



The Peace Bell

PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sundays at a Glance

May 5th

Sermon by Rev. Kevin Brown

8:30am Worship with Holy Communion
 9:30am Forum: MN Conference UCC Outdoor Ministries
 9:30am Self-serve Coffee
 10:30am Worship with Holy Communion
 Children's Church
 11:30am Coffee Hour
 11:30am New Member Orientation
 6:00pm OWL at UUCD

May 12th

Sermon by Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

8:30am Worship with Holy Communion
 9:30am Forum: Hawk Ridge w/ Margie Menzies
 9:30am Self-serve Coffee
 10:30am Worship with Children's Church
 11:30am Coffee Hour
 6:00pm OWL at UUCD

May 19th

Pentecost

Sermon by Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

8:30am Worship with Holy Communion
 9:30am Forum: St. Mark AME Giving Garden with Dr. Elyse Carter Vosen
 9:30am Self-serve Coffee
 10:30am Worship with Children's Church
 Reception of New Members
 11:30am Spring Fling/ Earth Day Celebration

May 26th

Sermon by Rev. Dr. Fahed Abu-Akel

8:30am Worship with Holy Communion
 9:30am Forum: A Palestinian Christian Perspective w/ Rev. Dr. Fahed Abu-Akel
 9:30am Self-serve Coffee
 10:30am Worship with Children's Church
 11:30am Coffee Hour

May Forums

May 5th MN Conference UCC Outdoor Ministries

Rev. Kevin Brown, Associate Conference Minister of Faith Formation for Children & Youth, will provide a time for Q&A about the MN Conference UCC's hopes and plans for the future of Outdoor Ministries here. Ideas welcome! This is not just about camps for kids - though that's certainly part of it - it's about opportunities for people of all ages to experience God in creation and connection.

May 12th Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory & Nature Reserve

Margie Menzies describes herself as "One-part educator, two parts naturalist, and two parts bird nerd!" She serves as the Education Director at Hawk Ridge and has a passion for sharing about the natural world with people of all ages. Margie will present on the work of Hawk Ridge and opportunities for us to get involved and get outdoors this spring.

May 19th St. Mark Giving Garden

Dr. Elyse Carter Vosen will share information about St. Mark Giving Garden/Health Equity Northland. St. Mark Giving Garden is a food justice and health equity project in Duluth's Hillside Neighborhood. With 800 square feet of community space, they are looking for volunteers to help create community connections and plant, harvest and share thousands of pounds of fresh produce with their community members. Join us for the forum or reach out to Elyse to receive information about volunteer opportunities: Elyse Carter Vosen, (218) 723-6446, evosen@css.edu

May 26th Rev. Fahed Abu Akel

Rev. Fahed Abu Akel was ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church USA in 1978 and has served on the mission staff of the First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta. Rev. Fahel was instrumental for mission trips to Kenya, Haiti, Brazil, Egypt, Israel, and Palestine. He also was the 214th Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA.

Peace Church member Diana Oestreich met Rev. Fahed when she participated in Jesse Jackson's Gaza Ceasefire Summit in Chicago. He was speaking there representing the Palestinian Christians and as a guest of The Fellowship of Hope. Rev. Fahed is a peacemaker with a long history of interfaith relationship-building. He was born and raised in Galilee and his family is in Gaza.

From Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

I've been reflecting lately on my own tendency toward all-or-nothing thinking. This is a hallmark of white supremacy culture, and it's also part of my own tendency toward perfectionism. All-or-nothing thinking is the viewpoint that if you do it all, you shouldn't even start. I have this tendency in my running. When I was ten years younger, I could crank out a half-marathon at a 9:30 pace, which is certainly not fast, but it was a decent pace for me. As I train for Grandma's half, coming up in less than two months, I find myself unmotivated to run because I can't keep that pace anymore. For a few months, I've been trying to work my way up in my mileage, but I keep stalling out at 3 miles because I insist on tiring myself out by going all-out.

