

Peace Bell



Peace

United Church of Christ

February & March 2026

Sundays in February

February 1st

Sermon by Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

8:30am Worship with Holy Communion
9:30am Forum: Praying in Times of Crisis
10:00am Childcare Available
10:30am Intergenerational Worship
 Holy Communion
 11:45am Coffee Hour
2:00pm Transforming Families
6:00pm Peace Welcome Potluck

February 8th

Sermon by Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

8:30am Worship with Holy Communion
9:30am Forum: Planning History- and Justice-Focused
 Travel with Betty Greene
10:00am Childcare Available
10:30am Worship with Children's Church
 11:30am Coffee Hour

February 15th

Sermon by Rev. Johanna Wagner, Director of
Development at the Marshall School and ordained PC
(USA) minister

8:30am Worship with Holy Communion
9:30am Forum: A Conversation with Rev. Johanna
 Wagner
 10:00am Childcare Available
10:30am Worship with Children's Church
 11:30am Coffee Hour

February 22nd

Sermon by Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

8:30am Worship with Holy Communion
9:30am Forum: Walking the Palm Sunday Path in Lent
 10:00am Childcare Available
10:30am Worship with Children's Church
 11:30am Coffee Hour

Sundays in March

March 1st

Sermon by Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

8:30am Worship with Holy Communion
9:30am Forum: Walking the Palm Sunday Path in Lent
 10:00am Childcare Available
 10:30am Intergenerational Worship
 Holy Communion
 11:45am Coffee Hour
2:00pm Transforming Families

March 8th

Sermon by Rev. Jan Murphy, Essentia Chaplain and
ordained UCC minister

8:30am Worship with Holy Communion
9:30am Forum: Walking the Palm Sunday Path in Lent
 10:00am Childcare Available
10:30am Worship with Children's Church
 11:30am Coffee Hour

March 15th

Sermon by Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

8:30am Worship with Holy Communion
9:30am Forum: Walking the Palm Sunday Path in Lent,
 Part 4
 10:00am Childcare Available
10:30am Worship with Children's Church
 11:30am Coffee Hour

March 22nd

Sermon by Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

8:30am Worship with Holy Communion
9:30am Forum: Walking the Palm Sunday Path in Lent
 10:00am Childcare Available
10:30am Worship with Children's Church
 11:30am Coffee Hour

March 29th

Palm Sunday

Sermon by Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

8:30am Worship with Holy Communion
9:30am Forum: Walking the Palm Sunday Path in Lent
 10:00am Childcare Available
 10:30am Worship with Children's Church
 11:30am Coffee Hour
3:00pm Community Palm Sunday Parade & Public
 Witness

February & March Adult Forums



February 1st – Praying in Times of Crisis

Our faith was made for such a time as this. How can we use the tools of our faith to support ourselves, our families, and our community? Join members of Peace Church who will share about the prayers and practices that ground them, and who will lead us in these practices.

February 8th – Planning History- and Justice-Focused Travel with Betty Greene

Betty Greene will share information about how she plans history-focused trips at the 9:30 forum in the Fireside Room. Travel like this is a meaningful way in which she practices justice work by being a witness to history.

February 15th – A Conversation with Rev. Johanna Wagner

Rev. Johanna Wagner is a Presbyterian minister and Development Director at the Marshall School. She has a background in congregational ministry, especially leading through times of crisis and conflict. Bring your questions about the Marshall School, how to live our faith as we work in non-faith-based settings, and how to address and manage conflict.

February 22nd-March 29th – Walking the Palm Sunday Path in Lent

This Lent, we are joining with Christians across the country to encourage people to follow Jesus along the path he walked into Jerusalem and eventually to the cross. As he approached the city, he staged a procession, a public display that both called into question the usual symbols and privileges of power and embraced a different way. Of course we know how the story ended, but it's important to remember that Jesus's message was public and provocative. His followers understood the risk. The original Palm Sunday was an occasion of joy and peril, all rolled into a tight and combustible ball of earnest expectation.

We will use resources from Working Preacher at Luther Seminary and the Ministry Lab at United Theological Seminary to dive deep into the theological and spiritual resources our faith has to offer us in these times. We are building toward a large, public, ecumenical Palm Sunday Parade & Public Witness, planned in coalition with 10+ Northland congregations.

