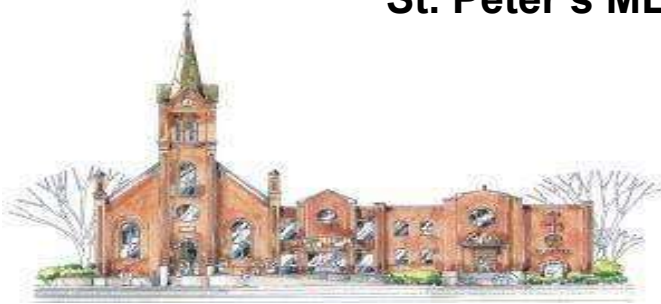


St. Peter's MESSENGER



St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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July 2024

Vacation Bible School



A BLUEY VBS will be held July 21-24 from 5:30-7:30. All children are welcome. **Register here**. If you'd like to volunteer to help (from being here and hands on to simply supplying a snack) please contact Pastor Eric.

Farewell Meal Planned

All are invited to a farewell meal for Pastor Eric, Jorie, Keagan, Charley and Harper Moeller following the Sunday, July 28, worship service. We are asking those attending to please bring either a salad or vegetable dish. Meat and dessert will be provided by Women's Fellowship. We hope many will take this opportunity to thank Pastor Eric for his service to St. Peter's and wish the Moeller family many blessings.

Dear Friends,

Even though we are in the heart and heat of summer, there are some special events of which to take note here at St. Peter's UCC in July:

During worship this July, we will continue remembering the story of David. Each Saturday and Sunday sermon will focus on another aspect of David's life. Here are the scripture passages for July:

July 6/7	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10	David becomes king of Israel
July 13/14	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19	David dances before the Ark of the Covenant
July 20/21	2 Samuel 7:1-14a	God's covenant with David
July 27/28	We are going to take a break from King David's story this week.	

There is also a special event on Friday, July 26 from 10 a.m. to noon on the campus of Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves. Each year there is a celebration of the signing of the "Americans with Disabilities Act" (ADA). This is hosted by Paraquad, an organization that champions equity and independence for people with disabilities. This year's celebration will honor Rev. Harold Wilke, who is a son of our congregation and was present at the signing of the ADA in 1990. Our congregation was invited and will be a cosponsor of this event. Please see information in this edition of the "Messenger" and consider attending this special event.

Finally, July will be bittersweet as we say our goodbyes to Pastor Eric and his family. It is important that we celebrate his good work among us, as we send him off with our support and blessings, as he seeks the next chapter in his ministry. It has been a joy working with Pastor Eric and I will miss him dearly. See page one of the "Messenger" for details of a congregational meal which will take place on Sunday, July 28.

Blessings,
Pastor Kurt

Blessed are those who mourn . . . for they shall be comforted.

Prayers are with the family and friends of Noreen Wayne who died May 26.

Prayers are with the family and friends of Donald Benne who passed away on June 12.

Donald was Rosalie Benne's husband and Angela Smith's father.

Prayers are with the family and friends of Lois Potochny who passed away recently.



Congratulations to Elizabeth & Brannon Mencke on the birth of Ezra Quin Mencke on June 1. Ezra joins big sister Amira and is the grandson of proud grandparents: Kurt & Mary Schaller Blaufuss.

If you do not have a handicapped license plate or a handicapped hang tag, PLEASE do not park in handicapped parking spots.

Call to Special Congregational Meeting: A Special Congregational Meeting will be held following worship Sat., July 27 & Sun., July 28. *This meeting seeks congregational approval to replace an old air conditioning unit (currently no longer functioning and not repairable) that services a significant portion of the sanctuary space. The “Zone F” air conditioner has been out of service since last fall. Our bid to replace the unit is approximately \$13,000 which exceeds the amount the Council can spend without congregational approval. A modern, compatible replacement unit is readily available and once approved, repairs should be completed in 2-3 weeks, depending upon the contractor’s schedule.*

Back Bay Mission Trip, Sept. 14-21

St. Peter’s UCC will be doing a mission trip to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS Sept. 14-21. Back Bay is a UCC organization whose mission is to strengthen neighborhoods, seek justice and transform lives. While there, we will work on home rehabilitation, help in their client-choice food pantry, spend time with homeless individuals at the Michah Day Center and more. There are ways to participate for people above age 14 & all abilities. The cost is \$250. Contact Pastor Eric if you have questions. You may [register here](#) no later than July 12.

