



# The Peace Bell

PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



*Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. (taken from www.history.com)*

*We, too, are honoring Black History Month at Peace Church, in our worship services and in other groups.*

## Covid Changes at Peace Church

With the high number of Covid cases in the Twin Ports and numbers increasing daily, we have made a few temporary changes to our regular plans for worship and committee meetings. They are as follows:

1. Sunday worship will be **online only for February 6 and 13 at 10:30am**. There will be no 8:30am worship service. The livestream link will be on our website ([www.peaceucc.org](http://www.peaceucc.org)) and in the weekly email update. The bulletin will also be found on our website next to the livestream link. There will be a link to click on and the bulletin will upload in PDF form. Worship will also be recorded and can be watched at a later time. Any questions, email the office at [office@peaceucc.org](mailto:office@peaceucc.org).

2. **On Sunday February 6 and 13 at Noon—join Pastor Jim for two more Sunday Connects following worship.** This is a way to connect through prayer and conversation when we are not in-person. The Zoom link for these sessions will be found in the weekly email.

3. Additionally, **every Wednesday in February (2, 9, 16, 23) Pastor Jim will be hosting a Peace Church Connects group at 7:00pm via Zoom.** Join us for an informal time of conversation, check-in and spiritual support. A Zoom link will be included in the weekly email.

4. **The Congregational meeting originally set for January 30 has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 20 at Noon** in the sanctuary with a hybrid option such as Zoom or livestream. More details to come.

5. We are asking all groups and committees to meet virtually instead of in-person for the next few weeks.

Thanks so much for continuing to be flexible and supportive of Peace Church as we navigate this pandemic.

## Table Of Contents

- Page 2:** From Interim Pastor Jim
- Page 3:** Sundays in February
- Page 4:** Peace Church News
- Page 5:** Peace Church Groups
- Page 6:** Wednesday Info/Committees
- Page 7:** Nathan's Page
- Page 8:** Council Corner
- Page 9:** Youth and Children's Ministry/  
Charlotte's Column
- Page 10:** A Word For Justice
- Page 11:** CHUM Page
- Page 12:** People Page
- Page 13:** Volunteer Page



*Worship staff recognized Kwanza in service on Sunday, December 26.*

## From Interim Pastor Jim

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God which passes all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

-Philippians 4:6-7

Dear friends,

In the past few weeks we made the difficult decision to return to livestream for worship and postpone some church activities and moving others to Zoom. This morning as I was checking the NYTimes Daily Coronavirus Tracker which includes Duluth specific information, I was also reminded of this favorite scripture. It's disappointing to have to take these measures, and I know that it's the right thing to do. Please remain steadfast in your commitment and presence to Peace Church, whether it's on-line or in-person. We are making tangible progress in re-gathering our community after a difficult 2021. We will

navigate this latest twist. Peace Church is one of the most resilient communities I've ever been a part of.

Thank you to the people who have participated in the first round of "Talk, Listen, Pray." I'll repeat them a month from now, perhaps at different times. Each gathering has been moving and important as we learn from the past and create a new future here for ourselves.

Thank you also for your financial commitment. Our stewardship committee has worked persistently to learn what people are willing to commit to giving financially in the upcoming year, which is necessary information for the Church Council as we do a reset. Many of you pledged generously on faith that we will emerge from both Covid and conflict as a healthier community in every way. When the Stewardship Team asked you to revisit your pledges, you collectively raised them by over 10%. Then another family who wants to see us maintain our visibility and vitality during this pivot

year made an additional 100,000 pledge. Every gift, every amount we receive is important. I'm sharing the specificity of this one because of the expression of confidence it represents, and I hope it will inspire you too. As one donor said with a touch of humor, "Peace Church has a helluva legacy" and they and hopefully all of us want to see it continue, even though it may look like something we've never seen before. That's the God-part, Let's pray daily for Spiritual guidance and healing as we show up together in whatever medium we can.

Thank you again for all of your generosity and love.

In Peace, Pastor Jim



*Our wonderful volunteer choir on Sunday, January 23 for our livestream only service.*



*Tyler and Max livestreaming on Sunday mornings. Many thanks to them!*



*Pastor Jim with Pastor Anthony Galloway at the Rally For Democracy on January 6.*



*Pastor Jim decorated the narthex for Black History month.*

## Sundays in February

We continue to have worship on Sunday mornings, at 8:30am and 10:30am on most Sundays. At our 8:30 service, we share communion each week with a Taizé service the last Sunday of each month. At our 10:30 service, we usually share communion the first Sunday of the month. Masks must be worn indoors. Service will continue to be livestreamed via our website ([www.peaceucc.org](http://www.peaceucc.org)) on most Sundays. Updated information can be found on our website ([peaceucc.org](http://peaceucc.org)) and in the weekly email. We look forward to seeing you at church!



Hopefully, the current surge of Covid will subside and we will be able to gather again in person for worship. Please watch the mid-week email and the Peace Facebook page for current information.



### Sunday, February 6

**8:30am:** There is no early service this Sunday.

**10:30am:** Please join us for worship **via livestream ONLY**.

This service will be an introduction to Black History/ Black Futures as a liturgical season. Pastor Jim will be preaching. Communion will be offered.

