



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

January 2023

Happy New Year!!!

Are you one who makes New Year resolutions? I really never have, but understand why many people do. Turning the calendar from one year to the next is a natural time for reflection. What all happened in our lives in 2022 and what does 2023 have in store for us? And how might we live differently in the year to come? Might we set new goals and aspirations for the coming year?

One of the special traditions of the Church of South India, which I discovered while our family was living in India is the "Covenant Service". This service took place within worship on New Year's Day. As worshippers stood on the brink of a new year, it was deemed an appropriate time to ponder their life of faith and to renew their covenant with God. Again, we often think of a new year as a time for resolutions. Perhaps we should celebrate every New Year by examining our resolve as people of faith.

As people of faith, we are bound by a covenant. The heart of the covenant found in the Hebrew Scriptures is expressed: "I shall be your God and you shall be my people." In our baptism, we are bound as followers of Jesus Christ as his love and grace is poured over us through the symbol of water. Each time we partake of the sacrament of Holy Communion we remember and renew our covenant with God – as well as with each other. As our United Church of Christ says it, "we are bound in covenant with faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races."

I hope you can join us for worship on New Year's Day. And even if you can't, I hope you take a few moments to reflect on the place of faith in your life. And then resolve to continue serving God as the gift of a new year presents you with daily opportunities to do just that. I would like to conclude this month's reflection with the prayer of commitment that concludes the Church of South India's covenant service.

I am no longer my own, but yours, O God.

Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

New Year's Blessings,

Pastor Kurt

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

For the family and friends of Mary Kaye Richter who died November 24, 2022. She was the mother of Sharon Grimes and grandmother to Miles, Maddie, and Max.



Congratulations to Zachary Harms & Kailey Robinson who were married on Saturday, December 31, 2022 and to Kali Alexander & Mark Coppotelli who were also married Saturday, December 31, 2022.



Please accept our deepest **thanks** for allowing us to rehearse in your facility when we were having trouble with our regular location. Without a place to rehearse regularly, we may have had to cancel our concert. As a community group of all volunteers, we did not have the funds to rent a facility. Your generosity was deeply appreciated by all of us.

Sincerely,
Washington Brass Band
Bob Hillermann, President

The 2023 All-Boards and Committees Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 15 after worship. If you are serving on Church Council, a board or a committee please plan to attend.

All 2022 Boards and Committees Year ending reports are due to the MESSENGER for printing in March 2023 for the Annual Report. Please forward the reports to [Newsletter Annual Report](mailto:newsletter@stpeters-ucc.org). (newsletter@stpeters-ucc.org) on or before Monday, February 15, 2023. Thank you!

Women's Fellowship

It was decided at the December meeting of Women's Fellowship to not have a meeting in January.

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

St. Peter's UCC's Council met on Monday, December 19. Business included selecting officers for 2023. They are as follows:

- President: Marty Derner
- Vice President: Denise Towell
- Secretary: Donna Houchins
- Treasurer: Bridgette Kelch

Other members are Ben Alspach, Hank Anderson, Jon Bauer, Dottie Brinker, Erna Holland, Jennifer Kroeter, Jim Scannell, and Sue Wehmueller.

The Church Council will continue to hold their monthly meetings on the third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

St. Peter's UCC would also like to thank our outgoing council members: Matt Bauer, Patti Fleer, Pat Forget, and Mike Wood.

Thank You from The Festival of Trees!!!



As we began to box up the trees, we reflected on the journey we took organizing the 2022 Festival of Trees!!

What another magical year!! On display were 106 trees (35 trees decorated by community organizations) along with the Polar Express, a gingerbread house, Santa's home and the Nativity. Thanks to the wonderful community who visited the festival! We had 1200 people view the trees, as 400 cars circled our magical display of lights. We received over \$3,300 and have not finished counting all the food donated.

