



The Peace Bell

PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sundays at a Glance

June 4th Trinity Sunday

Graduation Sunday

8:30am Worship with Holy Communion

Sermon by Rev. Budd Friend-Jones

9:30am Forum: Stepping On Up

The most recent information and report from the SOU/Peace working group. What are the next steps if Peace is willing to move forward? What decisions still need to be made?

9:30am Breakfast for Peace Graduates and their families

10:30am Worship with Holy Communion
Reflections and Music by Peace Graduates
Blanket blessing

11:30am Coffee Hour in honor of Grads

3:00pm CHUM 50th Anniversary Service

First United Methodist Church (Coppertop)

5:00pm Taizé Service

6:30 Peace Village Orientation

June 11th Note Schedule Change

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Congregational Meeting

9:00 am Breakfast Fund-Raiser for Youth Trip

10:00am ONE worship service only

Sermon by Rev. Budd Friend-Jones

11:00am Congregational Meeting

(Coffee and treats will be served in the narthex between worship and congregational meeting)

June 18th Note Schedule Change

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Juneteenth Sunday

8:30am Worship with Holy Communion

Sermon by Rev. Budd Friend-Jones

9:30am Coffee Hour in the Narthex

10:00am Juneteenth Brunch at Sports Court

10:30am Juneteenth Worship at Sports Court

Hillside Gospel Choir

Sermon by Rev. Anthony Galloway

Recognition of Foy Scholars

Dress for the weather, bring a lawn chair!

June 25th Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Nathan's Last Sunday at Peace

8:30 and 10:30am Sermon by Pastor Nathan Holst and Liturgy of Farewell

9:30am Coffee Hour in honor of Nathan

4:00 pm Nathan Holst Ordination Service

What is Ordination?

In the act of ordination, the church recognizes and affirms an individual's call by God to serve as pastor and teacher and authorizes that individual for such ministry.

In the United Church of Christ, a Committee on Ministry oversees an individual's preparation for ordination. This preparation includes a period of discernment, recommendation by a local congregation, academic work in theology, Biblical studies, worship, organizational management, and human relationships as well as practical experience in a supervised setting. When a Committee on Ministry feels a candidate is sufficiently prepared, they hold an Ecclesiastical Council.

On March 12, Nathan Holst was declared to be "eligible for ordination, pending call." St. John's United Church of Christ on Madeline Island recognized Nathan's call from God and their unique set of gifts for ministry.

Now we have the opportunity to ordain Nathan for Christian ministry in the United Church of Christ. There will be a worship service here at Peace at 4:00 pm on June 25. In an ordination service, a candidate makes promises about the spirit and tenor with which they will undertake the ministry to which they are called.

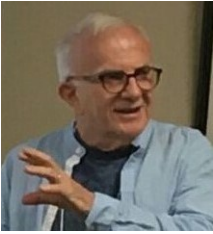
There is a blessing given by a laying on of hands, an ancient tradition that signifies the passing of Spirit and call from one generation to another. Already ordained clergy gather around the candidate to shower them with prayer and support. The red stoles they wear symbolize the presence of Spirit.

An ordination is a tremendous moment for both a candidate and the church. It is a moment of hope and celebration and confidence in God's ability to call and sustain ministry carried out through the church.

Peace Church has been the recipient of Nathan's ministry-in-formation for eight years. On June 25th we will bear witness to their readiness and will bless them for years of continued service.

Pastor Charlotte Frantz

Peace in Transition



On Filling Pulpits and Potholes

By Rev. Budd Friend-Jones

On my first Sunday with you a visitor asked, “What is a bridge minister?”

I explained that I was filling in between the departure of your interim pastor and the arrival of your next called minister.

“Oh,” was the response. “Sort of like filling a pothole?”

That is not exactly the way I would describe it, but I confess that I thought it would be something like that – passively filling the space until your new pastor arrives.

Wrong!

It has been my privilege to walk with you through one of the most consequential periods in your church’s history. So much that is happening is filled with promise for your future. Folks are returning from their long Covid-induced hibernation - in person and on Zoom. We are awakening with an abundance of ideas. On our collective journey, we are reconsidering priorities and practices. We are saying goodbye to old friends and welcoming new ones.

We are still assimilating the news of Nathan’s leaving – saddened for ourselves but happy for Nathan and their family. We are grateful for the competence and confidence that our new staff members - Bri, Mali, Rachel, Mariah and Alex - are bringing to their positions. We appreciate Joan’s leadership through this long and sometimes difficult transition, as well as that of so many others who are stepping up. Servant-leadership? You walk the talk!

In spite of severe budget challenges, we continue to engage the community with volunteers and funds in a variety of outreach and justice ministries. The life-changing possibilities of *Stepping On Up* for a stressed population is stimulating a great conversation about our mission and identity. And who isn’t praying for the pastoral search committee? In a few short months we will begin to live into a new era of our church’s life.

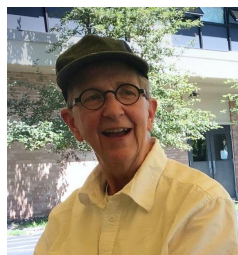
Challenges? There have been many. How many meetings have we conducted to the staccato rhythm of water dripping into an array of plastic buckets? How much will it cost to fix the roof? Where will we find the money?

Unfortunately, weapons and vitriol have spread more rapidly than Covid around the country. We can’t take security for granted anymore. I appreciate the conversations we’re having about security at the church. I’m gathering resources from other congregations and beginning to organize some training events for our staff (and others) regarding emergencies of various kinds. If you have ideas or if you’d like to be a part of this conversation, please let me know.

Filling potholes? Hardly! Leading a strong church, an engaged membership and an inspired staff is more accurate. For this privilege, I thank you.

