



# Pearl City

United Methodist Church

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Church Office Hours: Thurs 10:30-3:30

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Praising Christ Every Sunday at 8:00 am**

## OCTOBER 2021



**Love God. Love God's Children. Love God's Creation.**



[facebook.com/pcumcil](https://www.facebook.com/pcumcil)

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# a letter from the pastor



Grace and peace to you all in Christ Jesus.

In our weekly sermon series, we have been looking at “The Truth” as found in the bible. One “Truth” found in the Bible, that I am not preaching on, in this sermon series, is “The Church.” And as we all know, there is no “Church” without the “Church.” Below, you will find a great article, written by Jack Ashcraft, on what the “Church” is, why we cannot do “Church” alone, and why the “Church” matters.

## ***“Can We Serve God Without the Church? By Jack Ashcraft.”***

*How many times have you heard someone say something like, “I don’t need the church. I can worship God in my own way at home. He knows my heart?” There are as many excuses for not being a part of the congregation of the saints as there are hairs on your head. The issue to be confronted is whether you can serve God without the church.*

### ***What Is the Church?***

*The first point we should address is what the church is. At the outset, we have to say the church is two things.*

*It is the visible institution established by Christ whereby His Gospel would be safeguarded and taught to the faithful, under the guidance of those with authority to do so (Acts 20:28).*

*The church is also a metaphysical reality. That is, it transcends nationality, language, ethnicity, and all other temporal considerations, as it is the spiritual Body of Christ.*

*Let’s address each of these two points. The church is a visible institution. I know this is not a popular thing to say in Evangelicalism, but whether we like it or not Jesus Christ established a visible organization with leadership and structure.*

*That leadership first started with the apostles, who in turn laid hands-on others to assist them in their ministry by leading local congregations. These local leaders are elders, deacons, and bishops.*

*The first point then is that our Christian journey is to be guided by this visible institution, acting in concert with the Holy Spirit to teach you the principles of the faith from a position of divinely instituted authority (Hebrews 13:17; Ephesians 2:20-22).*

*The church is also a spiritual reality. Every Christian is a part of this spiritual Body of Christ in as much as they are faithful to the gospel and contribute to the health and life of this spiritual Body of Christ. Since this body is spiritual, it transcends ethnicity, nationality, and denominational divisions (Romans 12:5).*

*This transcendental nature of the Body of Christ in no way negates or makes obsolete the visible institution since we are only a member of this spiritual body to the extent that we are in submission to the visible body — the church as a visible institution.*

*If we reject the visible church, we reject the leadership of that church, and ultimately, we reject Christ, who founded that church (Matthew 16:18; Colossians 1:18). Mind you, I am not saying that some congregation somewhere cannot be in error and so it is best to leave it. We are not discussing apostasy here.*

*What we are discussing is the need for connection to the visible and spiritual body to grow in faith and be used by God in any ministry capacity. Neither of these definitions lends itself to a stay-at-home, do-it-yourself faith.*

*It does not work that way. There are specific and important things that fellowship with other believers in worship and study of the Word, as well as the relationships built on that shared faith, alone can bring.*

For example, learning how to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ as it encounters other people, with their unique personalities, gifts, and yes, even flaws are something you are not going to learn sitting at home on your couch watching a televised service or internet service. It is only learned through direct, face-to-face relationships (**Hebrews 10**: 24-25).

The early Church Fathers were very clear on the importance of the church.

“He, therefore, who does not assemble with the church, has even by this displayed his pride, and he has condemned himself” (Ignatius).

“The world is driven ad tempest tossed by sins. Therefore, God has given to it assemblies-we mean holy churches-in which survive the doctrines of the truth” (Theophilus)

“The church preaches the truth everywhere, and she is the seven branched candlestick that bears the light of Christ... So, we should flee to the church, and be brought up in her bosom, and be nourished with the Lord’s scriptures. For the church has been planted as a garden in this world” (Irenaeus).

Notice that you find no hint of going it alone in any of the quotes from Scripture or the early Church Fathers. There are no Lone Rangers, no Rambo’s, no “I don’t need the church. I can do it myself.” The full witness of our faith is that the church is indispensable to the Christian life.

### **Can We Go It Alone, Without the Church?**

Not too long ago, I knew a young man (we’ll call him Sam), who was very involved in his church. Sam was a committed Christian, and his life was an example of his firm commitment. One Sunday, the pastor delivered a sermon in which he said something that Sam disagreed with.

Sam let his disagreement be known and the pastor addressed it calmly and patiently with sound biblical reasoning, but Sam just would not be moved. The pastor ended the conversation by telling Sam it was okay to disagree and asked him to please pray about it, that either Sam or he would understand the issue more clearly.

