

## 443 | What's Brewing | Children's Peace Pavilion

Project Zion Podcast

### **Josh Mangelson** 00:17

Welcome to the Project Zion Podcast. This podcast explores the unique spiritual and theological gifts Community of Christ offers for today's world.

### **Carla Long** 00:33

Hello, and welcome to the Project Zion Podcast. I'm your host, Carla Long. And today you're listening to What's Brewing, which is all about mission stories that happen all over the church and interesting things that are happening that you definitely want to know about. And today we're going to be talking about the Children's Peace Pavilion, which you've probably heard of before, but this ain't your mama's peace pavilion anymore. It's a whole different ballgame. So I'm really excited to welcome Andy Krosen and Cathi Cackler-Veazey. So Andy, why don't you introduce yourself for us?

### **Andy Krosen** 01:04

Okay. Well, I'm Andy Krosen of the Executive Director of Peace Pathways and the Peace Pavilion.

### **Carla Long** 01:11

And Cathi?

### **Cathi Cackler-Veazey** 01:12

Hi, I I'm Cathi and I am the Board Chair for the Peace Peace Pathways organization which will tell you a bit more about in a minute and and the Peace Pavilion.

### **Carla Long** 01:27

Well, I know that you to keep incredibly busy. You, that was a very short introduction. But even in that shortlist, I know that there's a lot of work that you do. So I appreciate you the work that you do very, very much. So let's just jump into it. Um, you talked about Peace Pathways and the Peace Pavilion, what is what are those things? What is the Children's Peace Pavilion? What is Peace Pathways? Can you tell us about it?

### **Cathi Cackler-Veazey** 01:50

Yeah, let me let me just go over some of it. The Peace Pavilion is a unique interactive museum that was designed to teach the concepts of peace and to empower people to incorporate peacemaking skills to their everyday lives. Originally, the Children's Peace Pavilion now called the the Peace Pavilion only, was created as a ministry of the Community of Christ. For more than 25 years, the Peace Pavilion has served as an interactive Children's Museum designed to teach the concepts of peace through creative, fun learning activities. It was designed around the four principles of peace and peace for me, peace for us, peace for everyone, and peace for the Earth. It has remained a dedicated to empowering children to incorporate peacemaking skills into their everyday lives. Some years ago, the Peace Pavilion made a move to become a part of a 501 C three organizations a nonprofit organization called Peace Pathways. It is the principal Peace program of Peace Pathways. The mission of Peace Pathways is to bring together individuals and partner organizations as peacemakers in relationship for the purpose of

sharing mutual ideas and initiatives to support and advocate for peace and justice. Peace Pathways is an affiliate of the organization of the Community of Christ. As a result of that change the location and the impact of the Peace Pavilion has grown. It is currently engaged in a major expansion project. About two years ago, the Peace Pavilion moved to a new location. The new site is not far from the original location in the Auditorium, but is about five times the size of the former facility. It's located one block east of the Community of Christ Temple at 607 West Lexington in Independence, Missouri. The Peace Pavilion is located in Independence, as I said, and it is place for peace. It provides a safe environment where children, teens and adults of all ethnicities and faiths can learn about peace. The goal is to explore what it means to be peacemakers. The Peace Pavilion reaches out to schools, youth organizations and other community groups to share ways to help promote peace. It invites individuals and families to visit as well.

**Carla Long 04:35**

Wow, I had no idea that your new space was five times the size and that's really exciting. You know, like I always loved visiting the Auditorium, the Peace Pavilion in the Auditorium. And you know, when I was a Temple tour guide and Auditorium when I'd show people around the Auditorium I loved showing people that area because they just had, it was just such a interesting and idea that a lot of people didn't really even know existed. And so I feel like in your new location, like, it's just so much, so many more people can know it actually exists instead of it being buried in the Auditorium. Now you can have a side and all that stuff. So lots of more people can know. Well, that's that all sounds really exciting. I'm really excited about everything that's happening so far. So let's keep talking a little bit more about that. Who does the Peace Pavilion serve? Who can go there?

**Cathi Cackler-Veazey 05:30**

Literally, anybody can go, we reach out to the community we serve. What is about 3000 people before we moved, we're hitting about 3000 people a year, we expect to triple that or more next year. And there were individuals families came in, they were school groups, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, preschoolers, all kinds of individuals come. We have some adult disabled groups that come in on a regular basis. So just a whole variety of people. But it has changed a lot. And he has some things I think he can share with you about that.

