

JANUARY 2022



# The Peace Bell

PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Annual Peace Artist's Cabaret

Saturday, January 29 at 7pm

Peace Church Sanctuary

Please join us for the annual Peace Church Cabaret! It will be a fun and entertaining evening of performances by various artists including Byron K, Buzz Munns, Melanie Sever, Wendy Durrwachter and others! This event is a fundraiser for Afghan Resettlement.

## Inquirers Class

Wednesday, January 12 & 19

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, January 12 and 19 at 7pm in our Fireside Room. Pastor Jim will lead this time to ask questions and learn more about who we are. On Sunday, January 23, 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. If you are interested in attending, please contact [Elise@peaceucc.org](mailto:Elise@peaceucc.org) or the church office ([office@peaceucc.org](mailto:office@peaceucc.org) or 218-724-3637).

*Our Children's Christmas Pageant titled, "Matt and Lucy's Version Births", was performed by our talented youth on Sunday, December 19. Thank you to all the kids and volunteers who participated in this annual event.*

## 2022 Twin Ports MLK Tribute

The Peace Church Dismantling Racism Team encourages people to attend one or both of the MLK Tribute Events.

**Sunday, January 16 at 4pm:** A virtual community reading of "Letter from a Birmingham Jail."

**Monday, January 17 at 11am:** A virtual rally featuring a documentary produced by Jeremy Gardner of DanSan Creatives on the theme of "Dr. King's Words into Action: Black Empowerment Across the Generations"

Due to the precautions for preventing further Covid-19 spread, both events will take place in Zoom with a livestream to Facebook. There will not be an in-person march this year. More information will be coming on [duluthnaacp.org](http://duluthnaacp.org) and the Duluth NAACP Facebook page.



## Christmas Eve



## Renewal of Baptism

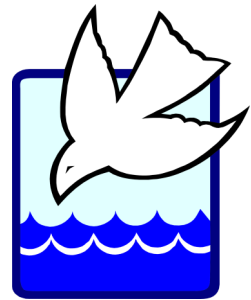
In the church year and in the lectionary, Jesus' birth stories are followed immediately by the story of his baptism in the River Jordan. Across the wide expanse of Christian theology and practice, this is widely regarded as his initiation into his life's work of healing, teaching, and saving humankind. From very early in Christian church history, the Sacrament of Baptism is also regarded as the rite of initiation into Christian life and community. It marks the beginning of a believer's journey in discipleship and participation in the life of a community of disciples.

On January 9, we will celebrate Renewal of Baptism for the congregation at both services. While baptism is usually considered a "one time event," many congregations observe this liturgy of remembrance and renewal of baptism. For infants or children, baptism represents initiation into the faith of their parents, who are involved in the ceremony along with other witnesses (Godparents) who promise to raise their child in our Christian tradition. When baptized children reach adolescence, the church provides the opportunity for them to reflect on this faith into which they were baptized and confirm it for themselves. This is the rite of confirmation.

For adults, baptism signals an adult confirmation of their spiritual path here at Peace Church and in the broader Christian faith as a fellow journeyer with Jesus. **If you would like to have someone in your family baptized during the 10:30 service on January 9, please contact [pastorjim@peaceucc.org](mailto:pastorjim@peaceucc.org) and/or speak to him at church.** The adult form on January 2 will focus on baptism and serve as preparation for baptism and baptismal renewal on January 9.

The word covenant is used in our denomination to signify both our individual and collective relationship to God and to each other. On January 30, the date of our annual meeting as a congregation, Pastor Charlotte will reflect on the meaning of covenant, the bond that ties together those followers of Jesus who have been baptized and agree to travel the journey of Christian faith together. Membership in a congregation is an agreement to be in covenant with God as made known in Jesus and in covenant with each other. The adult forum that morning will explore the meaning of covenant and, at the 10:30 service, there will be an opportunity for individuals or families to join Peace's covenant. At the end of this year when our covenantal bonds with each other have been frayed by covid and circumstance, we will also offer a liturgy of membership renewal for all of us.

Persons interested in becoming members are encouraged to attend the two Inquirer's classes, January 12 and 19 at 7:00. Contact Peace office ([office@peaceucc.org](mailto:office@peaceucc.org) or 218-724-3637) to let us know of your interest.



## Sundays in January

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

### **Sunday, January 2: The Feast of the**

**Epiphany**—In some countries, the visit of the Magi is the time for gift giving. The word “epiphany” means revelation, and historically the Western church celebrates this day as the revelation of Jesus as Savior for all peoples.

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

**10:30am:** Please join us for worship **in the sanctuary or via livestream**. Pastor Jim will be preaching. Special music by the Peace Band.

### **Sunday, January 9: Feast of the Baptism of Jesus and the Renewal of Baptism**

—Renewal of Baptism is a rite observed in many Christian churches on this Sunday when the Gospel text is the story of Jesus’ baptism.

