



The Peace Bell

PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sundays at a Glance

December 1st

First Sunday in Advent

Sermon by Sylvie Bowen-Bailey

8:30am Worship with Holy Communion

9:30am Self-Serve Coffee

9:30am Advent Wreath Workshop

10:30am Childcare Available

10:30am Intergenerational Worship with Holy Communion

11:30am Coffee Hour

December 8th

Second Sunday in Advent

Sermon by Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

8:30am Worship with Holy Communion

9:30am Self-Serve Coffee

9:30am Forum: Planned Giving

10:30am Childcare Available

10:30am Worship with Children's Church

11:30am Coffee Hour

December 15th

Third Sunday in Advent

Pageant Sunday

8:30am Worship with Holy Communion

9:30am Self-Serve Coffee

9:30am Forum: Stepping On Up Info Session & Tour

10:30am Childcare Available

10:30am Worship with Children's Church

11:30am Coffee Hour

December 22nd

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Cantata Sunday

8:30am Worship with Holy Communion

9:30am Self-Serve Coffee

No Forum

10:30am Childcare Available

10:30am Worship

11:30am Coffee Hour

December 29th

First Sunday of Christmas

9:30am ****ONE SERVICE**** with Holy Communion

10:30am Coffee Hour

December Forums

Sunday, December 1st - Advent Wreath Workshop

Join us in the Fellowship Hall to make Advent wreaths, Christmas cards, tree ornaments and other seasonal crafts. Pick up Devotional booklets and Advent calendars. For all ages.

Sunday, December 8th - Planned Giving

Around the holidays, many of us think about giving, and with family gathered, it is an important time to think about wills, trusts, and the legacy we leave behind. The Planned Giving Taskforce (Geof Witrak, Stephen Dando, and Tom Hystead) will be sharing information and facilitating a conversation about remembering Peace Church in your will, and the plan for how those funds will be used to sustain our congregation into the future.

Sunday, December 15th - Stepping On Up Info Session & Tour

Join us for a presentation and tour of the Stepping On Up project in the Fireside Room at 9:30am. LSS will lead a short presentation, and we will take a tour of the amazing transformation of our rental wing.

Sundays, December 22nd and 29th - No Forum

Quiet Christmas

Wednesday, December 18th, 5:45-6:45pm

More information available in the insert

Christmas Eve Services

4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship

Carol Sing and Candle Lighting

Childcare Available

5:00pm Soup Supper

9:00pm Christmas Eve Worship

Sermon by Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Peace Choir and Candle Lighting

From Pastor Corinne

Dear Peace Church,

We are about to enter one of my favorite church seasons, second only to Lent: Advent. A season of preparation. A time before Jesus has come. A time when we imagine what kind of world God hopes we would welcome Jesus into.

Advent presents us with a sort of paradox. We are waiting for Christmas, waiting for love to come into the world through Jesus. And at the same time, we revel in the glory of all the love that surrounds us all the time. It's the paradox of the already/not yet.

Waiting is a spiritual discipline that invites us into dreaming as we discern what might be possible. Waiting forces us to prepare, and in our preparation, we grow. But if our whole life is lived in preparation and anticipation, we won't be able to experience presence. We won't appreciate the beauty of what's right in front of us. And the waiting will be that much more painful, if we are only oriented toward a future we imagine instead of the present we're living.

So this Advent, I invite us all to practice not just waiting, but presence. I hope to be present to my children: putting my phone down, letting go of anxiety about what might be ahead, and enjoying their ever-changing, always-growing selves. I hope to be present to this community: seeing each one of you as individuals, listening openly, and discerning together how we hope to be the Beloved Community to one another and Duluth right now. What are you waiting for? How are you called to practice presence in this season?

Looking forward to seeing you in church to wait together, be present together, and celebrate the season.

With Love, Pastor Corinne

From the Moderator

Dear members and friends of Peace Church,

The Coordinating Council met on Tuesday, November 19th. We received, reviewed, and approved reports from committees and Pastor Corinne.

The council reviewed the proposed budget for 2025 which totals over \$500,000 and includes: paying our staff and pastor a fair wage, upkeep of our building and property, and our benevolent giving. The Stewardship Committee reported that at this point, 109 households have pledged totaling \$368,000. If you have not yet pledged and wish start or continue giving to Peace Church in 2025, please contact the office as soon as possible so the Council is able to prepare a final budget in December.

Pastor Corinne reported that 8 new households totaling 19 individuals were welcomed into membership in November. We also welcome Rev. Laurie Crelly as our Pastoral Care Chaplain. On behalf of the Coordinating Council, welcome to Peace Church! We are so glad you are part of our beloved community.

