

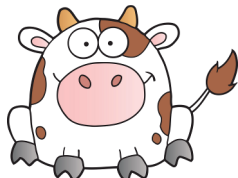
SEPTEMBER 2022



# The Peace Bell

PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Holy Cow Survey



Holy Cow! That is the name of a survey link the Transition Team would like you to click on. The survey will provide information that will help us form a profile of our church. That profile will then be viewed by prospective candidates for a settled minister position here at Peace Church. Your input is very important so when you receive the email, please take the survey. If you don't have computer access or need any assistance, just contact the church office and we will work with you to gather your thoughts in a manner that best fits your situation. You can also look for transition team members on Rally Sunday. They will be easily identified by their "badge" and will have literature to distribute and can answer questions.

## Inquirers Class

Wednesday, September 14 & 21, 7:00pm  
In the Fireside Room

For anyone who is interested in learning more about Peace Church and wants to explore the option of becoming a member, we have scheduled Inquirers classes for Wednesday, September 14 & 21 at 7pm in our Fireside Room. Pastor Charlotte will lead this time to ask questions and learn more about who we are. In October, we will welcome new members at our 10:30am worship service. If you attend the Inquirers classes, you are not obligated to join the church, but this is a great chance to learn more about Peace Church and the UCC. Please contact Rev. Charlotte Frantz with any questions at [charlotte@peaceucc.org](mailto:charlotte@peaceucc.org).

## Duluth-Superior Pride Festival 2022

September 1-4

There are many events happening this year for Pride weekend including the Interfaith worship service hosted by Peace Church on Sunday, September 4 at 9:00am followed by the Pride breakfast downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. More information on Pride events can be found at <https://www.duluthsuperiorpride.com/events>.



## Wednesday Plans for the Fall

Begins September 7

We are slowly bringing back Wednesday activities!

Here's a look at what's happening this fall:

5:00pm: Children's Choir

5:30pm: Simple Supper (begins in October)

6:00pm: Bible Study

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

6:15pm: Adult Choir

7:15pm: Confirmation Class (first and third Wednesdays of each month)

\*\*More details will be found in your weekly email.

## Notable Dates

Sunday, Sept 4: Pride Sunday

Monday, Sept 5: Labor Day

Wednesday, Sept 7: Wednesday activities begin

Sunday, Sept 11: Gathering Sunday/ 8:30am and 10:30am worship schedule returns

Saturday, Oct 1: Rally For Peace

Saturday, Oct 8: Celebration Dinner

Monday, Oct 10: Indigenous People's Day

Sunday, Oct 16: Fall Fest/Stewardship Kick-off



## The Sunday Special is Back!!!

Sundays during coffee hour

The Sunday Special is a spiritual and social support group for individuals, families, caregivers, and workers who live and work with disabilities, special needs, and mental health concerns.

**During the Sundays in September: 11, 18, & 25, we will reconnect during coffee hour.**

It will be wonderful to catch up with you. Enjoy the rest of your summer!!

~Amy Sullivan & Penny Cragun

# From Interim Pastor Jim Mitulski

*Home is the place you get to, not the place you came from.*  
~Paul Monette in the novel *Halfway Home*

Dear friends,

This is your invitation to come home to Peace Church this month. We have one more Sunday on our Summer Schedule at 9:00am, when the greater Duluth and Superior community celebrates LGBTQ Pride Sunday. Join us as we welcome people from other faith communities and some who don't normally worship with any faith community for an Interfaith Celebration. All summer we've been singing about Welcome as we open each worship service. This week let's put that welcome into action in a tangible way. All month our services and forums will be saying "Welcome!" in different ways and that Welcome includes you. If you've been away recently or for awhile, come back. Never has your voice or your presence mattered more. Now is the time! As Fall returns, as the season changes, come home to who we are—Peace Church.

With love,

Pastor Jim



*Sister Lois at our 150th*



*San Francisco or Duluth?*



*Joan Severson and family*



*#pastorsinpink*



*Geof Witrak took the Stewardship team out on the bay for a meeting to brainstorm for our fall campaign.*



*Emmitt Till service*



*Rummage Sale crew*

## Sundays in September

On Sunday, September 4 we will gather together at 9:00am for our last “summer service”. Beginning Sunday, September 11, our normal Sunday worship schedule resumes with our 8:30am early service in the sanctuary, and our second service at 10:30am in the sanctuary and via livestream. Forums in the Fireside will resume on September 11 at 9:30am. Masks are optional in our building. See you on Sundays!

### **Sunday, September 4: Pride Sunday**

Worship is at 9:00am in the sanctuary and via livestream.

Breakfast is at 10:15am in the fellowship hall.

Pastor Jim Mitulski, preaching. Several other congregations have indicated their interest in worshipping with us that morning, Annette Strom, liturgical dance. ASL interpreters Doug Bowen Bailey and Maggie Fink. Special music by Cyndi Brown.

### **Sunday, September 11: Gathering Sunday**

**8:30am:** Service with Holy Communion, Pastor Charlotte Frantz is preaching.

**10:30am:** Service with Holy Communion, Pastor Charlotte Frantz is preaching. Kindergartners and third graders will receive their Bibles. Story For All Ages will include a blessing for students and all educators for the coming year. Children are invited to bring their school backpacks to be blessed. Children’s Church begins. Special music from Ron Deters and the choir.

**11:45am:** Coffee Hour with root beer floats

**4:30pm:** Peace and Praise Family Worship under the tent

**5:00pm:** Taizé service in the sanctuary

### **Sunday, September 18: Birmingham Remembrance Sunday**

**8:30am:** Worship with Holy Communion, Pastor Jim Mitulski preaching.

**10:30am:** Worship with Pastor Jim preaching, Children/Youth Choir will be singing.

(If you’d like to prepare for this service, watch Spike Lee’s movie *Four Little Girls*)

### **Sunday, September 25**

**8:30am:** Worship with Holy Communion, Dr. Justin Sabia-Tanis will be preaching. Dr. Sabia-Tanis is Director of Center for Social Transformation at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities.

