



Peace

United Church of Christ

Sundays in August

Sunday, August 2

Sermon by **Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis**

9:30am Worship
Communion

10:30am Coffee Hour

10:30am *Liturgies for Resisting Empire* Discussion

11:30am Pride Festival & Parade Planning

Sunday, August 9

Sermon by **Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis**

9:30am Worship
Children's Church

10:30am Coffee Hour

10:30am *Liturgies for Resisting Empire* Discussion

Sunday, August 16

Sermon by **Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis**

9:30am Worship
Communion

10:30am Coffee Hour

10:30am *Liturgies for Resisting Empire* Discussion

Sunday, August 23

Sermon by **Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis**

9:30am Worship
Communion

10:30am Coffee Hour

10:30am *Liturgies for Resisting Empire* Discussion

Sunday, August 30

Sermon by **Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis**

9:30am Worship
Children's Church

10:30am Coffee Hour

10:30am *Liturgies for Resisting Empire* Discussion

Sundays in September

Sunday, September 6

Pride Sunday

Community Pride Worship Service, Details TBD

NO Worship at Peace Church

Sunday, September 13

Gathering Sunday

Sermon by **Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis**

8:30am Worship
Communion

9:30am Forum: Where Is God Calling You This Year?

10:30am Worship
Children's Church

11:30am Ministry Fair: Where Is God Calling You This Year?