As always, the Council welcomes and appreciates any feedback you may have for us and appreciate you keeping us in your prayers.

Mike Swanoski, Moderator, Coordinating Council



Let's Welcome Our New Pastoral Care Chaplain!



Laurie Crelly grew up in Golden Valley Minnesota. Her faith journey has traversed through several faith traditions until she found her spiritual home in the UCC in 1995. She received her Masters of Divinity from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in 2001 and was ordained as a UCC minister in 2005. Laurie served four churches and worked as a faith-based organizer in the Twin Cities. She recently moved back to Minnesota from Grand Rapids, Michigan with her wife Amy Brooks.

Laurie Crelly, as our Pastoral Care Chaplain, provides continuity of care and support for members and friends of Peace UCC who are facing acute or chronic distress. She will also work to train and expand our volunteer visitation ministries.

Laurie enjoys gardening, star gazing, world food cuisine, and is a Doctor Who fan.

Amy and Laurie have two grown children, Lore in Grand Rapids MI and Oliver in Alton IL. They also have family in Australia and Minnesota.

2025 Stewardship Campaign

Imagine Together

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:21

As we near the end of 2024, we ask everyone who calls Peace Church your spiritual home, to consider making a financial commitment for 2025. As the Coordinating Council works to build a strong budget for next year, it is important that everyone who is able to declare their support for the work of our church. Over 95% of our annual budget comes from the financial commitments of our members and friends. **The timing is critical and we need to hear from you now.** So far we have received commitments from just over two thirds of those who made a commitment last year.

It is an exciting time for Peace Church and it is extremely important that we fund a budget that enables Pastor Corinne, her staff, and our Coordinating Council to continue the vital work of our church. **You can communicate your intent for 2025 by emailing our bookkeeper, Mali Lorenz, at mali@peaceucc.org or stop in the church office and fill out a commitment card.**

Thank you! Your Stewardship Committee

Property Team Updates

We still have a few small outdoor projects that need to get completed before winter! One is to build a barrier around the Peace Bell lights. We need some supplies and a little volunteer time. The property team schedules a work night about once per month. Please contact Bri in the office to get on the email list for property team scheduling and update.

At our regular Tuesday meetings we have been busy developing a budget and prioritizing the bigger projects for next year. There is also a list of items noted as "mostly labor, minimal cost" that we can tackle during the winter months. Please join us on the **second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm** to find out more, or watch for work night announcements.

Stepping On Up Update

Our STAR is rising! To our dear community, Stepping On Up is proud to announce that *construction* for our youth shelter is on track to finish *before Christmas!* Contractors have been hard at work finishing painting, laying flooring, installing cabinets, and adding doors. Soon the space will be complete and it could not happen at a better time. We're finding an increased need for youth shelter now, and the shelter space PUCC will be providing will be a guiding light.

We ask that you mark your calendar for a final opportunity to tour the rental wing on **Sunday, December 15th from 9:30-10:15.** Once construction is complete and programming begins, the shelter will be unavailable for tours. This is your last chance to see the space!

Please stay tuned for a wish list from our partner organization to help finish the details of the shelter to create a warm and inviting space for our guests. Finally, our community is looking for resources to provide the appropriate training for those interested in volunteering in the future. We don't have anything set yet, and we're so excited by the enthusiasm of this congregation.

It has been a great honor to play a role in the development of this space. I'm humbled and in awe by our PUCC staff, our church leadership and committee members, the community, and our project developers and partners. THANK YOU to all who have helped make this such an incredible journey. Great things are coming!

Coming Soon – New Security System

This December we will be installing a new security system at the church. There will be security cameras at the entrances and a door access intercom system at both the exterior front door and exterior kitchen door. This means that the doors to the building will be locked during the day, even during office hours, as an added layer of security for our staff and people in the building. Our building is in use seven days a week, at all times of the day, by both church and community groups. We hope that this new system will both protect our space and make it easier to let groups in the building outside of regular office hours.

During office hours there will be easy access to the building through the intercom system, and groups using the building after hours will be given code access as well. The doors will continue to be unlocked for Sunday worship and Wednesday evening programming. Staff will manage the security system and update you through weekly emails once the system is installed and ready to use.

Peace Activities and Groups

Making Meaning Out Of Malignancy

Monday, December 30th at 5:00pm

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 group. The group meets monthly in a "Room and Zoom" and in the Fireside Room. For more information, please contact Monica Liddle, monimliddle@gmail.com.

Welcome to Wednesday Night Bible study! Wednesdays, 5:45pm

Did you know that Peace Church has an ongoing Bible study every Wednesday evening, and we welcome anyone who is interested to join us? We welcome a wide variety of questions and comments. The group decides what we will study each week, and cover a variety of both Old and New Testament readings. Please, come join us in the Fireside room or on Zoom.

