

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Peace United
Church of Christ
1503 2nd Ave NE,
Rochester, MN
55906
507-282-6117

www.peacechurchucc.org
http://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

8:30am Traditional Worship
9:45am Faith Formation
11am Contemporary Worship

Nursery care available from
8:30 to 12pm on Sundays

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR
UPDATES:
www.peacechurchucc.org

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Check the on-line version
of the Olive Branch to see
pictures of our December
events

Olive Branch

January 2018

Ponderings of Pastor Beth ...

"Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not neglecting meeting together, spurring each other on." -Hebrews 10:24-25

Hello Friend, the church needs you. You are the voice echoing the call in Hebrews to not neglect meeting together. Your voice reminds us that when systems are left alone, they move toward less connection, not more. You champion, you encourage, you bring vision for what could be in the lives of unconnected people, you are spiritual formation stewards for our community, and you show us how social time is a holy pursuit as long as there's food, or maybe even just coffee because Jesus' earthly ministry involved food and community and food has a unique connection to our humanity and spirituality. Whether you have been serving in a volunteer capacity or have only just thought about being part of something new, the church needs your vision, the church needs your vibrancy, and the church needs your vulnerability for today and for the future.

- The Church Needs Your Vision.** If leadership is about influence, then vision is intrinsically wrapped up in that. Vision is a picture you bring that invigorates those you lead by showing what could be and what should be. Vision is a clear path forward for those that don't know the way. Vision is a rallying cry for those that have lost heart. Vision is the catalyst for change for those that are ready for growth. The church needs your God-gifted vision.
- The Church Needs Your Vibrancy.** When I say vibrancy I do not necessarily mean it in a loud or demonstrative way. I do however mean fully, energetically and passionately engaged with people in community. Vibrant people energize leaders and organizations. People want to be part of something full of life and vitality. The church needs inspired members emboldened by a sacred vision of what biblical community looks like. The church needs your vibrancy to accomplish the mission of bringing God's radical hospitality to the world.
- The Church Needs Your Vulnerability.** Is the church a safe place? Do you feel you can be your authentic self? Part of life is learning to live authentically, bringing your whole self into the church. To share, lead, or experience life from a place of vulnerability doesn't mean you have to share your deepest darkest secrets at every opportunity. It does mean that you don't hide behind a mask of faux vulnerability. It does mean you bring an authentic and vulnerable part of yourself, of who you really are, ready to be changed into conversation. It also means that you too experience in others an authentic expression of the same kind of biblical community that you benefit from.

The church needs you. You matter and you are appreciated! And it needs you to be real, to be honest, and to bring your whole self into this place. And if we all do that, we will change the world. Our little corner of the world will show the radical hospitality, the care, the compassion, the gift, that comes from being a part of Peace United Church of Christ.

How will you choose to give of yourself this month? What is ready to be brought into the world through your attention and care this day?

Peace,

Rev. Beth Rogers

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 OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES: www.peacechurchucc.org

Just so you know...

You can check our website for updates: www.peacechurchucc.org

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 office@peacechurchucc.org.

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

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

REMINDER....

**Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 21
@ 9:45am**

**Soup & Bread Cook-Off
Sunday, January 21
@ 12:15pm**

Be Good Earth Stewards! Recycle Your Christmas Lights at Peace Church!

As good stewards of our earth, we want to help folks with recycling their burned out/broken Christmas lights. Please don't throw them away - drop them off in the trunk located in our coat hall by **Sunday, January 21**. We'll take them to Rochester Public Utilities to be recycled and keep them out of the landfills!!



JANUARY HAPPENINGS

Happy New Year!!!!

If you'd like to receive your 2017 giving statement electronically, please contact Debby at office@peacechurchucc.org. Hard copy tax statements will be available for pick-up on Sunday, January 21. Thank you for helping us save on postage and printing costs!!

Inside Church Work Day

Saturday, January 13th ~ 9am - 1pm

The construction is finished and the dust settled - literally!! It's long overdue for us to clean up our church. There are painting touchups needed, deep cleaning in the Sanctuary, some light carpentry work. the list goes on! Sign up [here](#) to help, leave your name with the Welcome Desk, or just show up! The more hands, the faster we'll get things done!

2017 Committee Reports

Due by Sunday, January 14th

In preparation of our Annual Meeting, please have all your 2017 committee reports submitted to Debby by Sunday, January 14th.

Family Movie Night

Friday, January 19th ~ 6pm

Bring your favorite floor pillow and watch the Lego Batman Movie. Cost is \$5/family for pizza and pop. Please sign up on line (<https://goo.gl/mBZWCH>) by Noon on Jan 18 so that we can order enough pizza and pop.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 21st

9:45am ~ Sanctuary

Please join us on Sunday, January 21 for our Annual Meeting. Agenda items include reviewing the committee reports, recognizing outgoing council members and installing our new council members, Listos Preschool & Childcare update, 2018 budget, and Footsteps to the Future Campaign update.

