

ST. PETER'S MESSENGER



St. Peter's United Church of Christ
20 East 5th Street
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636-239-6176

Website www.stpeters-washington.org
October 2021

A Good Goodbye . . .

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you.¹

I have delayed in writing this final newsletter article. It has not been an easy one to write. I have tried to avoid it. But, it's time now to say goodbye. Goodbye means "God be with you." The Rev. Elmer Dickbernd, minister and mentor from another time, once said to me, "I don't say, 'May God be with you.' God is with you!" God has been with us. God is with you!

I want to thank you for enthusiastically welcoming me, Debby, and Matt into your circle four years ago. The time has been short, but I sense we have done some good ministry together. I have been blessed to serve among you. God has been with us. God is with you!

On October 30 & 31 we will worship together in-person and virtually one final time. During that service a representative from the Eastern Association will be here to ask us:

Do you the members and friends of St. Peter's United Church of Christ release The Rev. Gary Schulte from the duties of pastor and teacher?

And, do you, Rev. Schulte, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?

We will say, "Yes" to those important questions. We will let go. We will say goodbye. I imagine a good, grace filled goodbye for us. I will no longer be your pastor. I will not be with you in worship. I will not officiate at your weddings, funerals, or other services of the church. I will forward all emails and phone messages to your Interim Senior Pastor or Pastor Eric.

I will remember you with joy and thanksgiving as I go and in the times to come. I pray the same will be true for you. God be with you. God is with you!

Peace be with you!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary M. Schulte". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Mr. Gary M. Schulte, Senior Pastor & Teacher

¹ 2 Corinthians 13:13, New Revised Standard Version

Blessed are those who mourn... Please pray for

For the friends and family of Bill Crowley, who died September 14.

For family and friends of Mary Ann Behr. Mary Ann passed away on September 12. A memorial service will be held October 23, at 10 am at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Defiance, MO. Mary Ann was Amanda Rolwes Scheer's grandmother.

Fall Congregational Meeting: Sunday, October 17, 1pm

Save the Date: Our Fall Congregational Meeting will be **Sunday, October 17, 2021** at 1pm. The agenda and meeting materials will be mailed to each household on October 4th.

This will be a hybrid meeting. Those without internet access will be invited to participate in the auditorium; those who have computer access will be given a link to participate virtually. Please contact the church office at 636.239.6176 or reception@stpeters-ucc.org to let us know whether you will attend in-person or online

Fundraising Opportunity Announced by Council

The Puzzle Pledge Fundraising for the South Entrance Door Replacement Project was announced by the Council. This has been one of Pastor Gary's hopes for completion and we would like to see funds donated before his retirement. Church members can select an appropriate amount to donate and help work toward our goal of making this entrance handicapped accessible and more welcoming to members and guests. The display and more information is available in the sanctuary.

"Puzzle Pledges" is the name given to the fund-raising project to help pay for the replacement of the existing doors at the south entrance with new, handicapped-accessible doors, possibly with an electronic key card system.

A drawing representing the south entrance is sub-divided into 62 puzzle pieces, each with its' own dollar amount. (Amounts range from \$20 - \$1000) We hope members will "buy" one or more puzzle pieces to bolster support for the project.

Here's how it will work:

1. Select the piece(s) you wish to buy and remove the paper key pinned to the piece.
 2. On the paper key, clearly print your name, the puzzle piece number and the piece's dollar amount. (If buying more than one puzzle piece, each piece's paper key must be filled out with your name, piece # and the dollar amount of the piece.)
 3. To pay for the puzzle pieces, find a numbered white envelope for each piece and fill in information on each paper key.
 4. For each puzzle piece, please put the completed paper key and your payment into the envelope numbered the same as the puzzle piece.
 5. Seal the envelope and place it in the locked wooden box in the rear of the sanctuary.
- If you have questions, please call Karen Dawson 636.399.1426

Council Update on Interim Pastor Search

A report was presented at the Sept. 20, 2021 Council Meeting regarding the Interim Pastor Search Committee by Mike Wood, Patti Flear, Bridgette Kelch and Donna Houchins. The job description was developed with the help of Missouri Mid-South Conference Associate Minister Rev. Damien Lake. The committee has reviewed several profiles that were submitted and held an online interview with one of the candidates. Further discussions with the candidate are taking place, and we are hopeful to have an Interim Senior Pastor in place over the next couple of weeks.

In-Person Children's Programming Resumes October 10!

