



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

March 2023

Call to Congregational Meeting

The Spring Congregational Meeting will be held March 19, 2023, beginning at 11:15 a.m. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend; watch for more information.

Lenten Dinner and Program Begin March 1

Beginning March 1, every Wednesday during Lent, at 5:30 you're invited to join us in the auditorium for dinner and a program entitled 'It's Only Rock n Roll, right?'. This year, we will venture through sessions on the topic of God and Rock n Roll. It may sound odd, but, for those of you who experienced it, consider what it was like seeing Elvis or the Beatles on TV for the first time. Is it possible that God was up to something in that moment, the moments leading up to it, and what has happened since through this seemingly unlikely medium? Why might you hear me refer to seeing Springsteen, or newer bands like the Foo Fighters, Green Day, or the Dropkick Murphys as 'going to church?' There is something mysterious, powerful, and life-giving at work in this music and among the people it draws together. Let's have some fun exploring it together this Lent. And, of course, expect some live music along the way.

Peace,

Pastor Eric

**Happy
Easter!**
Potluck Party
Sunday, April 9th at
8:30 AM before Service

Church will be providing the sausage and drinks. Please bring an egg casserole, pastries, fruit, coffee cake or any other food item to share. Volunteers are requested for clean-up.

For more information, please contact Bridgette Kelch at 636-346-1444 or via email at bridgette.kelch@eastcentral.edu

Dear Friends,

As I write this, the Lenten season has just begun. There are many themes of Lent including service and sacrifice. We see those two things in the life of Jesus. But Lent is also a call for all those who follow Jesus, to walk the path that he travelled. How can we be of service to God? What sacrifice that we make in our own lives, reflects the same self-giving love which Jesus modeled for us.

I'd like to share a story from worship this past month. It happened the Sunday we celebrated Mardi Gras. In the children's time I talked about Valentine's Day and who Saint Valentine was. Then as a special treat, I had some Hersey kisses to share with the kids. There was only one problem. We had so many children up front that I didn't have enough! I told the kids who didn't get the treats, that I owed them. But then one of the kids who had, offered her treats for one of the kids without. And then another offered the same. And then another. This was truly a children sermon, because our children taught us grownups a great lesson of sharing and sacrifice. I will remember that moment for a long time.

There is one more thing I would like to share with you. This March is a special month as my daughter, Rebecca, is getting married on March 25! I just wanted to share my joy in my expanding family and ask that you keep us in prayer as we near that date.

Blessings,
Pastor Kurt

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

For the family and friends of Cody D. Kruse (33) who passed away January 5, 2023. Cody was the grandson of Fred Kruse.

Our Christian love and prayers are with the family and friends of Marie Martin who passed away February 2, 2023.

Women's Fellowship



Women's Fellowship will be meeting on Thursday, March 9 at 10 a.m. Charlotte Bobo will help us make handmade greeting cards. An Irish lunch will be served. We are asking everyone to wear some green!

From the Cemetery Board

From March 1 thru March 15 the Cemetery Board will be cleaning up the cemetery. If there is something that is to be saved, please remove it prior to March 1. Please help us spread the word.

Help needed at the Harvest Table



St. Peter's and the Washington Methodist Church will co-host Harvest Table on April 22 and July 15, 2023. St. Peter's has been asked to be responsible for the desserts. We will need 120 servings and eight volunteers to help serve and cleanup after the meal. There will be a sign-up sheet in the atrium with more information. If you have questions, please call Erna Holland (636) 239-6019 or text to (314) 616-7143. THANK YOU!

2023 calendars, pictured to the right, are available for purchase with a suggested donation of \$10 to benefit WERF. Calendars are available in the church office during the week and in the atrium on the weekend.



January St. Peter's UCC Missions Report

St. Peter's Missions were busy working with and helping our community in January:

WERF: Washington Emergency Relief Fund took 217 calls, assisting 86 of those requests. WERF gave out 42 grants totaling \$8936.00. Twenty grants were given for electricity, four grants were given for water bills, 13 grants were for rent, one was for sewer, and four for needed fuel.

The Harvest Table: The Harvest Table served 616 dinners in January. They also assisted with coats, clothing, sleeping bags, and food for needy pets. The church always smells wonderful on Saturday afternoons as they prepare the food.