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

**10:30am:** Please join us for worship **in the sanctuary or via livestream**. Sermon by Pastor Jim. Opportunity for Baptism for infants, children or adults. Special music by the choir.

### **Sunday, January 16: Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**Sunday**—Letter from Birmingham Jail is a document central to the Civil Rights movement and a modern expression of our faith’s prophetic witness.

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

**10:30am:** Service of the Word. Sermon by Pastor Jim. Please join us for worship **in the sanctuary or via livestream**. Special music by Leon’s friends.

### **Sunday, January 23: Jesus’ Inaugural Sermon**

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

**10:30am:** Please join us for worship **in the sanctuary or via livestream**. Nathan will be preaching this morning.

### **Sunday, January 30: Covenant Sunday**

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

**10:30am:** Please join us for worship **in the sanctuary or via livestream**. Sermon by Pastor Charlotte Frantz.

#### **Taizé Service**

Sunday, January 30, 8:30am

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!

### **The Commons (AKA Adult Forums)**

**Sundays at 9:30am**

**In the Fellowship Hall**

In our Adult Forums, our Peace community can gather to exchange ideas, make plans, learn together, and be spiritually nurtured. What happens in The Commons can help shape our life as a community. If there is an issue or question or information that you think ought to be shared because it affects our common life as a congregation, contact Nathan Holst or Penny Cragun. They provide leadership for the Adult Education Team, the group that schedules most events in our Commons. Here are events planned for January:

**January 2: A Common New Beginning: Baptism**—What does baptism mean? What is the liturgy of baptismal renewal? Is that for all of us? Learn more about a liturgy that will be part of Peace’s worship the following Sunday.

**January 9: Resources We Hold in Common: The 2022 Budget Preview**—The budget reflects our plans and possibilities for the coming year. Learn more about the budget, ask questions, and be better informed for the Annual meeting at the end of January when members will be asked to vote on the budget for 2022.

**January 16: An Important Legacy: MLK Letter from Birmingham Jail**—is a crucial document from the Civil Rights Era. NAACP will host a zoom reading of the letter at 4:00 that afternoon. Read it and discuss its significance with others from Peace.

**January 23: Searching Together: Roe vs. Wade**—The United Church of Christ is a “prayerfully pro-choice” denomination. What does our faith say about the issue of abortion?

**January 30: Our Common Connection: Covenant**—What does it mean to “belong” to a congregation? Or for our congregation to “belong” to the United Church of Christ? We are bound together by covenant. Come, help us talk about what that means.

#### **January Coffee Hour**

11:30am following worship service

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

# Covid-19 Building Policy Update

## Updates To Our Covid-19 Policies

Peace Church is committed to protecting the health and safety of our community and its members. To this end, we are committed to providing a variety of ways for persons to participate in our life as a congregation. Whether you choose to participate in person or on line, we welcome you!

1. For those who choose to participate in church activities in person, we expect all persons eligible to be vaccinated.
2. Masking is required at all times in the building in any public spaces. Masks are to cover both nose and mouth except those who are leading worship from the front of the church.
3. Peace committee meetings can take place in person, by zoom or a combo. If a meeting takes place in-person at church, masking and social distancing are required. Members of the committee may bring in their own beverages to drink, as long as they retain masks except for when they are drinking.
4. Singing will be allowed during services since all are fully masked. Those attending should be aware of social distancing and, if possible, avoid sitting directly behind others. Choir will be masked, but a soloist will be unmasked when singing from the choir loft. A wind instrument player may also be unmasked when playing.
5. Wednesday evening meals are still on hold at this time. This will allow for more space for Wednesday night programming and reduced risk of transmission with indoor eating.
6. Food and drink are limited. Coffee hours may be held and tables may be set up in fellowship hall. People may lift their masks briefly to drink beverages. Masks should remain in place for socializing. Food may not be eaten yet; however, individually wrapped food can be handed to people. Staff may eat their lunch in the office. The day care will continue to use their own guidelines for food and beverage inside their rented space.
7. No overnight groups are allowed in the building at this time.
8. There are no occupancy limits in the Fellowship Hall or other meeting rooms as long as air filtration devices are used according to the space.
9. There is no occupancy limit in the Sanctuary or narthex but masking and social distancing are required. Adequate air filtration is required either from the master unit or by fan air filtration devices.
10. Offering plates and pew pads can now be passed in worship.
11. Everyone should assess their own comfort level about church gatherings. Peace will make strong effort to provide streaming or zoom technology for services and some meetings.

## Peace Church News

### Season of Light by Leslie Klein

This season is ripe  
with festivity —  
ancestral rituals of joy love peace  
merge with ancient customs  
honoring  
a celestial pattern of solar rebirth.  
In this season of light —  
the sun commences to lengthen  
our days  
we remember the starlight  
guiding sages to the child  
the festival of light  
celebrates the enduring lamp oil  
illuminating a new beginning for a  
people.  
All who gather are entwined  
in this web of winter wonder —  
light the candles incense and  
yule log  
the bright spirit of yearly rejoicing  
is upon us.

