

PEACE CHURCH News

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



ISSUE Summer'24 August 2024

In this issue of PEACE CHURCH News:



'Church Life'

Thoughts by Pastor Alex and prayer for the season



Did You Know That...?

News and happenings in the life of our church



Articles

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Updates from our sister 'South Bavaria' congregations



PEACE CHURCH Calendar

All the important dates for your diaries



Peace Church United Methodist
Munich, Germany

“Church Life”



What is church life?
What would you say?
How would you describe it?

I assume many people would describe ‘church life’ as the Sunday experience: gathering for worship in ‘church’, along with the

encounters and conversations over coffee or a shared meal. We share personal situations, both pleasant and challenging.

I vaguely recall how, as a young person not yet working in and for the church, I understood or felt that my school and work life were somehow detached from church life. Obviously, this has changed completely. Even living in an official residence in a church building, church life and ‘normal’ life seem to overlap completely. This distinction is often referred to as ‘church and world’. For example, the New Revised Standard Version Bible in Romans 12:2 typically translates the word ‘αἰών’ as ‘world’ (“Do not be conformed to this ‘world...’”). Actually, the word ‘age’ may be more precise. The idea behind the distinction of the faith community and ‘this age’ refers to the expectation of an age when God will be all in all, completing creation and history. I personally find it hard to comprehend the boundaries of the realms ‘church’ and ‘world’. For example, when we as the PEACE CHURCH congregation enter the gates of Philippuskirche, are we ‘in’ church and ‘outside’ the world? And when we leave the premises, are we ‘outside’ the church and ‘in’ the world? Is it about a place? Is it then ‘church life’ and ‘world life’?

Now, we need to quickly have a look at two things: 1) The word ‘church’ is actually the translation of the Greek word ‘ekklesía’, meaning, “to be called out of...”. 2) The word ‘church’ itself is derived from the Greek word ‘kyriaké’, meaning, “the Lord’s...”, or “belonging to the Lord”. While the word ‘ekklesía’ is found 114 times in the New Testament, the word ‘kyriaké’ only appears two times, for example, in the phrase “the day of the Lord” (Rev 1:10).

To keep it short, ‘church’ as a translation of ‘ekklesía’ means that we are called out of a life without Christ into a life eternal in Christ. Therefore, we now belong to

Christ, which is shown in the word ‘church’ (from ‘kyriaké’) itself. Two layers of meaning in one word. I think this is fascinating. But I am a Pastor and theologian. The non-theologians might think, “What does he want to say here?” And that is exactly the right question to ask. The answer is...

Church life is not about where we go on Sundays. Church life is about who we are—every day of our life. We are the people who are called to a new life in Christ. We are the people belonging to the Lord—with all that we are. For many people reading this, it might be carrying coals to Newcastle. But I chose this topic for my Summer PC News meditation because of some recent events in our PEACE CHURCH life over the past few weeks.

- Many reaffirmed their faith and remembered their baptism in our Baptismal Covenant Service—an utmost expression of belonging to Christ.
- In the same service, we honoured the lives of Manu Frimpong and Adwora Foriwaa, thus sharing in the grief and gratitude of the Frimpong family—as the family of the people of God.
- Last Monday (as almost every Monday), the Coffee & More team had coffee with people from our neighbourhood (most of them less fortunate), thus extending the hospitality we experience through Christ.
- Just the other day, some designated people of PEACE CHURCH sat in a meeting, discussing another important dimension of PEACE CHURCH’s life, our financial capability.

And while the first three examples might be absolutely obvious, showing how we have a great focus on community and fellowship, the last one shows us a struggle that we have to deal with in the church life of



our congregation. And we're not struggling to the point where we can't pay our bills and salaries anymore. We struggle because each year we have to take an amount of money from our reserves, which could lead us to a situation in about three years where all the reserves will be consumed and we will not be able to pay our rent and salaries anymore. But we are confident that we will be able to address this situation and do something about it.