From the Moderator

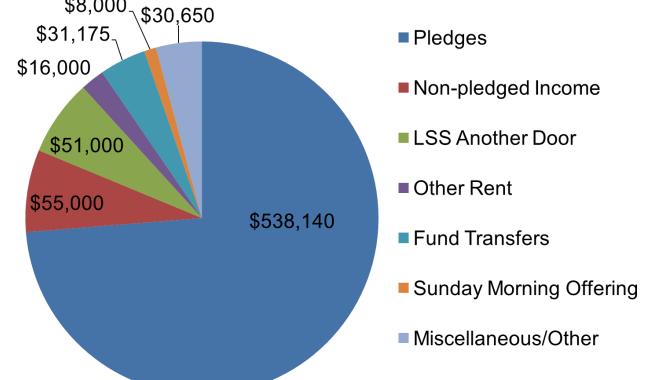
Hi Folks.

Much of our recent discussions at Council have been around money. In January 2025 the congregation passed an annual budget with a \$47,700 deficit. Through careful stewardship of our spending and the generosity of the congregation we managed to finish 2025 in the black. However, we still had to pare back our planned Christian Service giving to do that. For 2026 all the various teams and committees, staff and Council worked together to prepare a balanced budget. We had to forgo much of the planned Christian Service giving that we've done in past years and tap reserve and other dedicated funds for some expenses, but we held the line on giving staff 3% pay raises. This at least keeps salaries and benefits on pace with annual inflation. A just organization should start with just compensation for its employees, and I think we were able to do this. The process of building a balanced budget wasn't fun but, in the end, Council was unanimously in favor of the draft we passed. By the time you read this, I expect the 2026 budget will have been presented and approved by you in our annual budget meeting.

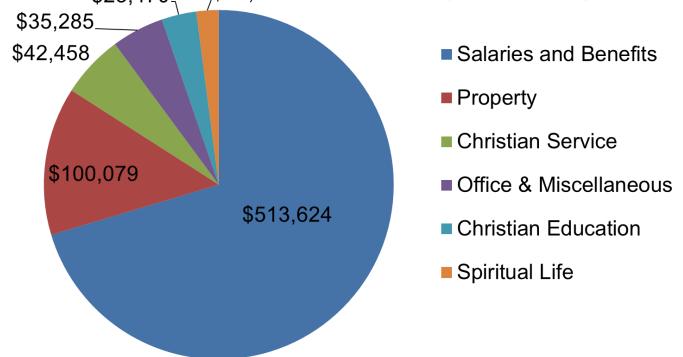
I remain eternally grateful to the hard work and dedication by our pastor and staff and all the teams and committees who do the unheralded tasks necessary keep this place working. I'm also very proud of the commitment to justice our staff and congregation are showing in these troubling times. I'll complain about it, but it's a privilege to serve as your Moderator. If you have questions about what Council's up to or concerns you feel Council should address, please seek me out.

Mike Schrage, Moderator

2026 Projected Income



2026 Proposed Expenses



From the Pastor



As many of you know, I traveled to Florida for the annual Conversations conference, an annual gathering of UCC senior ministers from across the country. It was a little ironic to travel so far away to experience the keynote speaker, Cody Sanders, who is a professor at Luther Seminary right here in Minnesota. Rev. Dr. Sanders is an ordained minister and a professor of congregational and community care. He writes about what he calls "Collapse Christianity," the theological assertion that we are in a time of polycrisis – that is, many crises involving all parts of our communal life in the world – and that Christianity has unique tools to respond.

Sanders talked about hope as a practice, not a feeling. He shared case studies, including the story of Rev. Jim Mitulski, former interim minister here at Peace, who ministered powerfully to the LGBT+ community in San Francisco during the AIDS crisis in the 1980s. In the face of governmental apathy and antagonism toward those experiencing the utter collapse of their lives and world, Mitulski and others provided healing touch to those considered untouchable, medical marijuana to those the state government decided were unworthy of such basic symptomatic relief, and proclaimed Gospel truth of God's love for each one of these struggling people.