Thank You

Change seems a constant at Peace these days. During our recent support staff vacancies, Tim Peters served us well as Interim Building Manager. His responsibilities are now reassigned to Rachel Obed, Business Manager or Dan Shepard, Custodian. You might see Tim around, though, as he can’t quite give up volunteering his help! Thank you so much, Tim.



Wishing You Well

Tyler Stark has been our faithful Sound Board Technician the past two years. He is graduating this spring and making the most of summer before heading to school in Vermont. Thank you, Tyler, for your faithful efforts to make us sound good on Sunday mornings!



Peace in Transition

On May 22 and 23, these two letters were sent by email to members and friends of Peace Church. They are reprinted here for those who may not have received them.

Dear Peace Church Community,

It is with both excitement and grief that I write to inform you that I have received and accepted a call to St. John's UCC on Madeline Island, beginning later this summer. Therefore, I am resigning from my role at Peace Church as the faith formation minister, with my last Sunday on June 25th.

After completing my ordination process, many of you asked what my plans were next. I shared that I was in conversation with Peace Church Council about the possibility of being called as an associate pastor. At the same time, I posted my ministerial profile so that other churches could consider calling me. St. John's Church responded to my profile and after conducting their search process, extended a call to me. After much discernment, I'm feeling a deep sense of call to be their pastor.

I love Peace Church. I love this community. I am so grateful for all the ways this congregation has walked with me. I'm grateful for the ways you have allowed me to accompany you as well. Leaving will be difficult. I also feel clear this is where Spirit is leading me and my family in this time.

In sharing my news with you, I realize this is yet one more change during a time of transitions. I trust that Spirit is moving in all of this and I will continue to keep this community that I love so dearly in my prayers. I hope you will hold me in prayer as I begin this next step.

In peace,

Nathan Holst



Story for All Ages, May 7

Nathan getting down eye-level with Peace Children!

Dear Friends,

Yesterday we received a letter and email from Nathan Holst. They - Nathan's preferred pronoun - have been called to the position of pastor at St. John's UCC on Madeline Island, Wisconsin. We receive this news with deeply mixed emotions. We are happy for them and their family. But we are sad at the thought of going forward without them.

Nathan will leave behind a strong ministry to children, youth and families. Their gifts to our congregation, and to our young people in particular, are many. We have enjoyed Nathan's original music and enthusiasm. We came to love Chris (the blanket), the puppets, the new Children's Church and the "marching" music as the kids leave worship. Working with the families of our children and youth became an important aspect of their ministry. Nathan co-led confirmation classes, facilitated and supported OWL, led and maintained a vital youth program (even/especially through a global pandemic), and helped deepen our connections with St. Mark AME.

The Council and the Human Resources Committee will begin to work immediately with Nathan, parents, and other stakeholders to assure that the programs Nathan led and supported will continue to thrive. We want your input as we move forward. The recent "Holy Cow" survey noted that welcoming and serving young families is very important to the vision, vitality and sustainability of our congregation.

Before Nathan leaves, Peace Church will co-host their Ordination Service on Sunday, June 25th at 4:00 p.m. with the Minnesota Conference of the UCC. This will be Nathan's last official day with us.

Just as God is calling Nathan to a new chapter in their life and ministry, we trust that God is calling us to a new understanding of our church's ministry as well. We are grateful for all that Nathan shared with us. We have been blessed by Nathan's ministry among us and, when the time comes, we will send them forth with our gratitude, love and blessings.

Cordially,

Joan Peterson, Moderator

Pastor Budd Friend-Jones, Bridge Minister

Peace Activities and Groups

Spiritual Journey Group

This group is taking a break for the summer; Watch for more information in the fall.

Monday Book Group

June 5th 3:00pm

The Monday Book Group is reading and discussing *The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe* by Richard Rohr. You are invited to join us in our final discussion on June 5th at 3:00 pm. For more information and the zoom link, email pcragun@d.umn.edu.

Bible Study

Wednesdays at 5:00pm

Our Bible study is led by Tom Liddle and Bob Stevens. We meet in "Room and Zoom" in the Fireside Room each week. Watch the weekly emails for information on the text for the week.

Peace Garden Planting

Spend an afternoon with Peace Gardeners, June 6th, 4-7pm and get the vegetable garden planted. Produce from the garden is donated to CHUM food shelf. Fresh produce is a real treat and in high demand! Rain date, June 8th. For more information, contact Bob or Kay Stevens or Gwen Plumb.

Tea and Talk

Tea and Talk is an opportunity to take an afternoon break and gather with other women at Peace for conversation and friendship. We are taking a break for the summer—watch for information in September.

Men's Breakfast

Every other Thursday 8:00am

Join us for breakfast and conversation! We meet every other Thursday at 8:00am at The New London Cafe on East Superior Street. We will meet Thursday, June 1 and June 15.

Making Meaning Out Of Malignancy

Monday, June 26th, 5:00-6:00pm

If you or a loved one have had cancer (in the past or currently) and would like to connect with others, you are invited to join our Making Meaning out of Malignancy group. The group meets monthly in a "zoom and room" format. For more information, please contact Monica Liddle, monimliddle@gmail.com.

Help Our Youth Go to Washington DC

Fund-Raising Breakfast

June 11, 9:00am



Eighteen youth and three adults are registered for this summer's youth trip to Washington, DC. Our youth will be part of a larger group of Minnesota young people learning about how to work for justice. They will visit legislative offices, learn something of our nation's history, and meet other UCC folk who share our denominational passion for building a Beloved community here on earth. Come for breakfast and help support their trip. Nathan will be missed, but adults who have worked with them and the youth group will be going. Thank you, Tres Commer, Molly Watson, and Warren Post for your commitment to our young people.

Taize: Quiet Transition

June 4 5:00pm

Is Sunday evening the end of your week? Or the beginning of the next? Prayer in the manner of Taize is quiet, meditative, and serene. Take a deep breath, calm your spirit, and come sing and pray with us. A collaborative effort among Worship and Arts Team members, this month Taize will be led by Jim Pospisil and Pastor Charlotte Frantz.



