St. Peter's MESSENGER



St. Peter's United Church of Christ 20 East 5th Street P.O. Box 510 Washington MO 63090 636-239-6176

Website www.stpeters-washington.org
September 2024

The 2nd Annual St. Peter's Trivia Night is scheduled for Saturday, September 14, 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium

- Teams of 8; \$25 per person or \$200 per team.
- Beer, wine, soda and water will be provided. Teams are encouraged to provide their own snacks. No outside drinks allowed.
- Sign up in the church office or by calling Susan Harms 636-359-1452
- Want to play, but need a team? Let us know and we will put you with others to form a team that night.

Unable to attend, but would like to participate....

Before and after church we will sell Raffle Tickets \$75 worth of lottery tickets. The cost for one ticket is \$2, 3 tickets for \$5, and 7 for \$10. **Try your luck!!!**

You can also participate in the 10X's game by following the following instructions:

- Grab an envelope from the back of sanctuary
- Put between \$1 and \$10 in the envelope—\$10 is the max you can bet!
 (\$10 in the envelope wins \$100, \$1 wins \$10.)
- During Trivia Night we will draw one of the envelopes. If you are not at Trivia Night but are a winner, we will contact you. You can pick up your winnings at the church office.

A portion of the proceeds will go towards Missions of the Church!!!



Do you know...

- 1. What year St. Peter's UCC was founded?
- 2. What year the St. Louis Rams won the Super Bowl?

September Greetings!

So many exiting things are happening at St. Peter's UCC as we enter the fall. Sunday School and Confirmation will be resuming, and our choirs are returning to bless our worship. We will also be celebrating many special weekends between now and the beginning of Advent in December. They are as follows:

September 8 ... Baptism of Nathan Jacquin
September 22 ... Reception of New Members
October 5 and 6 ... World Communion Weekend
October 12 and 13 ... Dedication of the Harold Wilke Plaque
October 19 and 20 ... October Congregational Meeting
November 2 and 3 ... 180th Anniversary of St. Peter's UCC
November 3 ... Baptism of Gus Becker
November 9 and 10 ... Stewardship Weekend
November 23 and 24 ... Totenfest and Thanksgiving
November 30 and December 1... Advent begins!

I'd also like to briefly touch on transitions taking place at St. Peter's UCC as we said goodbye to Rev. Eric and his family in August. Your church council and I are working on making sure that we continue our strong ministries and mission initiatives amid changes taking place. I would like to address questions concerning pastoral staffing as some have been asking questions. Council currently is making no immediate plans for the replacement of an associate pastor. We need to evaluate our current needs, the reality of our finances, and where we see ourselves as we look ahead.

I'd like to conclude my report with a quote from Pastor Eric's last sermon. In this time of transition, I believe Pastor Eric gave us some words of guidance.

"I think this is a moment in the life of this congregation that it may be time to slow down, take a breath, and search for your center, your heartbeat, together. I think one of the effects of our shared experience of the pandemic in this congregation is that we got worried and anxious for a variety of reasons and just started spinning our wheels without really coping with the trauma, finding our center again, and uncovering a shared vision beyond trying to regain what we felt we'd lost. Now's the time to turn away from the worry and anxiety. Now is the time to really look at the unbelievable treasure trove of resources the Spirit continues to gather in this place, uncover what makes your collective heart pump, adapt, and start moving again with intentionality to play your part in making the Commonwealth of God a lived experience in our time and place."

I would invite us all to take such a breath. That pause, of course, doesn't mean we neglect the ongoing mission and ministry of our church. But it does allow us to dream what our future might be. Thank you all for your continued love and support for St. Peter's UCC.

Autumn Blessings, Pastor Kurt

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS The beginning of Sunday School is right around the corner! Mark your calendars!

Sunday, September 8 ... Presentation of <u>Bibles</u> to our Third Graders Sunday, September 15 ... First Day of Classes

Our Sunday School students will begin by joining our 10 a.m. service of worship. They can sit with their families or in the Pray Ground. After the Children's Sermon the students will go to the Sunday School classrooms. Classes will end at 11 a.m. While an RSVP is not required, we would appreciate knowing who will be joining us on Sept. 15. You may contact Wendy Wisdom (wendy.wisdom1980@gmail.com) or Pastor Kurt (revkurt@stpeters-ucc.org).

