



Peace United Church of Christ
Rev. Eric Kirkegaard
October 23, 2022
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

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.

*** Stand if you are able**

Prelude

Greetings – Prayer Requests

*Hymn 457

[“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”](#)

Turning to God – Psalm 65 from The Message

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

Many: And also with you.

One: Silence is praise to you, Zion-dwelling God, And also obedience. You hear the prayer in it all.

Many: We all arrive at your doorstep sooner or later, loaded with guilt, our sins too much for us— but you get rid of them once and for all.

One: Blessed are the chosen! Blessed the guest at home in your place! We expect our fill of good things in your house, your heavenly manse. All your salvation wonders are on display in your trophy room.

Many: Earth-Tamer, Ocean-Pourer, Mountain-Maker, Hill-Dresser, Muzzler of sea storm and wave crash, of mobs in noisy riot— Far and wide they’ll come to a stop, they’ll stare in awe, in wonder.

One: Dawn and dusk take turns calling, “Come and worship.” Oh, visit the earth, ask her to join the dance! Deck her out in spring showers, fill the God-River with living water. Paint the wheat fields golden.

Many: Creation was made for this! Drench the plowed fields, soak the dirt clods with rainfall as harrow and rake bring her to blossom and fruit.

One: Snow-crown the peaks with splendor, scatter rose petals down your paths, all through the wild meadows, rose petals.

Many: Set the hills to dancing, Dress the canyon walls with live sheep, a drape of flax across the valleys.

One: Let them shout, and shout, and shout! Oh, let them sing! Sing together for Joy!

Confessing and Receiving Forgiveness

We gather our hearts as we confess our brokenness.

Precious Lord, we continue to stumble as we try to find the right words to speak to our world, to speak in prayer to you. We yearn to walk tall, to live in your righteousness, but we fear the consequences of living boldly in You. We fear our being misunderstood. We fail to notice when our boldness becomes our arrogance and self-certainty instead of our humble loving relationship with you. God,

we need to talk. We need to understand how to turn our shortcomings into new life.

For what we do, for what we fail to do, we ask your forgiveness, your guidance, your strength. Feed us beloved Christ that we might be strong enough to live for you.

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, forever. Amen.”

The Lord hears our prayers, and gently holds our hearts with grace. God has always sought to provide for us, to forgive us, to lead us, to gather ALL of humanity as God's own... the reflection of God. Embrace anew Christ's gift of love, of suffering, of resurrection, and be lifted into the promise. Amen

***The Gloria Patri**

“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.”

***The Passing of the Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

Lesson [Exodus 32:1-4](#)

The Children’s Time- As the children come forward, we sing 🎵 “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know” vs. 1

***Hymn 51** [“How Great Thou Art”](#)

Gospel [Luke 18:9-14](#) (Page 801)

Sermon “Reclaiming Unexpected Grace”

Prayer of Dedication

Call to us constantly, beloved Lord, and remind us of your goodness revealed to us in diverse peoples and experiences. As we raise our hands in offering help us to refocus our lives on what is right, and true, and just. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer – Silent Prayer

Benediction

One: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

All: 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 710** ["The Trees of the Field"](#)

Postlude

Lectionary for October 30: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 and Psalm 119:137-144 • Isaiah 1:10-18 and Psalm 32:1-7 • 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 • Luke 19:1-10

Serving Today: Musician: Karla Spaits Litanist: Bob Blackburn
Audio: Josh Spaits Video: David Dorn



The flowers on the altar are in honor of Pastor Bob Blackburn. We are so glad to have him back with us!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday October 23-29

Oct 24 Janine Lemke, Jared Polzin, Alec Taylor
Oct 25 Susan Chesak
Oct 26 Brad Preder
Oct 27 Kelly Schreffler
Oct 28 Roger Lindgren, David McIntosh
Oct 29 David Frei

Happy Anniversary October 23-29

Oct 23 Eric & Laura Kirkegaard (29)
Oct 24 Amanda & Jon Herbst (13), Gary & Kathy Panzer (42)
Oct 26 Olivia & Beau Backhaus (4), Jori & Steve Schmeling (37)

NEWS & NOTES

Calendar for the Week of October 23

Please Note: the 2nd Floor of the Church Building will be closed off from Tuesday, October 25 – Saturday, October 29.

10/23 Annual Peace Church Meeting – 10:30 a.m.
 9th Grade Confirmation 4-5:30 pm
10/25 Lectionary 10 am in Fellowship Hall, Men's choir practice 6 pm,
 Chancel choir 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary
10/26 XYZ Cards – Fellowship Hall
10/27 Grief Group 1 p.m. – Fellowship Hall



Annual Congregational Meeting TODAY!! – Our annual meeting will take place immediately following the 9:30 service. We will also broadcast this on YouTube and allow members who cannot attend to vote until October 30th.

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.

Band Together for Banned Books – Peace Church will be starting a monthly “Banned Book Club” in January of 2023. Once a month we will meet to discuss classic and contemporary titles that have been banned by various school districts around the country. Titles such as “To Kill a Mockingbird”, “The Outsiders”, “The Hate U Give”, “Maus”, and many more. Dates and time TBD. If you have an interest in joining, please contact either Mugs McFadden at 262-339-8690 or serendipity33@frontier.com or Chris Rode at rustypeaches1966@gmail.com Watch the upcoming Tidings and bulletins for more information.

Mitten Ministry News: We are collecting mittens for those in need today, October 23rd. We will have the dedication/blessing on October 30, and plan to distribute to the schools and pantries the first week of November. If you are taking part in this ministry, I would love to hear from you. If you would like to learn how to knit, I would love to hear from you too - the more the merrier!! You can reach me (Heidi Rodenkirch) at 920-602-1184.

Peace UCC on Local Cable – We are blessed to now be able to share our worship with the West Bend area through their community 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.

Food with Friends – Remember the Dinner for Six (or Eight) that our congregation enjoyed before COVID? It is coming back a bit revamped as “Food with Friends”. The premise will be basically the same – you can sign up to be a host or a guest. Everyone will bring a dish – appetizer, dessert, or veggie side dish. The host will provide the main entrée. We hope to have the first event this Fall. Watch for sign-up sheets to be coming soon!

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 Eileen Kelly and her daughter, Maureen. Eileen had a kidney transplant and Maureen was the donor. The transplant was successful, now we pray for continued healing and recovery. Eileen and Maureen are dear friends of Karen and Tom Kolb.

We pray for Rev. Rich Vincent, pastor at Immanuel UCC in West Bend. He's been battling leukemia for a while, but of late the cancer's been getting a bit nastier. They're working on getting the cancer knocked down so they can do a stem cell transplant. That will mean he's got to spend weeks in the hospital. Prayers for Rich's healing & God's presence with both Rich & the congregation.

We pray for Marian Herriges, who will be undergoing cardiac catheterization on October 25th.

We pray for Jeanne Wood, who is scheduled to have a Pacemaker "installed" on Monday October 24, 2022, at Aurora Clinic (Hospital) in Grafton.

Prayers of Comfort:

We continue to pray for Jinny Michaels as she continues her long journey with Hospice.

Prayers of Celebration:

Congratulations to Connor Lemke, who graduated from Navy Bootcamp in Great Lakes, Illinois on October 21, 2022. Connor will now be stationed in South Carolina for more schooling.

We give prayers of celebration for Caroline Rusch, granddaughter to Ron & Lynn Rush, whose pathology report results came back as a benign cyst, large but not cancerous.

Contact Peace Church

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

[Peace UCC Kewaskum](#)