth, & Intergenerational Ministries



Hello Peace Family,

This Summer has been full of planning and fun with the Youth and Children of Peace. We started off strong with our Youth service-learning trip to Yakama hosted by Mending Wings. Pastor John and I had a great time learning with our Youth and seeing how the week impacted ourselves and each of our students. I'll be cherishing those memories and the chance to hang out with some super cool people.



After coming back from the trip, I jumped into prepping for Summer Bible Adventure. We had about 40 kids throughout the three evenings join us for another year of Compassion Camp where we earned about what every living thing needs. A theme that really fits with the ministries of Peace and how we show up for our

community with housing, food, and community. The food, skits, and crafts were definitely a hit with the kids. A huge thank you to all who helped and those who came to be a part of the fun!

The youth finished off the summer with a day trip to Blake Island on the Flesher's boat for a day of exploring and fun. Lastly Pam Asadi and her grandkids hosted us for an end of summer BBQ and pool party. I'm looking forward to getting back into Sunday morning classes for kids and monthly dinners for the youth.

Peace and blessings, *Jayna Detweiler*

Children's, Youth, and Intergenerational Ministries Coordinator

