Join Peace Church for Holy Week!

Palm Sunday

April 10, 8:30am in the sanctuary & 10:30am worship service in the sanctuary and via livestream. Rev. Anthony Galloway from St. Mark AME will be our guest preacher. We will also distribute palms.



Sung Evening Prayer

Wednesday, April 13, 7:00pm.

Maundy Thursday

April 14, 7:00pm—Join us for service in the sanctuary or via livestream with hand or foot washing, communion and music.

Good Friday

April 15, 7:00pm—Joint service with Pilgrim and Glen Avon Churches held at Pilgrim Church (2310 East 4th Street).

Holy Saturday

April 16, 6:00pm—Campfire Vigil at the Tot Lot (12th St. & South Lake Ave., on the lake side of Park Point)—Join us for singing, campfire and smores. Great for the kids!

7:30pm—Easter Vigil service in the sanctuary. This is the first service of Easter with new fire, renewal of baptism and communion.

Easter Sunday

April 17, 8:30am & 10:30am worship service in the sanctuary and via livestream.

9:30am—Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for our traditional egg bake and fruit served by our Children's Ministry team and youth group followed by an egg hunt for the kids. We look forward to enjoying this special time.

Easter Vigil and Baptism

One of the oldest traditions in Christianity is Easter vigil—a service that begins in the darkness of Holy Saturday and ends with the joyful celebration of Easter. In the early years of Christianity, Easter Vigil was THE service in which baptisms took place. In many congregations, this service still includes baptism and renewal of baptism. This liturgical act is an act of resurrection—a celebration of the new life into which we are called. At Peace Church this year, the 7:30 Easter Vigil will include the opportunity for baptism. If you or someone in your family would like to be baptized, please notify the church office or talk with Nathan Holst, Pastor Jim or Pastor Charlotte. At Peace, we baptize infants, children, teens and adults.

Earth Day Festival Sunday, April 24, 12:00-3:00pm

Peace Church Lower Lot

Come join in a celebration of reciprocity and gratitude for our Mother Earth.

EVERYONE is invited to gather for this intergenerational event! Let's care for the land that has supported our Peace Community. Join us on Sunday, April 24 at noon in the lower lot for tacos and treats, music and maypole provided by Terrence Smith and the band, old t-shirt tote bag making (bring a t-shirt!), face painting, garden work, and cleanup around the neighborhood. There will be sign-ups for the garden and cleanup projects in your weekly email or email Bud at budtrnka@gmail.com with questions.

Let's show our Mother how grateful we are for all she gives and enjoy each other's company in celebration of Spring!



Day of Rest and Renewal

Saturday, April 9, 10:00am-2:30pm at St. Scholastica

Spend a day in quiet preparation for Easter. Begin the day with the Benedictine sisters' Morning Prayer at the monastery. Gather in Somers Hall about 10:30am for guided meditation and quiet time. Lunch will be provided. Free-will donation (give what you can). Direct your questions to pastorjim@peaceucc.org. Limited to 25 participants. RSVP required. To sign up, contact the church office at 218-724-3637 or office@peaceucc.org.

From Interim Pastor Jim

Dear friends- I wrote this piece last year in the midst of a wave of anti-Semitic activity where I lived and worked. The recent synagogue shooting in Texas reminded me that this issue persists in our culture and that we as Christians have a role to play in challenging it, especially during Holy Week and Easter. Let our Easter prayers this year include praying for peace, for an end to religious intolerance, and for an end to racism and white supremacy especially when it is rooted in our religious tradition. Yours in Easter hope, Pastor Jim

Christian pastor: This Holy Week, I'm giving up antisemitism

BY REV. JIM MITULSKI | MARCH 26, 2021

(This piece first appeared in the San Mateo Daily Journal and is reprinted with permission.)

Two years ago this week, my book buddy Jim Van Buskirk and I were attending a lecture at the Jewish Community Center in San Francisco. We used to work together at the San Francisco Public Library producing book events, and we still enjoy going to almost any literary event together. He is Jewish, I am Christian, and we're both gay and love books.

We were there to hear Deborah Lipstadt talk about her then new book, "Antisemitism: Here and Now." I was one of the few non-Jewish people in the audience. I appreciated the chance to hear perspectives I might not hear otherwise.

From her work, Dr. Lipstadt read quotes like "We recognize and abhor the extremists. There is no ambiguity about who they are and what they believe. Most people (with an emphasis on the word 'most') respond to them with visceral disgust. But our focus on them can sometimes distort the landscape because they're not the only ones poised to do harm. In the wake of the Holocaust, Adolf Hitler has become the template for the archetypal antisemite. When someone does not present as an out-and-out Nazi, observers often fail to recognize him or her as an antisemite. But to be an antisemite one need not be a Hitler or Nazi equivalent. You need not even be prone to violence. There are many antisemites who would never dream of even using offensive rhetoric."

And: "When our children fear there is danger in openly identifying as a Jew, it is indeed something that should concern us all."

I felt uncomfortable as a Christian pastor.

It was just a few months after the horrific shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, where 11 people were killed.

As Dr. Lipstadt described her anxiety about the upcoming Easter holidays as a time of particular wariness for Jews, I thought about the language we comfortably use in our Holy Week services that routinely talk about "the Jews" and the role they played in the first-century death of Jesus.

I felt the palpable fear in the room.

As the holiest days in the Christian calendar approached, people in my community were excited about Easter lilies and new clothes, but people with whom I was sitting had plans for beefed-up, armed security at their temples. Not two weeks after Easter that year, an armed gunman shouting antisemitic sentiments shot up the Chabad of Poway synagogue near San Diego, killing one woman and injuring others.

