

Peace United Church of Christ
1503 2nd Ave NE
Rochester, MN 55906

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Peace United Church of Christ
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Rochester, MN 55906
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www.peacechurchucc.org
www.facebook.com/peaceuccrochester

An Open and Affirming (ONA) Congregation

Vision: A safe and inclusive church living God's radical message

Communion the first Sunday of the month

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

9:45 a.m. Faith Formation

11 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Nursery care available during the 8:30 & 11 a.m. worship services

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Olive Branch

December 2016

Ponderings of Pastor Paul...

It is always a joy to celebrate the holidays this time of year! So, Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year! Now that Thanksgiving has past we are walking into our Advent journey. I want to call your attention to, and invite you to, some amazing opportunities in worship during this Advent Season, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. These experiences provide a wonderful backdrop to prepare for the celebration of Christmas:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 - **Theme: Redemption of Scrooge - PRESENT**
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

We will be celebrating Communion and rejoicing another baptism on this Second Sunday of Advent. Pastor Beth will be preaching.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 - **Theme: Redemption of Scrooge - FUTURE**
8:30 a.m.

We will be celebrating this season through sharing, readings, and singing of Christmas Carols.

11:00 a.m.
Our Children will be performing and celebrating our Christmas Program ("Matt and Lucy Version Births")

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 - **Theme: Celebrating our Christmas**
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Cantata presented by our Choir of Peace ("A New Birth. A New Beginning")

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 **Christmas Eve Services**
4:00 & 6:00 p.m.

A beautiful service of Lessons and Carols will be shared at these services with special music by the choir and other musicians. We will end our services with our traditional communion/candlelight service.

7:30 p.m.

We will celebrate Jesus' birth with a CONTEMPORARY CHRISTMAS service. Come and share in the joy of Jesus' birth with familiar tunes to a different beat! We will end this service with the beautiful communion/candlelight service.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 **Blue Christmas Service and Potluck**
10:30 a.m.

Since Christmas is on Sunday we wanted to provide a different backdrop to our Christmas journey. So many in our community find Christmas a difficult time of year. We want to provide an opportunity for all of our brothers and sisters to experience Christmas in a welcoming way. Our 10:30 a.m. service will provide time for singing, reflection, reading, meditation, and prayer in a quieter atmosphere. We will share communion at this service.

11:30 a.m.

Following our worship service we are providing an opportunity for ALL people (whether you come to the worship or not) to join us for a potluck meal. There are so many in our community who do not have family and/or a place to have a Christmas meal together. So, EVERYONE is invited to join us and fellowship with your Peace UCC Family!

Ham and drinks will be provided. You are invited to bring a side-dish and/or dessert. You are also asked to bring your favorite game to play. We will also be showing a family Christmas movie during this time. Please invite others to come – Children (as always) are welcome!!! Come and join the party!

Peace,

Paul Bauch, Senior Pastor
pastor@peacechurchucc.org
<http://www.facebook.com/paul.bauch>

Beth Rogers, Associate Pastor
ypastor@peacechurchucc.org
<http://www.facebook.com/rev.rog>

Check the online version of the Olive Branch to see pictures of our November events!

Just so you know...

Please submit all articles for the next issue of the Olive Branch by the **15th of the month** to the Church Office or email to aoffice@peacechurchucc.org.

The deadline for the bulletin is Wed at **9 a.m.** every week.

The deadline for PowerPoint announcements are **Thursdays at Noon.**

NOVEMBER PHOTOS!

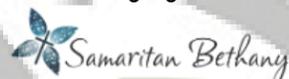


December Events

Middle School & High School Youth Gathering

Sunday, December 11th
1:30 p.m.

Join us in baking with our friends at Samaritan Bethany. If you would like to attend, contact Pastor Beth at ypastor@peaceucc.org. We will be leaving right after the Fellowship Lunch.



Cookies and Caroling

Sunday, December 18th
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Come celebrate the Christmas spirit with your Peace United Church of Christ family. We'll gather at Samaritan Bethany to spread Christmas Cheer and then meet back at church for cookies.

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 18th
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

The Choir of Peace invites you to celebrate the Christmas story through their Christmas Cantata: "A New Birth, A New Beginning" written by John Purifoy, which will be shared at both services on Sunday, December 18.

