



Sundays at a glance

May 4th - Confirmation Sunday

Sermon by Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis, Rev. Tom Liddle, and the Confirmation 2 Class: Kate Dean, Anya Holmstrom, Ryan Mittlefehldt, & Lorelie Schwensohn

8:00am Childcare Available

8:30am Worship with Holy Communion

9:30am Confirmation Breakfast

9:30am Forum: Duluth Tenant Union

10:30am Intergenerational Worship with Holy Communion
Recognition of Confirmands

Baptism of Lorelie Schwensohn

11:30am Coffee Hour

5:00pm OWL at UUCD

May 11th

Sermon by Rev. Teresa Kim Pecinovsky

8:00am Childcare Available

8:30am Worship with Holy Communion

9:30am Self-Serve Coffee

9:30am Forum: *Sparking Peace* book and blacksmithing event

10:30am Worship with Children's Church

11:30am Coffee Hour

5:00pm OWL at UUCD

May 18th

Sermon by Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

8:00am Childcare Available

8:30am Worship with Holy Communion

9:30am Self-Serve Coffee

9:30am Forum: Congregational Covenant

10:30am Worship with Children's Puppet Show

11:30am Spring Fling

5:00pm OWL at UUCD

May 25th

Sermon by Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

8:00am Childcare Available

8:30am Worship with Holy Communion

9:30am Self-Serve Coffee

9:30am Forum:

10:30am Worship with Children's Church

Baptism of Sylvie and Otto Eskuri

11:30am Coffee Hour

Save the Dates!

Graduation Sunday - **Sunday, June 1st**

Annual Meeting - **Sunday, June 8th**

Summer Day Camp - **June 9th-13th at UUCD**

Forums

May 4th Duluth Tenants Union

Tenants' unions are renter-led organizations that fight for tenants' rights, build renter power, and push for policy change toward our shared value that housing is a human right. Duluth Tenants believe that all of us – renter or homeowner, young or old, small families or large – deserve to put down roots in the place we love. But right now, that's not the reality in our city. Duluth Tenants is organizing to promote housing policy that will ensure safety and livability for all. Dyanna Grondahl will present on the work of Duluth Tenants, facilitate a Q&A, and have petitions available to sign for those who feel called to do so. To learn more, visit <https://takeactionminnesota.org/duluth-tenants/>.

May 11th Sparking Peace Book Event

The Rev. Teresa Kim Pecinovsky's latest book, *Sparking Peace*, features restorative justice, neighborhood community-building, and turning guns into garden tools, echoing "swords into ploughshares" (Isaiah 2:4). We'll gather for a book reading, purchase, and signing, and a blacksmithing demonstration. Rev. Pecinovsky is our guest preacher for the morning.

May 18th Community Organizing Updates

We were introduced to broad-base organizing by Rev. Oby Ballinger on Sunday, April 27th. We've had two 1:1 trainings where we've learned some of the basic building blocks of organizing. Join us at this forum to learn more about what's happening locally and how you can get involved.

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, May 4th

This year we celebrate confirmands Kate Dean, Anya Holmstrom, Ryan Mittlefehldt, and Lorelie Schwensohn, who have all decided to be baptized or confirm their baptism and become full adult members of Peace UCC. They will share their reflections on John 21:1-19 and the question: what does it mean to love and follow Jesus? We honor the journeys of our confirmands and look forward to hearing from them on May 4th.

From Pastor Corinne

Dear Peace Church,

We just wrapped up Belonging & Community Month, our April ministry focus. We operate with a theology of the “priesthood of all believers,” most clearly outlined in 1 Peter 2:9: “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of Christ who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” The apostle Peter wrote this letter to early Christians in Asia Minor experiencing persecution, and this word of encouragement reflects a truth across scripture that each one of us has God-given gifts, and is called to minister to one another and the world using those gifts. We are the body of Christ, and each of us is a member of it (1 Corinthians 12:27).

