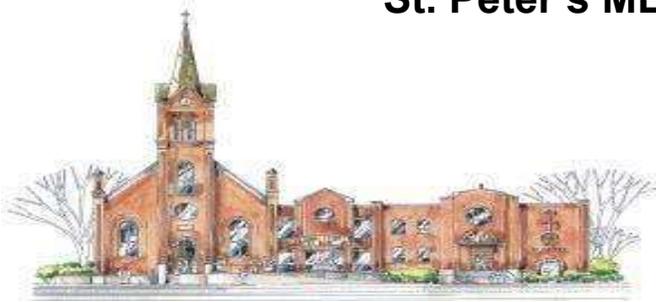


St. Peter's MESSENGER



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

August 2024

Greetings, St. Peter's UCC.

As I write this, fittingly already having passed the Messenger submission deadline just one more time for Patty, I know I cannot delay any further. I know there are upcoming opportunities for gathering and sharing my thoughts with you, but there is still a sense of finality to this. This is a goodbye message, and I find myself a bit lost for new words. As such, I am certain I will repeat things I've already shared, and will likely repeat them in the upcoming gatherings, but some things bear repeating.

It bears repeating that I have deeply valued and appreciated our time together. It bears repeating that this congregation embraced me and my family at a time when we really needed that, and you will forever have a place in our hearts. It bears repeating that this experience has taught me a great deal about ministry and about myself; nurtured my growth in many ways. However, it also bears repeating that I am aware of my imperfections; that I carry some regrets and am sorry for the ways I may have caused harm, let people down, or overlooked people. It bears repeating that this congregation is full of LIFE.

You are a vital part of the Body of Christ and a vital part of Washington. I know it doesn't always feel that way. I know it doesn't feel like it once did. I know that causes anxiety and fear for your future. It needn't. There is so much goodness in this congregation, so many ways that the Spirit is at work here. Do not let your fears, anxieties, or nostalgia be your compass or your fuel. Lean into the Spirit; the Spirit that has always been stirring and shaping the life of the church in new and different ways; the Spirit that has never and will not fail her people. Yes, let the Spirit be your compass and fuel. You are gifted beyond measure with the resources you need to fulfill your God-given, life-giving purpose and find fulfillment in that. The life of this congregation may look and feel different from your past, but that doesn't mean it can't be just as joyful, meaningful, life-giving, and even fun.

Human life is fragile, unpredictable, and finite. It cannot be taken for granted. As such, we make the best of the time we have, soaking in the goodness of our loved ones and this beautiful world, and do what we can to have a positive impact on others. The same is true for the life of the church. Nothing is guaranteed. Make the best of the present moment, soaking in the goodness of each other, the community, this crazy, beautiful world, and do what you can while you can to embody the transformative love of our God. Be bold. Take risks. All will be well, friends, all will be well.

With that, I leave you in the trusted, capable hands of Pastor Kurt, trusting that the Spirit will bring you all together with a new, gifted partner in ministry. [Please do not leave Pastor Kurt flying solo for long. The needs, wants, and expectations of St. Peter's are too many for one pastor to manage well. It would be hazardous to his health and the congregation's health.] I do hope to see you at my final services on August 3 & 4. Beyond that, I'll see you around, and you can always find me singing on your favorite streaming services. ;-)

One last thing that bears repeating: I love you.

Fear not. Keep on.
Pastor Eric



Anyone who has a St. Peter's T-shirt and is willing to loan it to one of the walkers in the "Fair" parade, please contact Denise Towell at 636 388-2588. Thank you!

If you're willing and able to walk in the August 4 Fair Parade (however many blocks you wish to walk), or if you would like to be chosen to ride on the float, you can either put your name in the hats that are in the atrium before and after worship, or you can contact ZoAnn Trentmann at zotrent63@gmail.com

or Pat Swinger at patriciaswinger@gmail.com.

FoodStock 2024, Saturday August 27, 2024

Band Schedule:

- 5 p.m.- The Widow Makers
- 6 p.m.- 8 Track the Oldies Band
- 7 p.m.- The Texas Giants
- 8 p.m.- Butch Wax & The Hollywoods
- 9 p.m.- Salamander Slide



Join Downtown Washington and local musicians for a concert at the Farmers' Market to benefit Washington food pantries. Foodstock XI will be on August 27 from 5-10 p.m. Admission is a monetary donation or a bag of non-perishable food items. There will also be a chance to donate food and money at *Sunset on the Riverfront* on Thurs., August 25 and at *Vino Di Lafayette* on Fri., August 26. This traditional event was started eleven years ago by St. Peter's member Pat O'Donnell.