Soup and Bread Cook-Off

Sunday, January 21st

12:15pm ~ Fellowship Hall

Have a special soup and/or bread recipe? Now is your chance to put it to the test! Submit your entry on line (<https://goo.gl/SGkBXZ>). The rest of us will get the honor to taste and vote for only \$5/per person. All proceeds will help fund the Building Campaign. We are also looking for folks to help with set up and tear down. Contact the Welcome Desk if interested!

Samaritan Bethany Resident Assistance

Month of January

During the month of January, we are asked to help with transporting residents at Samaritan Bethany to/from their Sunday chapel services at 9am and 10am. Sign up on line (<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a49a5ae2fa1fe3-sunday>) for dates and times.



~ Christmas Caroling ~ Sundays at Peace



Advent Candle Lighting ~ Christmas Cantata

Ongoing Peace Groups

Tuesday Morning Men of Peace Group @ 7am - 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 Bible Study @ 10am - Peace Room

(All women are invited to join us for fellowship and discussion, meeting weekly on Tuesdays at 10am. For additional information contact Sheila Boss)

Tuesday Beverage & Bible @ 5pm - Glynner's Pub

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

Knitter/Crochet Groups - Mondays @ 7pm - Room B008 & Tuesdays @ 10:30am - Room 105

(ALL are welcome to join us every Monday at 7pm in Room B008 OR Tuesday at 10:30am in Room 105)

Thursday Morning Women's Group @ 7am - Peace Room

(Reading and discussing "God a Human History" by Reza Aslan. For additional information contact Anna Froehling.)

Twice Monthly Race Forward - Dwelling @ 7pm

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

Miriam Ministry - Wed, Jan 24 @ 9:30am - Peace Room

(ALL WOMEN are welcome to join us for a short program and fellowship).

Quilter's Group - Thursdays @ 10am-3pm & 1st Saturday of Month 10am-11:30am - Room 104

(For additional information contact Marie Wilson)

Fellowship Lunches - Weekly, after the 2nd Service, Teams provide and prepare Fellowship luncheons for anyone wishing to stay for lunch. For more information on being a part of a Team, visit the Welcome Desk.

Connect Groups - Sign Up on Sunday, January 7. See insert for more information.

Journey - Begins Sunday, January 28 @ 9:45am - Peace Room

YOUTH RELATED DATES:

- 1/4: 7:30pm - Youth Fundraising Meeting
- 1/7: 12:30pm - Confirmation
- 1/14 Sub Sandwich Sale Begins
- 1/21: 9:45am - Attend Annual Meeting
12:30pm - Confirmation
- 1/28: 12:30pm - Youth Group Gathering

Additional youth announcements are sent via Snap Chat. Contact Pastor Beth if you want to be included in the group.

January 7 - Sign up for a CONNECT Group!!!
Learn - Engage - Worship
And find new ways to share your life....



Birthdays

- 1 Ron Davis, Matt Siewert, Caleb Strauss, Libby Sunnock
- 3 Annie Ely
- 4 Jeremy Blomberg, Bruce Dahlen, Emma Leof, Jared Liebenow
- 5 Tom DeYoung, Kourtnei Alcock
- 6 Ruth Larson, Molly Ohly
- 10 Anela Newton, Ian Thompson
- 11 Melissa Kloempken
- 14 Nancy Zimmerman, Marlow Bakken, Kim Sullivan
- 15 Ron Moore, Eric Franck
- 16 Shaelyn Wells
- 17 Nicole Hansen, Aaron Holst
- 18 Betty Allen, Maurice Geiger
- 19 Megan Poterucha
- 20 Jennifer Bradt
- 21 Sonja Hoag, Richard Berg
- 22 David Rueb, Griffin Rock
- 23 Nancy Miller
- 25 Bonnie Lenz, David Kane, Krista Laughlin
- 27 Craig Diekvoss
- 28 Ryan Hollar
- 29 Don Solomon
- 30 Dolores Koelsch, Rinoa Wozniak
- 31 Barbara Blomberg, Carrie Kohlhapp, Leslie Crawley, Barbara Ladsten, Lii DeYoung

SUNDAY	SERVICE	COUNCIL IN CHARGE	SPECIAL MUSIC	FELLOWSHIP LUNCH TEAM
7 Communion	8:30am 11:00am	Jeff Hanson	Special Music Joy ONEVOICE	Dave & Shelley
14	8:30am 11:00am	Jeff Hanson	Bells of Peace Peace ONEVOICE	Team Incredible
21	8:30am 11:00am	Jeff Hanson	Peace Place Children Joy ONEVOICE	Soup & Bread Cook Off
Annual Meeting				
28	8:30am 11:00am	Jeff Hanson	Debby Adams Peace ONEVOICE	Shar Hain's Team

Welcome New Members...