### Sunday, February 13

**8:30am:** There is no early service this Sunday.

**10:30am:** Please join us for worship **via livestream ONLY**. Sermon by Pastor Jim with stories from the life of Fannie Lou Hamer.

### Sunday, February 20

**8:30am:** Please join us for worship with Holy Communion **in the sanctuary**.

**10:30am:** Please join us for worship **in the sanctuary or via livestream**. Sermon by Pastor Jim with stories from the life of John Lewis. Special music by Leon and friends.

**Following worship we will have our congregational meeting to approve the 2022 budget.**

### Sunday, February 27: Transfiguration Sunday

**8:30am:** Please join us for Taizé worship **in the sanctuary**.

**10:30am:** Please join us for worship **in the sanctuary or via livestream**. Pastor Charlotte Frantz will be preaching, "Known by Stories".  
Scripture: Luke 9: 28-36.

### February Coffee Hour

11:30am following in-person worship service

Come join us for coffee hour after the 10:30 service. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall to socialize (with masks). You are welcome to enjoy a cup of coffee in the Fellowship Hall, keeping in mind social distancing and staying masked unless taking a sip. As you leave you are welcome to grab a treat to go.

### The Commons (AKA Adult Forums)

#### Sundays at 9:30am

In the Fellowship Hall or via Zoom (TBA)

A place to learn, question, support, connect, talk, listen and be together. Plans each week are subject to change due to Covid, so watch the weekly emails for updates.



#### February 6—Our common call to hospitality: Welcoming the Stranger

Pastor Charlotte Frantz will help us consider the similarities and differences among newcomers to our country: asylum seekers, refugees, Afghan newcomers, and others. Immigration is a complex subject and the circumstances of one's entry requires varying kinds of support and welcome. Learn more about resettlement and the Peace Church Duluth Welcome Circle and ICMJ and asylum support.

#### February 13—Our common call to hospitality, part 2: Welcoming Afghan Newcomers

Haji, whose given name is Khalil Dokhanchi, is from Iran and teaches political science courses at UWS. His passion is assisting refugees and advocating on their behalf. He will be with us on February 13 to help prepare us to be welcoming of Afghan newcomers we hope to bring to Duluth.

#### February 20—Our (un)common history: Black History month

Pastor Jim Mitulski will lead a discussion about black history and the church. Why do we celebrate this in the context of our church life? Why is it we know so little about some of the history that has shaped us? Will we be changed as we learn more?

#### February 27—Getting ready for Lent: A Common Season

On this Sunday before Ash Wednesday, we have the opportunity to learn about the liturgical season of Lent: a time for contemplation, liberation, and prayer. The discussion will be led by Pastor Jim Mitulski.

# Peace Church News

## Adult Forum Tech Help

**Help Wanted: Are you willing to Facebook Live one or more adult forums?** The Adult Education Team would like to respond to requests that we make the 9:30am Sunday Adult Forums available online. We'd love to try Facebook Live for a few Sundays. If you are willing to help with this experiment, contact Pastor Charlotte ([charlotte@peaceucc.org](mailto:charlotte@peaceucc.org)). If there is an Adult Forum in which you are especially interested, or a date you would be available, please let her know. We are still learning how to be church in this Covid time.

## Health and Wellness Committee

Monica Liddle and Susan Larson Kidd are co-chairing this committee. They would love to have any past, present or new members interested in joining the committee contact them. Also, if there is anyone interested in offering a one hour talk on a wellness or health issue, please email Susan at [susan.larsonkidd@drrslk.com](mailto:susan.larsonkidd@drrslk.com). Thank you!



## Interpreting Services for Worship

Interpreting Services will be provided on an as-needed basis. If you would like to request an Interpreter for worship service, please contact the office at 218-724-3637 or email Judy Hlina at [judyhlina@gmail.com](mailto:judyhlina@gmail.com).

~ Peace Church Interpreting Team

## Peace Prayer Chain

We have a whole group of people who would love to pray for you! Please call the church office (724-3637) or Linda Goese (218-341-0918) with your prayer concerns.

*Our Wednesday Breakfast group makes to go grab bags every two weeks for the Chum drop in shelter (left photo). Charlotte, Nathan, and Pastor Jim at our baptism renewal ceremony in worship (center photo) and Pastor Jim and other Peace friends and activists at the Rally For Democracy on January 6.*

## Stewardship

On behalf of the Coordinating Council I want to offer a huge thank you to the Stewardship Campaign Team (Cathy Ameal, Dave Courtright, Diane and Mike Swanoski, Elise Courtright, Geof Witrak, Justin Olson, Kelli Hallsten-Erickson, Kirby Wood, and Leanne Ventrella). This year they went to extraordinary lengths to carry out the pledge drive for the upcoming year. Actually, they conducted two campaigns in order to reach out to Peace Church members. Their extra efforts increased giving levels above the initial drive by nearly 10%. **The current-to-date giving households and the total amount raised is reported below.**

The Finance Committee and Council will now be able to complete a proposed budget. We hope to publish that projected budget in advance of the congregational meeting, now scheduled for Sunday, February 20. (Note these postponements are necessary due to the Omicron surge that is expected to peak and subside in early February). We very much appreciate your patience with the delays. **Here are the latest numbers:**