My mom was the one who suggested I try run/walking, following each 5-minute running interval with a 5-minute walking interval. I pushed that a little bit, of course, and said, what about 6 minutes of running and 4 minutes of walking? With this pattern, I was able to complete 5 miles feeling great, and at a 12:00 mile pace, which is pretty darn slow but better than sitting on the couch. I had been paralyzed by my need to go all-out, to do it right and perfectly. When I gave myself some ease and space, I was able to go so much farther than I could when I pushed.

As a church, we are observing Earth Day throughout the second half of April and the entire month of May. I often find myself turning to all-or-nothing thinking when it comes to climate change. If there are still corporations burning fossil fuels, then what does it matter if I drive a gasoline-powered car? If restaurants are throwing recyclables and compostables into landfills, then what does it matter if I do the same? The reality is, as a church, as individuals, and at a city and state level, if we sit on the couch, we're not going anywhere. But if we all do what we can, even if it seems like half-measures, we can really start to get somewhere.

At Peace Church we are becoming a WLSSD composting site and will be rolling out new recycling and compost bins. We have a Sustainability Team starting up that will explore changes, both large-scale and incremental, to get us somewhere. A collection of Talmudic and Jewish sources commenting on Micah 6:8 state, "Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it." I invite you to join in caring for creation in big and small ways this season and year-round.

From the Moderator

Greetings from Council! Our next meeting will be held on Monday, May 20th at 6:30, and we welcome guests. We held our regular council meeting this month on April 23rd, and had an in-house retreat on April 21st that included a walk around the neighborhood, some reflection time, and visioning for the years to come. It's exciting to consider what Peace will look like, sound like, and feel like in five years! It was also helpful to talk through some of the highlights of the past year(s), along with some of our challenges.

There are six council positions the congregation will be voting on in the coming year, including all at-large seats(4), the Stewardship Chair and the incoming vice-moderator. Several current council members are eligible and willing to stay on for a second term, but we are also hoping to hear from any interested members who might want to step into one of the open positions. You can contact the office for more information.

In financial news, our projected year-end budget deficit is shrinking - THANK YOU! The adult forum on April 28th broke down the details, but a high-level summary is that because of lower-than-anticipated expenses and higher-than-anticipated income, our year-end projected deficit has decreased from roughly \$60,000 to roughly \$40,000, and our actual income year-to-date exceeds our actual expenses. The finance committee and council will continue to monitor the budget and make adjustments as needed as the year proceeds. Peace, Jessica

Welcome Carrie Kelsey!



Carrie Kelsey joined Peace in November 2022 and you may have seen her singing in the choir, playing the fiddle, and volunteering at soup suppers. She has broad food service experience, including working at the Marshall School and Mount Royal Market. Carrie has creative ideas for how to accommodate dietary needs, involve our Stepping On Up residents, and build community through Wednesday night meals starting in the fall. We are thrilled to welcome her on board!

Peace News

Stewardship News

Greetings from your hardworking, year round Stewardship Committee. We wanted to report how we are doing on closing the budget deficit after the first quarter of the year. As of the end of March, we are projected to receive at least \$8563 more than budgeted. We are also almost \$1000 ahead of budget in Plate Offerings. This is great news and a positive trend.

If you haven't made an annual financial commitment to Peace and would like to receive more information, you can contact our bookkeeper, Mali at mali@peaceucc.org.

Thank you! - The Stewardship Team

Nurturing the Beloved Community: Our Congregational Covenant

How do we demonstrate grace and love amongst ourselves as we work together to serve each other and the wider community? We are looking for a team of 4-6 people that would host conversations on this topic with our membership and share a summary of the insights with the congregation.

If you are interested, please call or email Bri in the church office: 218-724-3637 or office@peaceucc.org

Peace Church Annual Reports

It is once again coming time for our Annual Meeting. Our Annual Meeting will be June 9th. Every year team and committee chairs submit articles about the past year. The deadline for these articles will be May 27th. Please send them to Bri at office@peaceucc.org.

New Member Orientation

May 5th
11:45-12:45

We welcome all who are interested in learning more about Peace, what we believe, how we engage the community, and how we're structured, to join us for orientation sessions Sunday, May 5th after the 10:30 service. We'll provide child care and a light lunch.

Please RSVP to Bri in the church office know via email or phone (bri@peaceucc.org or 218-724-3637). Just popping in is great too. Looking forward to meeting with you!

