

MARCH 2022



The Peace Bell

PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 2

7:30am & 12:15pm in the sanctuary

7:00pm in the sanctuary
or via livestream

We begin Lent with Ash Wednesday on March 2. One Lenten custom practiced in the UCC and many Christian bodies is to have our foreheads marked with ashes as a sign of our mortality. It's a reminder to us that we come from the Earth and we return to the Earth, and every moment in-between is full of possibilities for abundant life. Join with others on Ash Wednesday as we synchronize our spiritual lives in anticipation of resurrection.

We will distribute ashes on Ash Wednesday at 7:30am and 12:15pm. At 7:00pm we will offer our traditional Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary.

Peace Church Cabaret

Saturday, March 5, 7:00pm

in the sanctuary and via livestream

Please join us for the annual Peace Church Cabaret! This rescheduled event will be a fun evening of performances by various artists including Melanie Sever, Byron Klimek, Ian Connell, Mark Hakes, Mark Harroo, Buzz Munns, Susan Larson Kidd, Wendy Durrwachter, and Nathan Holst. This event will be a fundraiser for the Afghan Resettlement Fund.

Walking In Faith

Wednesdays at 5:00pm

beginning March 9

Bud Trnka, Monica Liddle and Susan Larson Kidd are revitalizing Peace's Health and Wellness Committee. The first new event will be a Lenten event, *Walking in Faith*, which will meet each Wednesday (before choir) for the duration of Lent. Watch for details, and please join us in person at church! Email Susan at susan.larsonkidd@drslk.com with any questions.

Holden Evening Prayer

Every Wednesday during Lent

Beginning March 9, 7:00pm

On Wednesday evenings during Lent, join us at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary for Holden Evening Prayer, a much-beloved, simple service that follows traditional form while using contemporary and inclusive language. It was written by Marty Haugen in 1985-86 during a musical residency at Holden Village, which is a vibrant place of education, programming and worship in Chelan, Washington, for anyone who seeks to strengthen their journey of faith.



Lenten Journeys

Peace Church invites you to travel through Lent with a small group using one of two devotionals: *Lent of Liberation* by Cheri L. Mills or *40-Day Journey with Maya Angelou*. *Lent of Liberation* connects the stories of enslaved persons with Scripture passages, contemporary reflections and questions for the readers to ponder. The book of Maya Angelou's writings pairs Scripture passages with excerpts from her work and poses thoughtful questions about the readers' own journeys. All groups will meet via Zoom, and they will be offered at various times during each week. Pick a group and Zoom in to share your Lenten journey.

Maya Angelou groups:

Thursdays, beginning March 3, 7:00pm,

led by Liz Liebenstein and Cindy Macaulay.

Mondays beginning March 7, 7:00pm, led by

Gary Boelhower.

Wednesdays beginning March 9, 12:00pm, led by

Marilyn Mayry.

Lent of Liberation groups:

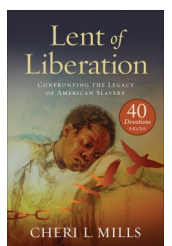
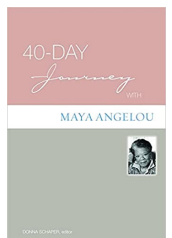
Thursdays, beginning March 3, 7:00pm, led by

Pastor Jim.

Tuesdays, beginning March 8, 12:00pm, led by

Nathan Holst and Pastor Charlotte.

Limited copies of each book are available at the church office. Books can also be ordered through Zenith Bookstore. *Lent of Liberation* is also available as a Kindle book from Amazon and *40-Day Journey with Maya Angelou* can also be ordered through Target.



From Interim Pastor Jim

The glory of these forty days; We celebrate with songs of praise; For Christ by whom all things are made, for us has fasted and has prayed.

So also Esther at her hour for such time was filled with power to go the king prepared to give her life, to let her people live.

Then grant us Christ, like them to be, full off in fast and prayer with thee; our spirits strengthen with thy grace and give us joy to see thy face. – Lenten hymn

Dear friends,

We're starting a new season in church this week, Lent, and starting a new monthlong observance, Women's History Month. We have special programs planned for both. And we're inaugurating our 150th anniversary year festivities too on March 13. This year we'll mark our history not only by remembering the past but by making a new history together influenced by the best of our heritage but unfettered by old patterns that no longer serve us.

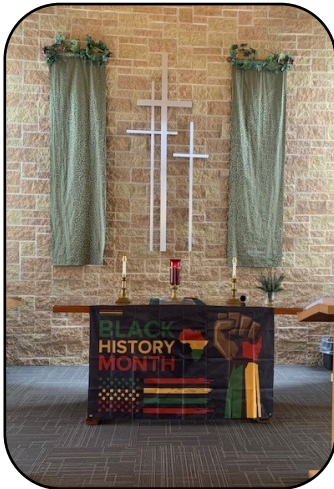
Lent is a time to start over, to make new beginnings, to repent, to shed, to turn and return, to try on new ways and to explore changes. We can do anything for 40 days. What kind of resurrection can you imagine for your own life, or for Peace Church, or for Duluth? If we can imagine it, we can live into it. Resurrection isn't simply about life after death, nor does it apply solely to the life of Jesus. Resurrection is about life before death, and it is available to all of us.

Embrace Lent as a time of Reinvention. Join us as we look at the gospel stories of transformation. Participate in a Lenten Journey group. Make a commitment to attend church every Sunday for six weeks in a row, in person or online via livestream. If you're easing back in to church try early communion at 8:30am or join us for a more lively and longer service of the word at 10:30am. Pray with us on Wednesday nights at 7:00pm for a half hour using the beautiful musical setting of Holden Evening Prayer, bolstered by the choir. We're giving Taizé prayer a primary place on First Sundays at 5:00pm starting March 6. The Education/Liberation hour on Sundays at 9:30am has an exciting new emphasis with some of Duluth's most interesting changemakers as our guests.

Something new is happening on the bluff overlooking Lake Superior. The bells of the Peace tower are calling to you. Join our spiritual renewal as we re-gather to prepare for resurrection in April.

Your fellow Peacemaker,

Pastor Jim



We honored Black History month in worship service throughout February.

Pastor Charlotte, Gary Boelhower, Pastor Jim and others shared a meal with four Afghan women who arrived in Duluth recently.



This is how Pastor Jim's cat, Keats, copes with the Minnesota winter.



Our "Covid" choir performed for our livestream-only services in February.



Pastor Jim enjoyed a lovely chicken pot pie made by a church member.

Sundays in March

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 must be worn indoors. 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, March 6: First Sunday of 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.

Sunday, March 13: Second Sunday of 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. We will have a special appearance by Kirby Wood as Peace Church's very first German pastor.

Sunday, March 20: Third Sunday of 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 the band.

Sunday, March 27: Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

10:30am: Please join us for worship in the sanctuary or via livestream.

Sunday Connects

Sundays in March at 12:00pm via Zoom

As an alternative to in-person coffee hour, we will continue to offer the Sunday Connect group time to chat, pray and connect casually over Zoom for individuals who have joined worship through the livestream and cannot make it to in-person coffee hour downstairs. The Zoom link can be found in your weekly email.

March 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 ask folks to wear their mask unless they are eating or drinking. On March 13 we will have a special coffee hour to celebrate our German heritage.



Women Who Change The World

Sundays at 9:30am

In the Fellowship Hall

During the month of March, Peace Church will celebrate women who have made significant contributions to the world, and more specifically, to life here in Duluth. One each Sunday, the Adult Forum will feature a woman change-maker who will be interviewed by a member of Peace. All Adult Forums will take place in the Fellowship Hall and begin at 9:30am. We will also honor them at our 10:30am service.

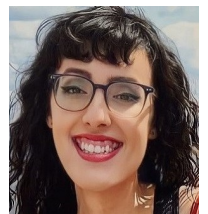
March 6: Deb Holman, tireless advocate for the homeless in Duluth and street outreach worker at CHUM will join us this morning. One colleague has described her as "a warrior for folks experiencing homelessness" in Duluth. She will be interviewed by Cathy Carlson, who along with her husband Jerry, regularly prepares Thursday night dinners for CHUM guests.



March 14: Sister Lois Eckes, former prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery. Sister Lois has served on the Board of Damiano Center and been an advocate for social justice in Duluth. She will be interviewed by Marilyn Mayry, an Oblate of St. Scholastica Monastery, retired college instructor, and spiritual director.



March 20: Moira Villiard, multidisciplinary artist and community organizer. One recent installation is the Chief Buffalo mural along the Lake walk, dedicated this past fall. Join us as we learn more about her work.



March 27: Classie Dudley, a Duluth native, president of Duluth NAACP since February 2021, community organizer and activist will lead our adult forum this morning to talk about her journey as a female change-maker in the Duluth community. Betty Greene from the Dismantling Racism team will be facilitating this forum.



Peace Church News

150th Anniversary

1872-2022



This year marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of St. Paul's Evangelical Church in 1872, which would become Peace United Church of Christ in 1959. Our history is rich with stories of pioneers and risk takers, activists and peace makers, building a church on the outskirts of Duluth, a city just a decade old.

Over this year we want to **tell those stories**, as well as the stories of those of us who make Peace Church what it is today. In the Spring we plan to offer opportunities to participate in individual interviews, group Zoom meetings and even a video booth on Sundays. We want to capture what makes Peace important to you. We will share those stories throughout the year so we can get to know our congregation again as we come out of the pandemic.

Our **Kickoff Event** will be a short presentation during our worship services on March 13th, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the first recorded congregational meeting, beautifully written in German. We hope to have German goodies at coffee hour (COVID permitting) and debut a display of historical artifacts.

