

# PEACE CHURCH News

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



## ISSUE Pentecost

May 2024

# 40 year PEACE CHURCH Anniversary

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**Peace Church United Methodist**  
Munich, Germany

# “It’s Pentecost Season: Happy Birthday PEACE CHURCH”



On Sunday 19 May 2024 PEACE CHURCH will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. This anniversary marks the start of an English-speaking worship ministry, back then as part of UMC Friedenskirche near Sendlinger Tor. “In 1984, an English language worship service

was started by Cheryl Rhodes, with the agreement of Friedenskirche and as a part of its own ministry. [...] In 1995, PEACE CHURCH became a separate charge conference (Bezirk) of the [UMC] South German Annual Conference.” (A short history of PEACE CHURCH by Pastor Christine Erb-Kanzleiter, May 2022).

When I took over as senior pastor of PEACE CHURCH, Pastor Christine kept reminding me of 10 June 1984 as the ‘birthday’ of PEACE CHURCH—the day of Pentecost in 1984. Two things are remarkable: the occasion and the date. One could formally argue that the “birth” of Peace Church would be the date of becoming an autonomous charge of the United Methodist Church’s South Germany Annual Conference. That would be, what I would call, legally correct. But it would not be coherent with what is most important to the church’s life and fellowship. The importance is not the ‘legal stuff’ but the being and living in ministry together. The importance lies in gathering around the Lord’s Table—with a colourful mix of believers and seekers from all parts of the world. And secondly: Pentecost 1984. Different from how I am used to celebrating birthdays, pinning it to a certain date, month and year, PEACE CHURCH’s birthday is simply Pentecost. Therefore PEACE CHURCH’s anniversary is always celebrated on the Day of Pentecost. I don’t know if this was actually the day of this first English-speaking worship service at Friedenskirche. But however, as Christianity has always connected its most important holidays to the dates of already existing holidays, I find it most appropriate for Peace Church to connect its birthday with Pentecost 1984. The day marks an impulse ‘inspired’ by the Holy Spirit to start something new, a different kind of ministry in/of an established church. As we read in Acts 1 and 2, Jesus Christ, the utmost bearer and mes-

senger of God’s love, returns to heaven. There seems to be another void, as it was between Jesus’ death and resurrection. It is another in-between time, in which the disciples have to get familiar with the absence of their master and friend. But it is also the time of a second Advent, the time until the arrival of the Holy Spirit. And what a change came with this arrival... As humanity was split up right from its early days, depicted in speaking many different languages, the Spirit now brings people back together, gathered in God’s whole new presence. Coming together in God’s Spirit is breaking boundaries that separate people, due to language, skin colour, origin, education...

Just a week ago we celebrated a joint Ascension Day service, seven congregations/churches together: PEACE CHURCH UM, Philippuskirche, Lutherkirche, UMC Augsburg, UMC M-Erlöserkirche, UMC M-Friedenskirche, and UMC JesusCentrum Rosenheim. All of these churches are going through significant changes at the moment. Philippuskirche and Lutherkirche are working much closer together, sharing resources and staff. And all of the UMC congregations are walking the way towards a new joint charge “UMC South Bavaria”. The disciples then received the divine Spirit who was God’s sent companion and inspirer through all the changes from a congregation in Jerusalem to becoming a worldwide movement, a Christian mission to the ends of the world. And so it is with us today: we live in the Holy Spirit who still is the divine companion and inspirer, also for the changes that we have to face and discern.

This season is also the season after the UMC General Conference held just two weeks ago in Charlotte, NC, USA. This needs to be mentioned because after a time of desperation and fear for the future of the United Methodist Church a whole new day has broken. In 2019 the UMC had entered into a time of splits, separations, and disaffiliations—all based and triggered by the question of the church’s position on human sexuality. It was an earthquake for the United Methodist Church, which by then did no longer seem to be entitled to carry the word “United” in its name. This year, the General Conference has made the decision and reclaimed that “United” means to be united in Christ, united at Christ’s table and not allowing this united body to be torn apart by ques-

tions on positions on human sexuality. To get it right: the General Conference has not decided on a certain position. But it has allowed the Church and its members to disagree on these questions (as it has always been the case with other theological questions)—and still be united in Christ. I am sure even at PEACE CHURCH we do not agree on all theological questions. How could we? In a church built from members of the most different cultural backgrounds in a major city with all kinds of people living very different lifestyles, how could we? But we don't have to. Instead, what we have to do is be an example of God's love carrying his message to all people.