I grew up in a church that prayed every Good Friday for the "conversion of the Jews" with these words: "Let us pray for the Jews that the Lord … may take the veil from their hearts…. You do not refuse your mercy even to the Jews; hear the prayers we offer for the blindness of that people …that they may be delivered from their darkness."

Those prayers have been cleaned up in recent years, but the sentiment remains the same. In liberal Protestant churches, we mostly don't pray like that, but during Holy Week, we will all likely read the accounts of Jesus' death, replete with references to the Jews, and never distinguish between a first-century account and the present use of the term, and never acknowledge the Jewishness of Jesus.

The stories of Jesus' death were internal to a community at the time but since then have been used by Catholics, Orthodox and Protestants alike, from Augustine to Martin Luther, to justify antisemitism even to the present.

We use prayers and hymns that have people saying "Crucify!" but don't pause and say, "That was particular to a time and place."

We need to say, every time we use it in public worship, that we disavow antisemitism in all its forms, or we are subconsciously participating in perpetuating Christian supremacy.

Fellow Christians, we don't need to build up our faith at the expense of other people. We can tell an ancient story and give it context. We can talk about how the resurrection of Christ brings life and hope to us. And we can acknowledge the history and legacy of how that story has been used to oppress others (even unintentionally) and explicitly refuse to perpetuate it.

Repentance for antisemitism in the past and in the present is what makes the events of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter truly holy. A world of religious harmony and an end to intolerance and violence caused by religion is what Resurrection looks like.

Sundays in April

We continue to have worship on Sunday mornings, at 8:30am and 10:30am each Sunday. At our 8:30 service, we share communion each week. At our 10:30 service, we share communion the first Sunday of the month. Masks are optional. Service will continue to be livestreamed via our website (www.peaceucc.org) at 10:30am. Updated information can be found on our website (peaceucc.org) and in the weekly email. We look forward to seeing you at church!

Sunday, April 3: Fifth Sunday In Lent

8:30am: Please join us for worship with Holy Communion in the sanctuary.

10:30am: Please join us for worship in the sanctuary or via livestream. Special music by Ron Deters.

Former Duluth poet laureate Gary Boelhower will be preaching at both services.

5:00pm: Taizé Worship/Candlelight Prayer, led by Tom Liddle, in the sanctuary.

Sunday, April 10: Palm Sunday

8:30am: Please join us for worship with Holy Communion in the sanctuary.

10:30am: Please join us for worship **in the sanctuary or via livestream**. Special music by the Kids' Choir.

Pastor Anthony Galloway from St. Mark AME Church will be our quest preacher this morning.

Sunday, April 17: Easter Sunday

8:30am: Please join us for worship with Holy Communion in the sanctuary and via livestream. Pastor Jim will be preaching.

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

Sunday, April 24: Earth Day

8:30am: Please join us for worship with Holy Communion in the sanctuary. Pastor Jim will be preaching.

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

April Coffee Hour

11:30am following in-person worship service

Come join us for coffee hour after the 10:30 service. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall to drink coffee, eat a treat and socialize! We miss you and look forward to seeing you on Sundays! Please note that on Easter Sunday we will not have regular coffee hour, but instead will be serving breakfast at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall AND on April 24 we will not have regular coffee hour, but instead will be serving tacos and treats at our Earth Day Festival. Come join us!

Sunday School in April

Sundays at 9:30am in the Fireside Room

We will continue to have in-person Sunday School at Peace Church with stories and fun activities each Sunday at 9:30am. Any questions, please contact Nathan at nathan@peaceucc.org.

Forums

Forums provide opportunities each Sunday morning to connect as members of Peace. We learn together, share our reflections, ask questions, and create community. Join in any Sunday morning at 9:30am, usually in the Fellowship Hall.



April 3—Poetry with Gary Boelhower: The Medicine of Remembrance. Gary Boelhower, past poet laureate of Duluth, will talk about his newest poetry project, remembering his settler ancestors and their impact on indigenous persons and the land.

April 10—Poetry and music with Nathan Holst. Nathan Holst will lead us in some original poetry and song as well as reflection. Listen to his original song called "You Can Let It Go" and then have time to journal and share reflections together.

April 17—No Forum. Enjoy Easter breakfast in Fellowship Hall.

April 24—Earth Day, Earth Justice with Jodi Slick. Jodi is founder and CEO of Ecolibrium 3, a nonprofit organization working to transform how Duluth generates, distributes, and consumes energy. She leads and facilitates conversations about Duluth's Energy Transition, an effort to significantly reduce carbon emissions by 2050. All of us can help contribute to this effort.

Special Offerings

Sunday, April 3 & 10

One Great Hour of Sharing (April 3) is our primary offering through the United Church of Christ for supporting disaster, refugee and development actions globally, including those recovering from climate change-related storms or fleeing violence in many parts of the world.

Ukraine Relief Fund (April 10) will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people. All donations will be deposited into the International Disasters fund designated for "Ukraine Relief."

Give online or put your check in the offering plate or mail it to Peace at 1111 N. 11th Ave E. Duluth, MN 55805. Please make checks out to Peace Church and put the fund in the memo line.

150th Anniversary

March 13, during the two worship services, we officially kicked off our 150th Anniversary Celebration. This was exactly 150 years since the first congregational meeting of St. Paul's Evangelical Church, now Peace United Church of Christ. Many thanks to Kirby Wood for his masterful portrayal of our first pastor, Rev. Johan Lueder. We were his very first church after coming from Germany and being ordained just a few weeks earlier.



