



Peace United Church of Christ

Rev. Eric Kirkegaard

January 7, 2024

The Baptism of Christ

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 "Star of the East" Line

GREETINGS - A TIME OF CENTERING

*HYMN 229 "The First Noel"

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

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: Come and remember how the Holy Spirit continually claims us and anoints us as God's beloved children.

All: We gather remembering the life-giving waters of Christ's baptism.

LIFTING OUR PRAISE AND PRAYERS- Psalm 29

One: Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

All: Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.

One: The voice of the LORD is over the waters;

All: The God of glory thunders,

One: The LORD, thunders over the mighty waters.

All: The voice of the LORD is powerful;

One: The voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

All: The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

One: He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

All: The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

One: The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

All: The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, “Glory!”

One: The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

All: May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

One: In your majesty 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.”

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We humbly offer our confession to you, O God, trusting that in your mercy you will hear us and allow us to feel again, in the depths of our being, the gift of your transforming grace.

God of eternal presence and of new beginnings, we confess before you and each other that we have been unfaithful to you. 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. We have failed to see and feel your spirit at work within us. We have

fallen short of thanking and trusting you in every moment of every day. Gather us to yourself again, forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways. Amen.

Blessed God, your Spirit works boldly within our lives – working within the chaos, wrapping us with light, scattering our darkness with your brilliance.

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

LESSON Ruth 1:1-17

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (Pew)

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

#737 Santo, Santo, Santo

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.

My heart is glad to say the words:

you are Holy, Lord!

Santo, santo, santo, mi corazon te adora.

Mi corazon te sabe decir: santo eres Señor.

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (IN UNISON)

O God, in this simple meal you come to us again. You share yourself and your sustaining Spirit with our hungry souls. 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. Amen

HYMN 233 "We Three Kings"

LESSON Acts 19:1-7

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 1:1-11

SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC "He Brings Peace" Hanson

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 231** "Arise, Your Light Is Come"

POSTLUDE "March of the Kings" Line

Serving Today: Musicians: Sherry McElhatton, Karla
Spaits, Mia Dornacker, Lia Piittmann, Kaylee Flood;
Video: David Dorn

Lectionary for January 14 - 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

• Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 • 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 •
John 1:43-51

Happy Birthday Jan 7 – 13

Jan 9 Todd Schmidt

Jan 11 Jade Brei, Xander Kivell

Jan 12 Molly Kedroske

Happy Anniversary Jan 7 – Jan 13

Jan 13 Emil & Sandi Radezsky (29)

Calendar for the Week of January 7

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

1/8 6:00pm Local Church Discernment Committee

1/9 Lectionary 10 am, Church Council 6 pm

1/10 XYZ Cards

1/11 Living the Question 10 am, Grief Group 1 pm

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!

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 prepares for hip surgery on the 10th.

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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community**

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