

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,

One of the most beautiful things about church is that it brings together people who are vastly different. Different ages, personalities, histories, abilities, and needs. That's not a flaw of the church. It's the design. (Read Acts chapter 10.)

As our world grows in understanding of mental health and neurodiversity, our churches are invited to grow, too. Neurodivergent is a word that describes people whose brains work differently in ways that affect how they process information, respond to stimulation, or relate socially. This includes things like anxiety, ADHD, autism, sensory processing differences, and more. These differences aren't bad or broken, they're just different.

What does that mean in a worship setting? It might mean that someone wears headphones to block out overwhelming noise. It might mean that a child needs to move around, or use a screen to stay regulated, or even lie down under the pew. It might mean that someone fidgets more than others, or struggles to make eye contact. And for those of us who have always experienced church in a more traditional way, these behaviors can be unfamiliar.

But when we remember that worship is not a performance, but a place of grace, then we start to see things differently.

Our call as the Body of Christ is not to demand

uniformity, but to embody hospitality. In Romans 15:7, Paul writes, "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you." That's not a suggestion, it's the gospel. Jesus welcomed the noisy, the unruly, the hurting, the misunderstood. And the early church was a gathering of people who didn't fit in anywhere else.

So, when someone shows up and experiences the world differently, let's show up for them. Let's extend patience and curiosity instead of judgment. Let's ask questions like "What helps you feel safe here?" rather than "Why aren't you doing what I expect?"

Most of all, let's celebrate that every person who walks through our doors is a gift. Every person is someone God is already working with. And every accommodation we make for one person doesn't diminish our worship, it enriches it.

As we continue to grow in love and hospitality, may our sanctuary be a place where all feel welcome, whether they sit in a pew, lie beneath it, or rock gently to their own rhythm. Because when the Body of Christ makes room for every member, we are more whole, more holy, and more like Jesus.

Rev. Michael

Search Team Update

During the past few weeks, the Search Team has made significant progress on the Church Profile, the document that potential pastors will read to learn about our church.

There are eleven primary sections. The sections address the four primary questions that we have discussed over the past eighteen months, who are we, who is our neighbor, where is God calling us, and what skills and talents are needed from our next pastor. They also include information about compensation and benefits, congregational reflections, statistics regarding membership, budget and leadership, historical information, community vision, and references. In total, there are fifty-four subsections within the eleven sections that request information or an answer to the question. This is a lot of work!

As of this week, we have completed nineteen of the fifty-four subsections. We also have twenty subsections that are "works in progress". This means we are requesting data, we are considering a narrative, or we have "brain-stormed" about a possible response, but have not created a final narrative.

This work is not easy. We are not just "filling in blanks" and "hoping for the best". It requires thoughtful, honest dialog and discussion. It requires listening intently to our team members. We don't always agree and there comes a time when we must listen carefully and patiently, trying to reach understanding and consensus. It requires putting St. Peter's, our church, first, and our "opinions and desires" second.

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Your Search Team is doing a GREAT JOB! Kurt and I feel blessed to be working with this group of dedicated individuals. Please continue to keep the St. Peter's Search Team in your prayers as we work towards the completion of the profile.

If you have any questions regards to our progress, please contact Sharon Durkee, John Gentry, Kaleb Herke, Kristen Hobbs, Suzie Hobbs, Tom Ryder, Dick Sprinkle, Kurt Simpson, or me, Cheryl Whitmore.

Submitted by *Cheryl Whitmore,*

Co-Chair, Search Committee

Communion Sunday

Holy Communion will be celebrated on June 1st.

April Finances	
<i>Information not available</i>	
Total General Offering*	\$0
Building & Grounds	\$0
*Need \$9,467 monthly General Offering to meet budgeted amount of \$113,604.	
Average Sunday Attendance	
In Person	40
Zoom	7
YouTube	14

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 June.

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
- *Tessa Shelton
- *Aggie Todd
- *Carl Todd
- *Brian Turpin
- *Tom Wardrip
- *Ursula Wegner
- *Pat Williams

Book Club Happenings

June's read is: The Little Italian Hotel by Phaedra Patrick

July's read is: Shakespeare Saved My Life by Laura Bates.

