

# Peace United Church of Christ

208 E Maurer Street  
Shawano, WI 54166



Sunday May 8, 2022 – 9:00 AM

Pastor & Teacher: Pastor Uriah Williams  
Choir Director: Nathan Falk  
Ministers: All the People

Liturgist: Rose Maglio  
Organist: Vicky Wagner

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Peace United Church of Christ  
Order of Worship  
May 8, 2022

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/INTRODUCTION**

**OPENING HYMN**

“Praise to the Living God”

#8

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We gather once more as a great multitude  
From various peoples and places, we've come

**All: Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving  
Honor and power be to our God**

One: We gather once more to shout “Alleluia!”  
Salvation belongs to the Holy One.

**All: Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving  
Honor and power be to our God**

One: We gather to worship day and night  
The one who guides us to the springs of life.

**All: Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving  
Honor and power be to our God**

**UNISON INVOCATION**

**God, our shepherd—Restorer of our souls—**

**The one who calls us to nap in green pastures—**

**We enter into this moment of worshipful gathering**

**trusting that you will guide us along the paths of righteousness.**

**Wherever we may be in this world, let us know the comforting presence of  
your rod and staff. We are expectant, O God, that our fears will fade,**

**that our cups will overflow, and that your goodness and mercy will accompany  
us**

**in this hour and beyond. Now, let us worship you in spirit and in truth.**

**Amen.**

**MOMENT FOR MOTHERS****INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

Leader: God, as you call us more intentionally into the fullness of life that abounds in your presence, Let us acknowledge the ways our unbelief has separated us from your vision for our lives and all creation.

*Moment of silence*

**All: God, we confess that we often let hopelessness have too much power over our lives.**

**In the face of crisis, our faith has frequently faltered.**

**In the midst of calamity, our fearlessness has faded.**

**In the presence of tribulation, our worry has weakened our ability to act justly.**

**Help our unbelief, O God!**

**Bring us back to you, Great Redeemer.**

**Remind us of the unfailing treasure that is in your love and care for all of creation—**

**For your grace is sufficient, from the valley of death to the tables you’ve prepared for us.**

**Embolden us, again, and revive our spirits.**

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Leader: Friends, hear the Good News: God believes in us even when our belief in God is challenged. God’s grace and mercy abounds, and in God and Christ, we are forgiven.

**Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

HEBREW BIBLE: Judges 16:23-30

<sup>23</sup>Now the lords of the Philistines gathered to offer a great sacrifice to their god Dagon, and to rejoice; for they said, “Our god has given Samson our enemy into our hand.” <sup>24</sup>When the people saw him, they praised their god; for they said, “Our god has given our enemy into our hand, the ravager of our country, who has killed many of us.” <sup>25</sup>And when their hearts were merry, they said, “Call Samson, and let him entertain us.” So they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them. They made him stand between the pillars; <sup>26</sup>and Samson said to the attendant who held him by the

hand, “Let me feel the pillars on which the house rests, so that I may lean against them.”<sup>27</sup> Now the house was full of men and women; all the lords of the Philistines were there, and on the roof there were about three thousand men and women, who looked on while Samson performed.<sup>28</sup> Then Samson called to the LORD and said, “Lord GOD, remember me and strengthen me only this once, O God, so that with this one act of revenge I may pay back the Philistines for my two eyes.”<sup>29</sup> And Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and he leaned his weight against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other.<sup>30</sup> Then Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines.” He strained with all his might; and the house fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So those he killed at his death were more than those he had killed during his life.

GOSPEL: Acts 9:1-19

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest<sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.<sup>3</sup> Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.<sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”<sup>5</sup> He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.<sup>6</sup> But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”<sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one.<sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.<sup>9</sup> For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.”<sup>11</sup> The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying,<sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.”<sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem;<sup>14</sup> and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.”<sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel;<sup>16</sup> I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”<sup>17</sup> So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul

and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”<sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized,<sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus,

## **MESSAGE**

“Two Blind Holy Men”

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Hymn: Lord, I Want to be a Christian #454**

### **CALL TO OFFERING**

We believe in the God of justice and righteousness, and God believes in us to carry forth the mission of loving and caring for community. Let us now share our gifts and resources so that we may continue to walk humbly with God and with neighbors.

## **DOXOLOGY**

#780

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**We dedicate these gifts that have been shared for the fortification of the beloved community. Let these gifts do justice in the world. Let them be a sign of our belief in the God who saves, heals, and sets free. Let these gifts, and the works of our hands and feet, be a blessing to all in need.**

### **BENEDICTION**

Let us go forth knowing that we are led by God, that we are sheltered by God, that God never leaves nor forsakes us even in the bleakest valley. In God, may we hunger and thirst no more, and may a peace that surpasses all understanding abide with us, now and forever more. Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN**

“Lord, Make Me More Holy”

#75

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Giving link for the UCC's Humanitarian effort in Ukraine.: [Ukraine Appeal - United Church of Christ \(ucc.org\)](http://UkraineAppeal-UnitedChurchofChrist(ucc.org))

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**This week at Peace Church:**

Sun., May 8: 9:00 AM Worship

*Happy Mother's Day*

7:00 PM AA Meeting

Thurs., May 12: 1:30 PM Worship

Fri., May 13: 1:00 PM Quilting Group

Church Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9:00 AM till 2:00 PM.