Here at Peace, our Coordinating Council takes on this mantle as the group that makes decisions on behalf of our community, wrestles with our identity and our call to be the church in this moment, and coordinates our collective work, both inside and outside the four walls of the church.

On April 27th, the Coordinating Council gathered for an outgoing council retreat, thanking the four people who will be completing their council terms (Sara Cedars, Monica Liddle, Jessica Olson, and Molly Watson) and our one beloved member who we lost earlier this year (Stephen Dando) - and preparing for our five new council members to begin in June. We reflected on the leadership skills needed in this moment and how we are called to lead differently than so many of the examples we see in the world right now.

I give thanks for the ministry of our council, who have led courageously over the past year, and for the ministry of each one of you and your God-given gifts.

With Love, Pastor Corinne



From Moderator Mike Swanoski

Dear members and friends of Peace Church,

The Coordinating Council met on Tuesday, April 15th, 2025. We received, reviewed, and approved reports from committees and Pastor Corinne.

On September 16th, 1959 the congregation voted to change the name of our church from St Paul’s Evangelical to Peace United Church of Christ. Jessica Olson reported on behalf of the Property Committee that our church’s name was actually never legally changed. She brought forth a recommendation from the Property Committee that we work with an attorney to facilitate an official name change to Peace United Church of Christ. This recommendation was unanimously approved by the council members.

There is an upcoming week-long youth cultural immersion trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota that 10 of our youth, 3 adult volunteers, and 1 staff member will attend. During the week there will be building projects, learning from the elders and building relationships. The Fund Oversight Committee requested that \$11,995 from the PK fund be used to cover the cost of this trip which the Council unanimously approved.

It has become clear that repairing our current HVAC system is futile and that it is necessary to replace it. HVAC systems regulate temperature, humidity, and air quality within a building and create a comfortable and healthy indoor environment. This has not been regularly occurring especially in the office areas. New HVAC systems are much more efficient and environmentally friendly than our old system. We will be considering a bank loan and potential donors to replace the current HVAC system.

The Council discussed the possibility of returning committee meetings to Wednesday nights as was the case in the pre-COVID era. The Council was in agreement that committees consider meeting on Wednesday nights though to determine what works best for them.

The Finance committee reported that currently Peace Church’s expenses are greater than our income. The Council discussed and voted to pause our charitable giving until our next meeting in May at which time it will be reviewed again.

Mike Swanoski, Moderator, Coordinating Council

PALS

The May PALS event is *Avoiding Scams & Fraud: Smart Financial Safety Online* presented by Ryan Temple, Investigator in the Duluth Police Department's Financial Crimes unit.

We will meet at 4:30pm on Thursday, May 15th at the Green Mill in the Bulldog Room. **Please note this is the 3rd Thursday of May** to accommodate the schedule of our presenter. Would like to get all food and beverage orders placed before 5:00pm so we can begin our presentation at that time.

Please RSVP by **Thursday, May 8th** to Leanne Ventrella at Leanne.ventrella@gmail.com or at 218.390,8586 via text or call.

Upcoming Events:

June will be "Take me out to the ballgame" time. Just to be a bit different, and because nothing else worked timing wise, we are planning on Sunday, June 22nd for the date and 1:30pm for the time.

July will be our picnic and planning event but date still up in the air due to indefinite family plans.

Monday Book Group Monday, May 12th at 3pm

The Monday Book Club selection for May is *In the Sanctuary of Women: A Companion for Reflection and Prayer* by Jan L. Richardson. This book shares reflections from women around the world and through the centuries. We will meet at **3:00pm on May 12th in person and on zoom**. We will use the following questions to guide our discussion: What do you notice? What strikes you? What stretches you? Where do you find comfort? Where do you encounter a challenge? Are there women in the book you find especially intriguing, whose lives and the themes they offer readily connect with your own? Are there women you find more difficult to journey with? Are there particular ideas or questions you find yourself drawn to, and others that you resist?

