



Peace Church News

The Newsletter of the English-speaking
United Methodist congregation in Munich



ISSUE Back to School SEPTEMBER 2022

Dear sisters and brothers,

What a significant few months it's been! Since the last Newsletter we have said our goodbyes to Pastor Christine, celebrated Pentecost, we've welcomed Pastor Alex, and now we're starting a new school year. God has been good to us!

This newsletter takes a look at the many ways that we have been community together during this time of change, and the exciting things we can look forward to in the months to come.

Blessings
Kat Wagner
Pastoral Assistant



Faith can move mountains, no matter how young you are

A 'back to school' meditation by Kat Wagner

After a long summer break, going back to school can feel overwhelming. For children, parents and teachers alike, the new school year means new challenges, routines, friendships and opportunities to grow.

However you may feel when facing a new school term (or a new season in life), God is with us to share our joys and sorrows. We do not have to feel afraid. In fact, we can play an active role in making our everyday places – our classroom, the playground, our home environments, our place of work – a place where others can find friendship and peace. Even if you're very young.

The Bible has lots of examples of young children and young adults following God and influencing their surroundings for the better. It wasn't just the older ones who were wise or influential.

One of the most important kings of Judah, King Josiah, was only eight years old when he became king. He followed a whole series of bad kings who had not honoured God. But

Josiah was a good king, and he managed to bring the people of Judah back to their faith in the one true God. "(Josiah) did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and walked in all the ways of David his father, and he did not turn aside to the right or to the left." (2 Kings 22:2). Josiah's 'childlike' faith was so powerful, he encouraged a nation to believe again.

Paul's travelling companion and fellow missionary, Timothy, was much younger than Paul. As a young man, Timothy could have been treated like a nobody, without significance or influence. But Paul saw Timothy's character and the amazing work that Timothy was doing. In a letter, Paul says to Timothy: "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." (I Timothy 4:12)

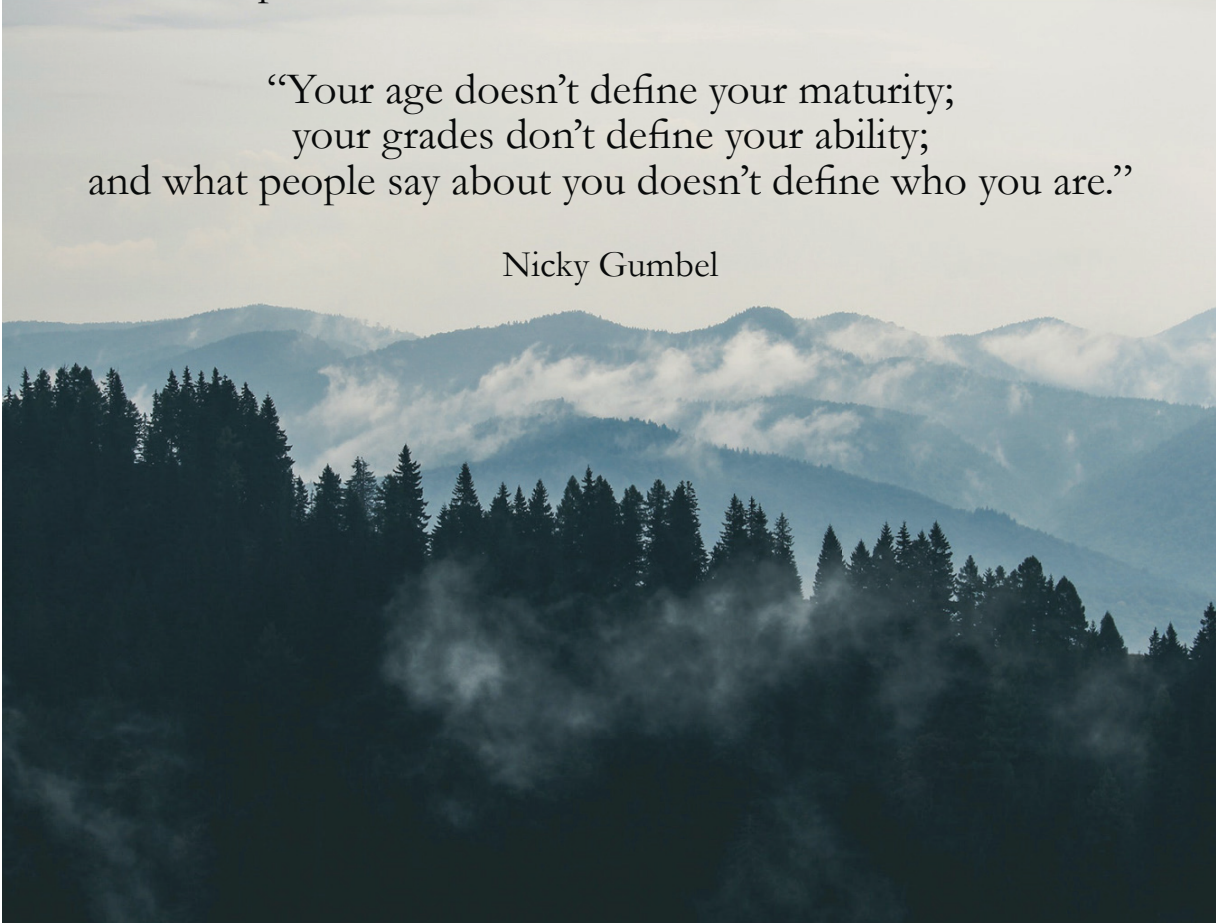
And how about the little Israelite girl who was taken as a captive to Syria to serve as a maid in Naaman's house? She had grown up with the stories of God, and she kept her faith