Now, if you feel like you could be a person who can do something about this and engage in the financial support of PEACE CHURCH, we encourage you to set up



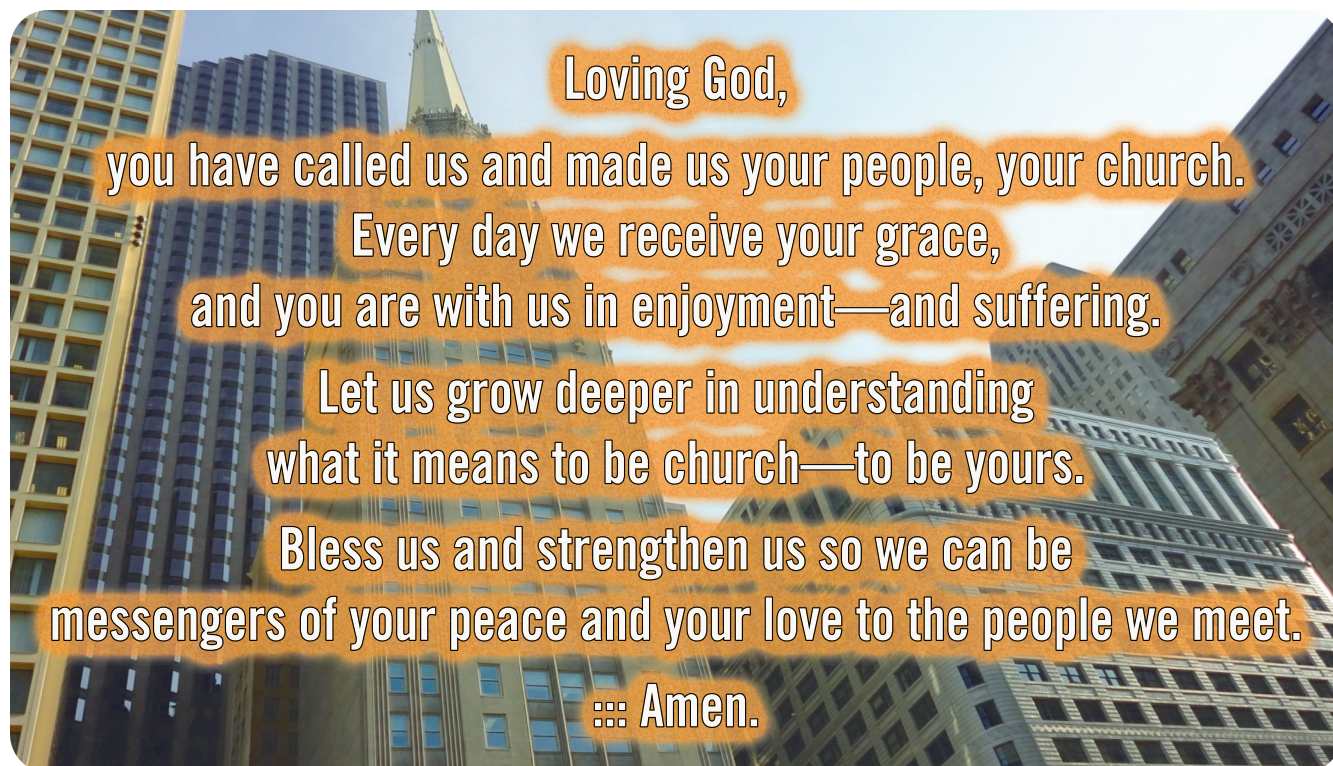
You can place a standing order by scanning this QR code in your banking app.

a standing order for a monthly donation. If every member of Peace Church (who is able to!) placed a standing order of 10 € (or more) a month or raised their standing order by 10 € (or more), we wouldn't have to worry about this part of our church life anymore.

For me, this is where everything I've written comes together in one important point. We are what we are as a community and who we are as individuals because we belong to God—we are kyriaké, we are church, we are the Lord's. Being the Lord's, being church is the foundation of our life—and permeates our lives completely. We are church wherever we are. We are also

church in how we use the financial capabilities which were given to us. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, wrote in his sermon (sermon #50, 1760) 'The Use of Money', "Earn all you can, Save all you can, and Give all you can." The important part is always "all you can(!)". It acknowledges our varying capabilities, but it also emphasises our responsibility in how we use our finances.