Intergenerational Spring Fling May 25th at 11:30am

Celebrate a belated Earth Day and the coming of spring here at Peace on Sunday, May 18th! In our 10:30am worship service, the children will lead a puppet show about faithful Earth care. After worship, at 11:30am, head on down to the Fellowship Hall and lower-level parking lot, where lunch, a maypole dance, crafts, garden volunteering, and community organizations await. Bring your friends for a fun day for all!

All Church Rummage Sale Saturday, May 31st

Here's your heads up for this year's rummage sale! The date of the sale will be Saturday May 31 with set up beginning Thursday afternoon and Friday all day. The proceeds this year will be going towards Peace's financial needs (ALWAYS a great cause). More information in the weeks to come, but here's your invitation to start setting aside what you want to donate. Also, this takes a lot of volunteer time and energy, so consider how you can help with that too (hint....it's a lot of fun AND a chance to pre-sale shop) For more information please contact Cindy Macaulay at macaulay@cpinternert.com.

Men's Breakfast

On May 1st, the Men's Breakfast group will meet at the Duluth Lions Club Pancake Day. Meet at the door to Pioneer Hall all at 8:00am. The May 15th and 29th breakfasts will resume as usual at Perkins on London Rd at 8:00am.

CHUM Rhubarb Festival!

The Chum Rhubarb Festival is coming up in June. It is an important and very fun fundraiser. Peace Church has committed to baking 70 rhubarb crisps. We will be baking on Friday, June 27th. If interested contact Linda Goese at lrgoese@gmail.com



Lunch Fundraiser for our Summer Youth Trip to Re-Member on June 8th, after the Annual Meeting

This Summer, 10 youth and 4 adult chaperones are road-tripping to Re-Member, an independent, non-profit organization working with the Oglala Lakota nation on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. This is both a cultural immersion trip and a service trip, guided by the aspirations of tribal members who are generous with their wisdom as cultural speakers, community leaders, and builders of understanding.

Please join us after the annual meeting to learn more about our trip, and to support our youth!

Office Closure Dates

Please note the office will be closed on Monday, May 26th for Memorial Day. Staff will resume office hours on Tuesday, May 27th.



Uplifting Peace

Mission Possible

A Silent Auction for Mission and Justice

Friday, May 16th, 6 p.m.
Peace UCC

**All proceeds go to the Peace Church
mission and justice work!**

Silent Auction 6 pm to 7:30 pm
Live Auction 8 pm - 8:30 pm

Plus, we are so pleased to have
renowned singer, songwriter duo

- **Sara Thomsen and Paula Pedersen** •
perform between the Silent and Live Auction,
where we will sell sponsorships for
new chairs for the Fireside Room.

Invite your friends!

Silent Auction Donations (so far)

Arts and Crafts

Several Handmade items
Photo Cards and Framed Flower Print
MN Vikings Beanie
Rock On Necklace and Earrings
Two Handmade Quilts
Original Weavings
Framed Flower Print
Shutterfly Book
Toddler Learning Blanket
Hand Knitted items
Four Charcuterie Boards/Honey Dipper
Knitted Children's Clothing Items

Private Lessons

Violin Lessons, Violin included (two sets)
Weaving Class
Bluegrass Banjo Lessons
Swimming Lessons
Beginning Sourdough Class

Baked Goods

Homemade Challah Bread Basket
Monthly Cookie Dropoff
Homemade Cookie Basket
Three Homemade Pies



Specialty Baskets

Spiritual Care and Reflection Basket
Gift Basket and Blueberries
Spirit Creek Farm Gift Basket
Chocolate Basket
Gardening Basket
Game Night Basket
Wine Lovers Baskets
Lemonade Basket
Dog Basket
Date Night Basket

Specialty Dinners

Lake Superior Cruise with Dinner (2)
Gourmet Dinner for Six
Gourmet Pizza Dinner for Eight
Pizza Feast at the Olsons