Special thanks to:

- Lloyd Bailie and Mid-American Coaches for contacting us about having the Festival of Trees in their bus garage once again.
- The five women who made it all come together: Dottie Brinker, Sara Barnett, Diane Gephardt, Susan Harms and Wendy Zick.
- Special Thanks to Jim Gephardt and Ron Mueller; they were invaluable.
- The candy making ladies of the church: Delores Borcharding, Cara Czeschin, Mary Jo Stoyer, Marilyn Sherman and Sherry Limbert.
- All those who served as Santa and Mrs. Claus; Vince Sanfilippo, Ruth Wood, Charlie and Carole Sincox, Alvie & Donna Buchholz, Rich & Karen Houchins, Ben & Janet Alspach, Sandy Meyer and Scott Forester.
- The Polar Express Conductors: members of St. Francis Borgia Food Pantry.
- Those who drove residents of care facilities: Barb, Jon and Matt Bauer, Lori Sehart and Patty Wood.
- Franklin County Sheriff's department for donating their time, light and traffic cones.
- Bank of Franklin County and Citizens Bank for underwriting the free chocolate for the children that visited.
- Exit 11 and Scudders and Company for providing the hot chocolate.

THANK YOU to everyone who worked the event by directing traffic, collecting food on and off site, hauling out trees and supplies, setting up, wiring the trees, decorating trees, putting up signs, organizing workers and anything else needed to make the display come to life.

As it says in Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

God is Good!!

Merry Christmas and Happy, Happy New Year!!!!

Festival of Trees Committee

Dottie Brinker
Sara Barnett
Cecil Blankenship
Susan Harms
Cindy Holdmeyer

Ronnie Mueller
Nancy Wood
Ruth Wood
Wendy Zick

Introducing the St. Peter's UCC Mission Team

Happy New Year, St. Peter's UCC!

To start off this New Year, I want to introduce you to a new team that has formed in our congregation: the Mission Team. The council approved its formation during the summer of '22, with the goal of its first meeting being in the fall. To date, the group has met twice to organize itself and find its feet, and now you may begin to see and hear from them regularly.

The purpose of this team is "to ignite, energize, empower, and support the efforts of the congregation to participate in God's transformative work in the world as the hands and feet of Christ." The team will fulfill its purpose in a number of ways. First, it will serve as the missional hub of St. Peter's, helping the congregation to understand the depth and breadth of its impact through our various ministries, and connecting our members to ministries both within and outside the church. People seeking to share their gifts, whatever they may be, will have this team as a resource to guide their actions. The team will also serve as a resource for the existing ministries of the congregation, should they have needs or new initiatives that arise. Should outside organizations seek partnership in some way, this team will be there to field those requests as well.

Beginning in January, we will begin having Mission Moments during worship the last Sunday of each month. This is a time where a Ministry Partner will be invited by the Mission Team to come share updates and information with the congregation, be present with us, and receive financial support from those who feel compelled to give. For instance, the Program Director for our covenant partner Camp Moval will be with us in worship the last Sunday of January to share updates about camp, be on hand with information, and to receive donations from those who wish to give.

Lastly, in preaching I have encouraged you to dream dreams and imagine new ways that we might utilize the wealth of missional resources we have in our possession, be that time, energy, finances, space, to have a positive impact on people's lives in both short- and long-term ways. This team exists to hear new ideas, help develop plans, and actualize dreams that are consistent with the mission and ministry of St. Peter's UCC. Do you have a dream to share? Come speak with us! We can dream and scheme together and see what's possible!

The current membership of this team is: Rhonda Stockglausner (chair), Joan Howard, Jill Lesko, Sue Wehmuller, and Kim Colter. I appreciate their willingness to participate in this new experiment!

Following this article is a new segment you can expect to see in the Messenger every month to share the impact of our ministries in one central place. If you are part of a group in the church that does something to positively impact the lives of others, please let us know so we can celebrate and share it!

We are excited to be sharing in this new part of our congregational journey together. 'Enter to worship. Depart to serve.' So shall it be.

Happy New Year!
Pastor Eric

From the Mission Team:

The St. Peter's UCC Mission Team will report information each month to help our congregation become aware of the services provided to our community. Many church members work hard (and joyfully) to assure that our missions reach as many people as possible. This month we will celebrate the following missions:

Food Pantry

Thank you to ALL the volunteers who help the food pantry continue its vital ministry in our community.

In November, 142 individuals representing 55 families were served.