Now, I have written a lot about finances. It was important. But for me, even more important is something different. It's very personal and rather emotional too. For me, it is a special moment when we gather for our worship service, seeing these beautiful people sitting in the pews or still engaged in greetings and personal conversations. Then finding our way into focusing on God's presence in our midst. A special community is being built of the individuals coming together. And then, there is another very special moment, when one after the other says goodbye and leaves—sometimes accompanied by the rehearsing African Choir, the Peace Band playing, preparing for the next worship service. Why is this so special? Because that's the moment I realise that those who were just gathered as a congregation now go and bless the people they will meet because they are church "in the world" (to refer back to Paul's idea). I see this beautiful and colourful community returning to their neighbourhoods, workplaces, schools... and I know "we are the Lord's" and he will lead us where we as his church are needed the most, working for peace under the blessing of God—in all we are and all we do.



(Prayer: AvW • Picture: First United Methodist Church in Chicago, Paul Sableman, flickr, CC 2.0)

Did You Know That...

...Peace Church turned 40 this Pentecost? We celebrated our internationality by praising God in different languages and eating food from around the world. We heard greetings from current and past members, and enjoyed photos from over the years. There was birthday cake, dancing and time spent enjoying each other's company. This Pentecost worship service was also the first time using our new projector; a birthday present to ourselves. The pentecost offering (965,08 €) was dedicated to the costs of the projector.



...we are looking for Technical Support Stewards? Now that we have our new projector in operation, we need a team of people to support the technical set-up and presentation during services. Could you imagine helping in this way?

...we are looking for people to join the Social Media Team? If you have skills or ideas about how Peace Church can improve our social media presence, we'd love to have you on the team!

...the Sunday School is taking a summer break? We'll celebrate all-age worship services from 28 July until 8 September. A massive thank you to everyone in the Sunday school team, which goes from strength to strength. Most Sundays we have four adults leading the groups. It's been fantastic this year to welcome three new excellent helpers, two of them recently confirmed. We are always on the lookout for others to join in. Let Cathy Williams know if you're interested.

...last year's 'Kids help Kids' services raised a total of 115.000 € from UMC churches in Germany? We are glad we were able to make a contribution to support the 'Ikageng Itireleng' project in Soweto, South Africa.

...Peace Church hosts Sing&Connect every month? Part of Munich Church Refresh, Sing&Connect is a worship night with the Gospel'n'Soul choir. Through music we can feel the presence of a higher purpose which a lot of us call "God". Music unites people from whatever cultural or religious background they might come from. Sing&Connect aims to unify spiritual people in Munich and break the boundaries of conventional church structures. You are invited to sing along and connect with yourself, others and God. Everyone is welcome! The next dates are: 20 September, 25 October and 15 November.

...the General Conference of the United Methodist Church made significant decisions regarding how churches can approach difficult topics? After much strife and impasse in recent years, the delayed 2020 General Conference, which took place in South Carolina, USA, 23 April-3 May 2024, was finally able to agree on a way forward. The UMC will regionalise, with each region able to have more autonomy. The Book of Discipline will be divided into two parts, with one part open to regional adaptation. This change will allow more cultural freedom, for instance, each region could take their own decisions on marriage, where there may be cultural differences.

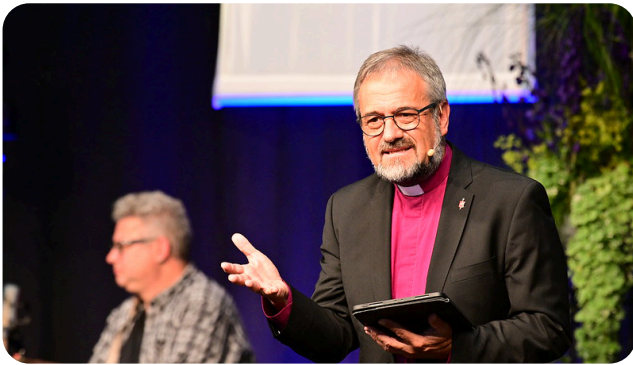
...the Charge Conference took place on 5 June? It was chaired by our District Superintendent Markus Jung. The Charge Conference approved reports of the financial audit and church register, as well as renewing the preaching licenses of lay preachers. The key decision was to officially approve becoming a large charge along with the other congregations in 'South Bavaria'.