We hope to see you on September 15!

Blessed are those who mourn... for they shall be comforted. Please pray for:

- The family and friends Jim Heisel who passed away on August 6.
- The family and friends of Bernard J. Westhoelter who passed away on August 15.



Congratulations to Nora Colter & Andrew Mullins, on the birth of a son, Milo Chester Mullins, born July 16, 2024. Grandparents are Elaine Menke & Kim Colter.



Thank you to St. Peter's folks who contributed to the Harvest Table in April and July. There were people who contributed monetarily and those who volunteered to serve the meal. Your generosity is very much appreciated. Thank you!!

Erna Holland

Quilters Rummage Sale

The quilters will have a rummage sale on Sept. 21 from 8:30-2 p.m. If you can help during the sale, please call Cheryl Keller 314-795-8886. We will need several cashiers throughout the day and anyone who can help clean up after would be greatly appreciated as well.

The **Washington Emergency Relief Fund** would like to give a shout out to Marilyn Sherman, Ron & Brenda Brinker, Jim & Diane Gephardt, Royce & Mary Lovern, and the Washington Rotary for their continued support. The donations have allowed us to assist eight extra families. That is a tremendous help! Thank you.



Chapel Bell Choir and Chancel Choir rehearsals begin once again on Wed., Sept. 4. Rehearsal times: Bells 6:30 p.m. Choir 7:15 p.m. If you are interested in joining us, please see Ken Tucker for more info. We'd LOVE to have you. kentucker@att.net

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The September meeting of Women's Fellowship will be held Fri., Sept. 13. We are taking a field trip to the St. Louis History Museum to view the exhibit of the 1904 World's Fair. We will meet at church and transportation will be provided. The group will enjoy lunch together before returning home. Please contact Judy Verdine to reserve a space, 636-346-8380.

Women's Breakfast: The women of the church continue to meet at 9 a.m. the third Friday of each month for breakfast at Bob Evans Restaurant.



Hall of Honor recipient of Educator of the Year is **Diane Schwab**.

The Hall of Honor dinner to celebrate Diane will be held Sat., Sept. 28 at 5

p.m. at the Washington Elks Hall. If you would like to attend, please contact Susan Harms at 636.359.1452. The cost is \$50 per person. The Alumni Award is being presented to Gael Wood and the Community Contributor Award recipient is Jennifer Giesike.









We would like to thank everyone who made St. Peter's entry into the Fair parade a success. Thanks to the folks who created and built the church replica a few years ago. Thanks to the guys who helped put it back together and turn it into a moving float—Ben Alspach, Carl Clover, Jack Harty, Lewis Swinger, Gary Elder, and Jim Gephardt. Thanks to Jim, Carl, Pat O'Donnell, Les, Gary, Lewis, and Pastor Kurt who helped take it apart after the parade and special thanks to Jim for the use of his trailer and truck.

Thanks to Phil Butler for cleaning out the shed at the cemetery in such hot weather and providing transportation to and from the parade. Thanks to Cecil Blankenship for providing flowers to adorn it and thanks to Judy Verdine for providing the candy.

Thanks to the walkers and riders—Mary Jo Stoyer, Rhonda Stockglausner, Charlie Sincox, ZoAnn Trentmann, Molly, Matt, and Barb Bauer, Les Kemp, Denise Towell, Joan Howard, Judy Schneider, Pat O'Donnell, Lewis Swinger, Donna Houchins, Jill Lesko, Carl Clover and Pastor Kurt. Thanks to Marilee and Piper for adding their youthful smiles to the float!

The Evangelism Team
Pat Swinger ZoAnn Trentmann
Sue Wehmueller Denise Towell
Joline Logan Trudy Ronsick

(P.S. Thanks also to anyone who loaned your St. Peter's attire for someone to wear at the parade. If you did so and have not had it returned to you, it may be in the church office.)

