



Peace United Church of Christ
Rev. Eric Kirkegaard
January 14, 2024
Second Sunday after Epiphany

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

Intern Minister: Vikar Jacob Kröner, 262-626-4011

On the web @ www.peace-ucc.org, YouTube: Peace UCC Kewaskum

****Please stand***

WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE “Thou Shalt Bring Them In” Handel

GREETINGS - A TIME OF CENTERING

From the Book of Common Prayer:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN 480** “Open My Eyes, That I May See”

THE CALL TO WORSHIP - from Psalm 139

One: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the joy and mystery of Christ's birth be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

One: O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

All: **You discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.**

One: Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.

All: **You surround me, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

One: For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

All: **I praise you, for I am awesomely and wondrously made. Wonderful are your works, that I know very well.**

One: My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret,

All: Intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

One: How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—

All: *I am still with you.*

The Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

We open ourselves to your mercy, precious Lord. We offer our confessions, trusting that you will hear us and allow us to feel the anointing of your grace.

Lord, we know that you are continually trying to speak to us and through us. And yet we stop up our hearts and our ears, favoring only that with which we are comfortable. Our sense of autonomy has worked against the reality of our dependence on You and Your covenant with us. We confess before you and each other that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We too easily forget who you have created us to be and how you have called us into ministry. We do not love you with our whole heart; we fail to love our neighbors as ourselves. We stumble in our attentiveness to you. Gather us again to yourself, forgive us, renew us, and lead us

in your ways. We humble ourselves 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’s gracious Spirit reaches out to all. Let us rejoice for grace abounds, and through Christ we are forgiven.

***A RESPONSE OF HALLELUJA**

“Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le, lu-ja”

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

CHANCEL CHOIR “The Fruit of Love”

LESSON Ruth 2:1-12 (Page 197)

The Children’s Time – As the children come forward,
please sing Hymn 437 “Jesus Loves Me” vs. 1

HYMN 559 “Here I Am, Lord”

LESSON 1 Samuel 3:1-20 (Page 201)

GOSPEL LESSON John 1:43-51 (Page 810)

SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC “I Will Serve Thee” Root

OFFERTORY

***THE DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Praise God for all that love has done:
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

All: Beautiful Lord, gracious Savior, we open our lives to Your spirit. We offer ourselves, our labors, our love, all that we are, to You and to Your world. Bless our gifts and guide us as your servants. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER – SILENT PRAYER

BENEDICTION

One: Go in peace, serve the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

***HYMN “Go, Make Disciples”**

Go, make disciples, baptizing them, teaching them.

Go, make disciples, for I am with you ‘til the end of time.

Go, be the salt of the earth.

Go, be the light of the world.

Go, be a city on a hill so all can see that you’re serving me.

Go, make disciples.

POSTLUDE

Serving Today: Musicians: Sherry McElhatton, Mia Dornacker; Video: David Dorn

Lectionary for January 21 - Jonah 3:1-5, 10 • Psalm 62:5-12 • 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 • Mark 1:14-20

Happy Birthday Jan 14 – 20

1/15 Karen Staehler (80)

1/16 April Fischer, Amelia Krebs

1/19 Scott Augustin

1/20 Christian Bocher

Calendar for the Week of January 14

1/14 9th grade confirmation 5:30-7:00pm

1/15 Care & Connection Mtg 1 pm

Stewardship Committee Mtg 5:30 pm

1/16 Lectionary 10 am,

Rescheduled Church Council 6 pm

1/17 XYZ Cards, Banned Book Club

(Lord of the Flies) 1:30 p.m.

Altar Flowers – Peace Church, once again, needs sponsors for the altar flowers. The cost is \$20.00 per Sunday. Please contact Robin in the church office if you are interested. Thank you!

Youth Group Events – The Peace Church Youth Group will meet after the 2nd Sunday service in the youth room (2nd floor) on the following dates: January 14th, January 28th, February 18th. All young people (grade 6 and up) and up are invited to attend!

Care & Connection Meeting – On Monday, January 15th, the Care & Connection group will meet at 1:00 p.m. If you have an interest in visiting Peace Church shut-in members, please contact the church office.

Peace Church Scholarship - Reminder to all 2023-2024 Scholarship recipients: Your first semester grades need to be turned in to the church office no later than **Thursday, February 1, 2024**. You can mail your transcripts to Peace Church, P.O. Box 433, Kewaskum, WI 53040 or email them to office@peace-ucc.org. Any questions? Contact the church office at 262-626-4011.

Prayers of Healing

For Karen Kletti as she recovers from hip surgery.
For Kathy Thomas, as she continues to battle cancer.
For Jill Rhoads, as she continues her journey with cancer.

Prayers of Celebration

On the birth of Howard & Connie's great granddaughter, Adeline Grace. Adeline was born on January 2 and is the daughter of Nic & Breanna.

January 15 - MLK, Jr, Celebration – Both Pastor Eric Kirkegaard and Vikar Jakob Kröner will be participating in this celebration.

A service of celebration honoring

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Monday, January 15 | 10 a.m.

Cedar Community, Cedar Ridge Campus | Grand Hall
113 Cedar Ridge Drive, West Bend

This year, to commemorate the extraordinary life, work, and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we will be holding two events in the Grand Hall on Martin Luther King Day!

JOIN US!

10 a.m.

Worshipful reflection and engagement on his legacy, particularly race and class

11 a.m.

*Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day learning: Race and Class today
A time to learn, discuss, and reflect on the legacy Martin engaged in the call for continued work and growth in 2024.*



*The event is free and open to the public.
A freewill offering will be collected.*

**For more information, contact
Rev. Alex Cade-White,
director of spiritual care,
at 262.306.2135.**

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