This Pentecost and beyond, PEACE CHURCH will experience another change in the way we celebrate our worship services. The finance group has approved the funds to purchase a video projector which is powerful enough for the Philippuskirche sanctuary and fellowship hall. And so we will enter into a new era where people can decide whether they want to use the hymn books or whether they prefer to read the song lyrics projected. We also have the option to make use of videos, pictures, and presentations in our services and events. This will add another colour to our church life. But we will also need people to make themselves familiar with the new equipment and who are willing to join the ministry of our tech team. If this is where your gifts and/or interests are, do not hesitate to speak to Kat or myself.

By the end of these thoughts it feels like I've made a little tour through history—and the future...

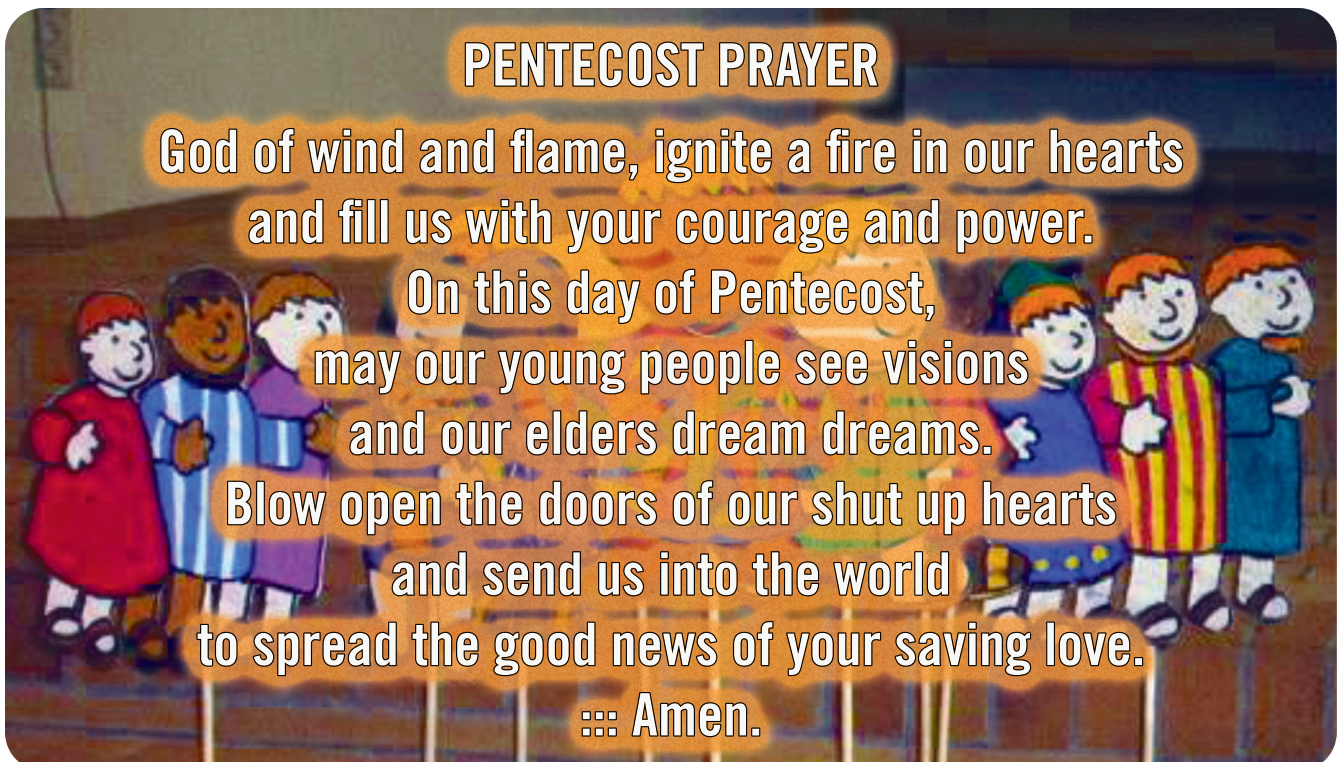
The beginning of PEACE CHURCH's ministry.