PALS

PALS will be gathering again Thursday December 12th at Zvago, 3900 London Road at 5:30pm. Please consider carpooling since parking space is limited. Also, please bring a heavy appetizer or dessert to share and any special beverage you prefer. Other beverages (NA) provided.

Let Cathy Ameal (ameelcj123@aol.com) know if you are planning to attend and what you plan to contribute.

Choir Rehearsals



Choir is back! Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:15pm in the Sanctuary. Every skill level is welcome! If you have any questions please contact our Music Director,

Jim Pospisil, at jim@peaceucc.org.

Office Furniture Needed

We're happy to say that we're finally back to a full staff with our recent welcoming of Rev. Laurie Crelly as Pastoral Care Chaplain! As we shuffle our office spaces around to accommodate more workspaces, we're looking for donations of gently used office furniture. We're specifically looking for two small desks, office chairs, and lockable drawers/filing cabinets. Please reach out to rachel@peaceucc.org to coordinate.

Men's Breakfast

Every other Thursday, 8:00am

Join us for breakfast and conversation! We meet every other Thursday at 8:00am at Perkins on London Rd. We will meet Thursday, December 12th and 26th.

Tea and Talk

December 18th at 3:00pm

Tea & Talk will be back on at 3:00pm in the Fireside Room. Join Pastor Corinne for conversation and reflection. If you have any questions please email Pastor Corinne at corinne@peaceucc.org.



SomaYoga is back!

Monday Mornings at 9:00am

Yoga us held at 9:00am on Monday mornings in the Fireside Room.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let Robin Davidson know roblee91@msn.com.

Monday Book Group

In *The Small and the Mighty*, Sharon McMahon proves that the most remarkable Americans are often ordinary people who didn't make it into the textbooks. Not the presidents, but the telephone operators. Not the aristocrats, but the schoolteachers. Through meticulous research, she discovers history's unsung characters and brings their rich, riveting stories to light for the first time. You'll meet a woman astride a white horse riding down Pennsylvania Ave, a young boy detained at a Japanese incarceration camp, a formerly enslaved woman on a mission to reunite with her daughter, a poet on a train, and a teacher who learns to work with her enemies. More than one thing is bombed, and multiple people surprisingly become rich. Some rich with money, and some wealthy with things that matter more.

This is a book about what really made America - and Americans - great. McMahon's cast of improbable champions will become familiar friends, lighting the path we journey in our quest to make the world more just, peaceful, good, and free. And did you know that the author grew up in Duluth and graduated from East High school?!

We will meet to discuss this book on Monday January 13th at 3:00pm in the Fireside room and also by Zoom. E-mail pccragun01@gmail.com with questions or to be included in group emails. Please join us!

Welcome to Peace

Matthew Prois

Family members (including pets): Jayber (11), Soren (9), Abel (7)

What is your vocation? Musician/web developer

What are your hobbies? Music, cross country skiing, and canoeing.

What brought you to Peace? Originally it was our connection to Nathan Holst, the commitment to inclusiveness and search for a communal truth brought us back. The music is pretty good too!

Obscure fact? I once had a job as a peacock wrangler.



Nate and Amanda Byrne

Family members (including pets): Margo (8) and Logan (4), Cricket and Samson - dogs

What is your vocation? Nate - Childcare director, Amanda - MS Language Arts teacher.

What are your hobbies? Outdoors (hiking, camping, exploring). Nate - fishing & hunting. Amanda - reading & cookie decorating.

What brought you to Peace? Peace came recommended by a close family friend (Molly Nett). We wanted to find an inclusive church that would help us raise our kids in the faith and teach us how to walk the talk.

Obscure fact? Nate and I met in a Shakespeare play at the College of St. Scholastica (Twelfth Night). Nate played Orsino and I played Viola.

Darlene Leafgren

Family members (including pets): 4 adult sons, no current pets.

What is your vocation? I'm called to be a spiritual director, mostly as a "listening post" sitting with those on the margins. It also happens anytime with "strangers".

What are your hobbies? Solo tent camping, riding my e-bike on back roads, being on and in the water (kayaking & swimming). Maybe most of all reading in many disciplines, the interconnecting of everything in my contemplative searching and experiencing God.

What brought you to Peace? My growing need in these later years of life to be open about embracing social action and progressive theology.

Obscure fact? My favorite time of day, as an introvert, is between 5:00 - 8:00am (sometimes starts as early as 2:00am) when I read, write in book margins and my dream journal, practice centering (wordless) prayer, and welcome the new day/coming of the light through a wall of windows.