Mission Report July 2024

Food Pantry News:

Thank you to ALL the volunteers who help the food pantry continue its vital ministry in our community. In July, 156 individuals representing 55 families were served. We also thank the <u>July Food Pantry Donors</u>: Joline Logan, Brenda Bruns, Judy Mays, Washington Rotary, Carol Rolwes for their contributions.

WERF:

During the month of July, The Washington Emergency Relief Fund received 181 calls and was able to give out 26 grants to assist a total of 66 people. Thirteen of the grants were for electricity, two for water, and eleven went toward rent. Our grants totaled \$6,416.04.

Harvest Table:

The Harvest Table served 582 meals in June. Besides providing meals, necessities were given to those in need, including tents, sleeping mats, take-home food and lots of friendship and community.

Salam Free Clinic:

The Free Clinic saw two individuals in July. We are grateful for the Salam doctors and Nurse Leesa.

St. Peter's UCC Open and Affirming Journey

Five years ago, St. Peter's UCC began a journey, prayerfully considering the possibility of our congregation becoming an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. This designation casts a wide net of welcome and acceptance to all people, including members of the LGBTQ+ community. Over this time, the Justice and Witness Committee has held individual interviews with church members, group discussions, book studies, and "Lunch and Learn" educational sessions including conversations with area pastors whose congregations completed this process.

As a fruit of this process, the Justice and Witness committee of our congregation is sharing with you a proposed ONA covenant for our congregation to consider. The proposed draft was created by researching other Missouri Mid-South Conference congregations who have successfully undertaken this journey, as well as considering St. Peter's UCC's desire to "Enter to Worship. Depart to Serve."

Your opinion is valued. Toward that end, we are putting a "**Comment Box**" in the Atrium for your input and ideas. Please share your questions, affirmations or concerns about this Covenant. Also note that we are **not** asking for a vote in the immediate future. The ONA journey is a gradual one that seeks to include all our membership in the process of making a faithful decision.

Thank you all for joining in this loving journey, Justice and Witness Team

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST PROPOSED OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT

In the formation of this covenant, we look to the Word:

I give you a new commandment, that you should

Just as I have loved you,

you should also love one another (John 13:34 NRSV)

At St. Peter's United Church of Christ, we celebrate God's boundless and unconditional love by intentionally welcoming and affirming all God's children, believing that each of us is created in God's image. We affirm the United Church of Christ belief that,

"No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

We accept everyone including people of all races, cultures, ethnicities, nationalities, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive, or emotional abilities, education, or spiritual and religious traditions. All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and mission of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe and nurturing community of faith.

Henceforth, we covenant together and commit ourselves to being an Open and Affirming United Church of Christ.

St. Peter's United Church of Christ Church Council Meeting Highlights 20 August 2024

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the July minutes was made and seconded. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

- The General Fund is currently down over \$30,000 vs budget. This is all due to lower contributions. Spending was under budget for July. We are hopeful this is a summer lull. We need about \$11,000 per week to meet budget.
- A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made and seconded. The motion passed.

Senior Pastor's Report:

- Planning for Confirmation is in progress. A draft letter to the parents of Confirmation students was presented.
- The Fair Parade went well.
- Paraquad's event at Eden honoring Harold Wilke went well, and we were well represented.
- Three new members are joining.
- The Back Bay Mission trip planning is ongoing. Pastor Kurt is going from Sept. 14-20.
- Earlier this year, the Eastern Association Grape Cluster hosted a trivia night here benefiting MoVal. They would like to do this again at St. Peter's next spring.
- He is working on the worship calendar for the rest of the year.
- We will dedicate the Wilke plague Oct. 12-13.
- Nov. 2-3 is the 180th anniversary of St. Peter's.

Boards and Committees:

Building and Grounds:

- There is a potential problem with the motion sensor for the light in the hall by the church office.
- Two roof HVAC units have condenser fins smashed from hail. This may need a professional to look at.
- Changing stations are installed.
- HVAC Unit F is scheduled to be replaced the week of Aug. 19.
- We are having trouble getting bids for the security system. Attempts will be made to activate key cards with the current system.
- We cannot put a sign in the alley, but we can put a sign on the building on the church's property (Caution signage). They will look into this further.
- Audio has been greatly improved for the YouTube livestream.

