



August 27, 2023

“The Body of Christ  
as a Living Sacrifice”

New Member Sunday

**Let's welcome one another!**

Name tags are at the entrance sign

Welcome forms in songbooks: request prayer, update contact info, join email list

### **The Love of God Gathers Us**

#### **Gathering Music**

*We greet those around us or sit quietly,  
settling into sacred time and space*

#### **Ringling of the Bell**

#### **Prelude and Lantern Lighting**

“Sing Unto the Lord”

*Patilla*

*Acknowledging the light of Christ among us*

#### **Words of Welcome**

Pastor Daniel Harrell

\* = Sitting or standing

**\*Invocation** | Psalm 138 (*responsive*)

I give You thanks, O Blessed One, with my whole heart;  
**Before all the people I sing your praise;**

I was humbled when I came to see that You dwell in me, in the sacred  
chapel of all souls;

**My gratitude knows no bounds! For you are the Holy One, the Life of our life.**

On the day that I called, You answered me; the strength of my soul You  
increased.

**Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You preserve my life;**

You are a very Presence as I face my fears and doubts; your strength  
upholds me.

**You guide me as I pray to fulfill my purpose on Earth;**

You do not forsake those who call upon you.

**Your steadfast love and truth endures forever.**

**\*Opening Song (SPP #26)**

“You Are Welcome Here”

**verses 1 & 3**

### **Acknowledging Our Need for God’s Grace**

**Prayer of Confession and Longing** (*unison*)

**O God, we rejoice in today’s opportunity to welcome new members. We confess that we sometimes limit ourselves to the company of who and what we already know as familiar. Make us zealously willing to hear and learn from one another; honoring all of our life stories, faith journeys, and diverse gifts. Open our senses, that we might appreciate new perspectives. Empower us to co-create a nurturing community as we journey forward together. Renew in us your Spirit of radical welcome and affirmation. As followers of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

*...the singing bowl welcomes us into silence*

*as our longings quietly emerge*

**Assurance of Grace** (*responsive*)

**One:** The peace of Christ be with you!

**All:** And also with you!

## **\*Passing the Peace**

*We share signs of peace (smiles, handshakes, hands at heart center)  
We extend the peace later by phone or email*

## **Rite of Membership: A Covenant of Mutual Support**

### **Words of Invitation**

Pastor Clare Gromoll

### **Sharing by Candidates For Membership**

Chris Bordeaux, David Kirstein, Naomi Kirstein, Linda Tossey

### **Questions of the Candidates**

Do you seek to continue your journey of faith, following the way of God's Love as revealed and embodied by Jesus the Christ, knowing you have the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the love and support of this community?

Do you promise to live in covenant with the members of People's Congregational Church and our larger merging congregation; worshipping together and supporting our ministries with your presence, talent, and financial support?

Do you promise to open your heart and mind in love among these siblings in Christian faith, knowing that together we may do more than alone?

### **Presentation of Membership Certificates & Gifts**

### **\*Laying On of Hands & Covenanting Together**

*All are invited forward to lay hands on our new members.  
Place a hand on a shoulder as we connect in a web of faith community.*

Paul Spilseth, Moderator

We gladly welcome you into this Christian community. Enfolding you with our love and committing ourselves to mutual care, we seek to be partners in ministry with you.

**In the power of God's Spirit, let us encourage one another to trust God as we faithfully strive to embody Love in the world.**

## A Time With Children and Youth

### **Sung Invitation**

*...as our young people 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”**

**Mark Stephan (24th), Kaari Bjork (25th - 6 yrs), Barb Hilliard (26th),  
Erin Klisch (29th), Alex Favilla (30th)**

### **Blessing of Backpacks and Diaper Bags**

#### **Blessing One Another**

*Seated, we open our arms to the children and youth*

Children: God be with you

**All: And also with you**

#### **Sung Affirmation**

*...as young people depart 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.**

*Children age 4+ are welcome on the playground, staffed by Lisa  
Younger children on the playground must be supervised by their own adult  
A blanketed outdoor nursery is also available in the worship space  
We welcome the sounds and movements of children who stay in worship*

## **Proclaiming God's Love**

**A Reading from Gospels | NRSV**

Matthew 16: 13-20

**A Reading from the New Testament | NRSV**

Romans 12: 1-8

**Morning Message**

“The Body of Christ as a Living Sacrifice”

## Responding To God's Love

Prayer Hymn (NCH #11)

"Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?"  
**verses 1-4**

### Prayers of the People

*We share aloud prayers for ourselves, others, and parts of the world  
We'll add them to our printed and electronic Prayer Corner  
Please let Pastor Clare know if you don't want yours added to the Prayer Corner*

One: God, in your love

**All: Hear our prayer**

### Prayer of Jesus (unison)

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!**

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!**

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on Earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.**

**In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.**

**In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.**

**From trials too great to endure, spare us.**

**From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

### Invitation to the Offering

*Loose offerings go to People's Church*

*Please clearly designate gifts for St. Peter's UCC*

*We give by cash, check or electronically (scanning the QR code)*

*Envelopes and **blue electronic giving cards** are tucked within SPP songbooks*



**Offertory**

**"Jesus We Adore You"**

*Coelho*

**\*Offertory Response**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen**

**\*Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

**Creative generous God, from you new possibilities spring. You 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 Song (SPP #123)**