Justice & Witness Mission Team: Open & Affirming Food for Thought

As we continue to move through the Open & Affirming process, the Justice & Witness Mission Team will be sharing brief bits in the Messenger for each of us to prayerfully consider.

This month we consider how being Open & Affirming in name and practice can literally be lifesaving. When a person becomes open about their sexual orientation and/or gender identity, they often face rejection: rejection from family, friends, work, home, church, and more. The negativity they experience, then, can become internalized, and self-harm or suicide becomes a high risk. For example, did you know that 82% of transgender people have considered suicide? However, when LGBTQIA+ people are able to find people and communities that love, support, and affirm them, the game changes significantly. For instance, when it comes to LGBTQIA+ youth, particularly trans youth, just having one supportive adult in their lives can lower the risk of self-harm and suicide drastically. Just one person. Support can be as simple as using the right pronouns or their chosen name. In regions like ours, finding that one adult, much less a community of them, can be a challenge. What kind of impact might we have if people knew where they could find a supportive community, knew there was a place that embraced all people as beloved children of God, created in God’s image? Might a life even be saved? How might the lives of supportive friends and family of LGBTQIA+ people be impacted knowing that such a faith community exists for them as well? Just some food for thought.

Women's Fellowship Update

The Women's Fellowship at St. Paul's UCC in Marthasville is hosting their annual July sandwich and salad luncheon on WED., JULY 10 starting at 11:30 a.m. We will carpool from St. Peter's leaving at 11:10 a.m. All women are invited but we need to RSVP by July 1st so please let Judy Verdine (636-346-8380) or Rhonda Stockglausner (636-390-3425) know if you will be attending. THIS WILL SERVE AS OUR MEETING FOR JULY. Our monthly women's breakfast at Bob Evans will be on the 3rd Friday (July 19) at 9 a.m. All women are welcome!

Rights and the "Breaking of Chains"

Date: Friday, July 26, 2024 Time: 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Location Eden Theological Seminary
475 E Lockwood Ave. St. Louis, MO 63119
ADA Celebration

Each year Para quad celebrates the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 26, 1990, with a special celebration. Since the justice champions that secured the ADA are passing away, it is important that we preserve memories of their courageous actions. In 2024, we celebrate the life of **The Rev. Harold H. Wilke (1914-2003)**, a minister who gave the invocation at the signing of the ADA and received an ink pen from President George H.W. Bush's wife Barbara following the ceremony. Wilke was born without arms on a farm in Washington, Missouri, and had to fight discrimination in school, in religious institutions, and in society throughout his life. Without his efforts and that of our disability rights ancestors, there would be no ADA.



July 26, 1990
President George H.W. Bush signed the ADA into law on the lawn of the White House. With him on the platform were (back row far left) **The Rev. Harold Wilke**, Evan Kemp, Sandra Parrino, and Justin Dart Jr., all members of the Disability Rights Movement who had urged the passage of the bill.



Aluminum Drive: A pick-up truck will be parked in the South parking lot the first weekend of each month where you may place the cans. ONLY aluminum cans, in bags please, should be placed in the truck; please do not include tin foil and/or pie pans. Thanks for all the help from the congregation!



Thank You from Y Literacy!

The Y Literacy tutors, adult students and their families enjoyed a celebration at St. Peter's United Church of Christ on Thursday evening, June 13. A good time was had by over 50 people who played "getting to know you" games with prizes, shared the potluck food, and honored the three students who became citizens of the United States this past year. Many of those present had never been to St. Peter's before and commented on the lovely room, and how convenient it was to park and take the elevator to the auditorium.

Y Literacy is a free YMCA program for adults who want to improve their English skills. Students meet with a volunteer tutor once a week at a library in Franklin County. If you or someone you know would like more information about Y Literacy, please contact Diane Schwab at Four Rivers YMCA, 636-239-5704 or email her at read4rivers@gwrymca.org.



Mission Report May 2024

WERF:

In May, the Washington Emergency Relief Fund received 225 requests for assistance. We were able to give out 24 grants to help 61 people. Fifteen of those grants were for electricity and nine went towards rent. The grants totaled \$5,477.24.