alive even in a foreign land away from her family. Naaman had leprosy. The little girl knew that Naaman could be healed by God, and she courageously shared this with her mistress: “If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.” (2 Kings 5:3) Naaman believed her, so he found the prophet Elisha and he was healed of his leprosy. Naaman proclaimed: “Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel.”

However young we are, our faith can move mountains! Each of our Bible characters here didn't keep their faith in

God to themselves; they acted on it. What they said, what they did, and how they lived made a big difference to those around them. Their faith brought life to others.

Have courage that your faith has just as much power! Just think how your prayers, your words and your way of life can influence your friends, colleagues, family and neighbours. Let's start a new school year with God in our hearts and by our side. Amen

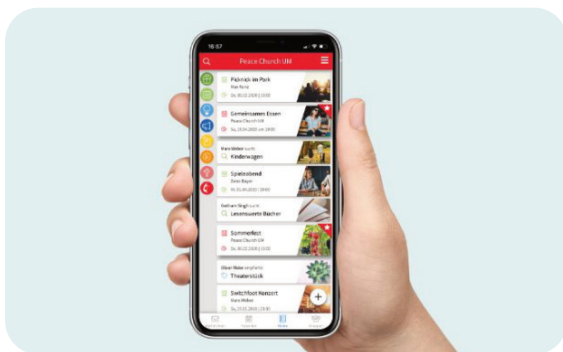


“Your age doesn't define your maturity;
your grades don't define your ability;
and what people say about you doesn't define who you are.”

Nicky Gumbel

Did You Know That...

...Peace Church has its own App? The App is the best way to find out what's happening in the Peace Church community. The latest information about worship services, groups and activities is shared on the app. Anyone can download the app from Google Play or the Apple App Store - just search for "Peace Church UM". You'll need to sign-up with your email-address if you want to send messages or join groups.



...Peace Church turned 38 years old this Pentecost? This year, Pentecost was celebrated with an 'open church' format, offering craft activities, prayer spaces, music, games and cake!



...Sunday School has started again? Cathy Williams is now co-ordinating the Sunday School, and we offer three groups for ages 4-7, 8-11 and 12+. The Sunday School re-launched on 26 June after a long pause because of Corona. The groups took a break over August, and are running again from 25 September.



Resurrection collage made by the Confirmation Class.