PALS

HUSKIES/TAILGATE PARTY

"Take me out to the ball game..."

WHEN: Thursday, June 29, 5pm. The game starts at 6:35 pm

WHERE: Wade Stadium Parking Lot

COST: \$14.50/person, includes box-seat ticket, brat, pop/water. Bring your own beverage, a dish to share (with serving utensil) and chair.

DEADLINE: Friday, June 23 to receive the group ticket rate.

RSVP to Lynn/Pat Devlin
(lpdev4455@gmail.com)

PAYMENT must be received by Monday, June 26. Make checks payable to Patrick Devlin. Mail to 4455 Sugar Maple Drive, Hermantown, MN 55811.

Future events:

August 10 — picnic and planing (date is tentative so make note in pencil)

Peace News

Stewardship Summit

On May 18, Peace leaders gathered to re-examine the meaning of Stewardship. After an afternoon of work led by Kelli Hallsten Erikson, the group identified as a core ethos: A Culture of Generosity: Caring and Sharing.

Stewardship is about more than money—it is about the relationships we build as we worship, care for each other, and work together. Geof Witrak will continue to represent Stewardship on the Coordinating Council; Marsha Hystead and Leanne Ventrella will co-chair the Stewardship Team.



Rummage Sale Success

We asked....you responded, and a very successful 2023 rummage sale is 'in the books'. Because of generous donations, lots of volunteers, and three days of hard work we were able to raise over \$3000 to help our church's budget needs, but the best part is the visiting, catching up, stuff exchange, and laughing! (and how many times did we say 'what the heck is this??'). To list names would mean we would miss some, but deepest gratitude to Cathy Ameel, Cathy Wood, and Cindy Macaulay for their constant positive presence; and to those who showed up at cleanup time, extra special thanks. We are a blessed community!

PK Fund (Prioritize Kids)

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the PK Fund (Prioritize Kids) that was set up in honor of Pastor Kathy when she retired in January 2021. We are approaching the half-way point of the 5-year time frame for pledges. A total of \$75,398 was pledged over five years; \$44,620 has been received. . If you want to know how much you pledged to this fund, please contact our bookkeeper, Mali Lorenz.

The PK Fund is available to support activities, collaborations, or innovations that will provide opportunities and experiences for children and youth to enhance their understanding of our church's mission and vision of the world. Priorities include Peace Village, Youth Service Learning Trips, Youth Leadership Development, and the Arthur Foy Scholarship.

This year the Fund helped us bridge the deficit by supporting children and youth activities, including support for our Youth Associate. The PK Fund helped bring David Hogg to our 150th Anniversary Rally for Peace, and contributed to 2022 and 2023 Peace Village, made gifts to graduating seniors, covered costs for a youth trip canceled due to the pandemic, and is supporting this summer's youth trip to Washington DC. If you did not make a pledge but wish to support this fund, any contributions would be welcomed.

Peace Dismantling Racism Team Seeking Additional Members

Peace Church has long advocated for racial, social and economic justice. The Dismantling Racism Team supports opportunities for Peace members to participate in education and community experiences that address issues of racism. We are looking for new members who are interested in supporting our mission:

- To encourage, strengthen and make visible the high priority on social justice in all aspects of the congregational life of Peace UCC.
- To offer educational opportunities that further our understanding of white privilege and systemic racism, throughout Peace UCC and in the wider community.
- To foster support for issues and events that are especially important to, or particularly impact, communities of color; when needed and requested, to offer leadership
- To foster relationships between Peace UCC and communities of color in Duluth, especially, but not limited to, collaboration with St. Mark AME Church.
- To make Peace UCC's resources available to the wider community for the work of confronting racism and advocating for racial equality.
- To collaborate with other congregations/communities of faith and organizations to more effectively address issues of racism.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Betty Greene (bgreene@d.umn.edu) or Gayle Kelly (gaylekelly44@gmail.com). Everyone is welcome to share in this work, including youth and adults.

Graduates—Class of 2023



Tyler Stark

Tyler is graduating from Duluth East High School. On top of being Peace Church's sound board technician, he also works at the Duluth Running Company. He is captain of his cross-country running team and enjoys track and field and Nordic skiing. He is involved in numerous music groups

including symphonic band, jazz band, pep band, and Duluth Superior Symphony Youth Orchestra. In the fall he plans to attend Middlebury College in Vermont to study architecture and the environment.

Andre Good

Andre is graduating from Duluth East High School and plans to attend the University of Wisconsin Madison where he has been accepted into the school of Letter and Sciences. He is interested in engineering, chemistry, and environmental sustainability. He is looking forward to being in a new state though still being near a lake and making new friends.



Ben Flotten

Ben is graduating from East/Catalyst Preparatory Academy. He loves playing sports, especially football, basketball, and soccer. He enjoys being outdoors and snowboarding, and fishing. He lived in the Chequamegon National Forest for over 100 days in the winter. This summer he is going to work as a camp counselor at Camp Olson where he will help out with the fishing program. Ben is excited to attend Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College to pursue a degree in criminal justice.



Elliot Dean

Elliot is graduating from Duluth East High School. He loves music and band and enjoys playing the trumpet and piano. He speaks German and is part of the German Club. Elliot plans to take a gap year in Germany, then attend Luther College in September 2024. He spends summers serving as a counselor at Waldsee German Language Village.



Anix Pfau

Anix went to Duluth East High School and graduated through the AEO program. When he was at East, he played softball and basketball. He plans on taking a gap year and driving around Lake Superior. He plans to go to school to be a firefighter.



Mark Kaczmarczyk

Mark is graduating from Duluth East High School. He is very active with cross country, Nordic skiing, track, cello, and orchestra. He plans to attend Iowa State in the fall and major in Architecture.



