



Peace United Church of Christ
Rev. Eric Kirkegaard
September 3, 2023
Fourteenth 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 350 "The Summons"

BEING GATHERED IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD-Psalm 105

One: May 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: **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.

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

One: Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered, O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

All: **Then Israel came to Egypt; Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham. And the Lord made his people very fruitful.**

One: The Lord made them stronger than their foes, whose hearts he then turned to hate his people, to deal craftily with his servants.

All: **He sent his servant Moses, and Aaron whom he had chosen.**

Praise the Lord!

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: We open ourselves to the wonder of God. Trusting in God's abundant mercy, we confess our brokenness.

All: **Awesome God, you have sought to speak to us in the midst of our wilderness. We have blundered along unhearing. You have come to us in the stranger and the friend, in the whispering wind and the waving branches... and yet our hearts have not been open to perceive you.**

God we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed; by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves, or allowed ourselves to feel the fullness of your love. Forgive us, we pray. Renew us as your servant people. Free us for joyful obedience and humble discernment of your will.

Silence

One: We humbly pray as Jesus taught us:

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: God always hears our prayers. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

A Response Of Hallelujah “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 3:1-15 (page 43)

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

HYMN 391 “Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”

LESSON Romans 12:9-21 (page 865)

GOSPEL Matthew 16:21-28 (page 751)

SERMON

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

#737 Santo, Santo, Santo

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.

My heart is glad to say the words:

you are Holy, Lord!

Santo, santo, santo, mi corazon te adora.

Mi corazon te sabe decir: santo eres Senor.

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (IN UNISON)

O God, in this simple meal you come to us again. You share yourself and your sustaining Spirit with our hungry souls. In the broken bread and the shared cup, the good news is proclaimed. Christ was born, Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again. Amen

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

One: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God! Alleluia and Amen.

HYMN 709 “Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises”

POSTLUDE

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

Today's Altar Flowers from Darrel & Judy Nonhof, in memory of family.

Lectionary for September 10 - Exodus 12:1-14 and Psalm 149 • Ezekiel 33:7-11 and Psalm 119:33-40 • Romans 13:8-14 • Matthew 18:15-20

NEWS & NOTES

Happy Birthday Sept 3 - 9

Sept 4 Clark Pearson (85)

Sept 5 Janel Gassner, Janet Kuehn (89),
Chase Lindgren

Sept 7 Elizabeth Bobb, Samantha Donath

Sept 8 Lynn Rusch (83)

Sept 9 David Roehrig, Brenda Roehrig

Happy Anniversary Sept 3 – Sept 9

Sept 4 Fred & Kathy Krieser (52)

Calendar for the Week of September 3

9/4 Labor Day – Office Closed

9/5 Lectionary 10 am,

9/6 XYZ Cards, Book Club 9:30 am,
Community Meal 4:30 – 6 pm

9/7 Prayer Shawl Group – 1pm

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

Community Meal – The Peace Church Community Meal will start back up on Wednesday, September 6th from 4:30-6:00 p.m. with a cookout. The menu is chicken patties, hamburgers, brats, baked beans & chips. Desserts from congregation members! Please join us! All are welcome!

Prayer Shawl Group will meet on September 7th, the first Thursday of the month. We meet in the church library at 1

p.m. The group makes shawls for shut-ins and baptisms. We also make mittens for the Mitten Ministry. We welcome anyone interested in knitting and/or crocheting to join us. Please call Nancy Panzer (262-626-2817) if you want more information.

The Peach Church Wednesday Morning Book Group will

be reading the following books during the 2023 - 2024 year:

- Sep 6 The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards
- Oct 4 The Forest of Vanishing Stars by Kristin Harmel
- Nov 1 The Yellow Bird Sings by J. Rosner
- Dec 6 Women Talking by Miriam Toews
- Jan 3 Still Alice by Lisa Genova
- Feb 7 East of the Mountains by David Guterson
- Mar 6 Three Weeks with My Brother by Nicholas Sparks
- Apr 3 Lessons in Chemistry: A Novel by Bonnie Garmus
- May 1 The Seed Keeper by Diane Wilson
- Jun 5 Take My Hand by Dolen Perkins Vallez

The first meeting for the season will be **Wednesday, September 6, at 9:30 a.m.** in the music room across from the church office. Everyone is invited to be a part of the group. For more information, please contact Lynn Rusch by e-mail, lynnrusch@yahoo.com or by phone, 262-306-4025.

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

Peace Church Fall Clean-Up Day – the Peace Church Trustees will be holding a Fall Clean-Up Day on **Saturday, September 9th from 8 a.m. – noon.** Sign-up now to help

in one of many ways in beautifying our church – pruning shrubs, painting the gazebo, washing external windows, misc. outside clean-up of the church grounds. Call the office at 262-626-4011 to volunteer!

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. Bring a dish to share! Contact Kathy Charland with questions.

Prayers for Healing:

To Jill Rhoads, who is hospitalized at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee with an infection.

To Diane Stangl, who is hospitalized at Aurora Medical Center in Grafton.

To Ron Lehmann, son to Della Lehmann and brother to Debbie Guillaume, who recently had heart valve surgery.

To Donna Ogi, who has been diagnosed with covid.

Prayers of Comfort

To John Scheidenhelm and his family. John has been admitted into hospice care in Fond du Lac. We pray for John as he enters the next step of his journey.