



Peace United Church of Christ
Rev. Eric Kirkegaard
January 1, 2023
New Year's Day

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.

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. Thank you.

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

Pastor Eric cell: 262-707-0758 - pastor@peace-ucc.org

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

On the web @ www.peace-ucc.org, Peace on [Facebook](#), YouTube at: [Peace UCC Kewaskum](#)

Rev. Russell Knoth is our visiting minister today.

***Stand if you are able.**

WORSHIP SERVICE

Prelude

“Gesu Bambino”

Lorie Line

Greetings – Prayer Requests – A Time of Silence

***Hymn # 218**

[“Go Tell it on the Mountain”](#)

Gathering Our Hearts Before God – Psalm 148

One: May the peace and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

One: Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens, praise him in the heights above.

Many: Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

One: Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars.

Many: Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

One: He set them in place for ever and ever; he gave a decree that will never pass away.

Many: Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds,

One: Stormy winds that do his bidding, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle,

Many: Small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations,

One: You princes and all rulers on earth, young men and maidens, old men and children.

Many: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

One: He has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his saints, of Israel, the people close to his heart.

All: Praise the LORD.

The Call To Confession And Words Of Assurance

O God of the Poor and Endangered Ones whose children are the prey of the Herods of this world hear the confession of our brokenness:

You have come to be Emmanuel, God-with-us, still we often lack a spirit of courage as we hear stories of those who must flee to safety and opportunity for life. You have come to save us from the power of sin, yet we struggle to nurture a spirit of peace which works for justice, we struggle to imagine an end to violence which doesn't rely on violence. We proclaim you our Wonderful Counselor, a Spirit of Hospitality for all who welcome the stranger and offer a sanctuary of Hope. Even as we lift our vision of You we fail to live your witness. We sin against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we do and by what we leave undone. Forgive us, and never fail to lead us in a radically different way of being 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, the one who tenderly created all that is, has proclaimed God's compassion for a broken world, and its broken people. Jesus is born as witness to the world that love is real and new life is for each of us. Rejoice and sing, for Christ has come, Emmanuel!

***Hymn 177** "Jesus, Name Above All Names"

**Jesus, name above all names,
beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us,
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.**

***The Passing of the Peace**

Peace be with you

And also with you

9:30 Special Music "What Child Is This"

OT Lesson [Isaiah 63:7-9](#) (Page 573)

The Children's Time - As the children come forward, please sing

♪ Hymn # 437 "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know" vs. 1

Hymn 229 ["The First Noel"](#)

Lesson [Hebrews 2:10-18](#) (Page 911)

Gospel [Matthew 2:13-23](#) (Page 738)

Sermon "Proclaim the Light" Rev. Russ Knoth

***Prayer of Dedication**

Lord, we offer our gifts in the spirit of the gift you gave to us. May the babe born in Bethlehem help to open our eyes, that we may recognize the work of your Spirit among all peoples, everywhere. And, should we walk in some things on separate paths, present

before us the common goal towards which we travel the road to Bethlehem. Guide us in humbleness, in friendship, in reverence, and in peace. Bless these gifts that they may help us spread your love in the world.

Pastoral Prayer – Lord’s Prayer

“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.”

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

All who wish to know the love of God are always welcome to receive communion with us, this is Christ's table!

The Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

Preparation of the Table – Remembering Our Story

Passing God's gifts

Passing of the Bread (if you need a gluten-free wafer please identify yourself to the server.)

♪ As the bread is passed, please sing verse one of “Bread and Cup” – words by our own Rev. Tom Townsend

Tune: Hymn of Joy, Beethoven

Bread and cup are set before us –

Signs of Christ's own earthly life.

As this bread is broken for us,

So his body broke in strife;

As this cup is poured, free-flowing,

So his blood for us he gave.

God the Steadfast, all forgiving:

Thanks we give that you now save!

Passing of the Cup (All cups contain grape juice) Please sing Verse 2

Bread and cup we’ve not forsaken –

Signs of when Christ ate with friends,

As this bread is often taken,

So we know Christ lives again;

As this cup is sipped with gladness,

So Christ comes to end our fear.

God the steadfast, conq'ring sadness:

Thanks we give that Christ is here!

