

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



# OLIVE BRANCH MONTHLY

PEACE  CHURCH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
FEATURED EVENTS  
FAITH FORMATION

Mid-  
December  
through  
January



**Image left:** Chad Ramaker shares his faith journey with the congregation.



**Image right:** Ann Gerlach shares her faith journey with the congregation.

**AS THE DARKNESS OF  
WINTER TAKES HOLD, WE  
REJOICE IN THE LIGHT  
AND HOPE THAT THE  
CHRIST CHILD BRINGS TO  
US.**

At Peace, we believe that accompanying one another on life's journey is what community is all about. While each person's life takes its own unique and beautiful path, community is about caring for each other through the ups and downs so we never truly travel alone.



**Image above:** Stone Soup - Recipe for Growth: What will you contribute? 2020 Stewardship Campaign Theme.

# CALENDAR

## Mid-December Events

**SUNDAY 15:** One Earth: One Chance Guest Speaker David Radcliff, 9:45a; Fellowship Potluck, 12p; Samaritan Bethany Caroling, 1p

**SATURDAY 22:** All-Comers Christmas Program, 9a; Christmas Fund Special Offering

**MONDAY 23:** Beatles Christmas Eve-Eve Service, 6:30p

**TUESDAY 24:** Traditional Lessons and Carols with Candlelight Communion, 4p; Blue Christmas with Candlelight Communion 6p

**WEDNESDAY 25:** Peace Family Dinner 12p (RSVP required to Welcome Desk by 12/22)

**THURSDAY 26-27:** OFFICE CLOSED

**SUNDAY 28:** Holiday Hymn Sing - ONE SERVICE, 9a

**MONDAY 29:** OFFICE CLOSED

**REMINDER:** All donations must be received and post marked by Tuesday, December 31 to be counted toward

### UCC Christmas Fund - Special Offering

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22—You have the opportunity to be a part of a ministry that cares for the active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ through your participation in this year's Christmas Fund Offering. Your gift to the Christmas Fund will not only assist pastors, but also provide for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks next December to lower-income retirees. Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is your chance to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care.

### DECEMBER REOCCURRING EVENTS

COMMUNION  
First Sunday of every month

MEN OF PEACE  
Every Tuesday, 7a  
(Peace Room)

KNITTING GROUP  
Every Tuesday, 10:30a  
(Room 105)

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY  
Every Tuesday, 10a  
(Peace Room); except  
12/24 & 12/31

BEVERAGE AND BIBLE  
Every Tuesday, 5p  
(Glynner's Pub)

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP  
Every Thursday, 7a  
(Peace Room)



HOLIDAY  
WORSHIP  
SERVICES  
Make Peace  
a part of your  
holiday tradition.

www.peacechurchucc.org

(507) 282-6117



# FEATURED EVENTS

## January

### Opportunity Fair

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5—Wondering what you can be involved with? Key group leaders will be available between services and after the 11am service to showcase their groups and give everyone a chance to sign up and ask questions. Questions? Contact Clare ([aoffice@peacechurchucc.org](mailto:aoffice@peacechurchucc.org)).

### All Ages Movie Night

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 6a—Bring your pillow and favorite blanket, enjoy pizza and pop and watch, "The Lion King". Cost is \$5 per family. RSVP at the Welcome Desk by September 19.

Questions? Contact Debby ([office@peacechurchucc.org](mailto:office@peacechurchucc.org)).

### Fellowship Potluck

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19: 1p—Many hands make light work, and a delicious lunch! Bring something to share and stay to clean up. Sign up for the item that you will bring online or at the Welcome Desk. Questions? Contact the Welcome Desk ([aoffice@peacechurchucc.org](mailto:aoffice@peacechurchucc.org)).



### Confirmation Retreat - Good Earth Village

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24—Confirmands will be spending an overnight at Good Earth Village. Be watching for specific details on departure times. Questions? Contact Debby ([office@peacechurchucc.org](mailto:office@peacechurchucc.org)).