Message from Pastor Kurt--

Dear Friends,

As I write this article, it reflects important events in the life of our congregation. The first is a celebration of the life of Rev. Dr. Harold Wilke, a son of our congregation, who is being honored this year at an event hosted by *Paraquad*, an organization which advocates for the rights of the disabled. Every year they celebrate the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act which was passed in 1990. Rev. Wilke was instrumental in the passage of that act and was present at the signing ceremony at the White House. St. Peter's UCC is a co-sponsor of that event held at Eden Seminary and we were well represented by members of our congregation in attendance. We were able to share a new plaque celebrating the work of Rev. Wilke, which we will be dedicating in our church in September. This plaque will be displayed by our automated doors.



Another exciting event will be a mission trip to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. Five members and friends of St. Peter's UCC will be going. There we will learn about Back Bay's

history and participate in their mission. Here is Back Bay's mission statement:

Back Bay Mission has a simple mission: to strengthen neighborhoods, seek justice, and transform lives.

- *We **strengthen neighborhoods** through ministries like our education and empowerment programs and our housing rehabilitation program. These vital ministries help the people we serve be a part of, and build, their communities on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. As volunteers take what they learn at Back Bay Mission home with them, they have the opportunity to strengthen their own neighborhoods.*
- *We **seek justice** by helping the people we serve become more involved in their communities, educating people about the realities of poverty, and advocating on behalf of marginalized people in our community.*
- *All of our programs **transform lives**. Whether we're helping a homeowner keep their home, mentoring a single mother as she plans her path out of poverty, or working with an intern who is thinking about a career in social work, we are helping to improve the lives of the people we serve.*

Finally, as we enter September, we as a congregation will say goodbye to Pastor Eric. Pastor Eric, you will be missed. We thank you for your years of ministry among us. I personally will miss your collegiality, commitment to Christian education and social justice, excellent sermons, inspired music, and your deep caring for people. We at St. Peter's UCC send you off with prayers for you and your family. We pray God's many blessings as you step out into new paths of ministry.

Blessings,
Pastor Kurt

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

Please pray for the family and friends of Linda Eggert Filer who passed away July 12. Linda was the sister of Leroy Eggert.

Congratulations to Ellen (Brinker) & Collin Maune on of the birth of Drew William Maune, born on June 28. Proud grandparents of #8 are Dottie & Bob Brinker.

Congratulations to Erica (Honigfort) & Casper Becker on the birth of Gus Maxwell Becker, born on July 3. Proud grandparents are Linda & Gene Becker.

Congratulations to Monica (Brinkmann) & Scott Jacquin on the birth of Nathan George on July 19. Proud grandparents are Joyce & Mike Brinkmann.

New Members info-- St. Peter’s UCC will be taking in new members in the near future. If you or someone you know might be interested in joining, please contact Pastor Kurt.



2024 WINGS Educational Foundation Hall of Honor recipient of Educator of the Year is **Diane Schwab**.

The Hall of Honor dinner to celebrate Diane will be held Sat., September 25 at 5:00 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.

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP

Women’s Fellowship is grateful for the anonymous donation of 126 water glasses for our kitchen. The glasses allow us to set a more attractive table. Whenever possible we are trying to use “real” glasses and dinnerware to do our part in saving the environment.

The August meeting will be held Thurs., August 8, in the atrium meeting room. We will watch a film on the 1904 World’s Fair and enjoy a pizza lunch.

The Women’s Fellowship was pleased to host the farewell luncheon for Pastor Eric and his family. We will miss Eric, Jorie, Keagan, Charley and Harper and wish them every blessing!

Mission Report June 2024

WERF: The Washington Emergency Relief Fund answered 228 calls in the month of June. There were 24 grants given out, totaling \$5,618.92, and helping 54 people. Five of the grants were for electricity, two for water, sixteen for rent, and one for fuel.

Harvest Table: The Harvest Table served 778 meals in June. Besides providing meals, necessities given to individuals included: tents, sleeping mats, take-home food, and lots of friendship and community. We are looking forward to August 17 which will be “Hair Cut Day” plus extended Free Clinic hours.