In this case study and others, I felt my own hope swelling. We know how to do this, beloved. We know how to gather for meals. We know how to pray for each other. We know how to connect intergenerationally. We know – okay, we are learning how – to disagree respectfully and well. Our spiritual kin have been through this before even if we, personally, have not. The LGBT+ community, our Black and Brown communities, and others who know the pain of oppression have so much to teach us right now. Hope does not mean everything gets fixed up right away and we all go forward to live life as usual. But it does mean that we can care for one another, protect one another, and find strength in our faith.

There is no right or wrong lane, feeling, or action right now. Care for yourself: mind, body, spirit. Care for your closest people: family and friends. Plug into community: come to church, find a place to give back that feels right to you. Know how loved you are.

With Love, Pastor Corinne

Lent Preview

Community Palm Bonfire Wednesday, February 11th, 5:15-6:15pm

It is traditional to burn the palms from last year's Palm Sunday procession and use the ashes for Ash Wednesday. Grab some soup and gather round the fire, outdoors in the lower parking lot. Drop in and out as your schedule allows and bring outdoor chairs if you have them.

Ash Wednesday Worship Wednesday, February 18th, 7-8pm

You are invited to Ash Wednesday worship at 7:00pm on February 18th. This will be a meditative service with imposition of ashes, prayer stations, and choir music.

Even the Stones Cry Out: Walking the Palm Sunday Path in Lent

Since September, Christian clergy across the country have been planning for Palm Sunday as a meaningful moment to live our faith in public. During Lent, we encourage all of us to follow Jesus along the path he walked into Jerusalem and eventually to the cross. Who is this Jesus? The Gospels depict him as a leader who stirred up an obvious contrast as he journeyed toward Jerusalem. Those on the Palm Sunday Path will follow his lead, processing together and proclaiming God's values as clear contrasts to increasingly familiar politics of cruelty, greed, intimidation, and injustice. In worship and our forums throughout the Lenten season, from Ash Wednesday on February 18th through Easter Sunday on April 5th, we will be diving deep into Jesus's life and ministry, connecting our faith to our lives and current events.

An Invitation to Holy Week Maundy Thursday Worship, Thursday, April 2nd, 7-8pm

Join us in remembering Jesus's last supper with his disciples and his command to us to love one another. We will have handwashing and footwashing, time for reflection, and a robust communion spread.

Good Friday Worship, Friday, April 3rd

We partner with Pilgrim Congregational UCC and Glen Avon Presbyterian for this service. Look for more details coming soon.

Holy Saturday Beach Vigil, Saturday, April 4th, 5-6pm, Tot Lot Beach on Park Point

Join for a casual worship service with communion and rituals of fire and water, details forthcoming depending on weather.

Easter Sunday Worship, Brunch, and Egg Hunt, Sunday, April 5th

Join us at 8:30am or 10:30am for festive Easter Sunday worship with communion at both services! Between services, come to the Fellowship Hall for Easter Brunch prepared by our youth and members of our Food Hospitality Team. All children are invited to participate in the indoor egg hunt, starting in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45am.

Team and Committee Updates

Food Hospitality Tidbits: Let's Talk Composting

Did you know it's been over a year since we started composting at Peace? Thank you everyone for helping make Coffee Hour, Wednesday Night Suppers, and special events greener than ever! We're spending less time washing dishes and more time building community—without the guilt of sending extra waste to the landfill. Thank you for taking time to sort your waste and help Peace care for our planet.

What can go in the compost?

- All food waste (yes, even meat and bones!)
- Brown paper napkins
- Compostable paper plates and bowls
- Compostable paper coffee cups
- Compostable "plastic cups" (they look like plastic, but they're made from corn—just check for the compostable label to be sure)

What should be recycled?

- Cans, bottles, cardboard, and paper. *Please NO PAPER CUPS OR PLATES*
- Watch for a new spot in the kitchen for recycling plastic bags

Hosting a Peace event or meeting?

We encourage you to use compostable plates and cups for your group's gathering. You'll find them in the Fireside Room cabinet, or you can ask Melissa or Carrie if you need extras from the storage room. And be sure to remind your group that there is a compost container outside of the kitchen for downstairs use and upstairs near the office if you meet in the Fireside Room. Your commitment makes a real difference—thank you for helping Peace be a leader in sustainability.

Peace Church Knit and Crochet Group Saturday, February 21st, 10:00am

We are starting a knitting/crocheting group at Peace Church to connect our active crafters and to support the ministries of prayer shawls, baby blankets, and graduation blankets. This group will meet once a month to connect, knit, and crochet. If you are interested in joining this group please contact Bri at office@peaceucc.org.

