

From the Pastor's Desk



Greetings All,

I hope all is well with you and your family. I know maybe some of you are still wrapping up all your equipment after a long harvest season, and tucking all your harvest away to keep them secured as the winter season comes in. Yes, the season of falling snow is here, but it is also a reminder that Advent Season begins. It's a time to reflect and to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as we anticipate His expected Second coming. We feel Christmas coming as the season gets colder. This is a saying that we shared with our children when they were still young, but maybe it is not true to other countries who have only two seasons. In the country that I was born, even though we had no winter season, the coldness of the wind could be felt in September. That is when Christmas celebrations began and Christmas music played in every corner of the country. Most of the United Methodist church choirs start practicing Christmas music for the Christmas Night of Music (Cantata) also at this time. While aunts and uncles, parents and siblings begin decorating their houses with their Christmas trees, wreaths and Christmas Parols (Star of David). Parol is a Filipino word meaning Star that they hang outside of their house so when people pass their house, they will see it and know that it is a reminder that Christ's birthday is coming. (Below are pictures of the "Parol" Star of David)



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I love Christmas because we celebrate the birth of our Savior; which is the real “Reason for the Season.” When I was a child, I would get so excited when the month of September came. That was when my friends and I would start making our musical instruments, made of bottle caps, flattened and joined on a metal string or nailed on a 2 x 2 wood stick (like a tambourine). Kids also made drums out of a tin can with a rubber balloon as the pad of the drum. Even now, Filipino children still make and use the same musical instruments. (Picture below).



Before children begin with their carols, they all say a greeting in a loud voice, “Merry Christmas, Anybody home!” If nobody answers, they can decide either to leave or sing a few Christmases songs, hoping that the owner of the house will come out, or show their heads out of the door or windows.

Every child in our town has their own group, and will go and sing Christmas carols to every house, or they will even go to other towns to sing their Christmas carols in the hope that they receive a small gift; like candies, food, or a small amount of money (which they prefer), so that they can buy food that they like or toys and candies on Christmas Day.

These is a memory of my past, which I still cherish, because when I remember this, it gives me a smile. I also remind my children about this because they have done it when they were still small little kids.

I know you too have your own memories of the past and events that happened in the Advent and Christmas Season. I would like to hear or know about your Advent Season and/or Christmas experiences that you remember and cherish from when you were a little kid. I would appreciate if you can write it and send your stories to me.

Until then, may the Season of Advent and the month of Christmas give you Joy and excitement as we celebrate the birth and anticipate the second coming of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Council Chatter

Greetings and prayers for a great December for all!

This will be my last Council Chatter. We are hoping a volunteer will come forward to be the new Council Chair for 2023.

During our meeting, we talked briefly about separating the NOW committee back into Outreach and a separate Nurture/Worship Committee. The council approved that separation of committees and I volunteered to take over the Nurture/Worship Committee in 2023. I asked the committee to allow the name of our new group to be changed to **Congregational Life**. I think it offers a broader area where the committee can work. You will hear more of the plans for both groups in January, 2023.

Dave Hilton reported the trustees have window well covers to put on the parsonage and some support work on the water filtration system in the Church building.

We discussed the Charge Conference on Monday, November 14, 2022. All members were encouraged to attend.

United Methodist Men have plans to renew some traditions and the Pancake Breakfast will happen in January 2023. Look for additional information in the January Tower and in other announcements.

We discussed Mission Projects and the Council approved for the Mission Team to sign up for 2 Soup Kitchens at Emmanuel Episcopal Church during the 2023 year. We will let you know dates when they are assigned to us. We will need around 10 people to make these Soup Kitchens successful. The team is already talking about a menu so you will hear more as the new year progresses.

Finance reported that some of our biggest bills will happen in December. Property insurance is one of the biggest. It is going up in 2023, and will be around \$11 thousand dollars. We should be in good shape to cover that expense over 2023, but the Finance team will keep you posted. The United Methodist Women held their Bazaar on Saturday, November 12, 2022, and I believe that the proceeds were in line for what was expected. Many of our guests were glad that we have fully reopened the Bazaar this year.

Best wishes for your Holidays, and wishing you love and peace in the next year.

Shary Stelter Council Chair

Memorial Report

The current balance of the 14 open memorials is \$9800.50.

Marcia Flynn (daughter) has designated that ½ of Alice Purnell's memorial will go to our Pecatonica UWF and ½ to the general church as undesignated. When we had \$720 in Alice's memorial, \$360 was transferred to the Women's Checking account on 10/27. Now we have received an additional \$800 for Alice's memorial. We will wait a bit more before we transfer another \$400 to the Women's Checking Account.