1:00pm Volunteer Orientation & Safety Training

Sunday, September 20

Reflection by Mark Langenfeld

8:30am Worship
Communion

9:30am Forum: Book Event with Mark Langenfeld,
Wisdom from the Woods

10:30am Worship
Children's Church

11:30am Coffee Hour

Sunday, September 27

Sermon by **Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis**

8:30am Worship
Communion

9:30am Forum: A Conversation with
Samaritans Documentary Filmmaker & Subjects

10:30am Worship
Children's Church

11:30am Coffee Hour

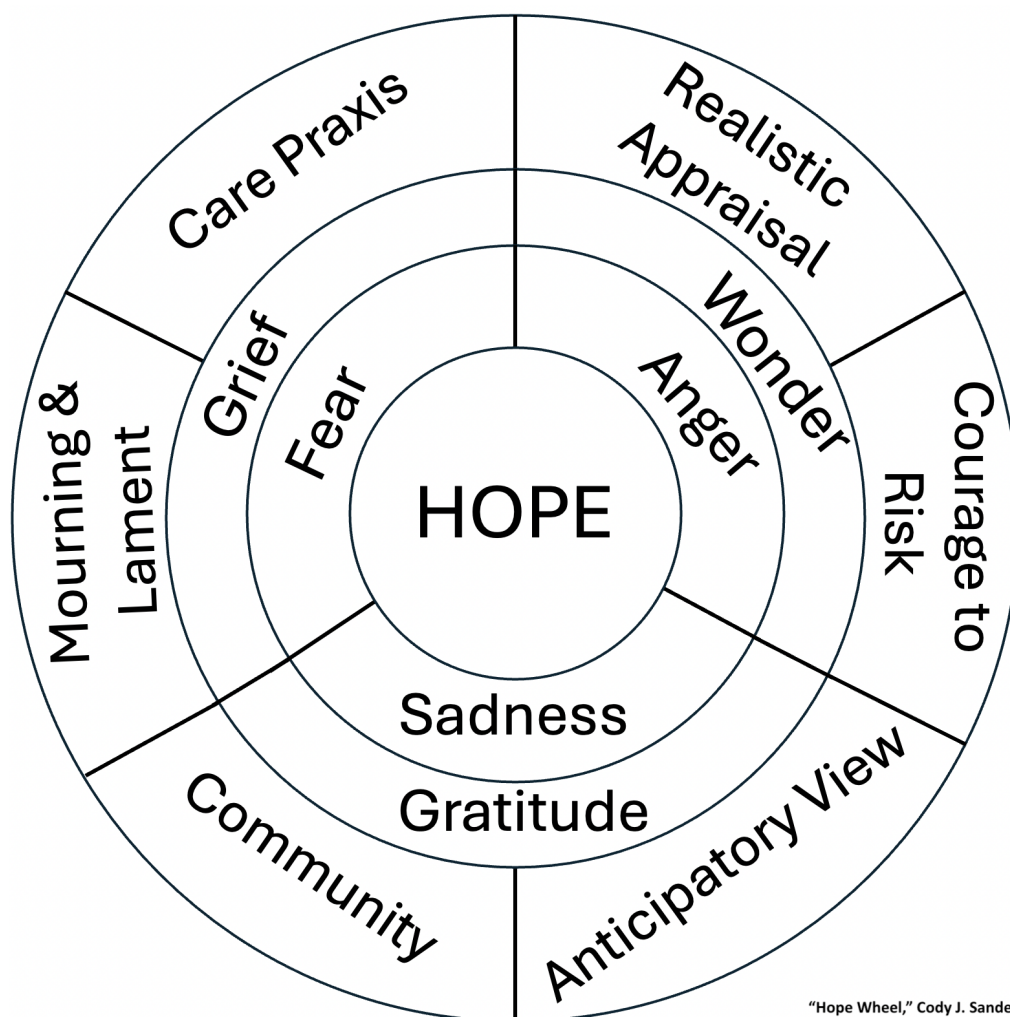
A Message from the Pastor

I am writing this message on July 16, two days into hazardous air quality from wildfires in the Boundary Waters, coming quick on the tail of a long, intense heat wave. My hope is that by the time you're reading this, we are breathing clean air and enjoying the characteristic cool summer temperatures that make Duluth such a great place to live. I'm hopeful, but I'm also a realist. This reminds me of early on in the COVID-19 pandemic, those uncertain mid-March days when we all hoped we'd be taking precautions for 2 weeks, but the reality was a much longer, deeper transformation of our shared life. Climate change is not new, nor are summer wildfires, but this extreme climate event felt like a wake-up call. Our presumed climate haven is just as vulnerable to the realities of our climate crisis.

As a mom who fears for her children's future and a flawed human being who tends toward pessimism, I find it easy to get caught up in despair and hopelessness in times like these. But as a Christian, I remember the framework Rev. Dr. Cody Sanders introduced us to during his visit back in May, "Feral Hope," and feel the grounding of God's presence and the hope of God's promise.

If you look at the graphic representation of the cycle of hope, you'll see that with hope at the center, we can experience the difficult emotions of fear, anger, and sadness, respond to them with grief, wonder, and gratitude, and practice hope through all of those wonderful practices around the outside of the circle. As the church, we are uniquely positioned to do these things and invite others to do them as well. We know how to gather in community. We have experience with mourning and lament. We care for one another in real, tangible ways. We build trust that leads to courage. We can tell the truth and imagine a future where everyone has what they need to thrive, and we can take steps toward making that future a reality.

You'll see more information in this Peace Bell about opportunities to learn and connect this fall, our upcoming capital campaign with the tagline *Preparing the Way*, and reflections on a summer that has been both wonderful and challenging. As you read, keep the framework of feral hope in mind: a hope that is not naively optimistic, but that calls us together as people of God to co-create a beautiful future together. I hope you'll join us in this faithful, creative work!



A Message from the Moderator



Hello dear church family,
I am Laura Hamel and I am humbled to serve as your Council Moderator for this year. My wife, Ellen, our three boys (Owen 4.5, Iggy 3, and newborn Jay) and I have felt blessed and wholeheartedly welcomed throughout our 5+ years in this church community. Especially since our closest immediate family members are 2.5 hours away in the cities, this church family has been a crucial part of the multi-generational "village" that is helping us raise our kids. Thank you. We live out in the Lester Park neighborhood on the east end of town, but enjoy making the trip to church on Sundays on our bright orange E-bike that we lovingly dub "the hog". This summer, you'll find our family throwing rocks at the beach on warm summer evenings, hitting the green mountain bike trails with Owen leading the pack on a weekend morning, catching a Glensheen concert on Wednesday nights, or trying our hand at DIY home tiling projects or vehicle brake replacements with the help of friends, neighbors, and YouTube. I am excited to get to know each of you better throughout this next year. Please reach out (my contact info is in the online directory in Church Center) if you: 1) Have any questions or concerns that you feel that the council should address 2) Are interested in learning more about the council or any of the teams and committees that are actively doing the work of the church day in and day out or 3) Would like to introduce yourself over a 5 minute game of kooshball catch (it is my opinion that you can learn more about somebody by playing 5 minutes of catch with them compared to 2 hours of almost any other activity. Don't believe me? Just try it!).

On another note, we had our first council meeting of our newly minted council members this last June. We had our capital campaign consultant join us via zoom to break down the next steps for the upcoming capital campaign and go over the results of the feasibility study that she performed. In general, she feels that we are in a great position as a congregation to launch a much needed capital campaign this coming fall. Hopefully you have seen the congregation-wide survey that went out multiple times in order to gather the project priorities, thoughts, and opinions of as many congregants as possible. Those survey results will guide us as we plan out which projects we will choose to work towards with this campaign. It is exciting to think about not only maintaining the current functionality of our building, but also thinking about how these projects will allow our building needs to be met more efficiently and our spaces to have greater functionality to serve all of the various groups more effectively. I'll leave you with this: How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it. Ha ha ha.

September Forums

September 7

No Forum – Pride Sunday

September 13

Where Is God Calling You This Year?

On Gathering Sunday, we return to a more robust community life after a slower summer pace. With gathering comes an invitation: where is God calling you to learn, grow, participate, or join in community this year? Members of teams, committees, and ministries at Peace Church will share meaningfully about their experiences and invite you to do the same. We hope for participants to make new connections, discern new possibilities, and prepare for a faithful and hope-filled year ahead.

September 20

Book Event with Mark Langenfeld, *Wisdom from the Woods*

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.

September 27

Sasabe Empowerment Project: Border Town Resurrection Story

Presentation by David Damien and Rita Danks. Sasabe, Senora was a small, quiet border town of until October 2023 when fighting broke out between rival Mexican cartels. Businesses closed, violence escalated, and 2000 citizens fled across the border. By the end of December, the violence had subsided and the town was empty. Samaritans, a humanitarian group, and film director David Damien have been instrumental in reclaiming the town and bringing it back to life. There is a new central plaza, a community library, educational classes, and intramural sports teams. A new café is open on weekends and people are returning to reclaim their homes. David and a Samaritan volunteer will talk about the Sasabe Empowerment Project at the adult forum, September 27.

Peace News

Building Projects and Campaign Update

Thank you to everyone who participated in the recent forums and completed the campaign survey. Your feedback has been invaluable and is helping shape the direction of this campaign.

Over the past several months, we've been listening, learning, and discerning together. While addressing our aging building systems is an important part of this effort, the upcoming capital campaign is about something bigger: ensuring Peace remains a welcoming place for worship, community, service, and belonging for generations to come.

As planning continues, the Capital Campaign Team is working closely with the Property Team and Coordinating Council to thoughtfully evaluate our building needs and develop a path forward. The Coordinating Council will ultimately determine the final list of projects for the campaign, ensuring the plan reflects both faithful stewardship and Peace's mission.

In the coming months, we'll share more about the campaign, the vision behind this investment, and ways you can be part of preparing the way for the future of Peace.

Thank you for your continued prayers, participation, and support as we discern this next chapter together.

Help Tell the Story of Peace

As part of our Capital Campaign, we're gathering photos that capture the life of Peace over the years. If you have photos from worship, fellowship, retreats, mission trips, children's or youth activities, choir, service projects, community events, or other moments that reflect life at Peace, we'd love to see them.

Please email your photos to office@peaceucc.org. Whether they're from last week or 20 years ago, they may help tell the story of our church and the ministry we've shared together.

Thank you for helping preserve and celebrate the story of Peace!

News from the Peace Property Team

It has been a busy time for the property team! We strive to keep track of building needs and upgrades to make our building a safe, functional, and welcoming place. We take the stewardship of our building seriously, as it serves Peace members as well as the residents in our rental wing and many visitors who use the building every week.

Long-term planning for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC), and energy systems

The Property Team has spent recent months researching and planning for the future of the church's systems and facilities. A major effort was devoted to evaluating the church's aging mechanical systems. This included evaluating high-efficiency boilers, heat pumps, building automation controls, LED lighting upgrades, geothermal, and solar energy opportunities. We worked with energy consultants, sustainability experts, and HVAC contractors including: Minify Energy, Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light, DARC Y, MN Center for Energy and Environment, A.G. O'Brien, and Holm Construction. The resulting long term plan will inform the capital campaign priorities.

Wait – I thought we just completed a big HVAC upgrade?

Yes we did! The new rooftop HVAC unit which services the office area and the narthex was successfully installed in April. This highly efficient unit (dual-fuel with an energy recovery wheel) keeps our staff comfortable after years of issues in the office space. Unfortunately, this system does not address the sanctuary or any rooms on the lower level. Heating for these areas is supplied by three, nearly 30-year old boilers.

Safety and code-compliance projects

The team also has addressed several important safety and code-compliance projects. Following fire and insurance inspections, renovations were completed to bring the tunnel storage room area into compliance while preserving needed storage space. A big shout out goes to **John Erickson** for helping us find a cost-effective solution. Additional work included sprinkler system repairs, ladder safety improvements, elevator testing and monitoring, roof inspections, and installation of new water-leak detection sensors to reduce the risk of future building damage. Thanks also to **Jacob Romberg** for his assistance of several maintenance projects.

Aging sewer infrastructure

The church's sewer system became a significant concern after repeated backups prompted a camera inspection, which revealed aging clay tile pipes with root intrusion, settling, and low spots that can trap waste and increase the risk of future blockages. Recognizing that the problem represented a major risk to building operations and could lead to costly emergency repairs if left unresolved, the Property Team evaluated multiple repair options and contractor proposals. Our solution is to move forward with a comprehensive sewer replacement. This approach would provide a permanent solution, and reduce future maintenance risks.

Outside the building

The Grounds Team advanced several grounds projects. Work included drainage improvements, grading and accessibility enhancements, tree removal, prairie restoration planning, rain garden preparation, and future bicycle rack improvements. These efforts support both environmental goals and site usability.

The property team meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm. Additional volunteers are called on for periodic pop-up work nights for timely maintenance projects. If you'd like to be on a list for short or one-time projects, please contact Bri in the office!

Submitted by Stacey Stark, Property Team

Cont...

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

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

Keeping things consistent here as well. 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.

We are looking forward to seeing you on Wednesdays in the fall! If you want to be part of making dinner happen, find Kitchen Manager Carrie Kelsey between services on Sunday mornings, or sign up by Sunday evening via SignUp Genius.

Peace Church Directory App

Have you joined the Church Center app yet? This is a great way to stay connected, engaged, and involved at Peace Church! This has replaced our Instant Church online directory. You can download the Church Center app on your phone just by searching for it in the app store or look in the weekly church email footer for a link to a web browser version if you prefer to use a computer.

Once logged in, you can update your directory profile photo and manage what information other members in our directory are able to see. It's very helpful to have all church members list their phone number, email address, and a photo, but only you can choose to share your information. You can donate online and connect with your church groups too!

Please note that you can create an account at any time but will need to have been invited to join and share in Peace United Church of Christ's private directory. All active members and people in the process of becoming members have been sent an invitation via email, but please email office@peaceucc.org if something went wrong and you do not have access to the directory yet. We'll be happy to help troubleshoot any questions along the way.

Music at Peace!

This is a call for anyone who would enjoy being involved in creating music for worship services. Here are some ways to get involved:

Choir: The choir sings for the 10:30am services during the program year. We rehearse Wednesdays in the sanctuary from 6:15–7:30pm, and Sunday mornings at 10:00am in the sanctuary. All abilities are welcome! If it is tricky to make rehearsals, please let Jim know what you are willing to commit, as there is flexibility to make scheduling and rehearsals work. Come give the choir a test drive to see if singing is something that you could find fulfilling.

Special Music: We have wonderful musicians that provide music throughout the year. Part of the music program at Peace is the diversity of styles. Please let Jim know if you are interested in singing or playing. We can find a way to share your gifts (all abilities welcome!)

Please email jim@peaceucc.org for more information.

Pride Weekend Planning Meeting Sunday, August 2, 11:30am with Lunch

We are looking for a strong turn out of Peace People at the Duluth – Superior Pride Parade this year. If you are interested in helping out as a volunteer, parade goer, or sign maker join us for a planning meeting on Sunday, August 2 following Coffee Hour and the book discussion. We will provide lunch as we get organized for Pride weekend. Come ready to make signs, volunteer on Saturday or Sunday and show our Peace Church Pride.

New Member Picnic
Tuesday, August 25, 5:00pm
Grant Recreation Center (901 E 11th St)

We are inviting new members who joined the church from 2024–2026 for chance to connect with one another and check in with the Belonging & Community Team about life at Peace! Please bring a dish to share. RSVP by August 20 to Bri at office@peaceucc.org.

Gathering Sunday
Sunday, September 13

After a slower, more spacious summer, we resume our program year on September 13! On Sunday mornings, we will return to two worship services at 8:30am and 10:30am, with Adult Forums and self-serve coffee between services, and Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall after the 10:30am service. This Gathering Sunday, we're doing a bit of a throwback: a ministry fair. When the program year kicks off, we're all getting our schedules and priorities organized, and we invite you to consider Peace Church as one of those priorities. To that end, our many teams, committees, taskforces, and ministry groups will have tables with treats during Coffee Hour so you can learn more about where God might be calling you this year. Are you an 8:30am service person? Join for the Adult Forum at 9:30am, where representatives from many of our groups will be in the Fireside Room to connect. Looking forward to welcoming you back to church!

Belonging & Community Ministry Fair
Where Is God Calling You This Year?
Sunday, September 13, 11:30am

This is an all church event involving the teams and committees within the church advertising what they do and the rest of deciding what we would like to be involved in! Plan on coming downstairs to the Fellowship Hall to peruse opportunities and catch up with friends.

*Teams and committees, start thinking about how you will advertise opportunities :-). Creativity pays off!

Safe Church Training
Sunday, September 13 after the Belonging and Community Ministry Fair,
1:00–4:00pm Lunch Provided!

This is our bi-annual 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.

Queer Connections Game Night
August 17, 6:30–8:00pm, Fireside Room

Looking to meet different people, play a new game, or just get out of the house for an evening? Join us for Queer Connections in a safe and family friendly environment at Peace Church. All are welcome. Bring a board game to share and bring a friend. **Future Dates:** September 14 and October 12.

Office Closed on Labor Day
Monday, September 7

The office will be closed for Labor Day on Monday, September 7. The office will be open Tuesday, September 8.

Special Guest Preacher
Mark Langenfeld
Sunday, September 20

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*.

Birth Story Sharing Circle
Tuesday, September 29, 7–8:30pm

God is always with us, especially in the thin places....and Birth is one of these places! As a way to build community at Peace Church, we are hosting a Birth Story Sharing night. The goal for this circle is to gather people who would like to share their own birth story, or to be a listening presence for others.

Anyone who has given birth, witnessed a partner give birth, cared for someone giving birth, or who simply loves to honor birth stories, is welcome. Questions? Ask or email Monica Liddle: monimliddle@gmail.com.

Taizé is returning to Peace!

The first Sunday of each month, beginning Sunday, October 4, 2026 and continuing through May 2027, we will have the opportunity to practice Taizé, musical centering prayer, together at the 8:30am service. To assist the sense of quiet, we will not celebrate communion on Taizé Sundays at the 8:30am service, but the 10:30am service will continue the tradition of communion on the first Sunday of the month.

A Word for Justice

**Coming to Duluth: *Samaritans*
September 26, 7:00pm**

A Documentary about Compassion and Resilience along the Southern Border. A film showing and conversation with producer and director, David Damien Figueroa.



In the shadow of remarkable human struggle, the documentary *The Samaritans* weaves a poignant narrative of hope and humanity on the US-Mexico border, shedding light on dedicated volunteers who challenge the harsh realities of migration through unwavering compassion and life-saving aid.

Filmed over three years, including the backdrop of the *Great Migration of 2024*, this powerful documentary navigates the severe challenges faced by tens of thousands of migrants seeking asylum in the United States, while simultaneously highlighting the transformative impact of community and compassion.

Set against the stark desert landscapes of Southern Arizona, the film intimately captures the fierce dedication of individuals who risk their safety to confront systemic inequities and provide vital assistance. With access to the frontlines where tragedy and resilience collide, *Samaritans* humanizes those navigating perilous journeys filled with desperation, determination, and a relentless pursuit of a better life. This documentary serves as a tribute not only to the countless migrants who have sacrificed their lives seeking the American Dream but also to the advocates who refuse to disregard their plight. Through their stories, we are reminded of our shared humanity and the critical need for compassion and systemic change in the face of a humanitarian immigration crisis.

Screening of this film in Duluth is being made possible by Peace's Sanctuary Now Team and ICMJ in cooperation with Creekside UCC in Minneapolis and New Journey UCC in Hutchinson. All three congregations have had members participating in Common Ground at the Border, an educational and cultural experience hosted by The Good Shepherd UCC in Sahuarita.

Chum Corner



Rhubarb Festival Recap

The 2026 Rhubarb Festival was a success! We had 3,400 attendees and raised \$79,000. If you attended the festival, you may have seen the stickers on the food products that listed the impact of your purchase. The funds from a rhubarb crisp, for instance, provided a person with hygiene supplies for two weeks, and a jar of jelly provided a week's worth of first aid and wound care for someone staying in our shelter. You can imagine, then, the impact of \$79,000. And we could not do it without you. It is thanks to your support, volunteering, baking, encouraging, attending, sharing the word, and so much more that we were able to host this festival. Thank you.



Laundry Love



Laundry Love, a program under Stepping On Up and Chum, provides free laundry services for people who are experiencing homelessness or financial strain.

Currently, Laundry Love is looking for donations of laundry goods: single ride DTA bus passes, dryer sheets – unscented/hypoallergenic preferred, ground coffee, and disposable coffee cups – paper preferred. If you are able to donate any of these goods, please drop them off at the Chum Admin Office (21 W 1st Street Duluth). Thank you for your help in creating a more compassionate Duluth!

General Chum Update

Chum closed out its fiscal year on June 30, 2026. As we look into this next year, we are prepared and excited for the transformation it will bring. As Pathway Forward continues to develop and come into shape, it is truly with your help that we are able to serve our community in the best possible way. Thank you to all those who donated their time, money, energy, prayers, and so much more.

Children and Youth Corner

Hello Peace Kin – I am writing to you from Washington DC, after the **UCC Youth Voices; Bold Faith Lobby Day**.

Our day started early to meet with staff of our Representative, Pete Stauber, here in Northeast Minnesota in the 8th Congressional District. We were also able to meet with staff of Senator Amy Klobuchar, who we will be meeting in person tomorrow morning, and we were able to meet directly with Senator Tina Smith. Youth prepared presentations to speak with these folks about legislative acts they will be voting on, presenting these officials with direct asks to co-sponsor and vote in support of legislation that aligns with our values as Jesus followers in the United Church of Christ: celebrating the diversity of God's people, including God's beloved LGBTQ+ children and supporting our immigrant siblings, committing to the biblical imperative to welcome the stranger and live out the Golden Rule taught by Jesus Christ, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

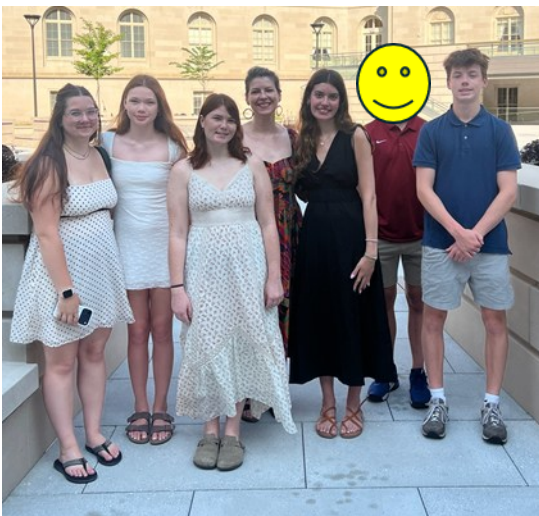
Areas of particular concern to our youth were the ongoing attacks on the rights, safety and humanity of transgender youth, and the bigotry, racism, violence and lack of compassion that is being directed at immigrant communities. Our Peace delegation joined with other youth throughout the Minnesota Conference to highlight two legislative acts.

1). The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act (H.R. 1061/S.455) which would codify limits on immigration enforcement at sensitive locations such as houses of worship, schools, hospitals, and other places where people seek care, education, or spiritual support. As a Sanctuary Church that also houses a transitional shelter for young adults, our peace youth felt they had a particular moral authority to make this ask, to protect their church home and their schools. They shared stories of enforcement that happened at local high schools in the winter/spring of 2026, stories about the effects of violent and bigoted enforcement on immigrants that they know and the acknowledgment that it has impaired our charge as a church to help resettle refugees and migrants, providing guidance and community to them as they work through legal immigration processes.