High School Graduation Blankets

If you volunteered to make a graduation blanket for a high school senior, please drop them to the office between March 1st and May 1st. If you are making a blanket and have not yet notified the office, please email Bri at office@peaceucc.org.

2026 Graduation Forms

Last summer, we sent packets to families with rising high school seniors to help us plan for Graduation Sunday. Please submit that paperwork to the office by April 1st to allow for enough time to make blankets before we recognize our graduates. If you don't know your post-high school plans yet, that's okay! Still submit the paperwork and we'll follow up with the details as it gets closer.

PALS

Hey PALS, and any adults interested in building community through learning and socializing, our February event is the 3rd Annual Duck Pin Bowling at Skyline Social and Games on Thursday, February 19th from 4-5:30pm, with dinner to follow in a reserved space. The cost of the bowling is \$13/person. Dinner will be ordered off the menu for an additional charge. Come see what it is all about – you may participate or watch, or join us just for the meal. Please RSVP to Diane Swanson at mdswanson@aol.com if you can come. There is a reason this is the 3rd time we are doing this event – who will take home the ducks this year?

Cont...

Stepping On Up Update

As we are one year out from the opening of The Another Door transitional shelter housing for young adults at the west end of our church building, we are happy to report that the space is working well and the mission is being fulfilled and managed by Lutheran Social Service of MN, to provide safe space for homeless young adults as they transition to education, jobs, and long-term housing. We now know the actual utility costs of housing, which were higher than anticipated for the lease, but are being budgeted more accurately this year. A \$5,000 grant from the UCC Love of Church Rapid Response Fund has helped with the shortfall from the past year. There is space for up to twelve residents, and there have consistently been between 8-10 residents transitioning through and receiving the life skills training they need.

There are several other local initiatives for additional populations of homeless folk, including Safe Bay - safe overnight parking and services at Vineyard Church, CHUM Emergency Shelter, and Salvation Army's Plover Place - which offers 24 units of housing to people who have experienced long term homelessness that are fully furnished and include private bathrooms. We can support these programs with donations of cash or visit <https://steppingonupduluth.org/> for a list of items needed at each location.

Laundry Love is another way in which we can support the homeless. Laundry Love is a no-cost laundry service open every Tuesday at the Spirit Valley Laundromat (232 N Central Ave). Laundry Love is staffed and funded entirely by volunteers who believe that everyone deserves dignity and clean clothes! Visit <https://steppingonupduluth.org/laundry-love> to learn more.

There are more local initiatives in the works. Come learn more and be part of the mission to address and reduce homelessness at the next Peace Church Stepping On Up Team meeting. Call the church office for meeting times and dates.

News from the Peace Property Team

The property team meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm. Additionally we hold periodic work nights to take care of building and ground maintenance projects. Please contact Bri in the office if you are interested in getting on our work-night email list. This year we have had a couple of new members join us, Laura and Caleb, and we always have room for more!

The big news is that our bank loan has been approved for the new rooftop HVAC unit! We expect the installation to take place in mid-Spring. We all are looking forward to this projects' completion.

We continue to be met with unexpected and exciting issues requiring quick repairs (such as a recent sump pump failure) and some less exciting, but very important tasks like addressing insurance and inspection reports. We are so fortunate to have dedicated stewards of this property, thanks to those who helped out again this month!

Men's Retreat, March 6th-8th at Clearwater Forest Camp

The men's retreat is back! We will be having a men's retreat March 6th-8th at Clearwater Forest Retreat Center near Deer River. We'll be staying in an amazing lodge on a wooded property with opportunities for skiing, ice fishing and winter hiking. This will be the first men's retreat in a number of years, so part of what we'll be doing is just connecting with one another and imagining what kind of men's ministry we all need at Peace.

Please RSVP to Bri at office@peaceucc.org. The suggested fee to cover the cost of lodging, food, and travel is \$150. We never want cost to prohibit accessibility for retreats or other church activities. Pay what you can by check, cash, or online, and be sure to note "Men's Retreat" in the memo line.

If you have any questions please contact Tom Liddle, tomasliddle@gmail.com.

Introducing Roots and Shoots!