**So far we have 253 pledges for a total of \$409,219.** It's never too late to submit your pledge! You can mail your pledge card to Peace Church, 1111 N 11th Ave E, Duluth, MN 55805. And please consider setting up your pledge electronically. Electronic giving is a direct debit program that automatically deducts your contribution from a checking or savings account. Automatic contributions make it easy for you to fulfill your pledge even if you don't attend church every Sunday. Electronic giving also helps the church with budget planning. If you would like to give electronically, open the attached document "electronic authorization form," print it, fill it out, and return it to our bookkeeper, Rose Feriancek, by mailing it to Peace Church or by dropping it off at church in an envelope with Rose's name on it. If you have any questions, please email or call Bookkeeper Rose Feriancek ([rose@peaceucc.org](mailto:rose@peaceucc.org) or 218-724-3637).

~Tom Hystead

## Peace Church Groups

### Choir

Wednesdays at 6:00pm in the sanctuary

In person choir continues! Please join choir in the sanctuary with masks on for choir practice. Choir will also continue to meet on Zoom each Thursday at 4:30pm. See you there!

---

### Therapeutic SomaYoga

Mondays from 9:00-10:15am

Fireside Room

Therapeutic SomaYoga for healthy aging. Taught by Robin Davidson, PT, RYT, yoga therapist in training. This 75 minute class focuses on different aspects of the body, mind, and spirit that will support you in increased wellness as you age. It is very gentle and offers modifications for all levels of participants. Free will donations for the class (suggested \$10) can be made to the office. This is an in-person, ongoing class on Mondays (with masks). You can also join us through Zoom.

---

### Monday Book Group

Monday, February 7 & 21, 3:00pm via Zoom

We will be meeting by Zoom at 3:00pm and the topic will be Mentoring...but not job or career related. Instead we will explore family, neighbor, and friend mentoring, as well as seeking others who can mentor us at all stages of life.

Join us whether you are a regular attendee or not. Just contact Penny Cragun at pcragun@d.umn.edu for connections.

---

### Men's Breakfast

Join us once again for breakfast and conversation! We meet every other Thursday at 8:00am at The New London Cafe on East Superior Street. **Our next breakfast gatherings are Thursday, February 10 & 24.** Newcomers are invited to join us.

---

### Making Meaning Out Of Malignancy

Monday, February 28, 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 virtual group. The group meets every month on the fourth Monday. Please check your weekly email update for the Zoom link.

---

### Special Music

If you are interested in providing special music, please contact Jim Pospisil at jim@peaceucc.org to schedule a Sunday worship service that works for you. Thanks!

### Thursday Morning Book Club

Thursday, February 17, 10:00am  
in the Fireside Room

The Thursday Morning Book group will meet the third Thursday in February.

Location, depending on Covid, to be announced. For the month of Valentine's Day, we have chosen to reread a legendary love story all had read in the early 1990's, Robert Waller's best-seller *The Bridges of Madison County*. If you were touched by this book and would like to join us, email Alice Marks at amarks001@charter.net We'd love to have you join us.



---

### Women's Brown Bag

Wednesday, February 2  
1:00pm via Zoom

Bring your mask but not your lunch—except that this month, due to the Covid surge, we'll meet on Zoom instead of in person. The good news is—you won't need a mask! Last month four of us were on Zoom and had a nice visit. It would be great to have a few more women join us. We will meet on February 2 at 1:00pm. Look for the Zoom link in your weekly email. See you then!



---

### Sharing Our Spiritual Journey Group

February 7 & 21, 7:00pm via Zoom

In this time of pandemic, have you been struggling with your sense of purpose? Do you long to be more deeply connected to others, experiencing both affirmation and challenge to live fully into who you are? You are invited to join the "Sharing Our Spiritual Journey" group. We meet on the first and third Mondays of the month from 7-8 pm via zoom. We provide a space to reflect and share about our calling, our spiritual journey, our joys and challenges. We use check in, poetry, journaling, and any other gifts people bring to the group. If you have questions or would like to RSVP for the zoom link, please contact Gary Boelhower at gboelhower@msn.com.

---

### Peace Church Building Use

This is a friendly reminder to all who would like to use space at Peace Church: **to schedule a meeting at Peace, please email Elise Courtright, our Administrative Coordinator, at elise@peaceucc.org or call the office at 218-724-3637.**

## Wednesday Activities/Committee Info

### Virtual Bible Study

Wednesday Evenings at 5pm

We read the Gospel lesson for the upcoming Sunday several times. Each time we read we are listening for the still, small voice of God that will speak to us. We learn so much from what is touching other people's hearts as they hear the Gospel too. No prior biblical knowledge needed! We close with prayer. Please email the office for the Zoom link or look in your weekly email update.

### Confirmation (Grades 10-11)

Wednesday, February 2 & 16

7:15-8:15pm (location TBD)

The Second Year Confirmation Class meets with Nathan on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 7:15-8:15pm.