When all have Communed, please sing Verse 3.

Bread and cup we share with others –

Signs of life in God's household.

As we eat with sisters, brothers,

We receive the gift foretold.

As we round this table gather,

We live out what Christ has done.

God the Steadfast: Bound together,

Thanks we give that we are one! Amen.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)**

O God, in this simple meal you have poured out upon us your renewing and sustaining Spirit. We offer our thanks for Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit through whom we are all bound in covenant. In the broken bread and the shared cup the good news is proclaimed. Christ was born, Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again. Inspire us as your servant people that we may willingly live our lives as proclamation.

Amen

Prayers For Our Young Adult Habitat Group

Leader: Several times a year our church sends groups to work with Habitat for Humanity. They're hands do the work, but our prayers go with them. Together we offer a witness of hope and justice. We pray that together we work to tear down the walls of prejudice, injustice, and indignity and build up sheltering walls alive with God's love and salvation. As this year's group departs this week for Winston-Salem, North Carolina, they go as part of this congregation and as workers for the kingdom of God. We pray they might go anointed and filled with the spirit of God.

***Congregation: We pray that God would watch over our young adult Habitat group. May they go with our love and our prayers, and as the beloved hands and hearts of the body of Christ, may they carry our witness of God's splendor to all whom they encounter. We celebrate their caring, their energy, and their faith. We pray for their safety and for their faithful service to our God. Bless them, and return them to us renewed by the spirit. Amen.**

Benediction

One: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Many: We go with God's steadfast love before our eyes,
God's faithfulness beneath our feet, God's justice
burning in our souls. Amen!

*Hymn # 209 ["Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow"](#)

Postlude

Serving Today: Musicians: Sherry McElhatton, Elsa Kirkegaard, Lia Piittmann, Mia Dornacker, Litanist: Jerry O'Connor, Audio: John Bliese, Video: David Dorn

Lectionary for January 8: Isaiah 42:1-9 • Psalm 29 • Acts 10:34-43 • Matthew 3:13-17

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday January 1 - 7

Jan 2 Laurie Struck
Jan 3 Adam Hembel, Pamela Ludwig, Bev Martel, Whitney Volm
Jan 4 Tom Ogi
Jan 5 Sarah Guillaume, Jim Mohr

NEWS & NOTES

Calendar for the Week of January 1, 2023

1/1 NO Sunday School
1/2 Church Office Closed
1/3 Lectionary 10 am
1/4 XYZ Cards, Book Club 9:30 am, Community Meal 5-6:30 pm
1/5 Prayer Shawl 1 pm
1/8 Rev. Gregory Whelton, Visiting Minister

Art/Craft Sale: Take a look at the tables near both entrances at church to find hand crafted items for sale! Items will change monthly, and proceeds will go towards a designated fund at church. If you are interested in being one of the 'vendors', talk to Karla Spaits, Nancy Stoffel, or Sandi Radeztsky.

Peace UCC on Local Cable – In the West Bend service area we are now on cable television. This week's service will be broadcast on Monday afternoons at approximately 1:00 p.m. On Sunday mornings the prior week's service will be broadcast in sequence with other area congregations at approximately 10:15 (it depends on the length of the services before us). This will be on Spectrum channel 987, and AT&T channel 99. Please let us know how this works for you.

Peace Church Community Meal –Our next Community Meal will take place on January 4th, and the first Wednesday of each month. Our prayer is that we may gather with one another and with our community to break bread and share fellowship. Come all who are lonely, come all who are hungry, come all who wish to celebrate being together! **All are welcome!!** Please contact the church office if you have any questions or wish to help.



**Peace UCC
Community Meal
FREE for ALL!**

**Wednesday January 4, 2023
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

**Chicken Patty Sandwiches • Hamburgers
Fruit Cups • Baked Beans
Deviled Eggs • Potato Chips
Dessert and Beverage**

**Peace UCC
320 Main Street, Kewaskum, WI**

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.

Prayers for Healing:

We pray for Jerry O’Connor, as he prepares for surgery to replace his pacemaker.

We pray for Ryan Glover, friend of Eric Walker, who was taken to St. Joe’s with post-op complications.

We pray for Tony Curerri, friend of Karen Kletti, who is in ICU in Grafton.