...there was a Fun Day on 30 July? About 15 people of all ages shared coffee, soft drinks, cake, muffins, and fruit. And the most popular games that day were "Looping Louie" and "Cornhole". It was a great opportunity for sharing, fun, and fellowship.

...there was a joint worship service with Philippuskirche on 4 September? Pfarrer Klaus Pfaller is retiring and this was an opportunity for both the Philippus and Peace Church

congregations to wish him farewell. Pfarrer Pfaller welcomed Peace Church to Philippuskirche in 2017 when we needed a new home. We wish him well!

...the Bible Study group is starting again? After a summer break, the group has just started to study the book of Philippians. Kat and Christian invite people to join them at their apartment or online. If you'd like to take part, contact Kat.

...we're looking for Stewards? If you have previously helped in this way, or would like to be a Steward, we'd love for you to sign up on the rota. Being a

Steward involves getting to church a bit early to help set up, giving out the bulletins and song books as people arrive, being on-hand to help if someone has a need, and helping to tidy up afterwards. If you'd like to commit to stewarding on Sundays, speak to Pastor Alex.

...the Homework Club is looking for more helpers? If you are free on Friday afternoons, why not come and help out? You don't need to be a teacher or expert, just have an attitude of encouragement, support and learning together. Speak to Nico if you're interested.

Goodbye!

Dear Peace Church family,
We have been so blessed to be at Peace Church for these past 5+ years. Jonas and I came as newlyweds and new arrivals in Munich, and are now leaving as a family of four, having experienced true belonging and community here, amongst you all. We are moving to Kansas City near my family and we very much appreciate your prayers for this transition. You are all invited to visit anytime and we will certainly be back to visit Peace Church as well. We will miss you all very much, but also know that we are connected through the Spirit even across vast distances.

With so much love and gratitude,
Megan, Jonas, Amos and Chiara Bedford-Strohm



Farewell to Pastor Christine

On 29 May we had the opportunity to say farewell to Pastor Christine Erb-Kanzleiter, who served at Peace Church for 22 years. It was a wonderful service, full of celebration and special moments. A book of messages collected from Peace Church members and friends from all over the world was presented to Pastor Christine.



Welcome to Pastor Alex

We welcomed Pastor Alex von Wascinski as our new Pastor on 5 June. During the service, Pastor Alex and the congregation made promises to each other, and Alex received gifts which were symbolic for his role as pastor. The Council on Ministries and representatives from all ages gathered around Pastor Alex to pray for him.



Teenagers Interview Pastor Alex

The 12+ Sunday School group wished to learn a little more about their new Pastor. So together with Nico they spent one Sunday School session talking about the change and they came up with their own questions for Pastor Alex. Here's what they wanted to know and how Alex answered:

How would you describe God to a non-believer?

For me, God is the creator of all things that are. And not only the initiator, but also the guide and the finisher, who will lead all creation and all creatures to consummation.

What's the best thing about your job?

The variety of tasks, the opportunity to meet many different people, the possibility to show others a path to experiencing God's love in their lives.

What's your impression of the Peace Church congregation?

It's a wonderful place to meet wonderful people of all ages. I love it!

How old are you?

I'm 48 years old.

What will your life be like in 10 years?

I actually really don't know. My life has taken so many unexpected turns over the last 10 years. So how could I possibly know? If I had a wish, I would love to be working as a pastor in remote area ministries in Australia – or still be pastor at Peace Church :)

When you were younger, did you play in a school band or in services?

Yes, both: In our school band but also in church and as guitar player for "Chorios" and the former band "Fisherman's Friends". I still play the guitar in a band called "Triple M". I also love to play percussion (based on Cajon) whenever I get an opportunity to do it.

Can you draw/paint?

Not really.

Did you do an internship (for school)?

Actually, not in school. But I did many different short term or part time jobs: at a publishing house, in a bakery, at a grocery, at a nursery, as driver for a car rental company, as transport workers in a car radiator factory, as computer technician, and network administrator.

What do you think about the structure of our service (e.g. the length)?

For me, if I can enjoy a worship service, I don't care so much about the length. I much more care about the quality of every element of the worship service. Because, if you enjoy something, whatever it is, you usually get the feeling that time flies...

