



Peace United Church of Christ
Rev. Eric Kirkegaard – Vikar Jakob Kröner
December 31st, 2023
First Sunday After Christmas

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
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On the web @ www.peace-ucc.org, YouTube: Peace UCC Kewaskum

****Please stand***

WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE

GREETINGS - A TIME OF CENTERING

*HYMN 223

“Star Child”

TURNING OUR HEARTS TO GOD – Psalm 148

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

All: And also with you.

One: Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens, praise him in the heights above.

All: Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

One: Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars.

All: Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

One: He set them in place for ever and ever; he gave a decree that will never pass away.

All: Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds,

One: Stormy winds that do his bidding, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle,

All: Small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations,

One: You princes and all rulers on earth, young men and maidens, old men and children.

All: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

One: He has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his saints, of Israel, the people close to his heart.

All: Praise the LORD.

CONFESSING AND RECEIVING FORGIVENESS

O God of the Poor and Endangered Ones whose children are the prey of the Herods of this world
Be our Emmanuel, God-with-us, a Spirit of Courage for those who must flee to safety and opportunity for life.

O God of the Poor and Endangered Ones whose children are the prey of the Herods of this world
Be our Jesus, Savior from the power of sin, a Spirit of Peace for those who work for Justice, and an end to the violence.

O God of the Poor and Endangered Ones whose children are the prey of the Herods of this world
Be our Wonderful Counselor, a Spirit of Hospitality for all who welcome the stranger and offer a sanctuary of Hope.

All this we pray in the Name of the One who loves us, calls us each by a precious name and sends us forth to spread the Good News.

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, the one who tenderly created all that is, has proclaimed compassion for a broken world, and its broken people. Jesus is born as witness to the world that love is real and new life is for each of us. Rejoice and sing, for Christ has come, Emmanuel!

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

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you

SPECIAL MUSIC

Happy Birthday Dec 31 – Jan 6

Jan 3 Pam Ludwig

Jan 5 Sarah Guillaume, Jim Mohr

Calendar for the Week of December 31

1/1 Happy New Year! Office closed

1/2 Lectionary 10 am, Faith Formation 7 pm

1/3 XYZ Cards, Book Club 9:30 am,
Community Meal 4:30 -6 pm

Prayers of Comfort: to the family and friends of Patricia Heaslip. Patricia passed away on December 17, 2023.

An illustration of several hands of various skin tones reaching upwards, each holding a red heart. The hands are arranged in a circular pattern, with some at the top and others at the bottom, creating a sense of unity and community. The background is a light, warm tone.

PEACE UCC

Community Meal

Grilled Cheese, Tomato Soup,
Fritos, Fresh Veggies & Dip,
Dessert & Beverage

January 3rd, 4:30- 6:00 pm

FREE FOR ALL!
COME JOIN US