**Carla Long 06:09**

Um, I would definitely want to get to that. But I had no idea sort of 3000 people a year. Even in the auditorium. That's a lot of people. I'm very shocked. I'm very excited by this. I mean, the more people that we can get talking about peace. I mean, just the that is our absolute goal, isn't it? That's one of our mission initiatives. So I really do want to hear about some changes that have been happening, I want to hear about some of the exhibits just I want to hear a lot more.

**Andy Krosen 06:40**

For 25 years, the focus of the Peace Pavilions primarily are done on elementary aged children. And we're going to continue to offer exhibits for in peace education for children like we do now. But in addition, we're going to expand the outreach to offer programs, activities and exhibits for middle school and high school students as well as adults. And some of our future plans include online peace education initiatives, and mentoring of creation of new Peace Pavilion locations. Then also the name

change from Children's Peace Pavilion to The Peace Pavilion was made to better reflect this expanded vision that we have. Also, some of the program offerings will reflect the broader vision of the Peace Pavilion such as hosting events for teens, like team building activities that foster positive relationships, and offer relevant roundtable discussions and offering classes for adults on topics like parenting and financial security, positive communication skills, and those things that would bring peace into homes, as well as hosting fun family activities, and expanding exhibits and offerings activities for toddlers as well. Using the same concepts as the other four main areas of the Peace Pavilion, peace, for me, peace for us, peace for everyone and peace for the planet. But presenting these concepts on a toddler's level. And for the past several years, the Peace, Peace Pathways board and staff and committees as well as volunteers have been working to reconceptualize the Peace pavilion and move it to a larger, more accessible location. Building on the foundation of what the Children's Peace Pavilion was, the vision has refined and expanded, more than 100 individuals have worked together to make the new Peace Pavilion a reality.

**Carla Long** 08:30

Wow, that I love that you're looking at a more holistic look at peace. I I didn't realize that, that's that's where you're heading into. So you mentioned I didn't catch them all. So you talked about financial planning, you could like adults could go for financial planning. What were some of those other ones?

**Andy Krosen** 08:49

Well, like classes on parenting, or positive communication skills in other types of activities and classes that would help foster peace in homes.

**Carla Long** 09:01

How wonderful. So how, how is that word getting out that that's happening? Do you do you put that information out? How are you marketing that? That's really cool.

**Andy Krosen** 09:09

Well, we haven't got there yet. So we'll be exploring that in the future, I'm sure through social media, as well as flyers and contacting local organizations that would attract that kind of clientele like parents of young children and that kind of thing.

**Cathi Cackler-Veazey** 09:29

We really want to, we want, we're taking us a step at a time in minute I think any can tell you more about the exhibits that we've built, built and recreated. That's taken quite a bit of time and with the pandemic. It's allowed us to have that time to do it at the pace that we needed to do it at but we're getting close. But after we get the the pavilion open and running, then we're going to start exploring through not only the pavilion but through Peace Pathways. You know, how do we create online communities? How do we become a resource, not only for those people who are located in the geographic area that Peace Pavilion is in? But you know, how do we help people how to create their own piece pavilions and places that they're at? How do we create curriculum we did have in the past curriculum that people could use for peacemaking skills for children. So we want to go back to that and really expand that sort of outreach out farther than just the geographic area that we're in.

**Carla Long 10:36**

Well, you know, what, I, I've said this a couple times, but the pandemic has been awful. It's an awful, but it has also been kind of great, that kind of has forced us to look at those new ways that we can expand outside of our geographical area. And I mean, it is, it's really been a tool in a lot of ways that said, Okay, we miss people this much, and we want to be with people, we want to help people, how can we do that and keep everyone safe? So I really appreciate that you're looking at those new and interesting ways to get the word out because, I mean, we taught people talk about peace, but we don't talk about peace nearly enough. And I think that we only think, a lot of people just think about peace is the absence of war. And you and I, and a lot of us know that it is so much greater than that, and so much bigger than that, like you're talking about all these different kinds of classes. I think that is just brilliant and wonderful. And if we can help kids, you know, learn how to meditate through all of their, through anger issues, or whatever, things like that. I mean, what what could this world be in 20 years? Pretty amazing stuff. So I know, we've been teasing everyone about these new exhibits and different things that are happening. So can we talk a little bit about what the exhibits are that we're offering now? Because I remember very clearly what the old exhibits are, and maybe some of them have made it through I don't know.