Jessica Schirle

Family members: 3 brothers – Justin, Ryan and Kyle. Parents Chuck and Sue.

What is your vocation? Mathematician

What are your hobbies? Puzzle games, running (at least I'm trying to get back in to it!), rock climbing, and learning.

What brought you to Peace? I was looking for a church that actually cares for the least of these.

Obscure fact? I have created a few crossword puzzles for fun and would like to get published someday!

Molly Nett

Family members: Husband Tom, daughters Elena and Lauren.

What is your vocation? Sales and event planning for Black Woods Group Catering.

What are your hobbies/passions? As a family we enjoy being on the lake, traveling to warm places, spending time with our extended family and our friends.

What brought you to Peace? Recommendation from Charla Buxbaum and Kelly Grgas. Since moving to Duluth we were looking for a faith community to be grounded in as well as a trusted place to further introduce and educate the girls in Christianity with a welcoming and inclusive outlook.



Ronda Redmond

Family members (including pets): Husband Fred, step kids Scott & Emily, sons Sam & Charlie - Johnny (dog) and Gib (cat).

What is your vocation? Business analyst for a children's publishing company.

What are your hobbies/passions? I am a poet and enjoy

writing of any kind, I love to cook, read, and I'm enjoying exploring Duluth.

What brought you to Peace? I wanted a welcoming and inclusive spiritual home with service connections to the larger community.

Obscure fact? I've worked in Information Technology for 25 years and my degree is in poetry.

Peace Bell articles for November are due Wednesday, December 18th. Send articles to bri@peaceucc.org

Children, Youth and Families

Hello Peace Families,

We enter into this month knowing that life is precious, and difficult and joyful and risky.

We see our story and the stories around us in the drama that unfolds in the nativity story. A tale that includes uncertainty and anxiety, and even danger – but also communicates hope, renewal, and community coming together to protect and shelter the vulnerable.

The nativity story, like so many stories from the Bible is ultimately a promise that God takes impossible situations and makes goodness possible; that God pulls miracle and blessing from the worst-case scenario.

This month we will be putting our Christmas Pageant together: rehearsing lines, songs and dances to present to you on Sunday, December 15th. I hope you will encourage the young people in your life to participate, I will be reaching out! I hope you will attend this service, the Cantata service and Christmas Eve services and reclaim some time for healing in your own lives.

There are also multiple other opportunities to engage with community and spiritual practices this month, please see those listed activities below and on the insert page.

In children and youth ministries we will continue to have conversations and learn spiritual practices that build our young people up to have joy, resilience, hope and agency in their lives. It is a month of preparing the way for the birth of Jesus and also, to prepare the way for the work we do together in community into a new year.

We are always happy to see you whenever you can be here!

I encourage you to reach out to me at amanda@peaceucc.org with any questions, feedback, or ideas.

Wishing you Love in Action, Amanda

Children's Church on Sunday mornings during the 10:30am service.

After the "Story for All Ages," children pre-K through 5th grade are welcome to join us for Children's Church in the Fireside Room. Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers who want to help during Children's Church are always welcome too!

If your child would prefer to remain with you in worship, we have self-guided activities available to you and your children in our Pray-Ground spaces, located in the Sanctuary and just outside of the Sanctuary near the Fireside Room. These spaces offer quiet activities where parents and kiddos can engage in play and creativity while still participating in worship.

OWL

OWL Classes meet from 5 to 6:30pm at UUCD on December 1st, 8th and 15th. Questions about Our Whole Lives? Reach out to Amanda!

Nursery News for babies through Children aged 5

Childcare is available in the nursery on Sunday mornings during the 10:30am service. We are also offering childcare in the nursery on Wednesday nights, December 4th and 11th, from 5:30 to 6:30pm.

The Nursery is now located downstairs in the Sun Room, by the elevator.

Wednesday Night Programming! Let us cook dinner for your family!

There will be no Kids' Club programming on December 18th and 25th.

All other Wednesdays, please join us for a simple supper at 5pm. December 18th we will have a family dinner.

Hungry Hippos Kids' Club (grades K-2) and the Garfield's Lasagna Kids' Club (grades 3-5) meet from 5:30 to 6:15pm in the East Timor Room.

Middle School Youth (grades 6-8)

Middle School Youth meets from 6 to 7pm on December 4th and 11th. There will be no youth activities on December 19th and 25th. Even if it is your youth member's first time attending, don't worry, they will be able to jump right in! Meetings this month will be a time for your youth to share about their week, build friendships, have fun, and engage in service to our community.

Cont...

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation 1 (10th grade) and Confirmation 2 (11th grade) classes will meet this month on **December 11th (with mentors)**.



