

**Peace United Church of Christ  
June 7, 2026  
Second Sunday after Pentecost  
Annual Meeting Sunday  
9:30am**



*Rivers in the Desert, Lorrie Fowler*

1111 North 11th Avenue East, Duluth, MN 55805

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Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bells

\*Call to Worship from Psalm 33

Rejoice in God, all who seek righteousness,

**Praise God with lyre and harp!**

For God's word is upright,

**When we do God's work, we do it in faithfulness.**

God's counsel stands forever,

**God's wisdom is for us, generation after generation.**

Let us worship God!

\*Song *Gather Us In* see page 6

\*Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have separated ourselves from you and one another, and we long to reconcile and heal that separation. Grant us the courage to confess honestly, the strength to participate in transformation, and the compassion to extend your grace to ourselves and one another. Amen.**

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved, God loves us and there is nothing we can do about it.

**No matter what we do or leave undone, God's grace meets us.**

**Through Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

\*Passing of the Peace

Contemporary Reading *I Wake Close to Morning,* Phyllis Cook, reader  
Mary Oliver

Why do people keep asking to see

God's identity papers

when the darkness opening into morning

is more than enough?

Certainly any god might turn away in disgust.

Think of Sheba approaching

the kingdom of Solomon.

Do you think she had to ask,

"Is this the place?"

Anthem

*Alleluia*, Jake Runestad

Scripture Reading

Genesis 12:1-9

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Song

*Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer*

#18, *New Century Hymnal*

***Guide me, O my great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.***

***Open now the crystal fountain, where the healing waters flow.  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
ever be my strength and shield, ever be my strength and shield.***

***When I reach the River Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.  
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on heaven's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever sing to you, I will ever sing to you.***

Community Prayers and Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day**

**our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Sung Amen

Offertory

\*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God above ye heavenly host,  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen!**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| God be with you.           | <b>And also with you.</b>                         |
| Lift up your hearts.       | <b>We lift them up to God.</b>                    |
| Let us give thanks to God. | <b>It is a joy to give God thanks and praise.</b> |

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread and Cup

*(In the United Church of Christ all are welcome to participate in Communion. Gluten free crackers are on the tray and we use non-alcoholic grape juice.)*

Prayer after Communion

**Bountiful God, we give thanks for all we have received at this table through the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world with courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

\*Closing Song *The Church's One Foundation* #386, *New Century Hymnal*

***The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;  
we are Christ's new creation by water and the word;  
From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;  
with precious blood Christ bought us for all eternity.***

***Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
one charter of salvation, one God, one faith, one birth,  
One name together blessing, one holy food we share,  
to one hope we are pressing, at one in work and prayer.***

***'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,  
we wait the consummation of peace forevermore;  
Till with the vision glorious, our longing eyes are blessed,  
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.***

***Yet we on earth have union with God, the Three-in-One,  
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.  
O happy ones and holy! God, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.***

\*Benediction

\*Postlude        *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*, Peter Lutkin

Assisting in Today's Service:

Guy & Nadine Hubert, and Kate Nicoletti, Ushers

Cyndi Brown, Sophia Farell, Carrie Kelsey, Diane and Mike Swanoski, Dan O'Neill, Ian Connell, Matt Prois, Cathy Ameal, John Bankson, and Ron Deters, Tent Show Band



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### **Peace United Church of Christ Staff**

**Alex Nelson** - Livestream Technician

**Amanda McElray Hunter** - Children, Youth and Small Group Coordinator

**Bri Dornbush** - Office Coordinator

**Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis** - Pastor

**Carrie Kelsey** - Kitchen Manager

**Dan Shepard** - Maintenance

**Jim Pospisil** - Music Director

**Rev. Laurie Crelly** - Pastoral Care Chaplain

**Mali Lorenz** - Bookkeeper

**Rachel Burnett** - Business Manager

**Sophia Farell** - Soundboard Technician

# 539 Gather Us In



1. Here in this place new light is stream - ing,  
 2. We are the young— our lives are a mys - t'ry,  
 3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter,  
 4. Not in the dark of build - ings con - fin - ing,



Now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,  
 We are the old— who yearn for your face,  
 Here we will take the bread of new birth,  
 Not in some heav - en, light - years a - way, But



See in this space our fears and our dream - ings,  
 We have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
 Here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,  
 here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



Brought here to you in the light of this  
 Called to be light to the whole hu - man  
 Call us a - new to be salt for the  
 Now is the King - dom, now is the



