



**Peace United Church of Christ**  
Rev. Eric Kirkegaard  
July 9, 2023  
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

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***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**

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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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***Our vision: “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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***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](mailto:pastor@peace-ucc.org)  
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## **WORSHIP SERVICE**

### **PRELUDE**

### **GREETINGS - A TIME OF CENTERING**

#### **HYMN 557**

**“Pass It On”**

#### **PRAYING WITH THE PSALMIST – Psalm 145:8-14**

**One:** The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**All:** **The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.**

**One:** All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you.

**All:** **They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power, to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.**

**One:** Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

**All:** **The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.**

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**As a community of believers, Holy One, we open ourselves to your restorative presence.**

**We are surrounded by beauty, yet we often fail to be inspired by wonder.**

**We are symbols of hope, yet we succumb to despair.**

**We are blessed beyond measure, yet we often allow greed to shape our generosity.**

**We are uncommonly free, yet we often bind ourselves to yesterday's failures...**

**We are uncommonly free, yet we fail to let that power guide us in working for all and not just some.**

**We are gifted and graced as a people of faith, yet we often fail to let our light shine.**

**We are loved beyond measure, yet we often fail to pass on your love unconditionally.**

**In these moments of shared silence, encourage us to lay down our burdens, release our fears, forgive our failures, reclaim our hopes, and align ourselves with your deep wisdom and grace.**

*Silence*

## **ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

By the power of God's grace, we are the light of the world.

Our freedom is a gift: receive it fully.

Our purpose is justice: do it rightly.

Our hope is peace: pursue it faithfully.

Our calling is life: live it well.

God is faithful in all things: and so it is.

In His name we strive, and in His grace we thrive.

Amen.

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**

Romans 7:15-25a

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

## **HYMN 664**

"Thy Word"

## **GOSPEL**

Matthew 11:16-30

## **SERMON**

Special Music

## **COMMISSIONING OUR HABITAT CREW**

One: You have been called from the ranks of God's people to go and walk with God. Go forth with loud shouts and melodies of justice. Answer the call of God's Spirit to go into a land that God will show you tearing

down the walls of prejudice, injustice, and indignity and building up sheltering walls alive with God's love and salvation. As you go to Red Wing, Minnesota, you go, as always, with the blessings of this congregation. And you go as workers for the kingdom of God, anointed and filled with the spirit of God.

**Congregation:**

**Go with our love and our prayers. Go as beloved hands and hearts of the body of Christ. Carry our witness of God's splendor to all whom you encounter. We celebrate your caring, your energy, and your faith. We pray for your safety and for your faithful service to our God. Carry our blessings with you, and return to us with servants' hearts on fire with the spirit of God.**

**Habitat Volunteers:**

We covenant with our God and with our Church to go as faithful servants. May the love of God and the love our congregations flow through each of us, making us instruments of God's peace.

**All: AMEN**

## **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**

**All: Lord, you ask us to trust in you, to believe in you. We respond with all that we are, our hearts, our actions, and our love. Beloved God, at every moment we are free to serve you first. Transform us, bless our lives, bless our gifts, and claim us in Your service. 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**

Having rested in God’s embrace, go out and comfort the restless.

Having been comforted by God’s grace, go out to embrace the weary.

Having been renewed by the Gospel, go out and be the Good News to the world.

**All: May God take our lips and speak through them; take our minds and think through them; take our hearts and set them on fire. Amen!**

**HYMN 574** “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

## **POSTLUDE**

**Serving Today:** Musicians: Karla Spaits, Mia Dornacker; Litanist: Mugs McFadden; Video: David Dorn

**Today’s Altar Flowers** are in honor of Mugs and Patrick McFadden’s 59<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**Lectionary for July 16** - Genesis 25:19-34 and Psalm 119:105-112 • Isaiah 55:10-13 and Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13 • Romans 8:1-11 • Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23



## **NEWS & NOTES**



### **Happy Birthday July 9 - 15**

July 9 Doreen Mohr  
July 10 John Schmahl  
July 12 Debbie Guillaume  
July 14 Harvey Brodzeller

## **Happy Anniversary – July 9 - 15**

- July 9 Loran & Rozanne Butzlaff (57)
- July 10 Todd & Debbie Stern (30)
- July 11 Pat & Mugs McFadden (59)
- July 12 Gary & Joyce Terlinden (54)
- July 14 Tom & Joan Schleif (19)

## **Calendar for the Week of July 9, 2023**

- 7/9 – 7/14 Habitat Trip to Red Wing, Minnesota
- 7/11 Youth Breakfast, Lectionary 10 am, Consistory 6 pm
- 7/12 XYZ Cards, Sacred Space Worship 7pm
- 7/13 Youth Breakfast

**Office Hours** – This coming week the church office will only be open on 7/11 from noon – 4 pm and 7/13 from 9 – noon.

**Midweek worship!** We are trying something a little different, creating sacred space on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. 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.

**Mark Your Calendar – Church Picnic – August 6<sup>th</sup> at River Hill Park!** Worship Service will be at 9:00 a.m. followed by lunch, music, raffles, and kid activities. Tickets on sale the day of the picnic or at church. \$15.00 for adults, \$10 ages 6-11, children 5 & under are free. New this year is a family ticket for \$50 – 2 adults and up to 5 children.



**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.**



**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.

## **PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK**

*Current prayers will be listed for one week unless otherwise indicated. Requests may be emailed to [office@peace-ucc.org](mailto: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:**

For the mother of Chris Rode’s good friend Peg, who is in the UW Hospital with signs of a stroke or leaky artery. She is currently undergoing tests.

For Karen Kivell, who had surgery last week.

For Russ Knoth, who began dialysis this past week.

For Gary Pulvermacher, brother to Susan Reif, who is in ICU recovering from surgery.

For the family of Eric Rutkowski, who passed away last week after suffering from injuries in a moped accident. Eric is the cousin of Amber Charland.