We also thank the following for their generous donations—November Food Pantry donors:

Joline Logan	Terry & Debbie Hinrichs
Ameren Missouri	XI NU Theta Chapter Beta Sigma Phi
Carol Muench	Service Sorority
Brenda Bruns	Barbara & Dennis Schwentker
Betty Peffermann	Thomas & Jane Maune
Rob & Barb Kell	Kathryn Raasch
Wendell & Mary Lou Tyree	Ann Stemmley
Knights of Columbus Tractor Cruise	"Vicki"
Centennial Farms	Darlene Langkopf
Boy Scouts	Rich & Donna Speckhals
American Legion	Donna Dees
Eugene & Barbara Delleart	Barb Schroepfer
Anonymous	

WERF: Washington Emergency Relief served 75 people in November 2022. This mission provides emergency relief to individuals and families. The office is located in our church. The phone number is 636-239-6633.

The Harvest Table: The Harvest Table is a free and open community meal served every Saturday at St. Peter's UCC from 5-6 p.m. In November, 535 hot meals were served. Over 100 coats were given away; hats, gloves, scarves, and socks were provided to those in need.

Salam Free Clinic: This free medical clinic is held every second Saturday, from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. at St. Peter's UCC. This clinic is a collaboration of services provided by The Muslim Community of St. Louis (our doctors), Deaconess Nurse Ministry (Nurse Leesa), and St. Peter's UCC (volunteers who assist with registration). Medical services are provided to adults at no cost. We served seven patients in November.

In addition to these ongoing efforts, 5 members passed out 500 Christmas greeting magnets from St. Peter's UCC at the Parade of Lights. Choir members were invited to sing at Mt. Pleasant winery, Homestead and Oak Point care facilities and the Historical Society dinner.

If you are interested in more information about our ministries, in donating, or in volunteering please contact Jill Lesko at 630-263-7529. Thanks!

January Book Review

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.

If I Am Missing or Dead begins with a note taped inside a desk drawer. Today Ron Ball and I are romantically involved, it read, but I fear I have placed myself at risk in a variety of ways. Based on his criminal past, writing this out just seems like the smart thing to do. If I am missing or dead this obviously has not protected me...

Ten weeks later, Janine Latus, the author, has left her own abusive marriage and her sister Amy has disappeared. It takes two years to convict the murderer of her sister. Amy died in silent fear and pain. Haunted by this, Janine Latus turned her journalistic eye inward. How, she wondered, did two seemingly well-adjusted, successful women end up in strings of physically or emotionally abusive relationships with men? If I Am Missing or Dead is a heart-wrenching journey of discovery as Janine Latus traces the roots of her own -- and her sister's -- victimization with unflinching candor. This beautifully written memoir will move readers from the first to the last page. At once a confession, a call to break the cycle of abuse, and a deeply felt love letter to her baby sister, Amy Lynne Latus, If I Am Missing or Dead is an unforgettable read.

Special request

The year before COVID I took my small (about 3') half Christmas tree to church to display. It was hung in the dining room above the pass-thru window. I was sick when it was time to pick it up. I asked someone on the committee to just store it there until next year's display. Then COVID hit. When we started having it at Mid America garage, I asked again but no one could find it. I am wondering if anyone knows what happened to it. I can do without the tree, bows, lights and ribbons but the ornaments were mostly my childhood toys except for a few I'd collected. The ornaments were a coffee pot, an iron, hand mixer, cookie sheet, pot, cake pan etc. I would dearly love to have them back. If anyone knows anything, please contact me, Kaye Nurnberger 713 Windy Ridge Dr. Washington 618.525.1025

Church Address: Although an online search will likely generate the church address as 20 West 5th Street THAT IS INCORRECT --the church address is 20 East 5th Street. The PO Box is 510.

2023 Altar Flowers

If you would like to place altar flowers in honor or in memory of someone, or a special occasion, please contact the church office by phone 636-239-6176 or email office@stpeter-ucc.org and we will make a note on the 2023 Altar Flower Chart, letting you know whether or not that particular date is already spoken for. The chart is posted at the back of the sanctuary if you would like to sign up.

