



# **Peace United Church of Christ**

Rev. Eric Kirkegaard

December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent

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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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“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

“Gesù Bambino”

Lorie Line

Greetings – Announcements – Prayer Requests

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

One: Holy One, we light two 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 join with hope and be born among us.**

One: We wait in hope, we seek out peace, 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 & 2

Preparing Our Hearts For God

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

**Many: And also with you.**

One: We come to prepare our hearts for the joy which Christ would offer to each of us. We remember how John went into the wilderness proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

**Many: His was a voice crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, Make his paths straight...”**

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

**All: Beloved Lord, you often beckoned to us, giving us challenges which seem too great to bear. You steadily trust in us, and still we doubt in ourselves...and in you. Tender Christ, we fall short of your ways in thought, word and deed. We fail to fully use the gifts with which you bless us to serve you. For what we have done, and for what we have failed to do we ask your forgiveness. Lord, speak to our brokenness with the power of your grace! Guide us in living into your kingdom: 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:** God our creator leads us toward new pathways God our redeemer, offers healing to our brokenness and forgiveness for our sins. God our comforter lifts us up and carries us in hope and love. In God’s mercy all is made new. Amen.

†Act of Praise #177 “Jesus, Name Above All Names”

†The Passing of the Peace

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

### 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.*

Sharing Christ’s Story

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 hungering 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**

Lesson [Luke 1:68-79](#) (Page 782)

The Children's Time - Please hum or sing: "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know" as the children come down to the front before being sent to Sunday School

↑Hymn #167 "Long Ago, Prophets Knew"

Lesson [Philippians 1:3-11](#) (Page 893)

Gospel [Luke 3:1-6](#) (Page 784)

Sermon "The Word of God Came To"

Special Music "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" arr. Robert Vandall

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

Leader: "And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God." *Philippians 1:9-11*

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

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

Announcements

↑Hymn #189 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Postlude

**Lectionary for December 12: Zephaniah 3:14-20 • Isaiah 12:2-6 • Philippians 4:4-7 • Luke 3:7-18**

**Today's Altar Flowers** are from Janel Gassner in memory of Robert Gassner.

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***SERVING TODAY***

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Guest Pastor: Rev. Russ Knoth

Musician: Karla Spaits

Litanist: Chris Rode

Video: Jake Lemke

Organist: Sherry McElhatton

Audio: Joshua Spaits

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***BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES***

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**Happy Birthday – December 5 - 11**

Dec. 5 Betty Hallen (95), Kyle Henk

Dec. 6 Carol Clark (92), Jeanne Wood (85)

Dec. 7 Jeanne Becker, Ryan Thull

Dec. 8 Matt Kivell, Lauren Krebs, Dennis Novotny, Scott Schreffler

Dec. 11 Rose Marie Knoth (82)

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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!

**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**

- **December 5 (Sunday)** - Kewaskum Christmas Parade and Cookie Scavenger Hunt  
Scavenger Hunt 1-4 pm; Christmas Parade: 5:00 p.m.
- **December 11<sup>th</sup>** - 5-8 pm Movie and Games
- **No Youth Group December 18th, 25th, or January 1st.**
- **January 8<sup>th</sup>** - 5-8pm Movie and Games
- **January 15<sup>th</sup>** - Tubing at Sunburst
- **January 22nd TBD and January 29th TBD**

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## ***FOCUS ON SUNDAY SCHOOL***

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**Sunday, December 5, Noon – 4:00 p.m.** - Peace Church will participate in the Kewaskum Cookie Walk, sharing freshly baked and decorated Christmas cookies, the Christmas narrative, schedule of holiday services, and a small gift for each child.

**Sunday, December 5, 5:00 p.m.** The Kewaskum Christmas Parade kicks off with the theme “Christmas at the Movies.” Peace Church will be entering a float in this year’s parade, with the theme being from the movie “It’s a Wonderful Life”. All children, youth, and adults are invited to participate by walking next to the float

**Sunday, December 12** – The Sunday School Christmas Program will be offered during the 9:30 a.m. worship service. (Rehearsals 12/4 and 12/11)



**Sunday, December 19** – Allow the choirs from Peace Church to lift your holiday spirit by performing beautiful music of the season at their annual Choir Concert. Youth and adult choirs will participate.

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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)  
Betty (J. Michaels)

Kathy (Augustin)  
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)  
Zannah & Kendra (Lindgren)  
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

**In Prayers of Comfort:**

Colleen Schmidt and the family and friends of Michael Schmidt, who passed away on Saturday, November 27<sup>th</sup>.

**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)

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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

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

**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 1/2 inch pots and come with foil wrap. Cost per plant will be \$17.00. 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:office@peace-ucc.org), or mail: P. O. Box 433, Kewaskum, WI 53040 by November 29<sup>th</sup>. Plants must be paid for in advance. When ordering please indicate whether you will take your plant home or if you would like your plant taken to the sick, shut-in, or those unable to come to Church at Christmas. If you are willing to help deliver plants, please inform Robin in the church office. Thank you!

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**Christmas Poinsettia Order**

Please order \_\_\_\_\_ Plant(s) for me:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Check \_\_\_\_\_ (\$17.00 per plant – payable to Peace UCC)

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Other Designation \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I will take my plant home

\_\_\_\_ I would like my plant(s) delivered to those unable to come to Church on Christmas

\_\_\_\_ I will help deliver plants