Makoto Sudoh

Makoto graduated from Duluth East High School. This summer he plans on fishing, working on Lake Superior, and making memories with close friends and family. This fall he will play junior hockey for the New Mexico Ice Wolves while taking online college courses. He later plans to attend college in Corpus Christi, Texas.



Mary Karstens

Mary graduated from Duluth East High School. In the fall she plans to attend Allegheny College in Meadville, PA to study Environmental Science and Geology.



Sunday, June 4: Graduation Sunday

We will celebrate our high school graduates. Elliott Dean, Mary Karstens, and Tyler Stark will each share some thoughts. Some of the graduates will provide special music, and we will celebrate all our graduates with a slideshow and a blanket blessing. Thanks to Jen Hudyma for making blankets for all our seniors.



Children, Youth and Families



*"Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in."
~Leonard Cohen*

Middle School (grades 6-8) Youth Group

We've officially started our summer break for our Wednesday night youth group. Instead of meeting weekly, we'll have periodic gatherings, so stay tuned for more. Mariah will be leading our youth gatherings throughout the summer. Our next scheduled gathering is on Thursday, June 15 at 6:00pm at the Dairy Queen in Canal Park. We'll have ice cream and then hang out by the lake.

Children's Church in the Summer

Come join us for Children's Church each Sunday this summer during the 10:30 service! We often have a group of about 10-15 kids, youth, and adults and it's a ton of fun. Kids stay for the service until story for all ages, leave for Children's Church for 20-30 min (where we might sing, do art, or read stories), and then come back with the adults for communion/offering. All kids and youth (and parents!) are welcome to join.

Nursery

We will continue to provide nursery care for our young children through June 11. Staff will be available there during the 10:30 service. After June 11, the nursery will still be available to parents, but we will not have nursery staff available until fall. Parents, please make sure to fill out the sign in/out sheet with your information before you drop off/pick up your kids. Please let us know if there are needs, we are missing or any questions/concerns that you have as parents. Thanks!

OWL for incoming 9th graders

Our main youth programming for 9th graders is our OWL program, which is our amazing comprehensive sexuality curriculum that starts in the fall. There's nothing that parents need to do this summer, but one of our leaders will be reaching out in the future to make sure you know about the program and to answer any initial questions you have about it. Looking forward to another great year of quality education for our youth!

Middle School Camping Trip Friday – Sunday, August 11– 13

We're headed back to Camp Amnicon this year for a few days of fun in the outdoors. Middle school youth (that includes incoming 6th graders to incoming 8th graders)—join us for our camping trip! We'll be heading to Camp Amnicon (45 away in on the South Shore in Wisconsin) for 3 days of fun. Activities include swimming, hiking, S'more making/eating, sleeping in tents, and just getting to know each other better. They have a wonderful swimming beach, chances for canoeing on the Amnicon River, and great hiking trails. Yes, we're going, even though Nathan won't be with us, We will leave from Peace in the early afternoon on Friday, August 11th and return before lunch on Sunday, August 13th.

Incoming 6th graders

Calling all incoming 6th graders! Now that you are entering middle school, we want to welcome you to our middle school youth group. If you're an incoming 6th grader and want to join any of our middle school youth activities in the summer, we would love to have you. We especially want to encourage you to come with us on our camping trip to Camp Amnicon. Check it out!

Peace Village Summer Day Camp (formerly known as VBS!)

When: June 12 - 16 from 9am - 12:30pm

Where: Peace Church

Ages: Entering Grades K - 5

Cost: Free (And we mean it!) *Donations to support the program can be made payable to Peace Church with "Peace Village" in the memo line.*

Parents are invited to join us Friday, June 16 at 12:15pm for a closing circle and picnic lunch.

Volunteers Needed for Peace Village Summer Camp

Do you love working with kids and youth? Do you love the idea of helping to build a peaceful planet? If so, consider volunteering to be a Peace Village camp counselor. We're looking for adults and youth (ages 11 - 17) to help in a variety of camp leadership roles. Camp will be held June 12 - 16 from 9 am - 12:30 at Peace Church with a volunteer orientation June 4th. Reach out to Nathan Holst to learn more at nathan@peaceucc.org.

Do Justice

Immigrant Welcoming Initiative:

Seeking Asylum

June 20 6:30-8:30

Peace 's Immigrant Welcoming Initiative is proud to join with The Interfaith Committee for Migrant Justice (ICMJ) in bringing the documentary, ***Seeking Asylum***, to Duluth It will be shown at the Zeitgeist Teatro at 222 E Superior St in Duluth. Please join others in our community after the viewing for a panel discussion on what migrants face and how we can help those who are going through the process of seeking asylum. To see the trailer, look up [Seeking Asylum](#).

Seeking Asylum is a feature documentary that bears witness to the endless deterrents migrants face when petitioning for asylum in the United States. In a dismantled system that has been designed for failure, the film follows one woman's journey as she searches for protection for her and her children. Many people view getting to the United States as the final hurdle of the migration journey, but in reality, entering the U.S. is just the beginning.. *Seeking Asylum* documents the challenges asylum seekers face and shows why asylum is an integral part of the American Dream that we cannot afford to lose.

Service of Remembrance

June 9 7:00pm

St. Mark AME

St Mark AME will hold a remembrance service at 7:00pm on Friday, June 9 for the shooting victims at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston SC and the Clayton Jackson McGhie lynchings.



Juneteenth Celebrations:

The Peace Dismantling Racism Committee encourages everyone to consider attending one of the many Juneteenth events hosted in Duluth June 17-18, 2023. These events commemorate the June 19, 1865 reading of the Emancipation Proclamation to enslaved African Americans in Texas (the actual proclamation was issued on January 1, 1863).

On Sunday, June 18, Brunch and Worship hosted by St. Mark AME at Central Hillside Sport Court. Gospel Choir and presentation of Foy Scholars.