Did You Know That...

...the UMC South Germany Annual Conference (SJK) took place in June in Bruchsal? Pastor Alex and our lay delegate Becky Yebuah attended. This was a time for ordained and lay representatives to



worship together, hear inspiring messages and vote on important issues. There was also a service of remembrance, in which Pastor Christine Erb-Kanzleiter was remembered along with other pastors who had passed away in the last year.



SJK delegates of the 'South Bavaria' congregations; Bishop Harald Rückert preaches

...the working groups for the 'change process' are meeting regularly? There are several small working groups looking at issues ranging from property to communication. This is all to help us prepare to become one large 'South Bavaria' charge. The working groups are made up of staff and volunteers from each congregation. Peace Church participants of the Regional Council and Working Groups include Pastor Alex, Kat, Nico, Becky, Rino and Andy.

...there is a new monthly online prayer meeting for the 'change process'? While becoming one large Charge requires a lot of organisation, we also want it to be a spiritual process. And so prayer is very important. You are all invited to join a monthly joint online prayer meeting, lasting about 30 minutes. The next meetings will be on Tuesday 17 September and Tuesday 15 October at 9am and alternatively at 5.30pm. You can find the Zoom link in the App.

...we will have a special Global Online Communion Service on Sunday 9 September? After the success of our first online worship service last year, Pastor Alex will host a special online service on Zoom, enabling members and friends of Peace Church to 'attend' wherever you live! There will be two service times in order to enable participation from time zones as far away as USA and Australia. We hope you can join us!

...we will have another open air worship service? With the support of Tent Ministries, a special outdoor worship service is planned for Sunday 29 September in the park next to church. We'll also have a bouncy castle, games and inflatables to enjoy together and with passers-by.

...there will be a new Confirmation Class starting in September? This will be a joint initiative of Peace Church and Friedenskirche. The first class takes place on Sunday 29 September.

...the African-Style Harvest Festival is coming up soon? Put Sunday 13 October in your calendars!

...Alenna Christavarine Handra is our youngest church attender? She was born on 13 May, daughter to Vanda Augustin and Rino Handra. Welcome Alenna!



...Kat Wagner is pregnant? She'll be on maternity leave (although still around at worship services) from the end of September and looks forward to taking up her Pastoral Assistant responsibilities again sometime when the baby is a year old.

Peace Church kids help kids in Sierra Leone

On Sunday 9 June, the Sunday School led a special 'Kids help kids' worship service in support of a school project in Sierra Leone



"Kids Help Kids" ("Kinder helfen Kindern") is an initiative of the United Methodist Church in Germany (EmK). Each year, worship services are led by children to raise awareness and donations for a particular project benefitting children supported by the EmK 'Weltmission'.

This year, a project in Sierra Leone was chosen. All the donations raised through the 'Kids help Kids' services across Germany will go towards a project to build and equip a new school in Pujehun, Sierra Leone.

Our Sunday School Coordinator, Cathy Williams, reports on the worship service at Peace Church and all the work that went into it:

During May, Sunday School were busy preparing for the Kids Help Kids service. We watched a short video, found out where Sierra Leone is and a little more about the country.

The following week the older kids looked at the materials from the EmK with a suggested outline service. One of the things that they most wanted to do was to teach the younger ones both new and old songs. A new one that rapidly became a favourite was 'Tell am Tenki', sung by children in Sierra Leone.

Agartha, Katie and Graham helped us hugely with all the music, particularly as it was one of the first services using the new projector. Agartha and Lois also taught the older girls the beautiful song, 'You Raise Me Up'.

The kids also wanted to dramatise a bible story and act it out with words, rather than a narrator. Hanna and Franci helped a group to get this going. We definitely have some budding actresses and words were learnt so papers were not needed.

