

December 19-20, 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	10:00	Worship (K-6 Sunday school after children's moment)
	12:00-3:00	St. Peter's Family of Trees
Monday	9:00	Newsletter articles due to Laura Placht at lplacht@fidnet.com
	6:00	AA
	6:30	Quilting
Tuesday	11:00	funeral for Elmer Heidmann
Wednesday	9:00	Quilting
	6:15	Chapel Bell Choir
	6:00	AA
	7:00	Mental Illness Support Group
	7:30	Chancel Choir
Thursday	Noon	Church Office closes
	4:30	Family Candlelight Christmas Eve Service*
	7:30	Candlelight Christmas Eve Service*
	10:30	Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with communion*
Friday	10:00	Christmas Service with communion*
Saturday	5:00	Worship
Sunday	10:00	Worship & Sunday school

Please pick up a hand 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!

***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.

Christian Education update: The adult Sunday school class will recess until the first of the year. The class for grades 7-12 will recess until Jan. 17.

Reaching beyond our pockets to share gifts with our church: So far, the church office has received only 27 Time and Talent surveys from our church family. Please pick up a green survey near the sanctuary exits and prayerfully consider how your own efforts to be a faithful steward for God might cross paths/meet with the needs of your church. Thank you!

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Honor a loved one, a celebration or memory and beautify our sanctuary with your gift of flower arrangements to decorate the church altar. These gifts can be made at any point in the year (and the cost isn't as much as you might think). 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). What do we do with donated arrangements that go unclaimed after service? Volunteers take them as a gift to our shut-ins, adding beauty to other spaces beyond our sanctuary.

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

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

I wish to donate a CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL in memory of:

Enclosed find \$_____ for the Memorial Fund \$_____ for the Atrium Fund
The deadline is December 21.

Signed: _____

OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION: OCWM GIFTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Together we are stronger than we are individually.

We are called by the Holy Spirit to be covenant partners with the congregations of the Missouri Mid-South Conference and the United Church of Christ for mission both locally and globally. Sharing our resources with our covenant partners make it possible for us to minister in many ways:

- with global partners in countries around the world,
- as public witnesses for justice and peace,
- as partners with churches in transition,
- with new churches and revitalizing congregations,
- through outdoor ministries programs for youth and young adults, men and women.

Through Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) we are covenant partners with local churches, providing resources for:

- worship, education, and stewardship
- important communications that share our message and connect us with one another
- congregations seeking pastoral leadership or during times of crisis or uncertainty
- a supportive presence at ordinations, installations, anniversaries and other special occasions and at times when congregations experience conflict and change.

As covenant partners we offer a united, powerful witness:

- reaching out to the isolated, the hungry, the poor, and the forgotten
- standing with the oppressed,
- working with those who have no voice or who are working to overcome the tragedy of natural disaster.

When we stand together, it is a transformative experience that testifies to the strength of our shared mission and of God's abundant communion. Together our gifts make a difference in the lives people in our community and around the world.

We can do so much more together than we can alone.

Oberammergau:
July 2010

Next Summer our Conference Minister Rev. Jeffrey Whitman is sponsoring a trip to Oberammergau, Germany to see the world famous Passion Play. Our group will be leaving from St. Louis on June 29 for a 16 day trip to Germany, Austria, and the Czech Republic.

The Passion Play was first performed in the little German village of Oberammergau over 370 years ago. The residents of the village promised God that if they were spared from the Black Plague that was ravaging Europe at the time they would show their gratitude by putting on a Passion Play every 10 years. They have been producing this 6 hour musical and dramatic presentation once each decade ever since.

In addition to the Passion Play our journey will include visits to:

- Salzburg
- Innsbruck
- the Brenner Pass into northern Italy
- a visit to the Abbey of Ettal
- a visit to the Castle of Linderhoff.

The trip will also include an extension to Vienna and Prague before returning to the US.

If you would like a brochure and more information please contact Rev. Whitman at jrwhitman@charter.net or jeff@mmsucc.org.