

**Peace United Church of Christ
July 19, 2026
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30am**



Dream of Jacob, John August Swanson

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Prelude *A l'aube from Scènes de la forêt*, Mélanie Bonis Deb Rausch
Melanie Sever

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bells

*Call to Worship

Sacred Wisdom,
Voice that hums through the fabric of the universe,
Ever ancient, ever true,
We honor your quieted song,
And we remember the power you hold, unbroken, waiting to be
heard again.
We open our hearts, eager to receive the sacred gifts she
whispers, the fullness of her embrace waiting to transform us.
Let us worship God!

*Song *Blessed Assurance #473, New Century Hymnal*

***Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.***

Refrain:

***This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.***

***Perfect submission, perfect delight!
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.***

Refrain:

***Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love.***

Refrain:

*Prayer of Confession

**God of Our Ancestors, forgive us for the ways we have misused or
neglected the sacred knowledge of our ancestors. We want to
unlearn the lies that bind us and weave a new tapestry of**

knowing. Let us move with tenderness in every step, rising in defiance and knowing that liberation begins in the reclamation of our minds. Amen.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

We stand firm against the erasure of our truth, refusing to let it be silenced. With every breath, we honor the wisdom that shapes us.
Through Christ we are forgiven and set free for new life. Thanks be to God!

***Passing of the Peace**

Story for All Ages

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!***

Scripture

Genesis 28:10–19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on

the top of it. He called that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

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

Special Music *Invocation, Mélanie Bonis*

Sermon Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Song *Nearer, My God, to You* #606, New Century Hymnal

*Nearer, my God, to you, nearer to you.
I'll bear the cross as Christ calls me to do
and pray each day anew:
Nearer my God, to you, nearer my God, to you, nearer to you.
When I am wandering as Jacob did,
and in the deepest night the path is hid,
my dreams will bring me, too,
Nearer my God, to you, nearer my God, to you, nearer to you.
Let Jacob's ladder fill the sky above,
and angels carry down the faith and love
to keep this goal in view:
Nearer my God, to you, nearer my God, to you, nearer to you.
Then, waking from the night to morning air
by Bethel's stone, I'll know you hear my prayer,
and how my yearning grew:
Nearer my God, to you, nearer my God, to you, nearer to you.*

Sacrament of Holy Communion

God be with you.	And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.	We lift them up to God.
Let us give thanks to God.	It is a joy to give God thanks and praise.

Community Prayers and Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom 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 kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread and Cup

(In the United Church of Christ all are welcome to participate in Communion. Gluten free crackers are on the tray and we use non-alcoholic grape juice.)

Music during Communion, *Nocturne, Mélanie Bonis*

Prayer after Communion

Bountiful God, we give thanks for all we have received at this table through the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world with courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Offertory *For Deb and Melanie, op. 86, Jim Pospisil*

*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!**

*Closing Song *God of Grace and God of Glory #436, New Century Hymnal*

***God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.***

***From the evils that surround us and assail the Savior's ways,
from the fears that long have bound us – free our hearts for faith and
praise.***

***Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days, for the living of these days.***

***Cure your children's warring madness bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
make our broken spirits whole, make our broken spirits whole.***

***Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be
armored with all Christlike graces, in the fight to set us free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
in the quest for liberty, in the quest for liberty.***

***Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore, serving you whom we adore.***

*Benediction

May we open our hearts to the knowledge that flows from the unlikeliest of places, from voices we never expected and hands we've never met. Let us surrender to the quiet gifts they offer, recognizing that wisdom often arrives in the most humble of forms, ready to teach us. We commit to learning from those who have been told they have nothing to teach us. Amen.

*Postlude

Pour Artemis, Mélanie Bonis

Assisting in Today's Service:

Cyndi Brown, Kate Nicoletti, and Phyllis Cook, Ushers

Janell Kohls, Judy Derauf, and Gretchen Karstens, Coffee Hour Volunteers

Our liturgy in this season is adapted from
Liturgies for Resisting Empire by Kat Armas.

Peace United Church of Christ Staff

Alex Nelson – Livestream Technician

Amanda McElray Hunter – Children, Youth and Small Group Coordinator

Bri Dornbush – Office Coordinator

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis – Pastor

Carrie Kelsey – Kitchen Manager

Dan Shepard – Maintenance

Jim Pospisil – Music Director

Rev. Laurie Crelly – Pastoral Care Chaplain

Mali Lorenz – Bookkeeper

Rachel Burnett – Business Manager

Sophia Farell – Soundboard Technician



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Summer Worship Series: *Liturgies for Resisting Empire* by Kat Armas

In *Liturgies for Resisting Empire*, Cuban American theologian and writer Kat Armas provides a roadmap for Christians seeking a countercultural way of living that prioritizes community and humanity over dominance and power.

Pastor Corinne, Pastor Laurie, and Amanda selected this book to guide our summer worship and after-worship discussions. It speaks to themes we've been hearing from many folks at Peace Church: they are hungry for a deep Christian faith that speaks to the hard stuff going on in our world, or they are deconstructing from faith traditions that harmed them and seeking a path toward reconstruction. Join us Sundays through August 30 for worship and table conversation at coffee hour, and buy a copy of the book at bookshop.org or one of our local bookstores!

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.

Help Tell the Story of Peace

As part of our Capital Campaign, we're gathering photos that capture the life of Peace over the years. If you have photos from worship, fellowship, retreats, mission trips, children's or youth activities, choir, service projects, community events, or other moments that reflect life at Peace, we'd love to see them. Please email your photos to office@peaceucc.org. Whether they're from last week or 20 years ago, they may help tell the story of our church and the ministry we've shared together. Thank you for helping preserve and celebrate the story of Peace!

No Outdoor Services this Summer

We had anticipated worshipping outdoors on our grounds for several Sundays throughout the summer. However – and this is great news! –

our Grounds Improvement Team is making good progress on excavating, leveling, seeding, and making accessibility improvements to our usual tent location. To facilitate this project, we will not be worshipping outdoors this summer. We look forward to a new and improved outdoor worship experience in summer 2027!

Custodial Substitutes August 2026

Dan is taking a short, well-deserved summer vacation and we're looking for custodial support while he's away from August 9th-12th. Rachel will be your main contact and will be in touch with details after you sign up. If you have any questions or can only volunteer for a partial shift, please reach out! rachel@peaceucc.org or 218-409-7187



This Week's Schedule

Tuesday, July 21

6:30pm Coordinating Council Meeting on Zoom

Wednesday, July 22

8:30am Chum Breakfast Making in the Kitchen

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

Thursday, July 23

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

7:00pm Capital Campaign Team Meeting on Zoom

Sunday, July 26

9:30am Worship with **Sermon** by **Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis**.

Children's Church with **Amanda McElray Hunter**

10:30am Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall

10:30am Liturgies for Resisting the Empire Discussion in the Music Room