



Peace United Church of Christ
Rev. Eric Kirkegaard - Pastor
Vikar Jakob Kröner – Associate Pastor
April 7, 2024
Second Sunday of Easter - Confirmation

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

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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

“Christ Arose”

Lane

GREETINGS - A TIME OF CENTERING

HYMN 319

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

THE CALL TO WORSHIP – Psalm 133

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

All: And also with you.

One: Christ is Risen!

All: He is Risen Indeed!

One: Behold, how good and pleasant it is when kindred dwell in unity!

All: It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!

One: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion!

All: *For there the LORD ordained the blessing, life for evermore.*

CONFESSING AND RECEIVING FORGIVENESS (from the Uniting Church of Australia)

We gather here as a fellowship of people who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord. One of the major marks of this fellowship is the sense of joy we experience as we gather to worship God in person or as a community woven together in prayer. We gather to give thanks for Jesus Christ and to witness to the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Yet, we admit that there are times when we feel afraid, abandoned, and lonely; when faith leads to doubt and questions rather than a sense of joy or peace of mind. Lord Jesus Christ, unlike those first disciples, we cannot touch you or see you, and so it is all too easy to become downcast and given to despair.

Forgive us when, like the disciples, we find the truth of Easter hard to believe.

Come to us, risen Christ, come through the closed doors of our hearts and minds and take away our fears and doubts;

Come to us, risen Christ, breathe on us and fill us with the joy and peace of your presence.

Bless us all as people who have not seen you, but who believe that you are truly the risen Christ, Son of God. Humbly 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

Hear the good news: "If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9)

God rolls away the stones in our lives and proclaims the grace of new life for each of us!

The Gloria Patri

"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen."

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you

(9:30) CHANCEL CHOIR "Be Strong In The Lord"

LESSON Acts 4:32-35 (page 834)

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

HYMN 696 "Come, Share the Lord"

LESSON John 20:19-31 (page 829)

SERMON "Never Stop Being Curious"

SPECIAL MUSIC "To God Be the Glory"

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 DEDICATION

Beautiful Lord, Risen Savior, we lift our voices to You in praise and thanksgiving. All that we have and all that we are is a gift from you. Help us to remember and to celebrate what you have offered. We give because you have given to us! Bless our gifts and guide us in Your service. Amen.

(9:30 service) THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

THE INVITATION

THE QUESTIONS TO THE CONFIRMANDS

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

One: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God?

All: **I believe in God.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

All: **I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

All: **I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

We join in proclaiming together what we believe:

We believe in you, O God, Eternal spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify;

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared

our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

(The congregation may be seated.)

PRAYER OF THE CANDIDATES (Pastor and Candidates)

O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ, I give myself to you as your own, to love and serve you faithfully all the days of my life. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION (Congregation in unison)

Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE ACT OF CONFIRMATION – *Family and others who have played a significant role in the confirmands life, please come forward for the laying of hands and blessing during the rite of Confirmation.*

CONFIRMATION PRAYER

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

*** THE WELCOME** (congregation in unison)

We welcome you with joy into the family of Christ's disciples. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in the knowledge and love of God, and be faithful witnesses to our risen Savior. Alleluia and Amen.

*** THE BLESSING**

May God call you to action, to community, and to love. May Jesus accompany you with confidence, compassion and healing. May the Spirit fill you with fire and with faith. Amen and Amen

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION – *all God's children are welcome to receive communion with us regardless of denomination or creed. This is Christ's table where all are invited to come and share God's love. If you desire a **GLUTEN-FREE WAFER** please identify yourself to an usher.*

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

RESPONSE 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 Señor.*

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

REMEMBERING OUR STORY

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

HYMN 482 “*Sanctuary*” as we commune

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true;
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Beloved Lord, 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

PASTORAL PRAYER – SILENT PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Go with the great love of God enfolding you, the deep peace of Christ within you and the living breath of the Spirit inspiring you. Go in peace and serve the Lord,

We go to love and to serve for we are the church.

Alleluia and Amen!

HYMN 719 “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

POSTLUDE

Confirmation Class: Kaylee Flood, Cole Loser, Lizzie Nichols, Eli Ogi, Lia Piittmann, Kylie Van Beek, Lorelei Walker

Serving Today: Musicians: Sherry McElhatton, Karla Spaits, Anna Piittmann, Video: David Dorn; Audio: Joshua Spaits

Today’s Altar Flowers are from Marian Herriges in memory of her parents, Gottlieb (Shorty) & Betty Walz and her brother, Norman Walz.

