



Greetings

Welcome to the community of Church of Peace United Church of Christ. We believe that all people are children of God and rejoice that you have chosen to worship God with us today. If you are visiting our community, we wish to extend our faith in Christian fellowship and hope that you will take a moment to visit with us after the service. If you have any questions prior to the service, please ask anyone in the community. We have all been visitors at some time in our life, and we are eager to assist you in any way. May the Holy Spirit fill us and guide us as we worship God together.

December 10, 2023

2nd Sunday of Advent

9 AM

Gathering Music - Ringing of the Bells - Welcome and Announcements

We Prepare to Worship God

Prayer & Prelude

We Gather Around God's Word

A reading from Isaiah 40

We Light the Second Candle of Advent—Peace

Reader 1: O God, we remember the hope you give us. Now, we light the second candle of Advent which represents peace.

Reader 2: We seek your sacred peace in our hearts God, the peace that can move the mountains of hatred. Come God and prepare our hearts to be transformed by you.

Many: We have sought you God, both mighty and tender. We remember when we were angry, when our congregation was at odds with one another, when conflict grew across the world and we turned to you.

Reader 1: Isaiah announced God's coming to a people exiled in a broken and parched wilderness. He declared that God's redemption would make a highway in the desert and change the rough places into plains. God would come as a shepherd—feeding, leading, and cradling the weary flock. This Advent, we seek such a God.

Many : Saving God, look upon your world and heal your land and your people. Prepare us to be changed. This Advent, teach us the art of tender and just peace that comes from you. Amen.

Sung Response: *"Shine a Candle in the Darkness" (on screen)*

Prayer of Invocation

God of the Gentle Wind, we greet you this day with a need for peace in our lives and in the world. Enable us to understand your purpose for us so that we might leave this home and enter the world ready to be the peacemakers of Jesus. Amen.

* Opening Hymn *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 3 & 4) No. 119*

* Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Glorious God, there are many times in our lives that we have not tried to make peace, and we have even caused conflict. We are broken in the sense of peace, and we ask, forgive us and fill us with your Spirit of peace so we may be the ones who are the peacemakers of this world.

* Words of Peace

Pastor: Sisters and Brothers, we know that we can do better when it comes to peace in our lives. So let us accept the forgiveness of Jesus Christ and begin anew with compassion that breeds peace.

Many: Make us peacekeepers in the world Brother Jesus. Praise be to God! Amen.

*The Passing of Christ's Peace in Community

Special Music

"All is Well"

Smith/Kirkpatrick

Pastoral Prayer - a sharing of community and world prayers

Affirmation of Faith

One: We are not alone; we live in God's world.

All: We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Hymn

"This Is My Song"

No. 722

We Engage God's Word

Scriptures

Mark 13:24-37

Multigenerational Lesson

Sermon

"Finding Peace"

We Respond to God's Word

Offering Invitation (responsive)

One: In good times and bad times, God is faithful to us.

Many: Let us bring forth our offerings, our treasures, and ourselves in the name of the Ruler of Peace, God's only Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Offertory

*Doxology "Praise God from whom all Blessing Flow" No. 46

* Our Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Awesome God, we thank you for meeting us here at Christ's table. May your presence within us—ripple outward from us—with ever expanding love until the day you gather all your saints from the four winds to share in your eternal banquet. May our every step and every breath be in service to you forever. Amen.

We Are Sent into the World

*Closing Hymn "Let There Be Peace on Earth" (2 times) No. 677

*The Lord's Prayer (using "debts" and "debtors")

*Commissioning & Benediction

Postlude (*If you are able, please stand at the pastor's invitation)

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Rev. Stephen Stepp

Minister

Patricia Siekierke

Organist

Victor Abitz

Custodian

Rob Giese

AV Tech

Klapperich Family

Liturgist



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Pictured - Linda and Jerry Johnson

We would like to invite all who wish to come to church on Sunday and take a special photo by the new tree located in the Narthex. Most Sundays there will be a photo greeter to help get the perfect picture. Join us by celebrating the season in Christ.



The Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each

2023 a “Reverse Advent Calendar” for our Food Pantry

This year we are again inviting members and friends to create a “Reverse Advent Calendar” by setting aside a box for the food pantry at the beginning of Advent. Each day put the suggested item into the box. Please bring your filled box to the church during regular office hours, Monday through Thursday between 9 am – 12 noon or on Sunday morning. **THANK YOU!**

Sun., Dec. 10	Spaghetti Sauce & Pasta	Sun., Dec. 17	Hamburger Helper & can of chicken
Mon., Dec. 11	Can of chicken	Mon., Dec. 18	Mac 'n cheese individual cups
Tues., Dec. 12	Box of cereal	Tues., Dec. 19	Can of Chunky soup
Wed., Dec. 13	Peanut butter in a plastic jar	Wed., Dec. 20	Pancake mix “complete”
Thurs., Dec. 14	Jelly/jam in plastic jar/or squeeze	Thurs., Dec. 21	Pancake syrup

