



**Peace United Church of Christ**  
Rev. Eric Kirkegaard  
November 19, 2023  
Twenty-Fifth 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**                    “We Gather Together”                    Vandall

### **GREETINGS - A TIME OF CENTERING**

**\*HYMN 721** “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

### **BEING GATHERED TO GOD- Psalm 123**

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

**All:**    **And also with you.**

**All:**    **To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!**

**One:**    As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he has mercy upon us.

**All:**    **Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt.**

**One:**    Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.

### **CONFESSING AND RECEIVING FORGIVENESS**

**One:**    Precious Lord, we gather as your children in need of your mercy.

**All:**    **Lord, you provide for us in ways too vast to measure. And yet we squander the gifts you give. As we seek to live as your children, we don't fully use our abilities, our prayers, or our strength of faith. Too often we worry about our own safety and security instead of speaking out against injustice, or sharing the wonder that you steadily offer. We seek to define and measure your grace, instead of allowing it to overflow. We don't love our neighbors or ourselves as you would have us do. We ask your forgiveness 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."*

One: Our God is a God of love and mercy. Through Christ's life, death, and resurrection we are offered the fullness of God's grace. Believe the good news: in Christ Jesus we are forgiven. Give glory to God.

\*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**

**EPISTLE**                    1 Thessalonians 5:1-11                    (page 900)

**THE CHILDREN'S TIME** – As the children come forward,  
please sing Hymn 437 "Jesus Loves Me" vs. 1

**HYMN 722**                    "Praise and Thanksgiving"

**GOSPEL**                    Matthew 25:14-30                    (page 759)

**SERMON**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**                    "Rondeau"                    Weekly & Arganbright

## **\*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**

**Beloved Lord, how can we respond to the gift of  
your grace? With humble hearts we seek to do  
your bidding as we offer ourselves to you,  
labors, love, and fruits of our abilities. Bless  
our offerings and guide us in your service.  
Amen**

**PASTORAL PRAYER – SILENT PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

One: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God! Alleluia and Amen.**

**\*HYMN 723** "For the Fruit of All Creation"

## **POSTLUDE**

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

**Today's Altar Flowers** from Cal & Sharon Rauch, in memory of their loved ones.

## **Lectionary for November 26** - REIGN OF CHRIST

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 and Psalm 100 • Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 and Psalm 95:1-7a • Ephesians 1:15-23 • Matthew 25:31-46

## **Happy Birthday Nov 19-25**

Nov 19 Claire Lemke, Cole Lemke

Nov 20 Mark Bocher

Nov 21 Marian Herriges (82)

Nov 23 Shelley Oswald, Tricia Walker

Nov 25 Cheryl Ammel, Pat McFadden (80)

## **Calendar for the Week of November 19**

11/19 9<sup>th</sup> Confirmation Class: 5:30 – 7 pm

11/21 Lectionary 10 am, Faith Formation 7-8 pm

11/22 XYZ Cards

11/23 Happy Thanksgiving – Office Closed

## **A look ahead at what's happening at Peace:**

- December 6<sup>th</sup> is the next Community Meal. Watch the Tidings and bulletins for the menu.
- December 9<sup>th</sup> – Children's Christmas Program Practice 9-11:30 am
- December 10<sup>th</sup> – the EcuMen will be giving a performance at Peace Church at 2:00 p.m.
- December 16<sup>th</sup> – Children's Christmas Program Practice 9-11:30 am
- December 17<sup>th</sup> - Peace Church Children's Christmas program. Scholarship Committee Cookie Sale
- December 24<sup>th</sup> –There will be the fourth Sunday of advent service at 9:30 am and Christmas Eve services of lessons and carols at 6:30 pm & 8:30 pm
- December 25<sup>th</sup> – There will be one service at 9:30 am
- December 31<sup>st</sup> – There will be one service at 9:30 am

**Young Adult Habitat trip** - is scheduled for January 1, 2024, to January 7, 2024. Any young adult is welcome to come along. They don't have to be members of our church. Pastor Eric and Sheri Rehn will be the chaperones. They will be going to Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The cost is \$200.00 per person for the week, and this includes staying at the Volunteer Lodge, breakfast, lunch, and dinners. Meals on the way there and back, and on our off day, are not included in the cost. If you or someone you know is interested in joining, please let Robin in the church office at 262-262-4011. If you have any questions, please call Pastor Eric at 262-707-0758 or Karen Kletti at 262-224-2212.

**Changes to the Tidings:** In order to save on postage and printing costs, starting with the December/January issue of the Tidings, it will be sent via email to everyone who has an email address on file with the church. If you do not have an email address, the Tidings will be mailed to you. There will be a few paper copies of the Tidings available at the front and back entrances of the church.

**Homemade Soaps-** Karen Kletti and Mary Steinhardt continue to make soap for purchase. All money collected will go to Peace Church. If you are interested in purchasing soap, please contact Karen, Mary, or the church office.

**Heartfelt Thanks** - To the most amazing congregation family-I want to formally thank each and every one of you for all the beautiful cards, the care and concern, and every prayer that you lifted up for my healing while I was in the hospital and recouping at home. I felt wrapped in your love, and it was a powerful feeling. Thank you also for keeping Bill in your prayers as well. He has had to be the caregiver a lot and always shows me nothing but love. May you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving season!

Blessings, Diane & Bill Stangl

**Thank You!** - Thank you to everyone who helped with providing shoes for refugee children. We collected 42 pairs during our one-month shoe drive! These shoes will make

42 children very happy. A special thank you to Lynn & Ron Rusch for organizing this drive!

**Prayers of Healing**

For Shirley Schlice, who is hospitalized after suffering a brain bleed and stroke on Monday night.

To Sharon Seltrecht, mother to Beverly Martel, who has been hospitalized at St. Luke's with ulcers and a brain bleed.

For all those undergoing treatments for cancer.

**Poinsettias**

This year we again invite you to order a Christmas poinsettia through Peace Church. The plants will be identical in size and all of them red in color. They will be in 6 ½ inch pots and come with foil wrap. Cost per plant will be \$20.00. These plants may be ordered in memory of loved ones, in honor of special moments or persons, or just love gifts. They will be placed in church on December 24th. **After the service on December 25<sup>th</sup>, you may take your plant home to enjoy.** Wouldn't you like to help beautify the church sanctuary with these traditional Christmas flowers? Please contact the church office 626-4011, email: [office@peace-ucc.org](mailto:office@peace-ucc.org), or mail: P. O. Box 433, Kewaskum, WI 53040 by December 5th. Plants must be paid for in advance. Thank you!



Christmas Poinsettia Order

Please order \_\_\_\_\_ Plant(s) for me:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Check \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20.00 per plant – payable to Peace UCC)

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Other Designation \_\_\_\_\_



*Peace United Church of Christ*

# COMMUNITY MEAL

Wednesday, December 6th - 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Sloppy Joes, Tater Tots, Veggies with Dip,  
Peaches, Dessert & Beverage

FREE TO ALL!

