

November 14-15, 2009

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 9:00-1:00 Plowsharing Crafts Sale - auditorium
9:00 Adult Bible study (lectionary-based) in atrium meeting room
9:15-9:45 Rainbow Bell practice in 3rd floor preschool classroom (ages 3 – grade 2)
10:00 Worship
11:15 Worship Workshop Follow-up/Application Session in dining room
11:15-1:00 Confirmation
6:30-8 Youth Group (Grades 7-12)
- Monday 6:00 AA
6:30 Quilting
7:00 Civic Chorus Rehearsal
7:00 EA Evangelism meeting
- Tuesday 10:30 Staff meeting
2:30 Cedar Crest Worship Service
6:30 Jamaican Partnership Group
7:00 Church Council
7:30 Al Anon
- Wednesday 9:00 Quilting
12:00 Bible study
5:00 All Church soup supper
6-6:15 Devotion in chapel
6:15-7:30 Small Groups
6:00 Chapel Bell Choir
6:00 AA
6:45 Vesper Bell Choir
7:30 Chancel Choir
- Thursday 10:30 Grandview Healthcare Center Worship Service
6:00 AA
6:30-8:00 Scout Pack Meeting in auditorium
- Friday 9:00 Newsletter articles due in the church office or to Laura Placht at lplacht@fidnet.com
- Saturday 4:00-10:00 Al-Anon in dining room
5:00 Worship
6:00 Consecration Celebration Dinner - Auditorium

Sunday 9:00 Adult Bible study (lectionary-based) in atrium meeting room
 10:00 Worship & Sunday school
 11:00 Thanksgiving/Consecration Sunday Dinner - Auditorium

A **Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner** will be held following each of the services Nov. 21 & 22. Turkey, dressing and gravy will be provided. Each family is asked to bring a favorite Thanksgiving dish (to feed 12) to the dinner. These meals will be true potlucks. If we end up with all desserts or no desserts at all, we will be thankful for what has been provided. Please sign the friendship register, email spuccwsh@yhti.net, or call the church office to let us know how many from your family will attend which day. The Rev. Don Crismon will be preaching at these services. Let's have a big turn out to hear him speak and join in fellowship after the service you attend for a great meal.

Downtown Washington Christmas Parade: Get out your lawn chairs, lights, and Santa hats and join St. Peter's Lawn Chair brigade. Once again, members and friends of St. Peter's UCC will march in the Washington Christmas Parade. The parade is held on Friday, Nov. 27, the day after Thanksgiving, beginning at 5 PM. We will decorate a float and follow the float with our Award Winning, Defending Champion, Lawn Chair brigade. We need your help in decorating the float and participating in the parade. There is a sign-up sheet in the atrium. You may also call Susan Harms.

"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. We are traveling through the Bible with the same Bible passages used in our Sunday worship. We are informal and open to lots of discussion. We invite you to become travel partners with us whenever you can come.

A **White Castle Christmas Caroling Party** is planned for Wed., Dec 9 at 6:00. Everyone in church is invited to gather in the Dining Room. Then we'll head out to nursing homes and peoples' homes who are homebound. (If you know someone from church who would appreciate caroling, please let Pastor Paul know.) After caroling, we will be treated to White Castle hamburgers. Please bring Christmas goodies and treats to share.

St. Peter's Family Festival of Trees begins Dec. 4 for the first three long weekends in December. Signup sheets to help with hosting our Christmas guests for the Festival are in the Atrium. Hosts will greet, provide directions to trees and serve refreshments. Your hospitality is appreciated!

St. Peter's Family Festival of Trees fliers are in your bulletins. Please keep it for your reference or post someplace in town to help spread the Christmas cheer. More fliers are available.

Conference Staff News: Rev. Krista Betz, Acting Associate Conference Minister and pastor of Ebenezer UCC in Augusta, has accepted the call to be the Interim Conference Minister of Kansas-Oklahoma Conference starting Jan. 1, 2010. A farewell celebration has been planned for Nov. 29, 2-5 PM at Robller Winery, which is located in the heart of the Eastern Association at 275 Robller Vineyard Road, New Haven. Finger foods and appetizers will be served; wine will be available to purchase.

Friends,

“Me gusta tu manera de ser.” That’s a compliment sometimes heard in Latin America. It means literally, “I like your manner of being.” Colloquially, it’s a way of saying “I Like the way you are” or “the way you come across.”

Early Christians were not called “Christian” but followers of the Way, as Luke put it. This “manera de ser” was, and is, more than belief or behavior. It’s more than a worthy cause. It’s a disposition, a way of living. It’s about loving God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind—and our neighbor as ourselves. It’s about having a heart and a brain—and courage, in the spirit of Christ.

Hemingway defined courage as “grace under pressure.” C.S. Lewis called courage “the form of every virtue at the testing point.” Given the pressure and testing we face in a world—and a church—full of fault and frailty that sometimes make faith difficult, we cannot follow the Way by ourselves. We’re given the courage of Christ and the gift of each other to grow with and learn from.

This is what the church is all about. Granted its imperfection (and our own), we do well to remember with Martin Luther that “God can draw straight with a crooked line, and ride a lame horse”! Courage is not the absence of doubt or fear. It’s the willingness to face them: with all our heart and mind, confident that God is still speaking.

True to our ancestors who showed us the way, may the United Church of Christ and each one of us grow in that manera de ser which is the spirit of Christ become ours today.

Sincerely, William C. Green Minister and Team Leader, Stewardship and Church Finances Ministry, Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ.