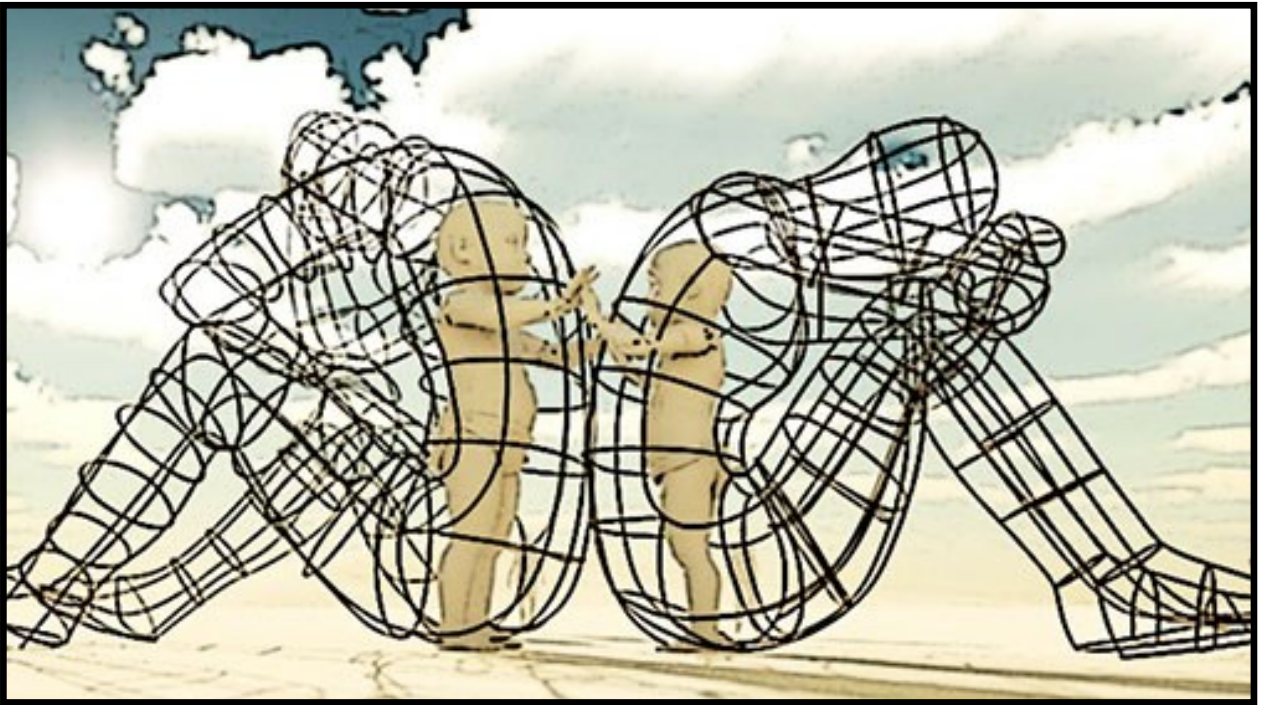




*"An inclusive community, celebrating God's unconditional love
through engaging worship and faithful service"*



February 20, 2022

“Will We Follow God’s Lead & Love Our Enemies?”

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

You are invited to greet those around you or sit quietly.

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude & Candle Lighting

“The Prayer”

Sager/Foster

Sharon Neuenfeldt is dedicating this song in memory of her friend Sue

Candles represent the light of Christ

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

*****Call to Worship**

Mindy Peters

One: Welcome, travelers. Welcome!

All: Sometimes it is harder to cross an unrepaired sidewalk than travel a thousand miles.

One: Spirit!

All: Life making. Soul filling. World changing!

One: Sometimes it is harder to forgive an old friend than to welcome a stranger.

All: But God teaches us to welcome stranger, friend and enemy as we would welcome Jesus.

One: However far we have come this week; we bring to this time of worship our minds, our compassion, and our dedication.

All: Let us continue our journey together!