Acolyte training, email Amanda to set up a time!

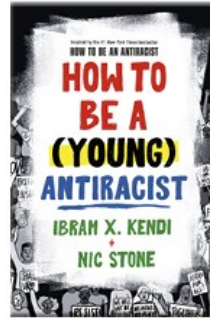
We trained several acolytes in October. Any kiddo Grade 3 through 8 can be trained to be an acolyte! This is a great way for your kiddo to have a role with some

responsibility within the service. Please let Amanda know if your child is interested in being a part of this meaningful tradition within the larger history of the church!

Youth Trips 2025 – Parents, look for emails!

Youth met on October 30th to discuss options for Summer 2025 Youth Trips – research and planning are continuing this month, please look for emails with more information as we try to come to a decision.

High School Youth



High School Youth Group meets on **December 4th**. The focus of High School Youth Group will be time to hang out, reconnect with church friends and discuss topics that are important to youth. We will be using some books as a starting point for these discussions beginning with “*How to Be a (Young) Antiracist*” by Ibram X. Kendi and Nic Stone. There will be no required reading outside of the group – all you have to do is show up!



2025 Youthfest at Iona Abbey | Isle of Iona, Scotland

July 31st – August 9th, 2025, for high school students, ages 14-17

The Minnesota Conference UCC is excited to sponsor a group of 14 youth and 5 adults traveling to Youthfest 2025 at Iona Abbey. This will be a spiritual pilgrimage next summer to the Isle of Iona, Scotland.

Youthfest is an annual gathering sponsored by the Iona Community, an international, ecumenical Christian movement working for justice and peace, the rebuilding of community, and the renewal or worship. Youthfest brings together young people from England, Scotland, Canada, the US, and other parts of the world for a week of connection, spiritual exploration, and intentional community. Each day offers opportunities to explore the island and community as well as what helps us grow and rise in our lives. Plus, there will be ample opportunities to enjoy beach time, art, hiking, music, service, and worship!

Amanda will be sending out an email with additional details. Important to note, due to the limited size of the group, there will be a formal application process that will require either a written essay or interview (in-person or Zoom). Priority will be given to older high school students. To maximize participation from across the Conference, participation will be limited to two youth from any given congregation. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis; the submission deadline is December 31st, or until the 14 youth places are filled.

Conference staff will host two information sessions via Zoom for anyone interested in applying: Sunday, November 24th, at 6pm or Tuesday, December 3rd, at 7pm. This session is for parents, youth, and youth ministry leaders in local congregations interested to learn more about this unique opportunity. Please contact Amanda to get the link!

CHUM News



CHUM is “People of faith working together to provide basic necessities, foster stable lives, and organize for a just and compassionate community.”

News from the CHUM Assembly

CHUM held their Fall Assembly on November 12th at Lakeside Presbyterian Church. There were several of us from Peace there, including Pastor Corinne. It was an important and impressive evening.

The Keynote speaker was **Dan Gregory, Communications and Policy Specialist with the MN Interagency Council on Homelessness.**

He gave an inspiring talk, stating right from the start, “Homeless is Solvable, but is not inevitable; It ends when we ALL have a home.” Dan also shared his beliefs that leadership needs to include the people impacted. In the disability community there is a saying, “nothing about us, without us!” It is no different with people who experience homelessness.

Dan also provided some statistics about our area: there are 730 homeless people in St. Louis County, 140 are children, 375 people are unsheltered. A positive stat is that MN is one county away from ending veteran homelessness; the county missing is Ramsey.

Some of his final thoughts were that we need a “Housing First” model. Over the next six months we can: 1. Coordinate, including people with lived experiences, 2. Draw on resources, 3. Be LOUD, and 4. Land the narrative where and when it needs to land.

John Cole, Executive Director shared the following information:

CHUM is comprised of 41 congregations supporting the work of CHUM. CHUM has 84 staff working in nine locations.

\$10 million has been secured for CHUM’s much needed shelter expansion. This includes funding from St. Louis County and the City of Duluth for the reconstruction of Damiano’s third and fourth floors to accommodate CHUM’s use during the shelter’s construction. This will also benefit Damiano into the future.

The van fundraiser for the Steve O’Neil apartment residents has concluded successfully. Yeah!! A search is underway for a new van.

Upcoming events:

December 4th - Holy Night Concert at the Cathedral 2801 E 4th St, Duluth, MN

January 11th - Advocacy event at Pilgrim Church

February 18th - CHUM Assembly

February 20th - CHUM’s Annual Meeting.