There are plans for **special events** celebrating significant milestones. Here are just a few:

- ◆ March 11, 1872
First recorded congregational meeting of St. Paul's Evangelical Church
- ◆ Summer, 1873
The first Peace Bell was created, cast from a cannon captured during the Franco-Prussian War
- ◆ Summer 1959
The Bell Tower was built and dedicated. The second and third bells were added
- ◆ August 1959
Cornerstone laid of current Church
- ◆ September 1959
Renamed to Peace United Church of Christ

Watch for monthly articles in the Peace Bell, bulletin inserts, social media posts and invitations to the special events. Peace has an incredibly rich history, and our History Committee has done incredible work preserving the stories we hope to share with you.

Many thanks to our 150th Anniversary Committee—Bill Kohlts, Sharon Crosby, Linda Goese, Justin Olson, Cyndy Klinksiek, Laurie Berner, Susan Isernhagen, Lynn Devlin, Jan Eschbach, Janell Kohls and Marsha Hystead.



Welcome Ashton!

Ashton is the newest addition to our Sunday Tech team! He brings a lot of knowledge with him and we are lucky to have him on staff. You'll find him in the back of the sanctuary on most Sunday mornings.



Welcome Spencer!

Spencer has joined the team of volunteers who come each week to clean. He and his job coach from ACE come three days a week to vacuum. Spencer loves his work and is always excited to be here. We are so grateful for his presence.

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, March 10 & 24.**

Therapeutic SomaYoga

Mondays from 9:00-10:15am

Fireside Room

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

Monday Book Group

Monday, March 7 & 21, 3:00pm via Zoom

The Monday Book Group formed many years ago to read and study one of Sister Joan Chittister's books in preparation for her coming to Duluth to speak publicly. The group continued to meet to read and discuss a variety of books and articles by well-known and not-so-well known authors. Along the way we have shared questions, joys, and challenges. Since March is Women's History Month, we will revisit our beginnings and read *Scarred by Struggle*, *Transformed by Hope* by Sister Joan.

Everyone goes through times of pain and sorrow, depression and darkness, stress and suffering. It is in the necessary struggles of life, however, that we stretch our souls and gain new insights enabling us to go on. Meant to help readers cope with their own suffering and disappointment, *Scarred by Struggle*, *Transformed by Hope* is, in Chittister's words, "an anatomy of struggle and an account of the way hope grows in us, despite our moments of darkness, regardless of our regular bouts of depression. It is an invitation to look again at the struggles of life in order to remember how to recognize new life in our souls the next time our hearts turn again to clay."

Join us whether you are a regular attendee or not. Please email pcragun@d.umn.edu to be added to the Zoom invitation if you would like to be included in the discussions. Three copies of the book have been purchased and will be made available.

During Lent, let us find concrete ways to overcome our indifference.
~Pope Francis

Thursday Morning Book Club

Thursday, March 17, 10:00am
in the Fireside Room

The Thursday Morning book club has chosen *My Monticello* by Jocelyn Nicole Johnson for March. The group meets the third Thursday of each month from 10:00am to noon. For more information contact Alice Marks at amarks001@charter.net.

Women's Brown Bag

Wednesday, March 2
1:00pm in the Fireside Room

Women's Ash Wednesday Gathering

Our regular monthly gathering falls on March 2 which is also Ash Wednesday. With the reduction in Covid cases, small groups are again invited to meet in person, but not for meals—so we will continue our 1:00 gathering and meet in the Fireside Room where we can be somewhat distanced. Come for some conversation about Lent, about Ash Wednesday, and we will end with a short worship that includes receiving ashes and communion. Even if you choose to come to the evening service with family, you are invited to be part of this special women's gathering with Pastor Charlotte.



Sharing Our Spiritual Journey Group

Mondays beginning March 7, 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 on the front page and in your weekly email. If you have questions or would like to rsvp for the zoom link, please contact Gary Boelhower at gboelhower@msn.com.

Update

Making Meaning Out Of Malignancy

Monday, March 28, 5:00-6:00pm

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



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, March 2 & 16

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 formats)

Stewardship Team:

Thursday, March 3
5:30pm Zoom

Adult Ed Team:

TBD

Dismantling Racism Team:

Thursday, March 17
3:30pm Zoom

Children's Ministry Team:

Tuesday, March 8
6:00pm Fireside

Worship & Arts Committee:

Wednesday, March 9
11:30am Sanctuary

History Team:

Wednesday, March 9
1:00pm in the History Rm

Shared Ministry Team:

Wednesday, March 9
4:00pm via Zoom

Finance Team:

Wednesday, March 9
4:00pm via Zoom

Property Team:

Wednesday, March 9
6:00pm Fellowship Hall

Food & Fellowship Team:

check email for details

Acting for Justice Hub:

Sunday, March 13
2:00pm via Zoom

Climate Justice Team:

TBD

Health and Wellness Team:

TBD



Wednesday Activity Schedule

5-6pm: Bible Study via Zoom

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

6:00pm: Adult Choir in the Sanctuary

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

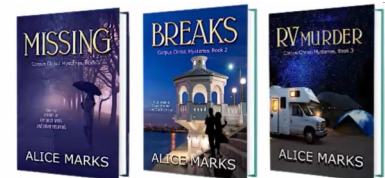
Youth Group (Grades 6-8)

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.