The Harvest Table:

The Harvest Table served 575 meals in the month of May. Besides providing meals, necessities were given to needy individuals, including tents, sleeping mats, take-home food, and lots of friendship and community.

Salam Free Clinic:

The Free Clinic saw two individuals in May. These patients were in need and had no insurance. A quick reminder, people who visit the clinic do not need to show any ID for assistance.

Food Pantry News:

Thank you to ALL the volunteers who help the food pantry continue its vital ministry in our community. In May, 140 individuals representing 51 families were served. We also thank the following for their generous donations – May Food Pantry Donors: Joline Logan, Mary Feller & Paul Konrad, Ameren Missouri, Barb & Rob Kell, Immanuel Lutheran Grade School, Henniges New Haven, United Way

July's Mission of the Month:

This month we celebrate our covenantal partner the Emmaus Homes! Emmaus continues to expand their community services while remaining focused on growing our 130-year tradition to allow the people we support to live the life they want to live in the communities of their choosing. This year, Emmaus will provide over 1 million hours of direct support services throughout Franklin, Warren, St. Charles and St. Louis counties to many adults with developmental disabilities. That direct client support is a direct result of the support congregations like ours give to Emmaus. For more information, visit www.emmaushomes.org.

St. Peter's United Church of Christ Church Council Meeting Highlights 18 June 2024

Guest Presentation Regarding Harvest Table Free Haircuts: A presentation was given on Harvest Table's plan to offer a free haircut day again this year.

- Last year there were two hair cutters, and it went well--they were busy all day. Therefore, they want to repeat the activity.
- Last year it was held outdoors, but due to the timing and weather concerns they would like to move it inside this year.
- Haircuts are scheduled for Aug. 17 from 1-5 p.m., before and during Harvest Table.
- The event is being made available for kids heading back to school.
- The plan is to have six volunteer hair cutters this year

- The stylists will be asked for opinions of the best location in the building for easy cleanup.
- There is a plan for escorting people in and out of the building.

A motion to approve the plan for the haircuts passed.

Guest Presentation Regarding St. Peter's Participation in the Fair Parade: A presentation was given on the Evangelism Committee's proposal for St. Peter's to have a float in the Fair Parade this year.

- The little church building float created for the 175th Anniversary will be reused.
- We have an offer for a 16-foot trailer and a truck driver.
- The float will have banners on the sides "No matter who you are, This church is for You" to go with this year's fair theme
- Three banners will cost no more than \$250
- We would like a few potted plants to put around the church building on the float and ask people to donate these and then take them home after the parade. A request for these will be placed in the bulletins.
- Giveaways – there are some leftover canvas backpacks and bags here to use from prior events.
- An offer has been received for a \$200 donation for candy to hand out.
- Looking for parade walkers--hoping to have enough volunteers so people can switch off and just walk part of the route, rather than needing to do the whole distance.

A motion to approve the Fair Parade float passed.

Treasurer's Report:

- The General Fund is behind for May, as giving was down. However, expenses were also less than budgeted.
- The General Fund is currently behind, down \$25,546.
- We are expecting high electric bills due to running the AC during this very hot weather.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report passed.

Senior Pastor's Report:

- A list of activities for the month was reviewed.
- All staff evaluations are complete.

Associate Pastor's Report:

- A list of activities for the month was reviewed.
- A summer kickoff pool party occurred on June 2 with about 20 in attendance.
- Messy Church featuring "A Bug's Life" theme occurred on June 9 with about 19 in attendance. There will be one more Disney themed Messy Church on July 14.
- VBS is coming up in July.
- Pastor Eric will direct Family Camp at MoVal June 30-July 4

Boards & Committees:

Building and Grounds:

