

PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1503 2ND AVE NE
ROCHESTER, MN 55906

PEACE
CHURCH



www.peacechurchucc.org
(507) 282-6117



OLIVE BRANCH MONTHLY

PEACE  CHURCH

A special thank you to the LeQuires and our drivers who assisted with the Thanksgiving Community Meal. We served a little over 165 and received several thank-yous. We now have made it to Advent and Christmas and we certainly can use some Christmas! It's been a year like no other to put it mildly. Global pandemic, economic recession, mass unemployment, political division, cultural upheaval, record wildfires, powerful hurricanes, devastating floods. The realities of life have been heavy and humbling. We have been aware of the darkness around us. It's the ideal setting for some light—the perfect time to **REDISCOVER CHRISTMAS**.

No matter how troubling the times, and no matter how heavy our hearts, there is good news—the greatest news!

Advent is the time for our journey into this rediscovery of **Hope, Peace, Joy, Love** and **Christ** himself.

Wherever you are this year on your level of anxiety, uncertainty, or pain, where ever you are on your own spiritual journey, where ever you are in the midst of holiday stress or pressure—we invite you into this journey of Advent as we **REDISCOVER CHRISTMAS**.

FINDING
HOPE
IN OUR
UNCERTAINTIES

FINDING
PEACE
IN OUR
STRUGGLES

**REDISCOVER
CHRISTMAS**
GOOD NEWS IN TROUBLING TIMES

FINDING
JOY
IN OUR
DISCOURAGEMENTS

FINDING
LOVE
IN OUR
DIFFERENCES

- FAITH FORMATION
- CALENDAR OF EVENTS
- FEATURED EVENTS
- FINANCIAL UPDATE / BIRTHDAYS

December 2020

AS WE COME TO THE CLOSE OF 2020, I THINK EVERYONE IS ANXIOUS TO LEAVE THIS YEAR BEHIND. FOR THIS ADVENT SEASON, LETS PREPARE OUR HEARTS TO CELEBRATE THE TRUE LIGHT AND HOPE THAT THE BIRTH OF THAT TINY BABY BROUGHT TO EARTH ON THAT FIRST CHRISTMAS. GOD'S LOVE STILL SHOWS IN UNCERTAIN TIMES.

Each week we will explore our theme through active learning opportunities (with Faith Formation and Small Groups) as well as our Sunday messages.



Welcome back Super Heroes!

You all have been doing a great job keeping up with your training and learning how to love your neighbors. This month, we are going to be learning about what it means to **love God**. Of course, Christmas is this month, which is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. So, we thought it would be a great time to learn about love of God from Jesus' mother: **Mary**. Indeed, Mary was a hero in many ways, as you will find out.

Be sure to check out **Episode 2** of Peace Powers Story at the link on our Peace Faith Formation Program Plan web page (<https://www.peacechurchucc.org/ffprogramplan>).



Children (PreK – 5th Grade):

Week 1: Luke 1:26-38 (Trust—Angel Gabriel)

Week 2: Luke 1:47-56 (Praise—3 Wise Men)

Week 3: Luke 2:1-20 (Finding God in Unexpected Places—Baby Jesus)

Week 4: Luke 2:1-20 (Commitment—Mary & Joseph)

Teens (6th – 12th Grade):

Virtual Wellness Wednesday events are being planned. Watch for the emails from Tracy.

January Mission Box Pick Up, Saturday & Sunday, December 12 & 13, 3—6p:

During our Nativity Story Drive Thru at 2530 80th Ave NE, Eyota, you can pick up your January mission boxes. See the details on the next page.

FEATURED EVENTS

Nativity Story Drive-Thru

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12 & 13, 3-6p (2530 80th Ave NE, Eyota)—See the Nativity Story being retold through vignettes. Stay in your car as you experience the events that led up to the amazing moment when a little baby changed the world. The event will take place at the Winters' farm (see details on the previous page). In case of inclement weather, this will take place Saturday & Sunday, December 19 & 20 (same time).

Questions: Debby Adams
(office@peacechurchucc.org)

January Mission Boxes

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12 & 13, 3-6p — Pick up your January mission boxes at the Nativity Story Drive-Thru event (2530 80th Ave NE, Eyota).