### Peace Church Annual Meeting & SPAM or Favorite Hotdish Cook Off

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26: 9:45a—Our Annual meeting will be held between services (9:45a) to bring everyone up to date on the happenings of our church, Following the 11a service, we will once again hold our SPAM cook-off as well as a favorite hot-dish cook-off. This is a time for you to show off your favorite dish where we will all vote on the winner!



**Image Left & Top:** Helpers at the Annual Bazaar. This year's proceeds raised the most. Money was donated to Peace Youth, general fund and building fund.



# CALENDAR

## January Events

**SUNDAY 5:** Worship w/Communion, 8:30a & 11a; Opportunity Fair, 9:45a;

**WEDNESDAY 8:** Teen Wellbeing Wednesday, 5p

**FRIDAY 10:** All Ages Movie Night, 6p

**SUNDAY 12:** Worship, 8:30a & 11a; Confirmation 12:30p

**SUNDAY 18:** Church Council Annual Retreat, 9a

**SUNDAY 19:** Worship, 8:30a & 11a; Fellowship Potluck, 12p

**FRIDAY 25 - SATURDAY 26:** Confirmation Retreat at Good Earth Village

**SUNDAY 26:** Worship, 8:30a & 11a; Annual Meeting, 9:45a; SPAM or Favorite Hotdish Cook-off, 12p ; Confirmation 2p

**REMINDER:** Annual committee reports are due to Debby Sunday, January 19.

### Peace Church Website Update

We are excited to announce, that with our new branding roll out, comes a new look for our website! Have you had a chance to check it out? Please give us your feedback. We would love to hear what you like, what you don't like or how you think we could make it better.



JANUARY REOCCURRING EVENTS

COMMUNION  
First Sunday of every month

MEN OF PEACE  
Every Tuesday, 7a  
(Peace Room)

KNITTING GROUP  
Every Tuesday, 10:30a  
(Room 105)

BEVERAGE AND BIBLE  
Every Tuesday, 5p  
(Glynner's Pub)

ADULT BELL REHEARSAL  
Begins Wednesday 1/29, 6:10p  
(Room 115)

ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL  
Wednesday 1/8 & 1/29 7:10p  
(Sanctuary)

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP  
Every Thursday, 7a  
(Peace Room)



[www.peacechurchucc.org](http://www.peacechurchucc.org)

(507) 282-6117



# FEATURED EVENTS

## Mid-December

### One Earth - One Chance

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15— Hear from guest speaker, David Radcliff, director of the New Community Project, a nonprofit organization working for sustainable living, girls' education, women's empowerment and reforestation. Learn more about the connections between globalization, poverty and environment and what you can do to help create change for a more sustainable future. David will speak at both services (8:30, 11a) and host an Adult Ed session between services (9:45-10:45a). *Questions? Contact Marie Neher.*

### Sing Carols at Samaritan Bethany

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15: 1p— People of all ages are needed to help spread Christmas cheer to the residents of Samaritan Bethany. Meet at church and carpool over. *Questions? Contact Debby (office@peacechurchucc.org).*

### All Comer's Christmas Program

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 9a— Come for a fun morning, where everyone is invited to participate in retelling the Christmas Story. *No rehearsals, no stress. Just show up and jump right into the action. Costumes available for all. Questions? Contact Debby (office@peacechurchucc.org).*

### Christmas Eve-Eve Service

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23: 6:30p— This Beatles-themed worship service provides a contemporary, creative approach to understanding how Christ's birth is still relevant in our lives and world today. Each song focuses on how the Christmas spirit is calling each of us to experience peace in our lives and to promote love to others in the world. Scripture, poems, videos and messages will be shed throughout the service

### Christmas Eve Services

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24: 4p—Celebrate the birth of Jesus through story, prayer, and song. This traditional holiday service includes Candlelight Communion.

