

ST. PETER'S MESSENGER

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

20 East 5th Street

PO Box 510

Washington MO 63090

Website www.stpeters-washington.org

636-239-6176

September 2021



Town Hall Meetings

Week-end of September 18 and 19

Before our Fall Congregational Meeting, it seems to be a good idea to get together and talk about St. Peter's, to re-examine ourselves and the directions we want to go. The Council and various boards and committees have been looking at the issues we face regularly and we want you to understand the situation too.

- The Church Council has been talking about our finances.
- At a meeting earlier this year regarding the parsonage sale, a concern was whether we would need to use part of the fund for our regular expenses.
- With Pastor Gary Schulte's retirement, we are beginning to look for an interim senior pastor. We have had a meeting with Reverend Lake from the Conference about the next steps in finding a new pastor.

The meetings will be informal. Discussion and sharing thoughts will be encouraged. Topics will definitely include: finances, the pastor search, youth, and building and grounds.

The town hall meetings will be:

Saturday, September 18, immediately following the worship service

Sunday, September 19, immediately following the worship service

Sunday, September 19, at 7 p.m. on Zoom for those who would like to contribute but are unable to in person

I hope to see you at one of these meetings.

Ron Kruse

Council President

Volunteers Needed--

The **Nominating Committee** is asking for volunteers interested in serving as delegates to the Conference and Eastern Association Meetings. These meetings are held in the Spring and Fall. Recent meetings have been virtual but members hope to return to in-person when it is safe to do so.

Fall meetings are “business meetings” in which budgets, etc are planned; the Spring Conferences include various programs pertaining to church life.

The Conference Meetings are 2-day events requiring an overnight stay (expenses paid by St. Peter’s); Eastern Association Meetings are a one-day event.

If you are interested, please contact Ron Kruse (rpkruse@charter.net/ 314-369-4761) or Joyce Sanfilippo (jasnfilippo@aim.com/636-288-0839)

Music Rehearsals Return

Bell Choir and Chancel Choir practices begin Wednesday, Sept. 1st!

Bell Choir will run from 6:45 p.m. - 7:25 p.m.

Chancel Choir will run from 7:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

Masks will be mandatory for all participants.

We are looking forward to having our music ensembles back in session. Please consider joining us. Any questions--please see Ken Tucker.



Welcome, Taylor Scheible, daughter of Jason & Wendi Scheible, who said “Yes” to her baptism and was confirmed in the Christian faith on August 22. Taylor, who is now a member of St. Peter’s United Church of Christ, is a freshman at Washington High School and is on the high school softball team. She is an outgoing and talkative person with her friends and family and shy around people she does not know as well. We give thanks to God and welcome Taylor; we are so happy you are a member of our faith community.

Thanks be to God for the gift of children...

We rejoice to celebrate the Holy Baptism for **Hartlyn Rae Arnette**, daughter of Andrew & Lindsay Arnette. Hartlyn’s baptismal sponsors are Shawn Roe and Daniela Bertinetti. Thanks be to God for the gift of this child!

Congratulations Elizabeth Fleeer & Timothy Martin on the birth of Penelope Sawyer Martin, July 28. Her maternal grandparents are Patti & Roger Fleeer. Thanks be to God for the gift of this child!

Congratulations Kate (Brinker) & Kyle Maness as they welcomed their first child, Tucker Daniel, on August 11. Grandparents are Dottie & Bob Brinker. Thanks be to God!

Blessed are those who mourn... Please pray for

The family and friends of Andrew H. Engemann; Andy passed away on August 8

Barb Schroepfer on the loss of her sister, Phyllis Murta, who passed away on August 9

The family and friends of Debra Ann Muench. Debbie passed away August 10 at Mercy Hospital

The family and friends of Rev. Audrey Nourse, 83, who died August 19 in St. Louis.

Audrey was a student pastor at St. Peters in 1995 and Interim Minister of Supply Preaching in 2007-2008. She was ordained in 1996.

Memorials may be made to Habitat for Humanity 3830 S. Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO;

St Jude Children's Research Hospital, 680 Craig Road #300, St. Louis, MO;

Evangelical Children's Home, 8240 St. Charles Rock Road, St. Louis, MO

or a charity of choice.



Congratulations to the inaugural class of inductees to the **Washington High School Athletic Hall of Fame** from St. Peter's UCC: **Jim Gephardt, Doris Jones, and Alex Graham.** They will be inducted at half time of the football game on Fri., August 27.