Did you Know?

Alice Mark's third book will be available in March. The title is *The RV Murder*, the third of a trilogy called the Corpus Christi Mysteries. This book has many Duluth characters and connections. It will be available at Zenith Bookstore and through Amazon. It will be available as a paperback, Kindle and audio book.



The Corpus Christi Mysteries Trilogy

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.

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



The PEACE BELL

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

EDITORIAL TEAM

Elise Courtright &
Nancy Nelson
Photographer: John Ameal

PEACE BELL ARTICLES

are due **Monday, March 21**
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 with masks on 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, March 6, 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 for this new time!



Notable Dates

Wednesday, March 2: Ash Wednesday

Tuesday, March 8: International Women's Day

Sunday, March 13: Daylight Saving Time begins

Thursday, March 17: St. Patrick's Day

Sunday, April 10: Palm Sunday

Friday, April 15: Good Friday

Sunday, April 17: Easter Sunday

Friday, April 22: Earth Day

Health and Wellness Committee

Monica Liddle and Susan Larson Kidd are co-chairing 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@drrslk.com. Thank you!



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!

Interpreting Services for Worship

Interpreting Services will be provided on an as-needed 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

We are currently planning to gather for our Women's Retreat April 22-23 at the Clearwater Forest Retreat Center. Rev. Racheal Bauman from St. John's UCC on Madeline Island will help lead the retreat (with a possible additional Madeline Island special guest). We know that covid can often shift our plans, so watch for details to confirm for next 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 be a part of the planning team, please contact Charlotte at charlotte@peaceucc.org.

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 next 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*

As we round our way into another Lent season, I've been pondering what Lent means in a time of transition at our church. Though Lent has many layers of meaning, I am particularly thinking of how Lent is a time of reflection, individually and collectively. It's a time to get honest with all the messiness of life, but it also often includes the seeds for new vision and resurrection (that we celebrate liturgically through Easter).

While many of us follow the wonderful practice of discipline and individual reflection during Lent, I want to lift up some of the collective transition work that I think also connects with the spirit of Lent. In particular, I want to highlight some of the reflection that is happening with our children and youth in this time here at Peace.

We are in a time of transition that includes ever shifting needs as families navigate covid. Because of this, I facilitated some feedback sessions with parents of elementary aged kids to find out what the needs of our families are in this time (you can read about the results of this separately on page 9). The parents who participated (we had 5-7 parents in each session) spoke honestly about their struggles, about their hopes for children's ministry, and left with a feeling of connection and excitement about the future direction at Peace. While there is much we cannot do currently because of covid, our Children's Ministry Team is already integrating the feedback and forming plans of what we can do right now while we dream into the time when we can gather for food, music, and play again. For example, after our incredibly fun outing with snow tubing, we are planning to gather again in March at a Peace family's place in the country for sledding and time around a fire. This is how we can start to grow the much longed for sense of connection and community that our people are needing right now. Then looking into the future, we already have some parent leaders who are visioning of a regular time to gather for singing, gratitude, moments of mindfulness, and maybe even some puppets or skits. All of this came out of the seeds of reflection that are starting to grow.

During the season of Lent, I'm planning to do another round of feedback/reflection sessions with parents of middle and high school youth. Because we value youth leadership and perspectives, we're holding a session for our middle school youth and another session for our high school youth so we can hear directly from them what they're needing and longing for in this time. I hope that this kind of Lenten collective reflection can once again plant the seeds of new vision and possibility.

I am looking forward to reflecting in Lent. I am looking forward to resurrection on Easter. And I am looking forward to walking with our congregation as we dream into this year of renewal and vision together.

~Nathan Holst

Peace Family Outing at Nathan and Veronica's House

Saturday, March 12, 2:00-4:00pm

Are you one of the many families who are longing for outdoor gatherings to connect with other Peace folks? Come join us for a Saturday afternoon of fun and connection around a fire with s'mores and sledding. Nathan and Veronica Gaidelis-Langer offered to host us at their place in the country on Saturday, March 12 from 2:00-4:00pm. Nathan Holst will send out details and directions the week before, but contact him (nathan@peaceucc.org) with any questions you have or if you want to RSVP.

Children's Church

First Sunday of the Month

In our recent parent feedback sessions, we heard that while there are many families who come to worship with kids and it works to stay the whole time, there are some who expressed a need for an alternative space for kids during the service. **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 to try to meet this need (and parents can choose to send their kids or not). The basic idea is that kids stay for the service until 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. More details to come next month --we're excited to see if this experiment helps meet some more needs of our parents and kids.

