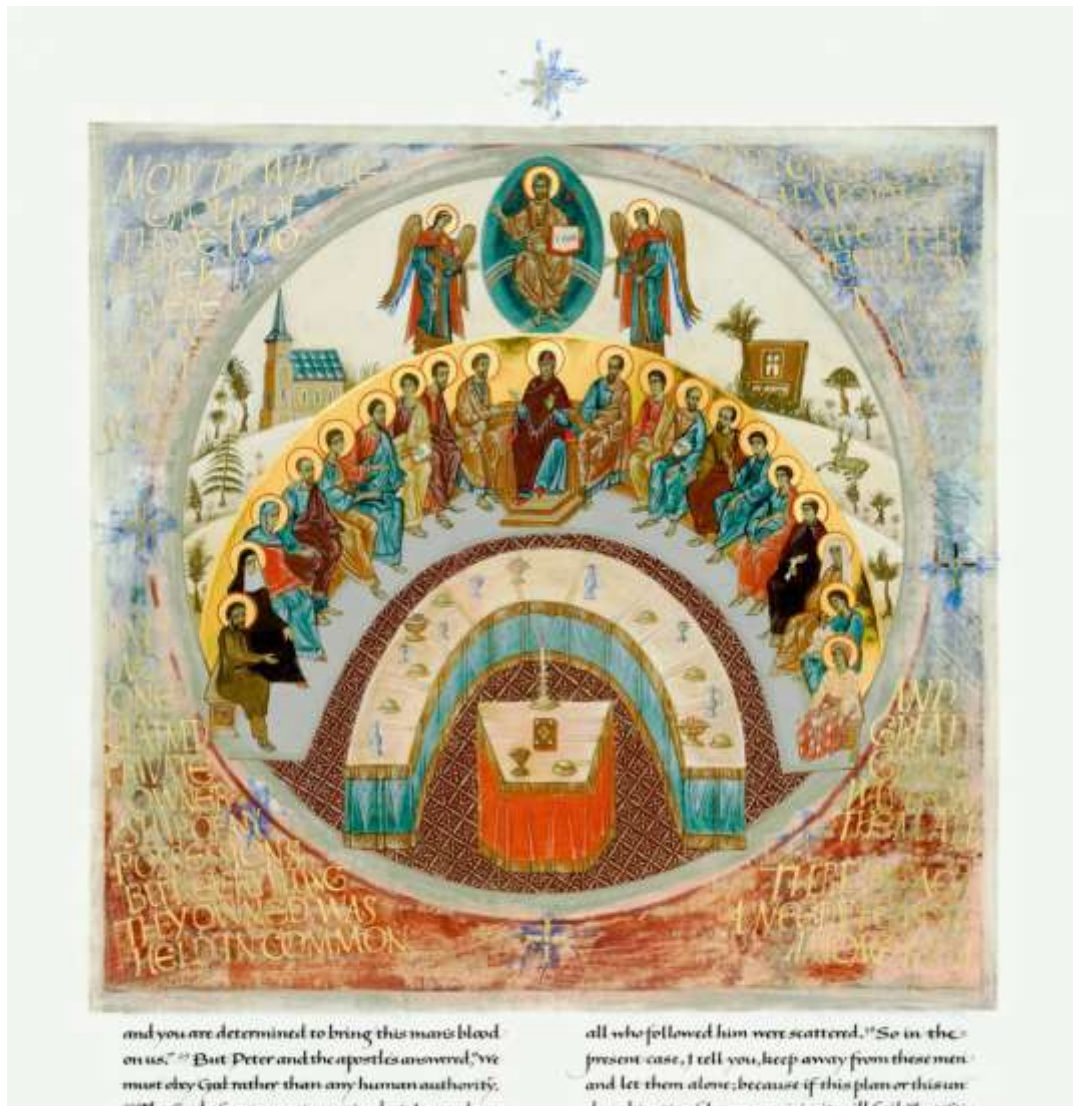


**Peace United Church of Christ
June 21, 2026
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30am**



Life in Community, from the St. John's Bible

1111 North 11th Avenue East, Duluth, MN 55805

www.peaceucc.org
office@peaceucc.org

Prelude *God of Mercy, Hold Us in Love*, Marty Haugen Matt Prois
Kristy Marie Nur Jehan Chisti

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Ringling of the Bells

*Call to Worship from Psalm 86

The Holy One is great and does marvelous things. Delight in God!