**10:30am:** Worship with Dr. Justin Sabia-Tanis as our guest preacher.

### **Coffee Hour**

following 10:30am  
worship service

Come join us for coffee hour after worship service. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall to drink coffee, eat a treat and socialize!



### **Taizé Service**

Sunday, September 11, 5:00pm

This service is modeled after services held at the Taizé Community in France. Taizé is a worship experience wholly dedicated to prayer and to hearing God’s word—using song, scripture, and silent meditation. Please join us in the sanctuary!

### **Children’s Church**

Sundays during 10:30am worship

Please see page 11 for more information on Children’s Church! Contact Nathan at [Nathan@peaceucc.org](mailto:Nathan@peaceucc.org) with questions.

### **Forums in the Fireside**

9:30am in the Fireside Room

Following Pride weekend, our Sunday morning forums will focus on the theme, *This is Us: Loving Our Gender Diverse Community*. Come each Sunday to hear stories about gender diversity and learn what love can mean as we support, affirm and celebrate life together.

#### **September 11: Our Gender Diverse Community**

Hear from a panel of community members about their lived experiences as transgender, non-binary persons and their families. Panel members include Carrie Hoagland (member of Pilgrim Congregational Church), Dr. Mollie Stapleton and Sam Clark of Peace Church, and Sean Hayes, co-founder of Trans Plus.

#### **September 18: What is Gender Diversity?**

Conversation with Roze Brooks (R.B.) R.B. Brooks (they/them) is an educator and writer with a radical imagination. Their work focuses on queer and trans college students, Midwest culture, conference planning, and social change. They are the director of programs for the Midwest Institute for Sexuality & Gender Diversity and program coordinator for Sexuality & Gender Equity Initiatives at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

#### **September 25: Our Church’s Response to Gender Diversity**

Conversation with Dr. Justin Sabia-Tanis, theologian and professor at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and author of *Trans-Gender: Theology, Ministry and Communities of Faith*.

\*\*We are fortunate to offer this series and ask you to invite friends, family or colleagues who would like to learn more about gender diversity.

## History Corner

### YOUTH: THEN AND NOW

*Start children off the way they should go and when they are old, they will not turn from it.*

Proverbs 22:6



Starting children on their faith journey has been a key tenet for churches around the world. Most common are activities geared for youth from elementary school through confirmation, including Sunday school classes, Vacation Bible School, Christmas pageants, hay rides or caroling.

In 1940, for example, it was reported that “the young girls of the congregation organized a League and are having a sleigh or hay ride, depending on the weather. We’re hoping there won’t be any broken bones. The boys, not to be outdone, have a club of their own and have a lot of fun.” (From The Nosey News Corner.)

Our historical archives do not offer much detailed information on other types of youth activities until the mid-1980s when Christian Education Director Jan Eschbach added opportunities for youth to get together outside of Sunday school, such as the UNICEF Halloween carnival and community outreach activities for senior high youth.

Then, in 1991, a new pastor was hired—Kathy Nelson. The Search Committee that called her had at least five members with children who were or about to be in high school. Kathy had experience working with youth programming and Summer work camps. The Committee was very interested in bringing these programs to Peace.

Focusing on youth—from birth through high school—attracted many new families to Peace. With this new emphasis and congregational growth, Peace was able to hire a full-time Children, Youth and Intergenerational Ministries Director in 1999.

#### Elementary School Youth

Thanks to the many creative and skilled people who filled the role of Children, Youth and Intergenerational Minister, along with countless volunteers, our Sunday morning programming blossomed. Shiyon Miller, Julie Flotten, Tony Clark, Rev. Paul Van Antwerp, Jackie Falk, Cynthia Coffin-Langdon, Kim Sturtz, Mark Hakes, Kelli Farrell, Sharon Dawson and Nathan Holst all brought their own backgrounds, passion and energy to their roles. And, like Jan, they all took what was already in place and made it stronger.

For example, Shiyon Miller brought a theological foundation to her youth ministry. Julie Flotten admits she didn’t have that background when she was hired in 2003. But her passion was to enhance faith by making spiritual connections through the outdoor world, and at the same time, to build community through the generations. She started the Wolf Ridge Family Camps. Other programs were geared to help people build relationships, such as monthly Sun Rise Coffee get-togethers. Faith was also the theme in the now classic “The Kid and the Ant” musical anthology stories with Holly Bowen-Baily and Cynthia Coffin-Langdon.



As Peace youth became more involved, they became great mentors for the younger children by volunteering at Vacation Bible School. With Peace’s history of building on already great programming, and not letting obstacles get in its way, many of these programs continued during the pandemic. Christian Education Director Sharon Dawson pulled off a web-of-life VBS with take-home projects and an outdoor gathering on the final Friday putting together a puzzle with each child painting one piece. And this year’s VBS became Peace Village Summer Day Camp, in collaboration with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth.

From 2010 to 2017, second through fifth graders met on Wednesday nights to be part of Peace Puppets. Led by Cindy McLean, performances were given to the Peace community. There were also opportunities for the kids to be puppeteers for community groups. For years Peace Puppets was a part of the early Christmas Eve service. By using puppets and songs, kids learned and told stories about God, the environment and thankfulness.

## History Corner Continued

### Middle School Youth

Each summer many middle school youth went on canoe or camping trips into or near the BWCA. The group site on Fenske Lake became a home base for these trips for many years. They also had many overnights and other adventures. Wednesday night youth group also focused on middle-schoolers.