### Regularly Scheduled Team & Committee Meetings

*(Please watch emails for updates on meeting times and formats)*

#### Stewardship Team:

Thursday, Feb 3  
5:30pm Zoom

#### Adult Ed Team:

TBD

#### Dismantling

**Racism Team:**  
Thursday, Feb 17  
3:30pm Zoom

#### Children's Ministry Team:

Tuesday, Feb 8  
6:00pm Fireside

#### Worship & Arts Committee:

Wednesday, Feb 9  
11:30am Sanctuary

#### History Team:

Wednesday, Feb 9  
1pm in the History Rm

#### Shared Ministry Team:

Wednesday, Feb 9  
4:00pm via Zoom

#### Finance Team:

Wednesday, Feb 9  
5:00pm via Zoom

#### Property Team:

Wednesday, Feb 9  
6pm Fellowship Hall

#### Food & Fellowship Team:

check email for details

#### Acting for Justice Hub:

Sunday, Feb 13  
2pm via Zoom

#### Climate Justice Team:

TBD

#### Health and Wellness Team:

TBD

### Wednesday Activity Schedule

5-6pm: Bible Study via Zoom

6-7:00pm: Middle School (6-8th grades) Youth Group in the Fellowship Hall

6:15pm: Adult Choir in the Sanctuary

7-8:15pm: Confirmation in the Fellowship Hall (first and third Wednesdays of each month)

### Youth Group (Grades 6-8)

Wednesdays at 6:00pm

Youth Group is every Wednesday from 6:00-7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall, although the group may Zoom some weeks. Nathan will be in touch about any changes.



*Thanks to our Worship and Arts Team for all their work and dedication to worship planning.*

### Coordinating Council 2021-2022

Moderator: Tom Hystead

Vice Moderator: Joan Peterson

Secretary: Diane Swanoski

Treasurer: Dick Goese

Representative of Acting for Justice: Monica Liddle

Representative of Spiritual Life: Susan Larson Kidd

Representative of Stewardship: Dave Courtright

Representative of Christian Education: Penny Cragun

At-Large Member: Jessica Olson

At Large Member: Matt Ryan

At Large Member: Mary Adams

#### The PEACE BELL

is a monthly publication of  
Peace United Church of Christ  
Duluth, Minnesota

#### EDITORIAL TEAM

Elise Courtright &  
Nancy Nelson  
Photographer: John Ameen

#### PEACE BELL ARTICLES

are due **Wednesday, February 16**  
Send to [elise@peaceucc.org](mailto:elise@peaceucc.org)

# Nathan's Column



*"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*

It amazes me that even in the midst of the trudge of the journey through the pandemic, we largely continue on with life. I've heard from many of you how difficult it has been, how disconnected you sometimes feel, how you long for the time when we can return to sharing food and feeling a deeper sense of community. And yet, even in the midst of this we continue on as a community, sharing pockets of connection, stories when we find the space, and updates on our lives when we happen to find ourselves in serendipitous conversations outside the grocery store with friends we haven't seen for some time.

This month, I first want to give a collective affirmation of all the ways we in the Peace community continue to embody resiliency, whether together and apart. But I would also like to take this opportunity—this pocket of connection—to update you on what has been happening for me in my ordination process. I am so grateful for the ways our church leadership and you as a congregation have supported me these last years in pursuing ordination.

As you may remember from past sharing, though I am currently a licensed minister (which is authorized ministry to a specific church, time, and purpose), I am one of the first people pursuing a newly formed/forming track called "multiple paths to ordination" (different from the traditional track of completing seminary, but rather integrating life experience, theological academic work, and other education). These last 6 months, I have been busy working on my academic requirements (all online) in my process, which has included:

1. A United Church of Christ history/polity/theology course I took last May. It turns out I love being part of the UCC and confirmed I am in the right place.
2. An elective course in partnership with the Children's Defense Fund and United Seminary of the Twin Cities I started in the summer and finished in the fall. Some of you heard a sermon mid-summer after I completed the first part of this course, which focused on justice for marginalized children and youth. The second part of this course was a project that I led with Peace Youth this fall, where we had a 2 part series on how we learn to listen to the needs of marginalized youth in our community.
3. A Constructive Theology Course at United Seminary of the Twin Cities I took this fall. This was one of my favorite courses I've ever taken. It was a lot of reading, but I loved the challenge of integrating my learning and then articulating a theology (who we are, what we hope for, how we get there, etc.) that flows from my own experience. I look forward to sharing more.

Now that I have completed my academic portion of the process, I am on the final stretch of the requirements of the process. The only piece left is my Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), which will begin in February and end in May. This particular kind of CPE is congregational based, which means I will be able to complete many of my required hours through the work that I am already doing at Peace Church. The remaining hours will involve reflection through a relationship with the Stillwater prison and 4 men who are serving life-long sentence, who are also spiritual leaders in their prison context. This means I will be traveling down and back to Stillwater each Thursday for the day. I anticipate this experience to be challenging and rich, and I know it will benefit our Peace community because it will make me a better leader. I am so grateful to our church leadership in supporting me through this process, making sure there is time set aside for CPE as I continue all the rest of my usual work at Peace.

Once again, I want to offer gratitude to all of you in our Peace community for taking the time to read this update and for your continued support in this process. I look forward to sharing more as things unfold.