2. The 988 LGBTQ+ Youth Access Act of 2025 (H.R. 5434/S. 2826) requiring the Department of Health and human Services to dedicate resources to maintaining and strengthening specialized LGBTQ+ youth services within the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. The United Church of Christ support this legislation because every young person is a beloved child of God whose life has immeasurable value and worth, and because it helps ensure that LGBTQ+ youth facing elevated rates of bullying, isolation and mental health challenges have access to lifesaving, affirming crisis support that upholds their dignity, well-being and ability to flourish. Peace youth supported their peers who told personal stories of the effects of bullying they have experienced. There were tears of pain and healing shed in these conversations, and a tangible presence that felt like God's love holding us.

Of course, we don't yet know the results of these meetings as pertain to these particular legislative acts and we may never know the reverberations into the future that started from these discussions, but *I am so filled with hope and joy by the bravery, agency and big hearts of our young people.* As an adult, I will admit, I sometimes have a negative outlook about the uncertainty of the future. *As always, our Peace Youth and the other UCC Youth I have meeting on this trip have helped me to see this uncertainty as something bright and full of possibility.* I hope you can join us on Sunday, October 4 to hear more from the youth themselves about their experiences on this trip. Questions? Please Reach out to Amanda at amanda@peaceucc.org, 218-724-3637.

Wishing you Love in Action, Amanda



Left to right: Lu Filkins, Silvee Romberg, Scarlett Romberg, Amanda McElray Hunter, Siggy Hunter, and Colin Westbrook



Cont...

Confirmation Dates for Your Calendar

Confirmation 1 class is for 10th grade students and Confirmation 2 class is for 11th grade students.
Sunday, September 13 – Blessing at 10:30am service for both classes.

Wednesday, September 16 – Classes begin.

Saturday, September 20 – Confirmation 1 & 2 Retreat.

A registration letter/email is going to families in August with students already on the rolls for grades 10 & 11, if you would like for your young person to be in these classes and aren't sure if you are on the rolls, please reach out to Amanda.

Middle School Movie Night



Calling all rising 6th, 7th, and 8th graders! Join us Wednesday, September 2, at 6:00pm, in the Sanctuary for a viewing and group discussion of *Project Hail Mary*.

See old friends and make some new friends too – there will be popcorn and maybe a couple of games of hide and seek! RSVP to Amanda by Friday, August 28!

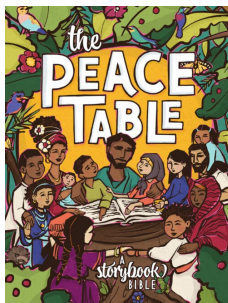
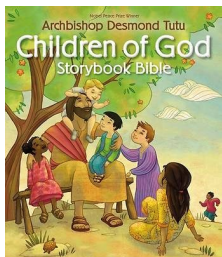
Nursery News

Children through age 5

Childcare resumes in the nursery on Sunday mornings beginning on September 13. Nursery hours on Sunday mornings are 10:00–11:45am in the Sun Room (downstairs by the elevator).

Bible Presentations for Kindergarten, 3rd Grade, and (new this year!) 6th Grade!

Our yearly tradition, this year presentations will be on Gathering Sunday, September 13 at the 10:30 am Service. Amanda is reaching out to families in August, if your young person hasn't previously received a Bible and you would like them to, or if you aren't sure if they are on our rolls, please reach out to Amanda.



OWL Dates for Your Calendar



OWL is for incoming 9th graders. Our Whole Lives (OWL) is our amazing comprehensive sexuality curriculum that runs on Sunday nights throughout the school year in partnership with Pilgrim Congregational and UUCD.

Sunday, September 27 – Parent Orientation.

Sunday, October 4 – Classes begin.

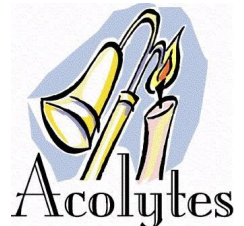
A registration letter/email is going to families in August with students already on the rolls for grade 9, if you would like for your young person to be in OWL and aren't sure if you are on the rolls, or if you have any additional questions, please reach out to Amanda.

Children's Church This Fall

On the first Sunday of each month, children remain in the service to participate fully in worship and take communion with their families. On the rest of the Sundays, Children's Church takes place after the Story for All Ages, during the 10:30am service. In Children's Church we talk about the Bible story for the day and engage in social emotional learning and creative practices that are fun and help us to understand the story in a new way. Youth are invited to help during Children's Church if they would like to. Once a month we have a Lego-free-for-all so be sure to look for weekly emails updating your family as to what is happening each Sunday! If you're not on Amanda's regular email list for families, please contact her at amanda@peaceucc.org to be included. On September 13, we will have Children's Church after the Story for All Ages.