Confirmation is a two-year program in which the first year focuses on some of the most important stories of the Hebrew scripture and the Gospel of Mark. The second year is an opportunity for the youth to discern and write about their own beliefs around God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Their

thoughts are often shared in worship on Confirmation Sunday. An important part of that worship service includes the blessing of the youth by their parents. Confirmation also includes retreats and lots of time for creating community through play and sharing meals together.



### Work Camps

One theme that Pastor Kathy emphasized throughout her ministry was giving back. Work Camps provided youth and adults that opportunity. Pastor Kathy coordinated over 25 work camps, including

trips to St. Louis with UCC Neighborhood Houses; San Antonio with Salsa; Cheyenne River Reservation with Habitat for Humanity; Biloxi with Back Bay Mission; Atlanta, Chicago and Denver with DOOR; Boston with Heifer Project; Philippi, West Virginia with New Vision and Minneapolis with Urban Immersion. All these trips were service-learning trips, where participants learned about some of the causes of systemic poverty.

Warren Post, who went along on most of the trips, watched how the youth, who were out of their normal environment, working in difficult, often rough, conditions grew and became more understanding of themselves and others. Jim McLean, Dan Green, Warren Post, Holly Bowen-Bailey, Patty Beech-Dzuk and Lisa Brown also went along on many of these trips.

### Faith Formation

A Faith Formation Minister position was created in 2013. Jackie Falk, and now Nathan Holst, continued to build on the efforts of the Christian Education directors. Through listening sessions with parents to hear what they want the church to provide for youth and families, more programming has evolved.

One idea is to offer Children's Church, once a month. Instead of having Sunday School that day, kids will attend church through the "Story for all Ages" segment. They will then leave the sanctuary for activities related to that Sunday's theme. Another new program is Peace in Praise Family Worship on Sunday afternoons, a camp-like atmosphere. Our Whole Lives (OWL), a program that offers insight into our relationships with sexuality is also part of forming faith and understanding ourselves. Research shows that if children attend church, they will be more likely to attend as adults. Nathan's philosophy is to ask the youth what they want to do and what would be meaningful to them.



### It Takes A Community

None of these activities would have happened, however, without the dedication of hundreds of dedicated volunteers who take time from their busy lives to teach, sew, cook, clean, shop, build, drive, donate, take photos, pray, create videos and so much more.

The Peace community is a family fellowship that includes multiple generations—Four, five and even seven generations of families have belonged to Peace.

Peace has and continues to live out the belief that children are not only the future of the church, but they are also a vital part of the present moment.

## Peace Church Groups

### Women's Tea and Talk

Wednesday, September 7, 3:00pm  
in the Fireside Room

We're trading in brown lunch bags for tea! And changing our time to 3:00pm. We're still gathering on the first Wednesday of the month, September 7!

Take an afternoon break with women from Peace. In September we'll talk about an upcoming event that is part of Peace's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, a rally for Peace to be held October 1. Who is David Hogg? Why did Peace invite him to Duluth? How is his work connected to Peace's history? What is this younger generation up to, anyway?

It should be an interesting conversation. Plan to be with us.

### Sharing Our Spiritual Journey Group

Monday, September 5 & 19  
7:00pm via Zoom

You are invited to join the "Sharing Our Spiritual Journey" group. We meet on the first and third Mondays of the month from 7-8pm 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](mailto:gboelhower@msn.com).

### Peace Prayer Chain

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

### 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.

### Monday Book Group

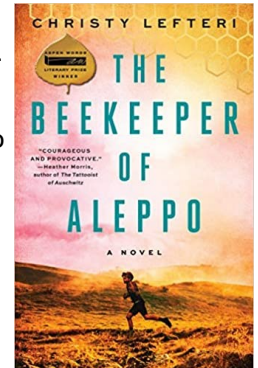
Monday, September 19

The Monday Book Group will begin meeting again every first and third Monday of the month at 3:00pm. The group is currently reading David Hogg's book titled *#NeverAgain*. If you would like more information please contact Penny at [pcragun@d.umn.edu](mailto:pcragun@d.umn.edu).

### Thursday Morning Book Group

Thursday, September 15, 10:00am  
in the Fireside Room

The book we will read is *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri. This is a book about refugees from Syria, a beautiful and powerful book about the hope and bravery common to all refugees. The group will regroup in September, the third Thursday of the month, at 10:00am until noon in the Fireside Room, which we booklovers refer to as the library because this gathering room houses our incredible church library. For more information contact Alice Marks at [amarks001@charter.net](mailto:amarks001@charter.net).



### Choir

Wednesdays at 6:15pm in the sanctuary

Please join choir in the sanctuary 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. You can also join us through Zoom. Contact Robin at [roblee91@msn.com](mailto:roblee91@msn.com) for the Zoom link.



### 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, September 8 & 22.**

### Making Meaning Out Of Malignancy

Monday, September 26, 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 email the office for the Zoom link.

# Bell Tower Lighting Festival

## Bell Tower Dedication

The bell tower has played such an important role in our church life, calling church members and guests to worship for generations. I had my own up close encounter with the bells just two weeks ago. I was arriving late for worship, unfortunately not an unusual occurrence for me, when the bells began their weekly tolling, proudly calling out to the world and scaring the hell out of me. Believe me, the ground shakes when those bells ring. Or maybe it was just my knees.