~Nathan

*Youth Group meets every Wednesday at Peace. From the looks of it, they must have a lot of fun!*

## February Youth Group

We continue our amazing gathering of middle school youth (6-8 grade), meeting in person (covid permitting) every week in the fellowship hall from 6:00-7:00pm. We play gaga ball, hang out, and share joys and concerns with each other. In February, we're shifting gears and brainstorming how we want to spend our time in youth group for the next couple months. Come join us—youth group is the place where we cultivate community and a sense of belonging—it's awesome!



## Council Corner

I am continually awed at the dedication of the Coordinating Council members to the mission and work of Peace Church. To a person, each Council member is part of a committee or team, often more than one, that day-in, week-out, month-in, year-out tend to the detailed work necessary for us to be Church. Then once a month, sometimes more than once a month, they come together for the regular Council meetings. Please take any opportunity you might have when you see a Council member to acknowledge their hard work on our behalf.

The Council met on January 18 via zoom. Here are notable items from the meeting.

The year financial reports included a slow down in income and additional expenses that were not anticipated in the 2021 budget. The year-end shows a net loss compared to the budget of around (\$24,500.) The church was able to pay all bills, our cash flow is okay.

Written reports from our Committee chairs were received.

Christian Spiritual Life is looking to recruit members to the Health and Wellness Task Force. If you have interest contact either Monica Liddle or Susan Larson Kidd.

Christian Stewardship chair Dave Courtright updated the Council on our janitor injury. Dave and other church members have been filling in to clean. Dave has been doing some maintenance work. A substitute cleaner has been taking care of the daycare space.

The Stewardship campaign team continues to work on follow-up contacts to members. The team met on January 20 and will have up to the minute information for the congregational meeting.

The balance of the meeting was spent in discussion of covid infections within the staff. The recommendations from Pastor Jim, Charlotte and Nathan included closing the office, moving to virtual worship and other activities, and postponing scheduled information meetings and the congregational meeting until early February. By the time you read this report more detailed information will be published in the all-church email, the Peace Bell and on our website.

The Council endorsed Nathan Holst's application to take part in the UCC Next Generation Leadership Initiative program. We also authorized the treasurer to establish a brokerage account that will allow us to receive stock gifts.

I am grateful to the members of the Council and staff for their perseverance during the ebb and flow of this pandemic. Their ability to adapt and continue to work in service of Peace Church is inspirational to me and I hope to you all as well.

Stay well and be warm. Tom Hystead, Moderator



**Church Coordinating Council**  
will meet Tuesday, February 15 at  
6:30pm in the Fireside Room.

### Council Minutes

The council minutes for the **December** Council meeting can be found on our website at [peaceucc.org](http://peaceucc.org) in the News and Events section on the homepage. We will continue to post them each month after council has approved them.



### Find us on Social Media!

You may already follow us on Facebook but did you know we now have Peace Church Instagram and Twitter accounts? Here is how you can find us on social media:

**Facebook:** @peace.church.duluth

**Instagram:** @peaceduluth

**Twitter:** @PeaceDuluth



## Youth and Children's Ministry

### Sunday School in February Sundays at 9:30am

Despite Covid, we are still having Sunday School each Sunday between services. Please watch for the weekly email or emails from Nathan regarding how Sunday school is being conducted each week. Any questions, please contact Nathan at [nathan@peaceucc.org](mailto:nathan@peaceucc.org).

### Kids' Choir

Sunday, February 20, 10:30am worship

Our wonderful kids' choir will be singing in service on February 13. If your child would like to participate this month or in the future, please email Susan at [susan.larsonkidd@drslk.com](mailto:susan.larsonkidd@drslk.com). See you this Sunday to hear our children sing!



### Peace Snow Tubing at Mont du Lac

Saturday, February 26, 12:00-2:00pm

Because of the covid surge, we're postponing our tubing event a few weeks, but we're still planning to have a great time! Come join us on Saturday, February 26 from 12:00-2:00pm for some fun on the snow tube hills of Mont Du Lac. That's right, the pandemic might still be with us, but we can still have fun outside together at a distance and zoom down the tubing hill at the same time. Cost is \$25 and participants must be at least 48". If you're interested, please let Nathan Holst know at [nathan@peaceucc.org](mailto:nathan@peaceucc.org). Let's have some tubing fun together!



*The need for change bulldozed a road down the center of my mind. —Maya Angelou*

## Charlotte's Column

I grew up in a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in a family that resembled a lot of post World War II white America. My father went to graduate school on the GI bill. He and my mother bought a home and raised four children. Our consolidated school district spanned a middle class white suburb, a lower middle class rural area, and the steel mills of Clairton. Kids from Clairton were "rough" and I did my best to steer clear of them.

My aunt Marjorie lived in upstate New York. She wrote Christian education curriculum for Fortress Press and was the social justice conscience in our extended family. She happened to be visiting us in August, 1963. On a Saturday afternoon, she called my cousins, sisters and me in from playing. Over my mothers' objections, she sat us around the radio and together we listened to speeches broadcast from the March on Washington. She told my mother we needed to listen, because this was, in her estimation, a historic moment in our nation.