- We will be conducting interviews of many Peace members in April and May as we gather the stories we will use throughout this year. Please be open to sharing your own story as this is what makes our history come to life.
- We plan for three major events in August and September and will share more details in the coming months.
- A display of artifacts has been set up at the bottom of the front staircase. Take a few moments to enjoy these special parts of our history. Our History Team will be changing these out throughout this year.

Peace People

Casper Henry Truelsen

Founding Member of St. Pauls' Evangelical Church (1844–1931)

Each month we will feature the interesting people who made Peace what it is today.

Truelsen was born in Schleswig, Germany, in 1844. In 1866 he struck out for the United States, arriving in Duluth in 1870. He worked as a plasterer, railroad laborer and dabbled in merchandising before opening a fishery. In 1886 he entered the grocery business and became involved with politics. A Democrat, Truelsen served as city alderman, county sheriff, and president of Duluth's Board of Public Works. He was against Mayor Ray Lewis's plan to purchase Duluth Water & Gas's water system for over \$2 million—it was a good idea, but too much money. A referendum in November 1894, carried the mayor's plan by just 300 votes, but Truelsen cried foul—and was proven right: the courts found over 2,000 fraudulent ballots. His actions blocked the purchase and upset Duluth's power brokers, who were used to getting their way. Truelsen was elected mayor in 1896 as the "people's candidate," ensuring Duluth would have safe drinking water—without overpaying for it—and earning him the nickname "Typhoid Truelsen." He oversaw the construction of the Lakewood Pump House, which supplies Duluth with clean drinking water to this day.

Hermann Oswald

The first President of St. Pauls' Evangelical Church

Early records show the first recorded congregational meeting was held in the business quarters of our first Council President, Hermann Oswald. Here is an ad from the Duluth newspaper for the H. Oswald Cigars and Tobacco shop on Superior Street.

H. OSWALD, Manufacturer and Dealer in:					
Cig	81'S	an	r b	Cob	acco,
Superior Street, next door to Geo. B. Sargents' Bank					
DULUTH,	•	•	•	•	MINNESOTA.

Updates To Our Covid-19 Policies

Here are the latest Covid-19 Guidelines for Peace Church. The Covid Task Force will continue to monitor information regarding local covid cases and hospitalizations and is prepared to adjust these guidelines as necessary:

- Masking is optional in our building. We will continue to provide disposable masks, which can be found in the narthex, for anyone who prefers to wear one.
- Peace committee meetings/groups are welcome to take place in person or by Zoom. Committees, teams, and groups can determine whether masking is preferred or not.
- Wednesday evening meals are still on hold at this time. The nursery will be open and staffed beginning April 17 or as soon as we have the staff to re-open.
- Food and drink are allowed. Food will be served rather than people serving themselves. Food servers will be masked and wearing disposable gloves.
- ♦ We will continue to provide live-streaming for folks(x) who prefer to worship at home rather than in-person.
- Communion may be offered Easter Sunday with the following procedures: Bread will be precut into small pieces and communion servers should use hand sanitizer before serving. Juice will be served in small individual cups. Persons may be invited to come forward to receive communion. Disposable communion cups will continue to be offered as an alternative for anyone who prefers.

Peace Church Groups

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, April 7 & 21.

Therapeutic SomaYoga

Mondays from 9:00-10:15am

Fireside Room

Therapeutic SomaYoga for healthy aging. Taught by Robin Davidson, PT, RYT, yoga therapist in training. This 75 minute class focuses on different aspects of the body, mind, and spirit that will support you in increased wellness as you age. It is very gentle and offers modifications for all levels of participants. Free will donations for the class (suggested \$10) can be made to the office. This is an in-person, ongoing class on Mondays. You can also join us through Zoom. Contact Robin at roblee91@msn.com for the Zoom link.

Monday Book Group

Monday, April 4 & 18, 3:00pm via Zoom

The Monday Book Group will continue to read Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope by Joan Chittister during the month of April. Miriam Therese Winter writes about the book, "At a time when the vision and values that define us as a nation seem under siege from all directions, Joan Chittister-mystic and prophetic—has given us yet another perspective on holding fast to hope." Email pcragun@d.umn.edu if you would like the Zoom link.

Walking In Faith



Wednesdays at 5:00pm in the sanctuary Ends April 13

Holden Evening Prayer

Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the sanctuary Ends April 13

Lenten Journey Groups

Groups end during Holy week

Spiritual Self Health and Empowerment

Begins Wednesday, April 27, 5:00pm in the Fireside Room

The Health and Healing Team invites you to join Tim Peters for a four week forum on Wednesdays beginning April 27 from 5:00-6:00pm in the Fireside room to discuss how our spiritual life can impact our health and well being. Any questions, please contact Tim at tpnc53@gmail.com.

Thursday Morning Book Club

Thursday, April 21, 10:00am in the Fireside Room

The Thursday Morning Book Group will have its second meeting back at church in the Fireside Room at 10:00am on April 21, and we'd love to have YOU join us. We will discuss the book *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann. This book deals with the reign of terror against the Osage people (Oklahoma) and the beginning of the FBI, which promises to be an eye-opening story of racial injustice in our country that has been hidden until very recently. For more information on the group, contact Alice Marks at amarks001@charter.net

Women's Brown Bag

Wednesday, April 6 1:00pm in the Fireside Room

It's Poetry Month! Leave your lunch at home; bring your mask if you like.