Children and Youth Ministry

Parent Feedback/Vision Sessions Take Aways

Thanks to all our parents who came to one of our feedback/vision sessions in January. We had some great conversations and we heard lots of parents share gratitude to talk and connect with each other. Here are some core take aways from our conversations:

- Parents want to nurture in our kids the values community, inclusion, vulnerability.
- Covid has been challenging and many families feel disconnected; because of that, parents want:
- More opportunities to connect—gatherings outdoors with food and/or fires (as covid allows).
- Lots of energy around more music, puppets, and drama, with short opportunities for stillness, yoga, and gratitude.
- Part of what parents want is for kids to know what it means to be Christian; be able to talk to kids about God.
- Want more volunteer opportunities and perhaps some kind of additional calendar of events.
- Would like parents to be involved in Sunday School sometimes and have a gathering for parents other times (to connect and/or talk about parenting).
- Like the idea of a children's church (in the middle of the service) for some of our kids—have the option but not the expectation for all kids.
- Would like to see an OWL (Our Whole Lives—sexuality curriculum) for younger kids.

Our Children's Ministry Team is already brainstorming actions we plan to take based on this feedback, some in the immediate future and some for when covid allows us to open up some more. We've got some good energy going and we are excited to make our children's ministry program an exciting one this year. Keep an eye out in the next couple months for new plans.

Youth Ministry in 2022: Parent and Youth Vision and Feedback Sessions

In this time of transition, we especially need to be connected and to hear from our Peace parents and youth. We just finished a round with parents of elementary kids (and had some great take aways) and we want to hear from parents of middle school and high school youth. In addition, we want to hear from youth about your needs and wants.

Parents: We are setting aside three times in March for parents—two over zoom and one in person to gather and share in conversation together. We need to hear from you (as parents) what you want your youth to experience here at Peace. What resources do you need as you model faith and spirituality in the lives of your youth? What are your needs and what would your youth most enjoy in their time here? What would motivate them to come and join in this community on a regular basis? Come join us for one (or all) of the following sessions: **Wednesday, March 9 at 7:30pm on Zoom; Sunday, March 13 at 9:30am on Zoom; Sunday, March 20 at 9:30am in-person in the fireside room.** Nathan will send out zoom links, so keep an eye out.

Youth: We want to hear directly from youth what your feedback is about what you experience at Peace. What are your needs and what would you most enjoy in your time here at Peace? **Middle school youth** will have an in-person feedback session on our usual youth group time on **Wednesday, March 9 at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall.** We invite **Confirmation youth (and other high school youth)** to come a bit before confirmation to join in the conversation on **Wednesday March 16 at 6:30pm in the Fireside room.**



Luka and Lachlan sang "Rejoice" directed by Susan Larson Kidd in worship service on Sunday, February 20. We are so blessed!



Children's Ministry Continued...

Sunday School in March

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. Nathan will email parents about logistics. Any questions, please contact Nathan at nathan@peaceucc.org.

Kids' Choir

Sunday, March 13, 10:30am worship

Our wonderful kids' choir will be singing in service on March 13. 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!



Peace Library

New Adult Books:

Every Monday Matters: 52 Ways to Make a Difference by Mathew Emerzain and Kelly Bozza

East of the Mountains by David Gutterson

The Four Winds: A Novel by Kristin Hannah

The Night Watchman: A Novel by Louise Erdrich

New Children's Books:

The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter

Goldilocks and the Three Baboons by Liza Charlesworth

Bear's New Friend by Karma Wilson

In the Beginning There Was Joy by Matthew Fox



Reflections from Charlotte

ASHES to ASHES

How does the season of Lent speak to you? These six weeks before Easter are a time of preparation: preparation for Easter, preparation for renewal, preparation for transformation.

Sometimes I've thought of Lent as a period of spiritual cocoon—when to all outward appearances, nothing much is happening, but internally, wonderous changes are taking place. In those years, Lent was a time of giving up, letting go, or taking on some reflective task like journaling or drawing or reading.

Sometimes I've thought of Lent as a period of spiritual rehearsal—preparing for renewal by rehearsing what that renewal might look like. In those years, Lent was a time for taking or deepening some commitment to the formation of beloved community. One year it meant intentionally spending more time with my neighbors. Another year it meant enlarging my understanding of a justice issue through participation in a discussion group.

This year? I have been pondering Lent with questions about our collective experience with covid. In the past two years we have had a collective encounter with our human vulnerability and mortality. Ashes remind us that we are made of dust—the good earth created by God, molded, and shaped into human form—and animated by God's own breath. Our lives are fragile—though most of the time we prefer to ignore that. These past two years remind us how precious and fleeting life is. Just as we are waiting eagerly for spring, so we are waiting for release from this virus. But I wonder—what lessons will we take with us? How do we prepare for life when covid is contained if not eliminated? How has sorrow and isolation shaped us? And maybe transformed us?

How does Lent speak to you this year? For what are you preparing?