Other inductees include Jim Scanlan. Jack Hagedorn, Lorene Ramsey, Tom Officer, Tim Hayes, Lisa Sandbothe, Jill Kingsbury, Mike Sandbothe, and the 1973 State Champion Football team.

Thank You note from Doris Sleeman

I want to thank Rev. Schulte for all the visits to the hospital and assisted living residence.

I also want to thank everyone for the calls, cards and visits at my new home at Oak Pointe of Washington,

I hope to attend church in the near future.

Thanks to all and God Bless,

Doris Sleeman



Greetings, church!

Well, I have officially returned to my duties at St. Peter's following the period of parental leave. My family and I want to thank you for all of the support, love, kindness, and generosity you've shared with us during this exciting, albeit chaotic, time as we welcomed Harper into our family, moved homes, and all worked to adapt to new norms. It was such a blessing to have the time away to focus on those things. We are so very grateful! Thanks very much to Pastor Gary for his support and vital ministry as well!

That being said, I am excited to be back! I have missed you all very much and am looking forward to resuming our ministry together. Just as much has been happening in my family's life, I am aware that much has been happening in the life of the church during my time away—great things like a wonderful VBS program, difficult things like Pastor Gary's retirement announcement, challenging/frustrating things like the new Covid surge.

Just as our lives run a rollercoaster track of highs and lows, even from moment to moment, the same is true of our life together as a congregation. We hit highs together, we hit lows together, and we hit everything in between together. But we travel together, just as we do in our walks of life with our friends and family. We are, at St. Peter's UCC, a family of faith. As with every family, we may not always agree with each other, there may be moments of conflict and moments of deep emotion, but at the end of the day we are drawn together by the Spirit of love and compassion, and we continue the journey together with deep care for one another. Come what may, we meet everything together.

We soon will enter a time of transition and discernment, amidst the ever-changing landscape of a Covid reality. We will do so together as a family grounded in the common source of our God, our Creator, seeking out God's purpose and direction for our family's journey. We will do so grounded in loving God with our whole being, and loving one another with our whole being. So, once again, here we go together into the unknown in faith; faith in God and faith in each other. We travel in faith and hope, knowing that infinite possibilities for the flourishing of life exist as we discern and dream God's dream for us and the wider community together. We travel together knowing that God has sustained this family of faith for nearly two centuries. God is with us, as God has always been, and we are together, as one Body.

As I said, I am excited to resume our journey together, as I know that there is much vitality, much goodness, much love, we will experience as we follow God's path together. I know I've shared this quote in preaching before, but it seems appropriate to share it with you once more:

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."

-Corrie Ten Boom

All is, and shall be, well. I'll be seeing you!

Peace,
Pastor Eric

Friendly Reminders



The **quilters** are meeting on Mondays from 12-3 and Wednesdays from 9-12 and 12-3 (no lunch)

Aluminum can collection No Collection in September—Save your items for October!!

Coffee with a Pastor is held on Tuesdays, 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the shade at the riverfront park. Bring a lawn chair, a beverage, and come join the conversation with your friends.

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship will meet on **Thursday, September 16, 2021**, (third Thursday this month) at 10 a.m. We will once again be meeting at the shelter/pavilion at Lions Lake. Pastor Schulte will lead the program, entitled "Sharing Our Stories." We will order pizza for lunch. Please bring your own drink, a lawn chair, and your stories! Hope you can attend!

Food Pantry News

Thank you to ALL the volunteers who help the food pantry continue its vital ministry in our community. In July, 101 people representing 37 families were served.

We also thank the following for their generous donations:

Brenda Bruns

Betty Peffermann

Darlene Langkopf

New Life Church

Joline Logan

Don Northington

Wendell & Mary Lou Tyree

Washington Chamber of Commerce

Doris Meyer

Our Faith Calls Us to Love One Another



We have neighbors in need of help-locally, statewide, and internationally. How can we respond?

One way is to contribute to the annual **Festival of Sharing**. This ecumenical, Missouri-wide effort provides resources for folks in poverty by distributing food, personal hygiene products, baby items, blankets, and school supplies.

The Social Concerns committee encourages you to take the opportunity to share with others during September. A check written to St. Peter's UCC should have "Festival of Sharing" on the memo line. And please mark the "other" line on the outside of your church envelope.

Thank you for your consideration.