The pouring out of the Holy Spirit on Jesus' disciples.  
The changes for our congregation(s).  
The decisions of the UMC General Conference.  
The unity in Christ.  
The new projector as support for our ministry.

And it all comes down to this:

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." (Genesis 1:1–2, NIV). God was present as Spirit right from the beginning—even before creation; and the same God is with his people now through his Spirit: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8, NIV). And he will complete creation gathering all of creation to his presence: "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let the one who hears say, 'Come!' Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life. (Revelation 22:17, NIV). Pentecost has always been a very special holiday in the church year throughout the whole time of my ministry. We celebrate God's presence in creation and in us—unseen, yet powerful. And we celebrate that change, renewal and continuity is accompanied and inspired by God's Spirit.

I am looking forward to discovering what inspiration the Holy Spirit will bring for PEACE CHURCH in the days to come... "Happy birthday to you, PEACE CHURCH!"





# Did You Know That...

**...Coffee&More is a great success?** Since the restart in January, the Fellowship Hall has been full on Monday afternoons. Many of the Tafel guests have expressed their gratitude for a warm and welcoming place to come to, and the room is often abuzz with friendly conversations. Come along to enjoy a coffee, pizza, cake and a chat. We often have a craft table too!



**...the Methodist hospital Martha-Maria in Solln is offering two jobs for students (18 years or older) during the summer holidays?** They need one person in the hospital kitchen team and one person for gardening and as a support of the technical team. If you are interested, please talk to Pastor Alex or Reiner Kanzleiter.

**...if you are about to finish school the Volunteer Programme of EmK Weltmission could be just the right thing for you?** Have a look here (language DEU): <https://www.emkweltmission.de/freiwilligendienst.html>

**...the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service had over 100 people in attendance?** What was anticipated to be an intimate service turned out to be a lovely atmospheric and full service!

**...on Maundy Thursday the 'Last Supper' was happening on the streets of Munich?** The Evangelisches Migrationszentrum had recreated a live version of Leonardo da Vinci's famous 'Last Supper' painting, to show that it is good when people eat together in peace.

**...there was a Volunteer Thank You Service & Feast on Saturday 10 February?** Everyone who volunteers in any way at PEACE CHURCH was invited, and we enjoyed a reflective worship service followed by a pizza party, to celebrate all the work done by our many volunteers. (See photo below)

**...there was a World Day of Prayer worship service on 1 March?** The focus country for the prayers (chosen several years ago) was Palestine. The service was curated by Palestinian Christian women, and we heard their stories and prayed for peace. Peace Church played a key part in organising the english language ecumenical service in Munich, and it was hosted by St John Berchmans Catholic church. After the service we enjoyed food and fellowship.

**...our winter offer 'Drop-In-and-Play' had its final meet-up on Saturday 23 March?** This is now replaced by Fun Days. The first Fun Day was a picnic and games in the park on Saturday 4 May.





# Did You Know That...



**...Pfarrerin Christine Glaser has been formally inducted as the new pastor of Philippuskirche?** Her induction service took place on 4 February. We have already enjoyed great partnership with her, and wish her God's blessings in her new role.

**...there is an exciting initiative called Munich Church Refresh?** This is an initiative of the Lutheran church to explore issues of faith in a modern way. Check out <http://munich-church-refresh.de> for all the events, including Yoga+, Hiking Church and Sing & Connect (hosted by us!).



**...PEACE CHURCH is featured in the new BR podcast "Religion - Die Dokumentation"?** The episode is called 'Kirche sein im "Kapitalozän" - Methodistische Kirche und ihr Einsatz für Gerechtigkeit' (find it in the BR Podcast Mediatech).

**...we've been trying to make the worship services more inclusive for our younger members?** This has included involving Sunday School leaders in the opening words, using simpler responses, and choosing songs the kids know well. It's a work in progress. Please give us your feedback!

**...collaborative meetings are underway for the 'change process'?** All the staff of the new 'larger charge' now meet regularly, and the new Steering

Group and Regional Council have regular meetings to help guide and work out the process of several churches becoming one large charge.