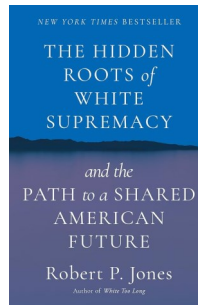
Acting For Justice

Dismantling Racism Book Study

Wednesdays starting

January 15th - February 12th

5:30-6:15pm



Please join the Dismantling Racism Team on their discussion of Robert P. Jones’ book *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Path to a Shared American Future*.

Please read the *Hidden Roots* before coming to the Book Study. Come to one or all of the discussions. There is a 15% discount at Zenith Bookstore: PEACEBOOKS.

Brief description “*Beginning with contemporary efforts to reckon with the legacy of white supremacy in America, Jones returns to the fateful year when a little-known church doctrine emerged that shaped the way five centuries of European Christians would understand the “discovered” world and the people who populated it. Along the way, he shows us the connections between Emmett Till and the Spanish conquistador Hernando De Soto in the Mississippi Delta, between the lynching of three Black circus workers in Duluth and the mass execution of thirty-eight Dakota men in Makato, and between the murder of 300 African Americans during the burning of Black Wall Street in Tulsa and the Trail of Tears.*”



Diana Oestreich with Duluth Peace Hero Award recipient Helen Davis on November 4th.

Weekly E-mail Reminders

Do you receive our weekly emails? Bri sends them from the church office on Wednesdays and Fridays. They are an important way to receive the latest, most up-to-date information about life at Peace. Contact Bri (bri@peaceucc.org) to be added to the distribution list.

Volunteer Opportunities

Monday Meals for Loaves and Fishes

Peace volunteers make and deliver meals for **Loaves and Fishes Dorothy Day House** on Monday evenings. Usually meals need to serve 10-15 persons. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, email office@peaceucc.org or access the schedule on our website under the menu "for volunteers."

December 2nd - Open December 30th - Open

December 9th - Open

December 16th - Open

December 23rd - April Knight

Damiano Community Kitchen

Peace volunteers help prepare and serve a meal at Damiano Community Kitchen twice a month. Each shift needs 2-3 volunteers, bring a friend or a youth, 16 and up! To sign up email the office at office@peaceucc.org.

Sunday, December 8th

1:30-3:30pm - **3 Spots open**

4:30-6:30pm - April Knight

Brad Davis

1 Spot Open

Saturday, December 22nd

8:30-10:30am - **3 Spots open**

11:00-1:00pm - **3 Spots open**

1:30-3:30pm - Pam Kramer

2 Spots open

4:30-6:30pm - Pam Kramer

2 Spots open

*Many thanks to all
our volunteers!*

Coffee Hour Volunteers

We ask every member of Peace to volunteer to help with coffee hour at least once during the calendar year. We're happy to have you choose the month in which you'd be willing to help out!

On that one Sunday, we ask you to bring treats (2-3 dozen), set up coffee hour items, serve and clean up.

Coffee Hour is a vital part of Sunday Morning Hospitality. If you are not assigned to a month you can contact Bri at office@peaceucc.org.

Ushers, Greeters and Lay Readers

Sunday morning hospitality is an important ministry at Peace. If interested in being a lay reader contact Bri at office@peaceucc.org.

8:30 Service

December 1st

Ushers - Tom Liddle
Monica Liddle
Lay Reader - Monica Liddle

December 8th

Ushers - Gayle Kelly
Jack Kelly
Lay Reader - **Open**

December 15th

Ushers - Cyndi Brown
Deb McLeod
Lay Reader - **Open**

December 22nd

Ushers - Cyndi Brown
Kate Nicoletti
Lay Reader - **Open**

December 29th

Ushers - Pat Devlin
Lynn Devlin
Lay Reader - **Open**

10:30 Service

December 1st

Greeters - Cindy Macaulay
Georgia Lane
Ushers - Georgia Lane
2 Spots Open
Lay Reader - **Open**
Lead Usher - Warren Post

December 8th

Greeters - Cindy Macaulay
1 Spot open
Ushers - Julie MacKenzie
2 Spots Open
Lay Reader - **Open**
Lead Usher - Warren Post

December 15th

Greeters - Cindy Macaulay
1 Spot open
Ushers - Pam Kramer
2 Spots open
Lay Reader - **Open**
Lead Usher - Warren Post

December 22nd

Greeters - Cindy Macaulay
1 Spot open
Ushers - **3 Spots open**
Lay Reader - **Open**
Lead Usher - Warren Post

December 29th

Greeters - **2 Spots open**
Ushers - Julie MacKenzie
2 Spots open
Lay Reader - **Open**
Lead Usher - Warren Post

Coffee Hour Volunteers

Every Sunday our 11:30 Coffee Hour is brought to you by our Coffee Hour Volunteers

December 1st

4 Spots open
Coordinator - Cathy Ameel

December 8th

Tom & Christine Day
2 Spots open
Coordinator - Cathy Ameel

December 15th

Patty & Thad Beech-Dziuk
Liz Liebenstein &
Tony Montez
Coordinator - Cathy Ameel

December 22nd

4 Spots open
Coordinator - Cathy Ameel

December 29th

Mike Schrage
3 Spots open
Coordinator - Cathy Ameel

Peace Prayer Chain



Please call the church office (218-724-3637) or Linda Goese (218-341-0918) with your prayer concerns. You can let us know whether or not to share your concern with the pastor for inclusion in Sunday morning prayers.