Christmas Eve—Silent Meditation

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 4-7p— The Sanctuary will be available for those who wish to experience silent meditation. Our COVID preparedness plan calls for everyone to wear a mask. There will be no gathering in groups.

Christmas Eve Carol Sing

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 5:30 –6:00p—This will be held outdoors (dress appropriately) as we gather to bring the Christmas spirit through song and readings.

2020 Donations

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31—As we end 2020, be sure to have your donations postmarked by Thursday, December 31 to be counted toward your 2020 giving.

Image:

Jerry Locula sharing special music during worship.



The staff at Peace United Church of Christ wishes you all a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year!

Clare	Mona	Jenny	Brian	Ben
Debby	Tracy	Sara	Jerry	
Pastor Paul	Dylon	Pastor Winston		

CALENDAR

December Events

TUESDAY 1: Faith Formation Leaders Virtual Meeting, 7:30p

THURSDAY 3: Sunday service recording, 10a

SATURDAY 5: Peace Quilters, 10a

SUNDAY 6: 2nd Sunday of Advent—Peace

WEDNESDAY 9: Sunday service recording, 10a

SATURDAY 12: Nativity Story Drive Thru, 3—6p

SUNDAY 13: 3rd Sunday of Advent—Joy; Nativity Story Drive Thru, 3—6p; Nesbitt/Buchanan Wedding, 5p

WEDNESDAY 16: Sunday service recording, 10a; Church Council, 7p

THURSDAY 17: Sunday service recording, 10a

SUNDAY 20: 4th Sunday of Advent—Love

THURSDAY 24: Silent Christmas Eve Mediation, 4p; Christmas Eve Carol Sing, 5:30p

WEDNESDAY 30: Sunday service recording, 10a (TBD)

THURSDAY 31: Last day to submit your 2020 payments

1st Sunday of Advent — Hope
(finding **Hope** in our uncertainties)

2nd Sunday of Advent — Peace
(finding **Peace** in our struggles)

3rd Sunday of Advent — Joy
(finding **Joy** in our discouragement)

4th Sunday of Advent — Love
(finding **Love** in our differences)



NOVEMBER REOCCURRING EVENTS

MEN OF PEACE
Every Tuesday, 7a
(ZOOM)

BEVERAGE AND BIBLE
Every Tuesday, 5p
(ZOOM)

RACE FORWARD
2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7p
(ZOOM)

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
Every Thursday, 7a
(ZOOM)

ENORMOUS AFRICA
DISCUSSION
Every other Saturday, 6p
(ZOOM; Dec 12)