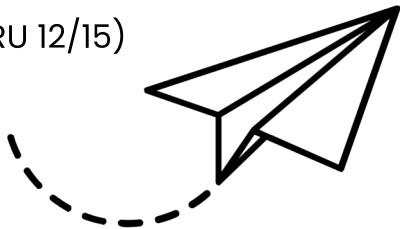
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24: 6p—Participate in a Blue Christmas service that acknowledges the grief and sadness that can often accompany the holiday season. This service includes contemplative readings, music and Candlelight Communion.

### Christmas with Your Peace Family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25: 12p—Need a place to be on Christmas day? Celebrate Christmas with your Peace family around a Christmas dinner! Ham and turkey will be provided. Sign up to bring a side or dessert. Please RSVP to Welcome Desk by Sunday, December 22

# FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAYS AT 9:45A (THRU 12/15)



## JOYFUL JOURNEY

Life is a journey.  
Let’s travel together.

### December

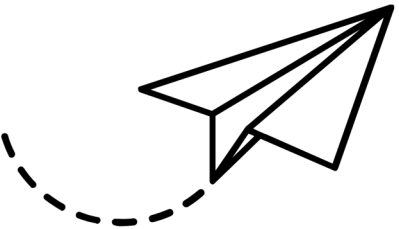
15: Truthfulness - “Give More”	<p><b>Affirmation:</b> <i>My heart holds the truth, my voice speaks the truth, my life shares the truth.</i></p> <p><b>Lectionary:</b> <i>heartbeat of Justice. Justice is motivated by love. Acts of justice step in to speak truth and restore those who are hurting or oppressed.</i></p> <p><b>PreK:</b> “John the Baptist,” <i>I can be a messenger..</i></p> <p><b>Elementary:</b> “Do Unto Others”</p> <p><b>Teen:</b> James 5:7-10,Join Adult Ed to hear guest speaker</p> <p><b>Adult:</b> <i>One Chance - One Earth, guest speaker David Radcliff</i></p>
22: All-Comers Christmas Program	<p><b>Affirmation:</b> <i>Participate in retelling the Christmas story..</i></p> <p><b>Lectionary:</b> <i>God with Us. .</i></p> <p>No faith formation</p>
29: Holiday Hymn Sing	No Faith Formation
ONE SERVICE @ 9a	



Image Left: Children await direction as they create their own Advent Candle Wreaths

# FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAYS AT 9:45A



## JOYFUL JOURNEY

Life is a journey.  
Let’s travel together.

### January

5: Integrity of the Earth: Enjoying	<p><b>Affirmation:</b> <i>I love and take care of my earth home.</i></p> <p><b>Lectionary:</b> <i>Another Road. God gathers people back to the way and gives them incredible abundance and joy.</i></p> <p><b>PreK:</b> “Escape to Egypt” <i>Matthew 2:13-23</i></p> <p><b>Elementary:</b> “Enjoying the Planet.</p> <p><b>Teen:</b> Jeremiah 37:7-14.</p> <p><b>Adult:</b> TBA</p>
12: Integrity of the Earth: Respect	<p><b>Affirmation:</b> <i>I love and take care of my earth home..</i></p> <p><b>Lectionary:</b> <i>Possibilities Unfolding. God takes old, dead things and bring life to make them new.</i></p> <p><b>PreK:</b> “Jesus’ Baptism,” <i>Matthew 3:13-17.</i></p> <p><b>Elementary:</b> “Respecting the Natural World”.</p> <p><b>Teen:</b> <i>Matthew 3:13-17.</i></p> <p><b>Adult:</b> TBA</p>
19: Integrity of the Earth: Rhythms and Balances	<p><b>Affirmation:</b> <i>I love and take care of my earth home..</i></p> <p><b>Lectionary:</b> <i>All that We Are. Wait for God, don’t give up hope. Keep speaking up.</i></p> <p><b>PreK:</b> “The Lamb of God,” <i>John 1:29-42</i></p> <p><b>Elementary:</b> “Rhythms and Balances!”</p> <p><b>Teen:</b> <i>John 1:29-42</i></p> <p><b>Adult:</b> TBA</p> <p><b>Also Happening:</b> <i>Ecumenical Sunday, MLK Day 1/20</i></p>
26: Stuff	<p><b>Affirmation:</b> <i>I love and take care of my earth home..</i></p> <p><b>Lectionary:</b> <i>Called Together. Those who sat in darkness have seen a great light.</i></p> <p><b>PreK:</b> “The Disciples,” <i>Matthew 4:12-23, 9:9-13, 10:1-4</i></p> <p><b>Elementary:</b> “Stuff”</p> <p><b>Teen:</b> <i>Matthew 4::12-23</i></p> <p><b>Adult:</b> TBA</p> <p><b>Also Happening:</b> <i>Annual Meeting</i></p>





# SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Jan 5	Council Member	Special Music	Read Aloud
8:30a	Lynn Alcock	TBD	TBD
11a	Laura Thompson	Peace ONEVOICE	TBD

Opportunity Fair, 9:45a;

Jan 12	Council Member	Special Music	Read Aloud
8:30a	Lynn Alcock	Choir	TBD
11a	Laura Thompson	Joy ONEVOICE	TBD

Fellowship Potluck 12:30p

Jan 19	Council Member	Special Music	Read Aloud
8:30a	Lynn Alcock	TBD	TBD
11a	Laura Thompson	Peace ONEVOICE	TBD

Jan 26	Council Member	Special Music	Read Aloud
8:30a	Lynn Alcock	TBD	TBD
11a	Laura Thompson	Joy ONEVOICE	TBD

Semi-Annual Meeting, 9:45a;  
Spam/Hot-Dish Cook Off, 12p

# January Birthdays

- 01 Ron Davis, John Pavek, Kris Pavek, Matthew Siewert
- 02 Libby Sunnock
- 03 Annie Ely
- 04 Bruce Dahlen, Jared Liebenow, Toryn Rabehl
- 05 Kourtni Alcock, Tom DeYoung, Nathan Wortman
- 06 Ruth Larson
- 10 Anela Newton, Ian Thompson
- 11 Melissa Kloempken
- 13 Jen Sadler
- 14 Kim Koch-Sullivan, Nancy Zimmerman
- 15 Eric Franck
- 16 Shaelyn Wells
- 18 Betty Allen, Maurice Geiger
- 19 Megan Poterucha
- 20 Jenny Bradt
- 21 Richard Berg, Sonja Hoag
- 22 Griffin Rock, David Rueb
- 23 Nancy Miller
- 25 Bonnie Lenz
- 27 Craig Diekvoss, Makenzie Gertner
- 28 Don Solomon
- 30 Dolores Koelsch
- 31 Leslie Crawley, Barbara Ladsten



# SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Dec 15	Council Member	Special Music	Read Aloud
8:30a	Jeff Hanson	Choir	Emma Giere
11a	Jeff Hanson	Joy ONEVOICE	Emily Parades

One Earth-One Chance Guest Speaker, 9:45a;  
Fellowship Potluck 12:30p

Dec 22	Council Member	Special Music	Read Aloud
9a	Jeff Hanson	Musicians	NA

UCC Christmas Fund Offering

Dec 23	Council Member	Special Music	Read Aloud
6:30p	Jeff Hanson	ONEVOICE	NA
Dec 24	Council Member	Special Music	Read Aloud
4p	Jeff Hanson	Choir	NA
6p	Jeff Hanson	NA	NA

Dec 29	Council Member	Special Music	Read Aloud
9a	Jeff Hanson	Hymn Sing	TBD

# December Birthdays

- 01 Martin Geiger, Macy Loechler
- 03 Irene Solomon, Emelia Tande
- 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 Lexie Walton, Bradd Walton, Sharon Wilder
- 20 Alyvia Doffing, Gayle Rock
- 21 Holly Christie
- 23 Peggy Lehman, Lori Paul, Jeff Sadler, Carole Winters
- 24 Cathleen Meinhardt, Nancy Tointon, Sheila Welke
- 26 Marty Wieland
- 27 Richard Lehman
- 28 Laurie DeYoung
- 29 Nancy Wieben
- 31 Anna Froehling



# FINANCIAL UPDATE

## STONE SOUP

Recipe for Growth: What will you contribute?