Cemeterv:

- The concrete base for the Pogue statue has been poured.
- 20 graves have been sold this year so far.
- Anniversary plans are in progress.

Board of Christian Education:

- They are moving forward with Confirmation plans. Classes will begin in late September.
- Sunday School will resume in September. On Sept. 8, 3rd graders will be presented with Bibles (this is the opening event for Sunday School). Classes will start the next week.
- They are determining whether Sunday School will be before church or during. Families are being contacted regarding their preferences.

Mission:

• The mission team has a lunch and learn this Sunday, presented by Turning Point.

Worship:

• Paraments are still in progress. They looked at a proof sheet and it wasn't what we were looking for, so still looking further.

Justice Witness:

- Haircuts in association with Harvest Table went very well. There were about 30 haircuts given, 11 patients seen by the Salam Clinic, and around 180 meals served.
- An Open and Affirming Covenant draft was presented. This will be in the September newsletter and will have a comment box in the atrium. There is no set timeline.

WERF:

- Met in July.
- They are always in need of funds. The need in the community is increasing.
- United Way visited.

Advisory:

- Documents have been reviewed: The document retention policy and combined events policy.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve these as edited by the Council. The motion passed.
- The email membership survey will go out in the next week or so.

Evangelism:

- Game night planning is in progress.
- They are planning to match volunteers with people who need things done at their homes.
- 5 tables are currently sold for trivia night. We need to consider how hard/competitive we want our trivia night to be (some are more competitive; some more casual/social).

Finance:

- They are starting to work on the budget.
- There is a proposal to replace the rest of the heavy wood tables upstairs with lightweight plastic ones and leave the wood ones downstairs. Memorial Fund would be used. Total cost would be approximately \$1,800 for 14 tables. A motion was made and seconded to purchase the tables. The motion passed.

Old Business:

Members we haven't seen in a while:

Kurt is reaching out.

Good Samaritan Fund Signatories:

• Pastor Kurt and Jill Lesko are to be the new signatories on the Good Samaritan Fund. They need to finalize this with the bank.

Plans for assistance for Pastor Kurt:

- Pastor Kurt has an approved "supply list" of pulpit supply ministers from the conference.
- We can also use internal people.
- There are proposals to train lay people to preach.

New Business:

Plans for Care Team:

• They are planning to meet. Visiting and contacting Shut-ins regularly is a priority.

October Congregational Meeting:

• Will be Oct. 19-20. Some desire to go back to a single meeting on Sunday only.

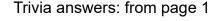
Financial Report

Receipts	July	YTD 2024
General Fund	\$ 28,208.28	\$ 275,742.54
Building Fund	\$ 2,762.50	\$ 24,451.60
Youth Fund	\$ 60.00	\$ 351.00
Memorial Fund	\$ 20.00	\$ 4,182.75
Sanctuary Music Fund	\$ 50.00	\$ 913.00
Pass Thru In	\$ 2,350.46	\$
Total Receipts	\$ 33,451.24	\$ 305,640.89

Expenses	July	YTD 2024
General Fund	\$ (41,281.17)	\$ (295,061.93)
Building Fund	\$ (1,483.08)	\$ (17,057.11)
Youth Fund	\$ (462.67)	\$ (938.79)
Memorial Fund	\$	\$ (1,946.64)
Sanctuary Music Fund	\$ -	\$ (418.71)
Pass Thru Out	\$ (2,350.46)	\$
Total Expenses	\$ (45,577.38)	\$ (315,423.18)

Bank Balance Report 7/31/2024

Heritage Bank Balance	\$ 62,781.30
Less Building Fund	\$ 14,110.68
Less Youth Fund	\$ 8,123.57
Less Memorial Fund	\$ 67,882.10
Less Music Fund	\$ 3,796.33
Less Perpetual Member	\$
General Fund Balance	\$ (31,131.38)





Question 1: 1844 Question 2: 2000

Festival of Sharing - Hygiene Kits

During September, our congregation again offers the opportunity to participate in the Festival of Sharing by providing hygiene kits to those in need. These kits include a hand towel, washcloth, comb, fingernail clippers, soap, toothbrush and band aids collected into a gallon zip lock bag.