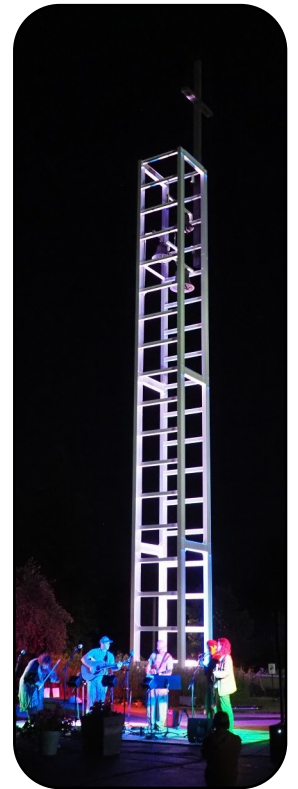
And now, with the lighting of the bell tower, the beacon of light will shine every night for all our community. Just as Peace church has been a beacon of hope for our city and all its residents. The relationships that Peace church has formed under the guidance of

Pastor Kathy and all who served have brightened the lives of so many in our community, members or not. From the establishment of the Rev Foy scholarship to the Gabriel Fund, offering hope and concrete financial assistance, the people of Peace church have daily impacted and uplifted the lives of those around us. The home visits to the sick and elderly maintained that connection of love and hope so desperately needed by the homebound and lonely. Peace has been the home base for so many who have found ways to serve in other congregations by offering to walk with them during seminary and ordination, supporting Our Church's Wider Mission and our own Tom and Monica Little as they spread health and good news to East Timor. One of the most important outreaches for Peace church has been hosting funerals for anyone who needed a welcoming space to be honored and celebrated for their life here on earth. It never mattered what faith, or no faith, that person believed in or what their life circumstances had been. Peace was there to welcome them home.

The city of Duluth looks to Peace church for guidance and support in ways to support our residents. Peace has always joined in events and causes that will strengthen our community and provide hope for our citizens. From the Martin Luther King commemorations to the Pride month celebrations, Peace has always been a gracious and willing host, a beacon of light. And there is more. The people of Peace have been a force for systemic change within our community and beyond in all areas of the promotion of peace, equity, dignity and housing for the unhoused while opening arms for those unwelcome in other spaces.

The people of Peace have been blessed in having a community of support for one another and have spread that light and support throughout our community. Our challenge now is to continue that work in a time of increasing need in our community and limited resources, strife amongst our government leaders, threats to our world climate and concern for our young people. May this celebration strengthen our resolve and courage to continue to be a people of light and hope, spreading that as far as this light shines and these bells ring and beyond! Shalom!

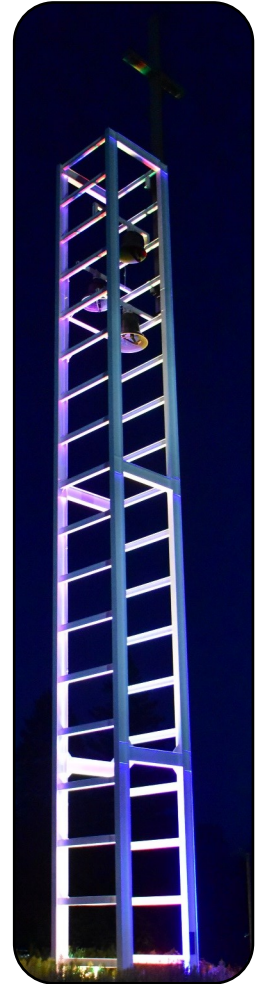
~Rev. Terese Tomanek, member of Peace Church, currently serving on the Duluth City Council.



## Bell Tower Lighting Festival



*Our Bell Tower Lighting Festival was held on Saturday, August 20.*



## 150th Anniversary Outdoor Service





**Mark Your Calendars!**

## The Rally For Peace

**Saturday, October 1st, Leif Erickson Park, Noon–3 pm**

A special gift to our community in honor of 150 years of working for peace and justice, **The Rally for Peace** is an event whose purpose is to promote a peaceful, nonviolent world, encouraging voter registration and engagement in our democracy.

Featuring Keynote Speaker,

**David Hogg**

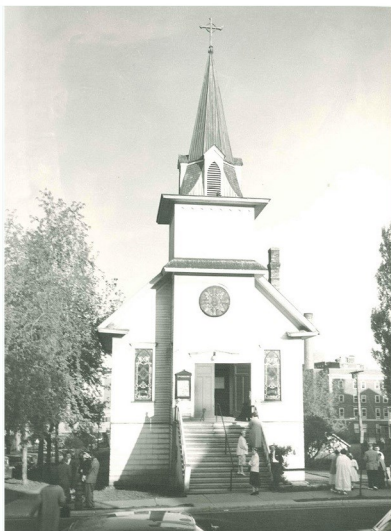
**“Engage in the Change: Our Generation Must Own Democracy”**

Author, activist, and survivor of the 2018 Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida, and co-founder of the March For Our Lives Movement.

This rally will also feature speakers from our high schools, universities, Mayor Emily Larson and others. The vision is to register voters and inspire youth to become involved.

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## The 150th Celebration Dinner



**Saturday, October 8th, Peace Church  
Program 6 pm, Dinner 7 pm**

Plan for a night of fun, reviewing our past and looking toward our future. As a nod to our founders, we will enjoy a German-themed dinner and a program full of fun and surprises.

***Watch for a special invitation coming in September.  
RSVPs due by September 26th!***

# 150th Anniversary Continued

## From the 150th Anniversary Committee

### Bell Tower Lighting Festival

Thank you to everyone who made the weekend a resounding success: event chair, Bud Trnka, Marsha Hystead, the amazing musicians, the Food and Fellowship Committee, the 150th Committee, the History Committee, all the volunteers, the staff, our Pastors, former Pastor Kathy Nelson and all who attended. It was truly magical to see so many come together again to celebrate Peace Church.

### T-Shirts, Hats and Pendants

We have placed an order and hope to take donations for these items on Rally Sunday, September 11. Many thanks to Gail Blum for creating 30 more necklaces and for everyone who is sporting their new Peace Church attire. **T-Shirts \$25/Hats \$30/Pendants \$35**



### Rally for Peace Contributions

As we prepare for The Rally for Peace at Leif Erickson Park on October 1st, we welcome contributions of any amount. We are hoping to raise funds to help pay for airfare, lodging and food related to bringing David Hogg to Duluth. If you are interested in contributing, please send your contributions to the Rally for Peace Fund at Peace Church. Thank you!