The Board of Christian Education is extremely thrilled to announce that we will begin a new format of children's programming on October 10 during the 10 am worship service. Weekly, upon arrival, children will receive a box of activities that they can engage with during worship that will connect them with the service itself: the text, the themes, etc. Then, approximately during the last 15 minutes of worship, they will go outside together (masked and distanced) to further engage with each other and the activities they've done during the service. Our hope is that our children may begin to connect with what typically happens in the worship service, learn from it, grow to appreciate it, while also having the opportunity to begin connecting with one another once again in the safest way possible. We look forward to seeing the children on October 10 and onward!

Food Pantry News

As of October 1, 2021 the Food Pantry hours will be:

Monday from 12pm-1pm
Tuesday from 12:30 pm-1:30pm
Thursday from 9am-10am

Thank you to ALL the volunteers who help the food pantry continue its vital ministry in our community. In August, 113 people representing 39 families were served.

We also thank the following for their generous donations--:

Brenda Bruns	St. Louis Bread Company
Ruth Konrad	Betty Peffermann
Joline Logan	Carol Muench
Darlene Langkopf	Diane Shoupe
Chris Hillermann Beste	Wendell & Mary Lou Tyree
Joyce & Vince Sanfilippo	Don Northington
Brynn Kerr in memory of his mother, Sibyl	Judy Cortner

Flu Shots

Mercy and Harvest Table are hosting a drive-thru free flu shot clinic on the St. Peter's UCC parking lot Saturday, October 9 from 1:30 to 5:30. Shots will be given to anyone over the age of 7. High dose senior shots will be available.

Women's Fellowship IT'S A PARTY!

Women's Fellowship will meet on Thursday, October 14, at 10 a.m. There will be a short devotional and business meeting. Then the fun will begin! We are asking each of you to come in costume. It is the month of Halloween! Your costume can be simple-funny hat, festive t-shirt, wig, etc. Let your creative juices flow! We will be playing games, including Bingo with Pastor Gary calling the numbers. There will be prizes!

Our hope is to meet in the auditorium at St. Peter's. Of course, we will socially distance and masks are required. If COVID rates remain high we will meet at Lion's Lake. If the weather is an issue, we will cancel. Please give Joan Howard a call so we know how many to expect. (314-409-9001) **Hope to see you on the 14th!**

New Members join St. Peter's United Church of Christ



We welcome **Carol Frick, Rev. David & Teresa Poe, and Steve Wilmesherr** as members with us at St. Peter's United Church of Christ. These friends have affirmed their baptisms and seek to live out their discipleship in this community of faith. Thanks be to God who gathers us and gives us the growth!

Carol Frick is joining by letter of transfer from Peace Lutheran in Washington. Carol is retired from Frick's Quality Meat having served as the office manager and bookkeeper while building the company with her late husband Jan of 62 years. Carol has three children: David, Lisa and Julie Frick Neustadt, six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. In retirement Carol is keeping busy reading and making cross stitched Christmas stockings for her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Welcome Carol!!

Rev. David Poe & Teresa Poe are joining by letter of transfer from St. Peter's UCC, New Haven. David, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, is currently serving as an Intentional Interim Minister for St. John's UCC in Weldon Spring, MO. He is married to Teresa Poe and they have four adult children. Their youngest, Kamryn, attends Missouri State University in Springfield, MO. Teresa is an educator in the Franklin County R2 School District. David's interests include Plein Air painting, tennis, reading and spending time with his family and first grandchild. Welcome David & Teresa!!

Steve Wilmesherr was baptized, confirmed and married at St. Peter's. After being away, he is joining with a reaffirmation of faith. Steve is retired from law enforcement. Three years ago, Steve and his wife Penny began taking care of their two grandchildren, Parker and Piper Bryant, and their plan was to come back to church to give Parker and Piper a good religious foundation. Penny unexpectedly passed away in October of 2020, followed by Steve's mother, Harriett, in March. Steve is here now and would like to thank everyone for all the help and support going through these life changing events. We are so happy Steve, Parker and Piper are here. Welcome!!

Congratulations to **Bob Zick**, 2021 recipient of the WINGS Community Contributor Award. Mark Wessels is the educator award recipient and Frank Saucier is the alumni award recipient.

Firearm Safety Class on October 11

Earlier this year, the Justice Witness Mission Group, approached by *Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America*, hosted a display at the front of the church of children's t-shirts representing children in Missouri whose lives were taken by guns. The intent was to draw attention to gun safety.