Would you like to participate in our Prayer Chain? Contact Lynn Devlin or Linda Goese!

Keep in Your Prayers

- 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, Sharon Kirtley at Viewcrest, and Marlis Cran at Aftenro.
- All those undergoing treatment for cancer: Stephen Dando, Mary Caine-Hafdahl, Kim Kruger, Phyllis Cook, and others.

Thank You's

- **Thank you to Paul O'Brien and Matt Ryan for literally helping to keep the lights on:** Paul stepped in to convert broken office lights to LEDs with a day's notice, and Matt arranged for the lower parking lot light to be moved and repaired.
- On a recent Thursday evening, 34 members and friends of the PALS (Peace Adults Learning and Socializing) group gathered in the fellowship hall to repackage 500 pounds of flour, 500 pounds of sugar and 90 pounds of coffee into smaller bags for distribution at the CHUM food shelf. Generous contributions from the entire congregation had raised \$1,910 to support this effort. It took about 55 minutes to do the work! We then enjoyed a pizza supper. The supplies for the project cost \$1,080, leaving \$830 which will be donated to the food shelf as a cash contribution. Again, thanks to all who donated and to those who worked to make this project a success.

Who, What, Why

Your Welcoming team is pleased to inaugurate a new feature for the Peace Bell called Who What Why highlighting the awesome things volunteers do at Peace. We hope this will encourage others to consider trying out ways to be involved here.



Who - Pat Nelson (aka Grandma Pat)

What - anything involving kids Sunday morning or Wednesday evening

Why - "I retired after 41 years of nursing and wanted to do something out of my comfort zone. Nathan and Janell got me involved in Sunday School. I love all these kids!"

Duluth Peace Hero Awards



Our own Diana Oestreich, along with her nonprofit, the Waging Peace Project, held the first annual Duluth Peace Hero Awards on Monday, November 4th. Community leader Helen Davis won the grand prize, and over 70

people were nominated, including many Peace Church members. We were grateful to support the event through the Jubilee Fund.

Diana invited nominations from across our city to lift up people making a difference locally. It was such a joy-filled, hopeful event. In her own words, "I am grateful that we gathered together on the eve of the election together and celebrated peace, acts of love, justice and joy.

We had no way of knowing that for many of us the coming weeks would carry grief while others felt hope. We had no way of knowing that a mass shooting would hit Duluth and take two mothers and their two sons in our community. All I know, is that violence never wins."

Thank you to Diana for her tireless work for peace and justice!



November Events



Thank you



On November 10th, Peace Church welcomed 8 families (19 individuals) as new members!



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Non-profit
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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 email address above)

Welcome to worship with Peace Church, every Sunday 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

Lead Pastor: Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis
 Music Director: Jim Pospisil
 Children, Youth and Small Group Coordinator: Amanda Hunter
 Pastoral Care Chaplain: Rev. Laurie Crelly

Office Coordinator: Bri Dornbush
 Business Manager: Rachel Obed
 Bookkeeper: Mali Lorenz
 Custodian: Dan Shepard
 Pianist: Wendy Durrwachter
 Worship Tech: Alex Nelson
 Kitchen Manager: Carrie Kelsey



PEACE CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday: 9am-3pm

PHONE: 218-724-3637 Web: peaceucc.org Facebook: peaceduluth

EMAIL ADDRESSES: Amanda: amanda@peaceucc.org Bri: office@peaceucc.org
 Jim: jim@peaceucc.org Mali: mali@peaceucc.org
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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 building the beloved community. We strive to respect and value all of creation, and the diversity of people’s sexual orientation, gender expression and identity, class, race, culture, age, and physical and mental abilities.

Christmas at Peace



Advent Wreath Making Workshop,

Sunday, December 1st, during the 9:30am hour.

Join us in the Fellowship Hall to make Advent wreaths,

Christmas cards, tree ornaments, and other seasonal crafts. Pick up devotional booklets and Advent calendars. For all ages.