Lectionary for April 14 - Acts 3:12-19 • Psalm 4 • 1 John 3:1-7 • Luke 24:36b-48

Happy Birthday April 7 - 13

Apr 7 Tim Danielson
Apr 9 Bob Breitag
Apr 10 Robbie Manthei
Apr 11 Susan Reif
Apr 13 Greg Ogi, Shirley Schlice (86)

Happy Anniversary April 7 - 13

Apr 7 Bill & Jessica Loser (23)
Jamie & Jason Piittmann (23)
Apr 12 Scott & Cathy Stern (16)

Calendar for the Week of April 7th

4/9 Lectionary 10 am, Church Council 6 pm

4/10 XYZ Cards

4/11 Adult Faith Formation 10 am, Grief Group 1 pm

Prayers of the Family of God

Prayers of healing to Warren Lemke, father of Kevin Lemke, who recently broke his back and is having upcoming surgery.

Prayers of healing to Valerie Vorpahl, who is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

Prayers of healing and comfort to Marjorie Bubb, mother of Rochelle Bubb, who is battling cancer.



Peace Church Brat Fry at Piggly Wiggly –

Peace Church will be hosting a brat fry at the Kewaskum Piggly Wiggly on Saturday, April 20th. Brats, hamburgers, and hot dogs will be served from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Proceeds will

go to the Peace Church Family Promise Fund. Stop by to support this great non-profit!

Pancake Breakfast – Sunday, May 5th. 8-11:30 am. Cost per adult is \$8.00, children 5 and under are free. Menu of pancakes, breakfast sausages, fruit, bakery, coffee, juice & milk. Proceeds to fund the canoe and habitat trips.

Easy Online Giving! Just point your phone's camera at the QR Code and follow the link to electronically give to a number of Peace Church funds.



Peace Church Endowment Fund

What is an Endowment?

The term endowment has been defined as “to enrich and provide an income.” The Endowment Fund is made up of monies in which the principal cannot be spent. The Endowment is pooled with all the cash assets of the church and invested per the church Investment Policy. The earnings from the Endowment Fund are a resource to help ensure continued growth of the vision and ministries of Peace United Church of Christ.

How is an Endowment Funded?

Funding for an endowment is traditionally done through planned giving, though anyone can contribute with a gift of any size at any time.

What is Planned Giving?

Planned Giving is a carefully considered way of giving one’s accumulated, inherited and/or appreciated resources for support and perpetuation of the church’s mission. The gift may be a direct gift or a deferred gift. Direct gifts are given directly to the Endowment Fund usually in the form of cash and/or

securities. Deferred gifts are promised during the lifetime of the donor, but receipt of the assets is deferred until a later date through Wills (bequests), Charitable Remainder Trusts, and Charitable Gift Annuities. These gifts can be either designated or undesignated, ie., given with or without a specific purpose. The Endowment Fund encourages undesignated gifts and bequests.

Designated gifts will be placed in the Memorial Fund.

What about my regular church giving? Giving to the Endowment Fund should not replace your regular church giving. Annual stewardship supports the current work of the church.

Where is the Endowment Fund invested?

The Endowment Fund will be responsibly managed and invested along with the remainder of the church’s financial assets by the investment committee in conjunction with a reputable “Wealth Management” company.

Can the Endowment Fund be funded in other ways?

While Planned Giving is the traditional way to fund an endowment, weekly, monthly, annual and one-time gifts to the Endowment Fund are also encouraged.

How do I get started?

If you think a direct or deferred gift is something that is right for you, the first step is to consult your tax or legal representative who has the knowledge and experience to guide you through the process. Or you can call the church office at 262-626-4011 and a representative of the Endowment Committee will contact you.

What are some examples of deferred gifts?

BEQUESTS

Funds left to Peace United Church of Christ via a will.

LIFE INSURANCE

A current cash value policy can be gifted to the

Endowment Fund, or the beneficiary of a policy can be changed to the Endowment Fund.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST (CRT)

A gift is made to the CRT, which purchases an income-producing investment. The donor is paid a monthly income, typically for a set period of time (usual for the life of the donor). At the end of the trust period, the balance of the investment is transferred to the Endowment Fund.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

An asset is donated to the Endowment Fund. In exchange for the gift, the Endowment Fund pays a fixed income to the donor for a specified period of time (usually the life of the donor). A portion of these payments is usually tax-free. At the end of the annuity period, the balance of the annuity is placed in the Endowment Fund

THESE ARE A FEW OF THE MOST COMMON METHODS OF FUNDING AN ENDOWMENT. THE INFORMATION IN THIS BROCHURE IS BASED ON THE CURRENT TAX LAW. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR TAX PROFESSIONAL FOR NEW INFORMATION REGARDING ANY CHANGES.