Duluth NAACP Celebration will also be June 18 from noon-5pm at the Central Hillside Community Center.

Also June 18 noon to 6 p.m. at Harrison Park, Family Rise Together and Family Freedom Center will have an afternoon of events: <https://www.twinportsjuneteenth.com/>

Saturday, June 17 at noon there is a barbecue at Central Hillside Sport Court hosted by the Family Freedom Center

Beyond Violence

Gun Safety Bills Celebration

You are invited to a Wear Orange celebration of the passage of gun safety bills on Friday, June 2nd at 9:00 a.m. Coffee and treats provided. It is Wear Orange weekend to mark the beginning of gun violence awareness month. The celebration will be held at the Memorial Bell Garden at Lake Place Park above the lakewalk at the corner.

Park at the Endion Station pay lot or downtown on Superior St. The garden can be accessed from Superior St. or by walking up the ramp/stairs at the corner of the parking lot.. Please wear something orange. We will also ring our bell for victims of gun violence. Brief remarks by local officials and conversation and coffee. Contact Joan Peterson joan.peterson1@gmail.com for more information.



Joan Peterson has been a tireless advocate for gun safety laws. She and Minnesota Conference Minister Shari Prestemon met up at the State Capitol rally on April 25.

CHUM NEWS



stable lives, and organize for a just and compassionate community.”

CHUM is “People of faith working together to provide basic necessities, foster

50th Anniversary Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving First United Methodist Church Sunday, June 4, 2023, 3pm

This month marks the 50th anniversary of CHUM! Peace Church was one of ten originating congregations who came together 50 years ago to better serve their neighbors on the Hillside. John Hawley was doing alternative service as a conscientious objector and saw the need, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Thank you to all the people who have volunteered over the past 50 years in making breakfasts, hosting services, baking Rhubarb treats, volunteering in numerous other ways and donating food and money to keep CHUM offering much needed services and giving hope over the past 50 years. We plan on continuing to support CHUM in our community for the next 50 years. Keep CHUM in your prayers and plan to join in the exciting June activities!

CHUM Special Anniversary Offering Gifts of \$50 or \$250 or \$500 (or whatever amount suits you!)

In a “normal” year, Peace supports CHUM’s general operating expenses out of the regular Peace budget. In recent years, this has been close to \$20,000. This is not a “normal” year for Peace, so this year some of our commitment will need to be via special offerings. During this CHUM celebration month, consider a special 50th anniversary gift to CHUM through Peace Church. Write a check with CHUM in the memo and put in the offering plate. Or go to <https://www.peaceucc.org/donate/>, select My Vanco, then Local Community Funds, then designate CHUM. Consider a gift in some multiple of 50 if you can afford it!

Got Rhubarb??

Judy Gibbs, CHUM's Rhubarb Wrangler, is looking for donations for this year's Rhubarb Festival, held this year on June 24th. She'll pick or pick up from you, OR, you may drop it by the West Duluth Super One and turn it in at their service desk. They will get it into cold storage. Please do not chop stalks, and ensure all leaves are removed. You may contact at gibbsjudy@aol.com or call the church office and we'll put you in touch with her. Thank you!

RHUBARB FESTIVAL!

Stella Marais Academy,
2802 E 4th St.

Saturday, June 24, 2023, 9am-3pm



Peace volunteers are being signed up. Linda Goese is heading up the kitchen crew and planning to bake 50 pans of rhubarb crisp! Annette Strom assembled a Raffle Basket in Peace’s name. There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer directly with CHUM to make this event happen. To donate rhubarb or time, click here <https://tinyurl.com/38xy5mr4> Otherwise, please attend, eat, shop and enjoy!

Peace’s Support for CHUM

Many individuals at Peace provide significant support for CHUM through donations. Here’s how it works—We pack “breakfast to go” bags twice each month. We also make a hot meal to be served at the Drop In Center one Thursday each month. When we need donations, Bri sends out an email to folks on designated lists to let them know what we need: peanut butter, granola bars, cans of tomato sauce, hamburger buns, loaves of bread, etc. It’s easy to get on the email list—and each time you can decide if and what you’d like to donate. Just email bri@peaceucc.org and tell her, “Put me on the CHUM email list”. Let her know whether your preference is breakfast or dinner donations. Thank you!

Stepping On Up

Stepping On Up: Background Information

Rental income has long been an important revenue source for Peace Church. We haven't received income from the daycare wing since August 2022, when the previous tenant closed their doors very suddenly. Shortly afterwards, a subgroup of the Coordinating Council and Pastor Jim began to brainstorm possible new tenants for the space. The group reached out to local schools and daycares, and showed the space to two interested daycares, one school, and a non-profit looking for more office space. As we shared in the May Peace Bell, Stepping on Up <https://steppingonupduluth.org/> also expressed interest in this space as a possible shelter facility. The cost of updating the space and challenges of staffing were limiting factors for the daycares. The non-profit learned that the rezoning necessary for office space was not feasible. The Stepping on Up shelter option rose to the top of the list for our space.

During our weekly meetings we sought expert advice from both commercial realtor Greg Follmer and Duluth Senior City Planner (and Peace Member), Jenn Reed Moses. In late winter and early spring 2023, office manager Rachel Obed contacted more private schools and daycares to see if they needed more space. She also reached out to the United Way to see if they knew of organizations that could use the space. The subgroup also announced the availability of the space during Sunday morning worship, in emails, and the Peace Bell.

In April, after months of research, the group brought a recommendation to the Coordinating Council to begin serious negotiations with Stepping on Up (<https://www.peaceucc.org/council>). Further work needs to be done regarding building codes and determining the exact number of beds the space will allow considering both programming and financial needs, and making sure the design preserves a totally separate space for the church nursery. John Erickson and Gabe Zaun of DSGW Architects, as well as Gail Blum, volunteered pro bono architectural expertise for an Architectural Feasibility Study.