Most especially, bring several of your favorite poems. They can be long or short, funny or thoughtful, silly or meaningful. We'll check in with each other and spend some time hearing each other's favorite poems. If you've missed seeing friends from Peace, invite them to come and enjoy this hour with us!



Sharing Our Spiritual Journey Group

Mondays during Lent, 7:00pm via Zoom

For the season of Lent this group is participating in the Lenten Journey book groups and are meeting every Monday at 7:00pm via Zoom to discuss the book 40-Day Journey With Maya Angelou. More information on the Lenten Journey book groups can be found in your weekly email. If you have questions or would like to receive the zoom link, please contact Gary Boelhower at gboelhower@msn.com.

Making Meaning Out Of Malignancy

Monday, April 25, 5:00-6:00pm

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

Wednesday Activities/Peace News

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, April 6

7:15-8:15pm in the Fireside Room

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

Stewardship Team:

Thursday, April 7 5:30pm Zoom

Adult Ed Team: TBD

Dismantling Racism

Thursday, April 21

3:30pm Zoom

Children's Ministry Team:

Tuesday, April 12 6:00pm Fireside

Worship & Arts Committee:

Wednesday, April 13 11:30am Fireside

History Team: Wednesday, April 13 1:00pm in the History Rm

Shared Ministry Team: Wednesday, April 13 4:00pm via Zoom

Finance Team:

Wednesday, April 13 4:00pm via Zoom

Property Team: Wednesday, April 13

6:00pm Fellowship Hall

Food & Fellowship Team: check email for details

Acting for Justice Hub: Sunday, April 10 2:00pm via Zoom

Climate Justice Team: TBD

Health and Healing

Group:



Wednesday Activity Schedule

5-6pm: Bible Study via Zoom 5pm: Health and Healing in the Fireside Rm 6-7pm: Middle School (6-8th grades) Youth Group in the Fellowship Hall

6pm: Adult Choir in the Sanctuary 7:15-8:15pm: Confirmation in the Fireside room (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. Any questions, please contact Nathan at Nathan@peaceucc.org.

Inquirers Class

Wednesday, May 4 & 11 6:00pm 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, May 4 and 11 at 6:00pm in our Fireside Room. Pastor Jim will lead this time to ask questions and learn more about who we are. 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 or the church office (office@peaceucc.org or 218-724-3637).

Online Donations

Just a reminder—when you make a donation online from our website, please sign in first by clicking the Sign In/SignUp option in the upper right corner of the donation form. Any questions, email Rose at rose@peaceucc.org.

Peace Prayer Chain



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

The PEACE BELL

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

EDITORIAL TEAM

Elise Courtright & Nancy Nelson Photographer: John Ameel

PEACE BELL ARTICLES are due Monday, April 18 Send to elise@peaceucc.org

Peace News Continued...

Choir

Wednesdays at 6:00pm in the sanctuary In person choir continues! Please join choir in the sanctuary (masks are optional!) for choir practice. Choir will also continue to meet on Zoom each Thursday at 4:30pm. See you there!

Prayer Shawls

If you would like to request a prayer shawl or are interested in making one for someone receiving pastoral care, please email Gudrun at gwitrak@gmail.com.

Taizé Service Sunday, April 3, 5:00pm

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

Church Coordinating Council will meet Tuesday, April 19 at 6:30pm in the Fireside Room.

Interpreting Services for Worship

Interpreting Services will be provided on an asneeded basis. If you would like to request an Interpreter for worship service, please contact the office at 218-724-3637 or email Judy Hlina at judyhlina@gmail.com.

~ Peace Church Interpreting Team

Peace Women's Retreat

April 22-23

The Peace Women's Retreat will be held at the Clearwater Forest Retreat Center, Rev. Rachal Bauman from St. John's UCC on Madeline Island will provide leadership. We'll begin with a meal at 6:00pm and end at noon on Saturday. (Count on brunch Saturday morning!) Mostly this will be a time to relax, enjoy one another's company, reflect on the past two years and consider our own needs as we emerge from covid-stress. Please consider a \$50 donation to help pay for the weekend. Cost is no barrier to participation—donate what you can. If you are interested, you can arrive a bit early and help prepare dinner. We need to know who's coming, so please sign up in the church office before April 19. When you sign up, be sure to let us know of any dietary restrictions. For further information, contact Charlotte at charlotte@peaceucc.org. or members of the planning committee: Rachel Bauman, Cindy Macaulay, or Charlotte Frantz.

Annual Reports due on May 2!

Looking ahead to our annual program meeting on Sunday June 5, we need to have reports from our staff, teams and committees submitted early, so that our office staff can compile the report and have it ready for you to view ahead of the meeting.

Nancy will send out instructions via email to team and committee chairs. Questions should be sent to Nancy at office@peaceucc.org. Thanks!

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 or call the office at 218-724-3637.

Special Music

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

Notable Dates

Sunday, April 10: Palm Sunday

Friday, April 15: Good Friday

Sunday, April 17: Easter Sunday

Friday, April 22: Earth Day

Sunday, May 8: Mother's Day

Monday, May 30: Memorial Day

Peace Men's Retreat

April 29-30

We are currently planning to gather for our Men's Retreat April 29-30 at the Clearwater Forest Retreat Center. We know that covid can often shift our plans, so watch for details to confirm for this month and our most updated covid protocols. The facility near Deerwood MN is a great place to gather, relax, share some moments of reflection, and enjoy some good food. Please consider a \$50 donation to help pay for the weekend. Cost is no barrier to participation—donate what you can. If you have questions, want to sign up, or want to be a part of the planning process please contact Nathan at nathan@peaceucc.org.