New members will be received into the church on May 19th. Save the date if you are interested in joining Peace.

A Message from Shared Ministry

The Shared Ministry team has an un-official motto - a job and a friend to do it with. Pastor Corinne talked about how vital and fulfilling it is to be a part of all the good we do at Peace, and if you were in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:30 service on April 21st, you could almost hear and feel the buzz. Teams and committee's had tables, representatives and treats to let people know who they are and what they do. Thank you to those who signed up that day (and you should be hearing from your grateful committee/team chairs soon), but its not too late to either inquire or sign up. Scan the QR code, fill out the short form that was in Sunday's bulletin, or the longer one found in the narthex. At least try one thing - its a great way to feel involved and meet new friends. - The Shared Ministry team

The Bake Sale is back!

Calling all Peace Church bakers! We are planning to have a Bake Sale during the Rummage Sale on September 7th. If you have a special baked item, one handed down in your family or is the most requested by your loved ones, we invite you to donate it to the sale. If you don't bake and want to assist with making Peach, Cherry and Apple Cobblers, let us know. We plan to sell cobbler and coffee during the Rummage Sale. Please contact bri@peaceucc.org and let her know what you might contribute and if you would like to volunteer. It's going to be lots of fun!

RECIPES NEEDED!

Do you have a favorite recipe you would like to share? If so, it's your lucky day. The Peace Church Cookbook is being updated and your contribution is needed. Please submit your recipe(s) to Bri by June 30th. Thank you!



The Peace Church vegetable garden is looking for used, but still in good condition wood, to shore up our raised beds. We used all the 2X4s we had salvaged from the demolition of the education wing, but still need more to finish the project. If you have useable boards, or questions, please call Kay Stevens (218)340-0728.

Property News

There are three related groups working in coordination with the Property Team who also are active and looking for support: The **Food Waste Drop Site and Sustainability, Playground visioning and care, and the Peace Garden**. Please contact Bri in the office for more information and to get on the mailing list.

New: Sustainability Team and Food Waste Drop Site

Peace Church will soon become a new location for a WLSSD community food waste drop site! Come to Spring Fling for more composting information provided by WLSSD and look for new bins and signage at Peace this summer.

Along with this exciting new development we are working to implement more sustainability practices in our own congregation and are forming a new Sustainability Team. This team would work in conjunction with both the Food and Fellowship and Property teams. Helping educate and facilitate composting and recycling at large food related events and adding more pollinator friendly landscaping are some of the initial projects we will work on. Interested in joining this team? Contact Melissa Boyle (marvelous.melissa.boyle@gmail.com) or Bri (bri@peaceucc.org) in the church office.

Property Team Work Day, May 9th, 5:30-8:00pm.

This evening involves tree planting! Bring your shovel and gloves and help us bring new life to the grounds. There will be additional small inside projects for handy- and no-so-handy alike! Please join us, the last couple of work days have really been fun! Contact Stacey Stark (stacey.stark@gmail.com) or Bri (office@peaceucc.org) for more information.



New: Playground Visioning and Care Team

With extensive repairs needed in our playground and garden spaces, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reimagine our design in the backyard. We seek dreamers, visionaries, planners, builders, and users to help us think about what we want next. Please consider contributing your thoughts, skills, and efforts, in whatever capacity, to our planning committee. Please contact Bud Trnka (budtrnka@gmail.com), or the office (office@peaceucc.org) if you're interested in learning more. Be on the lookout for future opportunities to contribute your ideas!

Property Team Update

Due to increased interest in Peace's significant physical assets, the Property Team is very active and expanding! The Property Team meets the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm. There are many ways you can join in the fun and satisfaction of this work! You can help as little or as much as you want with activities ranging from product research, painting, and small repairs to planting and earth moving!

Spring Fling Sunday, May 19th

There is much to be excited about for this year's Spring Fling! Please join us after church on Sunday, May 19th for a festival of growth, music, food, crafts, joy, and fellowship. There will be opportunities to learn more about native planting, paint your own planet, dance to music, and connect with Peace Church artists and crafters. This is an all-ages, all-abilities event rooted in our stewardship of God's creation. Best of all, we will be debuting an exciting new addition to our neighborhood services! We can't wait to see you there!