The Belonging and Community committee is introducing a new church initiative in order to bring together members who have attended for a long time (Roots) and members who have recently joined or still feel new to Peace Church (Shoots). Since both groups have so much to offer the other, we are seeking both Roots and Shoots to host **or attend** a dinner or brunch **in February or March** in order to get to know each other. The number of people and the time frame are both up to the host. **Since we have several people who have already volunteered to host in their homes, we especially need more people to be "eaters" (guests). If you or someone you'd like to know better might be interested in attending , please share names and contact information with us by phone, text or email. Thank you!**

Maggie Lilja (#763-528-0912)

craig@liljainspectionservices.com

April Knight (#864-313-9104)

april.knight@unitedseminary.edu

Children and Youth Corner

Hello Peace Families,

I keep rewriting this article this month, as disturbing, grief-filled things keep happening. Lately, it's much easier to slip into a state of hope-less coping, rather than hope-full thriving.

We are a people living through collective trauma – witnesses to cruelty and evil propped up by a system of Christian nationalism – a system that in exchange for power, twists the message of Jesus and the story of God's loving work to liberate and heal the universe.

At the same time, we are living our “normal” lives because what else can we do? Life is still busy, full of ordinary and mundane moments of goodness and heartbreak. Dinner still must be made. The trash needs to be taken out, and the sidewalk needs to be shoveled. Bills must be paid. Loved ones get ill and third grade math problems still have to be solved. People have shared with me that they are exhausted, on edge and feel guilty that they do not have the bandwidth to do more to help. Even though I can tell you an inspiring amount of folks are already doing a whole lot! But the need is urgent and feels overwhelming and no matter how much any of us do it's easy to find ourselves falling short of the ways we want to show up for our community.

A thoughtful colleague recently shared an insight – living in these times, with typical stressors while trying to survive under an oppressive regime, has helped her to better understand the ministry of Jesus.

Jesus lived within an authoritarian state that executed him. At the same time a large part of his ministry dealt with those mundane everyday moments – illness, preparing and eating meals, visiting elders, sharing stories, spending time with children, a lot of long walks, navigating family dynamics. Through it all Jesus practiced radical hospitality – welcoming strangers and neighbors on the margins, advocating for their dignity and care. Through it all Jesus also practiced radical grace. Jesus forgave others and forgave himself, for being human, for needing to rest, for being fearful, for not being able to solve all the problems that need to be solved, even when you try really hard. Jesus built and restored community because community is the way we are found, healed, and saved.

Jesus's ministry reminds us that *living* is an act of resistance. *Raising* kind and compassionate children is an act of resistance. *Finding* joy, beauty and friendship in the daily mundane is an act of resistance. *Resting* when you are exhausted is an act of resistance. And if some days this is all you can do, that's okay.

Perhaps we can take a cue from Jesus and extend that radical grace that God gives us, to ourselves.

Here's a Meditation to aid you in that attempt – “Give Yourself Grace Meditation”:

Sometimes, things happen differently than we imagine or want to happen. Life is unexpected!

Sometimes we make mistakes or are too tired to do the things we want to do.

At those times it's important to remember that we are already good and loveable and that God has abundant grace.

What does grace mean?

The root of the Christian understanding is that God loves us so much that God offers us forgiveness and wants us to have full and joyful lives. We don't have to earn it, God just wants to give us grace - this state of acceptance that we are worthy, blessed, forgiven and whole - just because we exist, just because of who we are. This was core to Jesus's teaching in his ministry.

But even when we know that God wants us to feel this way, sometimes it's hard for us to accept.

You've probably heard a saying before: **I Give Myself Grace.**

We want to explore this saying today because there will always be moments when we don't live up to our best selves. **And that's where Grace comes in.**

Grace gives us permission to love ourselves, even on days when we make mistakes.

It lets us acknowledge our limitations with compassion and forgiveness.

And it lets us move forward and try again tomorrow.

This is a practice you can do on those days when you are being hard on yourself, because in those moments *you can always choose to lean into compassion and love for the person you are.*

Find a comfy sitting position. Let your gaze be soft and relaxed.

Take a deep breath in and slowly out. Counting to 3 as you inhale and 5 as you exhale.

Breathe this way a few times to find that rhythm.

Consider the following thoughts. Breath in and then on each exhale, say in your head, “I Give Myself Grace.”

