

Sunshine Thoughts

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

7014 Darmstadt Road Evansville, Indiana 47710 812-909-4391

Pastor's Paragraphs

Dear St. Peter's friends,

What to Keep and What to Let Go

Lately, I've come to realize that I'm the keeper of things I'm not quite sure what to do with. A devotional booklet from a long-deceased local pastor and chaplain at Deaconess. A four-volume collection of exegetical notes on each of the Gospels, written by a pastoral colleague who has also passed away. Thousands of pictures that once belonged to my grandmother and her mother—faces of people whose names and stories are now lost to time. A file cabinet stuffed with documents from previous pastors of St. Peter's, some dating back to the 1970s.

It's too much. It clutters my workspace, my home, and—if I'm honest—my spirit. And the hardest part is deciding: What is worth keeping? What should be passed on? And what needs to be released, finally and fully, to the recycling bin?

Life is like that, too. We accumulate not just objects but responsibilities, habits, and burdens that shape our days. Sometimes, we hold onto things long past their usefulness—ideas that no longer serve us, relationships that have run their course, expectations we no longer need to carry. In times of transition, we're given an opportunity to sort through it all, to decide what still gives life and what needs to be let go. Or we can ignore it, allowing the clutter to pile up until we can no

longer see clearly the path that God would have us walk.

Scripture reminds us that God is always calling us into something new. "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!" (Isaiah 43:18-19). But stepping into that new thing requires us to make space—physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

So, what about you? What are you holding onto that is weighing you down? What are the treasures worth keeping, the wisdom worth passing on, and the unnecessary burdens that need to be released?

May we have the courage to do the holy work of sorting through our lives, keeping what nurtures faith and letting go of what no longer serves God's purpose. And in that space we create, may we find freedom, clarity, and the joy of walking unencumbered in the way of Christ.

Blessings for the journey,

Rev. Michael

Search Team Update

The Search Committee is meeting every two weeks to facilitate the completion of the St. Peter's Profile. The final question is "What gifts, skills, and experiences we want in our next pastor." It challenges us to consider what specific qualities we are looking for, when we begin to review profiles and have interviews. After several meetings filled with discussion and learning the skills a good pastor should have, we

selected four qualities we value most. They are:

- Working Together for Justice and Mercy – Over the past 15 years, St. Peter's has worked hard to move "outside our walls" for outreach and mission opportunities. We know we have more to do, and we want our next pastor to help us better understand the causes and effects of poverty, racism, and discrimination to help combat these issues within our community and the world.
- Caring for All Creation – Pastoring is not an easy calling. We want our next pastor to have a basic understanding of mental health and wellness. We want him/her to have care and compassion for God's creation and all of God's people. We are an older congregation, and it is important that our next pastor enjoy persons of all ages.
- Engaging Sacred Stories and Traditions – Possessing a strong understanding of the history of the Christian Church, from biblical times forward is an important quality for a pastor. We want our next pastor to bring life to sacred stories and traditions in worship and in teaching. We want "holiness" to be present, especially as represented in the sacraments.
- Nurturing UCC Identity – Over the past 50 years, St. Peter's has been blessed with strong UCC pastors who believed in the core values of the UCC,

continuing testament, extravagant welcome, and changing lives. We want our next pastor to also be committed to these values. We also want this person to appreciate UCC history, polity, and theology.

The Search Team looks forward to the conversations we will have with prospective pastors about these topics. We anticipate learning about a person's "call to ministry," how that happens and how they perceive their call. Conversations about justice and mercy will help us better understand the "radical hospitality" of God. We want to know that a pastor "has a plan" for self-care and life balance when the "calling" begins to feel like a "stressful job." We also want to understand what our next pastor needs from us, the members of this church. What ideas do he/ she have to lead this small congregation to the future?

What can you do for St. Peter's this week?

- ✓ Pray for Rev. Michael, our fantastic employees, the industrious Council, and the dedicated Search Team.
- ✓ Participate in a worship service this week, in-person or ZOOM. Participate in one of the Lenten Bible Studies; there are two left (4/2, 4/9)
- ✓ Commit to serving at St. Peter's. There is a group or project for everyone!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Sharon Durkee, John Gentry, Kristen Hobbs, Suzie Hobbs, Kaleb Herke, Tom Ryder, Kurt Simpson, Dick Sprinkle, or Cheryl Whitmore. Cheryl Whitmore, Co-Chair of the Search Team

Cheryl Whitmore,
Co-Chair Search Committee

Communion Sunday

Holy Communion will be celebrated on April 6th.