### Talk, Listen, Pray

Because it's been a difficult year in our Peace Community—Pastor Kathy Nelson retired after thirty years guiding this congregation, Pastor Greg Briggs' interim tenure was short-lived, Covid made life challenging, and we recognize that this year has been like none other in our history—our interim pastor, Jim Mitulski is making room for us to Talk, Listen, and Pray together.

If you were affected in any way by these events of the past year, you are invited to one of three structured conversations during January. They will be held on Saturday mornings and require no reservations except if child care would help make your attendance easier. (Contact Nathan Holst for a child care reservation no later than the Wednesday prior to the Saturday you want to attend.)

**Choose one of the following from 9:30-11:00am:**

**Saturday, January 8: In person at Peace**

**Saturday, January 15: Zoom**

**Saturday, January 29: In person at Peace**

Come prepared to engage in thoughtful conversation and prayer. This is one of a series of events Pastor Jim will offer Peace members and friends as our congregation moves through 2022, a year of transition, renewal, and reconciliation.



## Peace Church Groups

### Choir

Wednesdays at 6:15pm in the sanctuary

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

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### Therapeutic SomaYoga

Mondays from 9:00-10:15am

Fireside Room

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

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### Monday Book Group

Monday, January 3 & 17, 3:00pm via Zoom

The Monday Book group will gather by Zoom on January 3rd and 17th at 3:00pm as we discuss adventures in our national parks, based on podcasts from the Dear Bob and Sue podcast series. If you have visited one or more national park and would enjoy learning about other national parks, we invite you to join us. Please email [pcragun@d.umn.edu](mailto:pcragun@d.umn.edu) for more information or to be added to the group.

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### 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, January 13 & 27. **Newcomers are invited to join us.**

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### Making Meaning Out Of Malignancy

Monday, January 17, 5:00-6:00pm

If you or a loved one have had cancer (in the past or currently) and would like to connect with others, you are invited to join our Making Meaning out of Malignancy virtual group. The group meets every month on the fourth Monday. Please check your weekly email update for the Zoom link.

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### Special Music

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

### Thursday Morning Book Club

Thursday, January 20, 10:00am  
in the Fireside Room

The Thursday Morning Book group (masked) plans to meet in the Fireside Room. The book we will discuss this month is *Still Life*, the first book written by prolific Canadian author, Louise Penny. This is to introduce members to this author so they can join the legion of readers who have enjoyed her entire series.

We welcome new members. Besides your presence, we would like to hear your choice to read and discuss. If you love to read, start out the New Year by joining this group that reads a wide selection of books and has lots of fun discussing them. For more information, call Alice Marks 651- 283-5010.

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### Women's Brown Bag

Wednesday, January 5  
1:00pm in the Fireside Room

Bring your mask (but not your lunch)!

We will meet January 5 at 1:00pm to share a last bit of holiday cheer for our souls. It's the 12<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas, after all, and the day before Epiphany. The word itself means "revelation." We might even try to guess what 2022 is likely to reveal to us. Women from Peace are invited, whether or not you've been part of the group in the past.



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### Sharing Our Spiritual Journey Group

January 3 & 17, 7:00pm via Zoom

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



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### Peace Church Building Use

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

# Wednesday Activities/Committee Info

## Virtual Bible Study

Wednesday Evenings at 5pm

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

## Confirmation (Grades 10-11)

Wednesday, January 5 & 19

7:15-8:15pm in the Fellowship Hall

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

## Regularly Scheduled Team & Committee Meetings

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

### Stewardship Team:

Thursday, Jan 6  
5:30pm Zoom

### Adult Ed Team:

Wednesday, Jan 5  
1:30pm Zoom

### Dismantling Racism Team:

Thursday, Jan 20  
3:30pm Zoom

### Children's Ministry Team:

Thursday, Jan 6  
6:00pm

### Worship & Arts Committee:

Wednesday, Jan 12  
11:30am Sanctuary

### History Team:

Wednesday, Jan 12  
1pm in the History Rm

### Shared Ministry Team:

Wednesday, Jan 12  
4:00pm via Zoom

### Finance Team:

Wednesday, Jan 12  
5:00pm via Zoom

### Property Team:

Wednesday, Jan 12  
6pm Fellowship Hall

### Food & Fellowship Team:

check email for details

### Acting for Justice Hub:

Sunday, Jan 9  
2pm via Zoom

### Climate Justice Team:

TBD

### Health and Wellness Team:

TBD

## Wednesday Activity Schedule

5-6pm: Bible Study via Zoom

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

6:15pm: Adult Choir in the Sanctuary

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

## Youth Group (Grades 6-8)

Wednesdays at 6:00pm

Youth Group is every Wednesday from 6:00-7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. See Nathan's page for more details!