## Nathan's Page



*"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*

I think of fall as a time of reflection. Change brings natural markers of beginnings and endings, and I've found stepping back to reflect can bring abundant meaning, but also help collect what has been growing and move into a new chapter with excitement and presence.

This fall, I am pondering some of the ways our Peace youth have been showing up in this changing time. One of the things I have learned, which has become an important part of my philosophy of youth ministry, is that no amount of programming on its own in a church can spark youth leadership and development. In order to do that, you have to get to know what brings youth alive and start there. Only then will any programming make any sense and spring any real space for development into action.

This last year we intentionally created some space for youth to discover what they wanted to explore. After holding feedback sessions with high school youth, some youth showed up to say they wanted more time for connection and fun. They also shared that they wanted more chances to explore spirituality together. So we began some initial gatherings in the spring, and plan to keep that momentum going in the fall again. When we gathered middle school youth and asked them what they wanted to do, they helped organize having someone from Loaves and Fishes come to share about what they do, and then held a bake sale for the organization and raised over \$300. It was incredible and the youth were invested in it.

Then over the summer, I had a couple conversations with youth where I felt that spark coming alive again. One youth expressed an interest in starting a Peace youth book club. I was impressed by her initial initiative, but when she followed up with an email to me to let me know she was serious, I set up a time to talk with her about what she wanted to do and how I could support her in it. My role was to encourage, to find places where I could help her grow, and to handle any pieces that might get in her way of making her idea a reality. After I shared about our book reading of David Hogg's book *#Never Again*, she said she'd like to read that with her book club. I'm looking forward to partnering with her and helping support her in her development as a leader.

Another conversation was with an incoming high school youth who had read a book on nonviolence and took a deep dive into the topic. Not only is she in touch with the author, but she wrote a grant to make a series of educational videos about nonviolence. On top of that, she has actually facilitated book studies on nonviolence with other youth. I am hoping to be able to have her lead a group on nonviolence with Peace youth at some point this fall. What an amazing gift when youth find something that sparks for them and we are able to nurture and meet youth where they're finding life.



It is my prayer that this fall we as a church can continue to look for where we each find life, find that spark that brings us alive. This fall, as we do the work of continuing to become the Beloved Community, as we continue to reflect in our season of change, let us love and support one another so we can discover what it means to come alive together as a community.

~Nathan Holst

*Jessica Olson along with some of our youth arriving back from their Amnicon Wilderness canoe trip. Thanks, Jessica, for leading this trip!*

### Middle School Youth Group September Plans

It's that time of year again when fall rolls in and we kick off our middle school youth group on Wednesday night from 6pm-7pm in the fellowship hall. This year, instead of jumping into our usual Peer Ministry curriculum, we have the opportunity for some conversation leading up to the big Peace event with David Hogg. Here's what we have planned: our first youth group will start on Wednesday, Sept 7 where we'll spend some time getting to know each other and having some time to hang out and have fun. Then on Wednesday, Sept 14, we'll spend some time talking as a youth group about David Hogg's book *#Never Again* (we'll have books available for youth). The next week, Wednesday, Sept 21, we'll widen the youth group table and invite older youth and adults to join around tables for an intergenerational conversation about Hogg's book. All of this leads up to when David Hogg comes to speak at Leif Erikson Park on Saturday, Oct 1 from 12pm-3pm. There's a lot happening, and we'll make sure whatever comes out of it, we'll include time for fun, laughter, and making lasting friends. Come join us for a great September with youth group.

## Youth and Children's Ministry

### OWL

If there are any incoming 9th graders out there who have not received information about the OWL (Our Whole Lives) Sexuality Curriculum, please let Nathan know at [nathan@peaceucc.org](mailto:nathan@peaceucc.org) so all our youth have an opportunity to be a part of the program. We look forward to another great year of OWL.



*Nathan and others held our first Praise and Family Worship on Sunday, August 14 under the tent.*

### Nursery in the Fall

We continue to have our 3-5 year old nursery room open again during our worship service this fall (starting Sept. 11, nursery open 10:00am-12:00pm). Parents, please make sure to fill out the sign in/out sheet with your information before you drop off/pick up your kids. We are looking for parent feedback to help us know the best way to serve our Peace parents in this time. Please let us know if there are needs we are missing or any questions/concerns that you have as parents. Thanks!

### High School Youth Gathering

Sunday, Sept 25 at 12:00pm

We are kicking off the fall with creating a new space for high school youth to hang out and have fun. Come join in for pizza and hanging out on Sunday, Sept 25 after the second service at 12:00pm in the fireside room. We'll have some food and brainstorm ideas for what we want to do together this year—perhaps hikes, bowling, roller skating, etc. We want to hear from you as high school youth what you want to do. Come check it out!

### Children's Church in the Fall

We have some exciting changes coming this fall for our children. Because our kids and parents loved children's church this last spring, we are focusing our efforts on making that a regular part of our weekly programming. Instead of our past model of 9:30 Sunday School (which we are planning to discontinue for now), we will instead focus our energy on our children's church each Sunday during our 10:30 worship service.

So what is children's church? If you haven't heard about it yet, the basic idea is that 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 tell stories with puppets), and then come back with the adults for communion/offering. All kids (ages 3 and up) are welcome to join. And if there are any middle or high school youth that want to come join as helpers, you're welcome to join too!

### New Peace and Praise Family Worship

Sunday, September 11, 4:30pm under the tent

Based on parent feedback from this last year, we are trying out a new kind of gathering/worship. What if we combined camp and church? What if parents could let kids be kids while enjoying a worship experience with them? Think open to all ages and created with energetic kids in mind. We'll have prayer, a psalm, interactive songs, and a moment of gratitude, all under our Peace Church tent. If this sounds like something you've been looking for, we'll have our next gathering on Sunday, September 11 at 4:30pm under the tent. Worship for 20-30 minutes and then we'll provide a picnic with sandwiches after—just bring yourselves. Optional rsvp to Nathan at [nathan@peaceucc.org](mailto:nathan@peaceucc.org).