It's hard to imagine that it's been almost 59 years since that afternoon. Racial justice and equity are still elusive. I am still learning how deeply embedded racial injustice is in our country. I am grateful to my aunt for insisting that we children listen. That afternoon marked the beginning of a life-long desire to learn more, to understand better, to work for change, to witness what is and imagine what could be.

When I retired (the first time) from parish ministry, I joined Peace because I wanted to be part of community dedicated to doing the work of justice. My initial connection at Peace was through the work of the Dismantling Racism Team. A few years ago, the team verbalized a mission statement that I would now like to commend to us as a community of faith. As we celebrate Black History/Black Futures in worship, perhaps these words can speak us as a congregation:

The Dismantling Racism Team of Peace United Church of Christ seeks:

- 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.

~Adopted by the Dismantling Racism Team, November 2018

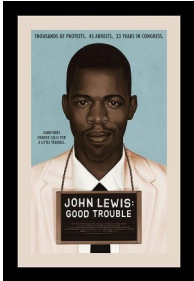
# A Word For Justice

## Black History Month Events at Peace

In addition to celebrating Black History on Sunday mornings, there will be two important events. Watch the weekly email or Facebook page for details since we don't know whether these will be held in person or online or maybe even both!

### Watch the movie *John Lewis: Good Trouble*

Thursday, February 10, 6:00pm online



Released in July 2020, this documentary earned a 94% rating from Rotten Tomatoes! It chronicles the life and career of John Lewis, civil rights activist and leader and reminds viewers how much work is still to be done. It is available on Amazon Prime, Google Play, HBO Max. Watch it on your own at your own convenience or join an Amazon Prime watch party on February 10 at 6:00pm—link to be provided in weekly email.

### Intergenerational Discussion of John Lewis' graphic novel, *March, vol. 1*

Thursday, February 24 6:00pm

Originally published in 2013, the graphic novel is Lewis' autobiography. Get a copy of the book from your favorite bookstore or library. Peace is providing copies to youth and high school students. Read it prior to February 24 (for some adults, this may be a new venture into graphic literature!) Covid permitting, we will gather at Peace for a discussion. Or maybe we'll be on zoom with breakout rooms. Or maybe both so you have a choice! Watch the weekly email for details.



### Caring for Creation Zoom Series

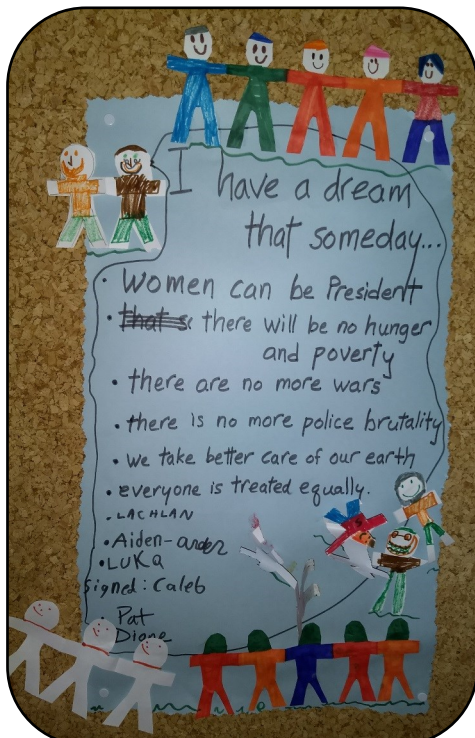
Use the link at the end of this article for more information and to register

The Great Lakes Creation Care Collaborative invites you to a three-part Zoom series, offered by the Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan Conferences of the United Church of Christ.

**“Good Money After Bad: How to invest in Creation Care”**—February 10, 2022, 6:30-8:00pm.

**“Creation Justice from the Sanctuary to the Street: Linking Worship, Action, & Advocacy”**—March 3, 2022, 6:30-8:00 pm.

[www.uccmn.org/2021/12/08/great-lakes-creation-care-collaborative-offers-justice-series/](http://www.uccmn.org/2021/12/08/great-lakes-creation-care-collaborative-offers-justice-series/)



Our Sunday School kids along with Diane Swanoski and Pat Nelson created their own “I Have a Dream” statement on MLK Sunday.

## Welcome

### Let's welcome our new Livestream Tech Staff Member

A big thank you to Max Weleccki-Cmiel, who recently joined the staff and is training to be our livestream tech team member. We are so glad to have you in this important role. If you happen to see him in the back of the sanctuary on Sunday morning, feel free to give him a wave.



# CHUM

**CHUM is “People of faith working together to provide basic necessities, foster stable lives, and organize for a just and compassionate community.”**



## Peace Church Meals for the CHUM Drop In Center

(located at 125 North 1st Ave West)  
Please note that all food is prepared at Peace Church, dropped off at Chum, and served by Chum staff.

## Wednesday Chum Breakfast: February 9 & 23

If you would like to drop off a donation, please email Elise Courtright at [elise@peaceucc.org](mailto:elise@peaceucc.org).

## Thursday Chum Dinner: February 17

Donations of food for the dinner are always welcome! Let us know if you'd like to be on the email list to provide food and/or help make sandwiches or deliver food to Chum. Contact the church office at 218-724-3637 or [elise@peaceucc.org](mailto:elise@peaceucc.org).