Gun deaths of children often happen by accident. The mission group wanted to simply share information about a hunter education and firearm safety class to be held at St. Francis Borgia Regional High School on October 11 from 6-10pm. This class is open to adults and children ages 11 and over.

There is an online component that must be completed before this in-person session. If you have a child of an appropriate age in your home, and you are a gun owner, this may be a good opportunity to teach them best practices in firearm safety. You may find more information or register here:

https://www.hunter-ed.com/missouri/in_person_component/.

Additionally, if you are a firearm owner, you may obtain free gun locks at the Washington Police Department. Thank you for doing all you can to keep our community's children safe!

Highlights of the Sept. 20, 2021 St. Peter's UCC Church Council Meeting

Treasurer's Report: Mike Wood was happy to report that August revenue was up, second best month this year. This brings the General Fund up \$10,000 from previous month.

Cemetery News: Several tombstones were damaged by a vehicular accident on August 29th. Damages, estimated to be \$8,152, should be covered by motorist insurance, but at present the insurance company has been unresponsive. Our insurance provider will try to recoup.

Food Pantry: hours will be adjusted due to decreased demand. Starting Oct. 1st, for a one-month trial period, the pantry will be open; Monday 10-11 am, Tuesday 12-1 pm, and Thursday 9-10 am.

Board of Christian Ed: will create "boxes" for children to use during worship as they sit with their parents. These will be connected to the service. There will be a brief outdoor time to gather sometime during the service. BCE will also create a Care Team similar to the one in place at St. Peter's that reaches out to older members. This new Care Team will focus on families with children.

Worship Committee:

- There is a need for more ushers.
- Plans are underway for Blessing of the Pets on Oct. 3rd.
- It has been very helpful having the pew markers to assist with distancing during service.

Weekend Custodial Position: With more activities going on at our church, we have a great need to fill this paid (\$35/service) position

Fall Congregational Meeting: Sunday, October 17 at 1:00 pm has been set for our Fall Congregational Meeting. This will be a hybrid meeting with Zoom and attendance in the auditorium for those who lack computer access.

Treasurer's Report

	<u>August</u>	<u>2021 YTD</u>	<u>2020 YTD</u>
Total Receipts	\$ 52,888.38	\$ 365,265.04	\$ 412,962.12
General Fund	43,741.64	273,457.53	306,304.00
Building Fund	7,463.17	46,505.50	48,651.18
Other	1,638.57	45,357.01	58,006.94

Building Fund

Beginning Balance 8/1	\$ 27,138.60
Income	7,463.17
Expenses	<u>4,999.68</u>
Ending Balance 8/31	29,602.09

General Fund

Beginning Balance 8/1	5,953.07
Income	43,741.64
Expenses	<u>36,641.94</u>
Ending Balance 8/31	13,052.77

Prayer Meeting



On Wednesdays, 10-10:30 a.m., we gather to follow the outline suggested by the Evangelical Catechism: Praise, Ask, Thank (PAT). Here is the link to join: [Prayer Meeting](#). If you don't have a computer with internet access, you can participate by phone by calling **+1-312-626-6799**. When prompted to do so, you will need this **Meeting ID: 477-817-360#**. All are welcome.

Worship On Line

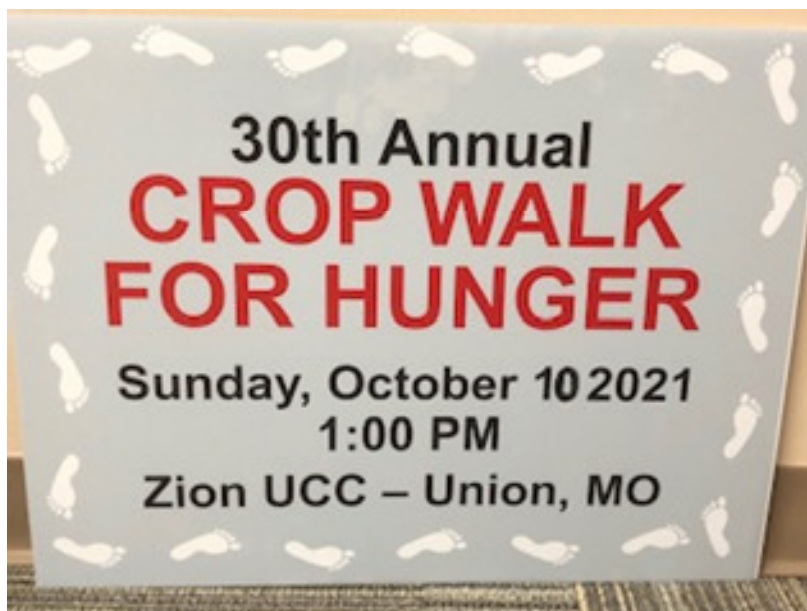
We will continue to provide worship on [YouTube](#) or on [Zoom](#) on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m.