Attorney Dan Maddy of the Fryberger Law Firm offered pro bono legal services to begin drafting a lease for the space. The current approach is to pursue an initial lease for the remodeling phase—funded completely by Stepping on Up with CHUM as fiscal agent, and a separate lease for the program phase, which would be with Lutheran Social Service (LSS), the agency that would manage the shelter program.

Lutheran Social Service - one of the state's largest nonprofit social service organizations <https://www.lssmn.org/services/youth-homelessness/duluth>, with many years of experience addressing youth homelessness in Minnesota, would staff the space 24/7 and provide all the programming. There is a definite need for housing and supportive services for young adults in Duluth (with 25 on the current waiting list). Converting Peace's rental space into a supportive shelter would play a key part in ending the growing cycle of generational homelessness in Duluth. Studies show that getting young people off the streets at an early age leads to a much lower chance of homelessness later in life.

While there would be no volunteer requirements of Peace members, Peace Church would enter into this partnership not simply as landlords, but as good neighbors sharing kindness and simple acts of hospitality - truly living out our vision of "building the beloved community."

Answers to commonly asked questions are on an updated FAQ sheet . We look forward to responding to any additional concerns or questions at the June 4th Adult Forum. The June 11th congregational meeting will include a vote asking for the congregation's approval to move forward with this process.

If you have questions or concerns that you feel haven't been adequately addressed, please contact the Peace Church office to get in touch with any member of the rental subcommittee, which includes Dennis Isernhagen, Jessica Olson, Melissa Boyle, Monica Liddle, Pam Kramer, Tom Liddle, Pastor Budd, Pastor Charlotte, and Rachel Obed.

Stepping On Up: Questions and Answers

What is Stepping On Up?

Stepping On Up (<https://steppingonupduluth.org/>) is a five year plan to reduce homelessness in Duluth. It is a collaborative effort of nine housing and homeless services providers, the City of Duluth and St. Louis County. CHUM is providing leadership and Joel Kilgour is Project Organizer. Jeff Phillipich was recently hired as the Project Developer.

Why are we talking about this at Peace Church?

Stepping On Up approached Peace to consider using our vacant rental space as a Shelter Next space with programming run by Lutheran Social Services for young people between the ages of 18 and 24. Peace has a long history of responding to the needs of persons who are unsheltered and working with community groups to address some of the root causes of homelessness.

What is Shelter Next?

Shelter Next are indoor villages that provide supportive living space for 12-20 individuals and are staffed with support services 24/7. The number of individuals at Peace is yet to be determined through an architectural feasibility study, but would likely not exceed 16. Staff to resident ratio would be based on residents' needs, but would not be greater than 1:8 for young adults. Persons could live in a Shelter Next Indoor Village for 6-12 months while waiting for permanent housing.

Shelter Next sites are places where people can finally rest and breathe easy and begin a process of healing from the trauma of homelessness, increasing their chance of success when they move into permanent housing. Numerous studies indicate that when young people who are homeless are given safe and supportive shelter, the chance of their being homeless later in life decreases dramatically.

In what ways does this reflect and support Peace's mission?

A potential partnership is a way of living out Peace's mission. Renting space to Stepping On Up for a Shelter Next facility allows Peace to be a part of the solution to the long-recognized affordable housing crisis. The strong coalition of agencies and organizations promises funding for the remodel and financial stability for a 5-10 year lease, necessary for the support of other ministries of the church.

Are there any statistics available about crime and similar problems at other facilities?

Statistics show that homeless people are more likely to be victims of crime than perpetrators. One reason Stepping On Up is interested in Peace is the location away from the downtown area. Residents want to be away from downtown due to concerns for their own safety.

Will there be police calls?

Police calls would be rare, but they will occur from time to time. Police calls to Another Door (another LSS youth shelter facility in Duluth) happen roughly once per year. That said, LSS staff are very proactive about maintaining a safe environment for all residents and are trained in de-escalation measures to reduce the potential for violent interactions.

We have a small parking lot. Will there be lots of extra cars?

There would need to be 3 or 4 dedicated parking spaces for the program.

Would smoking and lingering outside be an issue? Peace sometimes holds outdoor events. Would residents be outside at the same time? Would church members and children feel safe?

A dedicated outdoor smoking area would be outlined in the lease agreement that would not be highly visible from the church entrance. A working committee composed of Peace members, Stepping on Up, LSS, and neighbors is being formed, and would meet regularly to help build good relationships for all and work to support positive interactions among members, residents, and neighbors.

Stepping On Up: Questions and Answers

What plans are there to address security concerns since the Stepping On Up space would adjoin the church space?

Security is very important. One part of the plan is to have a new keyless entry system for the entry doors of the church and the rental space. The rental space will have a clearly defined entrance and will be staffed 24/7. Cameras onsite and increased lighting in the parking lots are also part of the project.

What about visitors and other guests accessing the property?

There would be a no-visitor policy. Only authorized volunteers, staff, and residents would be allowed.

Would Stepping On Up need to use the kitchen, fellowship hall, or sanctuary?

Only on special occasions with pre-approval from the Business Manager (like any other outside group that rents our space). The rental space will include a kitchen for basic cooking.

What about the increased use of water, gas, and electricity?

The cost would be included in the monthly rent. We are in conversation with Stepping On Up about potentially sharing in the cost of a new heating system or other building improvements.

What happens if residents choose to use drugs and alcohol?

There will be an expectation of no drug or alcohol use on premises. Residents in recovery will have access to peer and professional support. Relapse can happen during the recovery process and staff will support people in getting back on a healthy track. Residents may be removed from the program if they are unable or unwilling to follow village rules.

What sort of time commitment is Stepping On Up able to give for use of this space?

Stepping On Up would commit to a 5 or 10 year lease of the space.

What if this does not work?

