



Peace United Church of Christ

Rev. Eric Kirkegaard

August 27, 2023

Thirteenth 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 "Morning Has Broken"

GREETINGS - A TIME OF CENTERING

HYMN 422 "Amazing Grace"

BEING GATHERED IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD-

(Based on Psalm 124, an ancient Hebrew song which recalls God's deliverance in a time of distress)

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

Many: **And also with you.**

One: We echo the voices of our ancestors in faith:

Many: **If God had not been for us, when everyone was against us, we would have been swept away long ago.**

One: The flood waters would have carried us away, we would have been lost, never again to stand upon the earth.

All: **Blessed be the LORD, who will not leave us or abandon us!**

One: We praise the God who sets us free from fear and despair. God releases us from the grip of anger and revenge, leading us to reconciliation and forgiveness.

All: **Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth. May God continue to shape us into a covenant people, guided by compassion and peace. Praise the Lord!**

CONFESSING AND RECEIVING FORGIVENESS

One: We lay bare the depths of our hearts before God and once again feel the longing for God's mercy, and for our healing.

All: **God of all creation, we stand before you in humble adoration - even our weaknesses become strength in you. But Lord, we are**

ensnared by the strength of our weak desires. We bend to the ways of the world instead of bending in prayer before you. You challenge us to overcome our own pettiness and our stumbling faith through your tools of love and faithfulness. We try to hear you Lord, but culture seeks to conform us to its ways. How do we stand against a world so loud and insistent? How do we find the strength within us to turn and rest fully in your will? God, we seek your mercy. Transform us by the renewing of our souls. Free us for the joyful obedience and humble discernment of your will. Forgive us, we pray.

Silence

One: O God, we proclaim You again as Lord of our lives.

All: Transform us with your will, write on our hearts what is good and acceptable and perfect in your sight.

One: We pray as Jesus prayed:

All: *“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: The mercy and the love of God are endless. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel, trust in God's abundant promise.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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 12:1-8 (page 865)

GOSPEL Matthew 16 :13-17 (page 750)

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

HYMN 300 "In the Garden"

OT LESSON Exodus 1:8-2:10 (page 42)

SPECIAL MUSIC "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

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

Lord, your ways are beyond measure. We come before you with hearts filled with gratitude and yearning. Help us to discern your will and share your blessings with all of your creation. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER – SILENT PRAYER

BENEDICTION

One: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

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: Worship Service: Vikar Jakob Kroener, Musicians: Sherry McElhatton, Karla Spaits, Video: Katelyn Scannell

Today's Altar Flowers are in honor of Lisa and Blaine Atwater, who celebrated 35 years of marriage this spring.

Lectionary for August 27 - Exodus 1:8-2:10 and Psalm 124 • Isaiah 51:1-6 and Psalm 138 • Romans 12:1-8 • Matthew 16:13-20

NEWS & NOTES

Happy Birthday Aug 27 – Sept 2

- Aug 27 JoAnn Manthei
Aug 29 Nancy Horning
Aug 31 Jackson Brei, Nora Brei, Della Lehmann (83)
Rosemarie Maeder (88), Jerry O'Connor (88)
Maggie Singer
Sept 1 James Manthei, Karen Taylor
Sept 2 Mugs McFadden

Happy Anniversary Aug 27 – Sept 2

- Aug 28 Gary & Janice Fisher (58)
Aug 30 Dan & Kathy Rundquist (48)
Aug 31 Scott & Sarah Augustin (21)
Sept 1 Greg & Julaine Ogi (45)
Sept 2 Heidi & Matthew Leithold (34)
Greg & Val Vorpahl (23)

Calendar for the Week of Aug 27, 2023

- 8/27 Financial Seminar @ Peace 10:15 am
9th Grade Confirmation meeting 10:30 am
Movie Night
8/29 Lectionary 10 am,
Financial Seminar @ Peace 6 pm CANCELLED,
watch for future notice.
8/30 XYZ Cards

Sunday Services – Starting on Sunday, September 10th, Peace Church will go back to two services – 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

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.**

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

CONFERENCE ACCEPTING DONATIONS TO MAUI WILDFIRE RELIEF

The Wisconsin Conference is now accepting donations to relief efforts on the Hawaiian island of Maui, where wildfires have killed more than 114 people, with an estimated 1,000 more still unaccounted for, nearly 3,000 homes and businesses have been destroyed and the Maui landscape has been devastated. Checks may be sent to the Wisconsin Conference Disaster Ministry Fund, c/o Wisconsin Conference UCC, W1000 Spring Grove Road, Ripon, Wisconsin 54971. Write "Maui relief" in the memo line. Or you can donate directly through Peace Church – please mark your donation "Maui Relief"

Donations to the Conference fund will be routed through Church World Service to ensure the funds reach the disaster area as quickly as possible.

The tragedy hit close to home for Bret Bicoy, chair of the Wisconsin Conference board of directors, who grew up on Oahu and has deep family ties to the hard-hit region around Lahaina on Maui. In a message to the Conference staff, he wrote:

“While the Conference has a tradition of connecting our friends to charities outside of our community during times of extraordinary disasters, this tragedy is also personal to me. I grew up in Hawai’i. My late father Bernaldo D. Bicoy was born in Lahaina. I’ve crossed the Moloka’i Channel many times on the way to Lahaina. Several of my nephews are firefighters in Hawai’i. While my wife, Cari, and I are deeply thankful that everyone in our extended family has survived the wildfires, homes, cars, and pets in the Bicoy family have been lost, not to mention countless jobs and prospects for a better future.

“Lahaina may be 4,000 miles from Wisconsin, but we are still one country. Our brothers and sisters in the Pacific are facing a horrific tragedy and have years of struggles ahead as they rebuild. Please join Cari and me, along with countless others, in reminding them that they are not alone.”

The Lahaina fire also destroyed the historic Waioloa Church, a UCC congregation in Lahaina that recently celebrated its 200th anniversary. Waioloa was the first Christian church established on Maui, and the church cemetery is the resting place for early members of the royal family of the Kingdom of Hawaii.