- AC Project / Unit F that services part of the sanctuary:
 - Two bids have been received, with a \$59 difference between them.
 - The Board is recommending Alferman Air, who is familiar with our systems.
 - This project will need Congregational approval due to the cost. A special Congregational meeting to address this will be called for the weekend of July 27-28.
- The changing stations are here and ready to install in the restrooms.
- Security issues were discussed, including the bids for additional cameras and monitoring.
 - They are waiting for a second bid for the security system.
 - The initial bid is \$13,000 for cameras and monitoring equipment. The electronic door access hardware is already in place.
 - This will also need Congregational approval due to the cost.
 - A small sub-group of the Council will work with Building and Grounds on the security proposal. The goal is to determine our exact needs and present this system to the Congregation at the October meeting.
- Showers for the homeless update
 - The needed upgrades for the showers will cost \$500 per shower, and we have offers of funds to cover that. However, only three people have showered so far at the Methodist Church. Thus, due to low demand, we are not doing the repairs here right away. TBD
- The handicap access button on the south door has an issue. If that door gets propped open, it stops working and must be reset. We need a sign stating not to prop open that door.
- There is water damage high on the sanctuary south wall above the bell choir. They are not sure where the water is coming from. This is being checked out.

Cemetery Board:

- They are working on 150th anniversary ideas.

Board of Christian Education:

- VBS will be held from July 21-24 with a "Bluey" theme.
- They are making contact calls to families.

Evangelism:

- In addition to the parade float, they are working on t-shirts, etc. using the new fair float logo. The goal is to have some St. Peter's items available for purchase.
- A Game Day is being planned for the fall.

Mission:

- A Mission Trip will take place Sept. 15-21. About 5-6 people are interested.

Worship:

- Meeting next week to see samples of fabric for the new paraments.

Justice Witness:

- Showers for the Homeless project will not proceed this summer. There is not enough demand.
-

Advisory:

- More documents are in review and going through Council.
- They are considering the review of the rolls that is to happen every 5 years, and which is due in 2025. This could be started early if we desire. This could give us a better idea of the actual numbers of active members.

Financial Report

Receipts	May	YTD 2024
General Fund	\$ 30,055.29	\$ 199,866.92
Building Fund	\$ 3,469.50	\$ 17,528.60
Youth Fund	\$	\$ 247.00
Memorial Fund	\$	\$ 4,057.75
Sanctuary Music Fund	\$ 150.00	\$ 863.00
Pass Thru In	\$ 2,421.91	\$
Total Receipts	\$ 36,096.70	\$ 222,563.27

Expenses	May	YTD 2024
General Fund	\$ -40,238.12	\$ -213,601.68
Building Fund	\$ -1,484.16	\$ -14,635.87
Youth Fund	\$	\$ -218.18
Memorial Fund	\$ -	\$ -1,855.22
Sanctuary Music Fund	\$ -197.23	\$ -418.71
Pass Thru Out	\$ -2,421.91	\$
Total Expenses	\$- 44,341.42	\$- 230,729.66

Bank Balance Report 5/31/2024

Heritage Bank Balance	\$ 64,397.20
Less Building Fund	\$ 9,608.92
Less Youth Fund	\$ 8,740.18
Less Memorial Fund	\$ 67,848.52
Less Music Fund	\$ 3,746.33
Less Perpetual Member	\$
General Fund Balance	\$- 25,546.75



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Charlotte Bobo	07/01	Linda Becker	07/18
Jon Bauer	07/02	Anna Travers	07/18
Emma Schoonover	07/02	Charles Moeller	07/19
Paige Schoonover	07/02	Steve Wilmesherr	07/19
Alexis Sherman	07/02	Madelyn Renth	07/20
Rhonda Stockglausner	07/02	Mary Beth Wilson	07/20
Andrew Arnette	07/03	Patricia Sahn	07/22
Matthew Kroeter	07/03	Therese Wood	07/23
Gene Becker	07/04	Bill Schwab	07/26
Janet Alspach	07/05	Penelope Martin	07/28
Blake Georgie	07/05	Lainie Decker	07/29
Karen Houchins	07/05	Sabastian Dowdy-Matau	07/29
Molly Derner	07/06	Harper Travers	07/29
Patty Clark	07/10	Jerry Merrell	07/30
Gloria Marquart	07/10	Edward Menefee	07/31
Zachary Harms	07/11		
Chris Smith	07/11		
Heather Sullentrup	07/11		
Genice Hackett	07/13		
Kay Hunt	07/13		
Dorothy Meyer	07/13		
Joyce Sanfilippo	07/14		
Alex Schonaerts	07/15		
Alexander Connor	07/16		
John Connor	07/16		
Wayne Campbell	07/17		
Easton Kemp	07/17		
Keli Schneider	07/17		