A lease agreement will include information about vacating the premises or terminating the partnership. This protects both the church and the renters.

Are there other churches in Duluth embarking on a similar project?

Our Savior's Lutheran Church in western Duluth is exploring the feasibility of providing temporary shelter for formerly incarcerated men.

Stepping On Up partner agencies are: CHUM, HDC, AICHO, Loaves and Fishes, LSS, Safe Haven, Life House, Salvation Army, and One Roof. The plan has been endorsed by the Affordable Housing Coalition and the Duluth News Tribune Editorial Board. The City of Duluth and St. Louis County are providing funding and technical support. Over 200 community members have already participated in Stepping On Up educational and volunteer events.

Interested in more detailed questions and answers? You can find them in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall at Peace Church, as well as upcoming weekly emails. There will also be a Q&A time at the **June 4th** adult forum at 9:30 AM at Peace and at the **June 11th** congregational meeting at 11:00 AM, when **we will be voting** on approval of the following statement:

“We, the members of Peace United Church of Christ in Duluth, Minnesota recognize that we are called to live out our faith in the world. As such, we support the Coordinating Council’s efforts to develop a lease agreement with Stepping on Up. Peace Church will enter into this relationship not simply as landlords, but as good neighbors sharing kindness and simple acts of hospitality - living out our vision of “building the beloved community.”

News from the Coordinating Council



Coordinating Council learning about Stepping On Up and Lutheran Social Services.

Sunday Schedule

June 11

9:00 Breakfast—Fund-raiser for Youth Trip to Washington, D.C.

10:00 ONE SERVICE ONLY

11:00 Annual Congregational Meeting

Several important items are on the agenda and we hope this schedule gives us the time we need to be a thoughtful, discerning community.

From Joan Peterson, Moderator

This is my last report as the Coordinating Council Moderator. I turned over my “throne” in the fireside room to Jessica Olson at our May 16th meeting. Jessica Olson will be a wonderful moderator as we make a transition to a settled pastor which we hope will happen soon.

Our May 16th Council meeting was very productive. We voted to approve of the slate of the new Council to present to the congregation on June 11th. We voted to endorse Tom Liddle to the Minnesota UCC Committee on Ministry for his process of becoming a certified chaplain in standing with the UCC. Pastor Budd has some plans for the safety and security of Peace Church following an incident in the narthex a few weeks ago. There will be some folks working on a plan for our church that will be shared with staff, volunteers, and congregation members.

One of the issues you will hear about at the June 11th congregational meeting is a request for the property committee to pursue funding sources for the repair of our flat roof after all the water leaks this past winter. It’s past time for this to happen and as part of the stewardship of our building, we must do this. We should not have to collect water leaks in multiple buckets all winter.

We had a robust discussion about the Stepping on Up proposal. The Council feels that we should proceed with writing a lease with the help of a local attorney who will do this pro bono. A lease will be written using questions and concerns from members to make sure it is in the best interest of Peace Church. Understanding that there are still a lot of questions, there is one more opportunity on June 4th to ask some more. Your input is valuable to the process. Please read about Stepping On Up and the June 11th Annual meeting for more information.

Thanks to Rachel and Mali, our fantastic office business staff, Bri in the front office, and Pastor Charlotte, we are in a much better place than we were when you all approved of a large deficit budget in January. We will discuss this more at the annual meeting on June 11th with a congregational vote on amended expenditures in the budget from what was approved in January.

We thanked outgoing Council members Tom Hystead, Penny Cragun and Diane Swanoski for their service to the church. Tom was the moderator and then past moderator who shepherded us through a few difficult years with stoicism and wisdom. Diane faithfully took the minutes for every Council meeting with cheerfulness and clarity. Penny served as the representative for the Christian Education committee. We could always count on Penny to make sure that justice and fairness were at the top of mind in our decision making. We will miss them. Please thank them when you see them at church.

And finally, the Council learned of Nathan Holst’s call to St. John’s UCC Church on Madeline Island shortly before the congregation got the news. There were a lot of mixed feelings about their leaving, but we all wish them much luck in their role as a lead pastor in their own church. And we will be diligent about a process of finding a person to work with our children and youth. We hope for your patience and your input.

More Peace News

Annual Meeting Agenda Items

June 11, following 10:00 Worship

2022-2023 has been quite a year for Peace Church. The Annual meeting will be held June 11 and the agenda is full! Among other items:

- Receiving Annual Reports from staff, Council and Teams
- Election of Coordinating Council for 2023-2024
- Update on the budget: More information about income and revisions made by the Coordinating Council in expenditures
- Authorizing a loan for repair of the roof over the offices
- Update and resolution from the Coordinating Council to move forward with an agreement to rent daycare wing to Stepping on Up and Lutheran Social Services.

Many thanks to Joan Peterson, Moderator, Tom Hystead, Past Moderator and Jessica Olson, Vice Moderator for their leadership this challenging year.

Halima Amiri: Featured Artist



Peace Art Gallery will feature art work by Halima Amiri during the month of June. Halimi came to the United States from Afghanistan and is currently a student at the College of St. Scholastica. She is

interested in computer science and especially in IT in health care settings. She is serving a summer internship at the Y. She arrived in Duluth with a portfolio of pencil sketches capturing the faces of loved ones and strangers she met during her journey.

Planning Farewell

If you are interested in helping with plans for June 25th, come to the Fireside Room following the 10:30 worship service on June 4th. If you chair a committee or convene a team that has relied on Nathan, and you want some tips on how to move forward, come and be part of this discussion on saying farewell.

