



**Peace United Church of Christ**  
Rev. Eric Kirkegaard  
October 29, 2023  
Twenty-second 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.*

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

*Pastor Eric cell: 262-707-0758 - [pastor@peace-ucc.org](mailto:pastor@peace-ucc.org)*

*Church Office: Robin Mock, 262-626-4011 - [office@peace-ucc.org](mailto:office@peace-ucc.org)*

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

*On the web @ [www.peace-ucc.org](http://www.peace-ucc.org), YouTube: Peace UCC Kewaskum*

***\*Please stand***

# WORSHIP SERVICE

## PRELUDE

## GREETINGS - A TIME OF CENTERING

**\*HYMN 593**                      “Lord, Speak to Me”

### **BEING GATHERED TO GOD-** Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

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

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**All: Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

One: You turn us back to dust, and say, “Turn back, you mortals.” For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

**All: You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.**

One: Turn, O LORD!

**All: How long?**

One: Have compassion on your servants!

**All: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**

One: Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil.

**All: Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.**

**Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands —  
O prosper the work of our hands!**

## **CONFESSING AND RECEIVING FORGIVENESS**

One: Let us join in confessing our sins.

**All:** **Merciful God, we stand before your radiant light knowing that we have not been fully faithful to you. You ask us to offer you our whole heart, our whole mind, our whole soul, and yet so often we only commit a little part of ourselves to you. Beloved God, we have not fully loved You, nor have we fully accepted the depths of Your love and care for us. As we struggle with our own love, we fall short of fully loving our neighbors as ourselves. We sin against you, individually and collectively, in thought, word, and deed; by what we do, and by what we leave undone. Have mercy on us, forgive us, renew us, and lead us in your ways with your perfect love which casts out all fear. Together we pray as Jesus taught us: “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.”**

One: Embrace God's redeeming mercy, God's grace is for each of us. Claim anew the life that really is life. Believe the promise of God, Alleluia and Amen!

\*A Response Of Hallelujah “Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le,lu-ja”

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC – CHILDREN’S CHOIR**

“Arky, Arky”

## **GOSPEL**

Matthew 22:34-40

(page 756)

## **BLESSING OF THE HATS AND MITTENS PROJECT**

One: We gather to bless these gifts of our congregation’s hands.

**All: With love and prayers they have been carefully crafted.**

**One: We offer them to our brothers and sisters who are in need.**

**All: God, we ask that you bless these caps, mittens, and scarves. Bless them with warmth and the steadfastness of your Love. Bless them with the witness that we are all knit together as one family of your children. Grant that they may be received as offerings of the light of faith and the hands of Christ. Amen**

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

## **THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

The Covenant of Reception of New Members (in unison)

**Filled with joy, we the members of Peace Church welcome you anew into this community of faith. As disciples of Jesus Christ we pledge you our friendship and our prayers that together we may grow in lives of true faith and Christian service. May God confirm the covenant made here this day, and bless our ministry and witness to the risen Savior.**

**HYMN 397 "The Gift of Love"**

**LESSON Deuteronomy 34:1-12 (page 158)**

**SERMON**

### **\*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**

**God of abundant love, with thanksgiving we return a portion of our gifts to you. God, we offer ourselves, our labors, our love, all that we**

are, to you and to your world. Bless our offerings and guide us in your service. Amen

## **PASTORAL PRAYER – SILENT PRAYER**

### **BENEDICTION** – from *A Black Rock Prayer Book*

One: The world now is too dangerous and too beautiful for anything but love.

May your eyes be so blessed

that you see God in everyone.

your ears, so you hear the cry of the poor.

May your hands be so blessed

that everything you touch is a sacrament.

Your lips, so you speak nothing but the truth with love.

May your feet be so blessed you run to those who need you.

And may your heart be so opened, so set on fire, that your love, *your* love, changes everything.

And may the blessing of the God who created you, loves you, and sustains you, be with you now and always.