The celebration of Christmas gives each of us a yearly opportunity to relive and reflect on that first Christmas - the birth of our Savior and the promise of a new beginning as Christians. Through narration and song (voices, instruments and piano), this cantata contemplates the challenge to Mary (and us) to trust God and deepen our faith; to overcome our fears and rejoice in the birth of Jesus Christ as shepherds did and to offer gifts and to worship as did the Magi. It's our way of celebrating God's promise fulfilled.



Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 11th
11 a.m.

This year's Children's Christmas Program will be December 11th, during the 11 a.m. service. Children in preschool through 5th grade will help us tell the story of Christmas in a new way with Matt and Lucy's Version Birth, a reimagining of the story as told by Matthew and Luke. Practice and preparation during Faith Formation on December 4th and 11th. Third, Fourth and Fifth graders are invited to take a speaking role, all others will help sing, wear costumes and join one of various bands of actors from shepherds, animals, wise men, and the holy family. It will be a fun time and a new perspective on the ancient story! Questions or comments, contact Pastor Beth at ypastor@peaceucc.org. The 8:30 a.m. service will include caroling and meditation.

Christmas Eve Services

Saturday, December 24th

This Holiday season we will be having three Christmas Eve services that are open to the public. Bring your family and friends and enjoy the Christmas spirit. The following services are available on Saturday, December 24th:

- 4:00 & 6:00 p.m. - Traditional Lesson: Carols, Candlelight and Communion
- 7:30 p.m. - Contemporary/Acoustic with Candlelight and Communion

Blue Christmas Service And Potluck

Sunday, December 25th
One Service Only at 10:30 a.m.
Potluck at 11:30 a.m.

Christmas is on Sunday this year! Come celebrate the Christmas spirit with your Peace United Church of Christ family at our Blue Christmas Service at 10:30 a.m. We will also have a Christmas potluck dinner at 11:30 a.m. A Christmas ham will be provided. Please bring a side dish and/or dessert to share.

Peace Happenings

Tuesday Morning Men of Peace Group @ 7 a.m. - Peace Room

(All men are invited to join us for fellowship and discussion which generally focuses on the upcoming worship scriptures.)



Tuesday Morning Women's Group @ 10 a.m. - Peace Room

(All women are invited to join us for fellowship and discussion.)

Tuesday Beverage & Bible @ 5 p.m. - Glynner's Pub

(Tuesdays, from 5-6 p.m. at Glynner's Pub [1643 Broadway Ave N] & we'll gather for fellowship and discussion.)

Thursday Morning Women's Group @ 7 a.m. - Peace Room

(Reading and discussing "Learn to Walk In The Dark" by Barbara Brown Taylor.)

Twice Monthly Race Forward - The Dwelling

(Everyone is welcome to attend this group as we explore our blind spots and open up the uncomfortable discussion of race and privilege.)

Monthly Saints of Peace Outings

(See our Saints of Peace outing schedule and sign ups in the Fellowship Hall; events are open to those ages 55 and better.)

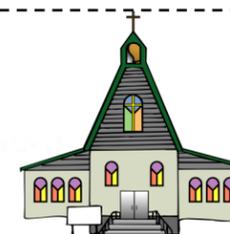


December Miriam Ministry @ 11:00 a.m. - Peace Room

(ALL WOMEN WELCOME! Please join us Wednesday, December 14th at 11am for our Christmas Potluck. Also, bring a gently used purse that we will fill with personal care items and donate to the Women's Shelter.)

October Financial Update

	October	YTD
Pledges Budgeted	\$31,229	\$296,313
Actual Pledges received	\$32,500	\$325,000
Difference	-\$1,271	-\$28,687



Last year to date in October: \$297,814 so we are behind last year by \$1,501.



January Events

New Years Day Service

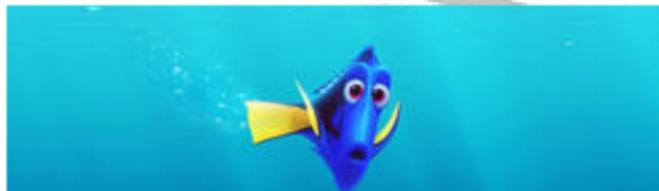
Sunday, January 1st
ONESERVICE at 10:30 a.m.

Join us on New Years Day for our special ONESERVICE at 10:30 a.m.

Family Movie Night

Friday, January 13th
6 p.m.

Grab the whole family and join us for our family movie night. We will be watching Finding Dory. Cost is \$5 per family for pizza and pop and you can sign up on the family bulletin board at the beginning of January. See you there!



