



Peace United Church of Christ
Rev. Eric Kirkegaard
January 29, 2023
Fourth 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
On the web @ www.peace-ucc.org, Peace on [Facebook](#), YouTube at: [Peace UCC Kewaskum](#)

WORSHIP SERVICE

**Stand if you are able.*

PRELUDE *Have Thine Own Way, Lord* Line

Greetings – Prayer Requests – Announcement

9:30 a.m. service - Stewardship/Mission Moment

***HYMN 502** *Be Thou My Vision*

TURNING TO GOD – Psalm 15

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

All: And also with you.

One: Lord, who can live in your sacred tent? Who can stay on your holy hill?

All: Anyone who lives without blame and does what is right. He speaks the truth from his heart. He doesn't tell lies about others.

One: He doesn't do wrong to his neighbors. He doesn't say anything bad about them. He despises the sinful.

All: He honors those who have respect for the Lord. He keeps his promises even when it hurts.

One: He lends his money without charging interest. He doesn't accept money to harm those who aren't guilty.

All: Anyone who lives like that will always be secure.

CONFESSING AND RECEIVING FORGIVENESS

One: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

All: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

One: Most merciful God,

All: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against

you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways. Humbly 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, for ever. Amen.”

One: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ offers us forgiveness and love that would mend our brokenness. Open your hearts anew and become children of God who bestows upon us grace as an unimaginable gift. **Amen.**

***HYMN 338**

King of Kings

King of kings and Lord of lords, glory, hallelujah! (2x)

Jesus, Prince of Peace, glory, hallelujah! (2x)

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

9:30 am SUNDAY SCHOOL CHOIR

Draw the Circle Wide

Bloss

OT LESSON

[Micah 6:1-8](#)

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THE CHILDREN’S TIME - As the children come forward, sing Hymn 226 “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know” vs.1

HYMN 574 [I’m Going to Live So God Can Use Me](#)

EPISTLE

[1 Corinthians 1:18-31](#)

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GOSPEL

[Matthew 5:1-12](#)

(Page 739)

SERMON

“The Foolish Wisdom of God”

SPECIAL MUSIC

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Baloche

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Call to us constantly, Beloved Lord. Remind us that you are the one to whom we dedicate our lives. As we raise our hands in offering, help us to see and know how we might further serve you. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER – SILENT PRAYER

BENEDICTION

One: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

All: We go to love and to serve, for we are the church. Alleluia and Amen!

8:00 a.m. service - Stewardship/Mission Moment

***HYMN 296** *Goodness is Stronger than Evil*

POSTLUDE

Serving Today: Musicians: Sherry McElhatton, Lia Piittmann, Mia Dornacker, Litanist: Jerry O'Connor, Audio: Josh Spaits, Video: Katelyn Scannell, Ushers/Greeters: Nicole Brei, Kim Clark, Jenny Krebs

Lectionary for February 5: Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12) • Psalm 112:1-9 (10) • 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16) • Matthew 5:13-20

Happy Birthday January 29 – February 4

Jan 29 Sam Ogi

Jan 30 Kathy Rundquist, Wes Westra (86)

Jan 31 Matthew Buss, Marilyn McIntosh (87)

Feb 3 Joan Adler

NEWS & NOTES

Calendar for the Week of January 22, 2023

1/29 Sunday School 9:30 am, 9th Grade Confirmation 4-5:30 pm

1/31 Lectionary 10 am

- 2/1 XYZ Cards, Book Club 9:30 am, Community Meal
4:30-6:30 pm, Adult Faith Formation 7-8:30 pm
- 2/2 Prayer Shawl 1 pm

Peace Church Banned Book Group – will meet on Wednesday, February 15th at 1:30 p.m. in the church music room. The group will discuss Toni Morrison's "The Bluest Eye". Books are on reserve at the Kewaskum Library and can be picked up starting February 15th. If you need assistance with obtaining a book, please contact the church office.

Peace Church Community Meal –Our next Community Meal will take place on February 1st, and the first Wednesday of each month. **The next meal will be a Spaghetti Dinner.** 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.

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. To date, \$764 have been collected.

Peace Church Food Pantry located in the parking lot of Peace Church, has been very busy lately helping individuals and families in need in our community. Please consider purchasing food or personal hygiene items (toilet paper, kleenex, bars of soap, liquid hand soap) for the pantry. Frozen food items can be safely kept in the pantry during cold weather, which we monitor. We also will take cash donations and will purchase items for the pantry. Thank you!

2023 Canada Wilderness Canoe Trip - This coming August, Peace Church will be heading north again to the Canadian wilderness for a time of interaction with some of the very best of God's creation - the sparkling clean waters and forestlands of the White Otter Wilderness area in Ontario. Our trip will take place August 12 (leave Kewaskum early that morning), be on the water Aug. 13-17, and drive back to Kewaskum on Friday Aug. 18.

The trip is open to youth who have finished their freshman year in high school and above and to all young adults and adults. Approx. cost for the trip will be between \$450 - \$550 depending on our final trip itinerary, number of participants and any fundraisers we might do between now and the trip. This cost covers all of the trip outfitting including canoes, tents, equipment, food, etc. It also covers the cost of travel to and from Kewaskum. All you need to bring with you are your clothes, personal items, and a willingness to participate in a new adventure!!

There is a Canoe Trip sign-up sheet in the parking lot entry area. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Eric, Karla Spaits or John Kletti.

Model Railroading is Fun! In November 2022, the Middle High Youth Group travelled to Germantown to run trains on my model railroad. I wonder if there might be a few adults that would like to do the same? On Saturday, March 4, starting about 10:00, I will host an operating session for those adults (male or female) that are interested in discovering the joy of model railroading. We will run trains until about noon, then take a lunch break and come back in the afternoon to run so more. For more information and directions to our home, contact **Russ Knoth** (262-832-4083). No experience is necessary, just a willingness to have fun.

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 of Healing:

For Keith Stern, brother to Scott Stern, and son of Gerald Stern, who underwent a very extensive surgery last Thursday to remove a large cancerous mass in his colon. The cancer had been diagnosed as Stage 3 that has spread to his lymph nodes. He will be in the hospital at least a week to recover from this surgery and then will start the process of additional treatments for the remaining cancer. He is doing well from the first surgery but has a long road ahead of him.

For Dave Ricky, friend of Paul Behring, who has been diagnosed with bladder cancer.

Prayers of Comfort:

For the friends and families of the three Fond du Lac area high school students who were involved in a tragic accident Saturday morning that claimed the life of two young teenagers, one was a former student of Bill Stangl. The third student received treatment for injuries at SSM Health – St. Agnes in Fond du Lac and has been released.