*****Opening Hymn**

“Your Ways Are Not Our Own”

#170

Acknowledging Our Humanness & God's Grace

*****Prayer of Longing**

O God, sometimes your word is too much for us. You ask us to love our enemies when we scarcely love our friends and ourselves as you intend. You ask us to give as much as we take and to forgive when we want to nurse bitterness. We thank you for accepting us as we are and showing us how we can grow. Help us to believe that we can be loving, just and holy—through the grace of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

prayerful silence

*****Assurance of Grace & Invitation to Pass the Peace**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you! All: And also with you!

We share a sign of peace with those gathered with us (in-person, virtually) in this moment, then extend the peace further (by phone call, email or text message) later in the day.

Proclaiming God's Love

A Time with Children

Pastor Clare invites children forward (to the front row pews) to wonder together

Sung Invitation *We sing as the children come forward*

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.**

Singing "Happy Birthday"

..Happy birthday dear Sharon (Neuenfeldt) and Addi (Albright)

Blessing One Another

Seated (in-person & over live stream), we open our arms to the children

Children : God be with you

All: And also with you

Children may follow leaders to Children's Activity or remain in worship

We welcome our children's sounds and movements

If needing to move around more, families are welcome to listen to the service from the Narthex play area, Meditation Room, or via baby monitor in the Nursery downstairs

Sung Affirmation *We sing as our children follow leaders or return to families*

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.

Scriptures

Psalm 37:1-11 & Luke 6:27-38 ~ *The Inclusive Bible*

Psalm

Don't be vexed by evildoers, and don't be envious of the corrupt!
They'll soon fade like grass, and wither away like unwatered plants.

Trust in God, and do good, and you'll dwell in the land and enjoy
security. Delight in God, and you'll be given the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to God, and trust in God; God will take action,
making your vindication as sure as the dawn and your integrity as
bright as noonday.

Be still before God and wait patiently; don't fret about those who amass
great fortunes and carry out their schemes unchallenged.

Let go of your anger, and leave resentment behind. And stop worrying!
It produces nothing but evil, and evildoers will be cut off. But those
who put their hope in God—they will inherit the land.

A little while longer, and the violent will be no more; no matter how
hard you look for them, they will not be found. But the gentle will
inherit the land, and will enjoy abundant peace.

Luke

“To you who hear me, I say: love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. When they slap you on one cheek, turn and give them the other; when they take your coat, let them have your shirt as well. Give to all who beg from you. When someone takes what is yours, don’t demand it back.

“Do to others what you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit does that do you? Even ‘sinners’ love those who love them. If you do good only to those who do good to you, what credit does that do you? Even ‘sinners’ do as much. If you lend to those you expect to repay you, what credit does that do you? Even ‘sinners’ lend to other ‘sinners,’ expecting to be repaid in full.

Love your enemies and do good to them. Lend without expecting repayment, and your reward will be great. You’ll rightly be called children of the Most High, since God is good even to the ungrateful and wicked.

“Be compassionate, as your loving God is compassionate. Don’t judge, and you won’t be judged. Don’t condemn, and you won’t be condemned. Pardon, and you’ll be pardoned. Give, and it will be given to you: a full measure—packed down, shaken together and running over—will be poured into your lap. For the amount you measure out is the amount you’ll be given back.”.

Morning Message “Will We Follow God’s Lead & Love Our Enemies?”

Prayer Hymn

“Christ, Your Words of Love Confound Us”

Beach Spring Hymn Tune, credits on page 7

**Christ, your words of love confound us,
even as we give you praise,
for the lessons that you teach us seem
so far from this world’s ways.
How can we love those who hate us?
How can we love enemies?
What of people who abuse us?
How can we love even these?**

**Make us mindful: love is action,
not a feeling that uplifts. In each daily situation,
love’s the greatest of all gifts.
It’s the wiser, stronger person
who will break the chain of hate.
Love can usher in redemption;
love can make a people great.**

**Faced with those who seek to hurt us,
make us confident and free:
you don’t call us to be helpless
but to stand with dignity.
Lord, when others are demanding,
may we know they matter more than
our money or possessions.
May we share, not keeping score.**

**If we love just those who love us,
where’s the giving? Where’s the grace?
Even sinners try to do this;
they have friends that they embrace.
May we do, Lord, unto others
as we’d have them also do.
You have shown us: Love is action.
May we love, and make things new.**