### Intergenerational Conversations about David Hogg's book #Never Again

We are planning an intergenerational conversation around the important topic of gun violence and we want you to join us Wednesday, September 21 from 6:00-7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a space where we'll gather around tables intentionally set up with a mix of middle school and high school youth and adults to discuss David Hogg's book *#NeverAgain*. We'll read segments of the book together and then have time to engage in a series of questions. This will be a chance for adults to hear what youth are thinking in this time, and likewise, youth to hear what adults have to say about gun violence. And it will help us prepare for when David Hogg comes on Saturday, October 1 to speak and help us discern how to continue to be peace makers in this time. Rsvp for the Sept 21 conversation event is optional to Nathan at [nathan@peaceucc.org](mailto:nathan@peaceucc.org) to help plan for numbers.

# A Word For Justice

## Friday Nights for Justice

During September, take advantage of three Fridays for Justice—special opportunities brought to you from beyond Duluth!

**September 9: Golden Rule Project**—Potluck 5:30pm and Presentation 6:30pm at Peace Church.

**September 16: Kumbayah: The Juneteenth Story**—Denfeld High School, 7:00pm. Free, but pre-registration required: <https://114699a.blackbaudhosting.com/114699a/Kumbayah-The-Juneteenth-Story>.

**September 23: Healing Haunted Histories** with Chad Meyers and Ellen Enns held at Peace Church, 7:00pm.

\*\*\*See page 14 for more information on the Golden Rule Project and Healing Haunted Histories.

## THE FOOD SHELF IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF FOOD!

In order to continue to serve and handle the increased demand, it is important to keep our shelves stocked. While we realize the ongoing price increases of everything from gas to household goods makes it harder to pick up an extra item or two, we are begging for your help!

Once in abundance, our peanut butter is gone. Pasta and pasta sauce... gone. Macaroni and cheese... gone. This list will continue to grow without your help. Please donate if you can!

## Immigrant Welcoming Initiatives

### Afghanistan Resettlement: 6 month Update

It's hard to believe that Halima, Halim, Amena and Sediqa arrived in Duluth six months ago. Sediqa Khalili relocated in June to Alexandria, Virginia to live a recently arrived cousin and her family.

Halima Amiri is finishing up a CNA class, successfully completed the summer English Intensive at UMD and has enrolled as a student at St. Scholastica. She was awarded a sizeable Benedictine scholarship and the sponsor circle is working to locate additional scholarship funds for her.

Halima Akbari and Amena Haidari are enrolled at Lake Superior College. Amena has been working part-time for Luv Creamery and Halim has been working at Sara's Table. Both will be looking for additional work and the circle would appreciate suggestions of employers who might be able to accommodate their student schedules. Both are increasing their English fluency.

As the women become more independent of the Circle, they are grateful that members of Peace offer help in various ways—Melissa Boyle, Ann Carlander, Andy Fena, Bridget Reistad and others stepping in with specific offers of assistance.

The number of refugees and immigrants continues to overwhelm the resettlement infrastructure in our country. Immigrant advocates predict that citizen resettlement will continue to be crucial. Peace's Sponsor Circle has been recognized nationally as a model community resettlement effort and continues to mentor fledgling sponsor circles and provide feedback to resettlement agencies.

## Ukraine Relief

In April, Peace Church took a special offering for Ukrainian Relief. Gifts to this offering amounted to \$3,228. They were forwarded to the United Church of Christ Ukraine Emergency Appeal. Recently, the UCC put out this report:

From *UCC News*:

\$25,000 from the United Church of Christ Ukraine Emergency Appeal will support a multifaceted program in Ukraine, Romania and Poland administered by [International Orthodox Christian Charities \(IOCC\)](#), one of the UCC's partners in Ukraine response.

These funds will help Orthodox Christian partners evacuate civilians stranded in areas of conflict and get food, water, medicine, heating fuel, hygiene, and essential bedding supplies to areas of need.

UCC donations also will help provide safe accommodation for women and children, psychosocial training for caregivers, support for refugee host families; grocery vouchers; volunteer training and educational assistance.

**A big thanks to all those who supported this cause!**

## Accompanying Asylum Seekers: Caring for Antonio, Maria and Xavier

Several Peace members are part of a community group providing accompaniment to a family seeking asylum. They are here from Venezuela and between Peace and ICMJ, we were able, on short notice, to pull together a community support circle. The most immediate need has been to locate temporary housing for them and get Xavier enrolled in school. Sarah Lyons has agreed to be the primary community contact for this family and is coordinating community support. Her email is [sarahlyons1019@gmail.com](mailto:sarahlyons1019@gmail.com).

And lastly, Congratulations to Sara and Melissa Cedars who have been granted guardianship of Moussa, an important step in his journey to seek asylum!



## Golden Rule Project Coming to Duluth and Peace Church

Friday, September 9

Potluck at 5:30pm and presentation at 6:30pm

The Golden Rule Project is an activity of the national Veterans For Peace organization. The Golden Rule is a 34 foot sailboat which, in 1958, attempted to sail to Bikini Atoll to oppose nuclear weapons testing. The voyage was unsuccessful, but it helped launch efforts for nuclear arms control in the 1960s. The boat was restored by members of Veterans For Peace in California and since 2015 has been "sailing to promote abolition of nuclear weapons." Veterans for Peace is bringing the boat to the Twin Cities in September to begin a 11,000 mile, 15 month tour of the lower Mississippi, East Coast and into the Great Lakes. They will be stopping at hundreds of places to do public events. Locally, Veterans for Peace (VFP) and Grandmothers For Peace (GFP) are bringing members of the Golden Rule Project to Duluth September 8-11. Duluth will be the beginning of public events for the whole trip!