Salam Free Clinic: The Free Clinic served one individual in January. We had a full staff of doctor, nurse and one volunteer. Nurse Leesa and Janet Alspach approached Mercy again and were able to arrange for Mercy to do free labs for the Clinic. Congrats to Leesa and Janet! Ben Alspach and Nathaniel Pfitzinger set up more medical equipment in the Clinic – It is looking very professional and spiffy! We are making plans to offer free pediatric school physicals in late summer. Spread the word! Thank you, to all!

Food Pantry: The food pantry served 48 families, consisting of 134 individuals. Thank you to ALL the volunteers who help the food pantry continue its vital ministry in our community.

We also thank the following for their generous donations.

January Food Pantry donors:

Joline Logan	Jeffrey & Shannon Feltmann
Brenda Bruns	Jane Glastetter
Washington Fire Department	Jennifer Feltmann & Rebecca Burt
Josh Buschling	Betty Peffermann
Carol Muench	Citizens Bank
Heather Eiring	Judy Cortner
Gary & Beth Brehe	Wendell & Mary Lou Tyree
Charles & Julie Munroe	Rodney & Tina Schwentker
Joseph & Janice Feltmann	Rory & Laura Roberts
John & Nadine Feltmann	Doris Sleeman
James Feltmann, Sr.	Brenda & Roy Morman
James Feltmann, Jr.	Needra & Sid Troyer
John & June Stricker	Brunhilde Wahl
Jackie Krafft	Anonymous
Gene & Kay Hunt	
Diane & Jim Gephardt	

Thank you for all you are doing to make a difference in people's lives.

The **Washington Emergency Relief Fund** would like to send out a special thank you to the wonderful donors and calendar buyers who helped us out this past quarter. Because of you, we were able to give out an extra 20 grants during these cold months. That is amazing! You are amazing!

Benjamin & Janet Alspach	Henry (Hank) Anderson
Carl Clover & Rhonda Stockglausner	Cara Czeschin
Nancy Wood	Kurt & Mary Schaller Blaufuss
Steve Sherman	Marilyn Sherman
Carol Frick	Stephen & Patricia Forget
Royce & Mary Lovern	Ervin Ebker
Phi & Bea Butler	Judy Schneider
James & Diane Gephardt	Ron & Brenda Brinker
Denise Towell	Kirk & Cindy Kriete
Sidney & Needra Troyer	Ruth Rinne
Judith Verdine	Jon & Barbara Bauer
Denise Towell	Byron Stolte
Ruth Wood	Tom & Joan Howard
Joline Logan	



Fish Fries

Ebenezer UCC Augusta is having Fish Fries on three Fridays:
March 3, 17, 31

Immanuel UCC Holstein is having a Fish Fry on Friday, March 24

The puzzles have moved to the parlor. Please take a moment to take some to do at home.



St. Peter's United Church of Christ Church Council Meeting Highlights - 20 February 2023

AED (Automated External Defibrillator) for the Church:

The Choir started an initiative for a memorial for Sue Anderson, with the main goal being the purchase of an AED unit for the church. Joline Logan also requested that her birthday money go to this initiative, and additional donations have been collected. Molly Derner gave a brief presentation on the unit.

We were quoted a Zoll unit, which is \$2200. Enough money has been collected to cover this, as well as additional. We will need to have people trained in its use. A motion was made to purchase the unit. The motion was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The general fund is still negative, but only by \$60 at this point. The balance has been negative since September. The Finance Board is working on initiatives for fundraising. They are working on a St. Patrick's Day theme campaign - giving tree style; they anticipate at least one more fundraiser.

Pastor's Report:

- It was noted that the Jazz Worship service went very well.
- Adult Sunday School continues to be offered after worship on Sundays.
- Souper Bowl of Caring raised \$505 for WERF.
- There have been several funerals.
- Lent is beginning and Ash Wednesday is February 22.

Associate Pastor's Report:

Eric added information on his initiative of using the Auditorium for Art in the community. He continues to do research on this matter.

It was also noted that the Senior Pastor has a Pastoral Relations Committee but Associate doesn't. He is starting to work on this. We will be looking for names to participate.

Building & Grounds:

Updates were given on several issues around the church:

- The elevator part that was ordered was incorrect and must be re-ordered.
- Parking lot leak – they are going to try checking with a camera to determine the issue.
- The Choir room heating system has been repaired.

- They are working on coming up with fire system plans, as we have received widely varying quotes and plans.
- They are getting pricing for a digital sign out front.