## Peace Leadership Retreat

Saturday, January 22

Council members, Standing Committees, and Teams—Anyone who is part of planning and overseeing some aspect of our life as a congregation is urged to save January 22, 2022 for a retreat to be held here at Peace. We will work together under Pastor Jim's direction to set goals for 2022. Our time together will include conversation, worship, prayer, breakout groups related to ministries, programs, and events. Save the date—details are still pending. If you are on a team, a committee, or the Council, put the date on your calendar. More details will come!

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*The season of Epiphany is an invitation to follow Jesus into the ways of gratitude and joy. We are no longer bound by the dissatisfaction of our consumer culture that tells us to keep striving for more stuff, more success, more money, more of everything for myself. Instead we are invited to learn to live in the joy and contentment of seeing every moment as a gift from God.*

~Brian O'Connell

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*But my darling, there's no such thing as the light at the end of the tunnel, you must realize that you are the light.*

~Anonymous

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<p><b>The PEACE BELL</b> is a monthly publication of Peace United Church of Christ Duluth, Minnesota</p>	<p><b>EDITORIAL TEAM</b> Elise Courtright &amp; Nancy Nelson Photographer: John Ameal</p>	<p><b>PEACE BELL ARTICLES</b> are due <b>Monday, January 17</b> Send to <a href="mailto:elise@peaceucc.org">elise@peaceucc.org</a></p>
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# Nathan's Column



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

Epiphany is the season of light. Light has so many different layers of meaning—I think of how actual sunlight brings us life, how we could not exist here without the sun. Because of our commitment here at Peace to justice, I think of light as the source of power in our movement toward environmental justice, toward sustainable energy and solar power (and I am grateful locally to Solar United Neighbors who are creating solar cooperatives and funding solar for low income folks, as many of you saw and commented on the recent news article I was in). But being a church, a place of spiritual growth and meaning, I also think of how powerful light is in our faith and spiritual lives.

I love how Steven Charleston, an incredible Indigenous Christian elder, shares about light in his book "Ladder to the Light." He begins by explaining the significance of the Southwest Indigenous tradition of the kiva. The kiva is a square or circular underground chamber, covered by a roof of wooden beams with an opening in the center. It is a place of darkness, a womb of darkness that holds life—as he describes it, and the only way out is to ascend the ladder to the light. It is a journey that is not afraid of darkness—both the kind that nurtures us and the kind that touches our fears and struggles. In other words, the spiritual journey that Charleston invites us to is one that gets real with how hard things can be in this life, while also reaching toward a vision of real hope that sustains us. In his writing, he often makes reference to his people, his ancestors who walked the trail of tears, an Indigenous death march that many of us know from our history. He and his people have known struggle, have known a deep kind of darkness. But because of this, his reference to his people's hope—their insistence on the light of their vision, their deep resilience—gives a deeper context to his invitation to all of us to become a shining people filled with the light of hope.

With all this context, I invite you to experience a passage from Charleston's book, to receive the blessing and the invitation of light:

## **The Light is Coming**

Now the light is coming, running like liquid beneath the heavy shadows of night, slipping in from the cracks and crevices of life, restoring the dry and empty places, bringing new life to the barren hope of years long past. Soon the brightness cannot be contained, but spills out, pours out, to surround your heart with love, to bring you alive once more in an old promise fulfilled. Open your eyes and do not be afraid any longer, for now the light is coming—coming quickly, coming to you—and nothing, not even death, will be able to stop it.

This Epiphany season, I hope we all can open our eyes in a new way, allowing our fears to be dissolved by the light that is coming. May we find a way to look up (from all that keeps us down) to see the light that cannot be contained.

~Nathan Holst

## **January Youth Group**

We continue our amazing gathering of middle school youth (6-8 grade), meeting in person every week in the fellowship hall from 6:00-7:00pm. We play gaga ball, hang out, and share joys and concerns with each other. In January, we'll focus on a racial justice theme leading up to MLK Day and then start to brainstorm what our youth want in youth group together moving forward into the winter/spring. Come join us—youth group is the place where we cultivate community and a sense of belonging—it's awesome!



*Jen Stenersen and  
Melissa Boyle lit the  
first Advent candle  
in worship on  
Sunday, November  
28. Marian Jensen  
collected pine  
boughs and made  
our Christmas  
wreath which hangs  
outside our front  
doors.*



# Youth and Children's Ministry

## Sunday School in 2022 Begins January 9

We will continue to meet in person for Sunday School in 2022 at 9:30am at Peace. We had a good intergenerational showing during advent, so we'll keep the invitation open for the time being for parents to join us (note that there's an in-person parent vision/feedback session January 16 during Sunday School). We continue to remain ready to be flexible with covid as needed, but we look forward to building back our faith community space for our kids here at Peace.