For days that I feel tired or sick or sad.

I Give Myself Grace.

For the days I'm not able to do it all.

I Give Myself Grace.

For the moments when I need rest.

I Give Myself Grace.

Cont...

For the times when fear clouds my mind.

I Give Myself Grace.

When I wish I could take back actions or words that hurt others.

I Give Myself Grace.

For the things I've yet to do.

I Give Myself Grace.

I am learning.

I Give Myself Grace.

I am changing.

I Give Myself Grace.

I am growing.

I Give Myself Grace.

Now return to your breath and hold today's intention for a few moments more, breathing in and out. Notice how you feel in this moment. Maybe you feel a little lighter. Or maybe your heart feels a little more open. You might feel soft or tender. That's good.

When we find ways to give ourselves grace, we work towards loving ourselves for the simple fact that we *exist*.

You don't need to earn dignity. *You don't need to earn compassion or love, it's always yours.*

God already sees us as being worthy, blessed, forgiven and whole - just because we exist, just because of who we are.

Take a final deep breath,

In and out and repeat out loud: I give myself grace. I give myself grace.

Over the next two months we will enter into the season of Lent, we will be journeying together through uncertain and fraught times, perhaps times that will feel parallel to Jesus's journey toward Holy Week. May we extend radical hospitality to our neighbors and radical grace to each other and ourselves.

Please mark the following events on your calendar, and keep an eye out for weekly emails for specific details:

We are looking forward to more fun nights of building friendships and church-wide hide and seek!

High School Lock-in is Friday, March 6th! **Middle School Lock-in** is Saturday, May 2nd!

Minnesota Conference Trip to Washington DC (for High School Youth, current grades 9-12), July 11th through 17th.

Minnesota Conference Fresh Water Faithworks (for Middle School youth, current grades 6-8), July 29th through August 2nd, exploring intersections of our faith, deep ecology and environmental advocacy in the Mississippi River Watershed.

Rustic Inn Pie Fundraiser for Youth Trips, is happening the month of February. **Pi(e) Day Fundraising Event**, is March 14th. If your young person has an interest in attending youth trips please contact Amanda ASAP!

Join us for a **Lenten Fast from Social Media**, beginning Ash Wednesday, February 18th. We are presenting this as a spiritual practice that young people may try during Lent, but families and adults can participate too! The spiritual practice will involve: 1) thoughtfully considering your social media and technology usage, 2) determining what usage is beneficial and what usage is harmful, 3) choosing a path from a complete fast to reducing the time spent on social media. 4) We'll also consider what to replace that time with. We'll ask what brings us joy, connection to loved ones/ friends and a deeper experience of spirituality? 5) Finally, we'll look at the possibility that finding balance and regulation in how we use technology and social media can be a small daily act of resistance to the corporations that benefit from our dependence on brain rot and doomscrolling.

More details are coming soon!

Summer Camp 2026 dates are June 15th to June 19th. This half day camp is our version of Vacation Bible School. This year Summer Camp will be hosted at our partner site, Pilgrim Congregational Church.

Join our lively crew of young people for **Kids' Club, Middle School and High School Youth Groups** on Wednesday nights! Youth Groups will be making sandwiches for the Warming Center once a month in February and March as a service project. **Confirmation 1** and **Confirmation 2** classes meet on February 4th, 11th, and 25th and March 4th, and 11th. **OWL** meets on February 1st, 8th, 22nd and March 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd.

If you are not on the mailing list for weekly Children and Youth activities or if you would like to volunteer, reach out to Amanda at amanda@peaceucc.org!

Wishing you Love in Action, Amanda

Community Events



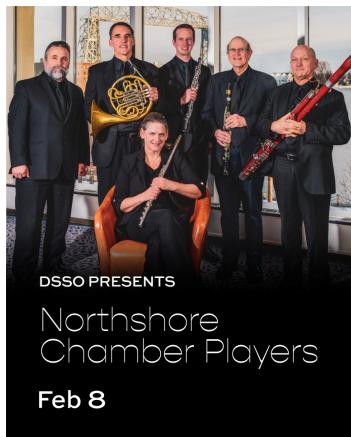
Earth's Greatest Enemy Saturday, February 7th, 10:00am West Theatre in Duluth, 319 N Central Ave

Free and open to the public, donations are appreciated.