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 We are entering springtime, a time when mud is the primary experience when we walk outside.

My partner Sarah recently said that they have come to appreciate the spring more and more. It's a time of "not quite yet", a time of possibilities, but it sometimes doesn't look so pretty. It's a time of glimpsing what is growing

April 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 the spring, we've got a little less structure and a little more hang out and game time. Come join us—youth group is the place where we cultivate community and a sense of belonging—it's awesome!

under the surface, of feeling the freshness of rain, and a time of longing for more warmth. We have 1st spring, then 2nd winter, then 2nd spring, sometimes more. It's no wonder spring is the time in our church calendar that we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus. Spring is full of the both/and. It reminds us of how we carry what is difficult, at the same time holding the beauty of what is coming into being. It's a process.

I have been so inspired by all the conversations I have had with parents and youth these last few months. In the many feedback/vision sessions we've had, there has been a clear sense of connection, energy, and creative ideas that are bubbling up in this time. And we know that this time has not been easy. The pandemic has upended our lives with exhaustion, interrupted the ways we connect, and shifted how we do ministry together as a church. Many of us are still in process, figuring out how we manage to come back to what brings us life in community, while giving ourselves the space to adjust to whatever the particular moment brings. Still, in the midst of all of this, the Spirit is moving with new life. There are all kinds of new ideas emerging and leaders excited to try something new. As a church (and society), we are in a "spring process" moment, learning how to hold the difficulty of what has been while also glimpsing and nurturing the new energy that is coming into being.

This month, I was looking back what our Peace youth were saying about their experience with challenge and resiliency last year, and I am still struck by what Kate Dean had to share about how she sees resiliency:

"During these crazy times, I connect resiliency with one simple word: hope. I am resilient because of hope... being resilient is thinking of our dreams, seeing the obstacles, but still keep going, not giving up, and always striving to be better. That's what resiliency is to me."

This is such an incredible resurrection message. Even though there are obstacles, that challenges are a part of what we experience (just look at what buds go through), we are still capable of continuing with hope. Isn't this a good word for our church and world right now? I am inspired by the vision that this community continues to come back to as a church committed to justice, to relationships, to welcome.

As we look toward the coming season, as we get our hands in the spring mud of our gardens (and the sometimes beautiful mud of our spiritual lives), let's remember that messy resurrection, resiliency, and new life is the promise of spring.

~ Nathan Holst

Pine Ridge Indian Reservation Trip to Camp Re-Member (July 22-30)

We'll spend a week on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation doing service projects and learning about Lakota culture and history. As they share on their website (https://www.re-member.org/trips.aspx), "volunteering with Re-Member is an emotional and life-changing event. During your visit to Pine Ridge Reservation, you will witness the extreme poverty afflicting the Lakota people of Pine Ridge; but also the resilience and strength of character that comes from their culture and traditions." Dates of the trip are Friday, July 22nd-Saturday, July 30th. Cost is \$600 per youth (with sliding scale/scholarships available—just get in touch with Nathan). Please drop off/send a deposit of \$100 to hold your spot. We can take up to 11 youth on this trip.

Camp Amnicon Sylvania Wilderness Trip (August 7-12)

If you like to canoe, camp, or are just open to a great adventure, this is the trip for you. Camp Amnicon puts on amazing trips (Nathan was a canoe guide there in college, so he knows from experience), and Sylvania is an incredibly beautiful destination. This trip often includes lots of time for swimming, canoeing, and of course lots of bonding experiences and friendships. Dates of the trip are Sunday, August 7th-Friday, August 12th. Cost is \$400 per youth (with sliding scale/scholarships available—just get in touch with Nathan). Please drop off/send a deposit of \$100 to hold your spot. We can take up to 7 youth on this trip.

If you have any questions, feel free to email or call. Looking forward to offering youth trips again this summer.

Youth and Children's Ministry

Peace Connect for Parents (of elementary age kids)

Begins April 3 at 9:30am



Parenting is some of the most challenging and rewarding work that we do. Join other Peace parents of elementary-aged kids and members of the

Children's Ministry team as we gather monthly to support one another and build community. This is a space for you to come as you are, connect, and express joys and frustrations.

First Thursday of the month at 8:00pm (April 7, May 5, etc.) on Zoom, led by Children's Ministry Team members Elaine Schmid, Kelly Grgas, and Katey Fornear. The link can be found in your weekly email.

First Sunday of the month at 9:30am (April 3, May 1, etc.) in person, led by Faith Formation Minister Nathan Holst. Email Nathan at Nathan@peaceucc.org with questions.

High School Youth Sundays

1st and 4th Sundays of the month



We recently had some fantastic feedback sessions about youth ministry here at Peace Church (more info to come next month, so stay tuned). One major piece that came out of those

sessions, particularly hearing from our high school youth, is the need and desire to have regular times to connect for high school youth.

Starting in May, we're trying out two Sundays a month for high school youth to connect. The first Sunday of the month will be focused simply on having fun together-come join us at noon for pizza, gaga ball, and time to hang out. We'll start in the fireside room. Depending on what the youth that come want, we may also plan future outings to go bowling, etc. Then on the 4th Sunday of the month, we are creating a youth-led time of spiritual connection. We'll start this at noon as well, along with pizza to get us started. This is still a work in progress, but youth have expressed a desire for a space for quiet reflection, singing songs together, and some time to journal. Come join in and help build a space that you're longing for.