Special thanks to all who have turned in their pledge for 2020. Your gifts are a blessing to support our ministry and outreach here at Peace United Church of Christ.

At our Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 8, the congregation approved the 2020 Budget as well as moving forward to hire a full-time associate pastor. The Church Council is working to assign a search committee. For those that haven't turned in a pledge card, there is still time to help us fill our Stone Soup ministry pot!

	NOV 2019	YEAR-TO-DATE	NOV 2018
Pledges budgeted	\$36,958	\$406,542	\$36,250
Pledges received	\$51,642	\$409,671	\$35,933
Difference	\$14,684	\$3,129	\$317



### Little Free Pantry: Cold Weather Needs

YOU CAN HELP— Bring relief to those experiencing food insecurity in our neighborhood. Donate needed items to Peace’s Little Free Pantry. **This week the pantry is most in need of:** ready-to-eat pop-top soups; feminine hygiene products; mac n' cheese; cold weather gear (hats, gloves, scarves). *Find a full list of cold weather items needed for the pantry by clicking here, or pick one up at the Welcome Desk. Drop donations in the bin in the coat hallway. Questions? Contact Dawn Bradley (dgkilian@hotmail.com).*



**Pictures Above Top Down:** Children show off their Gratitude Turkey placemats; teens enjoy fun at Air Insanity; Pastor Paul photo bombs busy workers at the Annual Bazaar

## Christmas Poinsettia / Norfolk Pine Dedications

<u>Name</u>	<u>In Honor of....</u>	<u>In Memory of...</u>
Tami Omdahl (poinsettia)		Sharon Olson and David Feld
Diane Johnson (pine tree)		Of my husband, Donald Dale Johnson
Ellen & David Rebstock (poinsettia)		Martha Lovell Long Herren
Laure & Steve Gilseth (pine tree)		Loved Ones
Chad Ramaker (poinsettia)		MJ Conlee
Ridge Euler (pine tree)		
From their family (poinsettia)		Loneta & Richard Bluhm
Buck & Bonnie Lenz (poinsettia)		Loved Ones
Barb Karau (poinsettia)		Gary
LuAnn & Dave Rueb (poinsettia)		Bob & Arlene Arns Grace & Wilbert Rueb
Gary Karu's Children & Grandchildren (pine tree)		Our Dad and Grandpa
Dave, Lori, Megan & Hannah Paul (2 poinsettias)		George Paul Marilyn Tomb
Bob Werner & Joe Nix (2 poinsettias)		Our Parents
Theuer Family (pine tree)	Grandparents	Loved Ones
Diane Hanson / Gina Kesselring (poinsettia & pine tree)	Pam Kesselring	Curt Hanson
Diane Shanks (pine tree)		Lewis & Adeline Rich David & Judy Rich Jason Rich
Jerry & Sondra Bentz (pine tree)		Loved Ones
Ben & Carole Winters (poinsettia)		Our Parents and Grandparents
Ila Teskey (poinsettia)		Bev Teskey (mother of Jeff & grandma of Sara)
Jean & Al Vrieze (pine tree)		Our Parents
Scott Bradley (4 pine trees)		
Steve & Ione Kloempken (poinsettia)		Our Parents Sister Eunys
John & June Franks (poinsettia & pine tree)		MaLissa
Debby Adams (2 poinsettias)	My Sons and daughters-in-law (Garrett & Sara, Grant & Ali)	Grandparents, brother-in-law Johnnie, and special friends: Nancy, Richard, Kerm, Emogene, & Gary