



Peace United Church of Christ
Rev. Eric Kirkegaard
December 11, 2022
The Third 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

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

* Stand if you are able

Prelude 8:00 a.m.

Piano Selections

Lia Piittmann, Sherry McElhatton - duet

9:30 a.m.

“Christmas is Coming”

Raney

“Who’s That Baby”

Althouse

Soloists: Jim Hammen, Marty Gross, Roger Mertz

EcuMen

Greetings – Prayer Requests

Hymn 153

[“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”](#)

Preparing Our Hearts for God

One: There are some blessings that are only revealed to us when the day is darkest.

Many: There are some mercies that only shine when the shadows are deepest.

One: There are some graces that are only glimpsed when the night is longest.

Many: O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel. The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom, like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.

Confessing and Receiving Forgiveness

With humble spirits we offer our confession to you, O God:

Beloved Lord, you beckon to us. You invite us to let your light be born through us, into your world. You know, God, how hard it is for us to utter within our souls that one holy “yes”. You steadily trust us with your love, even as we doubt ourselves. We doubt our ability to let you work through us. We doubt the gifts with which you have blessed us. Tender Christ, we fall short of your ways in thought, word and deed. We fail to fully use our lives to serve you. For what we do, and for what we fail to do we ask your forgiveness.

Lord, speak to our brokenness with the power of your grace 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.”

Words of Assurance

God our creator leads us toward new pathways. God our redeemer offers healing to our brokenness and forgiveness for our sins. God our comforter lifts us up and carries us in hope and love. In God's mercy all is made new. **Amen.**

*Hymn 177

“Jesus, Name Above All Names”

**Jesus, name above all names,
beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us,
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.**

*The Passing of the Peace

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

The Cantic of Mary (Luke 1:46-55)

One: So long ago Mary wrestled with the news that the angel had shared with her.

Many: **She celebrated the growing reality within her. And she proclaimed her glories to God in song:**

One: “And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

Many: **His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.**

One: He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

All: ***He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.***”

Lighting the Advent Candle –

One: We come to kindle God's light in the world. In Advent, we remember the darkest days

Many: **and await the brilliant light of hope.**

One: In Advent, we remember the thirsty days

Many: and await the quenching light of peace.

One: In Advent, we remember the silent days

Many: and await the singing light of joy.

One: Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God... who will come and save you."

Many: Our souls magnify the Lord and our spirits rejoice in God,
our Savior. We light these candles inviting God's light into
the darkest days.

Hymn #165	<u>"When God is a Child"</u>	Verses 1 - 3
8:00 Lesson	<u>James 5:7-10</u>	(Page 921)
8:00 Gospel	<u>Matthew 11:2-11</u>	(Page 745)
8:00 Sermon	"Look and Hear"	

9:30 Lesson	<u>Isaiah 35:1-10</u>	(Page 547)
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9:30 - The Children's Sunday School Program

Special Music "Carol of the Bells"
Lia Piittmann

Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

**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 – Silent Prayer

Response "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"
**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

Benediction – *from UCC Worship Ways*

One: Go forth with great expectation,
waiting for God's mercy to fill us,
waiting for God's grace to surround us.
waiting for God's child to lead us.
And in that waiting,
May God bless and keep us
May God's face shine upon us
May God be gracious to us
And give us peace. Go in peace, serve the Lord.

All: We go to love and to serve, for we are the church. Alleluia
and Amen!

***Hymn 198** **["Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"](#)**

Postlude

“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”
Sherry McElhatton & Lia Piittmann - Duet

Vandall

Serving Today: Musicians: Sherry McElhatton, Lia Piittmann, Mia Dornacker, Litanist: Chris Rode, Audio: Joshua Spaits, Video: David Dorn

Lectionary for December 18: Isaiah 7:10-16 • Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 • Romans 1:1-7 • Matthew 1:18-25

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday December 11-17

- Dec 11 Rose Marie Knoth (83)
- Dec 12 Jerry Shoemaker
- Dec 13 Grace Lee
- Dec 14 Jason Piittmann, Samantha Wiskirchen
- Dec 16 Nicole Stern
- Dec 17 Rachel Ogi, Mary Steger

NEWS & NOTES

Calendar for the Week of December 11

- 12/11 Scholarship Cookie Sale – after services; Choir Practice approx. 10:30 a.m.; 9th Grade Confirmation 4-5:30 pm
- 12/12 Christmas in the Cedars: Christmas concert at Cedar Ridge Campus - 4 pm
- 12/13 Lectionary 10 am, Council Meeting 6:30 pm
- 12/14 XYZ Cards
- 12/15 Deadline for Giving Tree Gift Cards
- 12/18 Peace Church Christmas Choir Concert – 9:30 am service

Peace Church Choir for Christmas - the choir will be having rehearsals after church on Sundays for those in the congregation who would like to sing with us.

