



**Peace United Church of Christ**

Rev. Eric Kirkegaard

September 17, 2023

Sixteenth 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  
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# WORSHIP SERVICE

## PRELUDE

## GREETINGS - A TIME OF CENTERING

**HYMN 593** "Lord, Speak to Me"

**Opening Sentences** *(from the UCC resource "God Leads Us into Life")*

Come if you have a weak faith.

Come if you are convinced in the strength of your convictions.

Come so that you might be strengthened and challenged.

**LEAD US INTO LIFE, O GOD!**

Come if you are chased by the demands of others.

Come if you feel threatened by a loss of security.

Come so that you might be strengthened and challenged.

**LEAD US INTO LIFE, O GOD!**

Come if you need forgiveness.

Come if you need strength to forgive others.

Come so that you might be strengthened and challenged.

**LEAD US INTO LIFE, O GOD!**

**The Prayer of Confession** *(adapted from "God Leads Us into Life")*

Jesus challenges us to seek forgiveness for ourselves and to forgive those who have sinned against us.

Let us pray.

Holy God, when we seek security only in power, whether military or power over others, and not in knowledge of your presence; when we become concerned with our well-being only and so fail to see the consequences of our choices upon the lives of others:

**Forgive our narrow worldview; open our eyes to see others as persons with whom we are connected in the web of life.**



**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-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**

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

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

## **HYMN**

**“Go Make Disciples”**

**Go, make disciples, baptizing them, teaching them.  
Go, make disciples, for I am with you ‘til the end of time.  
Go, be the salt of the earth.  
Go, be the light of the world.  
Go, be a city on a hill  
so all can see that you’re serving me.  
Go, make disciples.**

## **POSTLUDE**

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

**Today’s Altar Flowers from Vance & Susan Reif, in honor of Gary (Moose) Pulvermacher Family.**

**Lectionary for September 24 - Exodus 16:2-15 and Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 • Jonah 3:10-4:11 and Psalm 145:1-8 • Philippians 1:21-30 • Matthew 20:1-16**

# NEWS & NOTES

## **Happy Birthday Sept 17- 23**

Sept 18 Kandy Lindgren, Ellie O'Brien-Flasch

Sept 20 Bill Hartman

Sept 21 Marnie Winninghoff

Sept 22 Sandy Atwater (83)

Sept 23 Grace Loser

## **Happy Anniversary Sept 17- 23**

Sept 21 Roger & Kathy Mertz (49)

Sept 22 Bill & Lori Becker (17)

## **Calendar for the Week of September 17**

9/19 Lectionary 10 am

9/20 XYZ Cards, Banned Book Group 1:30 pm

**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

**Scholarship Fund Cookie Sale** on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> during Fellowship. All proceeds to towards Peace Church College Scholarships. Last year Peace Church awarded scholarships to ten students.

## **Prayers for Healing:**

Prayers for Mike McElhatton and family on the death of his brother John on Tuesday night.

Prayers for Diane Stangl who continues to be hospitalized.

Prayers for Marianne Herriges who was hospitalized this last week.

Prayers for David McIntosh Sr. who was hospitalized this week.

Continued prayers for strength and healing for Jill Rhoades.