Vacation Stays

Cabin on Brimson Lake
AirB-N-Bawk Two nights
Sunset Bay Lodge on Madeline Island

Excursions

Water Sports, Boating and Beach Party
Bike Ride and Lunch
Lake Superior Train rides
Sail on Lake Superior
Bicycle Built for Two Ride

Gift Certificates

Shoreview Natives (2)
Northland Country Club Golf - 18 holes
Gordy's High Hat
Pedro's Restaurant
Brewhouse Gift Card

Music

Jazz Concert - two hours in your home
Original Song written for you

Merchandise

Dept 56 Christmas Village
Pottery Bowl

Free to Attend • Appetizers • Drinks • Childcare Provided



Children & Youth

Hello Peace Families,

With so many things in the world and our daily lives in constant motion it can feel hard to catch up, catch our breath or even catch on. More than ever, it feels like life is moving fast, sometimes faster than we can make sense of, sometimes with more uncertainty and unfairness than it seems we can bear. Sometimes with moments of blazing joy that we want to savor before we move on to the next necessary to-do.

I am in this spot too.

And when I am in this spot, when life and to-do lists, and important-decisions-that-need-to-be-made-immediately are flying around me, when thoughts are zooming past me, what I usually have to do to keep my balance is a bit contradictory. I usually need to **slow down**. Return to what is most needed, take a breath (or many)! Check-in on my most important relationships. Remember who I am, who I want to be and why I am doing the things I do in the first place. Pray.

When I do this, I find there is always something important to discover.

That's one of the things I am **focusing on this month** – taking those moments to slow down – return to center and **savor the joy of community**. Relish in the solidarity that happens when we raise our voices with others to cry out against injustice and **organize to secure the safety of vulnerable people**. Marvel at the beatific light that dawns on the faces of **our young people when they discover** something about their creativity, or their imaginations, or make **a new connection in understanding God's story**. Giving **thanks for the young people in our midst who are growing up and growing into their full selves** – who truly are a bright future – our confirmands and our graduating class.

In this spirit, I am keeping this month's article short – we have many events happening at Peace and I will highlight a couple of them for you below. We will let you know about other events by weekly email. If you do find a moment here or there to slow down and savor life, please let me know what you discover, it will be a reminder to me and also another thing we can celebrate together.

Wishing you Love in Action, Amanda

JUST Like Me: Digging in & Growing Deep **Summer Day Camp – June 9th – 13th,** **from 9am -12pm.**

Come All You People, Come Near and Listen **Wednesday, May 14th at 5:45pm**

Join us Wednesday, May 14th at 5:45pm in the Sanctuary for a performance of the new play we created this Spring in Kids' Club! We will also be performing this play during the 10:30 am Service on Sunday, May 18th, as a kickoff to our Spring Fling celebration!

Come All You People, Come Near and Listen

This play has everything: puppets, the creation story, singing, dancing, the original song *Earth Doctor*, Jesus, ponderings on climate change, a call to action, a prophetic message and that thing when you get kiddos ages K through 5th grade together and unleash their creative energy!

If your kiddos want to be involved it's not too late, contact Amanda at amanda@peaceucc.org!

This year, camp is being hosted at our partner congregation **Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth (UUCD)**. We are also partnering, as in years past, with Pilgrim Congregational.

JUST Like Me is an inclusive camp experience that will help kids celebrate their identity (and others' identities) as God's beloved creations just as they are! Students will engage story (scripture and otherwise), creativity, a focus on nature/being "gardeners", and using their voices to speak up for others!

Registration forms are now available. **Contact Amanda to be emailed the registration form.**



Palm Sunday and Easter joy



Tea & Talk sharing memories of Lorraine Anderson, the treat queen!





Thank you to
 PRI for your
 diligent and
 careful work,
 Jen Stenersen
 for
 coordinating,
 and Betty
 Greene for
 these stunning
 photos!



