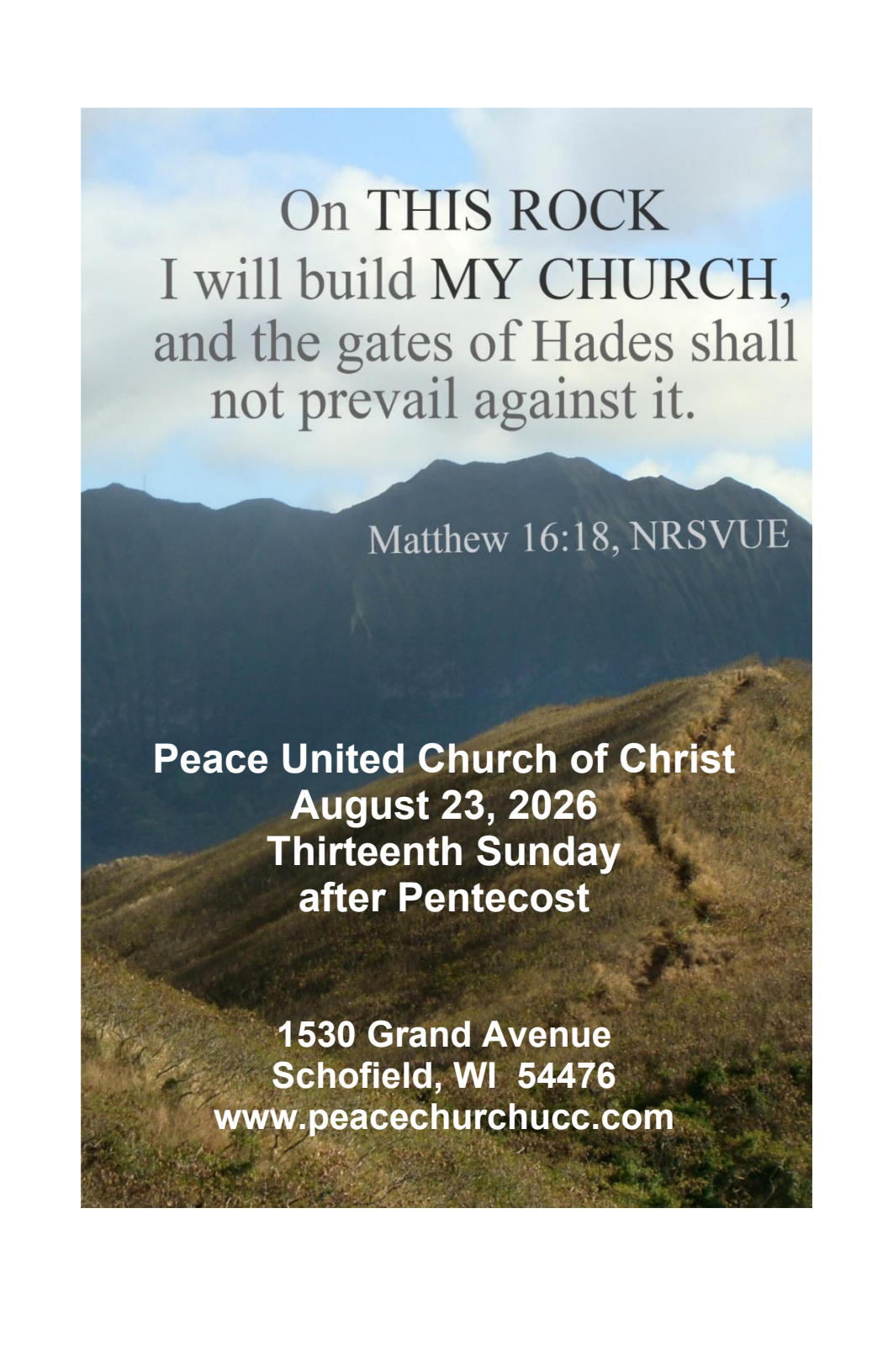




On THIS ROCK
I will build MY CHURCH,
and the gates of Hades shall
not prevail against it.

Matthew 16:18, NRSVUE

**Peace United Church of Christ
August 23, 2026
Thirteenth Sunday
after Pentecost**

**1530 Grand Avenue
Schofield, WI 54476
www.peacechurchucc.com**



We are an Open and Affirming Church

We worship together in a hybrid format: in-person worship and via live stream on YouTube. Whichever way you join us for worship, it is our hope that you will feel God's presence through the spoken word, the silence of prayer, and the blessing of music during this time. May we know closeness through the Spirit, knowing we are one in God.

You can reach the live stream worship through our website, click here: www.peacechurchucc.com. Click on the button for YouTube. It is on the right side, under a red heading that says, "Stay Connected." You can also watch the service at a later date. Please use this bulletin to enhance your worship experience. Although we may not be physically present together, we are still gathered spiritually and socially. As the song says, "The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is the PEOPLE!"

If you are in need of prayer, or a call to catch up with our fellow members and our pastors, please contact the church office at 715-359-2136 right away.

Wherever you worship, we hope you feel the PRESENCE of our church family and the Holy Spirit.

Please continue your faithful support of Peace UCC.

You can give online at

<http://www.peacechurchucc.com/> or mail it in.