Peace Bell articles for May are due Wednesday, May 22nd. Send articles to bri@peaceucc.org

Peace Activities and Groups

Tea and Talk

Come for Tea and Talk on Wednesday, May 28th at 3:00pm after the Peace Bell folding. Any questions please contact Pastor Corinne at corinne@peaceucc.org.

Men's Breakfast

Every other Thursday, 8:00am

Join us for breakfast and conversation! We meet every other Thursday at 8:00am at Perkins on London Rd. We will meet Thursday, May 2nd, 16th and 30th.

Making Meaning Out Of Malignancy TBD

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 "Room and Zoom" and in the Fireside Room. For more information, please contact Monica Liddle, monimliddle@gmail.com.

Monday Book Group

In May the Monday Book Group will meet on May 6th and 20th at 3:00pm in the Fireside Room and by Zoom. For our May 6th discussion we will listen to a podcast from *The Braver Way*. For May 22nd we will read and discuss an article, *The Science of Suffering* by Judith Shulevit from *The New Republic*. Email pcragun@d.umn.edu to be added to the group email.

PALS

May PALS gathering is to be a rescheduled presentation by Cindy McLean, the subject being "Twilight Zone." We will gather at Do North Pizza, Thursday, May 23rd. Please try to arrive close to 5:00pm to allow orders for drink and food to be placed. Cindy will have the floor from 5:30 - 6:30pm. Supper and fellowship will follow her presentation.

To help with planning, please email (lrgoese@gmail.com) or text (218-340-6246) to let us know you plan to attend.

Upcoming events:

June 27th - Huskie's Baseball game
July - picnic and planning meeting - date
Yet to be determined

Welcome to Wednesday Night Bible study! Wednesdays, 6:00pm

Did you know that Peace Church has an ongoing Bible study every Wednesday evening, and we welcome anyone who is interested to join us? We welcome a wide variety of questions and comments. The group decides what we will study each week, and cover a variety of both Old and New Testament readings. Please, come join us in the Fireside room or on Zoom.

Reflection on the Psalms from Wednesday Bible Study from Tom Liddle

The psalms are "an anatomy of the soul." So said one of our wise but often dour spiritual ancestors, John Calvin. We did however find it to be true in Wednesday Bible study. The psalms run the whole gamut of emotional experiences we humans have and are truly a spiritual treasure. Want to learn how to pray? Read the psalms! A couple of weeks ago we each brought a psalm to Bible study and shared why and how they were meaningful to us. We learned some new things about the Bible of course, but most importantly, we learned about each other. Here are the psalms we chose:

Deb shared *psalm 57*, a lament and petition that turns to gratitude. For Molly, *psalm 121* gives assurance of God's protection on the journey of life. Louise loves *psalm 46* for its comfort and assurance in an unsteady world. Nadine connects with the petition for learning and assurance of forgiveness in *psalm 25*. Tom choose *psalm 13*, a cry of lament that ends in praise. For Bob it was *psalm 131* because, "this is where I am in my life." Annette loves *psalms 149 and 150* - all creation praising God! Drew had *psalm 22* on his mind: "Jesus prayed it on the cross." Must be worth pondering!

As an "anatomy of the soul," there is a psalm for virtually every human emotion imaginable. What a gift! It gives us permission and an invitation to bring the totality of who we are and what we experience to God. And as Deb wisely shared, "the psalms give us words when we have none of our own."

Choir Rehearsals Wednesdays, 6:15pm

We rehearse 6:15 - 7:30pm on Wednesdays in the sanctuary, and sing for the 10:30 Sunday services. Contact Jim Pospisil at jim@peaceucc.org if you have any more questions.

Children, Youth and Families

Hello Families,

I'm writing to you the week of ISD 709's Spring Break and I'm definitely feeling the Spring Fever! In Children's Church for the last month, we have been talking about Earth Day, climate change and how we can care for our environment while processing the complicated feelings that accompany these topics, to create agency, resiliency and hope for the future!

