

Sunshine Thoughts

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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

Pastor's Paragraphs

To the faithful saints of St. Peter's,

There's a curious little story in the Book of Kings about a poor widow and her son:

But she said, 'As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.'

Have you ever noticed that God chooses the smallest, most insignificant things to manifest divine love in the world?

The prophet Elijah asks a widow to make him a meal with what little she has. She does just that. Later, she finds that "the jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail."

This is a major theme of the Bible. Joseph, the youngest of Jacob's sons, becomes the savior of the entire household and at least two nations. David, the smallest of all Jesse's sons, chooses five small stones and slays the giant. Jesus holds up a mustard seed and likens it to the kin-dom of God.

"God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, the things that are not, to reduce to nothing the things that are." 1 Corinthians 1:27

It is enough to make me wonder why anyone should be

concerned about how "big" a church is. Small is beautiful. No doubt there are challenges to being a small church. But it is not unfaithful to be small.

What I love about St. Peter's is your prayer, your hospitality, and your outreach.

Prayer – A colleague once commented, "You can always tell a thriving church because they pray more FOR each other than they complain ABOUT one another." That is certainly true here!

Hospitality – St. Peter's is welcoming to anyone that walks in the door. Maybe you'd like to see more people walk in the door, but that is in God's hands. What is in your hands is to be welcoming and hospitable to members and guests alike.

Outreach – You continue to find ways to be a blessing to the community around us. Food donations, financial donations, companionship with those who are suffering. I have overheard wonderful stories of our members reaching out in special ways to support each other and to support our wider community. You are an outreach church, called to make God's kin-dom real.

Sixteen hundred years ago St. Augustine quipped, "If love is the measure, the only measure of love is love without measure." The church is not measured by size, but by faith, hope, and above all, love. We may have only a handful of meal, and a little jug of oil, but I wonder what miracles God will perform when we offer it?

Blessings,
Rev. Michael

Rev. Sarah Are Speed Poem

Dear St. Peter's family and friends,

This month I discovered a poem by Rev. Sarah Are Speed, associate pastor of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, and it spoke to me. So, I'm passing it on to you.

I am more and more convinced every day that the world is spinning faster; do you feel it?

There are a million and one things that pull on my attention, that distract and discourage; so in the fast-moving blur of it all

my mother tells me to take a deep breath.

My father tells me to remember who I am.

My gut tells me there is something more here, and they are right. They are all right.

So on Sundays, I reorient myself.

I pull prayers from my pockets and give them to God, because fear cannot stand when it's standing in the light.

I pull money from my pockets and give it to God because cynicism cannot grow when it is met with hopeful action.

I pull doubt from my pockets and give it to God because doubt met with love cannot stay where it started. And bit by bit, I move to holy ground.

The world is spinning slower now.

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*This ritual of giving reorients me,
in an off-kilter world, it helps me see.*

*I give and am returned to the center of me,
to the center of God, to a place that is free.*

Thanks be to God for the reorienting.

Thanks be to God, again, on repeat.

See you in church soon!

Rev. Michael

Search Team Update

Over the past three months the Search Committee has considered several narrative responses to questions included in the profile.

Examples are:

- Describe how God is calling you to reach out to address the emerging challenges of your community. In this narrative, we shared the Central High School Ministry, how it began and what we are contributing to the staff and students at this neighborhood school.
- Describe how God is calling you to reach out to address the emerging challenges of your congregation. We elected to share our experience with half-time ministry leadership, how lay leadership has matured, how Rev. Michael Erwin has helped us address Constitution and By-law revisions, budget realizations, along with challenging us to continue to “move outside” the walls of St. Peter’s.
- Name significant happenings in the history of the church that have shaped the identity of the congregation in the past 10 years. Our first “happening” will be the Pandemic and how it has

affected St. Peter’s. The second narrative will be focused on our youth, how we can meet their needs better so that they will want to return to St. Peter’s.

During June we are addressing two more: How does the congregation manage conflict? Where do you struggle for vision? Last week we divided into two teams; each team addressed one of the questions. We had a robust conversation when we returned together. Good reflections and good ideas were shared to help us address these two vital issues as we consider calling our next settled pastor.

There remains a lot of work to complete, but the team is making progress on the profile. If you have questions, please ask any of the Search Team members: Sharon Durkee, John Gentry, Kaleb Herke, Kristen Hobbs, Suzie Hobbs, Tom Ryder, Kurt Simpson, Dick Sprinkle, and Cheryl Whitmore.

Submitted by *Cheryl*

Whitmore,

Co-Chair, Search Committee

Communion Sunday

Holy Communion will be celebrated on July 6th.

April Finances	
Total General Offering*	\$10,044
Building & Grounds	\$180
*Need \$9,467 monthly General Offering to meet budgeted amount of \$113,604.	
Average Sunday Attendance	
In Person	56
Zoom	6
YouTube	7

July 2025

May Finances

Total General Offering*	\$10,048
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Building & Grounds	\$140
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*Need \$9,467 monthly General Offering to meet budgeted amount of \$113,604.

Average Sunday Attendance

In Person	44
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Zoom	6
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YouTube	10
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Women’s Guild

Our next meeting will be on August 26th. This will be our annual Patio Party.

