



Peace United Church of Christ
Rev. Eric Kirkegaard
May 15, 2022
Fifth Sunday of Easter

*Our mission: Love like Jesus...
Welcome all, love all, grow in faith together, and seek justice for all.
“Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.” – John 13:34*

We, the members of Peace United Church of Christ, believe that we are called to be a congregation of grace and welcome to all of God’s children:

- to celebrate every person as a child of God, created in God’s image.
- to love all as God has first loved us.
- to acknowledge the presence of, and offer healing to the wounds of oppression, injustice, prejudice, and hate, and to stand with those who are left out.

Following Christ’s example, we welcome and include everyone in all aspects of life, leadership, and ministry of the church. We affirm persons of all races, nationalities, sexual orientations, gender identities, family structures, physical or mental abilities, political stances, faith backgrounds and socio-economic status.

In the way of Jesus, we stand against acts of hate and violence in all their forms.

Therefore, we declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming Congregation, where an extravagant welcome and grace are extended to all, and each person’s gifts are celebrated, welcomed, nurtured, and blessed, that all may be one. Amen.

Approved by Peace Church 10/20/2019

*Our vision: “Peace Church exists to feed souls,
grow in God’s extravagant love and
together serve all of God’s children and creation.”*

Welcome visitors! Please take a moment to complete a Guest Information card in the pew racks in front of you. Please place the completed card in the offering plate located in the front and back of the sanctuary.

Prayer Requests_- As we gather together as one family in Jesus Christ, we covenant to hold one another’s joys and concerns. Please share your prayers with us by writing them on the “Prayer Request” slip found in the pew in front of you and return them to the usher or place them in the offering plate located in the front and back of the sanctuary.

Visiting Minister: Rev. Dr. Julie Mavity Maddalena, is the Chaplain at Lakeland University in Sheboygan County. Dr. Mavity Maddalena also serves as the Ethicist in Residence, Director of the Ulrich Center and is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Lakeland.

* Stand if you are able

PRELUDE

GREETINGS - ANNOUNCEMENTS – PRAYER REQUESTS

*HYMN 95 “Praise Him! Praise Him!”

OPENING OUR HEARTS TO GOD

Leader: Peace and grace of our Jesus the Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: God of all creation, gather us as your family.

People: Fill us with your spirit of awe and wonder. Move us beyond the boundaries of our expectations,

Leader: So that we may join with nature itself in praising you.

Psalm 148 (St. Helena Psalter)

Leader: Praise God from the heavens; sing praise in the heights.

People: Sing praise, all you angels; sing praise, all the heavenly host.

Leader: Sing praise, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars. Sing praise, heaven of heavens and you waters above the heavens.

People: Let them praise the Name of God, by whose command they were created. God made them stand fast for ever and ever, and gave them a law which shall not pass away.

Leader: Sing praise from the earth, you sea-monsters and all the deeps; Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will; Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds;

People: Rulers of the earth and all peoples, judges and all leaders of the world; Young and old together.

Leader: Let them praise your Name, O God, for your Name only is exalted; your splendor is over earth and heaven.

People: You have raised up strength for your people and praise for all your loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near you. Alleluia!

CONFESSING AND RECEIVING FORGIVENESS

We confess the brokenness of our lives before one another and our God:

Beloved Lord, you have invited us to live your witness through the love that we show to one another. We know the words, we long to live the sentiment, but our hearts are hard. There seem so many barriers to understanding, to compassion. Must we love one another even when we don't like one another? Must we reach out to those we can't understand, and those who disquiet us? We know your answer is "yes" - still we stumble at the challenge.

Lord, we fail to love one another as you love us. We fall short in our words and in our actions. Our own comfort and desires get in the way of our embracing your vision. You invite us to strengthen our relationship with you through every relationship in our life. God of mercy, renew us, and lead us in your kingdom way as we pray: *Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

God assures us that we are loved exactly as we are, and God loves us too much to let us stay just the way we are. In the love of Christ we are forgiven so that nothing would stand between us and God. **Amen.**

***OUR RESPONSE** "Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le, lu-ja"

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Peace be with you

And also with you

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Give Me Oil in My Lamp”
Children’s Choir

LESSON [Revelation 21:1-6](#) (Page 944)

CHILDREN’S TIME - As the children come forward, please sing
♪ Hymn # 437 “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know” vs. 1

***HYMN 587** “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

LESSON [Acts 11:1-18](#) (Page 840)

GOSPEL [John 13:31-35](#) (Page 823)

SERMON “A New Commandment”

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of abundance, bless these gifts in service and celebration of your spirit at work in the world. Bless us as we seek to be servants to the radical newness of your gospel. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

...Now in the name of the Living Spirit, go!