*Volunteer helpers, Caleb and Aiden, put together candles for Christmas services. We are so grateful for our little helpers!*

## Peace Library

### New Adult Books:

*After a Stroke: 300 Tips for Making Life Easier* by Cleo Hutton

*The Disappearance of God: A Divine Mystery* by Richard Elliott Friedman

*Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family* by Amy Ellis Nutt

*Can't Wait to Get to Heaven: A Novel* by Fannie Flagg

### New Children's Books:

*Dora and the Unicorn King* by Ellie Seiss

*Seventh-Grade Rumors: The Fabulous Five* by Betsy Haynes

*The Lord's Prayer* by Thomas Kinkade

*Somewhere Angels* by Larry Libby

## Peace Snow Tubing at Mont du Lac

Saturday, February 5, 12:00-2:00pm

Come join us on **Saturday, February 5th from 12:00-2:00 for some fun on the snow tube hills of Mont Du Lac.** That's right, the pandemic might still be with us, but we can still have fun outside together at a distance and zoom down the tubing hill at the same time. **Cost is \$25 and participants must be at least 48".** If you're interested, please let Nathan Holst know at [nathan@peaceucc.org](mailto:nathan@peaceucc.org). Let's have some tubing fun together!

## Children's Ministry in 2022: Parent Vision and Feedback Sessions

In this time of transition, we especially need to be connected and to hear from our Peace parents. We are setting aside three times in January—two over zoom and one in person to gather and share in conversation together. We need to hear from you (as parents) what you want your kids to experience here at Peace. What resources do you need as you model faith and spirituality in the lives of your kids? What are your needs and what would your kids most enjoy in their time here? What would motivate them to come and join in this community on a regular basis? **Come join us for one (or all) of the following sessions: Sunday, January 9 at 9:30am on Zoom; Sunday, January 16 at 9:30am in person; Thursday, January 20 at 8:00pm on zoom.** Nathan will send out zoom links in the New Year, so keep an eye out. Please note that Sunday School will still take place separately on the January 9 and 16.



*Frank and Sue Munns spent several hours cleaning our narthex, sanctuary, office and bathrooms before the Christmas Eve services. Dan is at home recovering from a broken wrist and will be returning in 4-6 weeks. If you can help clean our church in January, please let the church office know!*





# Council Corner

**Church Coordinating Council** will meet Tuesday, January 18 at 6:30pm in the Fireside Room.

Amidst this busiest of seasons the Coordinating Council met in its regular business session on Tuesday, December 14, 2021.

The Treasurer's report showed that year-to-date the church had net income, due primarily to reduced expenses that more than offset slightly lower income. The effect of COVID on attendance and usual activities is the primary reason for lower income this year.

### Highlights from the Committees:

Christian Education, the advent schedule of the adult forum is planned through January. Please note that on January 9 the topic will be a discussion of the church finances and the 2022 budget. The Faith Formation team is planning for the new year. The Children's Ministry team was making final preparation for the pageant. If you weren't in church on December 19 you can find the recorded livestream video on the church website, take a look, it is very inspiring.

Christian Spiritual Life, Food & Fellowship team continues to figure out ways to provide coffee and treats in a relatively covid safe way.

The Tech team is gearing up to continue to livestream one service each Sunday.

Acting for Justice team, The November team meeting covered a lot of ground. Year end allocations for local and denominational ministries were reported. A "Circle of Support" for Afghan Immigrants is being formed. Peace Church will be one of a number of congregations or organizations to support Afghani displaced by the end of the war. The Council passed a resolution to support the Afghan Refugee Resettlement Program to include a clearing account for funding the effort. The Team also brought the need for support for the Steve O'Neil Apartments families and encouraged the Council to actively engage with the Steve O'Neil Apartment owners/managers.

The council will conduct a planning retreat on Saturday, January 22, 2022.

Peace Church has the opportunity to apply for a Clergy Care grant through the conference. The grants are used to provide small amounts of funding to ministers for opportunities to take a break from their work.

A Holiday and year-end appeal to provide gifts of appreciation to staff was announced.

The Council acknowledged and accepted the resignation from the Council of Doug Bowen-Bailey effective December 14. The Council expressed its gratitude for the many years of service that the Bowen-Baileys provided to Peace Church.

The Council set future meetings including a budget review session on December 20, its regular business meeting on January 18, and a congregational meeting [to adopt the 2022 budget] on January 30.

I wish you all the happiest of holiday seasons. I invite everyone to make space in your new year for re-engaging or continued participation in the life of the church. There is an abundance of opportunities to connect and contribute. Now more than at any time in my 40+ years as a member at Peace Church has the church needed everyone to get involved. I look forward to seeing you in the new year.