Do you plan to do activities with children?

Surely YES! I have grown up in children and youth work in church. I used to be the leader of kid's club for more than 10 years. And I have always loved it. What would be your ideas? What would you like to see that we do for you at Peace Church?

What do you think about the African Choir?

I love it. The singing, the rhythm... I absolutely enjoy it.

Will there be Kids Club?

I would really like to set up a team to restart Kids Club after the summer holidays.

How will we celebrate holidays (Easter, Christmas)?

Just like the congregation is used to it. I understand my starting time here as learning about the traditions at Peace Church. And I will try to add my ideas to that.

How will confirmation take place in future?

I'm sure that I, together with all other people in charge, will make it an absolutely memorable day – which really is fun and a great day for the confirmands and the congregation. And I'm looking forward to hearing about the ideas from the confirmands.

What do you think about African food?

From what I have tasted so far, I really enjoy it.

'Back to school' prayers



Strength for teachers

Pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being. (Ephesians 3:16)

Thank you God for our children's teachers! We pray you would strengthen them with your power this school year. Give them strength to complete all the tasks, energy to joyfully interact with their students, and times to rest. Amen



Joy in the little things

I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! (John 15:11)

Draw our children to you and, as they rejoice in your love, fill them with unspeakable joy. May they find joy in the little things throughout the school day and delight in learning. Amen



Good friends

As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend. (Proverbs 27:17)

Jesus thank you for friends! Thank you that you created us to be in a relationship with you and each other. We pray our children would build kind friendships this school year: friendships where they build each other up and sharpen one another. Amen



Discovering purpose

But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations. (Psalm 33:11)

Thank you God that your plans stand firm forever! We pray you would reveal your purposes to our children. Show our children and their teachers the gifts and talents you have placed inside their hearts. Amen



Peace Church Calendar

Sunday 18 September	12 noon Worship with Baptism & Blessing for the new school year
Tuesday 20 September	6pm Online Prayer
Thursday 22 September	7pm Bible Study
Sunday 25 September	12 noon Worship and Sunday School
Tuesday 27 September	7pm Finance Group Meeting
Wednesday 28 September	7pm Council on Ministries
Friday 30 September	2pm Homework Club restarts
Sunday 2 October	12 noon Communion service and Sunday School
Friday 7 October	2pm Homework Club
Friday 7 October	7pm Bible Study and party
Sunday 9 October	12 noon Worship and Sunday School
Friday 14 October	2pm Homework Club
Sunday 16 October	12 noon African-style Harvest Festival
Tuesday 18 October	6pm Online Prayer
Thursday 20 October	7pm Bible Study
Friday 21 October	2pm Homework Club
Sunday 23 October	12 noon Worship and Sunday School
Wednesday 26 October	7pm Council on Ministries
Sunday 30 October	12 noon Worship and Sunday School
Thursday 3 November	7pm Bible Study
Sunday 6 November	12 noon Communion service and Sunday School
Friday 11 November	2pm Homework Club
Sunday 13 November	12 noon Worship and Sunday School
Tuesday 15 November	6pm Online Prayer
Thursday 17 November	7pm Bible Study
Friday 18 November	2pm Homework Club
Sunday 20 November	12 noon Worship and Sunday School



Put it in your diary:

African-style Harvest Festival

16 October 2022



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

Our Mission

Proclaiming the Good News of Christ

Encouraging spiritual growth through Bible-reading and prayer

Accepting all-comers from all nations

Celebrating God and each other

Enabling all to use their gifts in mutual service

Giving

Peace Church is financed through the tithes and offerings of its members and attenders.

You can give money in the plate offering during Sunday services or by bank transfer:

KSK München Starnberg,

IBAN: DE47 7025 0150 0009 0883 94

BIC: BYLADEM1KMS

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Impressum

Your suggestions, comments and contributions to the Newsletter are welcome.

The deadline for the next issue is 1 November 2022. If you would like to

receive future issues by email, please contact Pastor Alex. The deadline for this

issue was 12 September 2022.