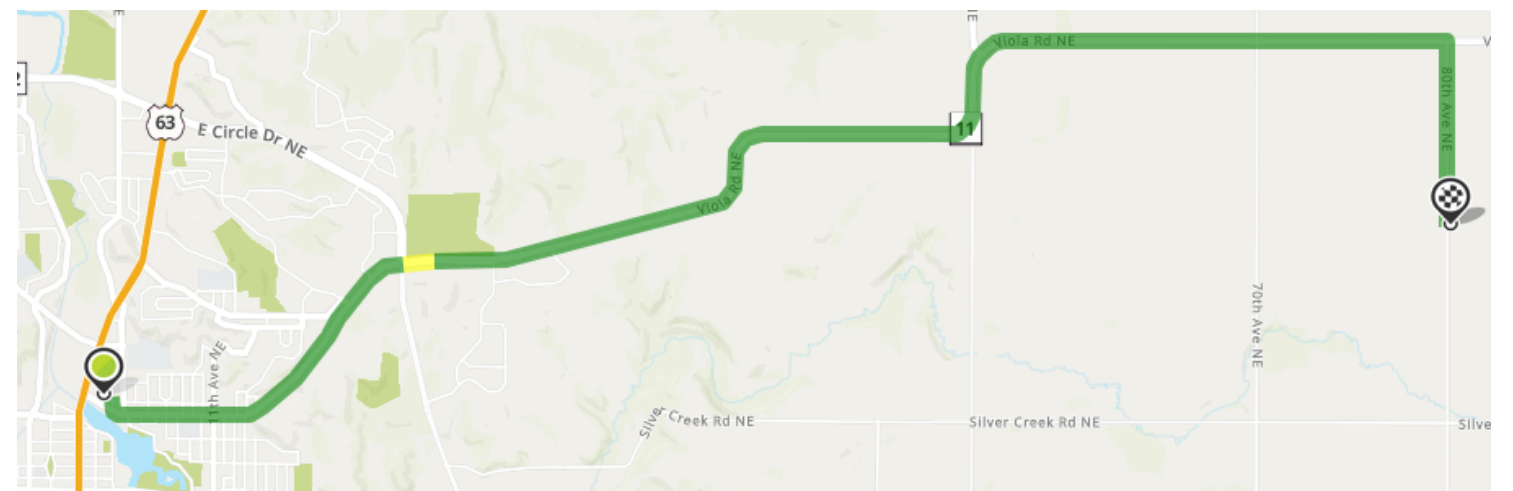
Nativity Story Drive Thru

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 12 & 13, 3-6p (2530
80th Ave NE, Eyota)** — Because we won't be able to gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus at church or in person, we will bring the Nativity Story to you! Thanks to Brian and Cheryl Winters, we will have a Nativity story drive-thru at their farm. In case of inclement weather, the drive-thru will be held on Dec 19 & 20 (same time).

We encourage you to invite your family, friends and neighbors to come and celebrate this special story-telling event.

The drive-thru will be held at the farm of Brian & Cheryl Winters (2530 80th Ave NE, Eyota); head east on Viola Road (from Peace UCC) and follow the "star" signs to direct you there; it's approximately 9 miles away from Peace UCC. A free-will donation will be taken as you exit to help support the on-going ministries at Peace United Church of Christ.

NOTE: Those participating in our Super Hero Mission will pick up their January Mission Boxes when departing.



Fun at the Costume Cruise



Images Top/Right/Bottom:
Getting ready to welcome our Super Heroes!



Images Left/
Right/Bottom:
Lots of Super
Heroes came to
show their
support!



Images Top/Bottom: Brick Brain
doing his best to intimidate our
Super Heroes!



FINANCIAL UPDATE

As you can see, our October income is below budget: -\$3,800 is from pledged income shortfall, the rest is non-pledged income and building use revenue loss. On a positive note, our total expenses for October came in at \$42,423 vs a budget of \$44,451. As we close out this year, we want to remind everyone that your payments for 2020 must be received in the office by Thursday, December 31 (or postmarked by December 31).

Please contact Eric Theuer, Financial Liaison, if you have any questions.

	OCT 2020	YEAR-TO-DATE	OCT 2019
Pledges budgeted	\$33,250	\$332,500	\$36,958
Pledges received	\$28,590	\$318,913	\$42,139
Difference	-\$4,660	- \$13,587	\$5,181



Image: Aerial view from the October costume cruise.
Photo courtesy of Pastor Winston.

December Birthdays

We celebrate with those in our church family who have birthdays in December.

- 01 Macy Loechler
- 03 Irene Solomon, Emelia Tande
- 05 Norma Vale
- 07 Lisa Jerabek
- 08 Augusto Edwards
- 09 Cindy Andrist, Stacy Beyer-Groth, Linda Floden, David Rebstock, Aaron Tande
- 10 Kenneth Bourquin, Dawn Stevens
- 11 Steve Franks
- 13 Elija Abbakar-Springer, Zora McLaurin
- 14 Cal Hawley
- 15 Jonah Siewert
- 16 Mary Leppala
- 18 Clinton Wilson
- 19 Bradd Walton, Lexie Walton, Sharon Wilder
- 20 Alyvia Doffing, Gayle Rock
- 21 Holly Christie
- 23 Peggy Lehman, Lori Paul, Jeff Sadler, Carole Winters
- 24 Nancy Tointon, Sheila Welke
- 26 Martin Wieland
- 27 Richard Lehman
- 28 Laurie DeYoung
- 29 Nicole Hollar, Nancy Wieben
- 31 Anna Froehling