Reminder for 2016 Givers!

All donations must be received by the 31st of December to count toward your 2016 giving. Donations that are mailed must be postmarked by December 31st. Anything received on or after January 1st (including post-dated checks) will be reported as 2017 donations per the IRS. Thank you for your generous donations to Peace UCC!

Women's Retreat

January 13th through January 15th
Good Earth Village

Mark your calendars and grab a registration brochure today for this year's women's retreat January 13-15, 2017 at Good Earth Village. Our Theme will be Water, Wind, Earth, and Fire: Praying with the Elements. The women's retreat is a great time to gather with women you know and some you are just meeting to relax, rejuvenate and build relationships in the midst of winter. Cost is \$180 for the whole weekend, prorated for those only able to stay one day. Scholarships are available, please contact Pastor Beth for more information.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 22nd
9:45 a.m.

For all the leaders of church groups, please turn in your annual reports to the church office by January 8th.

Chili Cook Off

Sunday, January 22nd
12 p.m.

Bring a crock pot of your 'famous' chili and allow the rest of us to vote on our favorite. See sign-up in Fellowship Hall to let us know how many chili recipes you plan to include in this annual fundraiser.

On behalf of the entire Peace United Church of Christ Staff
WE WISH YOU A VERY BLESSED CHRISTMAS!!!!



Pastor Paul

Mona

Jody

Kari

Debby

JOY
TO THE
WORLD! THE
LORD HAS COME;
LET EARTH RECEIVE
HER KING. LET EVERY HEART
PREPARE HIM ROOM, AND HEAVEN
AND NATURE SING, AND HEAVEN AND HEAVEN
AND NATURE SING

Taylor

Pastor Beth

Brian

John

Sara



Thank You To All Who Donated Toothbrushes To Hawthorne Helps!

We had a very successful supply to donate to Hawthorne Helps! 167 toothbrushes; 74 toothpaste; 26 mini dental kits; 17 floss; 3 gum tools were donated.



October Rags to Riches Results

1649 pounds were donated over the course of our five weeks!! (342, 183, 234, 421, 469) That's \$164.90 we raised for Peace Church ministries! Back in April 2016, 516 pounds were donated and in October 2015 1,572 pounds were donated! Thank you for cleaning out those closets!

2017 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for the 2017 fiscal year will be available for pick up on Christmas Eve. We also encourage you to use eGive. Please contact the Peace Office for more information.

Church Groups Reports

For all the leaders of church groups, please turn in your annual reports to the church office by January 8th.

Construction Update

Knutson Construction and crew have been feverishly busy trying to push ahead with our building project. While we have run into some more delays, we are hopeful that everything will be done in time for our Christmas Eve services!!

On the outside: The window installation has begun; however, finish install of the windows and doors won't happen until the first part of December. The saved brick was used on the outside columns...which look very nice!! We even have a new sidewalk to our new entry!

On the inside: The existing Narthex floor was re-leveled and another door was added behind the stage into the new addition. Due to changes with ADA requirements, our family/handicap bathroom has to be refitted to make it larger. This entails pushing out one side of the wall, moving the sink, and the baby changing table. All of this will require redoing the tile floor and the tiled walls. Because of the new addition, we have had to add fire sprinklers to our Sanctuary; those pipes are in place. The exiting Narthex is coming to life with new colors and will have a continuous feel with the new addition. We've also had to install new fire doors. The additional doorway into the Fellowship Hall showed it's importance during our Thanksgiving dinner. We were able to move people through the buffet lines much quicker and many commented on how nice it is to have the additional space!



Now that we are nearing the home stretch with our construction, there will still be items that need to be addressed: finishing the coatroom, finding funds to put flooring down in the new addition, demo of the existing office to make room for the Nursery, touch-up painting of the Fellowship Hall, etc. Be watching for more opportunities to assist with this. Our 'footprints' are moving us forward to our dream.

Special Thanks to Knutson Construction!

December Happenings

“Fun Group” Events Continue

Ready to spend some 'fun' with your Peace family? A group of individuals has set into motion several events over the coming months (for adults and families). We invite you to join us on these dates/times:

12/17/16	Peace Family Cookie Making	F-Hall/Kitchen
12/18/16	Cookies & Caroling	Samaritan Bethany
12/25/16	Christmas Potluck	F-Hall

Two Mission Giving Opportunities!