Giving Tree

Every year, Peace Church puts up our Giving Tree, inviting folks to share the spirit of Christmas with our community. This year, gifts will go to Life House, Dorothy Day House, Stepping On Up, and Chum-supported apartments.

For Life House we are asking for gift cards from Walmart, Walgreens, Target, and Super One.

Dorothy Day House asks for donations of toys for babies, toddlers, kids, and teens.

On the Giving Tree you will see tags with gift requests. Please bring the items **unwrapped** to the office by the due date on the tags.



Coming Soon

Stepping On Up Gift Registry

Stepping On Up is looking for welcome basket supplies and kitchenware for their new youth shelter. As the holidays are approaching, this is a great chance for our community to support the project in a hands-on way. Be on the lookout for a Target registry link in upcoming weekly emails and a QR code on the Giving Tree!

New to the Giving Tree: Saint Francis Apartments and Steve O'Neil Apartments

The Saint Francis Apartments and Steve O'Neil Apartments, who partner with CHUM, are in need of items to support resident health and wellbeing. Saint Francis has a Amazon Wishlist for those who would like to purchase items online. You can have them delivered to 131 W 2nd St or drop off at CHUM and label Saint Francis Apartments (https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/24861X4VXT3Q1?ref=wl_share). For the Steve O'Neil Apartments, they are requesting cleaning supplies, household products, and gifts for fun and entertainment. Watch the Giving Tree for those items.

Central Hillside Gospel Choir Christmas Concert

December 14th, 6:00pm

For holiday spirit, come to the Central Hillside Gospel Choir's Christmas concert on December 14th at Peace Church. Members of Peace, Pilgrim, and St Mark AME, along with friends from the Twin Cities, sing under the direction of Alanna Galloway. Proceeds benefit the Arthur Foy Scholarship fund.



Quiet Christmas

Wednesday, December 18th, 5:45-6:45pm

It's the most wonderful time of the year...right? Sometimes the lights, sounds, and in-your-face joy can feel like a lot. Take a break from the busyness and join for a time of quiet, singing, prayer, and reflection, where whatever you're feeling about the holidays, God meets you with open arms. This service will be held in the Sanctuary following Wednesday dinner and is designed for children, youth, and adults.

Annie's House

Annie's House, a shared living home for homeless mothers, is hosting its Annual Sneaker Ball Fundraiser. Peace Church has agreed to donate two Gift Baskets for their silent auction. We are seeking items to put into the Gift Baskets that fit the following themes:

Books and Toys for Little Children (0-5) – For example, culturally diverse books, small wooden puzzles, puppets, blocks, gift cards for kid's stores, etc.

Relax and Rejuvenate for Women – For example, cozy socks, good books, body lotion, chocolates or other treats, one-size wrap, gift cards for coffee, movie or books, etc.

Please bring any donations to the Peace Church Office by December 1st and label then for "Annie's House". If you have questions, call Gayle Kelly 218-340-0483

Grandmothers for Peace

Grandmothers for Peace are collecting children's books and art supplies for AICHO. We are looking for books that emphasize peaceful and inclusive themes.

Please bring book and art supplies by December 18th.



Christmas at Peace

Christmas Pageant – December 15th at 10:30am.

This year we are creating an in-house version of our Christmas Pageant. During the last half of November, children and youth will be part of the writing process during Children’s Church on Sunday mornings and Wednesday night programming. We’ve got space for younger kiddos, middle and high school youth to participate! Check your emails for more details to come.



Pageant rehearsals will be on Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm on December 4th and 11th. With a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 14th from 10am to 12pm.

This year we are creating an in-house version of our Christmas Pageant called “The ABCs of Christmas.” During the last half of November, our children and youth helped to write the script. We’ve got space for younger kiddos, elementary, middle and high school youth to participate! Please email Amanda if your young person would like to be involved in this year’s pageant!



Sounds of the Season

Peace Church Christmas Cantata December 22nd, 10:30 am

Jim Pospisil, the Peace Choir and musicians will present a Christmas Cantata on December 22nd during the 10:30 worship service. If you enjoy singing and would like to be part of this seasonal choral gathering, talk with Jim or show up on Wednesday evenings at 6:15pm.

Christmas Caroling December 22nd

We will meet up in Fireside Room after the 10:30 Cantata Worship Service. We will have pizza and then head out to bring cheer to Peace members who are housebound and living in assisted living. All ages are welcome!



POINSETTIA ORDER

Please fill out form and place in the offering plate or bring to the Peace Church office by Friday, December 6th

Name _____

I wish to order _____ poinsettias at a cost of \$20.00 each, in memory of / in honor of the following person(s):

MEMORY	HONOR	NAME(S)

Please make checks payable to Peace Church with “poinsettia” in the memo.