~Tom Hystead, Moderator



*Susan Larson Kidd puts in many hours prepping for Sunday services so we can have quality live-streaming. Thank you!*

## Council Minutes

The council minutes for the **November** 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 be post them each month after council has approved them.

## Find us on Social Media!

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

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

**Instagram:** @peaceduluth

**Twitter:** @PeaceDuluth

## A Word For Justice

### Afghan Resettlement Update

Peace's Immigrant Welcoming Team is preparing to apply to help resettle Afghan new-comers. Generally speaking, refugees or those eligible for refugee status are settled through not for profit agencies with help from congregations or other groups. Because the number of Afghan newcomers exceeds the capacity of such agencies, an alternative route to resettlement has been developed. Peace Church's Immigrant Welcoming Team will submit an application to resettle 1-4 Afghan newcomers through this alternative process.

The goal of resettlement is to assist newcomers to become independent as quickly as possible. They receive work permits quickly and are eligible for some supportive benefits. Financial support from a resettling organization is limited to the first few months.

This effort is being led by Terrie and Lyle Shannon, Mollie Stapleton Clark, Gayle and Jack Kelly, Gary Boelhower, and Penny Cragun. They and Pastor Charlotte Frantz have been in contact with other groups in Duluth that are also considering possible ways to assist in resettlement.

Donations for resettlement can be made to Peace Church and marked Afghan Resettlement. Electronic gifts can be accepted through Peace's website. Part of the application process is demonstrating knowledge about community resources related to resettlement needs: employment, orientation to the community, language services, housing, etc. If you have information you think would be helpful, please email Terrie Shannon (tshannon@d.umn.edu)

If you have questions about this project, please contact Pastor Charlotte (charlotte@peaceucc.org). There will be several adult forums in February to help members of Peace learn more about newcomers and how we can best welcome them.

### Rally For Democracy

Thursday, January 6, 12:00pm in front of the City Hall

You are invited to attend a rally for democracy on January 6th in front of the City Hall building in Duluth. The rally will begin at 12:00 p.m. with speakers about why our voting rights are so important to our democracy and why we must continue to oppose efforts to suppress voting. On the anniversary of the January 6th insurrection, we will come together so we "can prevent another January 6th attack and realize the promise of democracy for all of us—no matter our color, zip code, or income—so we all have an equal say in the decisions that shape our daily lives and futures. "

"The UCC General Synod has long supported voting rights and addressing obstacles to participation in the electoral process within the broader context of the civil rights struggle." You can sign up at this link and Facebook event page. <https://www.mobilize.us/democracyvigils/event/433912/>.

### Caring for Creation Zoom Series

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

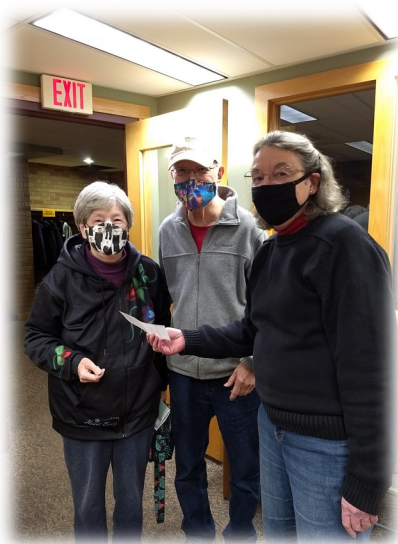
The Great Lakes Creation Care Collaborative invites you to a three-part Zoom series, offered by the Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan Conferences of the United Church of Christ.

**"Treaties Broken, Earth and Lives in Crisis: How do we change the narrative for the land and all its people?"**—January 13, 2022, 6:30-8:00pm. With Frank Bibeau, tribal attorney for Honor the Earth and White Earth Band of Ojibwe.

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

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

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



*Terrie and Lyle Shannon giving Pastor Charlotte the initial donation to the Afghan Resettlement Fund.*

### MLK Virtual Event

Monday, January 17  
8:45-10:30am

In addition to the NAACP MLK events, General Mills will host a virtual event. It will feature a keynote speech by St. Paul native, CNN legal analyst and former federal prosecutor Laura Coates, musical performance by community youth choir KNOWN MPLS, and the recognition of local community change makers. The virtual event will take place Monday, January 17, 2022 from 8:45-10:30am CST at [MLKBreakfast.com](http://MLKBreakfast.com).

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



## Peace Church Meals for the CHUM Drop In Center

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

## Wednesday Chum Breakfast: January 12 & 26

**We are in need of granola bars, peanut butter and grape jelly!** If you would like to drop off a donation, please email Elise Courtright at [elise@peaceucc.org](mailto:elise@peaceucc.org).

