



“So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.”
Luke 2:4-5

“The Holy 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 22nd, 2024 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:00 am

Gathering Music - Ringing of the Bells

Welcome & Announcements

We Prepare to Worship God

Prayer & Prelude

We Gather Around God's Word

A Scripture reading from Isaiah 40

Call to Worship

One: We look for an extraordinary sign of hope for our world, but God's sign is most ordinary of all:

Many: A young woman is with child.

One: We look to power for strength in our world, but God points to the most vulnerable:

Many: She gives birth.

One: We look far and wide for a key to God's mystery, but God points us home:

Many: She calls this child Immanuel: God-with-us!

One: Let us rejoice, and worship our God

Many: In our ordinary, vulnerable lives: God-with-us!

Praise be to God! Amen!

*Opening Hymn "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus #125

We Light the Candle of Love

One: Who listens to the voices of the poor? Who shares strength with the powerless? Who surprises with forgiveness, and makes all things new?

Many: Our Hope is fragile as an infant.

Two: We call out in our longing for peace:

Many: Where is your Power, O God? Where is the Love that transforms our world?

One: Sing out my soul, sing of the holiness of God who has delighted in a woman, lifted up the poor, satisfied the hungry, given voice to the silent.

Two: The God who grounded the oppressor, blessed the full-bellied with emptiness, blessed those who have never wept with the gift of tears.

Many: God desired the darkness of the womb and inhabited our flesh, so we might be saved. So, our soul sings out in longing for Jesus!

One: Let us light this fourth candle of Advent, a candle of Love. In its light, let us think about our world, where God is longing to be born in peace, in joy, in freedom and in wholeness.

Two: Let this candle of Advent Love shine in our hearts all week and remind us to remember Christ's birth in our work for justice, our practice of peace, and our offering of forgiveness. Please join me as we pray.

We Are United In Prayer

Surprising God, you make your presence known in unexpected ways, and challenge our comfortable assumptions about how you work. Meet us here today and open our hearts to recognize you in our midst, calling us to live into your new thing: a world where your love takes shape in justice and peace. In the name of the One who is coming, we pray: Amen!

*The Passing of Christ's Peace in Community

Special music "Mary Did You Know? By Lowry/Greene

Pastoral Prayer a sharing of community and world prayers

Affirmation of Faith

*Hymn "I Will Sing of Your Love, Love, Love" (on screen)

We Engage God's Word

Scriptures

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 2:1-5

Multigenerational Lesson

Sermon

"The Holy Journey"

We Respond to God's Word

Call to Offering

One: The Love of God is born new in the world as often as we embody that love in the works of compassion, peace and justice.

Many: Let us offer our gifts in a spirit of generosity and hope. Amen.

Offertory

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

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

We Are Sent into the World

*Closing Hymn "The First Noel" (verses 1-4) #151

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

*Commissioning & Benediction

Postlude

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

++++
++++

Rev. Stephen Stepp
Patricia Siekierke
Rob Giese
Victor Abitz
The Worship Enhancement Committee
All People



Minister
Organist
AV Tech
Custodian
Liturgist
Disciples

Reproduced with permission under license Images used during worship are in accordance with US Code Section 110 (3).
CCLI License: 20808843; Streaming License: 20808836

THIS AT WEEK CHURCH OF PEACE

Sun 22	M 23	Tues 24	W 25	Th 26	F 27	Sat 28
9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School Social Hour: Ladies of Peace Group #1	1-4pm Fellowship Hall Reserved No Loaves & Fishes	Church Service with Communion 4:00pm Children's Program 6:00pm Traditional Service	Office Closed No Loaves & Fishes	10am Messenger Assembly		
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
9:00am Worship Social Hour: Hospitality Committee			Office Closed No Loaves & Fishes			

- 12/23 – Dennis Schabel
 12/24 – Eric Rebedew
 12/25 – Brynley Clapper,
 Renee Kiefer, Dennis Smith,
 Lynda Hoffman
 12/27 – Debra Burg,
 Samantha Schmidkonz
 12/28 – Makayln Roehl



**Messenger
 Assembly
 Thursday Dec. 26th**

**WELCOME TO
 CHURCH OF PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 December 22, 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
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 love of Jesus Christ in my heart.

**CHURCH OF PEACE – FACTS AND FIGURES
 OFFERINGS LAST WEEK:**

General Fund: \$1,433.15;
 Mission - Giving (OCWM): \$45.00;
 (UCC Christmas Fund): \$25.00; E-giving: \$1,590.00;
 Investing in the Future: \$17,535.00.
 Attendance Sunday, December 15th:
 Online: 31 — In person: 77 Last year: 73



Christmas Eve Worship Services
 4:00 pm Christmas Program
 6:00 pm Traditional Service.
 Communion served at both.
 Christmas refreshments will be served between the services.
 Poinsettias will be available to pick up following each service.



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 21st Century. Thank you!

Church Council Stewardship
Nominating

Safe Conduct™ Policy & Procedure

The Church of Peace Annual Meeting

is scheduled for Sunday, January 26, 2025 following our Worship Service.

All groups and committees of the church need to submit their financial report and activities report to the office by January 13th.

At the meeting, the Church Council will present proposed changes to the Church of Peace United Church of Christ Constitution. These changes will be voted on during the meeting. Please plan on attending this meeting so you can participate in the decisions of our church.

Were decorating the cookies today !!

The Stewardship Committee needs your help to decorate our cookies during our Coffee Fellowship Hour today so we can enjoy them on **Christmas Eve!**



2024 Reverse Advent Calendar

Sunday, Dec. 22

Mac 'n Cheese – two boxes

Monday, Dec. 23

1 pound packages of ground beef or turkey

Tuesday, Dec. 24

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

These gifts will help feed many people in our community.

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.

Or scan the QR code below and sign up! Thank you!



The Church Office will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

May God bring us great joy and solace this Christmas through the birth of Jesus Christ!