On Pentecost Sunday, May 19th, after the 10:30am service we will be putting some of the things we have been talking about into action at our **Spring Fling** celebration. We will be celebrating our new Community Compost Program through WLSSD, working in the garden, learning about environmental initiatives, supporting local artists, crafting, eating, and fellowshiping. It's bound to be a fun community day and we hope your family can join us!

This month also marks wrapping up youth and OWL programming for the 2023-2024 school year, but there will be multiple opportunities for youth to be connected through the summer, including an exciting **West Central and Great Lakes Regional Youth Event** in July developed by UCC conferences.

This year our summer day camp/ VBS program is called **Compassion Camp!** This day camp will explore what it means to have compassion for others, ourselves, and the world.

Finally, we will be reducing Children's Church programming to once a month during the summer, so that we can focus on planning for the start of our new Wednesday night activities for children and youth beginning in Fall 2024. On Sundays when we do not have Children's Church, we will have self-guided activities available to you and your children in our Pray-Ground spaces.

There continue to be many activities happening in the life of our children and youth ministries at Peace! Please reach out to amanda@peaceucc.org with any questions, feedback or ideas, or if you want to become more involved with children and youth ministry!

Wishing you Love in Action, Amanda

Nursery

The Nursery is now located downstairs in the Sunroom, by the elevator. Nursery Staff are available through Sunday, May 26th during the 10:30 service, and occasionally during other events, please check the weekly email for updates!

Parents, please make sure to fill out the sign in/ sign out sheet with your information before you drop off/pick up your children. Please let us know about any questions/concerns that you have as parents, or if there are other times on Sunday mornings or at church events that it would be helpful for your child to have nursery services. Thanks!

If you would prefer to have your child with you in worship, feel free to utilize one of our **Pray-Ground spaces**, located in the Sanctuary and just outside of the Sanctuary near the Fireside Room. These spaces offer quiet activities where parents and kiddos can engage in play and creativity while still participating in worship.

OWL (for 9th graders) Sundays, 6:00pm

OWL (Our Whole Lives) Sexuality Curriculum meets May 5th and 12th this month at UUCD.

Children's Church

Come join us for Children's Church each Sunday through May 26th, during the 10:30 service. Kids stay in the service until Story for All Ages, leave for Children's Church for 20-30 min (where we sing, read stories, make art and have fun) and then come back with the adults for communion/offering. All kids and youth (and parents!) are welcome to join us – it's always a sweet and lively time together!

Children's Church will be meeting once a month through the summer: June 16th, July 14th, and August 18th. On other Sundays during the summer, children and parents will have access to our Pray-Ground areas with engaging activities to keep kids interested!

Middle School (grades 6-8) Youth Group Wednesdays, 6:00pm

Youth group will meet 4 times this month, through Wednesday, May 22nd at 6:00pm! On May 1st, the youth will be wrapping up this Spring's Bible Study using *Manna and Mercy*. May 8th, we will be helping Nina Preheim to create squares for a Peace Quilt. May 15th, Peace member and youth volunteer, Warren Post will share his faith journey with our youth. May 22nd, will be a game night celebration for the end of the school year and include yummy snacks! We will not be meeting every Wednesday through the summer but will keep you updated with plans for gathering to stay connected!

Graduation Sunday is June 2nd!

An email went out last month to the families of graduating High School Seniors. If you did not receive that email, please contact Amanda ASAP for more info so that we can celebrate your Senior. This is a wonderful moment to celebrate our young people and send them on the next steps of their life journey with blessings from the whole congregation.

Compassion Camp Summer Day Camp (Formerly VBS!)

Be Kind. Be Loved. Be You.

June 10th – 14th, from 9:00am - 12pm at Peace UCC. Explore what it means to have compassion for others, ourselves, and the world. This day camp will focus on a connection to nature, creative play, movement, compassion in action, and FUN!

Ages: Age 4/Entering K – 5th Grade
Cost: Free! Donations to support the program can be made payable to Peace Church. Please put "Compassion Camp" in the memo line of your check. Contact Amanda to register your child.