**All: May it be so. Amen**

**\*HYMN 523** “Soon and Very Soon”

## **POSTLUDE**

**Serving Today:** Musicians: Karla Spaits, Lia Piittmann, Mia Dornacker; Video: Katelyn Scannell

**Today’s Altar Flowers** from the Reif family in honor the Maribeth Kasper family.

**Lectionary for November 5** - Joshua 3:7-17 and Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 • Micah 3:5-12 and Psalm 43 • 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 • Matthew 23:1-12

## **Happy Birthday Oct 29 – Nov 4**

Oct 29 David Frei

Oct 30 Vance Reif

Oct 31 Wayne Kirst

Nov 1 Debra Stern

Nov 2 Rachel Schemelin

## **Calendar for the Week of October 29**

10/29 Blessing of Mittens, Annual Meeting 10:30 am, New Member Celebration

- 10/31 Lectionary 10 am, Faith Formation 7-8 pm
- 11/1 XYZ Cards, Book Club 9:30 am, Community Meal 4:30-6 pm
- 11/2 Prayer Shawl 1pm
- 11/5 There will only be one service at 9:30 as we gather and celebrate 125 years of Peace Church!**

### **Annual Congregational Meeting TODAY!**



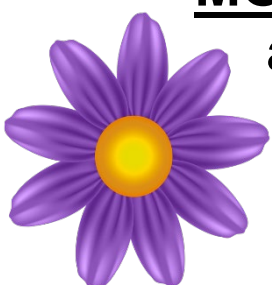
Our annual meeting will take place immediately following today's 9:30 service.

**Thank You!** Commitment Sunday, November 12, gives us the chance to thank God for all the incredible gifts God's given to us. Commitment Sunday worship gives us the chance to:

- respond gratefully to God's love by bringing our financial commitments to church and offering them to God;
- rejoice in the ways we've seen God at work in and through the life of Peace Church, its members and friends;
- enjoy a time of fellowship, cake and other treats in Fellowship Hall following worship.

Won't you also join us in expressing prayers of gratitude and thanks to God for Peace Church, Sunday, November 5, as we celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Peace UCC's founding. That day, you'll find paper tree leaves at the ends of each pew on which you can write words to complete the sentence, "We give thanks to God for \_\_\_\_\_." Your words of gratitude and thanksgiving will become a part of a "tree" that will be in the sanctuary on Commitment Sunday as we celebrate Christ's church, all God has given, and all God will continue to give, to us.

**MOWA Event:** The Women@Peace are arranging a trip to the Museum of Wisconsin Art (MOWA) on Friday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Carpooling will happen at Peace Church, leaving the parking lot at 8:15 am. Breakfast at The Hub at 8:30 am. Or meet us at MOWA at 9:30 am. If you are a member of



MOWA, you can take up to 5 people with you for free, otherwise cost is \$15.00. Sign-up clipboards are available in both lobbies at church or call the office (262-626-4011) to sign-up.

**Community Meal** – The next Peace Church Community Meal is on Wednesday, November 1st from 4:30-6:00 p.m. The menu is chicken cordon bleu casserole, corn, dinner roll, beverage & dessert. If you are interested in making a dessert, please contact the church office. Please join us! All are welcome!

**Prayers of Comfort:** To the family and friends of Pastor Bob Blackburn's cousin, Mike Mehn, who passed away unexpectedly from a heart attack last week.



The poster features a central white box with the text 'PEACE UCC' in a bold, black, serif font, and '125 Years' in a black, cursive font below it. To the right of the text is a colorful logo of a house with a rainbow roof and a white cross on top, with an open book at its base. The background is a soft gradient of purple, pink, and blue. Decorative elements include three balloons (red, yellow, and purple) in the top left, a blue and yellow party hat in the top right, a yellow and blue party hat with confetti in the bottom left, and three colorful fireworks in the bottom right.

**PEACE UCC**  
*125 Years*

Peace United Church of Christ  
Anniversary CELEBRATION

Sunday, November 5th, 2023  
Peace Church - Fellowship Hall

Serving 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Pulled Pork & Chicken  
Cheesy Hashbrown Casserole, Salad, Dessert & Beverage  
Fellowship & Special Map Activity

Ticket Price - \$15.00  
Children 12 & under Free

Please note that there will be only ONE service that day at 9:30 a.m.