## Thursday Chum Dinner: January 20

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

## Interfaith Webinars on Housing Advocacy: Duluth Edition

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

**January 11**—Special Challenges and Opportunities for Inclusion

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

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

## Thank You from Chum

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



## Donations Needed!

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

### For the drop-in shelter

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



### Food Shelf

- Can Openers

### Steve O'Neil Apartments

- 52 Bus Passes
- Slippers with nonskid soles (37 women, 15 men)
- \$1000 for Early Childhood Education software



## The CHUM Warming Center Needs Your Help!

The Warming Center is a safe, nighttime space for people who are experiencing homelessness or stranded during Duluth’s cold winter months. As many as 100 people will check in to the Warming Center every night, some just to warm up and some to spend the entire night.

The Warming Center is located at the Rainbow Center downtown but will be moving to a permanent location in Lincoln Park in January. It is a collaboration between CHUM, Loaves & Fishes, the City of Duluth, St Louis County, and the Duluth HRA. We rely on a generous community of volunteers and donors to stay open to those in need.

At least two volunteers are needed every evening and every morning for a variety of duties including cleaning up, setting up, serving coffee, and distributing clothing and hygiene supplies. Volunteer shifts are generally 2 - 2.5 hours.

### Volunteer requirements

- Must be over 18
- Must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 and wear a mask when at the Warming Center
- Must take part in a volunteer orientation
- Weekly commitment preferred

To learn more, please visit [www.chumduluth.org/warmingcentervolunteers.htm](http://www.chumduluth.org/warmingcentervolunteers.htm)

# Peace People

## Thank You!

- Thanks to those who provided special music in December: The Choir, Ron Deters, Ian Connell, Dan Shepard, Susan Larson Kidd, Patty Beech, Kelli Hallsten, Gudrun Witrak, Wendy Durrwachter, Melanie Sever, Deb Rausch, Dale Shimmin, Vince Osborn, Nathan Holst, Kim Anderson, Byron Klimek, Kids choir, pageant kids, Hanka family, and Tom Pfothhauer.
- Thank you to all the Sunday morning volunteers who help make worship service run smoothly—ushers, greeters, lay readers, liturgists, office helpers, acolytes, etc.
- Thank you Cathy and Kirby Wood who water our indoor plants each week.
- Thanks to all the volunteers who cook and deliver a meal to the Dorothy Day house every Monday: Gayle and Jack Kelly, Bob and Kay Stevens, Judy Derauf, Veronica Gaidelis-Langer, Gary Boelhower, Laura Greensmith, Tom and Christine Day, Stephanie Pearson, Sarah Nelson, Jessica Olson, Melissa Boyle, Pat and Carl Sjoding and others.
- Thanks to all the people who baked cookies for Grace Place: Elaine Schmid, Janell Kohls, Alice Marks, Diana Oestreich, Laura Tonkin, Jessica Olson.
- Thanks to all the wonderful Peace friends who donated gifts cards and toys for the Giving Tree!
- Thanks to the front desk volunteers who have helped out on Sunday mornings: Sue Isernhagen, Cindy Macaulay, Sue Munns and Loni Cran-Hovis.
- Dear Members of Peace Church: As the year is wrapping up, we at Loaves and Fishes have been reflecting on how grateful for all the people who make up our extended community and make what we do possible—you all are a big part of that! Food is so important to what we do—it's a big part of why people visit our spaces and is a really important part of hospitality and building community. Breaking bread with people is powerful. So thank you so much for being part of making it possible for us to do that! Dorothy Day House always looks forward to Monday nights and the consistently tasty meals you all bring. We also want to thank you for the other ways you support us as well as the countless ways you all show up for other people and organizations. Thank you for making Duluth a better place to live. Sending love and light to each and every one of you this holiday season, Sarah from Loaves and Fishes.
- From Susan Larson Kidd—Thank you to Tyler Stark, Paul O'Brien and Alex Dean for all of the time and talent running tech for worship. You are the best tech team ever! Thank you to all of the kids in the kid's choir and girl's chorus who learned their pageant songs. You all sounded so wonderful! It melted my heart!
- Thanks to Haji for donating the beautiful nativity set.
- Much gratitude to all who helped with the Children's Christmas pageant—Katey Fornear, Elaine Schmid, Kelly Grgas Wheeler, Rebecca Holmstrom, Pat Nelson, Susan Larson Kidd and Ian Connell.
- Thanks to Sharon Dawson and Elise Courtright for their work in setting up the sanctuary for the Interfaith Sandy Hook Vigil.
- Thanks to Food and Fellowship for putting together treat bags for the kids on Pageant Sunday.
- Thank you Sue and Frank Munns, Susan Larson Kidd and Matt Ryan, Tom Hystead and Dave Courtright for cleaning the church on Christmas week.
- Thanks to all who made Nettie's farewell service a beautiful and blessed event! ~Tim Peters and the Bothwell family.
- Thanks to all who brought in Christmas goodies for staff: Laurie Berner, Susan Larson Kidd, Sue Munns, Holly Bowen-Bailey, and Laura Tonkin.
- Thank you for the wonderful, personal Christmas remembrances on the Sunday following Christmas: Anna Huber, Bud Trnka, Patty Beech-Dziuk, John Szarke and Jim Soderberg.