## Interfaith Webinars on Housing Advocacy: Duluth Edition

The Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC) is hosting a series of webinars on affordable housing. These will prepare citizens to advocate for housing proposals in the next legislative session. CHUM will broadcast the webinars and host discussions on the implications for organizing in Duluth. Each session will be 6:30-7:30pm with Duluth area discussion to follow. Here is the remaining date:

**February 8**—Legislative Solutions and Advocacy for 2022 Session

To register contact Rev. Patricia Benson at 320.217.4076 or [pbenson@chumduluth.org](mailto:pbenson@chumduluth.org). Links will be provided the week of each event.

## Thank You from Chum

We receive “Thank You” letters each month from Chum for regular contributions from our congregation, as well as special gifts for Chum’s many ministries. Thanks to you all for your support!



## Donations Needed!

If you would like to donate, please call (218) 720-6521 to schedule a drop off at Chum.

### For the drop-in shelter

- Warm socks
- Lip balm
- Underwear (adults)
- Feminine Products

### Warming Center

- Heavy winter gloves
- Hand warmers
- Heavy winter jackets
- Heavy winter boots
- Thick hats
- Thick socks
- Financial contributions



## CHUM Meeting

Thursday, February 24, 6:30pm via Zoom

CHUM is in its 49th year of bringing churches together to care for their neighbors. On February 24 the CHUM meeting will be a look back—watch for information about how to submit stories and pictures of Peace’s participation in CHUM. The meeting, to be held on Zoom, is open to anyone, not just current delegates. Save the date and share your memories.

## Chum Gifts Needed

CHUM is seeking gifts that can be used to provide respite to staff who have been working especially hard during the past two years of the pandemic. If you have a guest house or apartment, a gift certificate for a hotel stay, or restaurant gift cards, contact Pat Benson at [pbenson@chumduluth.org](mailto:pbenson@chumduluth.org).

## Stepping On Up

Stepping’ On Up is a five year plan being developed by CHUM to increase shelter for those who are homeless or precariously housed. Phase 1 is the establishment of authorized living zones for those who are unsheltered. An authorized living zone would provide unsheltered persons a place to live until affordable housing is available. Phase 2 provides for the building of affordable housing. Finding areas for such zones and building public support for them is a major challenge. For more information, check the website <https://steppingonupduluth.org/>

***Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.*** —Barack Obama

## Peace People

### Thank You!

- Thanks to those who provided special music in January: Ron Deters, Ian Connell, Nathan Holst, Susan Larson Kidd, the choir, Wendy Durrwachter.
- Thank you to all the Sunday morning volunteers who help make worship service run smoothly—ushers, greeters, lay readers, liturgists, office helpers, acolytes, etc.
- Thank you to all the individuals who cleaned the church while Dan was away: Pat Nelson, Susan Larson Kidd, Dave Courtright, Justin and Jessica Olson, Sue and Frank Munns, Katey Fornear, Monica Liddle, Lisa Fitzpatrick, Cyndi Brown, Sarah Nelson, Cathy and John Ameel, Marsha and Tom Hystead and others.
- Thank you to Dave Courtright for replacing one of our sump pumps among many other building repairs this month.
- Thank you to the Children's ministry team for helping to coordinate the Parent feedback sessions.
- Thank you to the staff for their sensitivity to Covid concerns and the health of our congregation, including undergoing weekly testing. They have made adjustments in their work in order to accommodate changes necessitated by the rise of Covid in our community.
- Thank you, thank you! John Virgen donated a work station/desk to Peace and Warren Post and Sarah Cedars who transported and assembled it for Charlotte's use. Thank you so much!
- Thanks so much for the many cards, food, offers of support and especially the prayers during Gary's illness and heart surgery. We truly felt held in the love of our Peace Church community, and know this contributed to Gary's good recovery. With love, Gary and Janell Kohls
- From Lorraine Anderson—Thank you to all who sent cards and visited me during my three week hospital time. I'm done with my six week rehab at home. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.
- Thank you to all the individuals who gave monetary gifts to the staff over the holidays. Your love and support means a great deal and we can't thank you enough. ~Your Peace Church staff



### Keep in Your Prayers

- Jan Eschbach recovering at home from major electrical burns received in an accident.
- All those undergoing treatment for cancer: Stephen Dando, Jerry Cleveland, Terrie Shannon, Mary Caine-Hafdahl, Kim Kruger, Jim Soderberg, Marg Paulson and others.
- 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.

### Sympathy To

- To the family of Jim Soderberg who died January 14. A memorial service will be held at Peace on January 30 at 2:00pm and also be available by livestream via our website.

### Congratulations

- Marsha Hystead on her retirement from Hailey Sault after three decades! Here's a bit about from her team—"...Marsha has constantly guided the transformation of client brands and Hailey Sault itself.



Sure, much has changed in our world during that time, but one thing hasn't: Marsha's passion for excellence—in ad creative, in marketing strategy, in the way people treat one another."

