

OFFERING INVITATION:

L: May our offerings today show our love for God and each other.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "Jesus, Draw Me Close" Rick Founds

DOXOLOGY: Praise God from all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below; praise him above
you heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
AMEN.

BENEDICTION AND TABLE PRAYER:

O God, as we leave this worship and continue with
fellowship, may we be nourished to fulfill Your
purpose everywhere we go, remembering those
workers whose labor often goes unnoticed,
unappreciated. Today, we give thanks for the hands
that have provided today's meal. **AMEN**

CLOSING HYMN:

"For the Healing of the Nations" insert

***POSTLUDE:** "Let It Shine" Barbara Hamm

*WELCOME TO PEACE UCC
LABOR DAY OUTDOOR WORSHIP!*

GOD'S GRACE IN THE WORKPLACE

August 31st, 2025

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Peace United Church of Christ

Elkader, Iowa

PRELUDE: "You Are Welcome Here"

Gerald DeMan

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS

INVITATION TO WORSHIP:

L: We come on this day to remember that work and
workers, that compassion, justice and kindness to all
matter to God.

**P: We come to sing and pray, to hear the spoken Word
and to encounter the living Word. May we be shaped
by all that matters to our Creator God.**

SONG: "Awake, Awake to Love and Work" (insert)

CONFESSION

L: We find ourselves talking about fairness, **P: but our
focus is often on what is fair, just, right for us alone.**
**Often we fail to think about the welfare of workers,
those who work for minimal wages, whose jobs are
outsourced, who have few benefits. Often we accept
injustice and unfairness as the norm.**

L: Forgive us, O God, for living lives convenient for us.

**P: Be with us now as we raise our voices and bless
workers and work seekers. AMEN.**

A BLESSING FOR WORKERS AND WORK SEEKERS

(adapted from the United Methodist Prayer for Workers)

L: Blessed are you, ever creating God,

P: in your image, our lives are made; in your glory, we offer all the work of our hearts, hands and minds. Blessed are you, O God, now and forever!

L: Blessed are those whose work is repaid for many lives are blessed.

P: We thank God for these people day by day.

L: Blessed are those whose work is unpaid, who offer to enrich the lives of others through time, talents, skills, strength and love.

P: We praise God for that generous labor!

L: Blessed are those who seek work, those whose work is not yet what it may be and those who do not have the work they want.

P: We praise God and pray that these seekers will soon find what they are looking for!

L: Yours is the glory in their labors, O God. May Your glory be in all our lives. In Jesus' Name, **P: AMEN**

GOD'S WORD FOR LABOR DAY:

EPISTLE: Hebrews 13:16 "The Message"

L: Make sure you don't take things for granted and go slack in working for the common good; share what you have with others. God takes particular pleasure in acts of worship—a different kind of "sacrifice"—that take place in kitchen, workplace and on the streets.

INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL AND HOMILY:

OLD TESTAMENT: Proverbs 25:6-7 "The Message"

L: Don't work yourself into the spotlight; don't push your way into the place of prominence. It's better to be

promoted to a place of honor than face the humiliation of being demoted.

GOSPEL: excerpts from Luke 11:1-14 "The Message"

L: On the Sabbath, Jesus ate in the home of a top leader of the Pharisees. A man who needed healing was present and Jesus healed him, an act against the Jewish law that said no work could be done on the Sabbath. This stumped the Pharisees. Then Jesus told a story about the guests around the table of that Pharisee, the jostling for the number one position. He pointed out that it was better to sit in the lower place and be invited to sit higher by the host than be humiliated..

Then Jesus turned to the host of the dinner and told him that his next dinner needed to include the misfits, the nobodies, the poor, the needy, people who can't return the favor. The reward for doing that will happen when the resurrection of the people occurs.

HOMILY: "Cream of the Crop or Skim Milk of the Earth"

SONG: "Called as Partners in Christ's Service" (insert)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

THE LORD'S PRAYER: (unison)

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.

WELCOME to Peace UCC Outdoor Worship

Peace United Church of Christ

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Today—August 31st **Next Sunday-September 7th**

Worship:	Pastor Paula	Pastor Paula
Reader:	Sue Stott	Steve McCorkindale
Fellowship:	Potluck	McCorkindales
Organist:	Laura Moser	Laura Moser
Ushers:	Founders' Park	Dean, Joanne Gray
Opening/Closing:		Bruce Landis

PRAYER LIST: Bob, Cheryl, Greg Anderson, Eli Belser, Betty Buchholz, Jonah Burns and Burns family, Deb Dennler, Wayne & Kim Frentress, Karen Glesne, Linda Glesne, Ruth Grau, Penny Jacobson, Dee Koehn, Jerry Koons, Joyce M., Pat M., Ruth Olson, Elaine Radloff, Sharon Reichert, Father James, Tammy, Jane I., Fred, Elaine Possehl.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday: LABOR DAY: church office closed
No Stephen's Ministers mtg.—SM will meet 7 p.m., Tuesday, September 23rd at a joint mtg. of SMs at St. Peter Lutheran in Garnavillo

Tuesday: 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. church office open
Due to an appointment, Pastor Paula will not be in the office

Wednesday: 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. church office open
5:30-6:30 p.m. Bell Choir practice
6:30-7:30p.m. Chancel Choir practice

Thursday: 9 a.m.-noon Church office open with Pastor Paula

Friday: Pastor's Day off

COMING EVENTS:

Weekly Grief Support Group: 5:30-7 p.m. Mondays, September 8th-December 1st, 2025, St. Joseph Parish Center, Elkader, Iowa

Sunday, September 14th: following worship, there will be a meeting for those interested in restarting the SEEKERS group!