The Holy One gladdens the soul. We lift them up!

In the day of trouble, we call on Comforter and Protector, Counselor and Provider, Companion and Peace.

The Holy One soothes the soul. We call upon their name!

The Gracious and Eternal God gives ear to our prayers and listens to our cries.

The Holy One hears the soul. We turn to our God in hope and faith!

*Song *God's Eye Is on the Sparrow* #475, *New Century Hymnal*

*Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heaven and home,
When God is ever my portion? My constant Friend will be:
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me;
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.*

Refrain:

*I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.*

*"Let not your heart be troubled," Christ's tender word I hear,
And resting on God's goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path God leads me but one step I may see:
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me;
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.*

Refrain:

*Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,
When song give place to sighing, when hope within me dies,
I then draw the close to my Savior, from care I am set free:
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me;
God's eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.*

Refrain:

*Prayer of Confession

Listening God, you know us. You know our attitudes, behavior, and character. You ground us in the fertile soil of your love. But we confess that at times, we feel rooted in sand. When we are overwhelmed, our hope collapses under despair, our fear overcomes our courage, and our uncertainty drives out faith. Help us, O God, both when we cry out and when we don't. Speak boldly to us, drowning out our doubts with your promise. Do a new thing in us, for us, and through us. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved, God has observed, received, and acknowledged our need and our hope. In Christ, new life has been revealed and opened to us. By Spirit, God leads us into renewing and transformative life. This is God's will for each and all of us.

The love and strength of God will sustain us through every trial and guide us through our journey of hope, healing, and wholeness. Thanks be to God!

*Passing of the Peace

Story for All Ages

Rev. Kathryn Tiede
Amanda McElray Hunter

Sending the Children

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

Hebrew Bible Reading

Genesis 21:8-21

Lynn Devlin, reader

The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Special Music

Father and Daughter, Paul Simon

Gospel Reading

Matthew 10:24-39

“A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

“Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,
and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

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

Sermon

Rev. Kathryn Tiede

Song

This Little Light of Mine

#525, *New Century Hymnal*

***This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.***

***Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine;
everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.***

***All around the world, I'm gonna let it shine;
all around the world, I'm gonna let it shine.
All around the world, I'm gonna let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.***

The Prayer of Jesus

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

Sung Amen

Offertory *Door of My Heart*, Paramahansa Yoganda

*Doxology

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

*Prayer of Dedication

*Closing Song *Lift Every Voice and Sing* #593, *New Century Hymnal*

***Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.***

***Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
come to the place for which our people sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.***

***God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
God who has brought us thus far on the way;
God, who by your might, led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, forget you;
Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.***

*Benediction

*Postlude

Unconditional II (Race and Religion), Arcade Fire

Assisting in Today's Service:

Cindy Macaulay, Pat Devlin, Marsha Hystead, and Mike Swanoski, Ushers
Cindy Macaulay, Martha Minchak & Craig Bublitz, Coffee Hour Volunteers



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Peace United Church of Christ Staff

Alex Nelson - Livestream Technician

Amanda McElray Hunter - Children, Youth and Small Group Coordinator

Bri Dornbush - Office Coordinator

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis - Pastor

Carrie Kelsey - Kitchen Manager

Dan Shepard - Maintenance

Jim Pospisil - Music Director

Rev. Laurie Crelly - Pastoral Care Chaplain

Mali Lorenz - Bookkeeper

Rachel Burnett - Business Manager

Sophia Farell - Soundboard Technician

2026 Foy Scholars

The 2026 Foy Scholars are 2026 high school graduates: Max Edmunds from East High School, Latasaija Garner from Denfeld High School, and Hank Kettelhut from Marshall School. Annika Nikoi, currently attending Loyola University, and Larisa Miller, of Howard University, are also 2026 Foy Scholars, returning as second-year recipients.

Max Edmunds served as Student Manager for the East High School Varsity Hockey program and will begin his college career with a significant number of credits earned at UMD through the Post Secondary Enrollment Option.

Latasaija Garner hopes to study journalism and political science at Loyola University. She served as a Student Representative on ISD 709 School Board and was captain of Denfeld's cheerleading team.

Hank Kettelhut will attend Carthage College and major in education - he hopes to become an elementary school teacher. While at Marshall, he served as captain of both the basketball and track teams.