The Sharing Tree

December 4th through December 18th

Supporting Family Promise: providing transitional housing to homeless families in the Rochester area.

- Pick out gift tags from Sharing Tree in narthex – purchase item on tag.
- Bring back your unwrapped gifts by Sunday Dec. 18th



Give a Gift of Hope

December 4th through December 18th

Supporting Project Legacy: providing life and educational support to 60 youth of color in Rochester area

- An alternative gift-giving program “gift” a donation to Project Legacy in the name of a person of your choice.
- Look for the table next to the Sharing Tree beginning Dec. 4th to purchase your tax deductible gift cards .

Veterans of the Cross Christmas Offering

Sunday, December 18th

Helps provide pension and health premium supplementation to lower-income retired church workers, emergency assistance to clergy or lay church employees in need, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks to hundreds of annuitants; administered by the Pension Boards.

This Month's Services

SUNDAY	SERVICE	COUNCIL IN CHARGE	MUSIC	Fellowship Lunch	
4	w/Communion	8:30 a.m. Craig Bentz	Special Music	Amber Carlson's Team	
		11:00 a.m. John Pavek	PEACE Group Sings		
11	Children's Christmas Program	8:30 a.m. Craig Bentz	Bells of Peace	Theresa Scott-Diekvoss' Team	
		11:00 a.m. John Pavek	Children's Christmas Program		
18		8:30 a.m. Craig Bentz	Choir Cantata	Wendy Nevala's Team	
		11:00 a.m. John Pavek	Choir Cantata		
24	Saturday Christmas Eve Services	4:00 p.m. Craig Bentz/John Pavek	Christmas Eve Team	N/A	
		6:00 p.m. Craig Bentz/John Pavek	Christmas Eve Team		
		7:30 p.m. Craig Bentz/John Pavek	Christmas Eve Team		
25	Blue Christmas Service	10:30 a.m. 11:30 Potluck	Craig Bentz/John Pavek	John Miller	Christmas Potluck

December 2016

Birthdays

- Martin Geiger, Macy Loechler
- Alan Bakken
- Irene Solomon, Emelia Tande
- Norma Vale
- Lisa Jerabek, Duane Rich Jr.
- Jim Ohly
- Cindy Andrist, Aaron Tande
Stacy Beyer-Groth,
Linda Floden, Carter DeYoung
- Kenneth Bourquin,
Dawn Stevens
- Heidi Kloempken,
Steve Franks
- Kent Johnson
- Elija Abbakar-Springer,
Zora McLaurin
- Cal Hawley
- Alex Bauch, Jonah Siewert
- Mary Leppala
- Clinton Wilson
- Sharon Wilder
- Gayle Rock, Alyvia Doffing
- Holly Christie
- Carole Winters, Lori Paul
- Nancy Tointon, Sheila Welke,
Cathleen Meinhardt
- Nancy Bishop
- Martin Wieland,
Cameron MacDonald
- Laurie DeYoung
- Nicole Hollar, Nancy Wieben,
Elizabeth Endicott,
Brianna Ohly
- William Keller