**Andy Kroesen 12:05**

Well, we have over 40 new exhibits planned for the new facility. And some of these are improved versions of the exhibits from the Auditorium Pavilion. But some of them are totally new ideas that are unique to the new location. In Peace for Me, that's the area that focuses on what we need to have peace within ourselves. And we have Look Out for Peace, Stress Less station, Good Food Dude, Facing my Feelings, Think About It, Super Peace Powers, Karin Corner, Hewumbra, and I'm amazing, which is a Laser Maze. And then in Peace For Us, it's the area that focuses on what we need to have peace with each other. We have Paths for Peace, we have Broken Figures, Block Talk, which is a new version of what we had at the Auditorium. And then giant Block Talk, which is super fun. And then Bridge to Peace, Harmony Hopping, which is an updated interactive version of that and Star Challenge. And then in Peace for Everyone. That's the area that focuses on what all people need to have peace. We have a Pueblo Adobe home, Zambia Street Market, a Peru Stilt house, a Thailand restaurant, a German School, an Australian Outback huts, and languages of peace, and then in Peace For The Planet. It focuses on what the planet provides for us. And what we need to do to take care of that. We have a Guide and Seek, which is about protecting animal habitats, Water, Water Everywhere, Clean Up the River, which is another interactive projection game, about cleaning up the rivers, how rivers help the planet, we have actually have a recycling truck in there. And some other things that promote recycling and reusing items like Use it Again, and Weave it Together are kind of go along with that. Then we have a treehouse with an exhibit called How Trees Help the Planet. And then we have an exhibit we're calling Global Community but it's a large Digital Globe that has all kinds of videos from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. And then the new facility at the Peace Pavilion will also offer us to have some additional programming offerings, like the toddler room that I mentioned earlier, that will have this peace concepts on the toddler's level. We also have our Peacemakers room, which is a new area that we didn't have at the auditorium be a wrap up area for tour groups and visitors that's meant to inspire them to use what they learned at the Peace Pavilion in their daily lives. So they don't just leave thinking well, that was fun. But they they know that Oh, I can I can use this what I learned today, and we have a meeting room that's really meant for like committees and boards and it could be

used as a classroom space. We have a birthday party flex room that could be used for, obviously birthday parties, it could be craft area classes and activities for children, then we have a room specifically geared for teen children or, and it's a space that we can host classes and have activities, of course, for teens. Our Peace Theater isn't an expanded space that will where we'll have the lessons for the tour groups, and classes and meetings and activities for all ages could be held in there as well. We have our Community Room, which was the old cafeteria for the space that we're in. And that is a space where a tour group could have their lunch, we can also host like an like an event space for fundraisers, or it could be rented out for families and organizations as well. And then we have a picnic area, which is, you know, an outdoor eating space that could also use be used to have a class or an activity out there, in addition to our expanded office space and storage area. So there's a there's a lot more to this space than what we had at the Auditorium.

**Carla Long** 16:08

This sounds bigger than the Auditorium itself!

**Cathi Cackler-Veazey** 16:12

This was originally a daycare center. So it came with what was it 17 bathrooms or more than that, at that point?

**Andy Kroesen** 16:20

17.

**Cathi Cackler-Veazey** 16:21

Yeah, we have cut down a few of those. We have a lot of bathrooms in that building.

**Carla Long** 16:27

Well, that's always helpful. It's always great to have a lot of bathrooms. And you know what? As a, as an employee of Community of Christ, I think that we should definitely have something at the Peace pavilion so that we can all check it out, too, when this pandemic is over, of course. So, you mentioned a lot of stuff, Andy, that's a lot. So I was wondering if both of you could maybe tell me two or three of your favorite exhibits and why you love them and just maybe explain them to me, because they sounded so cool.