Cemetery Board:

Work is proceeding on a frame for the Cemetery sign.
Surplus pews have been placed in the Committal Building.

Board of Christian Ed:

We had a very successful Mardi Gras and everyone enjoyed themselves. The room was full. The event raised \$992.

Pastoral Search:

The group met with Damien Lake. The Church Profile went live last Wednesday, and we have activity already.

Alcohol Policy / Venue Rentals:

The church does not have a written alcohol policy, aside from statements in the wedding policy. The Council is looking into instituting a policy that will allow alcohol at rentals and events. This would help make the facility a viable venue as a rental location for group dinners, weddings, etc. We drafted a policy similar to those of other local church policies. We will bring this to the Congregation at the Spring meeting as a discussion item.

The Zither Concert dinner was approved as a trial.

March Congregational Meeting:

Date - March 19

Guide Book & Directory -- Advertising Opportunity: We are in the process of updating our annual Guide Book & Directory for the church. This book will contain everything pertinent to our church: the various ministries, organizations, committees, activities, functions and events plus a complete directory of all members. This book is being provided and direct-mailed to each family at no cost to our church, and it is again being subsidized by local businesses that advertise. If you own or manage a business and would like to find out about advertising in our book, please call the church office. Recent survey results by Guide Book Publishing show that 92.1% of families would rather patronize a Guide Book & Directory advertiser over a non-advertiser. It "will pay" to advertise in our new Guide Book & Directory.

Update Membership Information: Does our church database have YOUR family membership record correct? Here is your chance to update your record for our annual Guide Book & Directory (if you haven't already done so). It is time for us to update our database with any changes, additions, or deletions that may have occurred in your family over the past year. Have you changed your phone number? Have you moved? Are you preparing to move soon? Are all of your children still at home and are they all included in your membership record? Do you want your record published? If you have not already informed the church office about changes to your record, please let us know now so that the information in the Guide Book & Directory is correct. The church office number is 239-6176.

St. Peter's UCC Financial Statement as of January 31, 2023

	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2022	2023 YTD	2022 YTD	2021 YTD
Total Receipts	69,020.00	50,740.53	69,020.00	50,740.53	\$55,273.55
General Fund	54,470.25	43,925.23	54,470.25	43,925.23	\$45,613.79
Building Fund	6,918.35	5,824.95	6,918.35	5,824.95	\$6,584.76
Other or Pass Through	7,631.40	990.35	7,631.40	990.35	\$3,075.00
	Building Fund	General Fund		Loans	
Balance Jan. 1	\$49,728.35	-\$13,843.36		Cornerstone	\$58,771.91
Income	\$6,918.35	\$54,470.25		Heritage Bank	\$24,067.39
Expenses	\$7,023.16	\$40,687.49			\$82,839.30
Balance Jan. 31	\$49,623.54	-\$60.60			
	Building Fund Balance	\$49,623.54	Property Sale CD	\$146,000.00	
	Youth Fund Balance	\$9,236.02	Crowley Estate CD	\$160,033.62	
	Memorial Fund Balance	\$44,069.06	Memorial Fund CDs	\$51,000.00	
	Music Fund Balance	\$3,342.27	Perpetual Mem. CD	\$19,319.37	
	General Fund Balance	-\$60.60		\$376,352.99	
Total in Heritage Bank Checking		\$106,210.29			

Notes from the Treasurer:

As you can see by the January 31 balance in the general fund, we are still negative. While being negative only \$60.60 seems to be better than the previous months \$15,000 negatives balances, it is still just as dire. Some congregants donate their yearly giving all at the beginning of the year and that is why we are only showing a smaller negative number. This negative number will continue to grow unless additional donations are received.

The Finance Board is working on two fundraisers. One will begin around St. Patrick's Day and another will potentially be this summer. Details on those two fundraisers will be made public soon. If you have an idea for a fundraiser or would like to make an additional donation, the Church could certainly use your ideas and support.

---Bridgette Kelch



Aluminum Can Collection

A pick-up truck will be parked in the South parking lot the weekend of March 4 & 5. Aluminum cans, in bags please, ONLY should be placed in the truck; please do not include tin foil and/or pie pans. Thanks for all the help we receive from the congregation!