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 • 7 am - 8 am: Women of Peace (Peace Rm)	2 • 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm: Teske/ Johnson Wedding Rehearsal	3 • 10 am - 11:30 am: Quilters Group (Rm 104) • 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm: Teske/ Johnson Wed- ding (Sanc)
4 • Worship w/communion (8:30am & 11am) • 9:45 am - 10:45 am: Faith Formation (Various Classrooms) • 12 pm - 1:30 pm: Fellowship Lunch (F-Hall) • 12:30 pm - 3 pm: Stephen Ministry Training (Dwelling) • 1 pm - 4 pm: HS Youth Group (Bakken Farm) • 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm: ONEVOICE Christmas Eve Team Rehearsal (Sanc)	5 • 11:30 am - 1:30 pm: CareGiver Lunch Bunch for Adults and Children 3 and Under (F-Hall) • 6 pm - 7 pm: Social Action Committee Meeting (Peace Rm)	6 • 7 am - 8 am: Men of Peace (Peace Rm) • 10 am - 11:30 am: Women's Bible Study (Peace Rm)	7 • 11:30 am - 1:30 pm: CareGiver Lunch Bunch for Adults and Children 3 and Under (F- Hall) • 6 pm - 7 pm: Adult Bell Rehears- al (Rm 115) • 7:15 pm - 8:30 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal (Sanc)	8 • 7 am - 8 am: Women of Peace (Peace Rm) • 9 am - 11 am: Channel One Volunteer Team (Chanel 1 HQ)	9 • 11:30 am - 1:30 pm: Saints of Peace Christ- mas Gather- ing (Dwelling)	10
11 • Worship (8:30am & 11am) • 9:45 am - 10:45 am: Faith Formation (Various Classrooms) • 11 am - 12 pm: Children's Christmas Program (Sanc) • 12 pm - 1:30 pm: Fellowship Lunch (F-Hall) • 12:30 pm - 3 pm: Stephen Ministry Training (Dwelling) • 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm: MS & HS Youth Gathering (Samaritan Bethany) • 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm: ONEVOICE Christmas Eve Team Rehearsal (Sanc)	12 • 11:30 am - 1:30 pm: CareGiver Lunch Bunch for Adults and Children 3 and Under (F-Hall) • 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm: Stephen Ministry (Peace Rm)	13 • 7 am - 8 am: Men of Peace (Peace Rm) • 10 am - 11:30 am: Women's Bible Study (Peace Rm) • 7 pm - 8 pm: Race Forward (Dwelling)	14 • 11:00 am - 1 pm: Miriam Ministry (Peace Rm) • 11:30 am - 1:30 pm: CareGiver Lunch Bunch for Adults and Children 3 and Under (F- Hall) • 6 pm - 7 pm: Adult Bell Rehears- al (Rm 115) • 7:15 pm - 8:30 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal (Sanc)	15 • 7 am - 8 am: Women of Peace (Peace Rm)	16	17 • 9:30 am - 11:30 am: Choir Cantata Rehearsal (Sanc) • 1 pm - 4 pm: Peace Family Cookie Baking (Kitchen/ Fellowship Hall)
18 • Worship (8:30am & 11am) • 9:45 am - 10:45 am: Faith Formation (Various Classrooms) • 12 pm - 1:30 pm: Fellowship Lunch (F-Hall) • 12:30 pm - 3 pm: Stephen Ministry Training (Dwelling) • 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm: MS Youth: Advent Worship Spiral Walk (SH Room) • 2 pm - 3 pm: Cookies & Carol- ing (Samaritan Bethany)	19 • 11:30 am - 1:30 pm: CareGiver Lunch Bunch for Adults and Children 3 and Under (F-Hall) • 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm: Senior Card Players (Peace Rm)	20 • 7 am - 8 am: Men of Peace (Peace Rm) • 10 am - 11:30 am: Women's Bible Study (Peace Rm) • 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm: Senior Card Players (Peace Rm)	21 • 11:30 am - 1:30 pm: CareGiver Lunch Bunch for Adults and Children 3 and Under (F- Hall) • 5:30 pm - 7 pm: Stewardship Committee Meeting (Peace Rm) • 6 pm - 7 pm: Adult Bell Rehears- al (Rm 115) • 7:15 pm - 8:30 pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal (Sanc)	22 • 7 am - 8 am: Women of Peace (Peace Rm)	23	24 • 4 pm - 5:30 pm: Christ- mas Eve Service w/Communion (Sanc) • 6 pm - 7:30 pm: Christmas Eve Service w/ Communion (Sanc) • 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm: Christmas Eve Guitar/ Acoustic Service w/ Communion (F-Hall)
25 • 10:30 am - 3 pm: Blue Christmas Service - ONE SER- VICE (F-Hall) • 11:30 pm - 1 pm: Christmas Potluck (F-Hall)	26 • OFFICE CLOSED • 11:30 am - 1:30 pm: Care- Giver Lunch Bunch for Adults and Children 3 and Under (F-Hall)	27 • 7 am - 8 am: Men of Peace (Peace Rm) • 7 pm - 8 pm: Race Forward (Dwelling)	28 • 11:30 am - 1:30 pm: CareGiver Lunch Bunch for Adults and Children 3 and Under (F- Hall)	29 • 7 am - 8 am: Women of Peace (Peace Rm)	30 • 6 pm - 7 pm: Wood/ Zerby Wed- ding Re- hearsal (Sanc) • 7 pm - 9 pm: Wood/Zerby Wedding Rehearsal Dinner (F- Hall)	31 • 4 pm - 5 pm: Wood/Zerby Wedding (Sanc)



November at Peace United Church of Christ