We are sent by God to go forth into the world. May God take our lips and speak through them; take our minds and think through them; take our hearts and set them on fire. Amen!

***HYMN 76** “We Are Singing, for the Lord is Our Light”
(page 1, 3 times, singing, marching, praying)

POSTLUDE

Serving Today:

Organist: Karla Spaits

Litanist: Jerry O’Connor

Video: Jake Lemke

Audio: Joshua Spaits

Lectionary for May 22: Acts 16:9-15 • Psalm 67 • Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 • John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9



The flowers on the altar today are in honor of Alexia Polzin’s graduation from UW-Green Bay with an Elementary Education major and a minor in Music Studies. Congratulations Alexia!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday May 15-21

May 15 Lucille Swanson (88)
May 16 Gary Terlinden
May 17 Shelby Falk, Audrey Weinreich
May 18 Sydney Bayer
May 20 Sue Hembel

Happy Anniversary May 15-21

May 15 Robert & Barbara Breitag (46)
May 19 Robert & JoAnn Manthei (50)
May 20 Shelly & Peter Humphrey (34)

NEWS & NOTES

Calendar for the Week of May 15

5/17 Lectionary 10 a.m.

5/18 XYZ Cards

*please note that Robin Mock will be out of the office from May 17 – May 24. Chris Rode will be covering the office on a limited basis. Please call ahead if you need assistance from the church. If you need the services of a minister, please call Sharon Stier at 414-531-0837. Thank you!

Youth & Adult Habitat Trip – The Youth Habitat trip scheduled for June 5 – June 11, 2022, has been changed to Youth and Adult trip. If you are interested in participating, email or call Karen Kletti (262-224-2212) or Peace Church.

Cookie Sale Next Sunday! – On Sunday, May 22, there will be a Cookie Sale sponsored by the Scholarship Committee. This year the Peace Church Scholarship awarded scholarships to fourteen students. Thank you, Peace Church members, for supporting this wonderful program!

Middle School Youth Group Calendar

Sunday, May 22 – Trampoline Park after church

Friday, May 27 – End of semester cookout and yard games (5-8 p.m.)

Peace UCC Grief Group - Led by Chris Rode, this group meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm in the Youth Room. For more information, please contact the Peace Church office.

Peace Church Book Discussion Group will be meeting on Wednesday, June 1, at 9:30 a.m. to discuss the book "The Dearly Beloved" by Cara Wall. Chris Rode will be the discussion leader. The group will not be meeting in July and August but will resume the first Wednesday in September. If anyone is interested in being a part of the group starting in September, please contact Lynn Rusch by e-mail (lynnrusch@yahoo.com) or phone (262-306-4025). Lynn needs to know as soon as possible so that enough books can be ordered from the library.

Bulletin and The Tidings - The Peace Church Sunday bulletin is printed on **Thursdays**. If there are any notices that you need in the bulletin, please email the church office at office@peace-ucc.org. The deadline for the monthly Tidings newsletter is the **15th of each month**. Please direct those articles to the office as well.

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

Current prayers will be listed for one week unless otherwise indicated. Requests may be emailed to office@peace-ucc.org or by calling the office at 262-626-4011. You may also share your prayer requests by writing them on the "Prayer Request" slip found in the pew in front of you and return them to the usher or place them in the offering plate located in the front and back of the sanctuary.

Those in Need of Healing:

Members: Dave Domasky, Betty Fleury

Family & Friends: Nicola & Ivan Kilyushik – they have immediate and extended family still in Ukraine. (Winninghoff), Pam (Rodenkirch)

Prayers of Comfort: To the family and friends of Brenda Hansen, wife of Gary Hansen, sister-in-law to Kathy and Tim Danielson. Brenda was called to rest by the Lord on Monday, May 9, 2022.



Contact Peace Church

Peace UCC: P. O. Box 433, Kewaskum, WI 53040

Church Office: Robin Mock, 262-626-4011 - office@peace-ucc.org

*Sharon Stier, Interim Visitation Minister, 414-531-0837 -
[sstier@outlook.com](mailto:ssstier@outlook.com)*

Peace Church Prayer Chain - office@peace-ucc.org

On the web @ www.peace-ucc.org, Peace on [Facebook](#)

YouTube at: [Peace UCC Kewaskum](#)