**...we will start using a projector in our worship services?** The Council on Ministries and the Finance Group have approved the purchase. It will mean we can be more creative in our presentations. If you would like to contribute to the costs of this, please scan the QR code. And if you're good with technology, we are looking to create a technical team who can be responsible for sound and visuals. Training will be provided!



**...there was a Musicians Workshop on 14 January?** All singers and musicians were invited. We got to know each other better, worshipped together and practiced a couple of new songs in small groups. The next one is planned for June/July.

**...the Bible Study Group is now studying the book of Psalms?** After an exciting tour through Acts last term, we're learning how to pray with the Psalms. Get in touch if you'd like to join ([kat@peacechurch.de](mailto:kat@peacechurch.de)).

**...we had a Joint Ascension Day Worship Service and BBQ with 7 congregations** On Ascension Day we had a wonderful worship service and BBQ with attendees from Philippuskirche, Lutherkirche, and all of the 'South Bavarian' UMCs (Augsburg, Peace Church, M-Friedenskirche, M-Erlöserkirche, and Rosenheim).



# Social Media: a tool for ministry?

It connects us, feeds us info, plys us with ads, reinforces our biases, and somehow just keeps us scrolling... Whether you love it or hate it, social media is a massive part of our society today.

Kat Wagner asks Izzy Pereira...

## Why should the Church be engaging with social media?

The vision of the Social Media Team is to reach people in Munich who are searching for Christian fellowship and provide a welcoming and attractive invitation. We try to provide a representation of PEACE CHURCH, its people, activities and values.

## What does social media enable, that traditional ways of 'being' church lack?

We reach over 2.000 people per quarter via Instagram alone. These are people who are getting to know our church and our projects for the first time. We have already had visitors coming to our services via our posts. Consequently, social media provides a possibility of reaching and connecting with people at a much faster rate than offline, providing the good news in a creative and engaging way. We also try to provide an additional connection to friends of PEACE CHURCH abroad.

## What message are we seeking to share through our social media channels?

It depends on the campaign. For instance, we aimed to spread a sense of community and connection through our Advent Video Calendar. Our Music campaign aims to highlight the importance and variety of worship in our services (e.g. Sing & Connect event). We confront racism

### Instagram statistics:

- **170 Followers** (most heard about PEACE CHURCH for the first time in the last 90 days)
- **20.000 video views** in the last quarter
- over **2.200 people reached** in the last 90 days

### The Social Media Team:

Vanda Augustin	Izzy Pereira
Nico Kanzleiter	Alex von Wascinski
Oliver Marquart	Becky Yebuah
Jonathan Hutapea	



as we show how our church is an example of an international community coming together. We have generated over 20.000 views through these campaigns; 90% of those views come from people who were hearing of PEACE CHURCH for the first time. Through all the campaigns we try to be as inviting as possible to motivate people to come visit and stay in touch.

## Does PEACE CHURCH have something special to contribute to this space?

We are one of the few examples in Munich of how people from different nationalities, cultures and backgrounds come together, while supporting each other and the community around. This is unique and must be shown in times where many are pushing radicalism.

While many english speaking congregations usually seem to be of mainly one or a few nationalities, PEACE CHURCH with its many nationalities is fairly rare.

## Who is engaging with our social media posts?

Most of the people we reach are present in Munich, which is our main focus. We also have viewers and followers from Singapore, Brazil, USA, Ghana, South Africa and all over Germany.

## What is the role of the Social Media Team?

This is a new topic at PEACE CHURCH; we're all amateurs and definitely learning during the process. The most important skill is a willingness to learn and support. Social Media is an opportunity for people at PEACE CHURCH (young or old) to be able to express their creativity and show their projects, ideas and opinions. We are very flexible regarding the how (e.g. videos, pictures and text). Anyone who would like to join and bring in ideas and knowledge is more than welcome!

## How can PEACE CHURCH members and friends engage with this and help spread the message?

People can follow on Instagram, like, share and comment on our posts. We also need content creators! Please get in touch if you are interested in participating in our content creation process.

## Invitation from Erlöserkirche

**27. JULI  
BIS  
03. AUGUST  
2024  
IN PEGNITZ**

**CAMP OF  
HEROES**

**ZUR ANMELDUNG**

Waldaler München

WesleyScouts

## HEROES WANTED!

We are looking for young heroes and heroines who will have time to show off their skills in nature during the first week of the summer holidays!