John Stelter

Memorial Committee

Mission in the Church

Soup Kitchen at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Rockford

We teamed with Shirland UMC

We assisted Shirland UMC with serving lunch at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Rockford, on Saturday, 11/5/22. We have been doing this twice a year, every May and November.

53 guests were served, plus approximately 7 "seconds", for a total of 60 meals.

There were 5 from Shirland UMC, 3 from Christ UMC and 10 from our church. We provided 2 gallons of milk, 4 gallons of juice, **LOTS** of homemade cookies and a bucket of leftover Halloween candy. It was a joyous time.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church operates this soup kitchen every week. Several churches participate, but now there is a shortage of participating churches. Emmanuel Episcopal has had to serve eight Saturdays this year. Consequently, they have asked if we would be interested in hosting a Saturday by ourselves. This is a big commitment. Shirland now prepares the meals (goulash, green beans, tossed salad, rolls, and fruit cups). Cost is not my concern. **We would need 10 people if we are to do the cooking, set up, serving and clean-up ourselves. Council approved my request to host two Saturdays in 2023 in addition to assisting Shirland in May and November.** I will submit my request of desired dates and a list of dates we cannot participate at the Soup Kitchen. Please consider helping with this ministry.

John Stelter

Mission Coordinator

We are, after all, "the hands and feet of Christ."

Monthly Finance Report

Current Account Balances and Activity

Pec UMC Balances as of 11/6/2022

<u>Account</u>	<u>10/8/2022</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Balances 11/6/2022</u>
General Fund	\$37,063.99	\$6,923.12	\$8,220.34	\$0.00	\$38,361.21
Building Fund	\$9,504.34	\$0.00	\$172.50	\$0.00	\$ 9,676.84
Outreach Account	\$1,621.33	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$ 1,621.33
PUMC Men	\$3,817.39	\$0.00	\$100.00		\$ 3,917.39
Memorial Fund	\$9,040.50	\$0.00	\$320.00	-\$360.00	\$ 9,000.50
Womens Savings Acct	\$5,845.71	\$0.00	\$0.74	\$0.00	\$ 5,846.45
Womens Checking	\$1,207.96	\$321.02	\$0.00	\$360.00	\$ 1,246.94
	\$68,101.22	\$7,244.14	\$8,813.58	\$0.00	\$69,670.66

The General Fund and the Building Fund are the liquid assets that we use to pay bills. The current total of these is $\$38,361 + \$9,676 = \$48,037$. As predicted, our liquid funds are decreasing and will continue to do so the rest of this year. The projected 12/31 balance of these is $\$35,692 + \$9,677 = \$45,369$.

We expect increasing expenses in 2023:

Property Insurance is expected to rise by 5-6% from \$2780/qtr to \$2933/qtr, to \$11,732/yr, an increase of \$612/yr.

Health Insurance will rise by \$30/mo, and we expect no more Conference credits this year and one in 2023, so our cost will rise from $\$1600 \times 10 = \$16,000$, to $\$1630 \times 11 = \$17,930$.

The current result of our Stewardship Campaign is 23 pledges for \$58,060, about 1/2 of our anticipated 2023 expenses, though we know than many of you give generously but choose not to pledge an amount. We expect income to decrease in 2023.

With the anticipated rising expenses, and the anticipated decrease in income, we expect the General Fund to decrease:

\$38,611 11/6/22 to

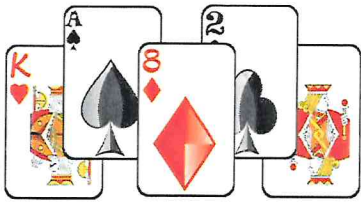
\$35,692 12/31/22 to

\$28,377 3/31/23

Please contact me if you have any questions.

John Stelter

Finance team



EUCHRE

Come and join the ladies of PEC UMC in playing Euchre once a month. Next game day is Wednesday, Decmeber 7. Join them for dessert served at 12:30 and play cards from 1 to 3 pm. A \$2.00 donations is appreciated. Prizes are awarded. Come and join the fun!

Want to be active in our Church & Church Services?

We are looking for volunteers who would like to read scripture, run our powerpoint slides, be on a committe or participate anywhere and everywhere in the Church. If you are interestd, please step up and contact Pastor Rolland or Shary Stelter. Thank you.



Happiest Birthday wishes to ...

- 4th Fred Schubert
- 6th Kristine Julia Hayag
- 7th Dorothy Zimmerman
- 10th Ed Johns
- 12th Roger Buss
- Frenz Joshua Hayag
- 13th Janet Schubert
- 19th Joy Hayag
- 23rd Delaney Behnke
- 31st Iris Brown

Happy Anniversary wishes to ...

