

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,

Halfway through the Gospel of Mark, as Jesus and his disciples are on their way to Caesarea Philippi, Jesus turns to his disciples and asks, "So, what's the word on the street? Who do people say that I am?"

It seems like a reasonable question to ask the people who travel with you and who have the opportunity to hear what folks in their towns and villages are saying about their teacher. "Well," they answer, "some say you are John the Baptist back from the dead. Others think you are one of the prophets, maybe Elijah, maybe another one." Then Jesus looks them squarely in the eyes and asks, "Yes, but who do you say that I am?"

Now that's a good question!

It is such a good question that we are going to explore the question again and again during our Lenten Bible Study on Wednesday evenings, beginning March 12th. We will have a simple dinner at 5:30 and begin the Bible study at 6:00 PM, which will last just less than an hour.

We're going to listen to the gospel writers – Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John – as well as the Apostle Paul, to hear what they have to say about who Jesus is. Their answers will be springboards to the important question facing each one of us in our own discipleship – who do **I** think Jesus is? The answer to that question makes a difference in how you live your faith and your life.

My prayer is that, through this Bible study, you will find your own voice, your own answer. When Jesus turns and looks you squarely in the eyes and asks, "Who do you say that I am?" What will you say?

Join us beginning Wednesday, March 12th, at 5:30 PM

And the week before, on March 5th, join in our recognition of Ash Wednesday with our siblings in Christ, Bethany Christian Church. All the best,

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?" This question requires us to look to the future, not backwards (the way we were), but forward, the way we want to be. Within our new core values, Growing in Faith, Caring for Our Neighbors, and Building Community, we created a list of future goals.

They are:

- ✓ We hope to embrace new and innovative approaches to outreach and ministry, trusting in God's guidance.
- ✓ We want to better understand racism, poverty, and discrimination so that we can help combat these issues within our community and the world.
- ✓ We want to build our mission focus within the

neighborhood, community and the world.

- ✓ We want to develop programs and initiatives that combat isolation and foster a sense of belonging.
- ✓ We want to find creative and impactful ways to utilize our facilities.
- ✓ We want to be recognized for our meaningful contributions to community well-being, beyond our traditional events.

These are "big goals"! Each of them will lead us to a stronger faith, more care for our neighbors and a stronger community. We, the Search Team, are excited to complete the profile, begin interviewing prospective pastors and find the pastor who will help us accomplish these goals.

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

- ✓ Pray for Rev. Michael, the Council and the Search Team.
- ✓ Participate in a worship service this week, in-person or ZOOM.
- ✓ 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 March 2nd.

January Finances	
Total General Offering*	\$8,929
Building & Grounds	\$160
*Need \$9,041 monthly General Offering to meet budgeted amount of \$108,500.	
Average Sunday Attendance	
In Person	37
Zoom	19
YouTube	n/a

Women's Guild

No meeting in March. Our next meeting will be April 29th at 6 pm. We will meet at The Canton Inn.

Thanks to all who helped make our Tea Ring and Kuchen sale a success.

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 March 13th. We are meeting at the church at 6 pm.

Sunday School

Sunday School will meet on the following dates:

- March 2
- March 16
- March 30
- April 6
- April 20
- May 4
- May 18

New Church Office Hours

The new Church office hours are:

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

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

Book Club Happenings

March's read will be: James: a novel by Percival Everett. We will meet on March 20th at 10:30 at St Peters.

April's read will be: The Women by Kristin Hannah.

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

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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.

3 Sunshine Thoughts

March 2025

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:

- March 1
- 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.

- March 8
- May 10
- July 12
- September 13

Vintage Garage Sale Update annual Vintage Garage Sale will be here within four 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 has lots of room for many more boxes of "good stuff". If you have boxes of merchandise to offer and can't 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 Sue Anne Simon or 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:

- March 8: Christ UCC
- March 15: Immanuel UCC
- March 22: Bethlehem UCC
- March 29 St. Lucas UCC
- April 5: TBD
- April 12: St. Paul's UCC in German Township

Thanks

Special thanks to all who have donated paper goods. The response was great!

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=c3RwZXRlcnNoaWdobGFuZHVjY0BnbWFpbC5jb20>
Or scan the following QR Code with your smart phone.



Newsletter Deadline

The submissions deadline for the April 2025 Sunshine Thoughts is March 23rd. The April edition will be distributed on March 30th. 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
March 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 Worship 10:15 a.m.	24 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m.	25	26	27	28	1 Prepare & Serve Lunch at United Caring Services 10:30 am-1:30 pm
2 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m.	3 Search Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m.	4	5 Ash Wednesday Service 6:00 p.m.	6	7	8 Lenten Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Christ UCC Sister Joanna's Table 10:30 a.m.
9 Worship 10:15 a.m.	10 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Worship Team Meeting 6:15 p.m.	11	12 Lenten Meal & Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	13 Men's Fellowship 6:00 p.m. at Church	14	15 Lenten Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Immanuel UCC
16 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m.	17 Search Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m.	18 Church Council 6:00 p.m.	19 Lenten Meal & Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	20 Book Club 10:30 a.m.	21	22 Lenten Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Bethlehem UCC
23 Worship 10:15 a.m. Newsletter Deadline	24	25 No Women's Guild meeting this month	26 Lenten Meal & Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	27	28	29 Lenten Breakfast 8:00 a.m. St. Lucas UCC
30 Worship 10:15 a.m.	31 Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m.	1	2 Lenten Meal & Bible Study 5:30 p.m.	3	4	5 Lenten Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Prepare & Serve Lunch at United Caring Services 10:30 am-1:30 pm