**WELCOME TO
CHURCH OF PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
December 10, 2023**

Church office phone: 921-8215

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.
Pastor Steve Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.
or call for an appointment

IN OUR PRAYERS

Lucy Zahn	Janet Rymer	Bill Manka
Elise Sonnenberg	Del Weigel	Dave Borchert
Cindy Duffy	Janet & Eugene Willis	Joe Ule
Amy Jo	Doris Kastorff	Ernest Oelke
Janelle Anderson	Les Abitz	Dorothy Gyr
Theresa Schultz	Kenny Steffen Jr	Wayne Katerski
Marilyn Peters	Diane Candlish	Edna Karl
Helen Oelke	Ruth Pedix	Donna Birkholz
Christine Weimer	Tyler Detweiler	Ron Rowe
Baby Archer	Tom Whittaker	Jan Whittaker
Nicole Schendel	Jason & Jennifer	Nancy Schaefer
Donna Blaine	Shirley Bell-Elsinger	Marvin Oelke
Susan Snider	Carol Carlson	Ron Wilson
Heather Reader-Schubert	Deb Baker	Greg Baker
Siera Williams and baby Morgan	Amy Mitchell	Evelyn Yantz
Jim & Kathy Stephany	Bailey Gehrt	Debra Rammer
Mary Fleischman	Norlene Haase	Elaine Miller
Bob and Shirley Hanke		

p.s. Magnificent God, enable me to be a peacekeeper in your world!

CHURCH OF PEACE – FACTS AND FIGURES

OFFERINGS LAST WEEK: General Fund: \$3,310.00

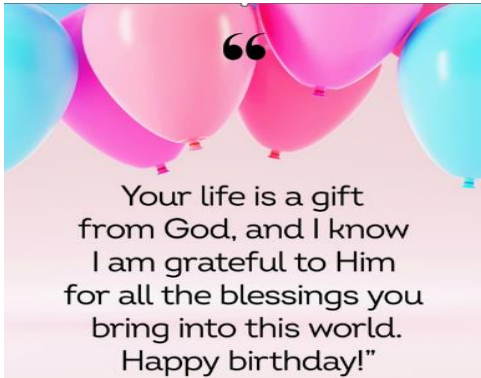
Mission-Giving (OCWM): \$97.00; Investing in the Future: \$1,385.00;

E-giving: \$3,429.00; Christmas Fund UCC: \$40.00

Attendance – Sunday, December 3rd: 75. Last year: 98.

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH OF PEACE

Sun	M	Tues	W	Th	F	Sat
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9 am Worship Service 10:00 am Sunday School Coffee Hour Host: Church Council	Loaves & Fishes 1:30 pm Bible Study	Church Council 6:30 pm	Loaves & Fishes	Ethics Committee 9:30 a.m. Golden Fellowship 11:00 a.m.		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 am Sunday School Coffee Hour Host: Ladies of Peace	Loaves & Fishes 1:30 pm Bible Study		Loaves & Fishes			



December 10 - Linda Beyer, Matt Ewerdt

Audrey Weed

December 11 - Curtis Law, Melissa Now

December 13 - Peyton Portier

December 14 - Owen Rohlfs

December 16 - Linda Johnson,

Jean O'Laire

Joan Kryzhanowski, T.J. Schultz

Michelle Moerchen

The Stewardship Committee is looking for donations of unfrosted cookies for after the Christmas Eve service.

If you're able to donate, we ask that we have the cookies to church by December 14th. All are welcome to decorate them on December 17th!

Giving Tree 2023

Would you like to make someone's Christmas a little brighter? Church of Peace will be helping 2-3 families this year.

We will have a Giving Tree set up in the Narthex for you to choose a family member for whom to purchase a gift.

The tree will be set up on December 3rd, the 1st Sunday in Advent.

More details to come!

Christmas Eve is Sunday, December 24, 2023.

*The first worship service will be at 9:00 am and will represent the 4th Sunday of Advent.

*The second worship service will be at 5:00 pm and will be the celebration of Christmas Eve with Communion, the Sunday School Program, and the Candlelit Closing.

What a joy it would be to see over 200 people in church on Christmas Eve! Thank you everyone for adjusting your schedules to be one in Christ Jesus.

Golden Fellowship Christmas Party

Thursday, December 14th at 11:00.

White Elephant Gift Exchange (\$5 value)

Chicken dinner, dessert & beverage

\$10 per person. RSVP by Monday, Dec. 11th.

Sign-up sheet on bulletin board or call

Faye Smith 920-266-6035/ or Brenda Roehl 920-929-9084

-All are invited-

Fond du Lac Bears Hockey Game

Join us for the Fond du Lac Bears Hockey Game January 13th at 8pm. Sign up on the bulletin board at church. Tickets are free! Join us for a fun night with your church family cheering on the Fond du lac Bears!

Card Shower for Congregations Members 90+ years young.

December Birthdays:

December 11th:

Curtis Law

PO Box 1135

Fond du Lac, WI 54935

December 16th:

Jean O'Laire

N4987 County Trunk D

Fond du Lac, WI 54937