

December 12-13, 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	Adult Bible study (lectionary-based) in atrium meeting room
	10:00	Worship/Christmas Program (Family Sunday)
	11:15	Coffee hour reception in auditorium
	11:15-1:00	Confirmation
	12:00-3:00	St. Peter's Family of Trees
	5:00-8:00	Youth Group Progressive Dinner
Monday	9:00	Ladies Breakfast at Cowan's
	3-8	Pizza Hut Night
	6:00	AA
	6:30	Quilting
	7:00	Bible Discovery
Tuesday	1:00	Fifth Street School here for tour of trees
	2:30	Cedar Crest Service
	6:30	Church Council
Wednesday	9:00	Quilting
	6:15	Chapel Bell Choir
	6:00	AA
	7:30	Chancel Choir
Thursday	10:30	Grandview Healthcare Center Service
	6:00	AA
	6:30	Scout Pack meeting - auditorium
Friday	5:00-8:00	St. Peter's Family of Trees
Saturday	2:00-5:00	St. Peter's Family of Trees
	5:00	Worship
Sunday	9:00	Adult Bible study (lectionary-based) in atrium meeting room
	10:00	Worship & Sunday school
	12:00-3:00	St. Peter's Family of Trees

Today is Family Sunday. Children and youth will remain in worship.

Please pick up a star ornament on your way of the sanctuary. A big thank you to Marge Jones for cutting our ornaments for all four weeks of Advent and to Ruth Buddemeyer, Norma Hausmann and Doris Blankenship for adding yarn!

Conference Minister, Rev. Jeff Whitman to join us in worship, Sat., Dec. 19th and Sun., Dec. 20th. St. Peter's is very happy to welcome Rev. Jeff Whitman, the Missouri Mid-South Conference Minister for the United Church of Christ, as he joins us for the fourth Sunday of our Advent journey. Rev. Whitman joined our conference's staff in late 2007 and has been hard at work building connections with local churches like St. Peter's. In the short time Jeff has served with us, his insights, vision and spiritual guidance have been invaluable in helping

our conference to navigate the tough financial situation in which we find ourselves as the Missouri Mid-South Conference (due to decreased giving to “Our Church’s Wider Mission”/OCWM by many local churches) while also guiding us as a conference in a restructuring process that we pray will better help us utilize the strengths of volunteers and churches and better realize God’s spirit which binds us all together for the glory of Christ’s ongoing work in the world. This is Jeff’s first visit to worship at St. Peter’s (although you may have met him in the halls as he’s come and gone for various meetings). In addition to his many other gifts, Jeff is a wonderful preacher, and it is our pleasure to have him bring the message on the 19th & 20th.

Thanks to those who made **Christmas merrier for the residents of the Emmaus Homes** by choosing a resident to help this Christmas. Please do not wrap the gifts and return them to the church by Thurs., Dec. 17.

Help brighten the Christmas of our members and friends who are unable to leave their places of residence (“shut-ins”) by sending them a Christmas card. Save on postage by dropping these cards by the church for delivery by pastors and volunteers

Veterans of the Cross (now known as The Christmas Fund) offering: Sat. & Sun, Dec. 19-20. While most retired UCC ministers and their spouses have adequate income through an annuity program and Social Security, there are several hundred who do not. In most instances, these are the very oldest. The Christmas Fund is a national offering of the United Church of Christ which makes possible “a supplement” at Christmas-time to several hundred lower income retirees who are generally 90 years of age or older. It also makes possible an Emergency Fund, which offers assistance to those who serve the church today who suddenly find themselves in dire need due to unexpected circumstances of health, disaster or loss. The Christmas Fund is one of five special UCC offerings that St. Peter’s collects throughout the year as we seek to be faithful servants to the wider church outside our doors. An offering envelope was included in your December newsletter. Your generous support is appreciated!

Come celebrate the start of the Christmas season with us! Christmas Eve services will be held at 4:30 PM, 7:30 PM and 10:30 PM and Christmas Day service will be at 10 AM. On Christmas Eve, our 4:30 service will have some more family-friendly elements and a lot of congregational carol singing. At 7:30 and 10:30 we will have a service of lessons and carols with the choir and chapel bells participating at 7:30 and the chapel bells and soloists participating at 10:30. The 10:30 PM service and the 10 AM service will include communion. All Christmas Eve services will include the passing of candle light throughout the congregation.

A Christmas Gift Suggestion: (made by an attendee of one of the capital campaign meetings) If you are looking for a gift suggestion for a loved one this year, make a contribution to the Atrium fund in their honor as a gift to them and to the church.

Announcing the 2009 Emmaus West Christmas Play: A CHRISTMAS ALPHABET, The Christmas Story from “A” to “Z” in word & favorite Christmas carols! Thurs., Dec. 17th, 7 PM - Fellowship Hall on the Marthasville Campus. The Washington Rotary Club will be our special guests during the play, and will serve refreshments for everyone after the play!

Articles for the monthly **newsletter** are due in the church office by 9 AM on the 21st of each month or they may be emailed to lplacht@fidnet.com by that same deadline.

“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 invite you to become travel partners with us whenever you can come.

Please note: Poinsettias not picked up by Dec. 28 will be delivered to shut-ins.

Information regarding end of year contributions: Please be advised that if you want to receive credit for any contribution, the church office must be in receipt of it by December 31. The only exception to this is that if you mail your contribution, your check must be dated no later than December 31, 2009 **AND** the postmark **MUST BE** dated no later than December 31, 2009. On another note, please do not use tape on your offering envelopes.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

I wish to donate a CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL in memory of:

Enclosed find \$_____ for the Memorial Fund \$_____ for the Atrium Fund

Deadline is Dec. 21. Signed: _____