Children's Church

First Sunday of the Month

Starting in April, we are trying out a model of "Children's Church" on the first Sunday of the month at the 10:30am service. The basic idea is that kids stay for the service through the Story for all Ages, leave for Children's Church for 20-30 min (where we might sing, do art, or tell stories with puppets), and then come back with the adults for communion. Email Nathan at Nathan@peaceucc.org with questions. See you in church!

Summer Trip Interest Meeting

Sunday, April 10, 12:00pm

Have you seen info about our Peace summer trips but want to know more or find out who else is coming? Come join us for an interest meeting on Sunday, April 10 after church around noon. Nathan Holst will lead the session in the Sanctuary.

Kids' Choir

Sunday, April 10, 10:30am worship

Our wonderful kids' choir will be singing in service on April 10. If your child would like to participate this month or in the future, please email Susan at susan.larsonkidd@ drslk.com. See you this Sunday to hear our children sing!

Confirmation Sunday

Save the date! This year we'll be honoring our confirmation youth on Sunday, May 22. Come be a part of this memorable service—you won't want to miss it!

Peace Village (formerly VBS) Summer Day Camp

June 13-17

Do you love VBS at Peace? We have a wonderful opportunity this summer to do something we haven't done before. We are excited to be partnering with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth this summer to host a Peace Village. Peace Village day camps teach children specific tools to build understanding and create peace within themselves and with their communities. Dates are Monday, June 13- Friday, Jun 17. We'll start at 9:00am and end each day at 12:00pm. If you have questions, contact Nathan Holst at nathan@peaceucc.org.



Pretty much all the honest truth telling there is in the world is done by children.

~Oliver Wendell Holmes

Afghan Resettlement News

Late in the evening of Valentine's Day, four Afghan women arrived in Duluth. Amena H., Halimi A., Sediqa K. and Halima A. came from Fort Dix, New Jersey. They were welcomed by the Peace Church Duluth Welcome Sponsor Circle who had been making preparations since late November.

The Sponsor Circle program is a new resettlement effort though which communities at a distance from a resettlement agency can take on the task of resettling refugees. Members of the Peace Church Duluth Welcome Circle are Terrie and Lyle Shannon, Gayle and Jack Kelly, Mollie Stapleton-Clark, Penny Cragun, Gary Boelhower, and Cyndi Brown. Charlotte Frantz has given staff support and leadership to this effort. This is the newest iteration of Peace's ministry to immigrants—we are a Sanctuary Church, an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation and now a church welcoming Afghan newcomers.

The women stayed at McCabe Renewal Center and the Benedictine Sisters became partners with us in providing hospitality and accompaniment. Afghan newcomers are eligible for various assistance programs, and we all learned how much paperwork and on line applications are required! All four newcomers speak conversational English. They enrolled immediately in ELL classes

offered by ISD 709. The Islamic Center of the Twin Ports welcomed them with a special potluck meal.

Meanwhile, Janette and Jake Shaw were readying a three bedroom home on the hillside for rental. Peace Church members connected the Circle and the Shaws who were willing to work with Peace and the newcomers. They said the house would be ready for occupancy about April 1. The women needed housing sooner than that.

More phone calls and connections and Jim McLean and Peace volunteers worked with the Shaws to



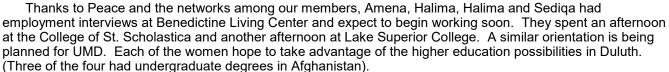
renovate the kitchen, put in a new bathroom, drywall, paint, and scrub. Dennis Isernhagen, Bob and Kay Stevens, Annette Strom, Louise Hawley, and Geoffrey Gates were all part of Jim's team.

UUCD opened up their rummage sale storage area; members of Peace donated furnishings; March 12 was moving day. Alex Dean, Warren Post, Benji Stapleton, Jessica and Heidi Olson, Melissa Boyle and Jen Stenersen all helped gather donated furniture and furnishings and get them into place.

An Afghan resettlement fund here at Peace has made support for the women possible while they complete the necessary documentation for

work. Peace musicians donated the proceeds of the Cabaret to the fund and Peace

members have been generous with their gifts.



For the Sponsorship Circle members, the past two months have been intense, exhilarating, exhausting, eye-opening, humbling, and life-changing. These four women have welcomed us into their lives, fed us, and offered us tea and hospitality time and time again.

I write this the day following a New Year's party in their new home. In Afghanistan, New Years is at the time of the Spring Equinox. It seemed so right to celebrate the beginning of their new lives here. We know they miss their families and worry a lot about those left behind; I doubt any of us know the depth of those feelings. Peace Church and Duluth's warm welcome and support has been crucial in giving them hope and making life here possible.







Council Corner

Council Minutes

The council minutes for the **February** Council meeting can be found on our website at peaceucc.org in the News and Events section on the homepage. We will continue to post them each month after council has approved them.

Transition Time at Peace Church

We are in transition at Peace Church. As per recommendations from the Minnesota conference, a transition team has been approved by the Council. Here are the members of the team: Mike Schrage, Cathy Ameel, Mary Junnila, Bob Stevens, Ezra Schomberg, Veronica Gaedelis-Langer and Kelly Grgas. Thank you for being willing to serve on this important team.

This group is charged with a process to help us move from where we are now to the time when a search committee for a settled Pastor will be selected and beyond. We know that many are ready to move to that phase, but we still have work to do. That work is what Pastor Jim was hired to do with us. Pastor Jim has this experience and expertise and has been working to assess the congregations and the church's strengths and weaknesses thus far. He needs our help to get from here to the time when we vote on a settled Pastor.