Salam Free Clinic: In June, the Free Clinic saw two individuals who needed medical help and had no insurance. A quick reminder: people who visit the clinic do not need to show any ID for assistance. The Salam Clinic at St. Peter's UCC is held on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Food Pantry News: Thank you to ALL the volunteers who help the food pantry continue its vital ministry in our community. In June, 137 individuals representing 49 families were served. We also thank the following for their generous donations – June Food Pantry Donors: Joline Logan, The Magnet Group, Kaye Nurnberger, Anonymous, Wendell & Mary Tyree, United Way.

August Mission of the Month—Turning Point

Turning Point's mission is “*to assist survivors and their children learn how to overcome the cycle of physical, sexual, mental, and emotional abuse.*” They do this by providing a 24/7 hotline, emergency shelter, court and general advocacy, safety planning, economic empowerment, counseling, substance abuse advocacy, and resource education.

Turning Point is developing a shelter for survivors of domestic violence in Franklin County. A guest will join us on August 25 for a “Lunch & Learn” to share about the shelter and their life-giving work in our area. Please plan to join us after worship for the program.

TRIVIA NIGHT, Sat., Sept. 14, 2024 to be held at St. Peter's Hall (Auditorium). A portion of the proceeds benefit the Missions of the Church. Doors open at 6 p.m.; games begin at 6:30 p.m. with 10 rounds of Trivia Challenges. Admission \$25/person; \$200 table of 8; prizes for 1st & 2nd place tables; Silent Auction Baskets/Raffles; Soda, Water, Wine & Beer provided; **no** outside beverages allowed. Bring your own snacks. Register in person in the church office. Registration deadline is noon, **Sept. 6**. For more information contact Susan Harms, 636-359-1452 or s.harms@charter.net

Meals on Wheels

As Summer continues, the St. Peters Mission Group wants to inform our community about the Meals on Wheels program for the Washington community. This program allows elderly and disabled individuals to remain in their homes, providing a nutritious meal seven days a week and on holidays.

We only deliver to clients in the Washington city limits. Our meals provide requested dietary needs such as diabetic, cardiac, low sodium, or mechanically soft meals.

We are supported by the United Way, many community organizations, the wonderful Mercy dietary staff, and the numerous volunteers delivering the meals. For more information or to request service, please call the Washington Chamber office: 636-239-2715

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

As we've been going through the ONA process, a question that has surfaced from time to time is "Why is there such a focus on the LGBT population? Why single them out?" There are a couple of reasons for this emphasis.

Many of us, if not most of us, along with the Christian community at large, have been taught that LGBT inclusion is not compatible with our faith or our God. These teachings are still quite prevalent. The LGBT community is one of the few groups that Christians are still theologically formed to exclude. One of the important parts of this ONA process then is to reconsider what we may have been taught and consider the possibility that LGBT inclusion is indeed compatible with our faith, our God, and the teachings of Jesus.

Also, due to the aforementioned prevalence of anti-LGBT Christian teaching, preaching, and practice, the LGBT community has quite painfully learned that "All are Welcome" does not apply to them. Here is one way to think about it: we are all probably aware that there are churches in our community that would exclude us from communion if we showed up on a Sunday. If you are a woman, you couldn't participate in leadership in the congregation or be ordained. We also know that churches exist like St. Peter's where there is an open table, and women can fully participate in the life of the local congregation and wider church. Most folks like us have options. What if there were no alternative you could turn to? Where would you go? That's what it's like for our LGBT siblings: exclusion with few, if any, alternatives that will value their being, gifts, and presence and include them in the full life and ministry of the local congregation and wider church. ONA is a way of letting the LGBT community, their loved ones, and their allies know, without a doubt, that a congregation is fully inclusive. The ONA process is a way of asking if St. Peter's UCC is ready to name itself such a place. Just some food for thought.

--The Justice & Witness Mission Team

St. Peter's United Church of Christ Church Council Meeting Highlights, July 16, 2024

Treasurer's Report:

- We made some improvement in June, but the General Fund is still down \$18,000
- There was discussion regarding the funding source for the AC "Zone F" unit -It was suggested to take \$10,000 from Building Fund and the balance from the Memorial Fund. This keeps the Building Fund at its required minimum balance.

Senior Pastor's Report:

- A list of activities for the past month was reviewed.
- Three people have expressed interest in joining the church.
- It was noted that new people have stated that they watched online before coming in person.

Associate Pastor's Report:

- He had a fantastic Family Camp week at MoVal.
- Pastor Kurt will be handling Confirmation. We expect 5-10 kids for this class.
- VBS right now has only one registration. It will be cancelled if no more come.

Boards & Committees:

Building and Grounds:

- The lightbulbs over bell choir have been replaced. The wall switch needs to be replaced as well.
- There is another developing AC problem with the balcony. There has been water leaking down the back wall when the AC runs. The unit was looked at, and the condensation trays are rusted through. It may be possible to fabricate new pans, but the evap system itself may be bad. It is possible the unit may need to be replaced. Right now we can't run the sanctuary / balcony AC without water running in.
 - Due to the AC issues, there was discussion about if we should temporarily move church to Auditorium on very hot days, until units are repaired?
- Baby Changing Stations are installed.
- Meeting is being set up with city to discuss the SW corner stop sign addition.
- Choir room heat – Due to the age of the HVAC unit in the choir room, we may have to replace it to add heat specific for that room.
- Working on keycard system for doors.
- Have been asking for bids on security cameras and have received no additional responses, so they are suggesting that we go with the bid we have.

Cemetery:

- Have spoken with historical society. They are interested in doing a talk about interesting and notable people who are buried in the cemetery.

Mission:

- Five are going on the Mission Trip to Biloxi in September.
- Will have a guest from Emmaus.

Worship:

- Choices are being finalized for designs and fabrics of the new paraments. Examples are being made.

Justice Witness:

- On hair cut day, the Salam Clinic will have extended hours.

Advisory:

- Document folder was passed to Council members with the latest set of edited documents from Advisory.
- They are working on a survey for the review of the membership rolls. This will start with email, and then move to other forms of contact for those who don't respond.
- Would like to start surveys in August.

Evangelism:

- Fair Parade plans are coming together.
- Have about 10 people to walk right now.
- Will have candy to hand out.
- Have some bags and a new brochure.
- There is a fairly large stash of the puzzles and some of those will also be handed out.
- Trivia night is being put on by The Finance Board on Sept. 14.

Old Business:

Constitution Edit for Cemetery / Grave Opening Fees:

- A Constitution edit to allow the Cemetery Board to raise grave opening costs as needed without Congregational approval will be presented to the Congregation at the July 28 special Congregational meeting. This change allows us to accommodate cost adjustments of the contractor.

Harold Wilke Plaque:

- The plaque is complete and was shown. It will be dedicated at the July 26 Eden event.

Issues with YouTube Video for Sunday Mornings:

- The audio issues with the online feed are continuing. It seems like the issue is mostly the mics for voice and not music. Jimmy is looking at solutions for this. There have been 35-40 in attendance online per week, getting this issue corrected is important.

New Business:

Signatories for Good Samaritan Fund

- Needed to assign new signatories for this fund. A motion was passed to approve Pastor Kurt and Jill Lesko as the new signatories.

Pastor Eric's Departure Transition Plans

- Last active Sunday is Aug 4.
- We will need some supply pastors to cover some services in the short term.
- Pastoral Care - Care team to help when Pastor is out of town or on vacation. Help reach shut-ins and those in nursing homes.
- Confirmation - Pastor Kurt will lead classes. However, there needs to be two adults present (per Safe Church policy). Mentors, parents, etc. could help.

Financial Report

| Receipts | June | YTD 2024 |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| General Fund | \$ 47,667.34 | \$ 247,534.26 |
| Building Fund | \$ 4,160.50 | \$ 21,689.10 |
| Youth Fund | \$ 44.00 | \$ 291.00 |
| Memorial Fund | \$ 105.00 | \$ 4,162.75 |
| Sanctuary Music Fund | \$ | \$ 863.00 |
| Pass Thru In | \$ 10,197.76 | \$ |
| Total Receipts | \$ 62,174.60 | \$ 274,540.11 |
| Expenses | June | YTD 2024 |
| General Fund | \$ (40,179.08) | \$ (253,780.76) |
| Building Fund | \$ (938.16) | \$ (15,574.03) |
| Youth Fund | \$ (257.94) | \$ (476.12) |
| Memorial Fund | \$ (91.42) | \$ (1,946.64) |
| Sanctuary Music Fund | \$ - | \$ (418.71) |
| Pass Thru Out | \$ (10,197.76) | \$ |
| Total Expenses | \$ (51,664.36) | \$ (272,196.26) |