Acolyte Training

Acolyte training is on Sunday, September 27, for kiddos grades 3 – 8. Contact Amanda if your child is interested.



Community Events



Friday, August 7 – Sunday, August 9

Marshall W. Alworth Planetarium Public Shows for All!

Explore the universe weekly at the Marshall W. Alworth Planetarium!

Journey Through the Solar System

Live guided tours of the universe (includes a tour of Tonight's Sky)

Friday, August 7, 2026, 7:00pm

Earth, Moon, and Sun

Family Show! Pre-recorded shows that are ideal for families (includes a tour of Tonight's Sky)

Saturday, August 8, 2026, 2:00pm

Sensory Friendly – Earth, Moon, and Sun

Saturday, August 8, 2026, 4:00pm

The Sun: Our Living Star

General Public Show! Pre-recorded shows for all ages (includes a tour of Tonight's Sky)

Saturday, August 8, 2026, 7:00pm

For more information and to purchase tickets go to <https://www.tickets.umn.edu/UMDMWAP/Online/>



Starting Thursday, September 3

More information at <https://www.dspride.org/>



Applications for the 2nd annual Transportation Academy are now open!

The Twin Ports Transportation Academy is an eight-week course, hosted by Zeitgeist Center for Arts & Community, designed to educate, empower, and engage everyday citizens on the community mobility issues that matter most. **The Academy is open to anyone aged 15+ living in the Twin Ports region who is interested in bringing lived expertise to local and regional transportation planning processes in order to increase equity, safety, inclusion, health, accessibility, and dignity in our transportation systems. The Academy is free of charge and a stipend is available for participation and to cover costs associated with family caregivers or transportation to/from classes, as needed.**

The Twin Ports Transportation Academy will take place weekly on **Wednesday evenings from 5:30 – 7:30 pm, September 16th – November 11th, 2026. Classes will primarily occur in-person at Zeitgeist or at a predetermined site in the community (accessible by public transportation). Light appetizers will be provided. Participants are expected to attend all sessions barring illness or emergency.**

People of all ages 15+, abilities, and levels of experience are encouraged to apply. The application process ensures that participants represent a **diverse, intergenerational, cross-section of the community and prioritizes those who use walking, biking or busing as a primary form of transportation. The deadline to apply is by 11:59 pm on Friday, August 21st.**

If you require assistance with the application, and/or have questions about the Academy, please contact Andrea Crouse at andrea@zeitgeistarts.com or 218-590-1139.

Peace People



Left to right: Kate Dean, Katie Kehtel, Bridger Oestreich, Lorelie Schwensohn, Savi Holden, Anya Holmstrom, and Ryan Mittlefehldt



Left to right: Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis, Rev. Angela Barnes, Max Edmunds, Latasaja Garner, Hank Kettlehut, and Larisa Miller



Phoebe Ellis & Melissa Boyle, the MN Conference UCC Annual Meeting



Kids Summer Camp at Pilgrim UCC

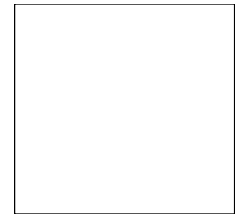


All the UCC youth and adults who traveled to Washington, DC





Peace United Church of Christ
1111 North 11th Avenue East
Duluth, MN 55805-1517
(218) 724-3637
www.peaceucc.org
Email: office@peaceucc.org



Return Service
Requested

If you no longer wish to receive the
Peace Bell, please call or email the
office (see phone # and email address
above)

Welcome to worship with Peace Church, every Sunday at 9:30am in the
summer, and 8:30 and 10:30am during the school year

*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 Crelly



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

Email Addresses:

Web: peaceucc.org

Amanda: amanda@peaceucc.org

Jim: jim@peaceucc.org

Rachel: rachel@peaceucc.org

Corinne: corinne@peaceucc.org

Laurie: laurie@peaceucc.org

Facebook: [peaceduluth](https://www.facebook.com/peaceduluth)

Bri: office@peaceucc.org

Mali: mali@peaceucc.org

Alex: alex@peaceucc.org

Carrie: carrie@peaceucc.org

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

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

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.