Blessings to you each this Lenten season,
Pastor Charlotte

Free Online Mental Health Support Groups for Individuals and Families

NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) offers a variety of free online peer support groups for adults and young adults living with a mental illness, their families, friends, spouses/partners, as well as parents of children and teens. African-American, GLBTQ and BIPOC community focused groups are also offered. Led by trained peer facilitators, the support groups help individuals and families learn coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences. Find a complete listing of group meetings and how to join in by going to namimn.org and clicking on "Support Groups" or go straight to <https://namimn.org/support/nami-minnesota-support-groups/>.

Council Corner

Council Minutes

The council minutes for the **January** 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.

By now I hope many, if not most, Peace Church members have had a chance to connect with Pastor Jim. I very much appreciate his forward looking and optimistic orientation to his task of guiding us through our interim time. There is one thing that he and Keats the cat may not have fully thought through before accepting invitation to join us, and that is the length and depth of Minnesota winter. So to pastor Jim and everyone else who is tired of this season, take heart, March 1 marks the beginning of meteorological spring.

I offer these observations from the February 15 Coordinating Council meeting:

Diane Swanoski shared a beautiful excerpt from *The Book of Joy* by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama that spoke of mindful regard for others and showing compassion to them.

Marsha Hystead, Chair of the 150th Anniversary Celebration Committee, presented the preliminary plans and ideas for a year long series of events and activities to commemorate and celebrate this huge milestone.

Dick Goese, Treasurer, reported the January Financial Reports. We are off to a good start with a positive net income. Expenses are still slowed by the COVID slowed activity level.

The Council appointed Mary Junnila and Bob Stevens to the newly formed Transition Team. The Team will begin meeting in March and begin their work of creating a vision for the church. Thanks to the ad hoc nominating committee, Mary Adams, Matt Ryan and Penny Cragun for their good work in recruiting a solid Transition Team.

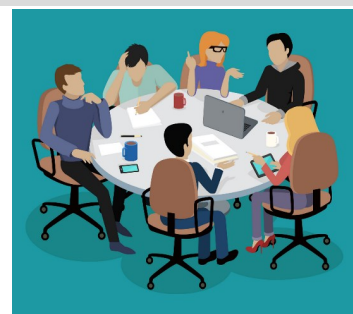
Council Nominating Committee for the 2022/23 program year will be Pastor Jim, Tom Hystead, Joan Peterson, Jessica Olson and Matt Ryan. This group will present the new slate of Council officers and members to the congregation at the congregational meeting in June.

The Spiritual Life Committee is working to reinvigorate the Health and Wellness Team. The Team will have activities that emphasize the relationship between the health of the environment and our physical health and wellbeing. I am looking forward to real spring and the work of the H+W Team.

The Minister's reports detailed the hard work that Pastor Jim, Charlotte and Nathan have done over the past month, both within their individual responsibility and that which they do as a team. Collectively their work is focused on our reconnection to the church and one another and vision for the future of Peace Church.

Charlotte Frantz, Interim Assoc. Pastor, updated the Council on the Immigrant Welcoming Team. This Team has created a community wide partnership that organized in November 2021, applied for appropriate status to the U.S. Department of State in January and raised the funds needed to bring four young Afghan women to Duluth on February 14. An amazing amount of work in a very short time frame. Great accomplishment. Congratulations and thank you, Charlotte.

~Tom Hystead, Moderator



Our Peace Choir was back to sing in worship on Sunday, February 20 after closing our church to in-person service due to Covid. We are happy to be open again!

Church Coordinating Council
will meet Tuesday, March 15 at
6:30pm in the Fireside Room.



There's something about it that makes sense, Lent. You give something up, and everything's more joyful.
~Elaine Stritch

A Word For Justice

Climate Justice Team News

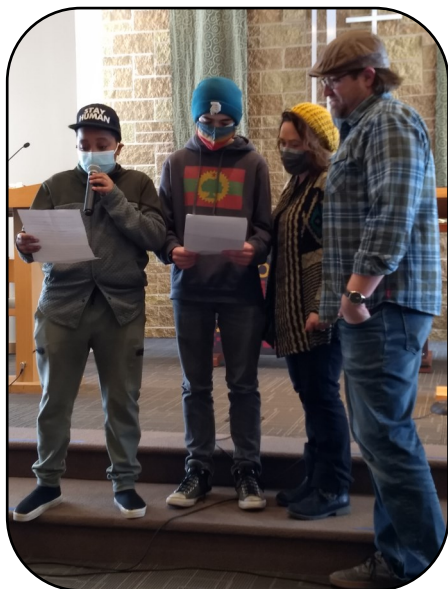
We at Peace Church can celebrate the passage of the Duluth Climate Emergency Declaration in April 2021, which we voted to support in January 2021. Now we have more to celebrate: the new Duluth Climate Action Work Plan presented on Valentine's Day 2022!

https://duluthmn.gov/media/12752/duluth-cawp_final_and_financememo.pdf

This is an important movement for our city, applying to City operations and buildings. Since City emissions are only 4% of our community-wide emissions, we can work to spread this goal community wide with the Citizens' Climate Action Plan <https://www.ecolibrium3.org/duluthclimateaction/> written by concerned citizens and Ecolibrium3!