Here's where you come in. Everyone will be asked to do their part—small or large. Moving forward will mean:

Willingness to try out some new ways of doing things—like the service, worship changes, music, assessing programs and functions of the physical and human infrastructure, technology, finances, changes in how staff do things and much more. The willingness to try out new ways of doing familiar things is part of the transition.

In the fall, we expect the Transition Team to roll out the Holy Cow assessment instrument for congregations: https://holycowconsulting.com/congregations/congregation-assessment-tool-cat/

The instrument will:

- Measure the level of satisfaction and energy in the congregation.
- Identify the critical success factors for improving organizational climate.
- Pinpoint the strengths of the congregation's culture.
- Discover where members would like to go in the future.
- Gauge readiness for change.
- Uncover potential resources you may be missing.
- Prepare for a search for the next pastor.

With all of that in mind, we know that change can be difficult. We have had more change than we wanted in the past few years with COVID, the retirement of Pastor Kathy and changes in pastoral leadership. All of that has left us with some feelings of estrangement and loss.

But there are signs of promise and renewal. Despite a second unanticipated closure in January and February because of COVD, we are returning to our former level of activities: two Sunday morning services, weekly Wednesday worship, a new monthly Sunday evening Taizé gathering, restoration of children and adult education, a lively Sunday forum between services, and a renewing and experimenting program life. Attendance is increasing, our on-line presence is consistent and of a high quality. And offerings remain steady after the passage of a balanced budget. Our support for community organizations like CHUM are strong. And the Peace staff have held things together during the period without pastoral leadership. We can't thank them enough, along with our great volunteers and committee members for their part during that past year to keep Peace Church humming along.

We are asking for patience and perseverance as we proceed to our next steps.

The transition team, the 150th anniversary team, the Council, staff and various church committees and teams, and YOU, will shed light on our strengths and look at our weaknesses. Together we can make the commitment, personally and collectively, to our church community and the broader community as we grow through this transition process.

Are you ready? Please send comments and suggestions to the Council email: council@peaceucc.org.

In faith,

Tom Hystead, Moderator

Joan Peterson, Vice Moderator



A Word For Justice

Whiteness In Plain View Webinar

Wednesday, April 6, 7:00pm

Authors James Loewen and Chad Montrie have written a book entitled *Whiteness in Plain View: A History of Racial Exclusion in Minnesota* through the Minnesota Historical Society Press. On Wednesday, April 6, St. Paul's East Side Freedom Library and the Ramsey County Historical Society will hold a webinar with Chad Montrie from 7:00-8:30pm. Chad Montrie will also hold an in-person session about *Whiteness in Plain View: A History of Racial Exclusion in Minnesota* on April 11 at 6:00pm at UMD's Kathryn A. Martin Library. Here is a link to register: https://eastsidefreedomlibrary.org/events/whiteness-in-plain-view-a-history-of-racial-exclusion-in-minnesota/.

Foy Scholarship

Each year St Mark AME and Peace Church collaborate to award at least one \$1000 scholarship to a graduating student of color in the Twin Ports. Applications can be made online and require a short essay from the student, an academic letter of recommendation, and a transcript. Last year the congregations were able to make 3 awards of \$1000 each and 3 awards of \$500 each. If you are an educator, a parent, or know a young person of color hoping to continue their education, encourage them to apply at www.peaceucc.org. Go to the drop down menu under the word "Justice" and you'll find a link to Foy Scholarship. Questions can be directed to foyscholar@gmail.com. Application deadline is May 15.

A Light exists in Spring by Emily Dickinson

A Light exists in Spring Not present on the Year At any other period – When March is scarcely here

A Color stands abroad On Solitary Fields That Science cannot overtake But Human Nature feels.

It waits upon the Lawn, It shows the furthest Tree Upon the furthest Slope you know It almost speaks to you.

Then as Horizons step Or Noons report away Without the Formula of sound It passes and we stay –

A quality of loss Affecting our Content As Trade had suddenly encroached Upon a Sacrament.

The White Privilege Symposium

May 13 & 14

The White Privilege Symposium (a regional project of The Privilege Institute, which is best known for its annual conference) will be held at the DECC in Duluth May 13-14. Join racial justice activists, academics, and artists to explore the pressing issues of our time; understand root causes of systemic injustice; build solidarity and community; and develop strategies for dismantling oppression. Speakers include Winona LaDuke, Resmaa Menakem, and Robin DiAngelo. Registration is now open: https://web.cvent.com/event/e67486f5-536f-4d2b-b24d-3491a1813866/summary.

COVID Protocol: Please note, Vaccine or proof of Negative PCR test within 72 hours required to attend in person. Masks and Social distancing are strongly encouraged.

Cost: Adults: \$175 College Students: \$145 High School Students (Youth Action Project) \$100 If you are interested in a partial scholarship through Peace Church, please contact Charlotte at charlotte@peaceucc.org.

Many thanks to Sister Lois Eckes, Moira Villiard, Classie Dudley and Deb Holman for a great adult forum series for Women's History Month.









CHUM

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

Peace Church Meals for the CHUM Drop In Center

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

Wednesday Chum Breakfast: April 6 & 20

If you would like to drop off a donation, please email Elise Courtright at elise@peaceucc.org.

Thursday Chum Dinner: April 21

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.

Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.

~Pope John Paul II

CHUM Needs

All things needed for outdoor camping:

- Tents
- Sleeping bags
- Tarps



We have plenty of large blankets and raincoats right now. The warming center closes April 1, and most of our guests will be back on the street as we enter the cold rainy season.

Additionally:

 Several families at the Steve O'Neil Apartments could use large microwave ovens in good condition.