Jeff & Ila Teskey
Donnie & Augusto Edwards (Aiden)
Charlene Nelson & Gavin Bloch
Mark Overing
Troy Yotter
Richard & Peggy Lehman

Welcome New Nursery Staff,

We're pleased to announce that Ana Rivera is our new Nursery Staff Attendant! Ana comes to us from Listos where she is a bi-lingual teacher. Please stop by on Sunday mornings to welcome Ana to our church family!!



Financial Update

November saw a slight decrease compared to last month. As we move closer to the end of 2017, we'll need to ensure that we do what we can to end on a positive note. Thank you for giving what you are able.

	November	YTD
Pledges Budgeted	\$35,417	\$389,583
Actual Pledges	\$34,330	\$361,853
Difference	-\$1,087	-\$27,730



gram ~ Christmas Eve~



Children's Christmas Pro

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	1 OFFICE CLOSED 	2	3 **	4 * 7:30pm Youth Fundraising Meeting (SHR)	5	6 10am Quilters Group (Rm 104)	
7 8:30 & 11am Worship with Communion 8:30 Samaritan Bethany Resident Help (Peace Rm) 9:30 Samaritan Bethany Resident Help 9:45am Faith Formation 12pm Fellowship Lunch (F-Hall) 12:45pm Confirmation (SHR) CONNECT GROUPS SIGNUP	8 **** 6pm Social Action Mtg. (Peace Rm) 7pm Sanctuary Work Group Meeting (Peace Rm) 7pm Stephen's Ministry (Peace Rm & Rm 215)	9 *** 7pm Race Forward (Dwelling)	10 **	11 * 18 *	12	13 9am Peace Church Work Day	
14 8:30 & 11am Worship 8:30 Samaritan Bethany Resident Help 9:30 Samaritan Bethany Resident Help 9:45am Faith Formation 12pm Fellowship Lunch (F-Hall)	15 ****	16 *** 12:30pm Sr Card Players (Peace Rm)	17 ** 5pm Stewardship Meeting (Peace Room) 7-9pm Church Council (Dwelling)	18 *	19 6pm Family Movie Night (F-Hall)	20 9am Council Retreat (F-Hall) 4pm Soup & Break Cook-Off Set Up (F-Hall)	
21 8:30 & 11am Worship 8:30 Samaritan Bethany Resident Help 9:30 Samaritan Bethany Resident Help 9:45am Children's Activities (Dwelling) 9:45am Annual Meeting 12:15pm Soup & Bread Cook Off (F-Hall) 12:45pm Confirmation (SHR)	22 **** 7pm Race Forward (Dwelling)	23 *** 7pm Race Forward (Dwelling)	24 ** 9:30am Miriam Ministry (Peace Rm) 7pm Council (Dwelling)	25 * 9am Channel One Team (Channel One HQ) 6pm Worship Planning Meeting (Pastor Paul's Ofc)	26	27	
28 8:30 & 11am Worship 8:30 Samaritan Bethany Resident Help 9:30 Samaritan Bethany Resident Help 9:45am Faith Formation 9:45am Journey (Peace Room) 12pm Fellowship Lunch (F-Hall)	29 **** 7pm Knitter/Crochet Group (Room B008)	30 *** *** Every Tuesday 7am Men of Peace (Peace Rm) 10am: Women's Bible Study (Peace Rm) 5pm: Beverage & Bible (Glynners) 10:30am Knitter/Crochet Group (Rm 115)	31 ** ** Every Wednesday 6pm Adult Bell Choir (Rm 115) 7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (Sanc)	JANUARY 2018			
	*** Every Monday 7pm Knitter/Crochet Group (Room B008)	*** Every Tuesday 7am Men of Peace (Peace Rm) 10am: Women's Bible Study (Peace Rm) 5pm: Beverage & Bible (Glynners) 10:30am Knitter/Crochet Group (Rm 115)	** Every Wednesday 6pm Adult Bell Choir (Rm 115) 7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (Sanc)	* Every Thursday 7-8am Women's Fellowship (Peace Rm) 10am - 3pm Quilting Group (Rm 104)			

CONNECT Groups - Sunday January 7

We are a people of story, and to really allow our faith walk to change our lives, to bring us closer to wholeness, and each other, we must engage each other in this story telling. Coming in 2018, we will be launching a church wide initiative to engage every member in a small group, a CONNECT group. What is a connect group? What is a small group for that matter? Why should you care?