17:00

Sure, well, one of the ones I know that's going to be a big attraction and Peace for Me is the Laser Maze. And you might be asking yourself, well, what on earth does a Laser Maze have to do with peace? Well, it's about resilience. And that never give up, keep trying, you can do it kind of attitude that we all need to have in order to be able to keep on going. Especially when things don't seem so like they're going that well for us. So that one I think is gonna be a really fun activity for people to do. And Peace for Me. In Peace for Us. I think one of the really neat ones is going to be the the updated version of Harmony Hopping, it's a, it's an interactive projection that will look like a piano keyboard projected onto the ground. And then you can play songs and create harmony with somebody else, I think that will be a lot of fun. AAnd in Peace for Everyone. It's it's we used to at the Auditorium, it was basically we had one area of the world represented. And it was it was actually supposed to be like a school and a

little hut from the Philippines, but now we're representing spaces from all over the world. And so it's going to be like a world tour, when you walk into that space. So that actually the entryway will be like an airport waiting room. And so you're getting ready to go on a world tour. And so that, it'll be a cultural experience, as well as kind of reminding everybody what we have in common. We all need clean drinking water, we all need food to eat, and you know, people everywhere need that. And in Peace for the Planet, there's several new things that I think are going to be pretty exciting. One of them would be the interactive projection about clean up the river, and it looks like a river, that when you step on it, the water ripples and then fish are swimming by and then every once in a while a piece of trash will float in. And what you do is you step on the trash, and it goes into a recycling bin. So it's kind of it's a fun way to remind people to clean up your environment, clean up the rivers and so forth. And we also have a recycling truck that is big enough that you can actually sit in, and then sort different kind of practice what can be recycled. That's the intent is try to encourage people, but especially children, here are some of the items that you can recycle. And so kind of introducing that idea of what they can do. And then then there'll be a video that they can watch on how to how to do that. So, those are some of the things that I think are really neat about the new pavilion.

**Cathi Cackler-Veazey 19:35**

So each of the, one when people come in, and they're where this will be, there will be a fee now to come in not a large one. There's a theater where we have a presentation of the concepts of peace, puppet show or we can use it for videos and whatnot. But But the interesting thing about just in general, the whole building, building was made up of a lot of rooms and we've combined large rooms together so each of these section's is in a large room, double room, actually. And we've done a lot of mural painting in there. And in the Peace for Us, which is very interesting, you go in, and it looks like a little, little town, because along the walls are all these little businesses like a bank, and a hardware store, construction. And a hardware, not a hardware store, but a plumbing store.

**Andy Krosen 20:23**

Construction company, a plumbing company.

**Cathi Cackler-Veazey 20:27**

So people don't really go into them, but it gives a sense of a community. It's just it's really, it's really a very pleasing to the eye and a lot going on for the kids. So it's just not the exhibits, it's all the stuff on the walls. And it's all the other kinds of things that are happening in the building. It's going to be really exciting, I think, for kids to go in and play. Wanted to talk a little bit about the, where we're going into the future. That's all right, is that okay, we have time to do that? Basically, we're hoping to open up the pavilion for everybody to come in, in the spring of 2022. Not too long from now we're just about done with a construction, the exhibits and we got to put up the signage and do some things. But we're getting really close. And we have some updates and other things to the building that we're continuing. This is an older building. And so we've had to, to do a lot of work on the building itself. And we're continuing to do that. We're going to put up signage on the outside. So you'll see it when you drive down the street pretty easily, I think. So that's going to be exciting, but we hope that we will be open six days a week, not like the pavilion. So Monday through Saturday, probably somewhere around 10ish to 6, something like that, for the museum itself. And then there'll be other special activities and things that will come in other times. But just all of that cost money. We are a 501 C3, not for profit. And so we are responsible