The Peace church's Beyond Violence team of the Acting for Justice Hub will be hosting a potluck and presentation on the Golden Rule and the goals of the project on Friday Sept. 9th. The potluck will be under the tent at 5:30 and will be followed by a presentation in the sanctuary on "Sailing for a Nuclear Free World and a Peaceful, Sustainable Future." This is a community event so please come and invite your friends!

At the annual congregational meeting on May 21, 1989, the congregation of Peace Church voted to adopt the UCC General Synod's Just Peace Pronouncement and declared itself a Just Peace Church. Just Peace calls for us to acknowledge the connections between violence (war) and the systemic issues that create conflict, such as racism, sexism, homophobia, economic disparity, poverty, the loss of civil and human rights, domestic violence, environmental degradation, etc. The goal is that by working to alleviate systemic injustice using non-violent methods we can eliminate conflicts and build peace. A Just Peace Church opposes war and understands the relationship of justice to security from violence.



## Peace Church Charters Scout Troop 44

Scouts BSA Troop 44 is now chartered by Peace Church. Scouts BSA used to be Boy Scouts of America but in 2007 all genders were welcomed and hence the name change. Our troop is currently composed of 17 scouts ranging in age from 11 to 16. Two of the scouts are members of Peace; Gus Olson and Simon Liddle. Right now we happen to be an all boy troop but Scouting welcomes all genders. Troop 44 is a very old troop having been started in 1925. Previously the troop was chartered by Trinity Lutheran Church just down the hill but now we are glad to be with Peace. We are always on the lookout for kids ages 11-18 who are interested in outdoor adventures. No experience is necessary. If you are just such a kid, consider checking us out.

~Justin Olson, Scoutmaster Troop 44 and also a member Peace.

## Healing Haunted Histories

Friday, September 23, 7:00 pm

Peace Church

The internationally acclaimed authors and speakers Elaine Enns and Ched Myers will share reflections from their new book **Healing Haunted Histories: A Settler Discipleship of Decolonization.**



This volume tackles the oldest and deepest injustices on the North American continent—the genocide of indigenous peoples and the stealing of their land. The authors argue that we can heal the wounds that are inextricably woven into the fabric of our personal and political lives through the inward and outward journey of decolonization. They explore the places, peoples and spirits that have formed and deformed us. They look at issues of Indigenous justice and settler "response-ability" through the lens of Elaine's Mennonite family narrative, tracing "Landlines, Bloodlines, and Songlines" like a braided river.

Gary Boelhower will share poetic reflections on his journey exploring the parallel stories of his ancestors coming to the New World and Indigenous peoples being moved off their land. Gary's new work faces his own complicity with the injustice done to first nations and yearns toward reparation.

This presentation is free and open to all. Books will be available for purchase and signing, and refreshments and fellowship will follow the program.

### 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 **Monday, September 19**  
Send to [elise@peaceucc.org](mailto:elise@peaceucc.org)

## Council Corner

**Church Coordinating Council** will meet Tuesday, September 20 at 6:30pm in the Fireside Room.

The Council met on August 16 with another full agenda. We are gelling as a group and working hard to solve problems and move forward on behalf of the Congregation. We voted to

become a Charter Organization for Boy Scout Troop #44. You may have noticed that Gus Olson, son of Jessica and Justin, is a member of the troop. They were looking for a new charter to sponsor their troop. A small committee met with the Boy Scout representatives and asked lots of questions to assure that this would be a good match for us. We approved of Louise Hawley and Annette Strom to be our delegates to CHUM. Louise will serve for one year. Annette for two. Thanks to Nancy Nelson, we are cleaning up our member list and removed the names of those who have been inactive for a long time. This will be another reflection of who we are as a congregation as we move forward.

Speaking of Nancy, she will be retiring on Oct. 10. The HR committee is finalizing a job description for an Office Manager position. Nancy is irreplaceable, of course, and we thank her in advance for her work at Peace for these last many years.

ICYMI, there is a Dove hanging on the South outside wall of our church overlooking the Prairie Garden. The Council took a field trip to go outside to look at said Dove because some of us did not know it is there. The current Dove sculpture is disintegrating so a committee has been working on a design to replace the Dove. The original Dove was designed by artist and Peace member Gail Blum. Gail has graciously offered to design a new Dove. The Council approved of the expenditure for the Dove from a special building fund, most of which was given to Peace Church in the estate of long-time former members Peggy and George Maske. Take a look when you have a chance. It is part of our church history.

One of our biggest tasks is to start the process of transitioning to a settled pastor. To that end, we discussed a draft of a transition timeline going into June of 2023, so we have a written path to our next big steps. The first important task was for the newly formed Transition Team to meet on August 18 to discuss their role in the process. Cathy Ameal will be the contact person for that team. Beginning in September, after the HOLY COW survey is sent out to the congregation on the weekend of rally Sunday, the team will work with the congregation to get as many people as possible to complete the survey and help those who need help completing it. The goal is to get 200 responses. PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY WHEN YOU RECEIVE THE EMAIL ABOUT IT. If you are not on email, we will make sure you can complete the survey. The team will then compile the data, hear from a HOLY COW staff person to interpret it and then decide how to disseminate the information to the Congregation. This will then lead into the writing of a church profile for the purpose of searching for a settled pastor.

Watch for much more information from the team. They are: Cathy Ameal, Mike Schrage, Mary Junnila, Veronica Langer, Bob Stevens, Kelly Grgas and Ezra Schomberg.

The 150th anniversary celebrations are upon us. Many thanks to Marsha Hystead and her committee for a lot of hard work. We are looking back at our history and forward to a new era.

Sometime in late October/early November, a search committee will be appointed by the Council. Watch for more information about the process for applications for that very important committee.