This year, we'll share our exploits, hunt down supervillains together, and learn from heroes from the Bible!

All children between the ages of 7 and 14 are invited. Your children can expect many creative activities, singing around the campfire, a great community and much more.

Further information about the camp can be found on our flyer on the homepage.

You can register your child(ren) for the camp via the QR code or following link:  
<https://form.jotform.com/240014053965349>

In order to make it easier for us to organise and plan, please register your children as soon as possible. Places are limited. Registration deadline is 30 June 2024.

We look forward to seeing you!



# Updates from the 'South Bavaria' congregations

As part of the overall 'change process' in the South Germany Annual Conference, PEACE CHURCH will become part of a new 'larger charge' in South Bavaria, together with Munich-Erlöserkirche, Munich-Friedenskirche and Augsburg-Christuskirche. Here are some updates on what's been happening...

## EmK München-Erlöserkirche

Update from Pastor Jörg Finkbeiner

### Founding of the congregation in Rosenheim

A reason to be gratefully amazed: in just two years, a new congregation has been created around the founding couple Deborah and Simon Kurfess, employed by the EmK (Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche), as well as the working student Lea Schmidt: the JesusCentrum Rosenheim. Since 1 November 2023, they have officially belonged as a separate congregation to the EmK München-Erlöserkirche.

On 4 February 2024, in a service with over 100 people in the room, we witnessed how 18 new members were accepted into the EmK by Bishop Harald Rückert. Impressive - not only the number of children running around everywhere, but above all the open and loving atmosphere among the mostly young families. The authentically lived combination of faith, mountain sports and community falls on fertile ground in this beautiful environment. More information at <https://jesuscentrum-rosenheim.de>



## EmK Augsburg-Christuskirche

Update from Hannah Adebar

### Invitation to "Café 49" - New meeting café at Lauterlech 49 in Jakobervorstadt

Since September last year, we have been running Café 49 every Thursday from 2:49 p.m. to 4:49 p.m.

A group of volunteers from the church community get there half an hour before the café opens and set up tables, make coffee, set out cookies and provide a small table with painting materials for children. During the café we talk to the guests who want a chat, drink coffee, enjoy the company or even play a game and finally help out for half an hour after the café closes and put the tables back again, start the dishwasher and clean up. We always try to be there in threes so that everyone only has to do a little and can enjoy the two hours of coffee.



Are you wondering who the guests are and why we started this café? We wanted to create a meeting place in the northern Jakobervorstadt to enable company and conversation for everyone and to make the premises of our church known.

So far, we have achieved what we had hoped for and found that it brings joy and strength to all of us. We

always have exciting, funny or animated conversations on all kinds of topics as well as a nice game every now and then - depending on our own mood and that of the guests. We from the »Team Café 49« are looking forward to your feedback, questions, suggestions as well as other volunteers - and your visit!



# EmK München-Friedenskirche

## KunterBUNT

Update from Pastor Anke Neuenfeldt

KunterBUNT takes place about every two months. It is a church for children and their parents, grandparents or other accompanying adults. The idea is to experience KunterBUNT together. After a welcome with a short introduction to the topic, the 'active time' begins. This comprises different stations related to the topic. In some cases, there is also a talk about an aspect.



We spend a lot of time doing activities. It's about experiencing, thinking and discovering together. The subsequent celebration time deepens the topic and takes up what was experienced at the stations. At the end there is a meal together.

KunterBUNT is fun for everyone - the children, the adults and the helpers.

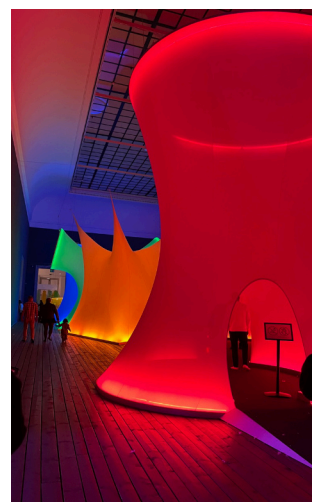
The next KunterBUNT will take place on Friday, June 28, 4-6 pm.

