



Peace United Church of Christ

Rev. Eric Kirkegaard

December 3, 2023

First 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 Jesus So Gentle, Jesus So Sweet” Bach

GREETINGS - A TIME OF CENTERING

***HYMN 159** “The King of Glory Comes”

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 your radiance, O God, will be kindled in our hearts, filling us with faith, as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ.

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

HYMN #175 “We Light the Advent Candles” vs 1&2

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, the One in whose hands we are like clay. 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 80:1-7, 17-19 (page 446)

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

#737 Santo, Santo, Santo

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.

My heart is glad to say the words:

you are Holy, Lord!

Santo, santo, santo, mi corazon te adora.

Mi corazon te sabe decir: santo eres Senor.

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (IN UNISON)

O God, in this simple meal you come to us again. You share yourself and your sustaining Spirit with our hungry souls. In the broken bread and the shared cup, the good news is proclaimed. Christ was born, Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again. Amen

HYMN 163 “All Earth is Hopeful”

LESSON Isaiah 64:1-9 (page 574)

GOSPEL Luke 1:26-38 (page 781)

SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC “Hallelujah”

***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. Amen.**

***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 176** “Lift Up Your Heads”

POSTLUDE

Serving Today: Musician: Karla Spaits; Litanists: Mia
Dornacker, Joan Adler; Video: David Dorn

Today’s Altar Flowers in memory of Virginia “Jinny”
Michaels from her loving family.

Lectionary for December 10 - second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11 • Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 • 2 Peter 3:8-15a •
Mark 1:1-8

Happy Birthday Dec 3 - 9

Dec 3 Arthur Schmidt (86)

Dec 4 Ralph Faisst (95), Kathy Schreffler

Dec 5 Betty Hallen (97)

Dec 6 Carol Clark (94), Jeanne Wood (87)

Dec 8 Matt Kivell, Lauren Krebs, Dennis Novotny (80)

Calendar for the Week of December 3

12/3 9th Grade Confirmation 5:30-7 pm

12/5 Lectionary 10 am, Faith Formation 7 pm

12/6 XYZ Cards, Book Club 9:30 am,
Community Meal 4:30-6 pm

12/7 Prayer Shawl 1 pm

12/9 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.

2024 Peace Church Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up TODAY in the parking lot lobby. If we have inadvertently missed you, please call the church office and we will issue you a box of envelopes. PLEASE NOTE: It is VERY likely that your envelope number has changed from last year's. **Please do not use these envelopes until Sunday, January 7, 2023.** Thank you!

Texas Roadhouse & Habitat: Texas Roadhouse has generously donated to the Peace Church Community Meals many times. The West Bend location has partnered with Habitat for Humanity for a delicious fundraiser. If you dine there on December 6th, mention Habitat, and Texas Roadhouse will donate 10% of your meal price to support the Habitat mission.

Prayers of Healing- for Bev Martel's mother, Sharon, who is still hospitalized recovering from a brain bleed.

Poinsettias

This year we again invite you to order a Christmas poinsettia through Peace Church. The plants will be identical in size and all of them red in color. They will be in 6 ½ inch pots and come with foil wrap. Cost per plant will be \$20.00. These plants may be ordered in memory of loved ones, in honor of special moments or persons, or just love gifts. They will be placed in church on December 24th. **After the service on December 25th, you may take your plant home to enjoy.** Wouldn't you like to help beautify the church sanctuary with these traditional Christmas flowers? Please contact the church office 626-4011, email: office@peace-ucc.org, or mail: P. O. Box 433, Kewaskum, WI 53040 by December 5th. Plants must be paid for in advance. Thank you!

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Christmas Poinsettia Order

Please order _____ Plant(s) for me:

Name _____

Amount of Check _____ (\$20.00 per plant – payable to Peace UCC)

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Other Designation _____



Peace United Church of Christ

COMMUNITY MEAL

Wednesday, December 6th - 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Sloppy Joes, Tater Tots, Veggies with Dip,
Peaches, Dessert & Beverage

FREE TO ALL!

