

# The TOWER

Newsletter of the Pecatonica United Methodist Church

## From the Pastor's Desk

*by Pastor Rolland Hayag*

Dear Members of Pecatonica United Methodist Church,  
Greetings,

This month of January has been a wet season, and we have been blessed that most of the roads are clear of snow and ice, which makes at least safe travel. But let us not forget to pray for safety of the people in other States who are struggling, because they have continued snowstorms, and some of them never had experienced piles of snow in their city or town. On another topic, in the previous Sunday January 22, 2023, the message title is "What Are You Looking For?" which is drawn from the book of John chapter 1, verses 29 to 42. Where Jesus was followed by two of John the Baptist's disciples. Here is it says in the passages (verses 35-37), "*John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as he walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" And two of his disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.*" I can't help to think what was in the mind of John the Baptist after his two disciples left him to follow Jesus. If John was a Pharisee, and leader of the Church, he might be saying "Why did I allow them to hear that; now I lost my disciples to Jesus." However, there is no record that John complains of losing his disciples to Jesus, because for John, the mission and the work of Christ's ministries are important. John knew that he was called to prepare the way of the Lord and that he has to set aside his personal interest.

In our world today disunity and conflict are happening every day, and many believe that unity is far from achieving, even among the people of God; because of different views, traditions, doctrines and beliefs. Fear and self-interest are two of the main factors that cause misunderstanding, distrust, and division among believers. Many of you have heard that fear and selfish interest blocks the Joy and Love that God wants us share with one another. Just within the United Methodist Church, we are facing misunderstanding, distrust, and division, and some of our Churches vote to disaffiliate over theological and systematic framework differences, largely related to the inclusion of LGBTQ people.

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# From the Pastor's Desk continued...

Due to this conflict, there were two conferences which include the Dallas-Fort Worth area, that 89 congregations have voted in favor of leaving, causing heartbreak within the community. However, some of the Methodist congregations and member have stayed, with different reasons.

As a born United Methodist member, I am saddened by this event that is happening in our denomination, and this is the reason why I brought up this question, a question that Jesus asked to the two disciples who followed him "What Are You Looking For?" Yes, each one of us is unique and we have different opinions, we have different mindset, different cultures and different ways, but does it really have to divide us? Is it not that we are here to follow Christ and his teaching, and to humbly come to him with repentance? My Family in Christ, our way is not God's ways, and our thoughts are not God's thoughts, and the Bible is our guide of God's will. There is no other way to our salvation, but only through Jesus our Savior. God had sent his son to unify us with Him and with one another. We are not perfect and even our Church family is not perfect, but Christ is the perfecter of life, he corrects our ways.

I would like to share this short story about a man who keeps on jumping to different Churches looking for a perfect church, but in the end, he got tired of looking for it and he found himself unchurched. This is true to many people who long for a perfect Church.

There are people who seek a Church where they can use their gifts and also there are those who search for a perfect church. **But I will tell you this**, there is no such thing as perfect Church, and if you are to search for it out there, you will only be disappointed; but if you revisit your faith deeply, then you will discover that the Church you are seeking is deep inside your heart. For you are the Church, I am the Church, and we are the Church. So, stick with your church family where you are now and help figure out how you can build and grow your faith together in this church instead of looking question below as your guide, Reflect on the question that Jesus asked to those disciple "What Are You Looking For?", and ponder on these question below:

**1. Who are you?** –This question is about your relationship with Christ, and are you growing with your faith, The scripture said, "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding." God wants us to trust Him, and not lean on our own understanding about this world, God knows that our own understanding can be corrupt, and may lead to division, war, and destruction.

**2. Where Do You Stand?** - This question relates to the commandment which is "Love your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love your neighbor as you love yourself." It is a question that leads to doing; not only by hearing or saying, but doing it in action.

**3. What are you about?** –This question is about your purpose, what is your role in the Christ Church and it's ministries and leadership (Which is the Kingdom of God) which the Church is where God rules.