The Council will have a retreat in September to discuss issues that will affect the future of Peace Church. Pastor Jim has given us an assignment—to read a book titled *Hybrid Hope, the Church of the Future for Churches with a Future*. Peace Church has a good future ahead. We will need your help and participation to get us to that future.

It will look different, but it will be US. Change is happening all around us which can be unsettling, but it is also an opportunity to forge a new path.

~Joan Peterson, Moderator



### Council Minutes

The council minutes for the **June** 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.

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



**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: September 7 & 21**

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

**Thursday Chum Dinner: September 15**

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).

**Stepping On Up: Community Education Series**

*Do you usher on Sunday mornings and wonder what to do if someone comes to ask for help?*



*Do you wonder how to respond when a you are approached for a "handout"?*

*Do you wish you had more confidence in responding to needy persons in our community?*

Sign up for the Fall sessions offered by Stepping On Up. (Please note the change in location from month to month).

**Learning Together—Responding in Community**

- September 8:** Trauma Informed Approach, Lakeside Presbyterian
- September 22:** Mental Health Crisis Response, Lakeside Presbyterian
- October 6:** Youth Homelessness, First Covenant
- October 20:** Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence, First Covenant
- November 3:** Substance Use Recovery and Harm Reduction, Twelve Holy Apostles
- November 17:** Understanding and De-Escalating Conflict, Twelve Holy Apostles

\*\*Go to <https://www.tfaforms.com/5004629> to register. Once registered, you will receive reminders for each session.

**All Non-Perishable Food Is Welcome**

(These are the most needed items)

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



**You can drop off your donations Monday through Friday, 8:30am-12:30pm at Chum Food Shelf (120 N 1st Ave W.) Please us the alley entrance. Thank you!**

**CHUM Book Club**

*The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma*

By Bessel Van Der Kolk, MN

This book was highly recommended during a recent training sponsored by CHUM and Stepping On UP. There is enough interest that CHUM will host a book club discussion of the material. Learn:

- What things you might do to build trust with a person who has been through a traumatic experience.
- What happens to the brain/body connection as a result of trauma, and why.
- What physical consequences can result from repressed trauma.
- How we carry trauma in our body and paths to recovery.

Sign up for a Wednesday discussion group at noon or 4:30pm. We will cover one section on each of the following dates: **Sept 7 & 21, Oct 5 & 19, Nov 2 & 16.** Meetings will be hybrid. To register, please follow this link, <https://www.tfaforms.com/5003252>.

**Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible.**

—THE 14TH DALAI LAMA





## Volunteer Schedules



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



### Coffee Hour Volunteers

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:

**September 4:** Pride Breakfast, no coffee hour

**September 11:** Holly Bowen-Bailey, Katey Fornear, Kevin and Ann Skwira-Brown

**September 18:** Holly Bowen-Bailey, Molly Watson, Liz and Owen Fifield, Doreen Marciniak

**September 25:** Holly Bowen-Bailey, Kay and Bob Stevens, Dennis Hamsher, Elsie Cook, Cindy and Mark Poirier



### 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:

**September 5:** Terese Tomenek

**September 12:** Bob and Kay Stevens

**September 19:** Tom and Christine Day

**September 26:** Veronica Gaidelis-Langer

\*Ann Schepers is the new contact person for Dorothy Day House. Please text Anne at 218-341-2223 when you need to drop off your meal. Thanks!

*Many thanks to all our volunteers!*

## Peace People

### Thank You!

- Thanks to those who provided special music in August: Ron Deters, William Commer, Ian Connell, Gudrun Witrak, Janet MacDonald, Susan Larson Kidd, the choir, Mia Kraker, Byron Klimek, John Erickson, Dan Shepard, and Dave Winchester.
- Dear Peace United Church of Christ, Thank you so much for your hospitality! We truly enjoyed staying at your wonderful church and engaging with your vibrant community over our two day stay in Duluth. Also, thank you to your lovely church member, Nancy Deever, who brought us a delicious dinner. We will keep your church in our thoughts as we continue our journey to Bellingham, WA. All Our Love, Bike and Build
- Thank you to Tim Peters, Jonathon Price, Dan Shepard, Nancy Nelson, Janell Kohls, Monica Liddle and Ken Stafford for all the help in tech set up and tear down on August 20th and 21st!
- Eternal gratitude to my tech team extraordinaire Tyler Stark and Cai Karstens. You make our worship happen! ~Susan Larson Kidd
- Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who helped plan and organize the Bell Tower Lighting Festival!
- Thank you to former Pastor Kathy Nelson for preaching on Sunday, August 21.
- Thank you to Sue Munns for making prayer shawls for individuals receiving pastoral care.
- Thank you to Katey Fornear, Jessica Olson and Nathan Holst for taking the middle school youth to Camp Amnicon for two nights.
- From the bottom of our hearts, the rummage sale team says, "thank you, you are amazing!" The Fellowship Hall was packed with most interesting needed/wanted treasures donated by Peace Church folks, so many volunteers helped sort and place items & directed traffic the day of the sale, and as always there is a special place in our hearts for the clean-up angels. We thank ALL of you—on your behalf we will be able to add \$1,950 to the Gabriel Fund.

### Keep in Your Prayers

- Jan Eschbach is recovering from electrical burns from her accident three years ago. She is dealing with every day challenges and appreciates the prayers from her church family.
- All those undergoing treatment for cancer: Stephen Dando, Terrie Shannon, Mary Caine-Hafdahl, Kim Kruger, Marg Paulson and others.
- All our members living in long-term care facilities: Joyce Riggie 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.

### In Sympathy

- Our thoughts are with Sam and Alice Marks with the passing of their son, Joshua, who died waiting for a kidney transplant.

### Memorials

- In memory of Keith Wergeland: Judy Lund and Ken and Mary Wergeland.



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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

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

**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!*