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. So far, the crafters have raised \$662!

Evening Bible Study: We have begun a new 10 session adult study – “What’s So Amazing About Grace” by Philip Yancey. We meet the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m. All are welcome as we investigate grace.

Peace UCC on Local Cable – In the West Bend service area we are now on 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.

Peace Church Community Meal – Thank you to everyone who attended the first monthly Peace Church Community meal. A special thank you to those who volunteered to help make this meal a success – with good food and good company! Our next community meal will be on Wednesday, January 4th from 5 – 6:30 p.m.

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:

John Scheidenhelm – who was hospitalized this last week. He is now at Harbor Haven Rehab in Fond du Lac.

Prayers of Comfort:

We pray for the family and friends of Virginia “Jinny” Michaels, who passed away on Monday, December 5, 2022, with her family by her side.

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

Thank you to all who helped to make our first Community Meal a success.

We celebrate the children from Holy Trinity School who came this week to fill our Peace Pantry and hang mittens and hats on a tree to share with our community.

The Giving Tree

Helping Those in Need



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 15, 2022.** Last Christmas Peace Church donated a total of \$1,315 in gift cards that were given to the Giving Tree! Thank you all for participating in this very worthy program!



We will be dedicating our Christmas Fund offerings on Sunday, December 18th. Special offering envelopes for your Christmas Fund contributions are available on the bulletin board at the south entrance. You may also request one by calling the church office at 626-4011, or you can use the "Other" line found on your weekly envelopes and write in **The Christmas Fund.**

In the spirit of love, please give generously to this special mission offering, as together we keep covenant with the many beloved friends who have been, and continue to be, faithful servants of the church. We give thanks for all who have faithfully shepherded our church, sharing the good news, offering peace, and giving hope.



Year after Year, Your Gift Brings Joy

The Advent season of waiting and watching is also a season of preparing. Our generosity prepares the way for hope, peace, justice, and community. United Church of Christ retired clergy, servants of the church, have spent lifetimes baptizing and blessing, teaching and preaching, marrying and burying, comforting and empowering God's people. Now, through the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross, we have the opportunity to sustain and empower them.

Our gifts of gratitude and love bring hope to the hopeless, joy to the sorrowful, and deep love to those who have ministered in God's love for so long. By giving generously to the Christmas Fund, we will help retired clergy, church staff, and their families to pay bills, maintain health insurance, and meet emergency needs. Year after year, our gifts make a difference, easing the anxiety of constant financial worries.

Last year, the Christmas Fund, administered by the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ, provided over \$1.6 million in pension and health benefits supplementation, emergency grants, and thank-you checks to retired servants of the church and their families. Every cent of that money came from the pockets of people like you. Please give as generously as you are able this year!

In 2021, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 231 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,104,479)
- Health benefits supplementation for 87 retired clergy and lay employees (\$177,600)
- Emergency grants for 53 individuals and families (\$150,338)
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 509 retired clergy and lay employees (\$254,000)

The Christmas Fund

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund



TODAY

9:30 a.m. – Children’s Christmas Program

December 18

9:30 a.m. - Choir Christmas Concert

December 24

Christmas Eve

6:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.

Candlelight Services of Lessons and Carols

December 25

Christmas Day

ONLY ONE SERVICE

9:30 a.m.

January 1

First Sunday after Christmas

ONLY ONE SERVICE

9:30 a.m. with Communion

Guest Pastor: Rev. Russ Knoth

Christmas in the Cedars

featuring the Cedar Choristers and Chimes

*All are invited to enjoy music
of the holiday season.*

Monday, December 12
4 p.m.

Cedar Ridge Campus | Grand Hall
113 Cedar Ridge Drive, West Bend

Directed by:
Sherry McElhatton
and
Amy Kopfmann

Accompanied at the piano by:
Carol Hanson
and
Sherry McElhatton

*Come early to hear pre-concert
carols played by The Grands Trio.*

cedar 
community