



Peace United Church of Christ
Rev. Eric Kirkegaard – Vikar Jakob Kröner
December 24, 2023
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.”*

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

GREETINGS - A TIME OF CENTERING

***HYMN 189** “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

PRAYER OF LOVE – 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 your love that passes all understanding, as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ.

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

HYMN 175 “We Light the Advent Candles” vs 1&5

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God, you seek to include us in giving birth to your kingdom in our world; yet our fear and our lack of confidence hinders us. Forgive us our failures to trust in the power with which you have created us; we doubt our own capacity to serve your transforming vision. Claim us again and ignite your spirit-fire within us. Guide us in preparing our lives for you. With longing 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.”

God, our Redeemer, has given us the ultimate gift. God's gift to us is grace - everlasting love offered in startling and unexpected ways. God reaches out to us and assures us that God's love is real and new life is for each of us. Glory to God!

***RESPONSE 177 – “Jesus, Name Above All Names”**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you

SPECIAL MUSIC “Et in Terra Pax” John Purifoy

Joan Adler, Kay Blackburn, Mia Dornacker,
Becky Manthei, Mugs McFadden, Kathy Thomas

LESSON Romans 16:25-27 (page 868)

LESSON Luke 1:46b-55 (page 782)

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

HYMN 191 “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

GOSPEL John 1:1-5, 14 (page 809)

SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC

***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 DEDICATON**

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

BENEDICTION

***HYMN 153** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

POSTLUDE

Serving Today: Musicians: Karla Spaits, Mia Dornacker;
Video: David Dorn

Lectionary for December 31 – Isaiah 61:10-62:3 • Psalm 148 • Galatians 4:4-7 • Luke 2:22-40

Happy Birthday Dec 24 – 30

Dec 25 Betty Spaltner (83)
Dec 26 Anna Piittmann
Dec 27 Scott Buss
Dec 29 Cathy Stern
Dec 30 Taylor O'Brien-Flasch

Happy Anniversary Dec 24 – 30

Dec 29 Jean & Jeffrey Reigle (50)
Dec 30 Matthew & Rachel Schemelin (23)

Calendar for the Week of December 24

12/25 Christmas Day Service-9:30 am
12/26 Church Office Closed
12/27 XYZ Cards
12/28 10:00 a.m. Living the Questions
NO Grief Group this week
12/31 One Worship Service at 9:30a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Christmas Day Worship is at 9:30 a.m.
- Pastor Eric will be off from December 25th after worship through December 30th. In case of pastoral emergency, please contact: Vikar Jakob Kröner 262-353-8840.
- All contributions to the Church for 2023 must be in the Church Office by December 31st to be included in 2023.
- Peace Church Christmas Offerings: Christmas offering distribution will be divided equally between UCC Disaster Relief, Peace Pantry, and West Bend Full Shelf Pantry

- The church office will be closed December 25th, 26th, and January 1st.
- There WILL be Living the Questions Study on December 28th at 10:00 a.m.
- There will be NO grief group on December 28th. It will resume January 11th
- There will be ONE service December 31st, at 9:30 a.m.

Prayers of Comfort:

For the family of Pat Heaslip (died 12/18/2023) Services will be at Miller-Myrhum-Patten Funeral Home Saturday, Dec. 30th. Visitation from 11a.m.-1:45p.m., Funeral Service at 2:00p.m.

Prayers of Celebration:

For the birth of Baker Ernest Heidenreiter (born 12/16/2023) grandson of Robin and Alan Mock.

Poinsettias Given in Memory of:

- ♥ Harry E. & Janet C. Koch by Gary, Melissa & Beth Sandvig
- ♥ Eileen Ramthun from Harold Ramthun
- ♥ James Roe from Carol Roe
- ♥ Our loved ones from Karen & John Grundahl
- ♥ Our parents, Earl & Jean Peters and Henry & Mabel Billmann from Mary & Joe Billmann
- ♥ Willard & Dolores Prost from Scott & Janine Prost-Domasky
- ♥ Marlene Domasky from David Domasky
- ♥ John Gudex from Jeff & Mary Steger
- ♥ Barbara O'Connor & Kathryn O'Connor Kuhn from Jerry O'Connor
- ♥ Elmer Hallen from Betty Hallen
- ♥ Butch, Audrey, and Linda Stier from Sharon Stier
- ♥ Gerald & Virginia Blackburn and Leslie & Helen Reynolds from Pastor Bob & Kay Blackburn
- ♥ Susan Spoerl from Steve Spoerl
- ♥ Lyle Polzin from the Jared Polzin Family
- ♥ Jean Hamilton from Bob Schrader
- ♥ Beloved family from Bob Schrader
- ♥ Nancy Hovland from the Hovland Family
- ♥ Maurice Hovland from the Hovland Family
- ♥ Mitchell Ogi from Shirley Ogi
- ♥ Linda Kettling from Elys Kettling Law
- ♥ David and Hazel Gudex from Christ Gudex

Poinsettias Given in Honor of:

- ♥ In Honor of Chris Rode
- ♥ The Birth of our Lord from Jeff & Mary Spurgat
- ♥ In Honor of Clark Pearson

Please pick up your poinsettias immediately following the Christmas Day Service.