



Peace United Church of Christ

Rev. Eric Kirkegaard

July 23, 2023

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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

GREETINGS - A TIME OF CENTERING

HYMN 649 "Gather Us In"

BEING GATHERED IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD-

Psalm 139_1-12

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

All: And also with you.

All: O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise up; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

One: You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

Many: Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. You hem me in—behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

One: Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

Many: If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

One: If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

All: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

All: **Beloved Lord, we long for a world where all of your children would know the depths of your love and mercy. And yet, too often we live without doing all that we could for our sisters and brothers in need. We confess that we are bound by our own desires; we are tempted by our own need to feel relevant and important to those around us. We lose sight of your measure for our lives. Reweave us, O God, help us be instruments of your peace and show us how to walk in your paths. In the promise of your mercy, we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

A Response Of Halleluja "Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le,lu-ja"

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Peace be with you
And also with you

LESSON Genesis 28:10-19a (Page 21)

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

HYMN 38 "Touch the Earth Lightly"

GOSPEL Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (Page 747)

EPISTLE Romans 8:12-25 (Page 862)

SERMON - Vikar Jakob

Special Music

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

Gracious Christ, we open our lives to Your spirit. We offer ourselves, our labors, our love, all that we are, to You and to Your world. Take our hands as you receive our gifts and grant us new life as your servants. 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: Let us go forth listening for God's call in our everyday lives, discerning together how we might be the hands, feet and voice of Jesus healing our broken world.

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

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

POSTLUDE

Serving Today: Vikar Jakob Kröener, Musicians: Karla Spaits, Mia Dornacker; Litanist: Jackie McCurdy; Video: David Dorn

Today's Altar Flowers are from the Manthei family in memory of Anna Manthei on her 100th birthday. The flowers next to the altar are from Nancy Polizotto in honor of Sam Scherzer & Anne Rieke's July 22nd marriage.

Lectionary for July 30 - Genesis 29:15-28 and Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128 • 1 Kings 3:5-12 and Psalm 119:129-136 • Romans 8:26-39 • Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

NEWS & NOTES

Happy Birthday July 23 - 29

July 23 James Butzlaff, James Meinberg (90)

July 25 Nancy Polizotto

July 28 Sharon Zolp

July 29 Josh Spaits

Happy Anniversary – July 23 – 29

July 23 Chuck & Sandy Atwater (62)

July 27 Karla & Josh Spaits (4)

Calendar for the Week of July 23, 2023

7/25 Youth Breakfast, Lectionary 10 am

7/26 XYZ Cards, Sacred Space Worship 7pm

7/27 Youth Breakfast, Grief Group 1 pm,
Blood Drive 1-6 pm

VBS 2023 BLASTING OFF

July 31 – August 4, 2023 - Peace Church

8:30 – 11:30 a.m. - Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

Registration forms are available in the front and back entrances to the church or at peace church's website.

Midweek worship! We are trying something a little different, creating Sacred Space on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Services are less formal, more interactive, some different music. Come and be a part of experiencing/imagining how we create a new worship experience at Peace UCC.

Feed Our Kids – Peace Church will be hosting a Youth Breakfast every Tuesday and Thursday morning (9 am – 11 am) through August. Children will have a hardy breakfast two days a week and will go home with packed lunches. The Kewaskum Kiwanis Club and area community businesses will fund this program.

Peace Church Picnic Raffles

Starting today after worship service, raffle tickets will be available for purchase and raffle items bags will be in

Fellowship Hall for you to start selecting items you hope to win!

Peace UCC Youth Group Activities

Friday July 28th. (Middle & High School)

Trip to the Garcade N85 W15920 Appleton Ave

Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

Meet at church 4 p.m. to carpool.

Plan is to eat there & be back at church around 9.

Cost is free. RSVP with Josh @ 303-565-6549

Friday August 4 to Saturday August 5.

Peace UCC Youth Group (Middle & High School)

Camp out at the Spaits Farm. Drop off at Josh and Karla's farm at 6pm on the 4th. Pick up is at 11am on the 5th.

Bring sleeping bags, flashlights, toiletries, a jacket or sweatshirt, pillow, change of clothes, etc.

We will play yard games, cook over a bonfire, visit the farm animals, and hike Faith Haven.

RSVP with Josh @ 303-565-6549 for the address and so we have enough food.

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 Comfort: to Dave Domasky, Mark & Mary Steinhardt and the family and friends of Marlene Domasky, who passed away on Friday, July 14, 2023. The funeral for Marlene will be held at Peace Church on Saturday, July 29th. Visitation will be from noon until 1:45 p.m., with service starting at 2:00 p.m. Burial immediately following the service.

Prayers for Healing: to Pastor Bob Blackburn, who was in the Fond du Lac hospital for three days last week with bladder and kidney infections. Pastor Bob is now at home receiving antibiotic infusions.



Peace Church Picnic

**AUGUST 6TH - 9:00 A.M.
RIVER HILL PARK**

**WORSHIP - LUNCH (HAMBURGERS, CHICKEN
SANDWICHES, GERMAN POTATO SALAD,
WATERMELON, CORN-ON-THE-COB, BEVERAGE) -
LIVE MUSIC - DESSERTS
RAFFLES - KID ACTIVITIES**

WWW.PEACE-UCC.ORG

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
ADULT \$15, AGE 6-11 \$10,
CHILDREN 5 & UNDER FREE
NEW THIS YEAR: FAMILY TICKET -
2 ADULT AND UP TO 5 KIDS \$50**