***Don’t forget St. Peter’s
in your will!***

Men’s Fellowship

No meeting has been scheduled for July.

New Church Office Hours

The new Church office hours are:

- Thursdays 7:30 am to 12:00 pm

Prayers of Healing and Concern for:

- *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
- *Katie Mullen
- *Gayle Nelson
- *Larry Palmer
- *Charlotte Pointer
- *Len Reeves

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team will be asking the congregation to donate the following items:

- Pens, pencils, notebooks and binders
- Deodorant for men and women
- Female personal hygiene items
- Female underwear, Size 7 and lower
- Gently used pants large pants for boys and men
- Gently used belts – boys and men sizes
- Sweatshirts with a Central theme or other themes – all sizes

This list was provided to us by the Central High School staff. A “big box” will be placed in the Narthex. We hope to collect these items during the month of July and early August. We will deliver as much as we have by mid-August. Please consider donating to this project.

In late July we hope to meet with Dr. Freeman, the Central High School Principal. We look forward to this meeting to learn how our gifts have helped the staff and students of Central. We also want to hear if there are ways we can expand this ministry.

If you have questions, please ask Suzie Hobbs, John Gentry, Sharon Durkee or Cheryl Whitmore.

2025 Vintage Garage Sale

Wow! What a garage sale we had this past weekend! On Friday morning, before 7AM, we had 50 people waiting to enter. On Saturday morning, before 8AM, we had 20 people waiting to enter! I don't believe there was ever a time when “no one” was looking at our merchandise, in the shelter house or the fellowship hall.

This year we tried several new ideas. I want to thank the volunteers who had the ideas because they were “good ones”. Here are examples:

- Sarah Gentry suggested we revise the price sheet to include details about the category of the item and include space to tally the total cost of the purchase. This was a GREAT idea!
- We tried a “line worker” this year. Sarah tallied the list before the customer came to the cashier, which simplified the cashier's job and kept the “lines moving”.
- We kept all the furniture and “big, heavy items” in the shelter house this year, thanks to Matthew Vaught and Brett Vaught, who carried “the treasures” out of the basement and down to the shelter house.
- St. Vincent de Paul Store came with a “BIG TRUCK” on Saturday afternoon to pick up everything we did not sell. A big “thank you” to the people who stayed in the afternoon to help fill the boxes and help the delivery truck driver load the truck. I also want to thank Ron Stevens and JC Whitmore for mopping the floors after the sale.

We already have ideas for next year!

This year the net profit from sales was \$4,198.50. I believe this is a record! We would not have made this money without the members of St. Peter's who donated their “treasures”, volunteers who spent a lot of time organizing and sorting the items, and volunteers who worked the sale for two days! THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

In late July or early August, we plan to have an “evaluation

meeting” at Hacienda's. The date and time to be announced. If you volunteered or worked at the sale, I hope you will consider coming. We'll have a GREAT time.

Submitted by,
Cheryl Whitmore, Co-Chair of the Vintage Garage Sale

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.

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 August 2025 Sunshine Thoughts is July 27th. The August edition will be distributed on August 3rd. Newsletter items may be

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submitted via e-mail. Please
send to rschell190@gmail.com

July 2025

Central High School Needs

School Supplies:

Pens, Pencils, Notebooks, Binders

Hygiene:

Tampons - all sizes, Deodorants - for all &

Underwear - need sizes below 7 - medium or smaller

Clothing for the Bear Closet:

Sweatshirts (All sizes but especially larger sizes)

Belts

Pants (All sizes however larger sizes are of a greater need)

Specifics:

Tops, Shirts - must fully cover the stomach and chest and have sleeves.

Graphic Tees are permitted but tank tops, low cut tops, or any clothing that exposes undergarments, private areas, or shoulders are not allowed.

Pants, Shorts, Skirts, Dresses - of all styles are allowed (with the exception of pajamas) if they are covering undergarments/private areas when standing, sitting, or bending - this includes jeans. Ripped clothing is allowed below mid-thigh. Athletic pants, shorts, and sweatpants are permitted as long as they are not revealing. All shorts, skirts, pants, and dresses must be at mid thigh when standing.

Footwear - Shoes must be safe for walking; no bedroom slippers or shoes with wheels.

Outerwear - Hooded sweatshirts are allowed. Lightweight jackets & cardigans are acceptable.

Accessories - No headwear, sunglasses or blankets are allowed.



**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
July 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Worship 10:15 a.m.	30 Search Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m.	1	2	3	4  Fourth of July	5 Prepare & Serve Lunch at United Caring Services 10:30 am-1:30 pm
6 Worship 10:15 a.m.	7	8	9	10 Mead Johnson/Bristol Myers Ladies Group 9:30 a.m.	11	12 Sister Joanna's Table 10:30 a.m.
13 Worship 10:15 a.m.	14 Worship Team Meeting 6:00 p.m.	15	16 Church Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.	17 Book Club 10:30 a.m.	18	19
20 Worship 10:15 a.m. Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Worship 10:15 a.m.	28	29 No Guild Meeting	30	31	1	2 Prepare & Serve Lunch at United Caring Services 10:30 am-1:30 pm