Peace Climate Justice Team will work together with our Duluth community to reduce our community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by over 2 million tons, or 25 tons per citizen.

We are building the beloved community, even during the pandemic!



The Oestreich family read our contemporary reading in worship service on Sunday, February 20 titled *Excerpts of John Lewis speech prepared for March on Washington (8/28/63)* which is just one of the ways we celebrated Black History Month at Peace Church.



**If you were born with the weakness to fall,
you were born with the strength to rise.**
— *Rupi Kaur*

Theology, Sexuality and LGBTIQ+

Thursday, March 10, 7:00pm
in the sanctuary and via livestream

Peace Church will host Álvaro Durán, a guest in Minnesota, invited by United Seminary. Durán's presentation about the lives of the LGBTIQ+ Christians in El Salvador will reflect on role of the church in the struggle for liberating, healing, transformative and expansive spirituality at the margins. Durán is a theologian specializing in the issues of religions and human sexuality, a pastor in the Anglican tradition, LGBTIQ+ Human Rights advocate, and the first openly LGBTIQ+ religious leader in El Salvador.



Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2HeMCRzY1j4> for a 19 minute interview with Álvaro Durán and learn more about the inclusive community of faith he pastors.

Forums on Immigration

During February, three adult forums on immigration were recorded on Zoom and posted on the Peace website as a resource for both Peace members and other congregations interested in asylum seekers and Afghan newcomers. February 6 was an introduction to immigration and the variety of circumstances under which persons come to the United States. February 13 was an introduction to Afghan newcomer resettlement, including guests from First United Methodist Church in Wassau, WI who received a family in December. February 27 is an explanation of the Circle of Support program through which Peace Church has received four Afghan women for resettlement. Each segment in this three part series is about forty minutes long and together they provide a good overview of our congregation's current Immigrant Welcoming ministry. Please visit our website, www.peaceucc.org, if you would like to listen to the recordings.



Caring for Creation Zoom Series

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

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

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

www.uccmn.org/2021/12/08/great-lakes-creation-care-collaborative-offers-justice-series/

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: March 9 & 23

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

Thursday Chum Dinner: March 17

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.

Stepping On Up

Stepping On Up is a five year plan being developed by CHUM to increase shelter for those who are homeless or precariously housed. Phase 1 is the establishment of authorized living zones for those who are unsheltered. An authorized living zone would provide unsheltered persons a place to live until affordable housing is available. Phase 2 provides for the building of affordable housing. Finding areas for such zones and building public support for them is a major challenge. For more information, check the website <https://steppingonupduluth.org/>



We have such a wonderful Chum dinner crew each month at Peace Church. This month the Chum meal was prepared by Cathy Carlson, Cathy Ameal and Pam Kramer with many food items donated by others. Thank you!

CHUM Needs

- Folks to offer hospitality and assistance at the Warming Center in Lincoln Park.
- Landscapers and gardeners to plant and maintain raised beds and CHUM outdoor spaces.
- Groups and individuals to help pack food boxes at the Downtown Food Shelf. Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays 10:00am-Noon.
- The CHUM Outreach Program needs gift cards for gas or propane in \$20 increments. (Holiday, Kwik Trip, Menard's)
- Houseplants for indoor spaces at St. Francis Apartments and transplants (vegetables, flowers) in the spring for landscaping and garden beds.

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

Thank You from Chum

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

41st Annual Minnesota FoodShare— March Campaign

Special Offering Sunday, March 13

For 40 years, Minnesota has designated March as FoodShare Month—a statewide effort to insure that all residents have access to healthy food. This is the time to help support CHUM's Food shelf.



CHUM Food Shelf provides as much fresh, healthy, and nutritious food as possible to its clients, while also supporting local businesses. In 2021 we entered a new partnership with our local Community Supported Agriculture Guild and provided almost 6,000 pounds of farm-fresh produce during the summer. The goal this year is to purchase 70 CSA shares each week. With your help, we could provide 20,000 pounds of fresh produce and at the same time support local farmers.

The Food Shelf can always use canned and non-perishable food. However, through Second Harvest Food Bank, your dollar purchases much more than if you buy from the local grocery. For every dollar donated, the Food Shelf can buy \$7 worth of food!

If you have questions or want more information about how you can help, email Scott Van Daele or call (218) 727-2391.

Peace People

Thank You!

