



**“Joseph  
son of David  
do not be afraid to  
take Mary home as  
your wife,  
because what  
is conceived in her  
is from the  
Holy Spirit.”  
Matthew 1:20**

## *The Equipped Journey*

### 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 8th, 2024 Second Sunday of Advent 9:00am

Gathering Music-Ringing of the Bells

Welcome & Announcements

We Prepare to Worship God

Prayer & Prelude

We Gather Around God's Word

A reading from Malachi 3

Call to Worship (responsive)

One: The Reign of God is drawing near:

**Many: The prophet calls us to change our lives!**

One: Prepare the way for the Lord:

**Many: A just and peaceful path!**

One: Welcome one another, for Christ welcomes you:

**Many: For the glory of God! Praise be to God! Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates" #129

We Light the Candle of Peace

**One:** Our homes and our world are under siege with information: Television and telemarketing; blogs and texting: So much information often bearing too little wisdom.

**Two:** Angry voices compelling hate; Quiet voices counseling complacency; Mechanical voices offering "deals" --Too much information! Too little wisdom!

**People: Confusion surrounds us; Truth gets lost.**

**One:** We call out in our confusion:

**People: Where is your Wisdom, O God? Where is the word that leads to life?**

**Two:** We remind ourselves of our ancient story: John, Zachariah's son, out in the desert at the time, received a message from God. He went all through the country around the Jordan River preaching a baptism of life-change leading to forgiveness of sins, as described in the words of Isaiah the prophet:

**Many: "...prepare God's arrival! Make the road smooth and straight!"**

**One:** Let us light this second candle of Advent, a candle of Peace. Let us take a moment of silence in its light, let us think, quietly and peacefully, about what voices of true life-change and forgiveness are speaking in our world right now. (Pause)

**Two:** Let this candle of Advent Peace shine in our hearts all week and let it remind us to enter times of quiet and peace in order to listen, through the noise of our lives, for the call to prepare for Jesus, the Christ Child. Let us join together in prayer.

We Are United In Prayer

**Holy God, We long for your peace, and trust in your promise; we hear your call to turn toward you, to change our lives and welcome you in. Meet us here and fill our minds with your wisdom and our hearts with your peace, so that our worship together may open us to the challenge of your dream of wholeness for all. In the Name of the One who is coming, we pray. Amen!**

\*The Passing of Christ's Peace in Community

Special music      "All is Well"      by Kirkpatrick/Smith

Pastoral Prayer a sharing of community and world prayers

Affirmation of Faith

\*Hymn      "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"      #517

*We Engage God's Word*

Scriptures      Philippians 1:1-11      Luke 1:67-79

Multigenerational Lesson

Sermon      "The Equipped Journey"

*We Respond to God's Word*

Call to Offering (responsive)

One: The Ruler of Peace is coming, a Gift of God.

**Many: We prepare our gifts in this season of waiting and hope.**

One: God, help us to strengthen one another and to offer hope to the world as we look forward to that great day of everlasting joy.

**Many: Gather your gifts and present them to God.**

**Amen.**

Offertory

\*Doxology

\*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

**Dear God, with these gifts accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts, which rejoice in your goodness and love. Let our gifts point to your presence in the world, and further your dream of peace for the world through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.**

*We Are Sent into the World*

\*Closing Hymn " O Little Town of Bethlehem" #144

\*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  
Patricia Siekierke  
Rob Giese  
Victor Abitz  
The Poirier Family  
All People



Minister  
Organist  
AV Tech  
Custodian  
Liturgist  
Disciples

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**THIS AT WEEK CHURCH OF PEACE**

Sun 8	M 9	Tues 10	W 11	Th 12	F 13	Sat 14
9:00am Worship  10:00am Sunday School  Social Hour: Ladies of Peace #2	C.O.P Serves Loaves & Fishes	6:30pm Council  ADVOCAP CLASSES	Loaves & Fishes  6:30pm Confirmation Class	9:00am Topps  ADVOCAP CLASSES		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00am Worship  Social Hour: Council #1	1:30 Bible Study  Loaves & Fishes		Loaves & Fishes	9:00am Topps  ADVOCAP CLASSES  11:00 Golden Fellowship Christmas Party		



- 12/9 – Greyson Roehl
- 12/10 – Linda Beyer, Matt Ewerdt, Audrey Weed
- 12/11 – Melissa Now
- 12/13 – Peyton Portier
- 12/14 – Owen Rohlfs

If you are asked to serve on one of our church committees, please consider it an honor to help our church move forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Thank you!