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**Prayer Concerns and Celebrations:**

*Call the church office (715.526.2916) if you would like to put yourself or a loved one on the prayer list.*

Joys

Birthdays: 5/8: Kathy Kuse; 5/9: Hadley Kunschke, Kerri Lu Meyer; 5/10: Rose Adelbush; 5/11: Phyllis Webster; 5/13: Emerson Gruber, Bobby Scott IV, Pastor Uriah; 5/14: Hailey Weishoff

Anniversaries: 5/5: Brooke & Joseph Skytta; 5/12: Ashley & Justin Weishoff; 5/14: Lee & Merrie Crawford

Concern

Jim Niesen	Abby Tuma	Clayton Blom
Karen Mandel	Lola Kaczor	Jerry Bucher
Pastor Lew	Barbara Minster	Bob Engel
Lori Mueller	Mary Ellen Scherer	Marian Pauly
Theresa & Jim Timmer	Leola Anderson	Andrea Knickerbocker
Mary Peterson	Sandy Laehn	Gary Gurnee
Baby Helena Theis	Brian Wescott	Mike Winkler
Roland Dobratz		

All our homebound members

Those serving in the military: Mike Hert, Shayne Lanou, Adam Larson, Ian McNerney and Ryan McNerney.

Please keep in your prayers Jean Olsen and family and friends of Don Olsen who passed away May 1.

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SCRIPTURE LESSONS: May 15: Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 148, Revelation 21:1-6, John 13:31-35

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## *Greeters!*

As we continue our move into the future of the church post-quarantine, I would like to bring back greeters to the church. I have heard from several people around town and visitors to our church how much they loved their opening conversations with the people who initially met them in their past visits prior to the COVID-19 quarantine. When you are entering a new space for the first time, especially one as community oriented as a church, the initial impressions can have a lasting effect on your overall memory of the location. If you are interested in fulfilling this ministry of the church, please sign up on the bulletin board or reach out to Shelley!

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## *Last Sunday Funday & Senior Sunday!*



With the end of the school year quickly approaching it will soon be time to say farewell to some phenomenal graduating seniors as they continue onto their next journeys in life.

Sunday, May 15th, we will be holding a special spot in the 9:00 AM service



to recognize their accomplishments and hear what their next plans are! We would also like to invite any of our seniors who graduated during the COVID-19 quarantine to partake in this event as well if they are interested. Additionally, that Sunday will be our final Sunday Funday for the season! From what I have heard so far, we are looking at playing outdoors with a variety of different outdoor activities such as chalk, bubbles, and a field hockey set as well as holding an ice cream sundae bar! Come on out to have a blast with our youth here at Peace UCC!



## Sensory Room!



A huge thank you to Cassandra Whitehouse and Hunter Hokenstad for presenting to the Council what it would take for the church to have a sensory room.

For those that may not know, a sensory room is a room designed to help neurodivergent (ADHD and autism are examples of this) children and adults receive stimuli that help calm them and focus them while preventing sensory overload. The council voted this week that we move forward with converting one of our nursery rooms into a sensory room in an effort to be a more inclusive congregation. No major renovations need to be done to the room, we just need to purchase some equipment to place in the room. The cost to purchase the basic equipment that was recommended totals to \$197 and would include a Pea Pod, Small Trampoline with a safety bar, and a variety of Fidget Tools. The next steps would be hanging a swing or purchasing a swing stand (stand would range from \$190-220), purchasing a crash pad (a decent sized one costs around \$279), and then sensory mats which vary widely in price. The intent with this room is to provide a safe space that families with neurodivergent members can utilize during different events at the church such as Sunday worship and our hopeful future disability groups. In all, the project will likely cost around \$800 total. We will be working on an Amazon registry if you would like to support this project by purchasing any of the equipment yourself or if you would like to mark your offering envelopes specifically for this project, we will make sure your offering is utilized for this purpose.

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Mark your calendars for June 5th, 2022! This Pentecost we will be holding a service to install and recognize Pastor Uriah as our new settled pastor with visitors from across the Northeast Association! We will have a luncheon

catered by Angie's starting around noon with the service itself starting at 1:30. So we can provide an accurate count to Angie's, if you could please sign up if you are planning on coming to the luncheon it would be a great help to us! This is an important moment in the life of the church and the covenants that are recognized between the congregation and the pastor publicly, we hope to see many of you there!



### *New Member Course!*

For any current friends of the church, anyone visiting, or even if you're an old member interested in learning a little bit extra about your church family, I invite you to our New Member Course! This week I was able to make great progress on the initial curriculum and have heard the need to get the ball rolling on it for a couple months now. My goal is to provide this course in early June. If you are interested in attending, please email the church office and let us know or sign up on the sheet and provide an email so we can reach out for scheduling purposes! Thank you to Andrew Warner for bringing this need to my attention and helping me greatly with what a course like this should entail!

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### *Care Committee!*

For the Care Committee, we are looking at having two meetings on Thursday the 19th of May. One will be at 10:00 AM and the other at 6:30 PM. If you have any interest in participating please

come to one of these meetings and if you are unable to attend either please reach out to Shelley at the church office so we can prepare some materials for you. The goal of this group is to provide outreach to our members in a variety of ways. For now this will include writing cards and letters for our homebound members, keeping track and sending cards for birthdays and anniversaries, and calling and visiting with fellow members as needed. This is a wonderful ministry to be involved in and a great way to foster community!

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### *Committee/Group Roster*



Both for the New Member Course and for the church website if the committee heads could send a list of their members, a short description of what the committee/group does, and the best contact info for the head of the group, we would be greatly appreciative! We're hoping to publish a list

by the end of this month of all the groups and committees that take place here at Peace UCC. This would include groups such as the Quilting Group, Upper Room, Altar Guild, Finance Committee, Missions Committee, Council, and more! Thank you!