We practised well in church after the service on 2 June so by the 9th we were fairly confident. It was wonderful to see the children arrive early (thanks to so many parents) and last minute questions were sorted.

On the day of the service, the children were brilliant, reading confidently with expression, singing enthusiastically and knowing exactly when they needed to take part. It was an excellent effort by all our kids who were justifiably just a little proud as they shook hands with everyone at the end of the service.

Thanks go to everyone who helped and supported us!



A total of
421,65 €

was raised by Peace Church
in the 2024 'Kids help Kids' worship service.

Thank you to all who generously donated
to support the project in Sierra Leone!

www.emkweltmission.de/kinder-helfen-kindern-2024

Seeing each other eye-to-eye: a new initiative by PCUM member

The Eye Level Project is a new association supporting intercultural awareness
founded by Peace Church member Israel 'Izzy' Pereira

Izzy writes:

The "Eye Level Project" aims to highlight the human side of immigration through interviews, art initiatives and coaching.



The idea was started while I was writing music to express thoughts and stories about immigration. The music became a cornerstone to start an association and gradually people within and outside of Peace Church joined its purpose.

The official purposes of the Eye Level Project association are the promotion of international consciousness and understanding, art and culture, as well as the pursuit of charitable purposes.

Peace Church remains a centrepiece of the initiative, since its diversity and cultural richness served as an example of how people may come together. We are all created in God's image and through creativity we are connected.

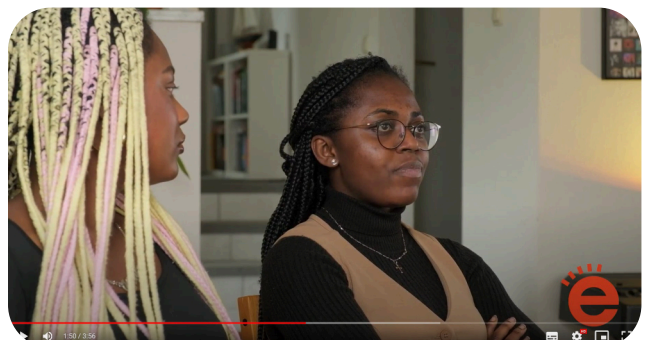
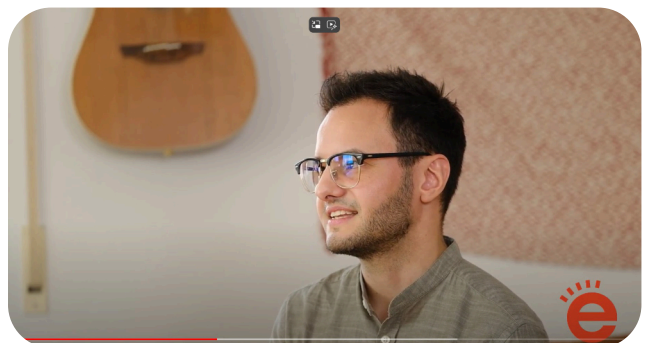


The association was officially inaugurated on 7 July 2024. New members and friends joined together to celebrate the inauguration with a presentation, food and music.

The association is non-profit and seeks financial support to establish its infrastructure and initiatives.

For more information see:
www.eyelevelproject.com

Donations:





News from the 'South Bavaria' congregations

Here are some updates from our sister congregations of the new 'South Bavaria' Charge (Munich-Erlöserkirche, Munich-Friedenskirche and Augsburg-Christuskirche)...

*Reports translated from German to English

EmK München-Friedenskirche

Update from Pastor Anke Neuenfeldt

Church Weekend Away

Over the Pentecost weekend, almost 50 people aged 3-83 from our congregation went away to the Paulinghof in Austria. Our theme was "Curious?!" (about encounters), which we explored through creative Bible study, devotions, a jointly prepared worship service, and a children's programme.

In addition we enjoyed joint excursions, an outdoor game, plenty of time to talk, singing around the campfire, sports and time to enjoy nature and life on the farm. Due to the good company, beautiful landscape, good food and informal atmosphere, many people have already decided to come again next year.



