



Peace United Church of Christ

Rev. Eric Kirkegaard

August 13, 2023

Eleventh 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

Rev. Gregory Whelton is our visiting minister today. Rev. Whelton grew up in Michigan where he also served four churches before coming to St. John's UCC, Sheboygan. He helped raise his four children and shared his faith with the church and community for 31 years. He plays in the Delta-X band and rides his Harley and serves as an officer of Sheboygan Elk's Lodge #299. Thank you Rev. Whelton!

WORSHIP SERVICE

ECUMEN “Wade in the Water”, “Order My Steps”

GREETINGS - A TIME OF CENTERING

HYMN 30 “All Things Bright & Beautiful”

BEING GATHERED IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD-

Psalm 105:1-6,45b

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

Many: **And also with you.**

One: O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

Many: **Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.**

One: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Many: **Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.**

One: Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles...

All: ***Praise the LORD!***

INVOCATION AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER

God of creations glory, fill us today with your wondrous bounty. Shine your light upon us, and around us, and within us. Take us as we are, O God, and feed the yearnings of our souls. In celebration of you 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."

CONFESSING AND RECEIVING FORGIVENESS

Merciful God, there are lots of times when journey into the unknown filled with fear instead of wonder. Our preconceptions prevent us from seeing the possibilities around us. We confess how hard it is to be open to your grace offered for us and for others. In the noisy demands of our lives, we lose track of offering you our thankfulness. We fall short of seeing your holiness in every person and creature that we meet. We do not treat all our neighbors as ourselves. We even fail to treat ourselves as your beloved children.

Beloved savior, for what we do and for what we failed to do, we ask your mercy. Hear the burdens of our hearts.

Our God is good, his love and mercy are without bounds. Open your hearts and receive the good news, God has walked with us, suffered with us, died for us, and risen - opening a way to new life. We are forgiven that our lives may freely embrace the relationship which God offers us. Praise God!

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

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Lesson Romans 10:5-15 (Page 863)

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

HYMN 347 "Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"

GOSPEL Matthew 14:22-33 (Page 749)

SERMON- Rev. Greg Whelton

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 – SILENT PRAYER

BENEDICTION

One: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

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

HYMN 712 “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

POSTLUDE

Serving Today: Musicians: Karla Spaits, Litanist: Jerry O’Connor; Video: David Dorn

Today’s Altar Flowers are from Laura Kirkegaard, in memory of her grandparents: Helen & Mark Cord, Reba & Chuc Mason

Lectionary for August 20 - Genesis 45:1-15 and Psalm 133 • Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 and Psalm 67 • Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 • Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28



NEWS & NOTES



Happy Birthday Aug 13 - 19

Aug 13 Steve Spoerl

Aug 14 Coralee Kivell, William Grahl (81)

Aug 15 Betty Graff (90)

Aug 16 Bonnie Busch, Kathy Shoemaker

Aug 17 Ella Schmidt

Aug 18 Emma Preder

Aug 19 Roger Mertz, Shirly Ogi

Happy Anniversary – Aug 13 - 19

Aug 13 Eric & Tricia Walker (18)

Aug 15 Jim & Idelle Breitbach (42)

Bruce & Donna Steinhardt (41)

Aug 19 Tim & Sharon Zolp (34)

Calendar for the Week of Aug 13, 2023

8/12 – 8/19 Canada Canoe Trip

8/15 Youth Breakfast, Lectionary 10 am,

8/16 XYZ Cards, Sacred Space Worship 7pm

8/17 Youth Breakfast

Midweek worship! Sacred Space is held 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.

Calling all Knitters & Crocheters! Peace Church has had a lot of yarn donated recently. If you are creating mittens or prayer shawls, please stop by church and check out the supply! Happy knitting/crocheting!

Peace Church Brat Fry at Piggly Wiggly – Peace



Church will be hosting a brat fry at the Kewaskum Piggly Wiggly on Saturday, August 26th. Brats, hamburgers, and hot dogs will be served from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. **We need**

volunteers to help with this event. Start-up time is 9:00 a.m. and clean-up should be done by 3:00 p.m. We have divided volunteer time into two shifts - 9 a.m. - noon and noon - 3 p.m. Proceeds will go to the Canoe Trip expenses. Sign up by calling the church office at 262-626-4011.

Thank you to all of you who turned out for the 2023 Peace Church picnic! It was a beautiful day at the park and a very successful picnic. Thanks to all who volunteered and donated so generously to the raffle, food, desserts, etc....

Peace Church Stewardship Committee
hosting Financial Seminars

How do I ensure more of my resources will go to the people and causes I care about? Is there an ethical way to use tax strategies to potentially lower my taxes? How do I know if I will have enough? Does my estate plan reflect my values? These are just a few of the questions that will be explored during an event led by charitable strategist and financial consultant, Andrew Mortenson.

Andrew has been in the financial services industry with Thrivent Financial since 2008 and is a national speaker on the subject of charitable planning. He is the youngest person in Thrivent's history to be inducted into Thrivent Charitable's Hall of Honor. His purpose is to inspire and educate Christians on ways to leave a lasting impact for the people and causes they support. This legacy is about more than leaving money, it is about passing on values and beliefs.

Join us to learn more about strategies to bless your family and community, that can be implemented both now, and at your passing. Andrew will present on two dates: Sunday, August 27th at 10:15 a.m. and Tuesday, August 29th at 6:00 p.m. The August 29th seminar will include a meal, so please sign up for that meeting. (Clipboard is being passed at church or call the church office to sign-up.)

The newly formed Stewardship Committee consists of John Kletti, Kathy Charland, Rose Gaskell, Joan Adler, Sharon Stier, Heidi Rodenkirch, and Mark Bocher. If you have any questions regarding this committee or the Financial Seminars, please contact the office.

Prayers of Healing to Jim Bertram, relative of Kathy Roesel, who is battling many health issues.