Sponsored by: Northland Grandmothers for Peace and Lake Superior Veterans for Peace Produced by Empire Files (www.empirefiles.tv)

Can humanity avert climate catastrophe while the world's largest military empire continues unchecked?

Earth's Greatest Enemy reveals a hidden truth rarely questioned in mainstream reporting: the role of the U.S. military as the world's largest institutional polluter, tracing the link between war, empire, and ecological destruction. Drawing on powerful testimonies from veterans, scientists, and frontline communities, it uncovers how military operations poison ecosystems, accelerate global warming, and sacrifice the future for endless expansion. From Alaska's melting glaciers to contaminated bases across the U.S. and toxic battlefields abroad, Earth's Greatest Enemy delivers a provocative and unflinching examination of the untouchable institution playing an outsized role in the climate crisis.



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Roots & Rhythms: Health Equity Northland's Annual Fundraiser, Saturday, February 7th, 3:00pm - 5:30pm at Peace Church

Roots & Rhythms is going to be a beautiful evening filled with African and African American cuisine, live music, dance, and storytelling; all celebrating our shared roots and four years of work advancing food justice, health access, and social equity in our community. For more information visit <https://healthequitynorthland.org/>

Minnesota Ballet Presents Sleeping Beauty, 7:00pm on March 13th and 3:00pm on March 14th-15th

Sleeping Beauty is a timeless classical ballet filled with elegance, enchantment, and exquisite choreography. Set to a rich, soaring score, the story follows Princess Aurora as she falls under a sleeping spell, only to be awoken by true love's kiss. With magical fairies, a wicked curse, and a joyful royal celebration, Sleeping Beauty offers a dazzling experience that's fun for all ages, blending fairy tale magic with the grandeur of classical ballet.



A Word for Justice

Black History Month

Why do we celebrate Black History Month?

This month-long observance in the US and Canada is a chance to celebrate Black achievement and provide a fresh reminder to take stock of where systemic racism persists and give visibility to the people and organizations creating change.

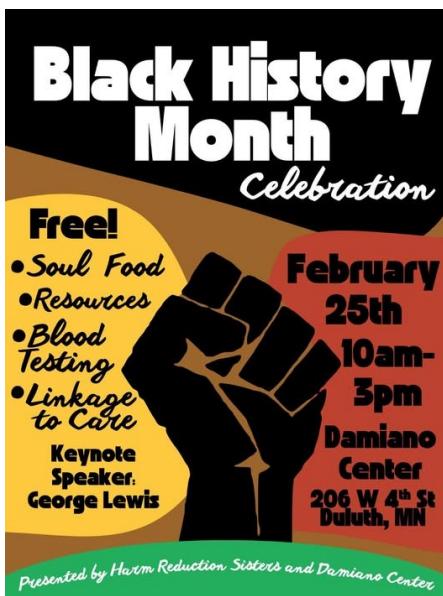
Black History Month Presentations on Mississippi History and Planning a History-focused trip

Come to church at 6:30pm on Monday, February 2nd, to hear about Betty Greene's recent Mississippi history trip in the Fireside Room. Through photos and story she will share highlights from her trip as well as a more detailed focus on Black history in Natchez, Mississippi.



Foy Scholarship Special Offering, Sunday, February 8th in Worship

Rev. Arthur Foy III was pastor at St. Mark AME and died in an auto accident in 2004. He was passionate about opening educational opportunities for young people. St. Mark, Peace, and other congregations support the Scholarship Fund in his name. You can donate by writing a check to Peace Church with Foy Scholarship in the memo, put cash in an offering envelope and label it Foy Scholarship, or donate online with Foy Scholarship in the notes.



Chum Corner



Chum Extravaganza February 12th, 2026, 5:30-8:30pm at the DECC Harborside Ballroom

Business Casual Attire, Formal Attire, or Mardi Gras Costume Attire

Tickets are \$50 and include food, music, entertainment, and community. Come and learn first-hand from Chum staff and their stories why your support is so crucial in this time. We hope to see you there!

Tickets can be purchased at chumduluth.org/extravaganza.

If you are interested in sponsoring this event as a business or organization, please contact Bud Trnka at btrnka@chumduluth.org for further details.

