

**Peace United Church of Christ
September 13, 2026
Gathering Sunday
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
10:30am**



Woven Bird, Tree, and Flower Motif, William Morris

1111 North 11th Avenue East, Duluth, MN 55805

www.peaceucc.org
office@peaceucc.org

Prelude

One of Us, Joan Osborne

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bells

Choral Call to Worship

All Belong Here, The Many

*Call to Worship

from Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

Bless God's holy name!

Remember God's forgiveness,

Remember our God, who heals and redeems us with mercy and love.

We walk in the way of God:

Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Let us gather in love,

Let us worship God!

*Song

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

#12, New Century Hymnal

*I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.*

*I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.*

*I sing the goodness of our God that filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word and then pronounced them
good.*

*Oh, how your wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye:
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!*

*On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glory known.
The clouds arise and spread their showers by order from your
throne.*

*All life is but a gift from you and ever in your care;
Wherever people gather, you, O God, are present there.*

*Prayer of Confession

from Romans 14

Holy One, you have given us companions for the journey, "for we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to you, and if we die, we die to the you; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we belong to you." We confess that we do not always trust that belonging, for ourselves or for our neighbors. Make our ways reflect your goodness, righteousness, and truth.

Help us to love our neighbors with the fullness of shared life, accountability, and community. Help us repair what has been damaged, redeem what has been lost, and restore what has been broken for your name's sake. Amen.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Beloved, God blesses us with the gift of accountability. We do not need to settle for cheap grace, forgiveness that trivializes harm and ignores the need for repair. **Through Christ, we receive the gifts of accountability and forgiveness, transforming and renewing us for abundant life. Thanks be to God!**

***Passing of the Peace**

Story for All Ages

Amanda McElray Hunter

Bible Presentation for Kindergarteners, Third Graders, and Sixth Graders

Confirmation Blessing for Tenth and Eleventh Graders

Sending the Children

***Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
Gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around:
loaves abound!***

***Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around:
loaves abound!***

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

Darlene Leafgren, reader

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat

he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Anthem

Sermon

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Song *Lord, I Want To Be a Christian* #454, *New Century Hymnal*

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart...

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart...

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart...

Community Prayers and Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Laurie Crelly

The Prayer of Jesus

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sung Amen

Offertory

Crowded Table, The Highwomen

***Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen!**

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Closing Song** *I'll Fly Away* #595, New Century Hymnal

***Some glad morning when this life is o'er,
I'll fly away;
To a home on God's celestial shore,
I'll fly away (I'll fly away).***

Refrain:

***I'll fly away, Oh Glory
I'll fly away; (in the morning)
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by,
I'll fly away (I'll fly away).***

***When the shadows of this life have gone,
I'll fly away;
Like a bird from prison bars has flown,
I'll fly away (I'll fly away)***

Refrain:

***Just a few more weary days and then,
I'll fly away;
To a land where joy shall never end,
I'll fly away (I'll fly away)***

Refrain:

***Benediction**

***Postlude** *Under the Quarter Moon*, Carla Sciaky

Assisting in Today's Service:

Warren Post and Danny & Julie O'Neill, Ushers

**Musicians: John Bankson, Ian Connell, Ron Deters, Kelli Hallsten-Erickson,
and Matt Prois**

Peace United Church of Christ Staff

Alex Nelson – Livestream Technician

Amanda McElray Hunter – Children, Youth and Small Group Coordinator

Bri Dornbush – Office Coordinator

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis – Pastor

Carrie Kelsey – Kitchen Manager

Dan Shepard – Maintenance

Jim Pospisil – Music Director

Rev. Laurie Crelly – Pastoral Care Chaplain

Mali Lorenz – Bookkeeper

Rachel Burnett – Business Manager

Sophia Farell – Soundboard Technician



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Peace United Church of Christ
2026

September 13,

Belonging & Community Ministry Fair after the 10:30 service

Sunday September 13 will not only be a rollicking welcome home during the 10:30 service, but it will be followed by a Ministry Fair in the Fellowship Hall. What is a Ministry Fair you ask? Well, its an opportunity for the teams and committees to advertise the great things they do and recruit new members. As an extra incentive, each table will have their own treats to share. It will be worth your time to check out the tables and the volunteer opportunities they represent – plus you might meet some new friends! Hope to see you there.

Safety Training Today, 1:00–4:00pm, Lunch Provided!

This is our biannual training to support our Safe Child Policy and Safety Plans more fully. The training is mandatory for key volunteers and open to anyone who would like to participate. We welcome parents! The training includes a presentation from First Witness, a review on how to respond to

medical emergencies, active assailant situations, and other emergencies. Please RSVP to Amanda at amanda@peaceucc.org.

Soup Suppers Resume on September 16!

