



Peace United Church of Christ
Rev. Eric Kirkegaard
December 10, 2023
Second Sunday of Advent

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 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Vandall

GREETINGS - A TIME OF CENTERING

***HYMN 154** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

PRAYER OF HOPE – adapted from UCC Worship Ways

One: God of justice and of peace — You have woven into the fabric of the world threads of mercy and kindness.

All: **We hunger for the awe and wonder revealed in your marvelous artistry.**

One: God of promise and of love — You beckon to us in the beauty of sunset and darkness, of daylight and lengthening shadows.

All: **We rejoice in the majesty of your creation.**

One: The spectrum of your love spills forth all around. The hues of your love warm our spirits. The vibrancy of your love saturates us with hope.

All: **Blessed is the God of love whose art expressed in Christ we anticipate.**

One: We light this candle in abundant expectation that your radiance, O God, will be kindled in our hearts, filling us with hope, as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ.

All: **We who wait on the Lord are filled with hope.**

HYMN #175 “We Light the Advent Candles” vs 1&3

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: As we begin our advent journey, our days grow shorter, the sacred-darkness longer. We turn to symbols of candles, evergreens, and wreaths to proclaim our belief in the unquenchable light that shines in the darkness. In confession we offer our darkness trusting in God's Reign of light.

All: **We confess that our lives have not always been lived in ways pleasing to you, God. Our shame has left us feeling distant from you who are both Mother and Father to us all. You call to us with the invitation to offer our holy “yes”, and yet we are stubborn to respond. We know that you love us**

just as we are, but we also know that you love us too much to have us remain merely as we are. Forgive us O Lord, for what we do and for what we fail to do. Guide us with your light that we might become a light to the nations. We humbly pray in your name O Christ, our Lord. Amen

One: God, our Creator, has given us the ultimate gift. God's gift to us is grace - everlasting love offered in startling and unexpected ways. **Alleluia, Amen.**

***A Response #177 – “Jesus, Name Above All Names”**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13 (page 448)

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

HYMN 167 “Long Ago, Prophets Knew”

LESSON Isaiah 40:1-11 (page 551)

GOSPEL Luke 2:39-52 (page 784)

SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC “Mary Did You Know” Line

***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**

Gracious God, we bring these gifts as a sign of our love for you and one another. Bless us with your presence as we give ourselves to you and to your people. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER – LORD'S PRAYER

“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."

BENEDICTION

One: The worship is ended, now the service begins. Go in peace, serve the Lord.

All: **We go to love and to serve for we are the church!**

All: **Alleluia and Amen!**

***HYMN 198** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

POSTLUDE "Go Tell It on the Mountain" Vandall

Serving Today: Sermon: Vikar Jakob Kröner; Litanist: Joan Adler; Musicians: Sherry McElhatton, Karla Spaits; Video: David Dorn

Today's Altar Flowers in honor of Sharon Stier's sister, Laurie O'Farrell. The flowers in front of the altar are in memory of Barbara O'Connor from Jerry on their wedding anniversary.

Lectionary for December 17 - third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 • Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55 • 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 • John 1:6-8, 19-28

Happy Birthday Dec 10 – 16

Dec 11 Rose Marie Knoth (84)

Dec 12 Jerry Shoemaker

Dec 14 Jason Piittmann

Dec 16 Nicole Stern

Calendar for the Week of December 10

12/10 EcuMen Concert @ Peace 2:00 pm

9th Grade Confirmation 5:30-7 pm

12/12 Lectionary 10 am, Church Council 6 pm

12/13 XYZ Cards

12/14 Living the Questions 10 am, Grief Group 1 pm

12/16 Children's Christmas Program PRACTICE 9-11:30 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 by Dec. 11th. If you have any questions, please call Pastor Eric at 262-707-0758 or Karen Kletti at 262-224-2212.



Gingerbread House - Giving Tree

Every year Peace Church participates in the Gingerbread House Giving Tree. Once again, Peace Church will be giving gift cards instead of purchasing presents for families. It is suggested to purchase a gift card (Target, Walmart, Amazon, Piggly Wiggly, Kohls, etc...) and either mail it to Peace Church at PO Box 433, Kewaskum, WI 53040 or drop in the offering plate or deliver to the church office. We will collect the gift cards and deliver them to the Gingerbread House, which is part of The Youth and Family Project of Washington County. If you cannot get out to purchase a gift card, you may send a check to Peace Church, and we will purchase the gift card for you. Please make sure you note that the donation is for the Gingerbread House program. The deadline is December 12, 2023.

Scholarship Fund Christmas Cookie and Coffee Sale

During fellowship time on December 17, there will be a Christmas Cookie Sale sponsored by the Scholarship Committee.

We are asking all parents of Scholarship Recipients to please bake and bring cookies by 7:30 - 8:00 a.m. on Sunday to be sold between our two services. We will be making variety plates. Help is needed with baking, packaging, and selling the cookies. Ten college students have applied for scholarships for the 2023-2024 school year and will be receiving their scholarship money in February after we receive their first semester grades. Your help is greatly appreciated.



December 17
8:00 a.m. Regular Service
9:30 a.m. – Children's Christmas Program

December 24
Christmas Eve
Regular Service – 9:30 a.m.
Candlelight Services of Lessons and Carols
6:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.

December 25
Christmas Day
ONLY ONE SERVICE
9:30 a.m.

December 31
First Sunday after Christmas
ONLY ONE SERVICE
9:30 a.m.