- To Pam Kramer on her recent retirement from Local Initiatives Support Corp., or LISC, which she founded twenty five years ago! Here's an excerpt from a recent news article in the Duluth News Tribune, "Housing has always been central to the LISC mission. It has been involved in the development of the Steve O'Neil, Garfield Square and San Marco apartments. Kramer has been also part of an Affordable Housing Coalition that's met monthly for going on three decades."



## February Volunteer Schedules/Information



*The Peace Church staff are so grateful for Eponine's dedication each week and for her beautiful spirit!*

### **CHOICE Volunteer of the Quarter: Eponine Schomberg**

In the past, Peace United Church of Christ or "Peace Church" has been an asset to the CHOICE, unlimited community, housing the yoga program which many yoga students have enjoyed for years. However, this past spring, CHOICE, unlimited signed on for an even bigger partnership with the church. Peace Church is now the home for a music class, a chair exercise class, the Together 12 Acts of Kindness class, and the occasional Escape Room class. It has been phenomenal building this beautiful relationship, and that relationship is even stronger due to our Volunteer of the Quarter, Eponine Schomberg. Eponine has been volunteering at Peace Church since before she joined CHOICE, unlimited in 2018. She dusts and cleans anything and everything, taking care that the church shines throughout the week for both the CHOICE, unlimited community and the church community. Eponine loves seeing the folks that work there and could chat for ages with her old friends. It is a match made in heaven. Eponine shines in her volunteer role just as the church shines once she is through with her volunteer tasks. Great job, Eponine! Keep it up!

*\*Taken from the Choice In Action newsletter.*

### **Notable Dates**

**Wednesday, March 2:** Ash Wednesday  
**Tuesday, March 8:** International Women's Day  
**Sunday, March 13:** Daylight Savings Time  
**Thursday, March 17:** St. Patrick's Day  
**Sunday, April 10:** Palm Sunday  
**Friday, April 15:** Good Friday  
**Sunday, April 17:** Easter Sunday  
**Friday, April 22:** Earth Day

### **Prayer Shawls**

If you would like to request a prayer shawl or are interested in making one for someone receiving pastoral care, please email Gudrun at [gwitrak@gmail.com](mailto:gwitrak@gmail.com).

*For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.*  
—Nelson Mandela



Please bring 2-3 dozen cookies, bars, crackers or fruit on your morning to help with coffee hour! **THANKS!**



### **Coffee Hour Volunteers**

**Sundays at 9:45am**

Coffee Hour volunteers will help set up, serve and clean up after coffee hour. Additionally, please bring 2-3 dozen cookies, bars or an equivalent of fresh fruit or veggies. Here's who is scheduled this month:

\*\*Tom and Marsha Hystead and Pat and Lynn Devlin will be covering all Sundays in February in which coffee hour is being served. Please check your weekly email for updates on coffee hour.

*Many thanks to all our volunteers!*

### **Monday Meals**

Though most of our volunteer ministries were suspended during the pandemic, providing Monday meals for **Loaves and Fishes Dorothy Day House** is still going strong, thanks to our faithful volunteers. If you are interested in joining this group to sign up to bring a meal, email [elise@peaceucc.org](mailto:elise@peaceucc.org) or access the schedule on our website under the menu "for volunteers." Here is the schedule for this month:

February 7: Veronica Gaidelis-Langer

February 14: Gary Boelhower

February 21: Kay and Bob Stevens

February 28: Tom and Christine Day

**Update:** Please plan for 8-10 people as numbers are still low due to Covid. The door is still locked some of the time so please call Joel's cell (218-340-4356) to arrange for delivery of your meal.



Peace United Church of Christ  
 1111 North 11th Avenue East  
 Duluth, MN 55805-1517

(218) 724-3637  
 www.peaceucc.org  
 E-mail: office@peaceucc.org

Non-profit  
 Organization  
 US Postage PAID  
 Permit No. 84  
 Duluth, MN

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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**

Interim Minister: Rev. Jim Mitulski

Music Director: Jim Pospisil

Faith Formation Minister: Nathan Holst

Covenanted Ministers of our congregation:

Rev. Terese Tomanek, Rev. Tom Liddle,

Rev. John Szarke,

Rev. Sara Olson Dean, Rev. Jan Murphy,

Rev. Holly Pederson

Bookkeeper: Rosemary Feriancek

Administrative Coordinator: Elise Courtright

Office Coordinator: Nancy Nelson

Custodian: Dan Shepard

Pianist: Wendy Durrwachter

Pastoral Care Chaplain: Gudrun Witrak

Interim Pastoral Associate : Rev. Charlotte Frantz

**PEACE CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** Monday-Thursday: 9am-3pm, Friday: closed

**PHONE:** 218-724-3637      **Web:** peaceucc.org      **Facebook:** peace.church.duluth

**Instagram:** peaceduluth **Twitter:** PeaceDuluth

**EMAIL ADDRESSES:** Pastor Jim: pastorjim@peaceucc.org      Office: office@peaceucc.org

Jim: jim@peaceucc.org      Nathan: nathan@peaceucc.org

Nancy: nancy@peaceucc.org      Rose: rose@peaceucc.org      Charlotte: clf.frantz@gmail.com

Elise: elise@peaceucc.org      Gudrun: gwitrak@gmail.com

**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!*