*Biblical Reference: Luke 6:27-38; Matthew 5:38-48; I Corinthians 13
Text: Copyright © 2019 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.*

*This hymn includes insights from Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Loving Your Enemies"
sermon delivered at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Nov. 17, 1957.*

Responding To God's Love

Prayers of the People

*You are invited to speak a brief prayer for yourself, another, or a part of the world
Please project your joy or concern so we can hear it*

*Please share with Pastor Clare (by email, phone call or text message)
anything you would like included in our Prayer Corner in coming days*

One: God, in your love,

All: Hear our prayer

Musical Interlude

We listen for our own prayers to quietly arise

Lord's Prayer

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and Earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days —
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One. Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

“Love For Enemies”

by Paul Demer

We are welcome to join in the chorus

Verses:



1. Your rain falls on the wick - ed ones and
 2. You lend with - out a hope of gain and
 3. To love the ones who loved us first is
 4. Then let us prac - tice char - i - ty and
 5. You found us when we lost our way re -

Bm

A

G



those who seek your way Your kind - ness wa - ters
 give to all who ask Your love is not a
 fine and com - mon - place But love that asks for
 lay our judge - ment down 'till e - ne - mies are
 called when we for - got when we were foes you

Bm

G

A

D



all of us who grow be - neath your grace
 scar - ci - ty Your mer - cy holds us fast
 noth - ing back re - flects the Fath - er's face
 un - der - stood and em - pa - thy is found
 sent your son to be all that we're not

Bm

G

A

D

Em

D/F#

G

Chorus:



You reached a - cross the great di - vide in draw - ing near to us
 Teach us to cross our bat - tle lines and face our foes with love

*****Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*****Prayer of Dedication**

**Creative and generous God, from whom new possibilities spring,
make a way for us where there has been no way. We give thanks as
you quench the drought of our spirits with the living water of your
boundless love. Free us to offer our whole selves in return,
participating fully in your newness of life. Amen.**

Going Forth to Share God's Love

*****Closing Hymn** “God Moves in a Mysterious Way”

#412

Vs. 1, 3, 5

*****Benediction**

*****Sung Response** “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

*by Jill Jackson-Miller
and Sy Miller*

**Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me
Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as creator, family all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.**

We carry the light of Christ with us in all times and spaces

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

*Sharon Neuenfeldt, mourning the Sunday evening death of close friend **Sue**, whose body was overwhelmed by cancer. May Sue rest in peace. May support surround her loved ones.

*We give thanks for **People’s Congregational Church**. May we continue to grow together in supportive ways, extending care and building partnerships in our wider community.

*We celebrate birthdays with **Sharon Neuenfeldt** (22nd), **Addi Albright** (four the 22nd), **Joe Legato** (28th), **Mary Ann Litfin** (2nd), **Mike Bjork** (4th) and **Claire Stokes** (5th).

And in the wider community...

*In light of the near constant stream of deaths to gun violence in this land, may we urge our elected leaders to collaborate on bold reforms in areas of gun control and public safety.

*For the well-being of people oppressed by powers of war and corruption. We particularly hold in your light the people of Ukraine. May the nations with greatest power include all others in building justice-based peace.

*For healthcare workers—for their wellbeing of body, mind and soul.

PEOPLE'S BOOK CLUB

WE AIM TO READ BOOKS THAT MATTER FROM
DIVERSE GENRES, TOPICS AND AUTHORS.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

**In February, we will discuss
two of August Wilson's Plays:
Fences and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom***

INTERESTED? QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT US:

OFFICE@PEOPLES CONGREGATIONAL.ORG

651-439-5667

PEOPLE'S CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (BAYPORT)



**View the plays on any
platform:**

**Playbills - Google
Movies - Amazon & Netflix
Also available as E-books**

FEB. 24

6:30-8 PM

VIA ZOOM

Faith Conversations



Faith Conversations

Our adult ed. Forum | in-person and zoomed
Most Sundays, 11-11:45 am

We continue our series called "Animate: Practices" - an introduction to central practices of the Christian faith. A contemporary progressive faith leader presents the topic in a 10-minute provocative video, then we engage in fruitful discussion. Jump in any week!