Information we need from you:

- Date you wish to provide the two arrangements
- The information you wish to have printed in the worship bulletin
- Whether or not you will come by church the Monday after worship to pick up the bouquets.

After a date has been secured, please contact a florist and make arrangements to have them deliver your selection on Friday before noon. Thank you

2023 Worship Bulletins

The worship bulletin is an integral part of our worship service each week. If you would like to purchase the bulletins for a service in honor or in memory of someone, please mark the Bulletin Chart (2023 chart is posted at the back of the sanctuary) accordingly and contact the church office to inform us at to what you wish to have printed in the bulletin. Thank you



Aluminum can collection

A pick-up truck is parked in the back-parking lot the Sunday, January 1. 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!



On Line Opportunities Worship On Line

We will continue to provide worship on YouTube on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am.

Prayer Meeting on Wednesdays, 10:00-10:30 am, we gather to follow the outline suggested by the Evangelical Catechism: Praise, Ask, Thank (PAT). Here is the link to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84675634323>. If you don't have a computer with internet access, you can participate by phone by calling +1-312- 626-6799. When prompted to do so, you will need this Meeting ID: 477-817-360#. All are welcome.

Highlights of the St. Peter's UCC Dec. 19, 2022 Council Meeting

Treasurer's Report: For a third month in a row a negative General Fund balance of (\$12,506) has occurred. Though we are still hopeful for year's end donations, this is very concerning.

Heritage Bank balance is currently \$90,571.

Though our Budgeted Income is down \$112,000 for the year, our yearly expenses are under the projected budget by \$74,486, which is very good.

Finance Board: Outreach and communication needs to be improved and will be addressed. Underwriting of specific expenses and costs to encourage donations and attempts to reach new donors will be expanded.

Pledges are still coming in and we appreciate responses. In recent years donations have been generally divided 85% to General Fund and 15% to Building Fund unless specified. The Finance Board requested that we change that to 90% General Fund and 10% Building fund.

Paying off Heritage Community Bank Loan was discussed. This carries an interest rate of 4.02% and is \$2,000 each month paid out of the Building Fund. The Finance Board analyzed and suggested by paying \$3,000 each month we could reduce interest and pay off earlier. Current balance is \$28,800.

Property Sale Account balance is \$146,652 and gains little/almost no interest currently. It was suggested by the board to place in a CD which could pay approx. 4%.

Harvest Table presented the Council with a check for \$2,180 to help compensate St. Peter's UCC for utility costs over the last year. Harvest Table has provided meals for over 13 years, continuing to serve 100-125 weekly.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Kurt reported going to two joyous events, the Men's Breakfast and Women's Fellowship Luncheon. Thanks to those who organized these special times for congregation members.

Pastor Kurt has been very, very impressed with our whole staff at St. Peter's, who he feels go above and beyond the call of duty. He thanks the Council who recognizes their abilities and has given Christmas Bonuses to staff.

Building and Grounds: Elevator: An email to inform Council about the Emergency Elevator Repair was sent on Monday, Dec. 12th. Two bids were received from Century Elevator Service. The first for Hoist Repair was \$2,866 and the second, Door Repair, for \$3,085. Because of the amount, Council needed to vote on the immediate repair of this safety issue. Council members voted by email and approved by Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022.

Building and Grounds felt Council should give B&G more leeway on emergency issues. B&G also voted that the East Parking Lot with retaining wall should be sold and recommended that to Council.

Cemetery Board: Progress has been reported about the new sign for the Cemetery, the board hopes to get installed in mid-January.

The big back hoe is leaking fluids badly. This will need to be addressed by repair or replacement.

Festival of Trees: Over 1,200 people attended the Drive Thru Christmas Display held at Mid-American Coaches. We thank all who worked very hard on this project.

Pastor Search Committee: The Committee continues to work to complete our Church Profile and hopes to have this complete and ready in January.