Bank Balance Report 6/30/2024

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Heritage Bank Balance | \$ 74,907.44 |
| Less Building Fund | \$ 12,831.26 |
| Less Youth Fund | \$ 8,526.24 |
| Less Memorial Fund | \$ 67,862.10 |
| Less Music Fund | \$ 3,746.33 |
| Less Perpetual Member | \$ |
| General Fund Balance | \$ (18,058.49) |

UPCOMING EVENTS: Please note the dates and add them to your calendars!

Fair Parade, Sun., August 4, 4 p.m., Downtown Washington

Great Decisions beginning Wed., August 7, 1 p.m. Washington Public Library

Foodstock, Sat. August 27, 5 p.m. Farmers' Market, Downtown Washington

WINGS Educational Foundation Hall of Honor, Sat., September 25 at 5 p.m. Elks Hall Washington

Trivia Night

Saturday, September 14, 2024

Event held at St. Peter's Hall

20 E. 5th Street

Washington, MO 63090

Portion of proceeds benefit the Missions of the Church

Doors Open at 6 p.m.

Games begin at 6:30 p.m.

10 rounds of Trivia Challenges

Admission - \$25/person; \$200 table of 8

Prizes for 1st & 2nd place tables

Silent Auction Baskets/Raffles

Soda, Water, Wine & Beer Provided

No Outside Beverages Allowed

Bring your own Snacks!!!!

Register in person in the church office.

Registration deadline is noon, September 6, 2024

For more information contact Susan Harms, 636-359-1452 or

s.harms@charter.net



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| Leonard Hackett | 08/01 | Brent Shocklee | 08/17 |
| William Rebeck | 08/02 | April Smith | 08/17 |
| Tyler Thompson | 08/02 | Wesley Mann | 08/18 |
| Brian McDaniel | 08/03 | Kai Matau | 08/18 |
| Pierce Simmons | 08/03 | Pat ODonnell | 08/18 |
| Arlene Campbell | 08/04 | Michael Bauer | 08/20 |
| Diane Lick | 08/04 | Matthew Amlong | 08/22 |
| Edward Wilson | 08/04 | Cindy Holdmeyer | 08/22 |
| Chase Merryman | 08/05 | Timothy McDowell | 08/22 |
| Bonnie Thompson | 08/05 | Trudy Ronsick | 08/22 |
| Nathan Kleekamp | 08/07 | Molly Young | 08/22 |
| Caroline Miller | 08/08 | Carol Eckelkamp | 08/23 |
| Benjamin Alspach | 08/09 | Anna Meyer | 08/23 |
| Christina Filla | 08/09 | Emily Schonaerts | 08/23 |
| Marilyn Luechtefeld | 08/09 | Ardis Briggs | 08/24 |
| Roger Fleer | 08/10 | Wyatt Buchholz | 08/24 |
| Owen Kelley | 08/10 | Lisa Heimos | 08/24 |
| Gabriel Noud | 08/10 | Lesley Ann Ronsick | 08/24 |
| Jonathan Amlong | 08/11 | Peyton Triplett | 08/24 |
| Wendy McDaniel | 08/11 | Kaye Nurnberger | 08/25 |
| Donna Mueller | 08/11 | Mary Bierbaum | 08/26 |
| Darlene Sample | 08/12 | Charles Hellmann | 08/26 |
| Jason Scheible | 08/12 | David Whetzel | 08/26 |
| Martha Berry | 08/13 | Joyce Miklos | 08/27 |
| Tina Schwentker | 08/15 | Caleb Moritz | 08/27 |
| Casper Becker | 08/16 | Josie Kleekamp | 08/28 |
| Dean Fitzpatrick | 08/16 | Blaine Schmiedeskamp | 08/28 |
| Robert Kell | 08/16 | Becky Aulenbacher | 08/29 |
| Timothy Kellermann | 08/17 | | |
| Ronald Mueller | 08/17 | | |
| Judy Schneider | 08/17 | | |