Highlights of the July 29, 2021 St. Peter's Special Council Meeting

Rev. Damien Lake, Associate Conference Minister with the Missouri Mid-South UCC Conference, informed us of the normal search process after the resignation of a UCC pastor. Rev. Lake said he would like to come to worship in the future and get to know the St. Peter's congregation.

After lengthy discussion, the consensus was to do everything possible to keep St. Peter's open for In-Person Worship. The following policy was agreed on:

The Council wants to continue for St. Peter's to be safely open for worship and to follow the guidelines recommended by the CDC.

- **Masks will be mandatory for all who enter the building and attend service.**
- **Social distancing** will be reinstated. Every other pew will be blocked off. Those attending will continue to sign in and register their contact information.
- **We continue to strongly urge all individuals to be fully vaccinated for their health and wellbeing as well as for the community in which we live, and for our country to recover from this pandemic.**
- ***If someone who has attended worship in person is diagnosed with COVID, there would be no In-Person Worship for two weeks.***

Rezoning: A letter has been received from the City of Washington to inform us of St. Peter's property being included into C-3 Downtown District.

Custodial Position: St. Peter's urgently needs help to open the church for Saturday evening and Sunday morning services: This paid custodial position requires the person to stay during services, and to lock up afterwards. The church will be advertising to fill this position.

Highlights of the August 16, 2021 St. Peter's UCC Council Meeting

On Sunday, Aug. 22 St. Peter's UCC will celebrate Confirmation and welcome Taylor Scheible as a member of our church.

The current protocol for all at St. Peter's is: "Masks to be worn by all who have entered the building for as long as they are in the building, regardless of vaccination status."

The Choir and Bell Choir will follow the same protocol.

Civic Chorus: The same protocol stated above is required. In addition:

- There will be a sign-in list for participants,
- Rehearsals may be in sanctuary or auditorium.
- Please restore the auditorium for future meetings after rehearsals.
- ALL will wear masks at all times and social distance. If someone tests positive for COVID, there will be a two-week quarantine.

Christmas Concert is still pending due to the COVID numbers in Franklin County.

Town Hall Meeting: A Town Hall Meeting will be held after the worship services on September 18 and September 19 and a ZOOM meeting on Sunday, September 19 at 7 p.m. Items to be discussed are a financial picture prepared by the Advisory Committee and Finance Board, a chance for members to discuss future needs of our church, and time to listen to our congregation.

Fall Congregation Meeting: **Sunday, October 17** at 1 p.m. has been set for our Fall Congregation Meeting. This will be a hybrid meeting with Zoom and attendance in the auditorium for those who lack computer access.

Interim Pastor Search: A committee has been set up to work with Rev. Lake on acquiring an Interim Pastor. Members are Bridgette Kelch, Mike Wood and Patti Fleeer.

Salam Clinic: Deaconess Foundation and physicians, who operate a similar free health clinic in St. Louis, are moving forward and a tentative opening date for St. Peter's is November 13. There will be a Community Celebration/Ceremony on November 6.

Weekend Custodial Position: We still need someone to open and close during our weekend services. Currently we are using temporary personnel.

Women's Fellowship Reminder: St Peter's still has an open account at Grace's Merry Go Round for any donations that might have gone to our rummage sale. Profits benefit St. Peter's Women's Fellowship projects.

Treasurer's Report

	<u>July</u>	<u>2021 YTD</u>	<u>2020 YTD</u>
Total Receipts	\$36,923.33	\$312,376.66	\$379,906.63
General Fund	31,640.35	229,715.89	280,667.89
Building Fund	4,669.33	39,042.33	43,827.63
Other	613.65	43,618.44	55,412.00

<u>Building Fund</u>		<u>General Fund</u>	
Beginning balance 7/1	\$25,407.43	Beginning balance 7/1	10,868.96
Income	4,699.33	Income	31,640.35
Expenses	<u>2,938.16</u>	Expenses	<u>36,556.24</u>
Ending Balance 7/31	27,138.60	Ending Balance 7/31	5,953.07

Loan Balance as of 8/1/21
 Cornerstone – \$73,251 (we pay \$938 per month)
 Heritage Bank - \$56,456 (we pay \$2,000 per month)

MercyT Fall 2021 Hospice Volunteer Training

Four consecutive Wednesdays: Sept, 8,15, 22 and 29
1:00pm-4:30 pm
1351 Jefferson St.
Suite 206
Washington

To inquire or register: Contact: Stephanie Marquart, Supervisor- Volunteer Services @ 636.239.8862 or Stephanie.marquart@mercy.net

St. Paul's UCC in Marthasville is having their annual Chicken Dinner and Country Store, **Sunday, September 19, 2021 from 11-5pm. Carry - Out only**, \$11 per person. Homemade desserts, quilt raffle and a country store with handmade and homemade goodies.