Prairie Burn 2025



Regular Opportunities for Engagement & Volunteering

Recurring Meetings

Mondays

- 9:00am **Yoga with Robin** Every Monday
- 3:00pm **Monday Book Group** Second Mondays (summer hiatus June-August)
- 5:00pm **Making Meaning Out of Malignancy** Fourth Mondays
- 7:00pm **Boy Scouts** Every Monday (summer hiatus June-August)

Tuesdays

- 6:30am **Property Team** Second Tuesdays
- 6:30pm **Coordinating Council** Third Tuesdays

Wednesdays

- 8:30am **CHUM Breakfast Making** Every Other Wednesday
- 9:00am **Acting for Justice Hub** First Wednesdays
- 2:00pm **Belonging & Community Team** Second Wednesdays
- 3:30pm **Listen, Reflect, Connect** First and Third Wednesdays
- 5:30pm **Kids' Club** Every Wednesday (summer hiatus June-August)
- 5:45pm **Bible Study** Every Wednesday (summer hiatus June-August)
- 6:00pm **Middle School Youth Group** Every Wednesday
- 6:15pm **Choir** Every Wednesday (summer hiatus June-August)

Thursdays

- 8:00am **Men's Breakfast** Every Other Thursday
- 3:00pm **Dismantling Racism Team** Second Thursdays
- 5:30pm **Worship & Arts Team** Second Thursdays
- 7:00pm **Pastoral Relations Committee** second Thursdays

Recurring Volunteer Opportunities

Mondays

- Loaves & Fishes** Every Monday Night

Saturdays

- 8:30-10:30am **Damiano Community Kitchen** Fourth Saturdays
- 11:00-1pm **Damiano Community Kitchen** Fourth Saturdays
- 1:30-3:30pm **Damiano Community Kitchen** Fourth Saturdays
- 4:30-6:30pm **Damiano Community Kitchen** Fourth Saturdays

Sundays

- 8:30am **Ushering and Lay Reading** Every Sunday (summer hiatus June 8-August 31)
- 9:30am **Ushering and Lay Reading** Every Sunday (June 8-August 31)
- 10:30am **Ushering, Greeting, and Lay Reading** Every Sunday (summer hiatus June 8-August 31)
- 10:30am **Coffee Hour Volunteering** Every Sunday (June 8-August 31)
- 11:30am **Coffee Hour Volunteering** Every Sunday (summer hiatus June 8-August 31)
- 1:30-3:30pm **Damiano Community Kitchen** Second Sundays
- 4:30-6:30pm **Damiano Community Kitchen** Second Sundays



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If you are not interested in receiving the Peace Bell, please call or e-mail the office (see phone # and e-mail address above)

Welcome to worship with Peace Church, every Sunday at 8:30am & 10:30am

If you would like to be on our email list to receive notices of church events, please send an email request to the church office: office@peaceucc.org

PEACE CHURCH STAFF

Lead Pastor: Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis
 Music Director: Jim Pospisil
 Children, Youth and Small Group Coordinator: Amanda Hunter
 Pastoral Care Chaplain: Rev. Laurie Creilly

Office Coordinator: Bri Dornbush
 Business Manager: Rachel Obed
 Bookkeeper: Mali Lorenz
 Custodian: Dan Shepard
 Pianist: Wendy Durrwachter
 Worship Tech: Alex Nelson
 Kitchen Manager: Carrie Kelsey



PEACE CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday: 9am-3pm
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PEACE BELL is a monthly publication of Peace United Church of Christ, Duluth, Minnesota

Praising God; Living the Way of Jesus; and Building the Beloved Community of God

Our vision is to be an accessible, open, and affirming community, growing in Christian faith, committed to peace and justice, and building the beloved community. We strive to respect and value all of creation, and the diversity of people’s sexual orientation, gender expression and identity, class, race, culture, age, and physical and mental abilities.