Still, Sam would not be moved. This minor point of contention was not on some principle of the gospel that was essential to salvation or orthodoxy, and so should not have been such a big problem for Sam, but he allowed it to be. His discontent grew and grew until he finally started voicing the opinion that he did not need the church to serve God or be a good Christian.

That he could do so from the privacy of his own home, and that is exactly what he did. Other members of the church who knew Sam outside the church proper did their best to encourage Sam to come back, but he insisted he did not need to do so, that he was just as saved as anyone who attends church.

Gradually they noticed Sam’s lifestyle had started to change, and it was not good. He started hanging out with a group of his peers who partied a lot. We are not talking about cake and tea with lawn games here, we are talking about drinking, smoking marijuana, and having sexual relations outside of the covenant of marriage.

Some of his new friends were well known to the police, both for numerous drug-and-theft-related arrests as well as prostitution. Sam’s behavior was reflecting theirs more and more.

When his Christian friends tried to talk to him about it, he still insisted that he could be a better Christian than they were, even without the church.

Sam had made his decision. He was going to live a worldly lifestyle and still claim to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. He had allowed a simple disagreement to take root in his heart, and he had rejected the fellowship of other believers. In the end, Sam passed away from an overdose.

### **Why Does the Church Matter?**

Any notion of serving God without serving His church, those people who comprise the visible and spiritual Body of Christ is quite simply false teaching, a lie straight from the Adversary, which must be resisted and denounced whenever it is encountered (**Ephesians 4:12**). Jack Ashcraft.”

Thank you all, for being the Church.

Pastor Doug Carroll

# Worship SCHEDULE

We are back in person to worship! We will continue to stream the worship service via Facebook live at 8:00 am on Sundays and this service will also be posted on our website by Monday evening.

October 3rd -8:00 am - “What is Progressive Christianity?” pt 2 - John 14:5-7

October 10th -8:00 am - “What is Progressive Christianity?” pt 3 - 2 Timothy 3:10-17

October 17th -8:00 am - “What is Progressive Christianity?” pt 4 - 2 Timothy 3:10-17

October 24th -8:00 am - “Present Day Heaven or Paradise” - Pastor Mike Jones,

October 31st -8:00 am - Guest Speaker

## Those Who Serve

*\*Greeters and Readers will continue to remain as we have been currently doing due to COVID.*

<u>Greeters/Door</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>
Oct 3 Jason Barklow	-	Melissa V.
Oct 10 Jason Barklow	-	Melissa V.
Oct 17 Jason Barklow	-	Melissa V.
Oct 24 Jason Barklow	-	Melissa V.
Oct 31 Jason Barklow	-	Melissa V.

<u>Communion Setup</u>	<u>Pianist/Organist</u>
Oct 3 Kris Liebenstein	Ann Pals

<u>Greeters/Door</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>
Nov 7 Jason Barklow	-	Melissa V.
Nov 14 Jason Barklow	-	Melissa V.
Nov 21 Jason Barklow	-	Melissa V.
Nov 28 Jason Barklow	-	Melissa V.

<u>Communion Setup</u>	<u>Pianist/Organist</u>
Nov 7 Reita Sheffey	Ann Pals

*If there is a conflict with your schedule, please find someone to trade with you, then contact Megan at the office with the change at 815-443-2177, email her at [pearlcityumc@gmail.com](mailto:pearlcityumc@gmail.com)*



## Pearl City United Methodist Church One Board Meeting September 16th, 2021

Present: Pastor Doug, Janis, Calvin, Jennifer, Phyllis, Dennis, Cindy, Lucy, Ann, Jolene, Greg, Jason, Megan  
Calvin called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm

Checking account balance at the end of August, 2021 was \$5,041.24

Motion was made by Cindy to approve the consent calendar, and Phyllis seconded; motion passed.

### Trustee items:

1. Construction Update
  - a. Lawn was seeded. A portion closest to the Dollar General parking lot will need to be re-seeded and other small portions as well. Larry & Leon continue to water the new grass
  - b. Burkholders have not sent invoice for work at the time of meeting
  - c. Driveway down around building is graded
  - d. A general outside workday will be needed.
  