- 1st Steve & Courtney Lambert
- 31st Greg & Paula Deppe



If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please let us know at secretary@pecumc.org. Thanks!

We are in need of a liturgist for most of December. Next year's liturgist sheet is also out for signup now. :)



Please contact the church office to be on our Prayer Chain

Submissions for **The Tower** can be mailed, emailed, or left in the box outside the Church Office.

DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER IS DECEMBER 14.



'Tis the Season to Remember Poinsettias 2022

To the Glory of God:	Color: Red 3 Red	From: Russ & Sue Sarver Wayne and Martha Gale
In Honor of: WFO Girls and Families Our Children & Grandchildren	Color: Red Red	From: Julie Fry Maurice and Mary Wagner
In Memory of: Fred & Dorothy Langholf Roger "Max" and Elise Fry Paul and Louise Moist Tobias and Marie Meyers Don Van Vleck Roman Salamon Sr. Victor Backeburg Jesse and Joan Dabson Bill and Alice Purnell Garry Forde Ernest Hayes Jr. Carol Kingery Cory Churchill Our Loved ones Jerry and Marge Peck	Color: White White Pink Red 2 White Red Red Red & White Red Red Red Red Red Pink	From: Julie Fry Julie Fry Ann Redding & Glenn and Lynn Moist Marilyn Van Vleck Amy and Roman Salamon Nancy Backeburg Kathy McNamer Marcia Flynn Karne Forde Sandra Hayes Tom Kingery Shary Stelter Kathie Koning and Eric Mueller Dena & Larry Clark & Alberta And Lee Juliano & Greg and Susan Peck

Thank you to all who purchased Poinsettias this year!
You may take your Poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2022, at 7:00pm

Thank you!

*Thank you so much for the prayer shawl.
You ladies put tso much into all you do.
Denna Mills*



Free!

Games!

DISCOUNTS!

TRUST!