February Finances	
Total General Offering*	\$9,548
Building & Grounds	\$235
*Need \$9,467 monthly General Offering to meet budgeted amount of \$113,604.	
Average Sunday Attendance	
In Person	32
Zoom	11
YouTube	9

Women's Guild

Our next meeting will be April 29th at 6 pm. We will meet at The Canton Inn.

We will be having a cake sale on April 11th & 12th, selling our Carrot and Italian Cream cakes. Order blanks will be available in the bulletin.

Men's Fellowship

Our next meeting will be on April 10th. We are meeting at the Log Inn at 6 pm.

Sunday School

Sunday School will meet on the following dates:

- April 6
- April 20
- May 4
- May 18

New Church Office Hours

The new Church office hours are:

- Thursdays 7:30 am to 12:00 pm

Prayers of Healing and Concern for:

- *Joe Allen
- *Judy Allen
- *Bob Berfanger
- *Pat Brown

- *Jeff Buxton
- *Chris Cheshire
- *Megan Clanton
- *Gary Gantner
- *David Hare-Hart
- *Jaxson Hare-Hart
- *Lyn Hayden
- *Mike Hobbs
- *Suzie Hobbs
- *Katie Hudson
- *Toni Klueg
- *Mildred Kuhlenschmidt
- *Dala McDaniel
- *Jennifer Meeks
- *Alexis Meeks
- *Katie Mullen
- *Gayle Nelson
- *LeaAnn Newman
- *Larry Palmer
- *Charlotte Pointer
- *Len Reeves
- *Tessa Shelton
- *Aggie Todd
- *Carl Todd
- *Brian Turpin
- *Tom Wardrip
- *Ursula Wegner
- *Pat Williams

Don't forget St. Peter's in your will!

Book Club Happenings

April's read will be: The Women by Kristin Hannah. We will meet at St Peter's on April 17th at 10:30 am.

May's read will be: A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles. Happy Reading,
Brenda Schell

FYI

Member(s) in Nursing Centers. Please send a card to let them know they are in our prayers.

Maxine Simpson
Holiday Village
1200 W. Buena Vista Road
Apt 148
Evansville, IN 47710
Pat Williams
Holiday Village
1200 W. Buena Vista Road

Apt 224
Evansville, IN 47710



Prayers for Service Men and Women

-Caleb Coffman serving in the US Navy.

Caleb Coffman's address:
21A Mahan Circle
Goose Creek, SC 29445

(Please contact the Church Office, if you know of other service men and women.)

Future Needs Fund

The St. Peter's Church Council has established a "Future Needs Fund" for the church. This fund will function primarily as an emergency fund to cover unanticipated expenses that arise from the operation of the church including (but not limited to) emergency building and equipment repairs. In order to fund this account, we will be receiving a special "First Fruits" offering on the first Sunday of every month. We are asking members to consider giving an extra \$5 each month towards this fund.

**Parish Nurse Update
Understanding the Effects of Isolation and Loneliness**

Rev. Michael and the Parish Nurses were saddened to reschedule the Effects of Loneliness and Isolation program on February 20th for a second time. We felt the extreme cold temperatures and the frozen parking lot would be unnecessary challenges for people attending. The plan is to reschedule this program after

Easter. We are more positive that the weather will not be a factor in late April. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused attendees.

St. Peter's Parish Nurses, Suzie Hobbs, RN; Joanne Klueg, RN, and Cheryl Whitmore, RN

**United Caring Services
Monthly Lunch Volunteer Opportunity**

Since 2019, a group of volunteers have met the 1st Saturday of each month to prepare a meal for United Caring Services. Thanks to the congregations continued donations and financial support of the monthly UCS lunches we have been able to continue to provide lunch to those that may have fallen on difficult times. If you have volunteered at the shelter, you know it is very gratifying to know that a simple meal, can bring a bit of joy and some smiles to those we serve.

If you haven't had the opportunity to volunteer, we invite you to join us. We serve lunch at United Caring Services on the 1st Saturday of each month, so mark your calendars for the dates below. Volunteering includes being onsite at the shelter from 10:45 am to 12:45 pm.

Upcoming 2025 Volunteer Dates:

- April 5
- May 3
- June 7
- July 5
- August 2
- September 6
- October 4
- November 1
- December 6

We are in need of 2-4 volunteers each month to help prepare and serve the meal. Angel & I set the menu and all

items needed are then purchased and are brought to the shelter on that Saturday. Our Saturday volunteer group then prepares the meal onsite and serves lunch to the gathered group promptly at noon.

Please contact Angel Nelson at 812-204-5473 or Julie Ryder at 812-480-1165 if you have questions or will be a volunteer.

Thank You,
Angel & Julie

Sister Joanna's Table

We will be serving lunch at Sister Joanna's Table on the following dates in 2025.