2. Ice Cream Social was held Wednesday, September 1st
  - a. 92 meals served and brought in \$830

### Old Business:

1. Church Conference will be held at Pearl City UMC on Tuesday, September 28th
  - a. Staff Parish meeting will begin at 5:45 pm
  - b. Meeting for all 3 of Pastor Doug's churches will begin at 6:30

### New Business:

1. Letter regarding Boy Scouts of America (BSA)
  - a. It has been recommended by our conference that the UMC not charter the BSA troop going forward. More information to come.
    - i. The troop may still hold meetings in our building

### Walk-in Items:

1. Pastor Doug will be on vacation October 18th-November 1st. He will not attend next month's One Board meeting
2. Church Management Software
  - a. Megan would like the church to purchase a computer web-based software program called "Realm". It is a program that will help Megan organize addresses, attendance, church membership, etc..
  - b. Start up cost is \$109 with a monthly fee of \$51
  - c. A motion was made by Greg to approve the purchase and Cindy seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Jason made a motion to adjourn, Calvin seconded, and meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm

# UPCOMING EVENTS



Oct 3		World Communion Sunday
Oct 10	6-8pm	Youth Group Food Drive Scavenger Hunt
Oct 17		Grace Meal– St. John’s (PC)
Oct 21	6:30 pm	One Board Meeting
Oct 24	8:00am	Pastor Mike Jones
Oct 31	8:00am	Guest Speaker

***\*November Newsletter Items Due Oct 27th\****



**Being a Christian is like being a Pumpkin**

God picks you from the patch and brings you in. (John 15:16)

Then He washes all of the dirt off of you. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

He opens you up and scoops out all of the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. (Romans 6:6)

Then He carves you a new smiling face. (Psalm 71:23)

He puts His light inside you to shine for all the world to see. (Matthew 5:16)



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Every Sunday during service, children are welcome to attend Sunday school in the lower level.



The youth group will meet on the second Sunday evening of the month from 6-8 pm for all **7th-12th** grade youth.

If you have any questions, please contact Devin Martens, pastor Doug Carroll, or Kathy Sleezer.

- If you would like to donate to the Youth Group and help support their outings, please mark your offering “Youth Outing” and it will be distributed accordingly.



## Please Join Us for Small Group Bible Study!

- \*Monday Nights: 6:30-8pm Steve and Janis Sheffey’s house
- Tuesday Mornings: 9-10:30 McConnell (Ask for location)
- \*Wednesday Mornings: 10– 11:30am Pearl City UMC.
- Wednesday Nights: 6:30-8pm Stockton Wesley

\* Please bring a Bible and your sermon notes.





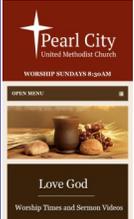
**Office Hours:** Megan will be working from home during the week and in the office on Thursdays from 10:30-3:30. If you need anything, please don't hesitate to call or email her. You can email her at [pearlcityumc@gmail.com](mailto:pearlcityumc@gmail.com) or call the office and leave a message. She will get back to you as soon as possible.

**Offerings:** Please remember that if you choose to do so, you can mail your offerings to the church: Pearl City UMC, PO Box 236, Pearl City, IL 61062.



**Facebook:** Visit our Facebook page and "Like Us" at: [facebook.com/pcumcil](https://www.facebook.com/pcumcil)

You can find our on-line services there, event information, and many other updates/announcements.



**Website:** Stay up to date on events and other information by visiting [www.pearlcityumc.org](http://www.pearlcityumc.org). You can see our on line services, upcoming events, announcements, daily messages, view our church calendar/schedule, worship schedule, food pantry information, youth information, and also view the newsletter.



**PRAY FOR HEALING**

Those suffering from illness and injury

Those going through hard times, spiritually, mentally, and/ or finically.

**OUR SHUT-INS & THOSE IN NURSING HOMES**

Dorothy Willhite      Connie Brady  
 Marcelle Rosenstiel      Roberta Miller

Our family and friends in care facilities and hospital

**OUR NATION, WORLD & COMMUNITY**

Our men and women in uniform and their families



*October Celebrations*



**Birthdays**

- Oct 1 Gary Brinkmeier
- Oct 2 Andrew Gronewold
- Oct 4 Laura Pentecost
- Oct 8 Erin Lotz
- Oct 11 Megan Sheffey
- Oct 11 Jon Rosenstiel
- Oct 13 Shane Johnson
- Oct 13 Lucas Rosenstiel
- Oct 13 Jeannine Wing
- Oct 17 Georgie Shallenberger
- Oct 21 Laine Rosenstiel
- Oct 22 Elley Voss
- Oct 23 Laila Keeling
- Oct 24 Zackery McDearmon
- Oct 24 Mike Volkers
- Oct 26 Bob Millward
- Oct 29 Elliotte Sheffey
- Oct 29 Jim Tessorndorf
- Oct 30 Kady Miller



**Anniversary's**

- Oct 12 M/M Dennis Potter

*\*If any birthdays or anniversaries have been missed or are incorrect, please let Megan know so she can update our records. Thank you!*