for raising the money for this activity ourselves. We've been doing that, over the last few years. Starting off with a major bequest that was given to us we didn't know it's coming. It's made all this possible that we have been able to put into an endowment and use as we needed to. But we've also reached out to foundations and donors over the years and have had some significant donations for not only foundations. The major one is Sutherland, which is a large organization foundation in Kansas City. That gave us a large donation that's allowed for the building out of all the exhibits. But they you know, places like Rotary Club and the Tangible Love grant from the church. And there's a fountain other foundation, Truman Heartland in this area. And some smaller organizations have given us all amounts of donations and volunteer help been really important. We've had a lot of donors, and some of them very significant gifts, and others, you know, \$25 here or \$50, there, we have a program called the 25th Anniversary Club, which was created on the year of the 25th anniversary, where people can join, and for \$250 a year, or \$25 Each, each month for a year, you can become a member of the 25th Anniversary Club. And and actually when they do that they get a a gift, a flow painting that I've done if they want one. And so we've had quite a few people, over 50 people join that we have others who just donating, you know, as they can, either through a one time donation, some people put it into, you know, their request and whatnot. So all of that is very, very helpful. But it's it's important to keep that going because it's not going to be cheap to staff, this facility and keep it running into the future. And so we are always looking to build our database, you know, through sending out emails and newsletters so people know what's happening. And we always welcome donations. You can imagine that, that this dream will, I think enhance the life of the church because we are an affiliate, it will enhance the lives of the children and youth that it touches in the community directly or as online resources into the future. And so we really do feel like it makes an impact for the pursuit of peace, which is one of our enduring principles.

**Carla Long** 24:57

Oh, that's you're so right about that and Cathi, I didn't want to, I definitely want people to hear how can they give if they want to give to that 25th Anniversary Club?

**Cathi Cackler-Veazey** 25:09

Well, we have we have a flame Facebook page for both the peace pavilion and peace pathways and and when you give to one you're given to both. So either one is fine. You can go on the Facebook page, we have a email, website and are both of them up right now. Is it just the Peace Pavilion? It's

**Andy Kroesen** 25:34

It's just the Peace Pavilion.

**Cathi Cackler-Veazey** 25:36

Can you give the name?

**Andy Kroesen** 25:37

I think they both are but I don't, I think you can only donate on the peace pavilion page. It's the peacepavilion.org. Yeah. And the Facebook pages, your you know, Facebook, and then it's slash the Peace Pavilion or, or slash Peace Pathways.

25:56

And so you can donate at all those sites. If you want to be added to the mailing list just to get you know, the newsletters and things, we're glad to do that just let us know on one of those sites, you can just contact us through that. Or if you donate then you become onto the mailing list too. But that'll keep people updated on what's happening. And you know, as new things happen, it'll be posted out there.

**Carla Long 26:22**

I love that. I'm so glad that you mentioned that. Cathi. I think it's super important for people to have a chance to give back. I mean, I know that I have benefited from the Peace Pavilion multiple times. And now that I have kids, I can't wait to take my kids to the Peace Pavilion. I'm so excited about it. We'll be visiting independence in February, but I think we're gonna miss it. But we'll be we'll be back for sure.

**Cathi Cackler-Veazey 26:44**

I'm sure Andy'd be glad to take you on a tour if you're there just so you can actually see what it's like.

**Carla Long 26:50**

Oh Andy, that would be thrilling. I have another question. But Andy, did you want to say anything more about what Cathi was just saying?

**Andy Kroesen 26:57**

No.

**Carla Long 26:57**

Okay. Well, this is a question I didn't I didn't prep you for anything like that. So I hope that it's okay. I want to do both to just tell me maybe like a story that you have from the Peace Pavilion like something that happened to the Peace Pavilion that, and I can go first because I actually have a story. I'll prime the pump a little bit. I've worked in the Auditorium Peace Pavilion a couple times. But I've also worked in the Fremont, California Peace Pavilion. And one time I was with a director Diane Barnett, who was a wonderful, wonderful lady. And one time I was helping out with these big long skis, you know, they're like, super long skis. And there's like four children that could be on the skis. And I told them that they needed to get from one side of the room to the other side of the room. And that's all the information I gave them. And so they tried it first and they were falling over. And there was one behind the other, so like they had to work together. And so after they had fallen over like four or five times and not made anywhere, this one little boy goes, "You guys, we have to work together!"

**Carla Long 28:01**

And like it was this lightbulb moment for all of them. And they're like, "What?" So I mean, the it really does, like, the exhibits that we have and do in the Peace Pavilion, but they really do make a difference, like and after that, of course they did well, and it was beautiful. And they were all celebrating and it was victory. But I mean, it was just such a huge lightbulb moment. I could have told them at the very beginning, you need to work together. But that would have done any good. Right? They needed to figure it out for themselves. So I was wondering if you have any stories like that, that you could share with us and what impact the Peace Pavilion makes?