Our first meal will be Build Your Own Taco Salad. We are looking for volunteers to make soup and bread for the suppers through Spring. Watch the weekly emails for days we are closed for MEA and the holidays. Please save gallon ice cream buckets with the lids for freezing soups. Do you have an idea for an ethnic food or special meal? Connect with Carrie Kelsey with your ideas. Volunteers are welcome for Wednesday morning prep/set up and for cleanup/dishwashing after meals.

Wednesday Night Schedule Starting September 16

5:00–6:00pm – Dinner

By using Crock Pots and heating devices, we will keep food hot and ready until 6:00pm so folks coming from work and school will have time to eat.

5:30–6:30pm – Nursery Open for ages 0–5

Same as last year, with paid and trained nursery staff.

5:45–6:30pm – Kids' Club for grades K–5

More overlap with Bible Study so parents can attend, starting a little later so kids and families have time to eat.

5:45–6:45pm – Bible Study

Feel free to bring your soup to the Fireside Room if you're running late.

6:15–7:30pm – Choir

Rehearsals in the Sanctuary for the Sunday services.

6:30–7:30pm – Middle School & High School Youth Group for Grades 6–12

The Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers will meet separately most weeks, but their youth groups will meet at the same time to ease transportation challenges for families. Confirmation schedules will be communicated to 10th and 11th grade families. Check your email.

Next Sunday, September 20

Guest Preacher Mark Langenfeld

Mark Langenfeld, Psy.D., holds a doctorate in clinical psychology from Alliant International University in Fresno, California. He currently works as a professor of psychology and sociology at Northwood Technical College in Superior, Wisconsin. Before teaching, he worked as a counselor since 1994. He practices a blend of Paganism and Buddhist meditation and is an avid hiker and gardener. Join us on Sunday, September 20 at the 9:30am forum as he discusses his new book *Wisdom from the Woods*.

Book Event with Mark Langenfeld, *Wisdom from the Woods*, 9:30am in the Fireside Room

We are delighted to welcome friend of Peace Church Mark Langenfeld, whose recently published book, *Wisdom from the Woods*, promises: "Learn to make peace with the storms in your head, nurture yourself like a snowy owl, and remove emotional thorns. With the easy-to-understand wisdom of bears, ravens, cats, and more, this contemplative book gently

guides you along your own path to happiness and enlightenment, one observation at a time." Langenfeld is a professor at Northwood Technical College and he is donating all royalties from his book sales to the students' Nutrition Assistance Program through the Northwood Technical College Foundation.

After Church Forum: Peace Church's Sound System 11:30am in the Fireside Room

Alex Nelson is giving a presentation on Peace Church's sound system and A/V technology on September 20 after the 10:30am service. This presentation is for anyone who may have questions, comments, or concerns about all things audio in the Sanctuary. Alex will go over microphones, amplifiers, speakers, and how all those things come together to make Peace Church sound as good as possible.

This Week's Schedule

Monday, September 14

- 9:00am Yoga with Robin** in the Fireside Room and Zoom
- 6:30pm Welcome Circle** on Zoom
- 6:30pm Queer Connections Game Night** in the Fireside Room
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts** in the Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, September 15

- 6:30pm Coordinating Council** in the Fireside Room and Zoom

Wednesday, September 16

- 8:30am Chum Breakfast Making** in the Kitchen
- 4:00pm Acting for Justice** in the Staff Lounge
- 5:00pm Soup Supper** in the Fellowship Hall
- 5:30pm Childcare Available** in the Nursery
- 5:30pm Sanctuary Now Team Meeting** in the East Timor Room
- 5:45pm Bible Study** in the Fireside Room and Zoom
- 5:45pm Kids' Club for grades K-5** in the Wildwoods Room
- 6:15pm Choir** in the Sanctuary
- 6:30pm Middle School Youth Group** in the Fellowship Hall
- 6:45pm High School Youth Group** in the Wildwoods Room

Thursday, September 17

- 8:00am Men's Breakfast at Perkins** on London Room
- 3:00pm Dismantling Racism Team Meeting** on Zoom
- 6:00pm Sanctuary Schools Meeting** in the Fireside Room

Sunday, September 20

- 8:30am Worship with Holy Communion. Sermon by Mark Langenfeld.**
- 9:30am Self-Serve Coffee** in the Narthex
- 9:30am Forum: Book Event with Mark Langenfeld, *Wisdom from the Woods*** in the Fireside Room
- 10:00am Childcare Available** in the Nursery
- 10:30am Worship with Sermon by Mark Langenfeld. Children's Church with Amanda McElray Hunter**
- 11:30am Coffee Hour** in the Fellowship Hall
- 11:30am After Church Forum: Peace Church's Sound System** in the Fireside Room