Today's Topic: Worship | Seeking God's Presence

Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Event



Wednesday, Feb. 23

4:00-6:00 p.m.

**People's
Congregational
Church**

309 3rd St. N.
Bayport, MN 55003

- Free! No insurance or ID is needed.
- First and second doses for anyone 5-11 years old.
- First, second, and booster doses for anyone 12 years and older.

Walk-in clinic only.

No appointment needed.



**Washington
County**

Questions? Call 651-430-6655 or visit
www.co.washington.mn.us/covid19vaccine



From the Anti-Racism Collective

Sacred conversation | **February 27**
10:30 am (incorporates fellowship time)

Beyond the “Yellow Pew Card: an Inclusivity Inventory of People’s Church”

We proclaim our congregation to be progressive and inclusive. We will look with open minds and hearts at the ways we do and do not convey ideals of racial justice to each other, our children, and the larger community. ARC organizers are hosting a “progressive” fellowship followed by Discussion.

Please see Mid-Week for more details and pre-homework.



NEW! - Healing Prayer

Info. session - **TODAY,**
10:30-10:50am

Such power can be shared when we name our need for the touch of God's healing love!

Beginning March 6, **Mary Ann Litfin** and others will offer individual prayers for healing (more silence than words, simple caring physical presence) in our Meditation Room every **1st Sunday at 10:30 am.**

Come learn more about this new ministry by lingering in the Sanctuary immediately after worship on February 20th.

Lenten Season People's Congregational Church

Ash Wednesday, March 2

6:00 pm supper | 6:45 pm service

Wednesday Evenings in Lent, Mar 9 - Apr 6

5:30 pm | Contemplative Worship

6 pm | Soup Supper

6:30 - 7:15 pm | Topical Discussions

rest, rhythm, time, happiness, wisdom & consecration

Inspired by Wayne Muller's book, *Sabbath*



Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday | April 10, 10 am

Many churches meet @ the lift bridge (Stillwater)

Maundy Thursday | April 14, 7 pm

Good Friday Tenebrae | April 15, 7 pm

With Bethlehem Lutheran @ People's Church

Easter Sunday | April 17, 10:00 am

Sunrise prayer gathering @ People's Park 6:15 am

Breakfast 9 am ~ Easter egg hunt 9:30 am



INTERESTED? CONTACT US

309 NORTH THIRD STREET | BAYPORT
OFFICE@PEOPLESCONGREGATIONAL.ORG

651-439-5667

People's Book Club

We aim to read books that matter from diverse genres, topics and authors

Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in our Busy Lives
by Wayne Muller

March 31 | 6:30-8 pm
In-person and Zoomed

Books available Feb. 21
at Valley Bookseller
in Stillwater.

Mention People's Book Club and receive 15% off.



Acolytes

We welcome children age 4 and above to serve as acolytes, lighting the Communion table candles during the prelude. (assisted by Pastor Clare)

Please let Pastor Clare know if your child would like to acolyte on a Sunday or a Wednesday in Lent.

We practice together at 9:15am on a Sunday or 5:15pm on a Wednesday evening.

Save the date!



Volunteers Needed

Please sign up for an open spot to volunteer as greeter, lay reader or fellowship host.

Find the sign-up clipboard in the Narthex before worship and downstairs during Fellowship.

Or contact Kimberly in our office (651-439-5667, office@peoplescongregational.org).

Volunteering in advance greatly helps Kimberly. Thank you!



Girl Scout Cookies

It's that great time of year when we can order COOKIES!


Ordering starts this Friday,
Feb. 18

Our own **Evelyn Wulff** is selling cookies online only. Check out the Mid-Week for more details

Thank you for all who made today wonderful: Music Dir. Michael Bjork, & Worship Accompanist Sharon Neuenfeldt (beautiful music), Mindy Peters (liturgist), Mary Ann Litfin & Cheri Schwartz (greeters), Sue Favilla (fellowship host), Paul Spilseth & Bob Dickie (recorders) and Jill Greenhalgh (Faith Conversations facilitator).



People's Congregational Church

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