If you are using your phone to join and listen to the service, please call **1-312-626 6799**, and entering the Meeting ID when prompted to do so: **615-986-467#**.



Aluminum can collection--A pick-up truck is parked in the back-parking lot the first Saturday evening of every month through late in the afternoon on Sunday.

Aluminum cans **ONLY** should be placed in the truck; please do not include tin foil and/or pie pans. Thanks for all the help we receive from the congregation! This collection benefits on-going projects through the Social Concerns Committee.



The CROP Hunger Walk is a national movement with a vision to end hunger in our lifetime. Join us on Oct. 10 by walking 3.7 miles in one day or 11.1 miles in a weekend to help people in great need. Every step you take is a step closer to ending hunger. To donate go to [CROP Hunger Walk](#)

Neighbors in Need Offering

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

NIN also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One third of NIN funds support the Council of American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Historically, forbears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arichara and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC churches on reservations and one urban, multiracial UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

You may contribute to this offering **any Sunday in October**. Please make your checks payable to St. Peter's UCC and put "NIN" on the memo line. You may also use your regular offering envelope to give to this offering, marking it "NIN" with the designated amount listed. Thank you!

53rd Annual Chicken Dinner
Immanuels United Church of Christ Holstein
17510 Church Street Holstein, MO
Sunday, October 3, 12:00-6:00

There will be inside or outside dining and carry outs, a county store, quilt auction and "Famous" Holstein apple butter! Plan to attend!

Ebenezer United Church of Christ
5541 Walnut Street Augusta, MO
Roast Beef Dinner
Sunday, October 17, 11:00-5:00
Carry out only; outside seating available



Bethel Hills is having an Open House and Ribbon Cutting on **Sunday, October 24th** from 1:00-4:00. A Service of Thanksgiving and dedication will be in the chapel at 2:00. Please stop by and help celebrate.

Bethel Hills mission: to provide supportive housing, social and other opportunities for adults with and without developmental disabilities that enable them to live, learn and worship together- a faith base community where all live life to the fullest together.



OCTOBER

Birthdays

Byron Stolte	10/01
Jay Mittler	10/03
David Butler	10/04
Norella Keller	10/04
Linda Strode	10/04
Nancy Burke	10/05
Florence	10/05
Scharringhausen	10/05
Nancy Wood	10/05
Dane Buschling	10/06
Bill Miller	10/06
David Broeder	10/07
Seth Roewe	10/08
Debra Strauser	10/08
Amelia Matzes	10/10
Ethan Stahl	10/10
Karen Geisert	10/11
Alexis Smith	10/11
Joyce Brinkmann	10/12
Mike Carey	10/12
Monica Jacquin	10/12
Ron Kruse	10/12
Jason Mittler	10/12
Wendy Zick	10/12
Bill Pinnell	10/13
Janette Shocklee	10/13
Jessie Huxol	10/14
Jennifer Kroeter	10/14
Ian Smith	10/14
Lynette Voss	10/14
Alex Genthe	10/15
Max Phinney	10/15
Andrea Miller	10/16

Pamela Mutert	10/16
Marilyn Sherman	10/17
Dorothy Althage	10/18
Kathy Blackburn	10/18
Madison Broughton	10/18
Samuel Fredeking	10/18
Brian Friedel	10/18
Lilie Sample	10/18
Tess Abrams	10/19
Lacy Monzyk	10/19
Colby Smith	10/19
Susannah Cerutti	10/20
Trisha Kuenzel	10/20
Jonathan Noud	10/21
Vincent Spurgeon	10/23
Dorothy Brinker	10/24
Tori Mebruer	10/24
Matthew Schulte	10/24
Jill Shoemaker	10/24
Barbara Schwentker	10/25
Hartlyn Arnette	10/26
Brunhilde Wahl	10/26
Elaine Fleming	10/27
Rebecca Roehrs	10/27
Betty Allemann	10/28
Jorie Moeller	10/28
Linda Rohlfing	10/28
Jaxson Triplett	10/28
Laura Amlong	10/29
Madeline Grimes	10/29
Morgan Hahn	10/29
Erin Monzyk	10/29
Weslee Schneider	10/29
D. John Geisert	10/31
Cookie Matau	10/31