- Thanks to those who provided special music in February: George Ellsworth, Ron Deters, Susan Larson Kidd, Gudrun Witrak, Cathy and Kirby Wood, Wendy Durrwachter, Cathy and John Ameel, Byron Klimek, Melanie Sever, and the choir.
- Thank you Susan Larson Kidd for livestreaming Jim Soderberg's funeral service on January 30.
- Thank you Elise Courtright for filling in for Nancy while she was on vacation and for doing parts of Dan's job while he is recovering from a broken wrist.
- Thank you to all the individuals who cleaned the church while Dan was away: Dave Clark and Mollie Stapleton, Doreen Marciniak, Judith Derauf, Monica Liddle, Lisa Fitzpatrick, Diane Swanoski, Gwen Plumb, and Mary Adams.
- Thank you to Lori Dando for helping facilitate the adult forum on January 6.
- Many thanks to Sue Munns, Kay Stevens, Dorothy Huotari, and Melanie Lundell for knitting prayer shawls for our Peace Members who might need a reminder of our love and prayers. ~Gudrun Witrak
- Here is a big thank you to our generous donors of Peanut Butter, Jelly, and Granola bars! We are bursting at the seams with them and so thankful for your largesse! ~Gudrun Witrak
- I just wanted to thank everyone for your patience this past month in tolerating the changes in our sound and video in-house and on the stream. Not only have we been blessed by new people for me to train, we've made some significant changes to the sound system. It has taken me a few weeks to tweak all the bugs out. Now I'm just so excited for you to come back and hear worship in the way it should be! I can't end without sharing my joy and gratitude to my amazing tech team, thank you! ~Susan
- Thank you to Melissa Boyle and Jen Stenersen for the handmade mittens, scarves and welcome cards for the Afghan refugees who recently moved to Duluth.
- Thanks to Dave Courtright for snow blowing at church and at Nancy's house.

Peace Church Directory

Are you wondering whatever happened to the new Peace Church Picture Directory? A group of Peace Church members have been working hard to make this a reality. Unlike previous directories; this one will be virtual. That means you will be able to access it from anywhere with your devices. We will also offer a printed directory for those who prefer that format. Both will have your picture, names, addresses and other pertinent information for those who have consented to share that information. Contact Elise Courtright (elise@peaceucc.org) with questions. We are so thankful to Rolf Hagberg for photography and editing, John Ameel for photography, and Brooke Tapp and Carrie Plamann for their excellent assistance.

In the not too distant future, you will be given an opportunity to create a secure login and see the directory. If you missed the opportunity to get your picture taken, please don't hesitate to submit one to the church office. You will have the opportunity to provide editing changes to your entry once we have the directory up and running. If we do this directory right; we should be able to edit new changes quite efficiently, so we want to make sure it gets set up correctly.

Keep in Your Prayers

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

Sympathy To

- Rene Montgomery and family on the death of her mother, Karen Bartlett, who passed away on February 2.

Memorials

- In honor of Jim Soderberg: John Soderberg.
- In honor of Jim Soderberg: Bill Hardesty.



Musician and friend George Ellsworth performed in worship on Sunday, February 13 for our livestream only service.

March Volunteer Schedules

Sunday Usher Schedule: 10:30am

March 6: Guy Hubert, need volunteer
March 13: Guy Hubert, need volunteer
March 20: Guy Hubert, need volunteer
March 27: Guy Hubert, need volunteer

Sunday Greeter Schedule: 10:30am

March 6: need volunteer
March 13: need volunteer
March 20: Ellyn Wiens
March 27: need volunteer

Sunday Lay Reader Schedule: 10:30am

March 6: Phyllis Cook
March 13: Ellyn Wiens
March 20: Laurie Berner
March 27: need volunteer



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



Coffee Hour Volunteers

Sundays at 9:45am

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

March 6: Andy and Libby Fena, Judy Hlina, Terese Tomanek

March 13: Bob and Rene Montgomery, Karola and Rick Dalen, Stacey Stark

March 20: Joe Ehlers and Sarah Nelson, Judy Hlina, Mary Adams, Deborah McLeod

March 27: Laura Greensmith, Lori Williams, Niki Hysjulien and Tim Johnson, Stacey Stark

*Please note—we will only be serving coffee on March 6 but will have treats beginning March 13 (with a special treat to celebrate our German roots!)

Many thanks to all our volunteers!

Sunday Usher Schedule: 8:30am

March 6: need volunteer
March 13: Aimee Brown
March 20: need volunteer
March 27: need volunteer

Bud Trnka was our lay reader on Sunday, February 20 on our first Sunday back to in-person worship. Thanks to all the volunteers who help make Sunday mornings run smoothly.



Sunday Lay Reader Schedule: 8:30am

March 6: need volunteer
March 13: Marilyn Mayry
March 20: need volunteer
March 27: need volunteer

Monday Meals

Though most of our volunteer ministries were suspended during the pandemic, providing Monday meals for **Loaves and Fishes Dorothy Day House** is still going strong, thanks to our faithful volunteers. If you are interested in joining this group to sign up to bring a meal, email elise@peaceucc.org or access the schedule on our website under the menu "for volunteers." Here is the schedule for this month:

March 7: Judy Derauf

March 14: Nancy Taggart

March 21: Gayle and Jack Kelly

March 28: Phyllis Cook

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



Peace United Church of Christ
 1111 North 11th Avenue East
 Duluth, MN 55805-1517

(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

Instagram: peaceduluth **Twitter:** PeaceDuluth

EMAIL ADDRESSES: Pastor Jim: pastorjim@peaceucc.org Office: office@peaceucc.org

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!*