

OFFERING

OFFERTORY:

***THE DOXOLOGY: (unison)**

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

***BENEDICTION:**

L: Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord, to run the race of life with perseverance.

P: Let us go now, not afraid to be on fire for the grace of Jesus, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit are enough to sustain us now and always. AMEN

***SENDING SONG: "God of Grace and God of Glory" #436**

***POSTLUDE:**

FAITH ON FIRE

August 17, 2025

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Peace United Church of Christ

Elkader, Iowa

PRELUDE:

BELL, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONCERNS *stand if able

***PASSING THE PEACE—be seated**

THEME:

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP:

L: Children of God, for the sake of the joy of faith in Jesus, we gather.

P: We gather to worship, to encounter grace, to grow in faith, to become flames that light the way for others.

L: We proclaim.

P: We proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, the love of God that surrounds us and forms us into a community mark by love for God and all creation.

L: For the sake of the joy of faith in Jesus, we respond.

P: We respond with our lives, ready to follow.

L: For the sake of the joy of faith in Jesus, God sends us.

P: God sends us into the world to meet our neighbors with defiant, fiery joy and persevering love for the Gospel today and every day.

L: Come, let us worship the Triune God, the God who brings cleansing fires to the world, the God who brings justice and mercy, grace and compassion, forgiveness and repentance.

P: We come, O God, to renew our promise to you. We come to worship! Thanks be to God! AMEN!

OPENING SONG: "O Jesus, I Have Promised" #493

PRAYER FOR TODAY: (unison) (based on Epistle)

Glorious God, we thank you for the cloud of witnesses, the faithful of all ages who surround us. May we run the race of life faithfully, looking to Jesus who brought the fire of the Holy Spirit. May the fire that burned in those who have gone before us, burn in our hearts as we hear the Scriptures today. May you teach us and help us to choose your ways. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN

CATCHING THE FIERY WORD

OLD TESTAMENT: Jeremiah 23:23-29 Kristina Bente

EPISTLE: Hebrews 11:29-12:2 Kristina Bente

GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-56 Pastor Paula

SONG: "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" #292

MESSAGE: "A.Y.O.R"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (unison)

We trust in God, the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and re-newer of life.

The Holy Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves, to love God and neighbor, to bind us together with all believers in the one Body of Christ, the Church.

The Holy Spirit inspired prophets, apostles, a great cloud of witnesses to share their witness in Christ with us, to engage us through scripture, to join us in the waters of baptism, to feast with us on the bread of life and the cup of salvation—to invite us, men and women, to participate in all ministries of the Church.

We live in a broken and fearful world, a world using fire that destroys rather than the Holy Spirit's fire that cleanses. The Holy Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, witness to a culture in turmoil and unrest, hear the voices of peoples long silenced, work with others for justice, freedom and peace.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

L: Trusting that God hears us, let us lift our prayers to the Lord, the God of the sparrow.

P: We cry out to you in times of fires, floods and increasingly powerful storms. May you hold close those who are reeling from devastating losses.

(Silent reflection)

L: God of the ages,

P: we pray for your world and universe, for all people. May you guide the leaders of nations so that they may govern with wisdom, compassion and grace. May you

be present with people suffering under unjust regimes, those in the midst of war and all forms of evil. May you show us how to combine our prayers with action to stand up for the oppressed, the persecuted, the discriminated, the demonized.

(Silent reflection)

L: God of our lives, our community.

P: we pray for all people struggling to believe in your goodness; for those who are hungry, homeless, sick, in prison. We pray for people who are lonely, injured, grieving or living in fear.

L: We pray for those in our midst who are in need of prayer. (prayer list) (Silent reflection after reading of names)

L: God of grace, glory and power,

P: may you nurture and uphold this church and all churches throughout the world. May we be worthy of being called the Body of Christ. We ask for your strength and guidance to be faithful and love our neighbors as ourselves in a world that often embraces hate and wrong.

L: God of compassion,

P: we know that you hear our prayers, answering in ways that provide for our needs. May you hear us now as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray:

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. AMEN.

OFFERING INVITATION:

L: Generous God, may you receive our gifts as investments in your kingdom. May you use our money and our lives to bring about the world as you intend it.

P: With gratitude, we pray as we offer our gifts. AMEN

WELCOME

Peace United Church of Christ

Box 268 Elkader, Iowa 52043-0268

Phone: (563)-245-2126 Email: peaceucc@alpinecom.net

Website: www.peacechurchelkader.org

Facebook: facebook.com/peacechurchelkader

Rev. Paula Anderson

307 1st St. NW Box 433 Elkader, IA.52043-0433

Home: (563)-245-8022 Cell: 618-292-5105 (no texting)

E-mail: paula2651@alpinecom.net

Worship Leaders

Today- Aug. 17th

Worship: Pastor Paula
Reader: Kim Frentress
Fellowship: Cookie Cupboard?
Organist: Laura Moser
Ushers: Kim Frentress
**Opening/
Closing** Sue Stott

Next Sunday, Aug. 24th

Stephen's Ministers
Stephen's Ministers
Stephen's Ministers
Laura Moser
Carl, Laura Moser
Gary Kuehl

PRAYER LIST: Bob, Cheryl, Greg Anderson, Eli Belser, Betty Buchholz, Jonah Burns and Burns family, Deb Dennler, Wayne and 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;

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 31ST: Outdoor worship service at Founders' Park—10 a.m. (not 9 a.m.) followed by potluck. Theme: God's Grace in the Workplace-in honor of Labor Day. Also, please come and meet our New church secretary, Becky Meisner, who is planning to attend.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Office Hours and Church Activities Schedule

Monday: Office open: 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Tuesday: 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. office open
Wednesday: 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. office open
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir (please come early to set up)
6:30 p.m. Chancel choir
Thursday: 1:30 p.m. Elkader Care Center worship
5-6:30 p.m. Grace Cafe
Friday: Office closed

NEXT SUNDAY IS THE DEADLINE FOR THE TIDINGS

Pastor Paula's Office Hours

Monday: 9 a.m.-Noon
Tuesday: 8 a.m.-10:45 a.m. 11 a.m. Clergy Text Study
Wednesday: 9 a.m.-noon
1 p.m. BULLETIN DEADLINE
Thursday: 9 a.m.-noon Pastor Paula in office
Friday: Pastor's Day off—office closed
Saturday: Worship preparation

For the first couple of months, Pastor Paula may be in the church office in the afternoons, assisting the new church secretary.

STEPHEN'S MINISTERS

Next Sunday, the Peace UCC Stephen's Ministers will be in charge of worship as Pastor Paula will be taking that Sunday off! It is also Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday as school begins that following week!
