

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 members and friends,

First, I'd like to start by THANKING ALL OF YOU for making St. Peter's Easter celebration such a wonderful day! From the men who cooked breakfast, to the worship leaders and helpers, communion preparers, and to all of you for inviting and bringing your family and friends to worship. What a fabulous Resurrection Day to give glory to our Risen Lord!

Now, for the journey ahead. At the end of Matthew's gospel, Jesus says, "I am with you always, to the end of the age."

It is comforting to know that we are not alone. You can recall times when your life came crashing down around you. As hard as it was, you were not alone. Family and friends, and sometimes even strangers, held you up when you could not stand on your own. God was with you.

As a church, we are not alone as well. We have other congregations both near and far who know us, who pray for us, who join with us in times of celebration, sorrow, and transition.

The Apostle Paul wrote about churches joining together to affirm each other and build each other up. That presence continues today, and we experience that in our denomination, the United Church of Christ.

St. Peter's belongs to an "association" of local churches. The Evansville Tri-State

Association includes twenty-one churches in our area, stretching from Paducah to Fort Branch.

Our association has cooperated in many ministries over the years. We established the Good Samaritan Home and United Caring Services. We have played significant roles in the Protestant Home and Hoyleton Home. We have sent members on mission trips around the country and around the world. We have deepened our faith together through shared worship, education, and work in the community.

The association also ordains ministers and licenses lay pastors. These are the people set apart to preach, teach, and administer our two sacraments, Baptism and Communion.

One of the newer ministries of our association is Sister Joanna's Table. A couple of years ago, the association began to provide a Saturday meal six times per year. St. Peter's joined this ministry last year, and we're an important part of the effort now.

We also belong to a "conference," the Indiana-Kentucky Conference – 119 churches and 7 other associations. The Conference is especially helpful when churches are seeking a new pastor. Rev. Monica Oulette has been working with your Bridge Team/Search Team over the past two years to help in their search. And, once each year the people of the Conference come together to

celebrate ministry and to learn from each other about new ways to be the church today.

We are a member of the United Church of Christ. The UCC is a nationwide church of more than 6,000 congregations, bound together by history and common ministry. Every other year, a "General Synod" meets to consider issues important to the church and to the wider world. This summer, the General Synod will meet for a week in Kansas City for worship, business, and many celebrations of God's work in the UCC.

So, we are not alone. We are a big church family. Just like family, we don't always get along. But when it's time to celebrate, or to mourn, or to roll up our sleeves and get to work, it's good to have people by our side that we can count on. Blessings for the journey,

Rev. Michael

Search Team Update

This past week, Kurt and I (co-chairs of the Search Team) met with the Council for confirmation of the proposed plans as well as updates on our progress. This article will provide a summary of that conversation.

In last month's article, I shared the four skills and talents we want our next settled pastor to possess. This individual will have a strong interest in justice and mercy, care for all creation, believe in sacred stories and support the UCC identity. The UCC Profile asks for goals to be tied to

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these skills and talents. The Search Team has created these four goals for the congregation and the new pastor to pursue and the Council approves them.

- Justice and Mercy - We want learn how to “practice the radical hospitality” of God.
- Care for Creation – We want a pastor who will encourage spiritual health and wellbeing to all congregants.
- UCC Identity – We want to strengthen our covenantal relationship with the ETSA and the IKC.
- Sacred Stories – We want faith formation for all age levels.

The Profile requests that we provide a “scope of work” for a ¾ time pastor. This individual will work between 30 – 35 hours per week. The Council and the pastor will collaborate to meet the pastor’s expectations and the congregation’s expectations.

- Hospital visits may be coordinated with the parish nurses.
- A Pastor-Parish Team will be created by the Council to be a support for the new settled pastor.
- Lay leadership needs to be considered to help with unforeseen situations when the pastor cannot provide leadership or direction.
- The Office Administrator works one day per week. The pastor and office administrator will coordinate their time so that they are both present in the facility on the same day she works.

The UCC Standard is that a pastor can take a sabbatical after five years of service,

compared to seven years previously. The Lily Clergy Renewal Program remains the primary facilitator for a ministry sabbatical and the goal is that it is “budget neutral” for both the pastor and the congregation. The Council and Search Team support a sabbatical after five years.