"Whirlwind" Project

Our social-diaconal project "Wirbelwind" (ENG: whirlwind) celebrated a summer party on 19 July. Since the start 2.5 years ago, around 20 children come to us in Frauenlobstraße on Fridays. Currently, they are aged 3-11 years. The team prepares crafts and games and are there to support with homework or reading practice.

EmK Augsburg-Christuskirche

Update from Iris Hahn

"Pray together": the message from the bishop's visit

In January, Bishop Harald Rückert participated in two 'week of prayer' movements in our area: the Evangelical Alliance 'Prayer Week' in Augsburg and the German Association of Christian Churches (ACK) 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' in Nuremberg. For some years now both initiatives have been approaching each other.



At both events, Harald Rückert made the following statement, "You emphasise what we have in common – for what better and more beautiful thing can we do as Christians than pray together?". He also brought with him a common prayer that both Weeks of Prayer had formulated to express their solidarity.

On the eve of the opening of the Alliance Prayer Week, we at EmK Augsburg-Christuskirche hosted a Q&A session with the Bishop, described by the EA as "a highly interesting encounter in a super hospitable atmosphere". There were many questions on the Alliance Prayer Week motto, "Our Vision for Mission", about how churches grow and what we can contribute to it. Bishop Harald reminded us, "The mission we are talking about is not ours – it is God's mission. We can only enter into his mission."

Munich Church Refresh

Svenja Ekigho tells us about this exciting initiative which offers new formats to explore faith and express spirituality in the context of city life in Munich



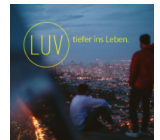
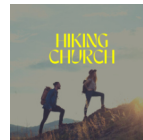
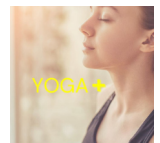
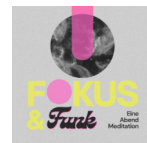
Since September 2022, Munich Church Refresh is working with various congregations and partners from Munich city and the surrounding area to develop formats that combine faith and

spirituality with our modern, urban life. The project is an innovative initiative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria and explores modern ways of faith and church. Whether you belong to a church or religion or not – you are very welcome at any of the events.

Ever since Munich Church Refresh started, the number of formats and participants has grown, proving that people, even in the age range between 25 and 45 and even in the anonymous jungle of a big city like Munich, have the need and desire for spirituality and community. Fortunately the churches in Munich see this benefit and have agreed to prolong the funding for the project for another two years until 2027.

The Munich Church Refresh team itself consists of very open-hearted people from different cultural backgrounds. Therefore, Munich Church Refresh aims to unify Christians from all cultural backgrounds and invites everyone to participate not only in the events but also in planning new ones, aiming for the vision of a modern, inclusive church culture.

Whether you like to Sing & Connect or join the Sing mit! Choir, whether you like to join the Hiking Church for a hike in the Bavarian “Voralpenland” or meet with people and discuss theological questions at the “Happy hour Theologie” – everybody of all ages and cultural backgrounds is most welcome in the growing community of Munich Church Refresh!



<https://munich-church-refresh.de/>

INVITATION to meet with United Women in Faith

'United Women in Faith' is a women's organisation connected to the UMC. They will have their Leadership Gathering from 24 to 27 October 2024 here in Munich. There is an opportunity to meet with leaders of United Women in Faith for a time of devotion, discussion and information on the 26 October 2024 from 09:00 to 11:00.