**Andy Kroesen 28:37**



Well, there's there's a lot to choose from, for me anyway. But I know one of my favorite things was to stand waiting for the kids to line up from the tour group to get ready to go and just to hear their comments about "This place is great! I had the best day ever!" and you know, comments like that were you know that they were really moved by what they did. And then also to hear kids say things like, 'Oh, this applies to more than just this activity. We could use this at school!' and and then we've also had, like a teacher from the inner city had had responded to us reply to us. And with a follow up email that said that the the lesson that we teach at the beginning on conflict resolution, we use the words "Stop, Think, Peace". And it's you know, it's really simply if you're fighting with someone stop, it's not going to solve anything. Well, you talk about what you're fighting about. You think about solutions that how you can resolve the problem. And when you find a way to fix the problem that you both agree on you have peace. So you have stop, think, peace. And this teachers told us that that this lesson was going to save lives. And to me that just meant more than just about anything because the impact that that was having in their classroom, and that the teacher was continuing to use that lesson. And in their classroom to help with disputes.

**Carla Long 30:05**

I love hearing that. I love that. Cathi do you have a story for us?

**Cathi Cackler-Veazey 30:09**

Well, and he's got stories because he's there all the time. Right? I think probably what I've noticed is I'll be places all over the church. And I'll see the kids say, stop think peace. That little phrase is, you know, either they've been to the pavilion, they've been taught that because of the impact of the pavilion online to young peacemakers clubs and other kinds of organizations around the church. But also I see them and I'll say, and they'll, they'll do that, and they'll stop, think, peace. And it's really sort of sort of heartening to know that the message is getting through and it is making a difference in the lives of the kids. I think it also, for me, the impact of the pavilion is being felt in our community. And I think we're beginning this the city, the mayor of the city, has been really supportive of the Peace Pavilion. And so we're hoping through this whole experience, to make the area the piece of lameness physically in into a place a peace oriented section of the city. So we've got the Peace Pavilion, and not far from us, there is a UN Peacemakers Plaza, which is just on the other side of the Temple. The Temple is the Temple for peace. Truman Library is just now expanded, it's been renovated and expanding what it's doing. And a lot of what they do is about peacemaking. The mayor in Independence is a Mayor for Peace, which is an international organization where mayors join as Mayors for Peace. It was started in Hiroshima at ground zero of the bomb that was dropped during World War Two. the mayor there started that, and our mayor has joined that group as well as the Kansas City Mayor. So we're hoping that this whole area will look to, not just in our community, but maybe far, much farther out as a place for peace. And that's, it's it's not just kids that we're impacting, I think we're impacting communities.

**Carla Long 32:27**

Well, that brings tears to my eyes. That is beautiful. I, you know, Community of Christ talks about our Mission Initiatives, and we work towards our Mission initiatives. And this is tangible, hands on, working towards peace, the pursuit of peace in the world. And so I I love hearing what you're doing. It's so, so important. And hopefully, it will be utilized during the world next World Conference and the new Peace Pavilion that would be really exciting to and have a lot more kids from all over the world. Get to see that

peace pavilion. Oh, that just makes my heart sing. I love hearing about that. Um, gosh, this has just been a really informative podcast for me, at least I hope our listeners are have also been informed, but I certainly have been. So is there anything that I didn't ask about that? You want to talk about something that I might have missed?

**Andy Krosen** 33:21

No,

**Cathi Cackler-Veazey** 33:21

I think you've covered it.

**Carla Long** 33:24

I didn't cover anything! You two covered it.

**Andy Krosen** 33:27

I think you asked the questions.

**Carla Long** 33:29

Oh, great. So just so you know, listeners, so if you want to donate to the Peace Pavilion, or Peace Pathways, you can donate at the [peacepavilion.org](http://peacepavilion.org) You can go to their Facebook pages, and find ways to get involved and keep in touch. So don't forget about those important ways to do that. And Cathi and Andy, I'm so grateful. Thanks so much for being on the podcast. Thank you so much for doing what you're doing for the children and adults all around the world, but especially in Independence, Missouri. Thank you so much you two.

**Andy Krosen** 34:03

Sure.

**Cathi Cackler-Veazey** 34:03

Thank you.

**Josh Mangelson** 34:04

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