- May 10
- July 12
- September 13

Grandin Evolution After School Program

A big thank you to all who have so generously donated to the after-school program. Your generosity will have such a positive impact in providing food for the children and supplies for the volunteers to keeps all things well and consistent. You are invited any Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday from 3:30 – 5:00 to see how your investment in this ministry is working. I am there on Wednesdays. Just let me know!

In Gratitude,
Sharon Durkee

Vintage Garage Sale Update

It is hard to believe that the **annual Vintage Garage Sale will be here within three months!** This is the time of year to clean out a closet or cabinet and donate the "gently used items" to our garage sale. The Basement is "filling up," but there remains room for "good stuff." Please remember these

4 Sunshine Thoughts

simple guides when you consider donating your treasures to the sale:

- ✓ Make sure all items are “gently used.” Small appliances, kitchen gadgets, tools, electronics must be operational.
- ✓ Profits are increased when we have vintage items or items that are collectible for sale. If you have a question about the value of an item, contact Sue Anne or Cheryl.
- ✓ All items need to be clean.
- ✓ We do not take mattresses or personal garments, i.e., underwear (unless the item has not been removed from original packaging).
- ✓ Books need to be intact, with front and back covers, clean pages, and dust jackets in good condition.
- ✓ Furniture needs to be functional and clean. Patio sets, cabinets, bureaus, chairs on the concrete pad outside help “draw in” customers.

If you have boxes of merchandise to offer and cannot get them down the basement steps, no problem – place the boxes near the steps and someone will get them downstairs. If you need help getting the boxes out of your house – call Cheryl Whitmore. In advance, we thank you for your donations to make our first fundraiser of 2025 a SUCCESS.

Sue Anne Simon and Cheryl Whitmore

Would You Be Willing to Volunteer for our Tech Team?

The St. Peter’s Tech Team is looking to expand our pool of volunteers that can help with operating our technology on Sunday mornings. Training will be provided, and you do not

have to be a computer expert in order to help out. We are hoping to have enough volunteers in our rotation that your commitment would be no more than once a month. If you have questions—or would like to volunteer—please contact Laura Medcalf.

Lenten Breakfasts

Join others in the association for a time of food, fellowship, and worship each Saturday morning of Lent. Breakfast will begin at 8:00, with worship to follow at 9:00. Offerings received during these gatherings will be distributed to Tri-State Food Bank and United Caring Services.

Schedule:

April 5: TBD
 April 12: St. Paul’s UCC in German Township

Church Calendar

The church is using Google calendar to schedule church events and meetings. You can view the calendar at <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=c3RwZXRIcnNoaWdobGFuZHVjY0BnbWFpbC5jb20>

Or scan the following QR Code with your smart phone.



Newsletter Deadline

The submissions deadline for the May 2025 Sunshine Thoughts is April 27th. The May edition will be distributed on May 4th. Newsletter items may be submitted via e-mail. Please send to rschell190@gmail.com

Join us for Online Worship at St. Peter’s!

On Your Computer

Go to <https://zoom.us/j/850989470>

Zoom will download briefly to your computer and log you into the meeting

Using the Zoom App

Enter the meeting ID:
850 989 470

Click “Join with a personal link name” and change how you are identified to others in the group

Click “Join Meeting”

On Your Phone

Call **1-312-626-6799**

Enter Meeting ID:
850 989 470#

Follow the prompts

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

April 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Worship 10:15 a.m.	31 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Search Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m.	1	2 Lenten Meal & Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	3	4	5 Prepare & Serve Lunch at United Caring Services 10:30 am-1:30 pm Lenten Breakfast 8:00 a.m.
6 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m.	7	8	9 Lenten Meal & Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	10 Women's Guild Bake Sale Men's Fellowship 6:00 p.m. at the Log Inn	11 Women's Guild Bake Sale	12 Women's Guild Bake Sale Lenten Breakfast 8:00 a.m. St. Paul's UCC in German Township
13 Worship 10:15 a.m.	14 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Worship Team Meeting 6:00 p.m. Search Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m.	15	16 Choir Practice 6:00 p.m.	17 Book Club 10:30 a.m. Maundy Thursday Service 6:00 p.m.	18 Good Friday	19 Lenten Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Immanuel UCC
20 Easter Sunday Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m.	21 Search Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m.	22	23 Choir Practice 6:00 p.m.	24	25	26
27 Worship 10:15 a.m. Newsletter Deadline	28 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Search Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m.	29 Women's Guild 6:00 p.m. Canton Inn	30 Choir Practice 6:00 p.m.	1	2	3 Prepare & Serve Lunch at United Caring Services 10:30 am-1:30 pm