## Keep in Your Prayers

- Jan Eschbach recovering at home from major electrical burns received in an accident.
- All those undergoing treatment for cancer: Stephen Dando, Jerry Cleveland, Terrie Shannon, Mary Caine-Hafdahl, Kim Kruger, Jim Soderberg, Marg Paulson and others.
- All our members living in long-term care facilities: Joyce Riggle at Park Point; Mike Nugent at the Silver Bay Veterans Home; Steve Coll at St. Anne's; Amanda Cran at Bishop Woods and Sharon Kirtley at Viewcrest.

## Sympathy To

- The family and friends of Nettie Bothwell who passed away on November 25. Her funeral was held on Tuesday, December 7 at Peace Church.

## Recycling Peace

- A family member of Kay and Bob Stevens is in need of a reliable, affordable vehicle. If anyone has or knows someone who is selling one, please contact Kay at kay-bob-13@hotmail.com.

## Memorials

- In honor of Nettie Bothwell: Denise Perry.

## Congratulations

- Carla Larson and Ronda Adelman are blessed to announce that Caden's adoption was completed on November 16, 2021. Welcome to the family, Caden, after 540 days!



## In Need

Do you love to knit or crochet? We are in need of volunteers who can make prayer shawls for individuals needing pastoral care. If you can help, please contact Gudrun at gwitrak@gmail.com.



## January Volunteer Schedules

### **Sunday Usher Schedule: 10:30am**

January 2: Warren Post, need volunteer  
January 9: Warren Post, need volunteer  
January 16: Warren Post, need volunteer  
January 23: Warren Post, need volunteer  
January 30: Warren Post, need volunteer

### **Sunday Greeter Schedule: 10:30am**

January 2: need volunteer  
January 9: need volunteer  
January 16: need volunteer  
January 23: need volunteer  
January 30: need volunteer

### **Sunday Lay Reader Schedule: 10:30am**

January 2: need volunteer  
January 9: need volunteer  
January 16: need volunteer  
January 23: need volunteer  
January 30: need volunteer



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



### **Coffee Hour Volunteers**

#### **Sundays at 9:45am**

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

**January 2:** Cindy Macaulay, Nina Preheim

**January 9:** Mary Adams, Jennifer Boyle, Judy Seliga-Punyko, Cathy and Kirby Wood

**January 16:** Nina Preheim, Shawn Wentz, Cathy and Kirby Wood

**January 23:** Gwen Plumb, Aimee Van Straaten, Cathy and Kirby Wood

**January 30:** Amy Larson, Cathy and Kirby Wood

*Many thanks to all our volunteers!*

### **Sunday Usher Schedule: 8:30am**

January 2: need volunteer  
January 9: need volunteer  
January 16: Tom and Christine Day  
January 23: need volunteer  
January 30: need volunteer

### **Sunday Greeter Schedule: 8:30am**

January 2: need volunteer  
January 9: need volunteer  
January 16: need volunteer  
January 23: need volunteer  
January 30: need volunteer

### **Sunday Lay Reader Schedule: 10:30am**

January 2: need volunteer  
January 9: need volunteer  
January 16: need volunteer  
January 23: need volunteer  
January 30: need volunteer

### **Sunday Front Desk Volunteer Schedule: 9:45am**

January 2: Loni Cran-Hovis  
January 9: Sue Isernhagen  
January 16: Cindy Macaulay  
January 23: need volunteer  
January 30: need volunteer

### **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:

**January 3: Stephanie Pearson**

**January 10: Sarah Nelson**

**January 17: Gayle and Jack Kelly**

**January 24: Nancy Taggart**

**January 31: Veronica Gaidelis-Langer**

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



Peace United Church of Christ  
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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

Covenanted Ministers of our congregation:

Rev. Terese Tomanek, Rev. Tom Liddle,

Rev. John Szarke,

Rev. Sara Olson Dean, Rev. Jan Murphy,

Rev. Holly Pederson

Bookkeeper: Rosemary Feriancek

Administrative Coordinator: Elise Courtright

Office Coordinator: Nancy Nelson

Custodian: Dan Shepard

Pianist: Wendy Durrwachter

Pastoral Care Chaplain: Gudrun Witrak

Interim Pastoral Associate : Rev. Charlotte Frantz

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

**PHONE:** 218-724-3637

**Web:** peaceucc.org

**Facebook:** peace.church.duluth

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

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

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

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

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

Our vision is to be an accessible, open and affirming community growing in Christian faith, committed to peace and justice, and reaching out in healing love to all of creation, including all people, respecting and valuing the diversity of people's sexual orientation, race, culture, gender identity, age, opinions, and physical and mental abilities. *Visitors are always welcome!*