

Church of Peace



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all



“Follow the Light of the World!”

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.

January 5th, 2025

Epiphany Sunday

9:00am

Gathering Music - Ringing of the Bells - Welcome and Announcements

We Prepare to Worship God

Prayer & Prelude

We Gather Around God's Word

A reading from Isaiah 60

Call to Worship (Adapted from Psalm 106)

One: Wisdom praises herself and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.

Many: She brings worlds into being and illuminates the night sky with stars in the heavens.

One: Wisdom declares herself and tells of her might in the midst of her people.

Many: She strengthens her children and grants peace to the peoples.

One: Wisdom praises herself and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.

Many: She bestows grace and redemption and makes mystery known.

Praise Wisdom!

One: Please join me in our Prayer of Invocation

Radiant God, your majesty awes us, and your righteousness humbles us.

Shine your light amongst us as we worship you in spirit and in truth in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

* Opening Hymn

"Away in a Manger"

#147

* Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Holy God, all things came into being through your Light. Yet, we are drawn to shadows and veils. We distance ourselves from the conditions of oppression and despair that our neighbors experience, and we prevent ourselves from aligning ourselves to Your kingdom. Ignite within us a hunger and thirst for righteousness, justice, compassion, and truth. Make us a righteous branch in the vineyard. In Jesus name we pray with hope for reconciliation with you.

Words of Grace

Pastor: Sisters and Brothers, trust that the grace of God has appeared, bringing new life to all. Receive the gifts of love and mercy from Jesus Christ who recognizes your repentance, comes to you in your weakness, offers strength for transformation, provides encouragement for restoration, and grants forgiveness for sin.

**Many: Forgive us and guide us O Light of the World. Praise be to God!
Amen.**

*The Passing of Christ's Peace in Community

Pastoral Prayer - a sharing of community and world prayers.

Affirmation of Faith

One: We are not alone; we live in God's world.

All: We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

We Engage God's Word

Scriptures John 1:1-18 Matthew 2:1-12

Multigenerational Lesson

Sermon *"Follow the Light of the World!"*

We Respond to God's Word

Offering Invitation

One: Every gift we have comes as part of God's good creation.

Many: Let us honor and participate in the Creator's vision of true peace, flourishing, and abundance by prioritizing the needs of others over the excesses of self.

One: Let us embrace gift-giving as our love language and commitment.

Many: May our generosity be a witness to the world of the Living God among us. Amen.

Offertory

*Doxology

The Celebration of Communion

*Communion Hymn "We Three Kings" #172

*Communion Prayer "Together, We Are Blessed By Being Here."

Invitation to the Lord's Table Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Sharing of God's Gifts

Please come forward for all are welcome to receive the body of Christ-the bread of life, and the cup of the new covenant.

Prayer of Dedication & Thanksgiving

Ever-Giving God, may these gifts reveal your greatness, generosity, and glory. We give thanks for the privilege of being in mutual and covenantal care with our neighbors as manifested by the sharing of resources through this church in Jesus Christ. Amen.

We Are Sent into the World

*Closing Hymn "I Am the Light of the World!" #469

*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

Minister

Patricia Siekierke

Organist

Rob Giese

AV Tech

Victor Abitz

Custodian

Jean Stepp

Liturgist

All People

Disciples



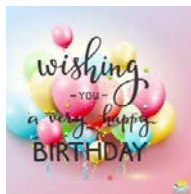
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THIS AT WEEK CHURCH OF PEACE

Sun	M	Tues	W	Th	F	Sat
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00am Worship W/ Communion	Loaves & Fishes		Loaves & Fishes	9:00am TOPPS		
Social Hour: Stewardship						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00am Worship 10:00am Sunday School	2024 Year End Reports Due	11:30 Ladies of Pace	Loaves & Fishes	9:00am TOPPS		
Social Hour: Pastor Steve & Jean	Loaves & Fishes	6:30 Church Council		11:00 Golden Fellowship "Remember When"		

January 5th – Lois Abitz, Cassie Poirier
 January 6th – Darlene Feuerhammer,
 Angel Kieckbusch, Yvonne Miller
 January 7th – Terri Hoffman
 January 8th – Lois Abitz
 January 9th – Isabella Burns, Barbara Conger
 January 12th – Andrew Brandl, Charles Reiter



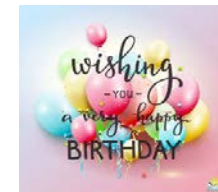
Thank you to Everyone who helped make our Christmas Eve Worship of God wonder-filled and joyful.
 And thank you to Everyone who made cookies, brought in items for the Food Pantry Reverse Advent Calendar, and the Angel Giving Tree.

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.

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CHURCH OF PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
January 5th, 2025**

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*

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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	Theresa Schultz
Christine Weimer	Amy Mitchell	Mary Jean Nicholson
Pat Grose	Donna Birkholz	Rev. James Martin
Debra Rammer	Nancy Schaefer	Carol Kryzjanowski
Arnold Breitenfeld	Brenda Post	Doris Rymer
Wayne Katerski	Janet Rymer	Susan Snider
Nicole Schendel	Del Weigel	Alexis Hayes
Greg Baker	Edna Karl	Dan Guell

p.s. Dear God, guide me to follow Jesus Christ,
the Light of the World!

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(UCC Christmas Fund): \$195.00; Memorial Fund: \$2,750.00;
E-giving: \$1,163.00; Investing in the Future: \$1,910.00.

SPECAIL GIFTS: To the Memorial Fund in memory of Lois Zinniel given by family and friends; Memorial Fund in memory of Corrine Troskey given by family and friends; UCC Christmas Fund in memory of Norn Abitz given by Lester and Charlene Abitz. To the Investing in the Future Fund in memory of Sandra West given by Bobbi Thomma.

Attendance Sunday, December 29th:

Online: — In person: 62 Last year: 58

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