



Peace United Church of Christ
Rev. Eric Kirkegaard
April 30, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

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

WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE “Abend ward, bald kommt die Nacht”

GREETINGS/PRAYER REQUESTS

***HYMN 436** “Grace Along”

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come; gather in the embrace of a loving God.

Many: **Now is the time to worship. We come with hungry souls. Gather us in prayer and song.**

One: Come and share in God's witness offered to all

CONFESSING WITH THE PSALMIST – based on Psalm 23

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

All: **And also with you.**

One: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

All: **You would offer me life Lord, and offer it abundantly, yet I am so focused on my own desires that I fail to be satisfied with the blessings you bestow.**

One: He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

All: **God, my God, why is it so difficult to allow your mercy to restore my soul? Help me to follow, to trust in your ways and to feel the touch of your grace.**

One: Even though I walk through the darkest valley; I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me.

All: **Beloved Lord, some journeys seem too long and too dark to endure. I yearn for your aid. I cry out with longing that you would make me whole. Your shelter has always surrounded me; help me to release my fear. I believe! And yet still I feel broken. I sin against you and your creation in thought word and deed. And yet you claim me and comfort me...**

One: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

All: Even when I am least Christian to those around me, still you fill my cup to overflowing. Brother Christ, I have not loved my neighbor as myself. I do not always walk in your paths. I confess my sin and seek your forgiveness.

(a moment of silence)

One: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

All: Teach us again to pray as we lift our voices to God: "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."

One: Hear the good news of God's abundant love. Through God's grace we are offered forgiveness. Christ shepherds us into new life.

All: Thanks be to God!

***A Response of Halleluja "Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le, lu-ja"**

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Peace be with you

And also with you

The Children's Time - As the children come forward, please sing Hymn 226 "Jesus Loves Me" vs. 1

HYMN 440 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

LESSON selections from Ezekiel 34 :1-16, 31 (page 662)

GOSPEL LESSON John 10:1-10 (page 819)

SERMON

Special Music "To God Be the Glory" Vandall

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Beautiful Lord, Risen Savior, we open our lives to Your spirit. We offer ourselves, our labors, our love, all that we are, to You and to Your world.

**Bless our gifts and guide us as your servants.
Amen.**

PASTORAL PRAYER - SILENT PRAYER

BENEDICTION

One: ...Go in peace, serve the Lord.

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

***HYMN 712** "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

POSTLUDE

Serving Today: Vikar Jakob Kröner will lead today's service. Musicians: Sherry McElhatton, Karla Spaits, Lia Piittmann; Chancel Choir Director: Bill Stangl; Litanist: Jackie McCurdy; Video: Katelyn Scannell; Ushers/Greeters: Greg & Juli Ogi, Shirley Ogi



Altar Flowers – please consider donating towards the flowers that are on the altar on Sundays. You may request that your donation be in memory or in honor of someone. Contact the church office via email or phone to make your request. Thank you!

Lectionary for May 7: Acts 7:55-60 • Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 • 1 Peter 2:2-10 • John 14:1-14

NEWS & NOTES

Happy Birthday April 30- May 6

May 1 Scott Herman, David Simon
May 3 Herman Panzer (88), Katelyn Scannell
May 4 Bob Blackburn, Elsa Kirkegaard,
Mary Tessar (89)

Happy Anniversary April 30- May 6

May 2 Bill & Karen Grahl (59)
John & Debbie Guillaume (31)
May 6 David & Brenda Roehrig (23)

Calendar for the Week of April 30, 2023*

- 4/30 Sunday services with Vikar Jakob Kröner
5/2 Lectionary 10 am, Adult Faith Formation 7:00 pm
5/3 XYZ Cards, Book Club 9:30 am, Community Meal
4:30-6:30 pm
5/4 Prayer Shawl Group 1:00 pm

*Please note that from 4/24-5/2, Pastor Eric will be out of the office. Please contact Vikar Jakob in case of emergency. Robin Mock will be out of the office from 4/26-5/3. The church office will be staffed by Chris Rode during that time.

Habitat for Humanity Trip – July 9th-14th This year we are planning an inter-generational Habitat Trip to Red Wing Minnesota. Anyone who has completed their freshman year in high school or beyond (even well beyond) is welcome to come and lend a hand in seeking to provide decent housing for all of God's children. The affiliate is asking for a minimum of 7 people, but we are hoping for many more than that. The cost will be \$75 for members or \$100 for non-members. If you have questions please contact Karen Kletti, Clark Pearson, or Pastor Eric.

Food with Friends (formerly Dinner for Eight) – Oops! We have misplaced our sign-up sheet and need to know who is hosting and who is coming for dinner! If you signed up to either host or participate for Food with Friends, please contact Sandi Radeztsky (262-744-9496) or the church office (262-626-4011) so we can update our list! Thank you!

Canoe Trip Meeting – There will be a Canada Canoe Trip planning meeting for all those on the sign-up sheet and anyone else who is interested in this upcoming Church trip. The meeting will be held at church on Thursday evening, May 25th from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

All-Congregation Meeting - The Peace Church Constitution Committee has recently spent many hours updating the church's Constitution. Prior to an All-Congregation Meeting, the committee will be holding listening sessions to discuss the changes that were made. Listening sessions will be held on Sunday, April 23rd and Sunday, April 30th immediately following church services (after the 8:00 service and then again after the

9:30 service).

There will be the All-Congregation meeting to approve the changes on Sunday, May 7th immediately following the 9:30 a.m. service. You will be able to vote at that meeting or by emailing or calling the church office.

Peace Church Community Meal – Our next Community Meal will take place on May 3, and the first Wednesday of each month. **The May 3rd meal will be chicken casserole, Texas Roadhouse rolls with honey butter (donated by Texas Roadhouse in West Bend), fresh fruit, desserts and beverages.** All are welcome! Please contact the church office if you have any questions or wish to help. We are always looking for volunteers and desserts!

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

Current prayers will be listed for one week unless otherwise indicated. Requests may be emailed to office@peace-ucc.org or by calling the office at 262-626-4011. You may also share your prayer requests 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.

Prayers for Healing:

Dean Roe, after having emergency surgery.

Peace United Church of Christ

343 First Street, Kewaskum

PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Scholarship Fundraiser Sunday, May 21st

8:00 am-11:30 am

COST: \$8.00

(Children 5 and under FREE)

**MENU: Pancakes, Breakfast Sausages, Fresh Fruit &
Applesauce, Bakery, Coffee, Juice, and Milk**

Proceeds to fund college scholarships for Peace UCC youth