**"Draw the Circle Wide"  
all 3 verses**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Sending Song**

*...forming a circle around the perimeter of the worship space*

**Irish Blessing  
sung twice**

**May the road rise to meet you  
May the wind be at your back  
May the sun shine warm upon your face  
The rain fall soft upon your fields  
And until we meet again  
Till we meet again  
May God hold you in the palm of God's hand**

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

**\*Postlude**

**"May We Have Peace"**

*Ylvisaker*

***After-Worship Fellowship*** / All are welcome to linger on the lawn for treats, beverages, and good company!

## PRAYER CORNER

*Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:*

### *For persons known to us...*

\*For all those in the path of Tropical Storm Hilary (including Rolf and Jill's daughter, her boyfriend, and their dog).

\*For all students beginning a new school year and particularly those heading off to college. Blessings on all teachers and students.

\*We give thanks for all who have worked tirelessly to celebrate women in sports. We celebrate with Spain's in the Women's World Cup win!

\*Celebrating Anniversaries: Jim and Mary Kay Dahl (25th)

### *And in the wider community...*

\*For the schools of Lahaina, Maui as they struggle with burned and damaged buildings, unsure how school will happen this year. May needed support reach suffering communities on the devastated island. May the love of God be embodied through those assisting with recovery.

## Naming Gathering

**Wednesday, September 6th**

All are invited to a 5:30 pm supper and 6:00 pm naming gathering. Members will mark preferences among all submitted name ideas. Each member will have five votes (no more than two votes per any one suggested name). Voting will continue until a clear preference emerges.

*\*Be sure to submit your name suggestions by Aug. 31st!\**

## Special Congregational Meetings

**Sunday, Sept. 10th**

People's @ People's Church Fellowship Hall (and Zoomed) | 11 am  
St. Peter's @ St. Peter's UCC | after worship

*Please join us as we vote on several items to affirm the merger!*



## Backyard Potlucks

September 12th, 5:30pm at Sharri Kinkead's in Hudson.

**Blood Drive coming soon**

**Thursday, September 21 | 9:00 am—3:00 pm**

See Mid-Week News for link to schedule your donation or contact the church office at 651-439-5667



Thank you to today's partners:

Thank you to today's partners: Sharon Neuenfeldt (Worship Accompanist), Carol Dusbabek and Cheri Schwartz (greeters), Kathy Iverson (liturgist), Heather Kennedy-Bordeaux (cantor), Kathy and Bob Iverson (fellowship), Paul Spilseth, Bob Dickie & Mark Stephan (tech team), Jackie Savage (outdoor sign), Lisa Culbertson (Childcare Provider)




## A Merging Congregation...


*with roots in People's Congregational Church & St. Peter's United Church of Christ*



### People's Congregational Church

Rev. Clare Gromoll, Pastor ~ [pastor@peoplescongregational.org](mailto:pastor@peoplescongregational.org)  
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### St Peter's United Church of Christ

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## You Are Welcome Here

26

$\text{♩} = 100$

You are wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are,

no mat-ter where you are. on life's jour - ney... You are

wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are, come and

join with us, we're u - ni-ted in the church of Christ.

1. Come now all peo - ple, join in the song, come be a part of the fam -  
2. We pray for jus - tice; we pray for peace; we hear the word of the Sav -  
3. Lift - ing each oth - er; do - ing what's right; stand - ing to - geth - er, what - ev -

- ly of God. We are God's peo - ple... and you be - long,  
- ior of all... We find God's mer - cy; we find re - lease,  
- er may come; prais - ing our Sav - ior, shin - ing our light,

share in the joy of Christ. You are  
shar - ing the joy of Christ. You are  
shar - ing the joy of Christ. You are

# Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

11

*Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.*

1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?  
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;  
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;  
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing, when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.  
5 When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such har - mo - ny,

The first system of music consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb) and the time signature is 4/4. The treble staff contains a melody with eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff contains a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.  
We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.  
I will share your joy and sor - row 'til we've seen this jour - ney through.  
Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and a - go - ny.

The second system of music continues with the same treble and bass clef staves. The treble staff contains a melody with eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff contains a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.

*Richard Gillard, 1977*

*Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.*

RESPOND

123

Draw the Circle Wide

$\text{♩} = 132$

Draw the cir-cle\_ wide. Draw it wid-er still. Let this be our\_

song, no one stands a - lone, stand-ing side by side, draw the cir-cle\_

To verses Last time, Fine

wide.\_\_\_\_\_ wide.\_\_\_\_\_

1. God the still - point of the cir - cle, 'round whom all cre -  
 2. Let our hearts touch far hor - i - zons, so en-com-pass  
 3. Let the dreams we\_ dream be larg - er, than we've ev - er

- a - tion turns; noth - ing lost, but  
 great and small; let our lov - ing  
 dreamed be - fore; let the dream of

held for - ev - er in God's gra - cious arms.\_\_\_\_\_  
 know no bor - ders, faith - ful to God's call.\_\_\_\_\_  
 Christ be in us, o - pen ev - 'ry door.\_\_\_\_\_

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