Volunteers Needed for Compassion Camp

Do you enjoy kids and youth? Do you want to help build a compassionate world? Volunteer to help with Compassion Camp. We're looking for adults and youth (Middle School and High School) to help in a variety of camp leadership roles. A volunteer orientation will be held shortly before camp. Contact Amanda for more information!

Love > Fear – West Central and Great Lakes Regional Youth Event (RYE) – July 17th -20th at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL

This year we will be combining the Middle School and High School Summer Youth Trips! RYE brings hundreds of youth from United Church of Christ congregations in Minnesota and across the Great Lakes and West Central regions together for three days of connection, fun, worship, service, and learning. We are excited to be working with The Many to provide music, worship, and program leadership throughout our time together. The Many is an uncommon, intentionally diverse collective making music for people to sing together about peace and justice and a world where all belong. Youth participants must have completed grades 6 – 12 at the time of the event. Registration is due May 15th! Reach out to Amanda ASAP if your youth would like to attend or if you would like to volunteer as an adult leader.

Spring has sprung! And, by Duluth standards, it seems to have sprung nice and early. So, it's time to garden!

For those perennial and native plant gardeners, have you seen the update to the plant hardiness zone map? According to the PBS story linked here, (<https://tinyurl.com/Plant-zones>) in comparison to the 2012 map, the new 2023 update released in November shows that as our climate continues warming, plant hardiness zones are shifting northward. At first, that may sound kind of exciting; thoughts of being able to grow some plant varieties that were previously unavailable to us of course sounds great. However, as our weather patterns become more unpredictable, our gardens are experiencing more extreme water and drought events and heat stress. Our once tolerant Minnesota natives may have a more difficult time.

Also, as temperature zones change for plants, so do they for pests. Like the Emerald Ash Borer, pests that previously did not thrive here are making their homes in our gardens. It is fortunate then that we Northern Minnesota Gardeners have not changed our own hardiness! We will continue to adapt by growing perennials that have broader hardiness zones, experimenting with new varieties, splitting our thriving plants and then continuing to share them with others. A reminder as you buy your new plants this year, whether annuals or perennials, that you buy from sources that do not use neonicotinoids; let's make sure our beautiful gardens are helping and not harming our local pollinators.

Also one last reminder, the Peace Church Spring Fest is Sunday, May 19th, and will include garden activities along with music and fun. See you there and happy spring gardening!



What Peace Means to Me

Kay Stevens

Our involvement at Peace and the people here are part of the very fabric of our lives. In this community we have been able to work to accomplish so much more, than we could ever have done on our own.

There have been common threads that have carried through our time here - prayer chain, Bible study and sharing food, but other involvement has changed over the years.

In the beginning, when Bob took the job as Christian Ed director here, we had our own kids and young foster kids at home. We were drawn to involvement with nursery, Sunday school, VBS, confirmation, etc. In our middle years boards, committees, council, choir, adult ed and social justice issues called to us. We are now seeking more short term, hands on involvement like, gardening, demolition, baking rhubarb treats, small project work days, are available by sign up, almost any time we want. Through it all, as a total bonus, we have gotten to know many different people and made life long friends.

We would have to say, we can't imagine our lives without the involvement & people of Peace Church, which have made the fabric of our lives so much stronger and more vibrant.

Cyndi Brown

I first began to usher, knowing that there was a need for ushers, knowing that I could fulfill that need. I wanted to fulfill a need, to give back to a community that had given to me. And through ushering, I have grown. I help ready the church for worship, and I meet and greet people face to face. People have grown to trust me, to trust my presence here. When I'm not here, people notice.

For a year or so, I ushered 8:30 alone. Here and there I would ask people to help with the offering and then more and more of the ushering duties. Now we stand strong every week as a team with a ushering rotation.

As an extension of my work of ushering, I joined the Worship and Arts team. I contribute my knowledge and questions based on life experience and also, in large part, on what I've learned not only through greeting people and receiving the offering, but also through some knowledge of the underbelly working of the church that I've gleaned through set up and clean up. Worship and Arts is yet another way to give back to a community that has nurtured me. I am grateful to serve.

Tres Commer

I've been attending Peace Church since 2021. You've probably seen me singing in the choir or playing some type of music on Sundays. I wanted to share my story about what brought me to Peace and the ways Peace has enriched my life.