August's read is: The Briar Club by Kate Quinn.

Happy Reading,
Brenda Schell

Sympathy To

the Allen family on the passing of Joe Allen.

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 the 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

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extra \$5 each month towards this fund.

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:

- 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.

July 12

September 13

Website for St. Peters

In October of 2024, the Center for Congregations approved our application to assist us in getting a website for St. Peters. They will pay one half of our expenses for the first year. Council approved St. Peters to pay the remaining balance and moving forward to cover the monthly maintenance fee. Following along with our pastor search and other reasons, a website is of utmost importance.

Our newly formed website team came together in January of this year to begin the process of first meeting with the company who will be designing, setting up, and maintaining the website, and then doing our own research of other church designs and various components, etc. This team consists of Laura Medcalf, Tom and Julie Ryder, Sharon Durkee (Chair), and Rev. Michael (Consultant). The process is slow as there are many components to consider and moving parts in designing a website. Along with this, we are being very mindful of details in presenting St. Peters to the outside world, and especially to a pastoral candidate.

We wish to present a fresh and welcoming main page inviting viewers to seek more about who we are. We are grateful for doing the Bridge

Committee's exercises as they have been helpful in realizing who we are, expanding on so many of our wonderful assets as a faith family at St. Peters. We will strive to present this picture to others through our website, and especially a pastoral candidate. More updates to follow as we progress further.

Peace,

Sharon Durkee, Web Team Chair

Central High School Ministry Report

A Big **THANKS** to the Men's Fellowship and the Women's Guild for supporting our last project this school year for the Central teachers. Thanks to the generosity of these two groups, three gift baskets will be presented to the teachers. Each teacher will have three chances to win a basket. The themes of the baskets are Car Care Basket, Movie-Night Basket and Garden Basket. In July, the Central High School Ministry Team will meet with Dr. Freeman, the Central Principal, to discuss the effects of our ministry and how we can move forward with other endeavors. Thanks so much to everyone who contributed money and personal care products for the students. We have stepped up for our neighbors this year through this new ministry.

St. Peter's 2025 Vintage Garage Sale Updates –

Over the next couple of weeks, all the treasures and "gently used stuff" will be organized, sorted and priced. I want to thank this generous congregation who supports our summer fundraiser in so many ways! Donating stuff to sale, volunteering to help get it ready

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to sell, carrying the boxes “down the basement steps” and again, “up the steps”, helping to organize it, helping to price it, volunteering to work at the sale, buying some of the treasures, and finally helping to clean up the Fellowship Hall – THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

This year the sale is: Friday, June 6 from 7AM – 2PM and Saturday, June 7 from 8AM – 1PM. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Sueann Simon (812.454.4303) or Cheryl Whitmore (812.455.7536).

Submitted by

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.

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=c3RwZXRlcnNoaWdobGFuZHVjY0BnbWFpC5jb20>

Or scan the following QR Code with your smart phone.

**Newsletter Deadline**

The submissions deadline for the July 2025 Sunshine Thoughts is June 22nd. The July edition will be distributed on July 6th. 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
June 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship 10:15 a.m.	2 Organize and price the Vintage Garage Sale in the Fellowship Hall	3 Organize and price the Vintage Garage Sale in the Fellowship Hall	4 Organize and price the Vintage Garage Sale in the Fellowship Hall	5 Organize and price the Vintage Garage Sale in the Fellowship Hall	6 Vintage Garage Sale	7 Vintage Garage Sale Prepare & Serve Lunch at United Caring Services 10:30 am-1:30 pm
8 Worship 10:15 a.m.	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Worship 10:15 a.m.	16	17	18	19 Book Club 10:30 a.m.	20	21
22 Worship 10:15 a.m. Newsletter Deadline	23	24 No Guild Meeting	25	26	27	28
29 Worship 10:15 a.m.	30	1	2	3	4	5 Prepare & Serve Lunch at United Caring Services 10:30 am-1:30 pm