Whether we realize it or not, we engage in small groups throughout our lives from work friends, to fantasy football or video game allies, to the people who regularly ride the same bus or walk the same route as you do. But these groups of our lives fill us with a false sense of community many times. Would you be comfortable telling the group on the bus about a recent death in your life, or divorce proceedings? We need to connect as people, to feel the community of support and caring that a church is meant to do. We need to be able to tell our stories as we go through life, in process. Everyone needs 4-7 close friends to whom we can turn when needed, and who would turn to you as well. This is the role of CONNECT Groups.

At Peace UCC, we have a thriving system of engagement, education or advocacy groups that range from large group to mid size group to small group. But the difference in what will be the focus of early 2018 is that CONNECT groups are intentional, focused, and accountable to each other.

Take a look at the list of groups here at Peace and make a check mark next to the ones you engage with. Where do they fall? Look at the list under the Connect, do you fit any of those already ongoing Connect Groups? Many of us don't fit into those categories or even if we do, we don't know if we were invited into them, or how to start. This means you! So maybe I've got you interested at this point, but now what? Next comes the reasons not to right? And I do completely understand them. And more than that, I share many of those same concerns in my own life.

BUT I don't have the time! I'm too busy. My kids have sports. My schedule isn't regular enough....Or many other reiterations of the same concern. And we are super busy people. Multi-tasking, long hours, complicated work schedules and family lives are the norm in our modern world. And it doesn't seem to be slowing down. So understand that, I get it. AND, I want you to see what it is like to make a commitment to this type of connection with your church community to see how it helps you grow, or to feel more at peace in your regular life knowing that your CONNECT group night is coming up later this week. Once we get rolling, we will also have a wonderful opportunity to add more groups at times that work better for your family. As we engage the Test Drive of CONNECT Groups, I want to ask you to be open to the experience. Try it on, test it out. It isn't forever.

BUT I already come to church, why would I need a CONNECT Group? I already serve on a committee, why would I need a CONNECT Group? These are great questions. And yet, we have more needs for connection and support than anyone can provide in the brief encounters before and after services. Sundays at Peace UCC are a wonderful time to recharge, engage and connect with your faith family, but that isn't the only day of the week you may need support. CONNECT groups are your first line of response for building community. Community that transfers

- P**resence
 - Journey
 - New Members
- E**ducate
 - Men's Bible Study
 - Women's Bible Study
 - Sunday Morning Book Studies
 - Faith Formation for Kids & Youth
- A**dvocate
 - Race Forward
 - Sanctuary
- C**onnect
 - Miriam Ministries
 - Couples Groups
 - Middle & High-School Youth Groups
- E**ngage
 - Social Action
 - Council
 - Fellowship Lunch
 - Fellowship Hour Hosting
 - Transportation
 - Building and Grounds
 - Women's Fellowship Group
 - Worship Leadership & Music
 - ONEVOICE
 - Choir
 - Bell Choir

over to Sunday interactions. But Sunday is also filled with a hundred or more people who are also recharging and engaging. You need to be heard by those close to you, in both your joy and your pain, and CONNECT Groups can be in that bridge with you. CONNECT Groups are a part of our faith's DNA, as Jesus is often quoted in Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Jesus is there in the midst of us, at all times, but when we are surrounded by so many, can we really listen for the still small voice calling us?

BUT I can't be that vulnerable with people I don't know! What about those awkward pauses? Who will care what is really going on with me? If you can't be real with your church, your church isn't serving you. At Peace UCC, we are proud of the commitment to being real and radically hospitable to all in our community. And this doesn't just mean to the guests who come in for the first time. For those of you who have been here for 40 years, you are just as in need of God's Radical Hospitality found in community and CONNECT Groups continue the mission of spreading that hospitality among us.

BUT I don't understand the process, how will I get into a group? Who will lead the group? To start off 2018, we will have a **SIGN UP DAY on January 7th**, where you will be able to sign up and share input on what kind of group you are interested in. This will be a time to share what kind of connection you want to make. Do you want to connect with other adoptive families? Do you want to connect with other singles? Do you want to connect with other people who like to run, or bike, or do yoga together? After getting all this input, we will be matching everyone to a group and helping participants start up with a special dinner in Fellowship Hall, to try out the model and get to know each other as we engage this test drive of Connect Groups through May. Leaders will continue to be found and developed as we go through the year. And everyone, leaders, hosts, and participants will have support and resources along the way as we continue to build up this part of our ministry.

And remember, this Test Drive of our CONNECT Groups will run from February – May and then each group will make a decision about the plans for summer and the fall to continue. Some groups will stay together for a longer time, some will change and seek out new members, or split into a few new groups. Use this time to engage yourself in a new way, and let go of the Big BUTS, so you can take the test drive. Take this opportunity to try out something new, and meet some new people at Peace UCC to add to your faith family.

Mark Your Calendars.....
Sunday, January 7

