



Peace United Church of Christ

Rev. Eric Kirkegaard

December 19, 2021

Fourth 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."

WORSHIP SERVICE

Prelude

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”
“Away in the Manger”

by Virginia Carrington Thomas

Greetings – Announcements – Prayer Requests

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

One: Holy One, we light four 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, hope and joy lead us ever deeper into your love.**

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

**All: May we see the joyful 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”

Preparing Our Hearts For God – from Micah 5:2-5a

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

Many: And also with you.

One: “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of
Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose
origins are from of old, from ancient times.” Therefore, Israel will be
abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest
of his kindred shall return to join the Israelites.

**Many: He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in
the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live**

**securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.
And he will be their peace.”**

Hymn # 209

“Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow”
Congregation and Choir

Prayer of Confession

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

God of startling indwelling, we confess that the full conviction of our hearts scatter when we think of completely responding to the unpredictable call of God. We timidly wonder how we would have responded if we were Mary told that she would carry, birth, and parent the Son of God. We confess our eagerness to speak willing words that would mask our fear. We confess our trepidation at the prospect of what being fully your servant might mean to our lives.

Lord of Lords, we confess our distractions. We confess our unshakeable attachment to our own desires. We confess the ways in which we still have not allowed your birth to transform our lives every day. We sin against you in thought, word and deed. Forgive us O God, for what we do and for what we fail to do. Help us to live, and love, and care as you would have us do - both for our neighbors and for ourselves. In Jesus name we pray. 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.

†Act of Praise #177

“Jesus, Name Above All Names”

†The Passing of the Peace

Peace be with you
And also with you

9:30 a.m.

“A Tiny Child Will Come”
“Mary Did You Know”
The Chancel Choir

Children's Time - Please sing: "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know"

8:00 Sermon "When two pregnant bellies meet..."

9:30 a.m. "Little Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth"
The Churchmen

Prayer of Dedication

We offer to you, O God, the gifts of our lives and service. Keep us close Lord, to all who need your love, justice, compassion, and healing; help us to show them that you are made known in Jesus Christ, whose compassion lives in all of us. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer – Lord's Prayer - Silent 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

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Announcements

#218 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"
Congregation and Choir

Postlude

Lectionary for December 24: Isaiah 62:6-12 • Psalm 97 • Titus 3:4-7 • Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20

Lectionary for December 25: Isaiah 9:2-7 • Psalm 96 • Titus 2:11-14 • Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

Lectionary for December 26: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 • Psalm 148 • Colossians 3:12-17 • Luke 2:41-52

SERVING TODAY

Litanist: Chris Rode
Organist: Karla Spaits

Video: Jake Lemke
Audio: Joshua Spaits

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday – December 19 - 25

Dec. 19 Karla Spaits
Dec. 20 Corbin Walker
Dec. 21 Kathy Danielson
Dec. 23 Nolan Bocher, Carl Eisen, James Gardner (88)
Dec. 25 Betty Spaltner (81)

NEWS & NOTES

Calendar for the Week of December 19, 2021

Tuesday – Lectionary Group – 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday – XYZ Cards, NO 9th Grade Confirmation Class; NO Bible Study

Friday – Office Closed - Christmas Eve Service 6:30 & 8:30 p.m.

Saturday – Christmas Day Service 9:30 a.m.

Sunday – December 26 Service 9:30 a.m. NO 8:00 Service

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



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 8th - 5-8 pm Movie and Games**
- **January 15th - Tubing at Sunburst**
- **January 22nd TBD and January 29th TBD**

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

A Huge Thank You! Peace Church members donated \$1,315 in gift cards to the Washington County Gingerbread House which is part of the Youth and Family Project of Washington County. Thanks for contributing to this wonderful cause.

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 30th** to be credited in 2021. Thank you.

Peace Church Kitchen Remodeling Project Update

For the last couple of years, there has been a committee that has been working diligently on a plan to remodel our church kitchen. We have met with many contractors to discuss our project and are in the process of getting pricing.

When the time comes to dismantle the kitchen, we would like to find a new home for the existing cabinets, stove, refrigerator, dishes, and cups. If you would like to bid on these items or know someone that does, please write your name and phone number on a piece of paper along with your bid and put it in an envelope. Drop this off at the church office. If you have any questions, the committee consists of Mary Billman, Kathy Mertz, Nancy Stoffel, Becky Manthei, Shirley Ogi, Clark Pearson, Pastor Eric, and Karen Kletti.

Peace Church's New Sign

Our Peace Church sign on First Street has been updated thanks to Mary Billman, Sandi Radeztsky, and John Kletti. The garden surrounding the sign has always been maintained and filled with beautiful plants thanks to Rachel Kluever. Rachel's family originally paid for the stone structure many years ago.

PRAYER LIST

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
Rose Ambler (B. Hallen)
Pat Jordan (B. Hallen)
Lorrie (H. Bruenn)
Jenna Butchlick
Julie (Breitbach)
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)
Betty (J. Michaels)
Kathy (Augustin)
Heidi (Manthei)
Henry (Meinberg)
Jean Cornell (Herriges)
Bonnie Erickson (Winninghoff)
Kerri Estep (Atwater)
Alan Floeter (Lemke)
Youdy Gaston (Thomas)

Nancy Gruebling (Kletti)
Paula Hader (Adler)
Brenda Jacklin (Piittmann)
Kathy Jarolimek (Henk)
Kathy (S. Augustin family)
Sheri Theep (Van Beek)
Sue Mitchell (Rhoads)
Dennis Liepert (J. Michaels)
Sandra Senn (P. Behr)
Susan Tolonen

Those in Hospice care and their families: Ruth Whyte

Prayers of Comfort:

To Cheryl Dickman and family on the death of her brother-in-law, Denny Adelman, who passed away on Monday, December 13, 2021.

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 Stolowski (Marine Corp. – Knoth grandson)

Ryan Wunsch (Army National Guard – McElhatton son-in-law)

Samuel Zemlicka-Retzlaff (Air Force)

PEACE CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Church Office – Robin Mock 262-626-4011 - office@peace-ucc.org

Pastor Eric cell: 262-707-0758 - pastor@peace-ucc.org

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

Peace Church Prayer Chain - prayers@peace-ucc.org

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



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

**December 25th
Christmas Day
9:30 a.m.**

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