Gifts to the Foy Scholarship Fund, held by Peace Church, are always welcome and will be used for 2027 Scholarships.

Special Offering Today: Foy Scholarship

Rev. Arthur Foy III was pastor at St. Mark AME and died in an auto accident in 2004. He was passionate about opening educational opportunities for young people. St. Mark, Peace, and other congregations support the Scholarship Fund in his name. You can donate by writing a check to Peace Church with Foy Scholarship in the memo, put cash in an offering envelope and label it Foy Scholarship, or donate online with Foy Scholarship in the notes.

Visitation Ministry Training Meeting Today after Coffee Hour

Are you interested in visiting a church member who is unable to attend church regularly, in elder care facilities, or recovering at home? Do you have 1-2 hours a month to visit, play a game, or share a meal with someone? Then I invite you to attend our training meeting, today, following coffee hour (11:30am) in the Fireside Room.

Stewarding the Memorial Prairie Garden

The Memorial Prairie Garden is a sacred space - a living testament to loss, love, and the enduring promise of renewal. For many families, it serves as a sanctuary to honor the memory of their children and other loved ones from our community. Caring for this special place requires ongoing stewardship to preserve its beauty, ecological health, and purpose for future generations. This week, Prairie Restorations, Inc. will be conducting prairie management work, with one or two follow-up days scheduled as needed.

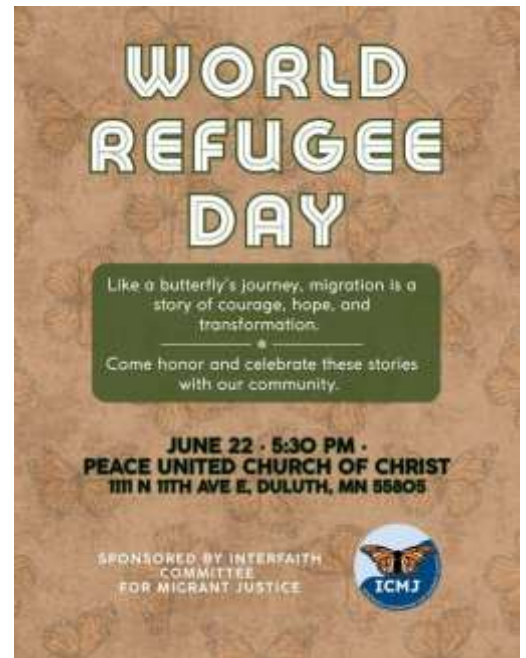
A primary focus of this effort is the removal of non-native invasive lupine, this particular species poses a serious threat to the health and diversity of our prairie.

If you see crews working in the prairie this week, please give them room to safely complete their important work. Prairie restoration is an ongoing process, and effective stewardship requires addressing invasive species before they become established. If interested in volunteering, please contact Jen Stenersen, jen.stenersen@gmail.com.

Peace Church Directory App



Have you joined the Church Center app yet? This is a great way to stay connected, engaged, and involved at Peace Church! This has replaced our Instant Church online directory. Use the QR code to download the app from the app store.



Once logged in, you can update your directory profile photo and manage what information other members are able to see. You can give online and connect with your church groups too!

Please note that you can create an account at any time but will need to have been invited to join and share in Peace United Church of Christ's private directory. Email office@peaceucc.org if you do not have access to the directory yet.

This Week's Schedule

Monday, June 22

5:30pm World Refugee Day Observance in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, June 24

8:30am Chum Breakfast Making in the Kitchen

5:00pm Bible Study in the Fireside Room and Zoom

Thursday, June 25

8:00am Men's Breakfast at Perkins on London Road

8:00am Rhubarb Assembly in the Fellowship Hall

12:00pm Rhubarb Baking in the Kitchen

3:00pm Dismantling Racism in the Fireside Room

5:30pm Worship & Arts Team Meeting in the Fireside Room

7:00pm Capital Campaign Team Meeting on Zoom

Saturday, June 27

9:00am Rhubarb Festival at Asbury United Methodist Church, 6822 Grand Ave, Duluth, MN 55807

Sunday, June 28

9:30am Worship with Holy Communion. Sermon with Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

10:30am Coffee Hour and Liturgies for Resisting Empire in the Fellowship Hall