The Challenge Continues --- Linda Becker gives readers a chance to reflect on scripture via email. Each month she asks for a thought or two on a bible verse and what it means to the reader. Keep it simple, just a line or two. She condenses the answers for the newsletter.

The verse for August was 2 Peter 1:5: Make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge.

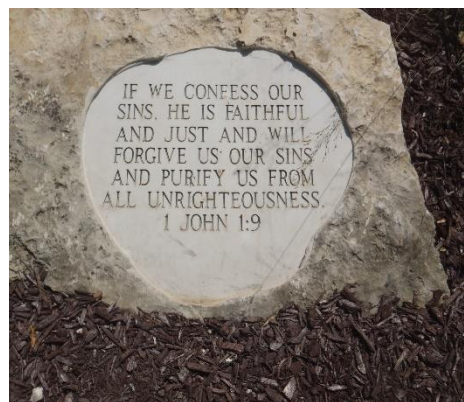
Responses:

Go into your faith deeply and know what it is about. Casper B.

Knowledge helps give you knowledge to know what is good. Gene B.

In your faith try to do what is good and right, gaining knowledge and trusting Jesus to guide your words and ways. Kelly N.

This is in regards to God's call and choice. The writer is concerned that people do not believe Christ will return again. You need goodness, faith, knowledge, self-control, endurance, godliness, brotherly affection, and love. If you do not have these you are shortsighted and have forgotten that Jesus died for your sins on the cross. Do not abandon your faith so you have full right to enter the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior. We've been declared righteous through faith, we still succumb to sin, pressures of the world and deceptions and temptations of the devil. We need to love the unlovable. The great mystery is that when we rely on the Spirit, our heart changes-love takes root, joy fills our heart, kindness feels right, and patience produces a peaceful spirit. Pray for self-control over your tongue. Linda B. Thanks to all.



Next month, September, is on the photo: 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

What do you think? Contact Linda B.

lindahelenabel@yahoo.com

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Josh Zastrow	09/01	Kenneth Bebermeyer	09/14
Koren Kerr	09/02	Alaina Fisher	09/14
Aaron Bounds	09/03	Tyler Francis	09/14
Danielle Grotewiel	09/04	Kirk Kriete	09/15
Susan Harms	09/04	John Yager	09/15
Glen Meyer	09/04	Denise Balken	09/16
Sharon Thompson	09/04	Joshua Buchholz	09/16
Rita Bub	09/05	Debra Lamke	09/16
Rich Houchins	09/05	Christina Shocklee	09/16
Wesley Schmiedeskamp	09/06	Anne Hofmann-Rebeck	09/17
Betty Buerk	09/07	Gene Hunt	09/17
Mary Kate Montgomery	09/07	Mary Montgomery	09/17
Jack Sullentrup	09/07	LaVerta Schulte	09/17
Kurt Vitoux	09/07	Laurie Ebker	09/18
Doris Blankenship	09/09	Maxwell Grimes	09/19
Samantha Hackett	09/09	Victoria Meyer	09/19
Samuel Hahn	09/09	Logan Roewe	09/19
Teresa Hamlett	09/09	Erin Blankenship	09/20
Levi Houchins	09/09	Jack Czeschin	09/20
Charles Patterson	09/09	Mivea Hahn	09/20
Tina Triplett	09/09	Darlene Langkopf	09/20
Alexander Buschman	09/10	Leo Becker	09/21
Judy Scannell	09/10	Daniel Eckelkamp	09/21
Holly Johnston	09/11	Brenda Bruns	09/22
Judy Ficke	09/12	Tara Lang-McDowell	09/22
		Marie Martin	09/22
		Lyla Schneider	09/24
		Elliana Stewart	09/25
		Rebecca Krafft	09/26
		Tonie Smith	09/26
		Bradley Mittler	09/27
		Carole Sincox	09/27
		Nicholas Kackley	09/28
		Randy Buschling	09/29
		Marie Kellermann	09/29
		Jason Oesterly	09/29
		Zayla Brewster	09/30
		Carrie Derner	09/30
		Kevin Hausmann	09/30
		Eleanor Meyer-McAndrew	09/30