GLOSSARY OF MOST COMMON GIVING METHODS

- CASH OR CHECK – Drop in offering plate or mail to the office.
- ON LINE PAYMENT (2 methods)
Do it yourself. Set up an automatic recurring weekly, monthly or quarterly payment using your bank account software. Your payment will go directly to our church.
Let us do it. Complete a *Recurring Transaction* form using your bank account numbers, *and we can do the set up for you.* Call or go by the office for a form to use or for assistance.
- PAYPAL –PayPal customers create an account and connect it to a checking account or credit card. A payment can be then made to the church with a phone app. Please use the QR Code in the bulletin or newsletter.
- QCD – Qualified Charitable Distribution – To eliminate or reduce the impact of RMD (required minimum distribution) income, charitably inclined investors may want to consider making their donation to the church in this manner. Funds are transferred directly from your IRA custodian to the church by a check. These checks can be issued & mailed to the church monthly, quarterly or annually. Contact your stock or financial advisor to set up this option. This is a common method for retirees.
- STOCK – Contact your stock or financial advisor if you want to donate a stock to the church.
- BEQUEST – Act of leaving a gift to the church through a Will or Trust.

Justice and Witness

The Justice and Witness Mission Group of St. Peter's continues to offer a small lending library located in the parlor just off the sanctuary through the atrium. The books cover a range of topics including current events, religion, racism, aging, personal growth and LGBTQIA. If you have a desire to learn more about any of these issues, please, borrow a book. The process is simple. Just sign your name on the index card inside the front cover and place it in the file box provided. When you're finished reading, just drop it in the green bin provided. There is no need to reshelve the book. We will do that for you. If you any questions or books to donate, please, contact Janet Alspach.

The Luminous Darkness by Howard Thurman is the book selection for Black History Month. Howard Thurman was an author, theologian, and social justice advocate. This book is a commentary on what segregation does to the human soul. First published in the 1960s, Howard Thurman's insights apply today as we still try to heal the wound of those days. Thurman bares the evil of segregation and points to the ground of hope which can bring all humanity together.



March Birthdays

Richard Speckhals	03/01	Travis Norvell	03/18
Christina Sehrt	03/03	Jo Ann Smith	03/18
Steven Sentivany	03/03	Annelise Obermark	03/19
Emily Bounds	03/04	Suzon Pogue	03/19
Mary Carey	03/04	Judith Verdine	03/19
Ruth Konrad	03/04	Brooks Buschman	03/20
Brooke Owens	03/04	Jordan Krafft	03/20
Todd Geisert	03/05	Mary Schaller	03/20
Susan Newman	03/05	Blaufuss	03/20
Diane Overschmidt	03/05	Jeremy Triplett	03/20
Mary Tyree	03/05	Mark Wood	03/20
Nora Colter	03/07	Casey Zastrow	03/20
Linda Filer	03/09	Phillip Butler	03/23
Elizabeth Fleer	03/09	Ervin Ebker	03/23
Amaya Beck	03/10	Kodi Gildehaus	03/23
Rosalie Benne	03/10	Calvin Obermark	03/23
Matthew	03/10	Barbara Wiley	03/23
Buddemeyer	03/10	Jean Kleekamp	03/24
Caroline Heimos	03/10	Amy Oesterly	03/24
Angela Kast	03/10	Kyle Triplett	03/24
Daniel Sample	03/10	Randi Bub	03/25
Rusty Smith	03/10	Richard Renth	03/25
Paisley Travers	03/10	Jill Lesko	03/26
Lucille Homeyer	03/11	Thomas Sherman	03/26
Mary Mense	03/11	Joe Stahl	03/26
Vince Sanfilippo	03/11	Landen White	03/26
Kim Schroeder	03/11	Annette	03/27
Paulina Broeder	03/13	Bebermeyer	03/27
Ruth Pehle	03/13	Carol Buescher	03/27
Taylor Scheer	03/13	Chloe McCarthy	03/27
Laurie Benz	03/14	Ron Miklos	03/27
Clayton	03/14	Barbara Armstrong	03/29
Duchatschek	03/14	Tammie Buschling	03/29
Jake Scheer	03/14	Tammy Smith	03/29
Doris Sleeman	03/14	Alan Buschman	03/30
Ludell Rettke	03/15	Eva Gildehaus	03/31
Nathan Francis	03/16	Patricia Winfree	03/31
Eric Moeller	03/16		
Morgan Scheer	03/17		