The church I attended growing up was actually fairly progressive, at least for the time. It was a church that welcomed everyone on their own spiritual journey and respected the individual nature of that journey. As I got older, I moved away from the church. I saw Christianity being used to justify some pretty regressive views. How could a religion based on love and acceptance be used as a justification for denying the rights of our LGBTQ sisters and brothers? Why had Christianity, with its themes of compassion and helping others, been adopted by a political faction of people whose central ethos seemed to be "every person for themselves"?

As the years went by, I found I missed being part of a faith community. Also, I missed the music. Music was a big part of my church upbringing. I had gotten to play handbells, learn piano, and even play organ once or twice during services.

I started attending Peace Church and found a progressive Christian community that was not only surviving but thriving. I am so grateful to be part of a family that represents faith in action. A community that values our LGBTQ sisters and brothers, a community that advocates for positive social change.

Peace is a place where I can express and celebrate my spirituality through music. I really do have to thank Jim Pospisil for being so welcoming. Also thanks to Ron Deters, and Ian Connell, and of course all of my friends in the choir for welcoming me right into Peace's musical family.

Peace is also a place where I can be inspired. Not just in the amazing sermons I hear every Sunday, but in the numerous opportunities for activism and social justice work.

But most importantly, Peace is a family. It's a place where I feel accepted for who I am and invites me to accept others just as they are. It's an honor to be part of this family and an honor to give back to the Peace Church community.

Lisa Fitzpatrick

I am a climate healer. What I love about Peace Church is that it's open to all people and caring for the earth. Earth and we are a manifestation of God's love for us. All the earth and beings on earth are holy and of love. We are like a flock of birds, singing love for all creation and creator. As people of faith, we have a special moral connection. We love each other and Creator God and the world. Be aware and don't despair.



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

Homeless Day on the Hill: 37 people from 7 local organizations, congregations, and people currently living homeless in Duluth met with Reps. Liz Olson, Natalie Zeleznikar and Liish Kozlowski, and Sen. Jen McEwen, as well as Sen. Grant Hauschild's staff (he was ill at home).

Thanks to St. Andrew's by the Lake, Peace Church, Kenwood Lutheran, and St. Paul's Episcopal for providing 2 meals and snacks for the bus trip, and College of St. Scholastica and

Governor Tim Walz and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan were among those who addressed over 900 people gathered at Central Presbyterian Church before moving to the Capitol to meet with our district legislators. We carried our needs and concerns to each of our legislators, and celebrated what we accomplished in 2023.

Volunteer Appreciation will be on Monday, May 6th, at Our Savior's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Two different times are available (12:00pm & 5:30pm) so that, hopefully, everyone can make it! There will be a light meal, share stories, express gratitude, and celebrate the impact we have made together for our community.

The Spring Assembly will be May 23rd.

The Rhubarb Festival is coming up in June, so stay tuned for volunteer requests for prepping, baking, serving...

Canned fruit, preferably in natural juices is still being requested. You can drop off food at the basket across from the Peace UCC office.

Any questions, please feel free to ask Louise Hawley or Laurie Berner.

Weekly E-mail Reminders

Do you receive our weekly emails? Bri sends them from the church office on Tuesdays and Fridays. They are an important way to receive the latest, most up-to-date information about life at Peace. Contact Bri (bri@peaceucc.org) to be added to the distribution list.

2nd Saturday Volunteer Event: Gardening for Chum May 11th 9 AM - noon!

Let's bring spring to the Chum building! We're calling on volunteers to join us for a day of flower planting to brighten our surroundings. No prior experience is necessary! Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just eager to get your hands dirty, everyone is welcome to join in the fun. It's a fantastic opportunity to bond with fellow volunteers and make a positive impact on our community. If you have gardening equipment such as gloves, small shovels, or garden forks, please bring them along with you. Let's make this planting day a blooming success!

To sign up please go to CHUM's Website.