**Church Council   Stewardship  
Nominating**

**Safe Conduct™ Policy & Procedure**



**WELCOME TO  
CHURCH OF PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
December 8, 2024**

**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.

**Website: [uccchurchofpeace.com](http://uccchurchofpeace.com)**

**Facebook: Church of Peace UCC Fond du Lac**

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

Lucy Zahn	Bill Manka	Heather Reader-Schubert
Elise Sonnenberg	Deb Abitz	Dixie & Dave Borchert
Diana Candlish	John	Janet & Eugene Willis
Doris Kastorff	Deb Baker	Bob and Shirley Hanke
Janelle Anderson	Leo Lefeber	Sara & Michael
Al Pahnke	Bailey Gehrt	Jim & Kathy Stephany
Marilyn Peters	Sharon Hensen	Eli & Barb Gustafson
Ruth Pedix	Amy Jo	Lee & Lita Treleven
Christine Weimer	Amy Mitchell	Mary Jean Nicholson
Pat Grose	Donna Birkholz	Rev. James Martin
Debra Rammer	Sister Julia	Nancy Schaefer
Arnold Breitenfeld	Brenda Post	Doris Rymer
Wayne Katerski	Janet Rymer	Susan Snider
Nicole Schendel	Del Weigel	Alexis Hayes
Greg Baker	Edna Karl	Dan Guell
Carol Kryzyanowski	Theresa Schultz	

p.s. Dear God, enable me to feel the peace you offer to me through faith in Jesus Christ.

**CHURCH OF PEACE – FACTS AND FIGURES**

**OFFERINGS LAST WEEK:**

General Fund: \$3,179.00;

Mission - Giving (OCWM): \$67.00;

(UCC Christmas Fund): \$60.00; E-giving: \$1,348.00;

Investing in the Future: \$610.00.

Attendance Sunday, December 1st:

Online: 31 — In person: 83    Last year: 85

## Our MORNING WARMING SHELTER

Please consider volunteering to set up, clean up, and provide fellowship to those in need. See Jean Stepp for more information. Thank you!



Canned pork & Beans, canned fruit, single serve and family size Mac & Cheese, 11lb ground beef or turkey, Instant mashed potatoes, Instant Rice, Peanut butter & Jelly, Canned Soup, Pasta Sauce, Bodywash, Bars of Soap, Dishwashing Liquids, Large size Diapers (4, 5 or 6) and Pull-Up diapers.

## The Giving Tree 2024

The tree is set up and ready for you to take an angel or bell off the tree. Any questions please ask Brenda Roehl or Jean Stepp. Please return gifts by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your generosity!

## *Golden Fellowship Christmas Party*

*Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at  
11:00.*

*White Elephant Gift Exchange  
(\$5 value if you want to  
exchange)*

*Chicken, wedges, corn, rolls,  
dessert & beverage.*

*\$12 per person. Sign-up by  
Sunday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.*

*Join us for some  
Christmas Joy!!*

## Calling all Bakers !!!

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 19<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to decorate them on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and enjoy them on Christmas Eve!



## 2024 Reverse Advent Calander

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!

Sunday, Dec. 8	Spaghetti Sauce & Pasta
Monday, Dec. 9	Can of chicken
Tuesday, Dec. 10	Box of cereal
Wednesday, Dec. 11	Peanut butter in a plastic jar
Thursday, Dec. 12	Jelly or jam in a plastic jar or squeeze bottle
Friday, Dec. 13	Tuna Helper & can of tuna
Saturday, Dec. 14	Box of brownie mix
Sunday, Dec. 15	Hamburger Helper & chicken