



Peace United Church of Christ

Rev. Eric Kirkegaard

September 10, 2023

Fifteenth 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 706 "I Come with Joy"

BEING GATHERED IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD-Psalm 149

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

All: **And also with you.**

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

All: **Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful. Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.**

One: Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.

All: **For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory. This is the glory for all his faithful ones. Praise the Lord!**

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER

All: **Precious Lord, free our hearts to hear the goodness of your ways. As we return to the rhythms of school and resuming programs, attune us to new ways that you try to lead us. Gather us in the promise that you are here, with the weary and the helpless, with the frightened and the lost, with those who long for your healing and those who hope to be heard.... Humble us in your presence and guide us in your kingdom-ways as 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."**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: God, you journey with us in the brokenness of the world and the failings of our own lives. We confess our sins because we long to hear again the promise of your mercy, grace, and hope. Offer us a different way O God.

All: **We struggle to be the change that we long for in our world. Forgive us, when fear causes us to respond with anger or violence instead of the transformative peace you teach. Forgive us, for the ways that we contribute to the divisions of our world. Forgive for the ways that we fail to walk with you in the shadows of our own lives. We sin by thought, word, and deed, through what we do, and through what we fail to do. We long for your promise of presence and forgiveness.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: God is always here with us, claiming us as God's beloved. God seek to restore our relationships with God, one another, and creation. Through God's love, we are forgiven. Glory be to 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

Exodus 12:1-14

(page 50)

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

Blessing of the backpacks – teachers – students

(Please bring your backpack down with you, or hold it on your lap.. If you did not receive a symbol of your backpack's blessing, you may pick one up after the service.)

Let us Pray:

God of all knowledge and wisdom, backpacks remind us that another school year has begun. We pray your blessing on these students, teachers, and backpacks: **May the burdens in them be light. May your Holy Spirit watch over those who carry them, students young and old. And may that Spirit be at work with all those who seek to fill backpacks and students with knowledge and inspiration - teachers, staff, parents and community. Help all of us to discover and develop the gifts you have given us. As we grow in knowledge, help us to also grow in kindness and compassion, learning respect for ourselves and others. Bless these backpacks and surround all of us with encouragement, support, and love. In the name of the great Teacher at whose knee we are all students, Amen.**

Hymn 273 “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

LESSON Romans 13:8-14 (page 866)

GOSPEL Matthew 18:15-20 (page 752)

SERMON

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

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 “*Christ Has No Body*” – *Teresa of Avila*

One: Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must

look out on the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless His people.

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

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

HYMN "Bind Us Together" (hymn found at back of bulletin)

POSTLUDE

Serving Today: Musicians: Karla Spaits, Video: David Dorn

Today's Altar Flowers from Sharon Stier, in honor of all teachers.



NEWS & NOTES



Lectionary for September 17 - Exodus 14:19-31 and Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 • Genesis 50:15-21 and Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13 • Romans 14:1-12 • Matthew 18:21-35

Happy Birthday Sept 10- 16

Sept 10 Kim Clark, Eric Kirkegaard, Tom Kolb,
Spencer Volm

Sept 11 Val Vorpahl

Sept 14 Knox Gitter

Sept 16 Tracy Boettcher, Barbara Busch,
Loren Butzlaff (84), Karen Vernal

Happy Anniversary Sept 10- 16

Sept 11 William & Carol Butzlaff (58)

Dennis & Cheryl Novotny (58)

Sept 13 Marilyn & David McIntosh (65)

Calendar for the Week of September 10

9/11 Pastoral Relations 6:30 pm

9/12 Lectionary 10 am, Church Council 6 pm

9/13 XYZ Cards, Stewardship Committee Mtg 5:30 pm

9/14 Grief Group – 1pm

9/15 October Tidings Deadline

Peace Church Banned Book Group – will meet on Wednesday, September 20th at 1:30 p.m. in the church music room. The group will discuss “The Giver” by Lois Lowry. Books are reserved at the Kewaskum Library and can be picked up starting August 15th. If you need assistance with obtaining a book, please contact the church office.

The Peace Church Banned Book Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month. Below is the schedule for the 2023 calendar:

October 18 - All Boys Aren't Blue by George M. Johnson

November 15 - The Kite Runner by Kahlid Hosseini

December 20 - The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas

Rally Day – First Day of Sunday School - As students, teachers, and staff return to school, please join us for a blessing of TEACHERS, STAFF, STUDENTS & BACKPACKS - Sunday, September 10, 2023 - Following 9:30 Worship (Bring your backpack!) **PICNIC LUNCH for ALL!** Games & Fellowship.

Pastoral Relations Meeting – this group will meet on Monday, September 11th at 6:30 p.m.

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 Healing:

To Coach Ben Helton, who has had three back surgeries since March and was knocked over at the Kewaskum High School football game last Friday night.

For Nancy Hovland as she continues her healing at a step-down/rehab hospital in Des Plaines, IL

Bind Us Together

Refrain
F

Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that

c⁷ F F

can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,

Dm Gm C F

bind us to - geth - er, Lord; bind us to - geth - er in love.

F c⁷ F F c⁷ F

1 There . . is on - ly one God. There . . is on - ly one King.
2 You are the fam-'ly of God. You are the prom-ise di - vine.

F c⁷ F F c⁷ F B^b/C *Refrain*

There . . is on - ly one Bod-y; that . . is why we can sing:
You are God's cho-sen de - sire, you are the glo-rious new wine.