The Search Team is working hard to complete the Profile; we meet two to three times per month. We have met eight times since our first meeting in early December, 2024. Presently the Profile is twenty-five percent completed. There are many narratives “in progress”. Feel free to ask any Search Team Member questions you may have. The Team is: Sharon Durkee, John Gentry, Kaleb Herke, Kristen Hobbs, Suzie Hobbs, Tom Ryder, Kurt Simpson, Dick Sprinkle and Cheryl Whitmore. Submitted by *Kurt Simpson* and *Cheryl Whitmore*, Co-Chairs, Search Committee

Communion Sunday

Holy Communion will be celebrated on May 4th.

March Finances	
Total General Offering*	\$13,698
Building & Grounds	\$265
*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.

Thanks to all who helped make our recent cake sale a great success!

Men’s Fellowship

Our next meeting will be on May 8th. We are meeting at the church at 6 pm.

Sunday School

Sunday School will meet on the following dates:

- 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
- *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

May’s read is: A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles.

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We will meet at St Peter's on May 15th at 10:30.

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

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

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

[Redacted names and contact information]

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 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:

- 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

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 schoolyear 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 Dates –

- ✓ Sunday, May 4th immediately after worship – begin to sort and price Merchandise in the basement
- ✓ Sunday, May 18th immediately after worship - Move the Stuff Brigade
- ✓ Monday, May 19th – Thursday, June 5th – Organize and price the merchandise in the Fellowship Hall
- ✓ Friday, June 6 (7AM – 2PM) and Saturday, June 7 (8AM – 1PM) – Garage Sale Dates and Times

These are the “TREASURES” to donate:

- ✓ Household items – Linens, towels, dishes, flatware, utensils, pots and pans
- ✓ Home Décor, Indoor/Outdoor Furniture, Lawn Decorations, Antiques and Vintage Items, Tools
- ✓ Crafts, Yarn, Sewing items (bagged), Potted Plants, Holiday/Christmas Decorations
- ✓ Children’s clothes, Toys and Games, Books, Bicycles (children and adult sizes)
- ✓ Adult Clothes, Shoes, Costume jewelry, Purses

Please, donate “gently used,” functional items. Toys or electrical items MUST WORK when donated. No Mattresses or Box-springs. TVs need to be “smart TVs”.

Drop-Off – Fellowship Hall or place in basement. Call Cheryl Whitmore if you need to coordinate a “pick-up”.

Questions – Call Sue Ann or Cheryl

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=c3RwZXRIcnNoaWdobGFuZHVjY0BnbWFpbC5jb20>

Or scan the following QR Code with your smart phone.



Newsletter Deadline

The submissions deadline for the June 2025 Sunshine Thoughts is May 18th. The June edition will be distributed on May 25th. 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
28 Worship 10:15 a.m.	29	30	31 Choir Practice 6:00 p.m.	1 Web Site Committee 6:00 p.m.	2	3 Prepare & Serve Lunch at United Caring Services 10:30 am-1:30 pm
4 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Confirmation Class 5:30 p.m.	5	6	7 Choir Practice 6:00 p.m.	8 Men's Fellowship 6:00 p.m. at the Church	9	10 Sister Joanna's Table 10:30 a.m.
11 Worship 10:15 a.m.	12 Search Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m.	13	14 Choir Practice 6:00 p.m.	15 Book Club 10:30 a.m.	16	17
18 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Move the Stuff Brigade after worship Newsletter Deadline	19 Organize and price the Vintage Grage Sale in the Fellowship Hall	20 Organize and price the Vintage Grage Sale in the Fellowship Hall	21 Organize and price the Vintage Grage Sale in the Fellowship Hall	22 Organize and price the Vintage Grage Sale in the Fellowship Hall	23 Organize and price the Vintage Grage Sale in the Fellowship Hall	24 Organize and price the Vintage Grage Sale in the Fellowship Hall
25 Worship 10:15 a.m. Organize and price the Vintage Grage Sale in the Fellowship Hall	26 Organize and price the Vintage Grage Sale in the Fellowship Hall	27 No Women's Guild Organize and price the Vintage Grage Sale in the Fellowship Hall	28 Search Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m. Organize and price the Vintage Grage Sale in the Fellowship Hall	29 Organize and price the Vintage Grage Sale in the Fellowship Hall	30 Organize and price the Vintage Grage Sale in the Fellowship Hall	31 Organize and price the Vintage Grage Sale in the Fellowship Hall