



# **Peace United Church of Christ**

Rev. Eric Kirkegaard

December 12, 2021

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

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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

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*Our vision:* "Peace Church exists to feed souls,  
grow in God's extravagant love and  
together serve all of God's children and creation."

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## WORSHIP SERVICE

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Prelude

8:00 a.m. - Ecumen

“Rejoice and Sing Noel”

“Little Drummer Boy/Peace On Earth arr. Jay Althouse

Greetings – Announcements – Prayer Requests

**Lighting the Advent Candle** – adapted from *Prayers for All Seasons*

One: Holy One, we light three candles, flickers of light  
seeking to make themselves known in the darkness,  
signs of belonging, of growth,  
of possibility, of awe and wonder.

**All: May they be a reminder of your divine spark,  
kindling new beginnings within us.  
May peace and hope kindle a longed-for joy among us.**

One: We wait in hope, we seek out peace, we embrace joy with all your  
people through the ages and into tomorrow.

**All: May we see the grace that surrounds us,  
May we know the love that holds us close,  
May we live in God's way of hope,  
May we find the peace for which we yearn. Amen**

Hymn # 165

“When God is a Child” – verse 1 - 3

Preparing Our Hearts For God – from Isaiah 12

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

**Many: And also with you.**

One: In that day you will say: “I will praise you, O LORD.

Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you  
have comforted me.

**Many:** Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid, for the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.”  
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

**One:** In that day you will say: “Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted.

**Many:** Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.

**All:** *Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”*

### Prayer of Confession

**One:** With humble spirits we offer our confession to God:

**All:** God of wondrous mystery, we confess that we fail to follow in your paths of righteousness. We are deeply attracted to your ways, to your passion and light, and yet we choose our ways and our desires first. We yearn for the joy which your people have sung about through the ages, and yet we fill our lives with the stuff of the world which offers only fleeting joy. Call us to yourself again O God, that we may once again lay aside our brokenness, our selfishness, our pettiness. Help us to live, and love, and care as you would have us do both for our neighbors and for ourselves. Hold us firm to your call to repent of our sins and to trust in your forgiveness. Challenge us with your vision of the kingdom 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

**One:** Hear the good news which Christ offers: nothing can separate us from the love of God. God offers us mercy, not because of anything which we have done, but through the power and promise of God’s salvation.

↑The Passing of the Peace

Peace be with you  
**And also with you**

8:00 and 9:30 a.m. - Youth Choir

“A Star, A Song, A Sign”  
“Two French Noels”

Brian Nix  
arr. David Waggoner

Gospel

[Luke 3:1-18](#)

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A Time for the Big Kids - Please sing: “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know” there is no  
Sunday School Today – Instead we are blessed with our children’s program

OT Lesson

[Zephaniah 3:14-20](#)

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The Children’s Sunday School Program

↑Hymn #233

“We Three Kings”

vss. 1 & 5

Prayer of Dedication

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

Pastoral Prayer – Silent Prayer

Benediction – Philippians 4:4-7

Leader: *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, stand watch your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Go in peace, serve the Lord.*

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

Announcements

↑Hymn #198

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Postlude

**Lectionary for December 19:** Micah 5:2-5a • Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7 • Hebrews 10:5-10 • Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

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***SERVING TODAY***

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Litanist:	Video:	Jake Lemke
Organist: Karla Spaits	Audio:	Joshua Spaits

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***BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES***

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**Happy Birthday – December 12 - 18**

Dec. 12 Patricia Heaslip, Jerry Shoemaker  
Dec. 13 Grace Lee, Eli Ogi  
Dec. 14 Jason Piittmann, Samantha Wiskirchen  
Dec. 16 Nicole Stern  
Dec. 17 Rachel Ogi, Mary Steger  
Dec. 18 Gayle Van Ess

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***NEWS & NOTES***

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**Scholarship Committee Christmas Cookie, Coffee and Tea Sale**

During fellowship time on December 12, there will be a Christmas Cookie Sale sponsored by the Scholarship Committee. Coffee and tea will also be available. Occasionally over the next few weeks during fellowship time between services, coffee and tea will be available for purchase. Thank you, Peace Church, for supporting this wonderful program!

**A Reminder To All Scholarship Recipients That Your First Semester Grades Are Due In The Church Office By February 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Keys Christmas Concert** - KEYS will be presenting a Christmas concert to benefit the scholarship program. This year's concert will be held on Sunday, December 12 in the Kewaskum High School Theater. Music will be performed by the Kewaskum Big Band, the EcuMen from various community churches and the Kewaskum Bel Canto Choir. The concert will begin at 6:30 and tickets will be available at the door for \$5.00. Enjoy an evening of spirited music during the holiday season and help support Kewaskum Youth Scholarships.

## Gingerbread House - Giving Tree

Every year Peace Church participates in the Gingerbread House Giving Tree. Last year, because of circumstances, Peace Church gave gift cards instead of purchasing presents for families. We will be doing that again this year. 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, 2021. Last Christmas Peace Church donated a total of \$1,075 in gift cards that were given to the Giving Tree! Thank you all for participating in this very worthy program!