*** When you see an * in the bulletin, you are invited to rise in body or in spirit.**

WELCOME TO PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 23, 2026

We Gather Before God

Ring of the Bell

Prelude *"How Can I Keep From Singing"*

ENDLESS SONG

Pastoral and Congregational Welcome

ALL: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Responsive Call to Worship (Please remain seated.)

One: Amid the forces of death and destruction,

All: it takes a village to save us.

One: Amid the rivers that would carry us out to sea,

All: it takes willing souls to pull us from the water.

One: Amid the fear and hatred in our world,

All: it takes ordinary people to reveal God's mercy. Come! Let us worship!

***Opening Hymn** *"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"*

Black Hymnal #403

***Prayer for Transformation and New Life (In unison)**

Merciful God, wash away the injuries we have inflicted upon one another. We long to replace our bitterness in word and deed with acts of grace and mercy. We yearn to replace our willful

neglect of others with acts of support and grace. We desire to walk in your path of joy and compassion, that we may bathe in the waters of your healing love. Amen.

***Words of Grace** (read by Pastor Kris)

Thanks be to God who rescues us. Thanks be to Christ who saves us. In God's loving Spirit, we are set free and made whole again. Thanks be to God!

***Response of Praise** Black Hymnal #759
Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen. Amen.

We Listen for God's Word

Scripture Readings

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

Moment with Our Children

Message

Pastor Kris Vraney

***Hymn of Response** *"We Love Your Realm, O God"*
Black Hymnal #312

We Celebrate Life in Community and World

Prayers of the People

"God in your wisdom,"

Response by Many

"Hear our prayer."

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Presenting our Gifts

Offertory *"Blessed Be the Lord"* Schutte

***Offering Response** Black Hymnal # 778

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God, for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

***Offertory Prayer (In unison)**

**Loving God, accept our gifts as signs of our
commitment to build your realm in our midst.**

**Accept our very lives as pledges of our
commitment to pursue what is good,**

**acceptable, and perfect in your sight. May these
gifts become resources to help all in need
through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn** *"Take My Life, God, Let It Be"*

Black Hymnal #448

***Benediction**

***Benediction in Song**

Go now in peace. Go now in peace.

**May the love of God surround you
everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

***Postlude** *"For You Are My God"* Foley

Liturgical Resources adapted from BJ Beu ministrymatters.com. Music has been reprinted / podcast / streamed under either the CCLI license number 2633132 and 22512955; or ONE LICENSE License#A-729618.

Our services are available through Wausau Area Access Media Channel 980: Sun. 2 pm (last week's sermon); Tues. 7am; Wed. 4 pm; and Fri. 9 pm

Helping in Today's Service:

Preacher:	Pastor Kris Vraney
Music Director:	Ben Knoedler
Liturgist:	Betty Brown
Ushers:	JoAnn Mancl, Jo Post-Raflik, Jean Back, Kaleb Leitza
PP Creator:	Pastor Kris Vraney
Technical Director:	Michael Loomis
PP Operator:	Paula Loomis
Coffee Hour:	Jill & Terry Traska's Team

Today's Announcements:

*****Stewardship meeting after worship today*****



Calling all 7th and 8th Grade Students!

1. Please join us on **Sunday, September 13** at 9:00 am, as you will be presented with your Bibles, and a blessing for the upcoming school year.

2. Please join Pastor Kris and Lois on **Wednesday, September 16** at 6:00 pm at Sam's Pizza in Schofield. We will be in the party room discussing plans for the upcoming year, the Confirmation Retreat, and your Confirmation Service. If you are unable to attend, please contact Lois at lluedtke58@gmail.com.

Blessing for all those IN EDUCATION

Faith Formation Sunday

Please join us in church on Sunday, September 13 for Faith Formation Sunday. We will be handing out Bibles. There will also be a blessing for all those involved in Christian Education, or Public Education – whether you are a student, teacher, sub, administrator, assistant in some way, or a retired

veteran lending your expertise. We want to send you off for your new year with a special blessing!

Peace Blood Drive for the American Red Cross

The Red Cross Blood Drive at Peace United Church will be held on Monday, September 14th from 12:30pm to 5:30pm. Please go to redcrossblood.org to sign up to donate blood, or contact Lynne Strehlow or Carey in the office.

The American Red Cross and Hello Kitty® are releasing exclusive NEW merchandise! Those who come to give blood, platelets, or AB Elite plasma Sept. 1-20, 2026, will receive a Red Cross x Hello Kitty bag, while supplies last. Inside the bag is a one-of-a-kind Red Cross x Hello Kitty plush mascot clip and three mystery stickers. Donors won't know which three stickers they'll get until they open the bag. How cute are these stickers?!





Become Part of *Our* Church Family

Are you interested in joining Peace UCC? We will be having a new member class after church on Sunday, September 20. Pastors Dave and Kris will discuss the United Church of Christ, Peace Church, and all that our church has to offer to bring you in

a closer relationship with our Savior, Jesus Christ. If you are interested in attending, please register with Carey in the office at 715-359-2136. If you are not available that day, and still wish to join, please let Carey know and we will contact you to make special arrangements.



125th Jubilee Meeting

The first meeting of the 125th Jubilee planning team will be held on Tuesday August 25th at 6 pm in the church library. We'll begin to brainstorm ways to celebrate our past

history while looking forward to the next 125 years! If you are interested in participating, please join us or give Carey a call in the office to share your ideas. You are not obligated to be involved the whole year but we would like to begin planning some special events to celebrate our wonderful little church throughout 2027! Hope to see you there.