## Women's Culture Circle ("FrauenKulturZirkel")

Update from Elke Dillmann

So far, the new Women's Culture Circle has met three times, each time at a different location and with a different line-up. In the Monacensia we immersed ourselves in the precarious and courageous lives of female artists in Munich in the 1920s, in the Haus der Kunst we played in the colourful environments of female artists of the 1960s and 70s, and most recently we went to the cinema to see the Oscar-nominated film "Poor Things".

The youngest of us is 19, the oldest over 80. Some bring their female friends with them. We discuss what we experience in the context of our faith. The result is what Hannah Arendt calls a "network of relationships". Our next destination: the exhibition "Witches in Exile" at the Museum Five Continents. The whole thing is an experiment and responds to the ideas brought by the women. Programme suggestions and friends are always welcome.



\*Reports translated from German to English





# PEACE CHURCH Calendar

<b>Sunday, 19 May</b>	<b>12:00</b>	<b>Pentecost Peace Church Anniversary Service (40 yrs) &amp; Sunday School</b>
Monday, 20 May	13:00	**No Coffee & More this week!**
Tuesday, 21 May	18:00	Online Prayer
Thursday, 23 May	19:00	Bible Study Group
<b>Sunday, 26 May</b>	<b>12:00</b>	<b>Sunday Worship Service &amp; Sunday School</b>
Monday, 27 May	13:00	Coffee & More
<b>Sunday, 2 June</b>	<b>12:00</b>	<b>Communion Service &amp; Sunday School</b>
Monday, 3 June	13:00	Coffee & More
Wednesday, 5 June	19:00	Charge Conference
Thursday, 6 June	19:00	Bible Study Group
Friday, 7 June	14:00	Homework Club (HWC)
<b>Sunday, 9 June</b>	<b>12:00</b>	<b>All-Age Service   KIDS HELP KIDS</b>
Monday, 10 June	13:00	Coffee & More
Friday, 14 June	14:00	Homework Club (HWC)
<b>Sunday, 16 June</b>	<b>12:00</b>	<b>Sunday Worship Service &amp; Sunday School</b>
Monday, 17 June	13:00	Coffee & More
Tuesday, 18 June	18:00	Online Prayer
Thursday, 20 June	19:00	Bible Study Group
Friday, 21 June	14:00 19:30	Homework Club (HWC) Sing & Connect   Worship Night
<b>Sunday, 23 June</b>	<b>12:00</b>	<b>Sunday Worship Service &amp; Sunday School</b>
Monday, 24 June	13:00	Coffee & More
Friday, 28 June	14:00	John Wesley's birthday (*1703) Homework Club (HWC)
<b>Sunday, 30 June</b>	<b>12:00</b>	<b>Sunday Worship Service &amp; Sunday School</b>



Join us on  
**Sunday 19 May 2024, 12pm**  
 for a special  
**Pentecost Worship Service**  
 including  
**Peace Church's 40th Anniversary Celebration**

**KIDS HELP KIDS All-Age Worship Service**  
 12pm, Sunday, 9 June

Munich.  
 Church.  
 Refresh.

**SING &  
 CONNECT**

**FRIDAY 21 JUNE**  
**19:30**  
 FREE ENTRY

HOSTED BY PHILIPPUSKIRCHE  
 & PEACE CHURCH UM

# Support Peace Church Collect stamps



You may put stamps that you cut out of your personal correspondence or your employer's business mail—or which you might find somewhere at the very back of the shelf or in the attic—in this stamp collection box. There are only a few things to be aware of:

- Please cut the stamps with min. ½ cm margin (do not damage the prongs!).
- If the stamp is on a historical postcard (older than 30 years), please hand in the whole card.
- Whole collections can also be "monetised" - you can also give them to Pastor Alex directly.

## Thank you for your support!!!



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church®**

### Our Mission

**P**roclaiming the Good News of Christ  
**E**ncouraging spiritual growth through Bible-reading and prayer  
**A**ccepting all-comers from all nations  
**C**elebrating God and each other  
**E**nabling 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



### Contact (contact@peacechurch.de)

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<http://peacechurch.de>

### Impressum

This issue of PCN was edited by Kat Wagner. The deadline for this issue was 14 May 2024. Your suggestions, comments and contributions to the Newsletter are welcome. The deadline for the next issue is 1 July 2024. If you would like to receive future issues by email, please contact Pastor Alex.