Chum Assembly: Shelter Expansion Virtual Tour & Annual Meeting Thursday, February 26th, 6:30pm

Please join us for this important governance meeting from the comfort of your home! This year's annual meeting will be held via Zoom. We have a slate of elections on the business side, followed by an up-to-date video tour to explore the progress of the shelter expansion. We'll catch you up on Chum happenings, including a recap of the Extravaganza! Register here at <https://www.tfaforms.com/5209195>

Housing for Advocacy Tuesday, February 24th, 5-6:30pm at Pilgrim Congregational Church

Chum's annual legislative agenda has not yet been approved, but this legislative session is going to be short and intense. Capital funding for shelter and transitional housing are not a focal point, but we are supporting our District 8 legislators to obtain funding for Union Gospel Mission's Mission Engagement Center and Mission Heights Housing. These projects are part of the collaboration of nonprofits working together through the Stepping On Up Duluth coalition. You can learn more about this and more at the *Housing for Advocacy* event hosted by Pilgrim Congregational Church on February 24th from 5-6:30pm. Please promote this event in your congregation and community networks.

Peace People



Peace Prayer Chain

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



Christmas
Pageant
Behind-
the-
Scenes

Keep in Your Prayers

- All our members living in long-term care facilities:
Mike Nugent at the Silver Bay Veterans Home,
Steve Coll at St. Ann's, Amanda Cran at Bishop Woods, Sharon Kirtley at Viewcrest, Bethel Anderson at Ecumen, Alician Grogan at Bay Shore, and others.
- All those undergoing treatment for cancer: Laura Tonkin, Terry Wasnick, and others.

Our Condolences

We offer our condolences to Cyndy Klinksiek following the death of her husband, John Sorensen. Memorial service details are forthcoming.

We offer our condolences to the family of Anne Simpson, longtime former Peace Church member, following her death in early December.



Regular Opportunities for Engagement & Volunteering

Recurring Meetings

Mondays

- 9:00am **Yoga with Robin** Every Monday
- 5:00pm **Making Meaning Out of Malignancy**
Fourth Monday

Tuesdays

- 6:30am **Property Team** Second Tuesday
- 6:30pm **Coordinating Council** Third Tuesday

Wednesdays

- 8:30am **CHUM Breakfast Making**
Every Other Wednesday
- 5:30pm **Acting for Justice Hub** First Wednesday
- 4:00pm **Read, Write, and Reflect Group** First Wednesday
- 5:45pm **Bible Study** Every Wednesday

Thursdays

- 8:00am **Men's Breakfast** Every Other Thursday
- 2:00pm **Belonging & Community Team** Second Thursday
- 3:00pm **Dismantling Racism Team**
Second Thursday
- 5:30pm **Worship & Arts Team** Second Thursday
- 7:00pm **Pastoral Relations Committee**
Second Thursday

Recurring Volunteer Opportunities

Mondays

- Loaves & Fishes** Every Monday Night

Saturdays

- 8:30-10:30am **Damiano Community Kitchen**
Fourth Saturday
- 11:00-1pm **Damiano Community Kitchen**
Fourth Saturday
- 1:30-3:30pm **Damiano Community Kitchen**
Fourth Saturday
- 4:30-6:30pm **Damiano Community Kitchen**
Fourth Saturday

Sundays

- 8:30am **Ushering and Lay Reading** Every Sunday
- 9:30am **Coffee Hour Volunteering** Every Sunday
- 10:30am **Ushering and Lay Reading** Every Sunday
- 11:30am **Coffee Hour Volunteering** Every Sunday
- 1:30-3:30pm **Damiano Community Kitchen**
Second Sundays
- 4:30-6:30pm **Damiano Community Kitchen**
Second Sundays



Cantata



Christmas Eve Worship



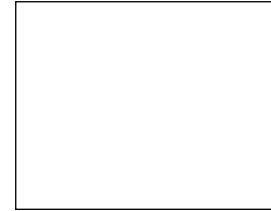
The Cabaret raised over
\$1,400 for the Gabriel
Fund!





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E-mail: office@peaceucc.org



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 with Peace Church, every Sunday 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
Pastoral Care Chaplain: Rev. Laurie Creelly



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

PEACE CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday: 9am-3pm

PHONE: 218-724-3637 **Web:** peaceucc.org **Facebook:** [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

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.