If you would like to donate or volunteer, please call Chum at (218) 720-6521 .

CHUM Rhubarb Festival Moves to Stella Maris

Holy Rosary Campus Saturday, June 25

The CHUM Rhubarb Festival will take place on the Stella Maris Academy Holy Rosary Campus at 2802 E. 4th Street in Duluth. We'll have lots of volunteer opportunities, so watch for more details in the CHUM News and on our website, www.chumduluth.org.

Peace Church Cabaret



After taking two years off for the pandemic, we brought back our annual Peace Church Cabaret held on Saturday, March 5 in the sanctuary. Many thanks to all of the artists and musicians who performed and to all the folks(x) who donated to the Afghan Resettlement fund. All proceeds from this event went to this fund.









Peace People

Thank You!

- Thanks to those who provided special music in March: Kelli Hallsten Erickson, Susan Larson Kidd, Katey Fornear, Ron Deters, Ian Connell, Gudrun Witrak, Kirby Wood, Nathan Holst, the Choir, Wendy Durrwachter, Byron Klimek, Mark Hakes, Vince Osborn, Melanie Sever, Buzz Munns, Chris Halvorsen, and the Kids' Choir.
- Dear friends at Peace—Thank you so much for your support as we embark on this new journey with Moussa. Your help in purchasing his bus ticket was much appreciated as is the recent generous gift of money. He is settling in, going to English class four times a week and playing soccer twice a week. Please keep us all in your hearts and prayers, especially Moussa as he continues the process of seeking asylum. Peace to you all, Sara, Melissa and Moussa.
- Thanks to all the volunteers who made German strudel coffee cake for our special coffee hour on March 13.
- Thank you to Caleb, Aiden, Luka and Lachlin for sharing their talents in the kids' choir! ~Susan Larson Kidd
- Thank you to Ashton, Tyler, Paul and Max for extending themselves during our increased streaming services for lent. You are the best tech team ever! ~Susan Larson Kidd
- Thank you to Elaine Schmid, Pat Nelson and Diane Swanoski for teaching Sunday school in March. ~Nathan Holst

Picture Directory

Guess what, Peace friends?! There's still time to submit a photo for the online Peace Directory! We are almost ready to publish the directory for Peace members and friends to use and it would be great to have as many pictures as we can. Simply email Elise a photo and include the names of individuals included in the picture. Elise will upload the photo to our directory. Send pictures to Elise at elise@peaceucc.org by May 1. Thanks!

We recently "met" Peace Church's First Pastor, the Reverend John Lüeder in service on March 13. Thanks, Kirby Wood, for playing the role in Story For All Ages.



Keep in Your Prayers

- Jan Eschbach is recovering from electrical burns from her accident two years ago. She is dealing with every day challenges and appreciates the prayers from her church family.
- All those undergoing treatment for cancer: Stephen Dando, Jerry Cleveland, Terrie Shannon, Mary Caine-Hafdahl, Kim Kruger, 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.

Did You Know?

Judy Russell has moved to be near her daughter, Susan Lau. You can send a card after April 1 to her at this address:

1200 Lanigan Way SW #1307 St. Joseph MN 56374

Peace friends gathered with Judy recently (see photo below) to say good bye and farewell. She will be missed!



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

Volunteer Schedules

Sunday Usher Schedule: 10:30am

April 3: Cindy Macaulay, Bridget Reistad, Burnell Peterson

April 10: Cindy Macaulay, Pam Kramer, Ellen Shelhon

April 17: Cindy Macaulay, Youth

April 24: Cindy Macaulay, Ellen Shelhon

Sunday Greeter Schedule: 10:30am

April 3: Ellyn Wiens, Ellen Shelhon

April 10: volunteer needed

April 17: Youth

April 24: volunteer needed

Sunday Lay Reader Schedule: 10:30am

April 3: volunteer needed

April 10: Ellyn Wiens

April 17: Youth

April 24: volunteer needed



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:

April 3: Kelli Farrell and Ian Connell and others

April 10: Kelli Farrell and Ian Connell and others

April 17: no coffee hour—join us for Easter breakfast in Fellowship Hall at 9:30am!

April 24: no coffee hour—join us for tacos and activities at our second annual Earth Day Festival!



Many thanks to all our volunteers!

Sunday Usher Schedule: 8:30am

April 3: volunteer needed

April 10: volunteer needed

April 17: Youth

April 24: volunteer needed

Sunday Lay Reader Schedule: 8:30am

April 3: Monica Liddle

April 10: volunteer needed

April 17: Youth

April 24: volunteer needed

Health and Healing Team

Monica Liddle and Susan Larson Kidd are cochairing this committee. They would love to have any past, present or new members interested in joining the committee contact them. Also, if there is anyone interested in offering a one hour talk on a wellness or health issue, please email Susan at susan.larsonkidd@drslk.com. Thank you!

Every single soul is a poem.

~Michael Franti







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 or access the schedule on our website under the menu "for volunteers." Here is the schedule for this month:

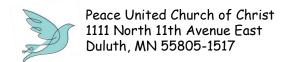
April 4: Stephanie Pearson

April 11: Sarah Nelson

April 18: Nancy Taggart

April 25: Judith Derauf

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.



(218) 724-3637 www.peaceucc.org

E-mail: office@peaceucc.org

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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

<u>Instagram</u>: peaceduluth <u>Twitter</u>: PeaceDuluth

Jim: jim@peaceucc.org Nathan: nathan@peaceucc.org

Nancy: nancy@peaceucc.org Rose: rose@peaceucc.org Charlotte: charlotte@peaceucc.org

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!