## Middle School Youth Group

Karla and Josh Spaits are leading the Middle School Youth Group with lots of fun activities and events! Spread the word, bring a friend, come!

### **DECEMBER**

- **No Youth Group December 18th, 25th, or January 1st.**
- **January 8<sup>th</sup> - 5-8 pm Movie and Games**
- **January 15<sup>th</sup> - Tubing at Sunburst**
- **January 22<sup>nd</sup> TBD and January 29<sup>th</sup> TBD**



**Young Adult Habitat Trip – January 2-10** – We will once again be taking a mission team of college-aged young adults to work with **Winston-Salem, NC** local Habitat affiliate. We don't yet know what the work will entail, but we know that we will start the New Year contributing to the vision of decent housing for all of God's children. Contact Pastor Eric or the church office for more information.

## Calendar for the Week of December 12, 2021

Tuesday – Lectionary Group – 10:00 a.m.; Choir Practice 6:00 p.m.; Consistory Meeting at 6:30 p.m.,  
Wednesday – XYZ Cards, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class – 4:00 p.m.; Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  
Friday – Michael Schmidt Funeral – 1:00 service

**Movie & Munchies** has been canceled for December. Watch for updates on upcoming movies and dates for 2022!

**2022 Offering Envelopes** are available in the **Narthex**. Please take them home. If we have inadvertently missed you, please call the church office and we will quickly correct our error. **DO NOT USE UNTIL 2022**. Please note that your envelope number might have changed from previous years!

All 2021 contributions must be in the church office on **December 30<sup>th</sup>** to be credited in 2021. Thank you.



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## *PRAYER LIST*

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**Please let us know of any updates to the Prayer Lists**

**Those in Need of Healing:** all shut-ins and those experiencing pain or loss

**Members:**

Rev. Bob Blackburn  
Fran Charland  
Dave Domasky  
Betty Graff  
Jon Herbst  
Jackie McCurdy  
Marilyn McIntosh  
Dennis Novotny

Sharon Ostermann  
Jason Piittmann  
Lynn Rusch  
John Schmahl  
Mary Tessar  
Greg Vorpahl  
Bev Winninghoff  
Connie Zemlicka

**Friends & Family:**

Ezekiel  
Gene  
Lorrie (H. Bruenn)  
Jenna Butchlick  
Eric Covington (Fleury)  
Howard Floeter (Lemke)  
Klaine (Lemke)  
Jason Lemke

Patricia Hohl  
Debbie (Hallen)  
Jeremy (Rodenkirch)  
Alan Kuehl (J. Manthei)  
Gerald Piittmann  
Babette Rhoads  
Josie Schoneman  
Colin Volm

**Those Dealing with Cancer:**

**Members:** Betty Fleury, Laurie Struck, Carol Butzlaff, Dean Roe, Jim Roe, Joan Schleif, Heidi Rodenkirch, Sheri Rehn



### **Friends & Family:**

David (Grundahl)	Brenda Jacklin (Piittmann)
Betty (J. Michaels)	Kathy Jarolimek (Henk)
Kathy (Augustin)	Kathy (S. Augustin family)
Jean Cornell (Herriges)	Zannah & Kendra (Lindgren)
Bonnie Erickson (Winninghoff)	Sheri Theep (Van Beek)
Kerri Estep (Atwater)	Sue Mitchell (Rhoads)
Alan Floeter (Lemke)	Dennis Liepert (J. Michaels)
Youdy Gaston (Thomas)	Sandra Senn (P. Behr)
Nancy Gruebling (Kletti)	Susan Tolonen
Paula Hader (Adler)	

**Those in Hospice care and their families:** Ruth Whyte

### **Those Serving our Country**

**Thank you** to the following who are currently serving in the **Armed Forces**, for their courage, strength, and dedication to keeping us safe:

Julia (Leithold) Beasley (Air Force)  
Sgt. Tyler Graff (Air Force – Betty Graff grandson)  
Spencer Guenther (Air Force – Van Ess nephew)  
Matthew Jankowski (Army National Guard – Jackie McCurdy grandson)  
Luke Linden (Army National Guard – Joanne Amerling grandson)  
Major Erik Rundquist (Army)  
Maggie Singer (Army National Guard)  
Dallas Stolarski (Marine Corp. – Knoth grandson)  
Ryan Wunsch (Army National Guard – McElhatton son-in-law)  
Samuel Zemlicka-Retzlaff (Air Force)

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## ***PEACE CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION***

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**Contact Us At: P. O. Box 433, Kewaskum, WI 53040**

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

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

Pastor Bob Blackburn, Visitation Minister (currently on medical leave)

Peace Church Prayer Chain - [prayers@peace-ucc.org](mailto:prayers@peace-ucc.org)

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



**December 24<sup>th</sup>  
Christmas Eve  
6:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.  
Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols**

**December 25<sup>th</sup>  
Christmas Day  
9:30 a.m.**

**December 26<sup>th</sup>  
First Sunday after Christmas  
9:30 a.m.  
Rev. Russ Knoth preaching**