I hope this will help you to build unity, until then, "*May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" [Romans 15:5-6], **Peace.** Pastor Rolland Hayag

# January Finance Report

## Finance Committee Report

John Stelter

1/6/23

### Current Account Balances and Activity

#### Pec UMC Balances as of 12/14/2022

<u>Account</u>	<u>12/14/2022</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Balances 1/6/23</u>
General Fund	\$33,787.12	\$3,639.13	14,626.92	\$0.00	\$44,774.91
Building Fund	\$9,975.84	\$0.00	\$131.23	\$0.00	\$10,107.07
Outreach Account	\$1,621.33		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,621.33
PUMC Men	\$2,862.39		\$375.50	\$0.00	\$2,486.89
Memorial Fund	\$9,800.50	\$0.00	\$501.19	-\$400.00	\$9,901.69
Womens Savings	\$5,846.45	\$0.00	\$0.73	\$0.00	\$5,847.18
Womens Checking	\$4,701.44	\$272.00	\$341.86	\$400.00	\$5,171.30
	<b>\$68,595.07</b>	<b>\$4,286.63</b>	<b>\$ 15,601.93</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$79,910.37</b>

Please note above the current balances and recent transaction activity for the church accounts.

Much thanks to a single donation of \$10,000 at the end of December, we were able to finish 2022 with a small net gain.

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>12/31/2022</b>	\$46,656	\$10,107	\$56,763
<b>1/1/2022</b>	\$35,420	\$10,891	\$46,311
<b>Net</b>	\$11,236	-\$784	\$10,452

Because of rising expenses, especially utility expenses, and an expected decrease in giving, we are still expecting the General Fund to be down to \$37,000 by 3/31/23. It is still an anxious time financially. The Building Fund is still fairly strong at over \$10,000, and the Memorial Fund is now over \$9900, so we are better able to handle property repairs and capital improvements.

We are in the middle of a busy time in the life of our church and we are stretched thin. Conference reports, including financial reports, will be due on 2/28.

Please contact me if you have any questions. John Stelter

Welcome Bruce to the office.

Bruce comes to us from out of retirement and is the new Financial Secretary. He resides on a farm north of Pocatonia on Trask Bridge Rd.. He has a background in church finance as well as several other careers. Most recently he was a Bailiff at Winnebago County Court in Rockford.

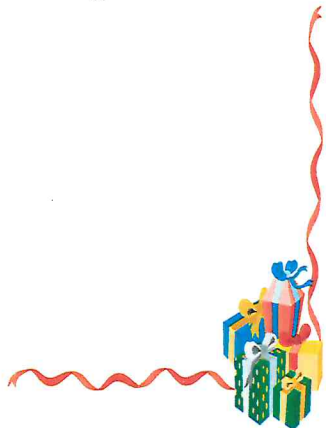
Please stop in and say Hi !



# February Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happiest Birthday Wishes to... Happy Anniversary...

3rd Char Knutti  
6th Anna Cuthbertson  
7th Lorita Ooyen  
12th Clay Kloster  
13th Sandra Elliott  
25th Jaiden Forde  
26th Larry Heller



19th Patrick & Kathy McNamer



## Memorial

The current balance of 16 open memorials is \$10,01.69.

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. With \$400 transferred to UWF on 1/3/23, a total of \$760 has been transferred there, ½ of Alice Purnell's memorial to date.

A total of \$500 has now been received and deposited for Walt Mangus' memorial.

A total of \$100 has now been received and deposited for Dan Dickinson's memorial.

The Moist family has agreed to let us use the Paul Moist memorial to fund the new 75" TV to replace the aging and failing projector and screen in the sanctuary. The total cost will be approximately \$1000.

John Stelter

Memorial Committee



**Ash Wednesday**  
— Lent Begins

On Wednesday February 22nd we will have a drive thru service for ashes. Please pull up in front of the church and Pastor will meet you at your car to dispense ashes between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

A graphic for an Euchre Party announcement. It features a white background with a green border. At the top, there are four playing cards: the Ace of Clubs, the Ace of Hearts, the Ace of Spades, and the Ace of Diamonds. The text in the center reads: "Euchre Party", "Wednesday, February 1, 2023", "Fellowship Hall", "Dessert at 12:30pm", "Card from 1-3pm", and "Cost ~ \$2".

Euchre Party  
Wednesday, February 1, 2023  
Fellowship Hall  
Dessert at 12:30pm  
Card from 1-3pm  
Cost ~ \$2

Community  
Senior Potluck  
Thursday, February 9, 2023  
Fellowship Hall  
11:30am - 2:00pm  
bring a dish to share

# MISSION

## **Soup Kitchen at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Rockford – We will be teaming with Shirland UMC**

We have been assisting Shirland UMC in serving lunch at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Rockford. We have been doing this twice a year, in May and November.