Slate of Nominees

2023-2024 Coordinating Council

Moderator	Jessica Olson
Vice Moderator	Mike Swanoski
Past Moderator.	Joan Peterson
Secretary	Sara Cedars
Treasurer	Kirby Wood
Christian Service	Monica Liddle
Christian Spiritual Life	Jan Nugent
Christian Education	Molly Watson
Stewardship	Geof Witrak
At-Large	Melissa Boyle
At-Large	Susan Goltz
At-Large	Nathan Langer
At-Large	Stephen Dando

Climate Corner

Welcome to our new Peace Bell feature, *Climate Corner*. In 2021, the City of Duluth declared a climate emergency and developed a city climate action work plan with support from Peace Church. Along with that, Ecolibrium3 developed a citizen climate action work plan. <https://tinyurl.com/mry8977m> Sometimes the overwhelming issue of climate change leaves us feeling helpless, so in this monthly space we will share plan actions that you can do to develop awareness and be a small part of the global solution to this crisis.

At Home: Have you thought of adding electric upgrades to your home or buying an electric car, but financially it hasn't worked for your household? Now is the time to look again! The IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) has millions of dollars to give as tax write offs and/or refunds, scaled upon income, for numerous electric upgrades. You can explore the rebates available here at the *Rewiring America* website: <https://www.rewiringamerica.org/app/ira-calculator>

In Community: The Climate Stories Project is a local endeavor to elicit local people's personal narratives of where they have noticed the changing climate over the period of their own lives. Lisa Fitzpatrick is one of the organizers and would love to share some of your personal stories. Please contact her at lfitzpat@gmail.com, and she will get you the information needed to share your own tale about this crisis.

Volunteer Schedules

Coffee Hour Volunteers

Coffee Hour volunteers help set up, serve and clean up after coffee hour. Additionally, please bring 2-3 dozen cookies or bars or an equivalent veggie or fruit. If you are willing to help out one Sunday in June, please contact Bri at office@peaceucc.org

June 4th– Graduation Sunday

Cathy Ameel, Cindy Macaulay, and Pam Kramer

June 11th– Annual Meeting—One Service

Janell Kohls, Kate Nicoletti, and Martha and Craig Minicheck

June 18th– Juneteenth Sunday

Cindy Macaulay, Mark and Jo Johnson, and Cindy and Pat Nelson

June 25th– Bill Kohls and Sharon Crosby

Monday Meals for Loaves and Fishes

Peace volunteers make and deliver meals for **Loaves and Fishes Dorothy Day House** on Monday evenings. Usually meals need to serve 10-15 persons. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, email office@peaceucc.org or access the schedule on our website under the menu “for volunteers.”

June 5th– Judith Derauf

June 12th– Tom & Christine Day

June 19th– Open

June 26th– Open

Damiano Community Kitchen

Peace volunteers help prepare and serve a meal at Damiano Community Kitchen twice a month. [Click here](#) to sign up.

June 11th– 1:30-3:30 Tom & Christine Day
One Open Slot
4:30-6:30 Three Open Slots

June 24th– 8:30-10:30 Three Open Slots
11:00-1:00 Three Open Slots
1:30-3:30 Three Open Slots
4:30-6:30 Three Open Slots

Ushers, Greeters and Lay Readers

Sunday morning hospitality is an important ministry at Peace. Your welcoming presence and assistance during worship makes a huge difference. If you are willing to serve as an usher, greeter or lay reader, let us know by sending an email to office@peaceucc.org.

Peace People

Keep in Your Prayers

- All our members living in long-term care facilities: Joyce Riggle at Park Point; Mike Nugent at the Silver Bay Veterans Home; Steve Coll at St. Anne's; Amanda Cran at Bishop Woods and Sharon Kirtley at Viewcrest.
- All those undergoing treatment for cancer: Stephen Dando, Terrie Shannon, Mary Caine-Hafdahl, Kim Kruger, Marg Paulson, Sam Peterson and others.

In Sympathy

Our condolences go out to Marge Paulson's family. Marge passed away May 26. A Memorial Service will be held at Peace on Monday, June 5, at 3:00pm. Visitation at 2:00 and refreshments following.

Our sympathy is also extended to Mollie Clark Stapleton on the death of her father and to Amena Haidari on the death of her father.

Peace Prayer Chain

Please call the church office (218-724-3637) or Linda Goese (218-341-0918) with your prayer concerns. You can let us know whether or not to share your concern with the pastors for inclusion in Sunday morning prayers.

Peace Delegates to CHUM

Each congregation that belongs to CHUM is entitled to two delegates who serve as a liaison between the congregation and CHUM. Delegates attend meetings about once a quarter to learn about CHUM and receive updates via emails. Our delegates relate to the Acting for Social Justice Hub which, in turn, helps figure out how Peace can respond to CHUM requests and initiatives.

If you are interested in serving as a CHUM delegate or you would like to recommend someone, please contact Monica Liddle (monimiddle@gmail.com) or Pastor Charlotte (charlotte@peaceucc.org). Current delegates are Louise Hawley and Annette Strom.

July Peace Bell articles are due Monday, June 19. Send articles to bri@peaceucc.org



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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 at Peace Church—Sunday Worship 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

Bridge Minister: Rev. Budd Friend-Jones
 Interim Pastoral Associate: Rev. Charlotte Frantz
 Faith Formation Minister: Nathan Holst
 Music Director: Jim Pospisil

Pastoral Care Chaplain: Gudrun Witrak
 Office Coordinator: Bri Dornbush
 Business Manager: Rachel Obed
 Bookkeeper: Mali Lorenz
 Custodian: Dan Shepard
 Youth Associate: Mariah Kiefer
 Pianist: Wendy Durrwachter
 Worship Tech: Alex Nelson



PEACE CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday: 9am-3pm
PHONE: 218-724-3637 **Web:** peaceucc.org **Facebook:** peace.church.duluth
Instagram: peaceduluth **Twitter:** PeaceDuluth

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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 reaching out in healing love to all of creation, including all people, respecting and valuing the diversity of people's sexual orientation, race, culture, gender identity, age, opinions, and physical and mental abilities. *Visitors are always welcome!*