Join us for PecUMC's

Christmas Fun Fair

Saturday, December 3, 2022

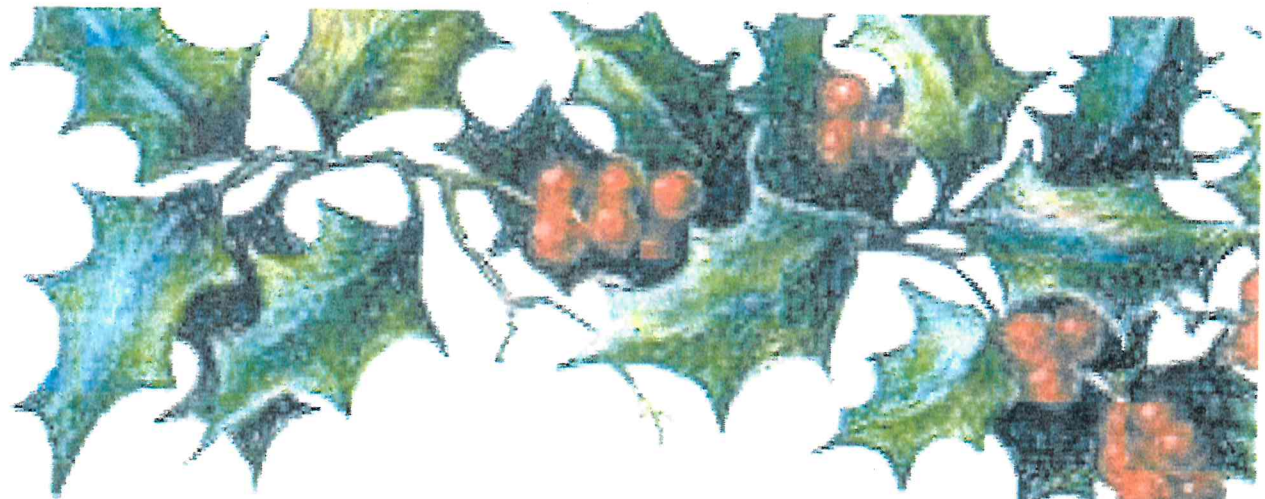
from 9am till Noon

Pecatonica United Methodist Church

528 Washington Street

Pecatonica IL 61063

815-239-1110



"Let There Be Christmas"
a Cantata by
Joseph M. Martin

Sunday, December 4, 2022
2:30pm

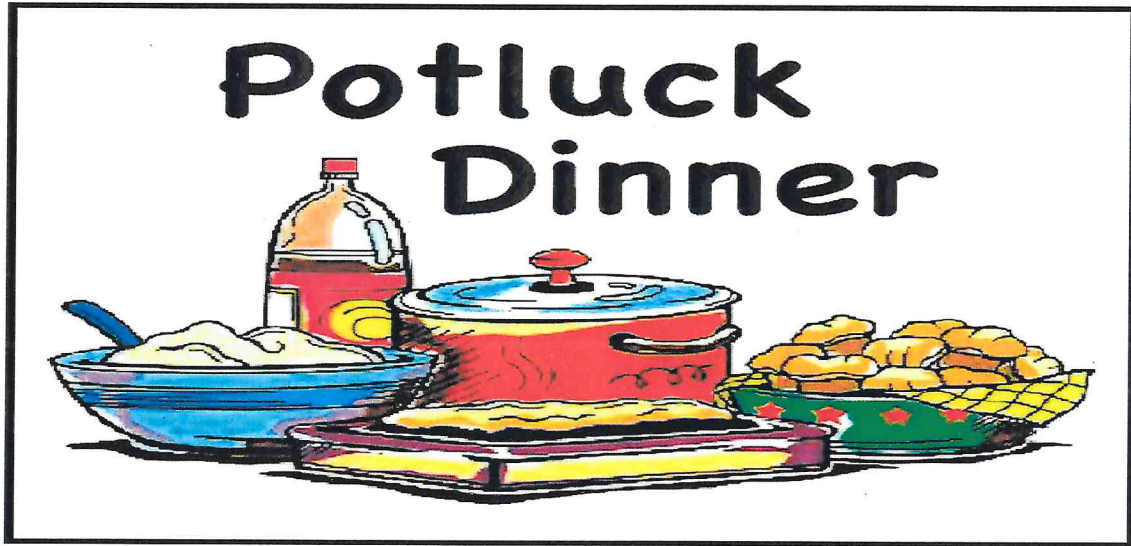
Pecatonica United Methodist Church

528 Washington St.
Pecatonica Il. 61063
Refreshments to follow

Accompanied by Kevin Stites

Co-Directed by Cindy Heise and Becky Mitchell
all donations go to:

Pecatonica Ministerial Association.



We're Back!!!

Come join us for our Community Senior Potluck.

Monday, December 4, 2022 at Noon.

Bring a dish to pass. We will be planning our dates and activities for the coming year.

Beverage will be provided

tell all your friends!!

PECATONICA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

528 Washington Street, Pecatoncia, Illinois

(815) 239-1110

DECEMBER

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



1 Final Cantata Rehearsal 6:30-8:30	2 PecUMC FUN FAIR 9am-Noon DEC 3	3 Small Town, Bright Christmas Village of Pecatonica
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4 "Let There Be Christmas" A Cantata 2:30 pm PEC UMC	5 Community Senior Potluck Noon	6	7 Euchre 12:30 desert Play cards 1-3 pm	8	9	10
11 Memory Lights Service 1st Lutheran Church 2pm	12	13	14 Boy Scouts 7:30 pm	15	16	17
18 Children's Christmas	19	20	21 Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7 pm
25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28	29	30	31



Sunday Worship 9:00am

 LIKE US ON facebook

Pastor Cell: 815-718-3022
Office: 815-239-1110
www.pecumc.org
TWF 9:00am-2:00pm, by appointment

Church Office Hours

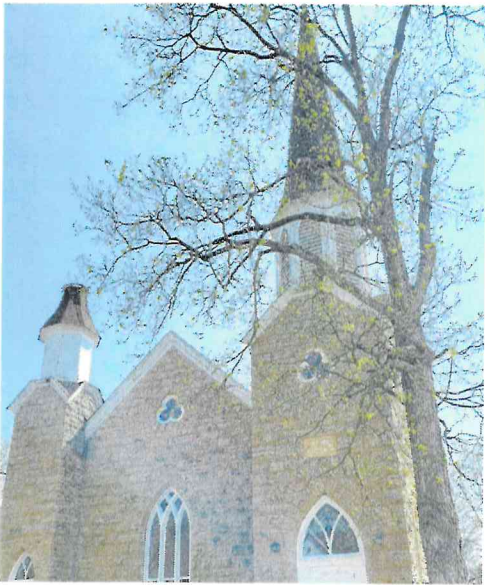
Appointments Available, please call the church office.
Tuesday/Wednesday 9:00am-2:00pm
Monday 1:00pm-4:00pm

Office Hours
Pastor Rolland Hayag

Pecatonica United Methodist Church
528 Washington St.
PO Box 607
Pecatonica, IL 61063
815-239-1110



DECEMBER 2022



Or Current Resident