November 2022 Financials

	Nov. 2022	2022 YTD	Nov. 2021	2021 YTD	2020 YTD
Total Income	\$63,468.17	\$550,856.27	\$35,660.26	\$513,635.28	\$540,235.07
General Fund	\$42,419.89	\$402,281.93	\$26,733.67	\$370,013.01	\$401,287.00
Building Fund	\$9,357.90	\$62,870.90	\$5,061.59	\$81,356.54	\$61,882.51
Other	\$11,582.68	\$85,595.70	\$3,865.00	\$62,265.73	\$77,065.56

	Building Fund	General Fund	Loans	
Balance Nov. 1	\$45,415.82	-\$17,712.60	Cornerstone	\$60,399.79
Income	\$9,357.90	\$42,419.89	Heritage Bank	\$28,867.72
Expenses	\$4,852.16	\$37,213.25		\$89,267.51
Balance Nov. 30	\$49,921.56	-\$12,505.96		

Building Fund Balance	\$49,921.56	Property Sale Money M.	\$146,652.17
Youth Fund Balance	\$9,332.86	Crowley Estate CD	\$160,033.62
Memorial Fund Balance	\$40,605.76	Memorial Fund CDs	\$51,000.00
Sanctuary Fund Balance	\$3,217.27	Perpetual Mem. CD	\$23,164.80
General Fund Balance	-\$12,505.96		\$380,850.59
Total in Heritage Bank Checking	\$90,571.49		

Notes from the Treasurer:

- Finance Committee and Church Council discussed the financials and our concerns about the negative balance in the general fund. Ideas generated from discussions included:
 - Changing the current percentages on the weekly offering from 85% to general fund and 15% to the building fund to 90% to general fund and 10% to the building fund. This was approved by Church Council.
 - Creating a list of items that the congregation may be interested in underwriting such as: Bibles that are gifted to our youth (varies), annual elevator inspection (\$435), annual organ inspection (\$520) etcetera. A full list will be created and shared with the congregation in the new year.
- Both groups discussed paying off the Heritage Bank loan and save on the interest. It was discussed that with the general fund being in the negative and “borrowing” from the other funds, we may not want to lower the building fund too much. The Church Council did decide with the Finance Committee’s motion to increase the loan payment from \$2,000 a month to \$3,000 a month.
- Finance Committee suggested and Church Council approved closing the Property Sale money market, earning 0.60%, and putting the funds into a 6 month CD earning 4.60%



January 2023
Birthdays

Piper Bryant	01/02	Ruth Dowil	01/20
Lance Fleming	01/02	Jenifer Fagre	01/20
Shawn Koesting	01/02	Fred Kruse	01/20
Jax Maune	01/04	Krista Meyer	01/20
Lorin Rachels	01/04	Jeffrey Hamlett	01/21
Ruth Rinne	01/06	Shannon Roewe	01/21
Janis Fox	01/08	Lee Newman	01/23
Bruce Miller JR.	01/08	Tammy White	01/23
Taylor Rich	01/08	Robert Hawker	01/24
Sandra Meyer	01/09	Doris Jones	01/24
Natalie Oesterly	01/10	Carol Triplett	01/24
Joyce Schatz	01/10	David Clines	01/25
Keith Bobo	01/11	Michelle Kemp	01/25
Ellie Isaak	01/11	Nancy Rich	01/25
Joni Obermark	01/11	Steve Schmitz	01/26
Ben Oesterly	01/11	Jodi Schulte	01/26
Steve Sherman	01/11	Jeffrey Francis	01/27
Jacob Clines	01/12	Morgan Menefee	01/27
Katherine Maness	01/13	Liam Moffitt	01/27
Ellen Maune	01/13	Jeffrey Schonaerts	01/27
Alex Graham	01/14	Sherry Huxol	01/28
Lisa Kreamalmeyer	01/14	Zachery Jasper	01/28
Kim Luechtefeld	01/14	Nicole Ott	01/28
Marilyn Sullentrup	01/14	Don Benne	01/29
Bridgette Kelch	01/15	Madeline Menefee	01/29
Clint Schneider	01/15	Jacque Owens	01/29
Daniel Houchins	01/16	Donna Houchins	01/30
Johanna Smith	01/16	Rodney Stoyer	01/31
Emma Briggs	01/17		
Nichole Briggs	01/17		
Frankie Jo Hogan	01/17		
Jim Gephardt	01/18		
M. Jaden Larkins	01/18		
Cecil Blankenship	01/19		