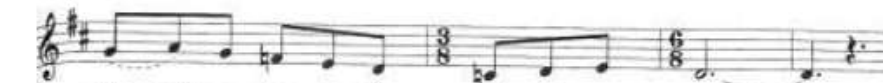
day. Gath - er us in— the lost and for - sak - en,  
 race. Gath - er us in— the rich and the haugh - ty,  
 earth. Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion,  
 day. Gath - er us in and hold us for ev - er,



Gath - er us in— the blind and the lame;  
 Gath - er us in— the proud and the strong;  
 Give us to eat the bread that is you;  
 Gath - er us in and make us your own;



Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
 Give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,  
 Nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
 Gath - er us in— all peo - ples to - geth - er,



We shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
 Give us the cour - age to en - ter the song,  
 Lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

**Grounds Improvement Work Day, Monday, June 8 at 10:00am**

Please join a group of volunteers on Monday, June 8 from 10:00am-4:00pm as we level the garden and playground. We are also planning on taking down the fence. Please let Bri know if you need childcare at [office@peaceucc.org](mailto:office@peaceucc.org).

**Children, Youth, and Families Summer Schedule**

**Reminder to families, there is no Nursery Care during the summer –** this includes June 14 - September 6.

**Summer services with Children's Church** will be: June 7 & 21, July 5 & 26, August 9 & 30. Please mark your calendars!

**KidsConnect Camp 2026! June 15-19, 9:00am-12:00pm at Pilgrim Congregational Church**

Calling all:

- K through 5 elementary children!
- Youth who want to be Camp Counselors!
- Adults who want to volunteer!

KidsConnect is where children use their brain power as they connect with Jesus, family, and friends of all ages! As children learn and create together, they will find a place of belonging, make new friends, and follow Jesus's example of making room for all and loving one another. This half day camp is our version of Vacation Bible School in partnership with Pilgrim Congregational and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Duluth. Email Amanda for the registration link at [amanda@peaceucc.org](mailto:amanda@peaceucc.org).

**Capital Campaign Forum, Sunday, June 14, 10:30am**

Join members of the Council, Property Team, and Capital Campaign Team to learn more about the upcoming capital campaign. Over the past several months we have been carefully evaluating our church facilities and identifying projects that will help care for and strengthen our ministry for years to come. As we move forward, the thoughtful input of congregation members is essential. Decisions about these projects and future investments in our facilities should reflect not only practical needs, but also the hopes, priorities, and perspectives of our church community. Your voice will help guide the process as we evaluate options, prioritize projects, and determine responsible next steps. If you can't make it in person, a survey will be emailed the following week as well.

**CJM Memorial**

Annual events to remember Elias Clayton, Elmer Jackson, and Isaac McGhie, the three young men lynched in Duluth in 1920:

- Sunday, June 14 at 5:30pm - Gravesite Gathering at Park Hill Cemetery, 2500 Vermilion Rd
- Monday, June 15 at noon - Annual Day of Remembrance, CJM Memorial, E First St & N 2nd Ave E

## **Juneteenth Celebration at the Central Hillside Community Center and Park, June 19, 1:00-6:00pm.**

The Family Freedom Center has asked Peace to volunteer. This will be our 3rd year in a row showing up and helping out! This is a fun way to celebrate and support our wider Duluth Community! We need folks to help during the second shift starting at 3:00pm and with the cleanup shift starting at 6:00pm! Contact Amanda at [amanda@peaceucc.org](mailto:amanda@peaceucc.org) so we know to look for you!

### **This Week's Schedule**

#### **Monday, June 8**

**10:00am Grounds Work Day** in Lower Parking Lot

**10:00am Childcare Available** in the Nursery

**7:00pm Boy Scouts** in the Fellowship Hall

#### **Tuesday, June 9**

**6:00pm Property Team Meeting** in the Staff Lounge and Zoom

#### **Wednesday, June 10**

**8:30am Chum Breakfast Making** in the Kitchen

**1:00pm History Team Meeting** in the History Room

**4:00pm Finance Committee Meeting** in the Staff Lounge and Zoom

**5:00pm Bible Study** in the Fireside Room and Zoom

#### **Thursday, June 11**

**8:00am Men's Breakfast** at Perkins on London Rd

**7:00pm Capital Campaign Team Meeting** on Zoom

#### **Sunday, June 14**

**9:30am Worship** with **Sermon** by **Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis**

**10:30am Forum: Capital Campaign** in the Fireside Room

**10:30am Coffee Hour** in the Fellowship Hall