All Non-Perishable Food Is Welcome Most Needed Items

- Rice
- SpaghettiOs/ravioli
- Canned beef stew
- Canned baked beans
- Cereal
- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables
- Canned chunky soup/chicken noodle soup
- Spam
- Peanut butter
- Mac n Cheese



Safe Haven
Shelter and Resource Center

Safe Haven is looking for individuals to donate their used cell phones and accessories. These cell phones provide emergency 911 phones for our guests and clients who need a device to be able to discreetly reach emergency services. Donations can be brought to our Resource Center at 414 W. 1st St., Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm.

Volunteers

Coffee Hour Volunteers

Every Sunday our 11:30 Coffee Hour is brought to you by our Coffee Hour Volunteers. This month our Coordinators are Cindy Macaulay, Nadine and Guy Hubert.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Bri in the office at office@peaceucc.org.

Ushers, Greeters and Lay Readers

Sunday morning hospitality is an important ministry at Peace. If interested in being a lay reader contact Bri at office@peaceucc.org.

Head Usher is Cindy Macaulay. If you are interested in being an usher, contact Bri at office@peaceucc.org.

Damiano Community Kitchen

Peace volunteers help prepare and serve a meal at Damiano Community Kitchen twice a month. Each shift needs 2-3 volunteers, bring a friend or a youth, 16 and up! [Click here](#) to sign up or email the office at office@peaceucc.org.

May 12th - 1:30-3:30pm - **3 Slots open**

4:30-6:30pm - **3 Slots open**

May 25th - 8:30-10:30am - **3 Slots open**

11:00-1:00pm - **3 Slots open**

1:30-3:30pm - **3 Slots open**

4:30-6:30pm - **3 Slots open**

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."

May 6th - Open

May 13th - Open

May 20th - Open

May 27th - Open



Peace Church Market Place

Peggy Skylondz is looking for a good home for this chair. If you are interested in it please give her a call at (218)390-7060

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 pastor for inclusion in Sunday morning prayers.



Would you like to participate in our Prayer Chain? Contact Lynn Devlin or Linda Goese!

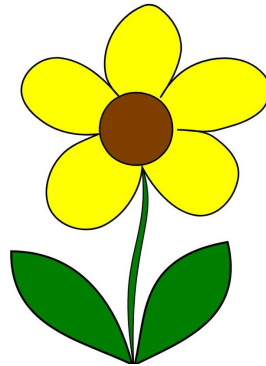
Keep in Your Prayers

- 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, Mary Caine-Hafdahl, Kim Kruger, Pat Nelson, Sam Peterson, Judy Pearson and others.

Thank you's

- Marsha and Tom Hystead for donating a chair and couch for the Youth Group Room
- Thank you to the volunteers who pitched in to clean our church while Dan was on vacation. Doreen Marciniak, Julie O'Neill, Lisa Fitzpatrick, Gudrun Witrak, Cathy Ameel, Mike and Diane Swanoski.
- The Shared Ministry Team for their hard work on putting together the successful Shared Ministry Fair. Nina Preheim, Janell Kohls, Cindy Macaulay and April Knight
- Thank you to all the team and committee members who were at the tables during the fair.
 - **Carrie Plamann** - Food and Fellowship
 - **Betty Greene** - Dismantling Racism
 - **Monica Liddle** - Acting for Justice
 - **Tom and Christine Day** - Community Volunteers
 - **Ellen Shelton** - Sunday Volunteers
 - **Bud Trnka and Melissa Boyle** - Property Team
 - **Marsha Hystead** - Stewardship
 - **Cyndi Brown** - Worship and Arts
 - **Amanda Hunter, Warren Post and Kelly Grgas** - Children's Ministry
 - **Nina Preheim and Janell Kohls** - Shared Ministry
 - **Sharon Crosby** - Library and History

April Events





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 email 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

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

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



PEACE CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday: 9am-3pm
PHONE: 218-724-3637 **Web:** peaceucc.org **Facebook:** peaceduluth
EMAIL ADDRESSES: Amanda: amanda@peaceucc.org Bri: office@peaceucc.org
 Jim: jim@peaceucc.org Mali: mali@peaceucc.org
 Rachel: rachel@peaceucc.org Alex: alex@peaceucc.org
 Corinne: corinne@peaceucc.org Carrie: carrie@peaceucc.org

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

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

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