These items can be purchased for a total of \$8 at Walmart, Dollar General and Dollar Tree. Each bag must also contain \$2 in cash to pay for processing.

Zip lock bags will be provided in the atrium with a list of the specific items requested. **Please put NO additional items in the bag**. The exact comb they are requesting may be hard to find, so these will be available for \$.75. If you prefer to simply donate the \$10 needed, please take a zip lock bag, put the \$10 cash or check into the bag and place it in the basket marked "Return a Bag".

The hygiene kits need to be returned to church by Sept., 29. Our goal is to collect 50 kits by that date. All you have to do is shop or donate \$10 to be a part of the Festival of Sharing. Thank you in advance for your support of this mission.

The **Stewardship Moments** presented by the Finance Board in the past few months have highlighted all the boards, committees and special interest groups at St. Peter's. The Nominating Committee has begun their work of finding members who are willing to serve our church in the coming years. If you are contacted, please consider this opportunity to serve St. Peter's. The following is a brief listing of boards, committees and special interest groups:

CHURCH COUNCIL -- Consists of twelve members, representing a cross section of our members, each serving a three-year term. Each member is assigned to be an ex officio without vote to another board or committee. Council meets monthly. Charged with aiding the pastor in administration and business of the church.

CEMETERY BOARD -- Has six members, each serving a three-year term. Meets monthly overseeing the cemetery investments, finances, maintenance and activities.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION -- Is a board with six members, each serving a three-year term. Supervises and directs Christian Education of all ages.

INTERNAL REVIEW BOARD -- Is a board with three members, with one elected each year. Reviews books of the church and cemetery, including all groups who deal with money.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS BOARD -- Has six members, serving three-year terms. Oversees maintenance, safety, aesthetics and security of property.

FINANCE BOARD -- Is a nine-member board, with three members elected yearly. Stewardship is an integral part of the Finance Board. Oversees the finances of the church and promotes the sharing of time and talents of the congregation.

WASHINGTON EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND BOARD (WERF) -- Includes six members, who meet four times a year. Deal with the administration of funds received to help those in need.

BOARD MEMBERS MUST BE OFF A DESIGNATED BOARD FOR TWO YEARS BEFORE SERVING ON THAT SPECIFIC BOARD AGAIN.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

ADVISORY COMMITTEE -- Has six members, who meet to give guidance for the improvement of church programs and property as directed by the Church Council.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE -- Consists of six members, who meet to encourage and integrate new members and promote outreach in the community.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE -- Includes nine members who provide oversight for worship which includes ushers, music, care of the altar and chancel area, and Holy Communion.

FELLOWSHIP AND MISSION GROUPS:

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
QUILTERS
JUSTICE WITNESS
MISSIONS GROUP
FOOD PANTRY



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!

Sept. 7, 2024 **Washington Area Walk to END Alzheimer's**, Washington City Park, 211 High Street: Registration starts at 8 a.m., ceremony at 9, and walk begins at 9:30.

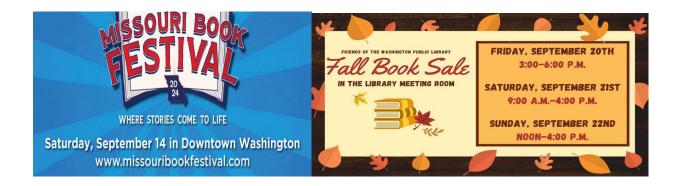
Chicken Fry and Country Store at **St. Paul's UCC Marthasville**, Sept. 15 from 11-5.

St. Thomas UCC Chesterfield, Chicken Dinner – Sept. 15, 11-5



Friends of the Library Speaker Event

Thurs., Sept. 12, 6:30 p.m. author Dean Klinkerberg, "The Wild Mississippi: A State-by-State Guide to the River's Natural Wonders"



Remembering with Purpose & Gratitude...