**Our request to serve on Saturday 2/11/23 and 3/25/23 has been approved and is on the Soup Kitchen schedule and on our church calendar.** Please consider helping with this ministry.

We will also be assisting Shirland when they serve on May 5, and November 4. I promised Sandy Tucker that we would again help her, and she has volunteered to help us. So, we will be working four Saturdays this year.

Roman says that the scouts would like to help us.

I will be attending a meeting at E E Church on Saturday, 2/4 at 2 PM for all team leaders.

At our DS Fabiola's suggestion, I submitted a request for a NIC Church & Society Grant, for the \$500 maximum amount to help us with this mission. I am happy to report that we just received a check for that amount. In my request, I submitted a budget for serving two Saturdays. \$500 will probably not cover the cost of two Soup Kitchen Saturdays, but it should cover at least one of them. For the rest, I intend to submit a voucher to the church to reimburse for expenses. In the past we have provided juice and cookies, at no expense to the church. Now we will pay for the entire cost for about 80 meals per Saturday.

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

John Stelter

Mission Coordinator

## UPDATING OUR DIRECTORY!

Pastor would like to update the church directory this spring. We will notify everyone of the date we will take pictures and collect information. Pastor would like to do this in house again but with glossy paper. More information will be forthcoming once Pastor has chosen start dates.

## Mission Project for Lent

Feb 22 (Ash Wednesday) - Apr 9 (Easter)

A Mission Fundraiser to help fund future mission activities. We have for you interesting and, fun way to donate coins on a daily basis during Lent.

A full calendar will be available in February.

Participate as you wish.

Turn in your coins at Easter.

The Mission Committee will even count the coins if you wish.

John Stelter, Missions

Here are the first few days to give you an idea.

2/22 – A coin for every lamp

2/23 – A coin for every light switch

2/24 – A coin for every candle

2/25 – A coin for every flashlight (include your smartphone)

2/26 = Pray today, thanking God for the gift of light

2/27 – A coin for every box of cereal

2/28 – A coin for every can of soup

We will pass out the giving calendars right

before Ash Wednesday. Put your coins in a jar or a box, or an old (clean) milk carton.

The coins are your choice; a penny for each item, or a dime for several items, it's up to you how to fill your container.



Dear Church Members,  
 Thank you for coming to sing Christmas Carols for me, and the cookies. Thank you for thinking of me.  
 Nancy Backburg

It is my pleasure to present a small donation to your church in memory of our past President and Chairman, Jim Schneiderman, Jim was a very humble, faith following, Christian man. For many years, at his direction, German-American State Bank made donations to all of the churches that entrusted us with their banking services and I'm fortunate to be able to continue this tradition. All us at German-American State Bank wish you and your congregation a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
 Warren Laube  
 President and CEO  
 (Enclosed was a gift of \$100.00)

Dear Pastor and congregation,  
 We know how very much you will miss you friend, Dan Dickinson, and would like you to put this money in something that can bring Dan's memory to mind.  
 He was our cousin-in-law, and we always looked forward to visiting he and Sally when we could get back to Rockford. In our 80's now, that's not as often as we'd like to make the visits. We thank God Dan knew Jesus as his Savior. Love in Christ.  
 Dr. Ed and Pat Bloom (gift of \$100.00)



A salute to the PUMC funeral lunch ladies

It was a very busy fall and early winter for the Team Kitchen. I want to thank the ladies and the men for their great team work and baking and salad making, serving and clean up. Anymore, little instruction is needed to get the lunch or party off and running. For this I thank you all. I have gotten many positive comments from the families and friends as I have walked among the tables. We always have a good selection of wonderful salads and luscious desserts. I know we have had requests for the recipes. Thanks for making my job easier. Wanda

If you would like to have your name added to the funeral luncheon list please give me a call. We ask for donations of salads and desserts or for help during the luncheons. Workers would be needed for set up, usually the day before, and then making the sandwiches before the meal, and then clean up after. If you would like to help you can call me at 815-239-1458 and leave a message and I will call you back. Like -wise if you wish your name to be removed from the list, please let me know.  
 Thank you. Wanda

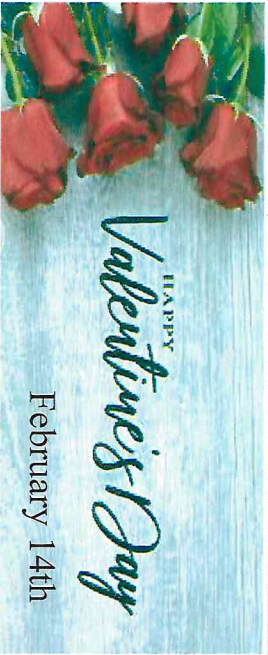
Submissions for The Tower can be mailed, emailed, or left in the box outside the Church Office.

**DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH NEWSLETTER IS  
 FEBRUARY 15TH.**

We apologize if your Birthday or Anniversary is listed incorrectly or missing. Please notify the Church Administrative Assistant so we can correct our records. Thank You!  
 If you would like to no longer receive The Tower newsletter via mail, please email: secretary@pecumc.org or call 815-239-1110. If you prefer to receive The Tower Newsletter via email, please let us know.

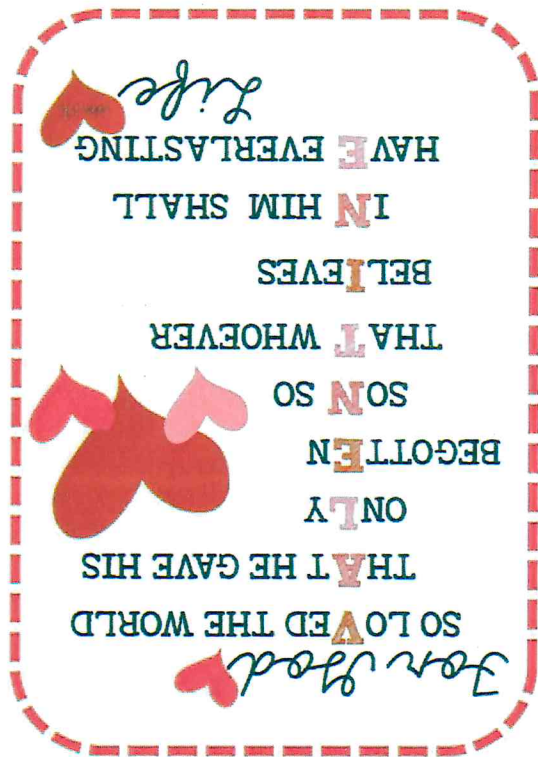
# February 2023


Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12:30 pm Euhre Dessert 1:00 pm Cards	2	3	4
5 Guest: Dan Holmes	6 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	7	8 6:30 pm Bible Study	9 11:30am Community Potluck	10 9:00 am 2:00 pm Soup Kitchen (Emanual Lutheran Church) See Page 5	11
12 SUPER BOWL 4:30 pm Boy Scout Sunday 6:00pm 8:00 pm Venture Crew	13 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	14 Valentines Day	15 6:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Boy Scouts Leadership	16	17	18
19	20 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	21	22 9:00am Sewing Group 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Drive Thru ashes	23	24	25
26 6:30 pm Boy Scouts	27	28				






  
 LIKE US ON

**Pastor Rolland Hayag**  
**Office Hours**  
 Monday 1:00pm-4:00pm  
 Tuesday 9:00am-2:00pm  
 Wednesday 9:00am-2:00pm  
 Appointments Available, please call the church office.

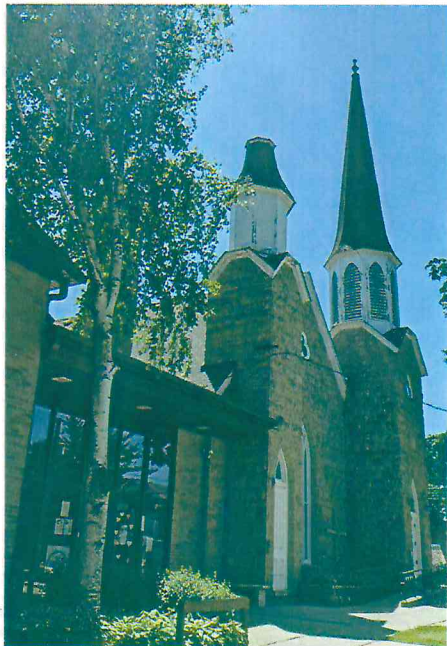
**Church Office Hours**  
 TWF 10am-3pm, by appointment  
 www.pecumc.org  
 Office: 815-239-1110  
 Pastor Cell: 815-718-3022

Sunday Worship 9:00am

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



February 2022



Or Current Resident