

January 2-3, 2010

WELCOME

Welcome to St. Peter's United Church of Christ. If you have no church home, we hope you will consider St. Peter's UCC as that place. Whether guest or member, please make your presence known by signing the Friendship Register in the pews and greet those near you.

Our prayer chapel is open following this service and daily from 9-4 for personal meditation and communion. It is located off the second floor elevator. Sunday school for children ages 4 to Grade 6 begins after the Children's moment. A class for youth grades 7-12 begins at 10:00 underneath the sanctuary. Adult Sunday school is 9 AM on Sundays. Child care is offered during the 10 AM service.

This week at St. Peter's:

Sunday	9:00	Adult Bible study (lectionary-based) in atrium meeting room
	10:00	Worship & Sunday school
	6:30-8:00	Youth Group (Grades 7-12)
Monday	9:00	Retired Men at Cowan's
	6:00	AA
	6:30	Quilting
Tuesday	10:30	Staff Meeting
	7:00	Fund Raising Committee
	7:00	Board of Christian Education
	7:00	Eastern Association Council
Wednesday	9:00	Quilting
	10:00	Prayer Network
	12:00	Bible Study
	6:00	AA
	6:00	Chapel Bells
	6:45	Vesper Bells
	7:30	Chancel Choir
Thursday	6:00	AA
Friday		Please remove your Christmas tree from the church by this day.
Saturday	9:00	Scout Committee meeting
	1:15	Outing to cook dinner at Agape House (Franklin County's Homeless Shelter)
	5:00	Worship
Sunday	9:00	Adult Bible study (lectionary-based) in atrium meeting room
	10:00	Worship (Family Sunday*)
	6:30-8:00	Youth Group (Grades 7-12)

*A reminder: Next Sunday will be **Family Sunday** which means children will stay in church with their families and Sunday school will not be offered. Activity kits will be available for children at the back of the sanctuary. Please return the kits after the service. Why do we have "Family Sundays" at St. Peter's? The Board of Christian Education and the pastors believe it important to expose children to worship so that they can grow to better understand and accept this important activity of the church. In some churches, there are children who go through confirmation and join the church never having experienced worship because they were always in Sunday school when they came to church. As an adult, can you imagine making such an important decision as joining a church when you'd never experienced worship with the people to whom you were committing to join? As adults we'd never think to do such a thing.

We realize that it is a bigger commitment we are asking parents to make—to guide your children through a worship service, but years down the road (past all the possible times of outbursts, playing in the pew, and poking of siblings) we pray and believe that you will see your hard work and the work of the Spirit growing a heart for worship in your child.

Perhaps you are a worshipper without children wondering how you can help these youngest of our church members and their parents. We believe you can best help by making Family Worship Sunday a place where children and adults want to be. Greet and offer extravagant welcome to children. Ask them questions as you would other adults. Make them look forward to seeing adults outside their family at church. Beyond warm welcome to parents, try not to look when a child makes noise. Even if your gaze is just one of memory for years past of your own, it can and may be interpreted otherwise.

Let's all do our best to realize the promises we make at our church family baptisms. By the power of the Holy Spirit we will be stronger for it!

Come serve supper at Franklin County's Homeless Shelter *"For I was hungry and you gave me food...just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."* (Mt. 25:35a, 40b) On Saturday, Jan. 9, all youth and adults who sign-up will depart at 1:15 PM for Agape House in St. Clair. There, we will prepare and ready to serve a supper of our choosing for an estimated 14 homeless persons. Space is limited due to kitchen size. Contact Pastor Leah if interested.

The annual **Leaders' Meeting** will be held Jan. 12, 7 PM in auditorium **for all Council, Board and Committee members**. Please plan to attend.

All committee and board reports for the 2009 Annual Report are due to the office or newsletter editor via email (lplacht@fidnet.com) by 9 AM Jan. 14. This will allow time for the completion of the annual report to be mailed at the same time as the February newsletter.

"Wherever you are in your journey of life, come journey with us." The St. Peter's Sunday Adult Bible class is meeting every Sunday morning from 9 to 9:45 AM in the lower level atrium room.

"These Days" devotional booklets for January-February-March are now available.

Immanuel's UCC, Holstein, will host a Fundraiser Brunch, Jan. 10, 8 AM–1 PM. Menu: scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy, ham, potato casserole, green beans, fruit, coffee & juice. All you care to eat: adults \$6; children \$3.

Contribution Statements: The church office will make every effort to send out contribution statements for 2009 before the end of January 2010. If you need yours earlier, please contact the church office. Do not file your tax return before receiving your contribution statement for the year.

Also, should you have any questions about any amount reported or not reported on the statement once you receive it, please notify the church office within 90 days of receipt of the statement. Statements not questioned by May 1 will be assumed to be accurate, and any supporting documentations (such as offering envelopes) retained by the church may be discarded. On another note, please do not use tape on your offering envelopes.

Anyone who wishes to honor a loved one or anniversary by donating altar flowers or worship bulletins for any given week, may contact the church office for more

information or to sign up (or sign up on the chart posted on the Market Street hallway entrance bulletin board). Thank you for your generous contribution to our services.

Friday, Feb. 5, the **Fourth Annual Stew Supper** will be held from 11-7 in the dining room. Proceeds will benefit the Atrium Fund. Our “famous” stew will be served with slaw, bread, and delicious homemade dessert. Both “dine in” and “carry out” will be available. The following are ways the congregation can be of help: Lend an electric skillet for cooking stew meat on Thursday, Feb. 4; Lend an electric roaster for cooking the stew on Thursday/Friday; Bake a dessert, preferably a homemade pie; Help with serving and cleanup on Friday, (Shifts are 11-2, 2-5, and 5-8), If you can help in any of these ways please note it on the friendship register or let Byron Stolte know. Thank you for helping us with this great mission of getting our Atrium loan paid down.

SJMH Offers Grief Support Group: A hospice grief support group will meet from 4 to 6 PM on eight consecutive Thursdays from Jan. 7 to Feb. 25 at St. John’s Mercy Hospital. Anyone who is coping with a recent loss may join. The group is led by two bereavement specialists who use a grief workbook, discussions and optional homework assignments to facilitate growth and knowledge of the grief process. The grief support group meets in the Tucker Room, on the second floor of St. John’s Mercy Hospital, 901 East Fifth Street in Washington. The group closes to new members after the second session. The greatest benefit is gained by attending all 8 sessions. Registration is encouraged. For information, or to register, call St. John’s Mercy Hospice at 877-236-8141 or stlo_hospice@mercy.net.