Find out more about United Women in Faith here: <http://uwfaith.org/who-we-are/>



PEACE CHURCH Calendar

Sunday, 11 August	12:00	All-Age Worship Service
Monday, 12 August	13:00	Coffee & More
Sunday, 18 August	12:00	All-Age Worship Service
Monday, 19 August	13:00	Coffee & More (Last C&M before summer break)
Tuesday, 20 August	18:00	Online Prayer
Sunday, 25 August	12:00	All-Age Worship Service
Thursday, 29 August	19:00	Bible Study Group
Sunday, 1 September	12:00	All-Age Worship Service
Sunday, 8 September	12:00 17:00	Global Online Communion Service • for timezones EAST of Munich Global Online Communion Service • for timezones WEST of Munich
Wednesday, 11 September	19:00	Council on Ministries
Thursday, 12 September	19:00	Bible Study Group
Friday, 13 September	14:00	Homework Club
Sunday, 15 September	12:00	'Back to School' Blessing Service with Sunday School
Tuesday, 17 September	09:00	Online Prayer meeting for the 'change process' in South Bavaria
	17:30	Online Prayer meeting for the 'change process' in South Bavaria
	18:00	Online Prayer
Friday, 20 September	14:00	Homework Club
	19:30	Sing & Connect
Sunday, 22 September	12:00	Sunday Worship Service
Monday, 23 September	13:00	Coffee & More
Thursday, 26 September	19:00	Bible Study Group
Friday, 27 September	14:00	Homework Club
Sunday, 29 September	12:00	Outdoor Sunday Worship Service with Sunday School Start of Confirmation Class

Sunday, 8 September

on Zoom

Global Online Worship Service with Communion

Nächste Termine: | Upcoming dates:

Online per Zoom

- Dienstag | Tuesday 17.9. 9:00-9:30 & 17:30-18:00
- Dienstag | Tuesday 15.10. 9:00-9:30 & 17:30-18:00

EmK 'Südbayern' Veränderungsprozess
UMC 'South Bavaria' Change Process

Gebetstreffen | Prayer Meeting

home- work CLUB

Fridays 2pm @ Nico's

MUNICH CHURCH REFRESH

Peace Church/Philippuskirche, St. Quirin Platz

SING & CONNECT

21.06. | 12.07.
20.09. | 25.10. | 15.11.
19:30-21 UHR

GOSPEL
with SOUL

. Worship together on Friday evening .

& meet
& connect
& cake
& tea
& play
& interact
& chat
& laugh
& help
& translation
& fellowship
& friendship

coffee & more peace church



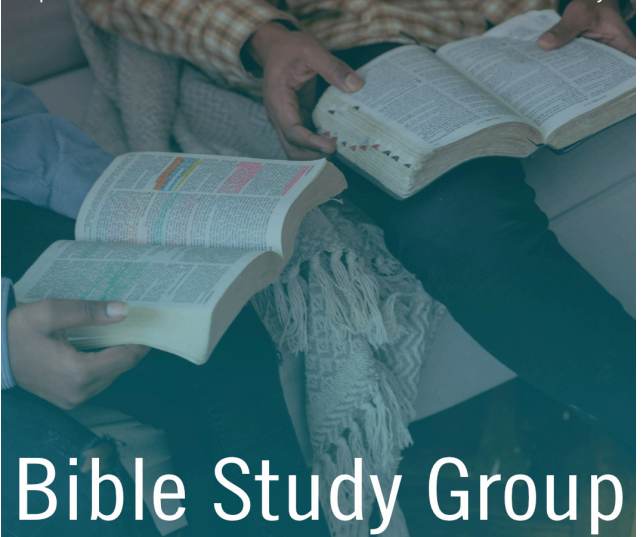
Open Hearts.
Open Minds.
Open Doors.
The people
of The United
Methodist
Church®

mondays
1:00 pm – 4 pm

Chiemgaustr. 7
81549 München

Thursdays, 7pm
Every two weeks
In-person & online

A new study series each term
Group discussions
Prayer



Bible Study Group



The Sunday School gathers for the Circle Prayer in the Pentecost Worship Service



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
Enable all to use their gifts in mutual service

Giving

PEACE CHURCH is financed through the offerings of its members and attenders. You can give money in the offering during Sunday services, by Credit Card or PayPal (see QR code) or by bank transfer:
 KSK München Starnberg, IBAN: DE47 7025 0150 0009 0883 94 | BIC: BYLADEM1KMS



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<http://peacechurch.de>

Impressum

This issue of Peace Church News was edited by Kat Wagner. The deadline for this issue was 23 July 2024. Your suggestions, comments and contributions to the newsletter are welcome. The deadline for the next issue is 1 October 2024. If you would like to receive future issues by email, please contact Pastor Alex.