The congregation's Memorial Fund, Building Fund and various other funds receive gifts throughout the year from both members and nonmembers who are looking for a creative way to express their gratitude for the life of a friend or loved one, or for other times and occasions when they are moved to gratefully respond to a blessing of God.

In Memory of Larry Ronsick: Kay & Gene Hunt, Carole and Charles Sincox

In Memory of **Carrol Ocsody:** Judy Verdine, Patty Wood, Linda & Chuck Johns, Jim & Judy Scannell

In Memory of Noreen Wayne: Kitty Parsons, Helen Bolm

In Memory of **Arnold & Marie Mueller, Edward, David & Shirley Mueller:** Joyce Mueller-Banner & Andrew Banner

In Memory of **Don Benne:** Judy Verdine, Patty Wood, Doris & Cecil Blankenship

In Memory of **Lois Potochny:** Doris & Cecil Blankenship, Dan Buschmeyer, Diane & Jim Gephardt

In Memory of **Linda Eggert Filer:** Billie Ruth Miller, Sharon Leeper, Byron Stolte, Judy Verdine, Bill & Kathy Miller, Roy & Janeial Gerdes, Loretta Engelbrecht, Elmer Locher, Chris & Christine Piontek, Kevin & Carol Scheer, Janice Meyer, Mauri Trusdell, Kevin Steffens, Rich & Donna Speckhals, Dan & Karen Piontek, Dan Buschmeyer, Jim & Debbie Holdmeyer, Dave & Sandy Berliner, Ralph Diebal, Brian Scheible, Ed Holtmeyer, Craig & Kris Hemeyer, Carl Clover & Rhonda Stockglausner, Don Diebal, Norma Eggert, Phil & Dorothy Clarkson, Debbie & Stanley Diebal, Trudy Armstrong, Daryl Fleer, Jim & Judy Scannell, Marilyn Sherman, Donna Meckfessel, Rose & Glenn Walker

In Memory of **Jim Heisel:** Robert & Dorothy Brinker, Carl Clover & Rhonda Stockglausner, Alex & Carol Graham, Erna Holland, Peggy Heisel, Carole and Charles Sincox



		Debra Lamke	09/16
September Birthdays		Christina Shocklee	09/16
Josh Zastrow	09/01	Anne Hofmann-Rebeck	09/17
Koren Kerr	09/02	Gene Hunt	09/17
Aaron Bounds	09/03	Mary Montgomery	09/17
Danielle Grotewiel	09/04	LaVerta Schulte	09/17
Susan Harms	09/04	David Sullentrup	09/17
Sharon Thompson	09/04	Laurie Ebker	09/18
Rita Bub	09/05	Maxwell Grimes	09/19
Rich Houchins	09/05	Victoria Meyer	09/19
Wesley Schmiedeskamp	09/06	Logan Roewe	09/19
Betty Buerk	09/07	Erin Blankenship	09/20
Mary Kate Montgomery	09/07	Kurt Blaufuss	09/20
Jack Sullentrup	09/07	Jack Czeschin	09/20
Kurt Vitoux	09/07	Mivea Hahn	09/20
Doris Blankenship	09/09	Darlene Langkopf	09/20
Samantha Hackett	09/09	Leo Becker	09/21
Samuel Hahn	09/09	Daniel Eckelkamp	09/21
Teresa Hamlett	09/09	Brenda Bruns	09/22
Levi Houchins	09/09	Tara Lang-McDowell	09/22
Charles Patterson	09/09	Lyla Schneider	09/24
Tina Triplett	09/09	Elliana Stewart	09/25
Alexander Buschman	09/10	Tonie Smith	09/26
Judy Scannell	09/10	Carole Sincox	09/27
Holly Johnston	09/11	Nicholas Kackley	09/28
Judy Ficke	09/12	Randy Buschling	09/29
Kenneth Bebermeyer	09/14	Marie Kellermann	09/29
Tyler Francis	09/14	Jason Oesterly	09/29
Kirk Kriete	09/15	David Poe	09/29
John Yager	09/15	Zayla Brewster	09/30
Denise Balken	09/16	Kevin Hausmann	09/30
Joshua Buchholz	09/16	Eleanor Meyer McAndrew	09/30