

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 23, 2025

3rd Sunday in Lent

10:00 AM

www.youtube.com/stpetersuccwashmo

** - Please rise in body or spirit.*

CENTERING OURSELVES IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD
RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

"Psalm 30"

Bell Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Lamentations 3:19-24)

Pat Swinger, Liturgist

One: The memory of my suffering and homelessness is bitterness and poison.

Many: I can't help but remember and am depressed.

One: I call all this to mind; therefore, I will wait.

**Many: Certainly, the faithful love of God hasn't ended; certainly, God's
compassion isn't through!**

One: They are renewed every morning. Great is your faithfulness.

Many: God, you are my portion! Therefore, I'll wait for you.

*HYMN

"Great Is Your Faithfulness"

423

Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator,

With you no shadow of turning we see.

You do not change, your compassions they fail not;

All of your goodness forever will be.

Refrain: **Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!**

**Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed your hand has
provided, Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!**

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,

Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,

Join with all nature in manifold witness

To your great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*

Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,

Your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,

Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside. *Refrain*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison) *Maren Tirabassi* 835

Gentle and holy God, we acknowledge to you, to one another, and to ourselves that we are not what you have called us to be. We have stifled our gifts and wasted our time. We have avoided opportunities to offer kindness, but have been quick to take offense. We have pretended that we could make no contribution to peace and justice in our world and have excused ourselves from risk-taking in our own community. Have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and help us to live our lives differently, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose call to follow haunts our every prayer. Amen.

*LAMB OF GOD 801

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

*WORDS OF GRACE

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

THE FIRST LESSON Psalm 42:1-5

CHOIR ANTHEM “Here I Am, Lord” *(lyrics p 7)*
by Daniel L. Schutte, arr. Ovid Young

SECOND LESSON Luke 13:31-35

SERMON

*HYMN “Softly and Tenderly” 449

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;
See at the portals Christ waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

Refrain: Come home, come home; All who are weary come home;
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, “O sinner, come home!”

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not God’s mercies,
mercies for you and for me? *Refrain*

Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing, passing from you and from
me; shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming,
coming for you and for me. *Refrain*

O for the wonderful love Jesus promised, promised for you and for me;
Though we have sinned Jesus offers us pardon,
pardon for you and for me. *Refrain*

*UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH NO. 885

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

WE GIVE WHAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO US
INVITATION TO GIVE

*RESPONSE

Doxology

780

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**We offer these gifts, O God, in the spirit of love. May the gifts that we offer
this day embody our loving response to your great love for us. Through
these gifts, may others feel the love of Christ. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

*HYMN

“Ask Me What Great Thing I Know”

49

**Ask me what great thing I know that delights and stirs me so,
What the high reward I win, whose the name I glory in:
Jesus Christ, the crucified.**

Who defeats my fiercest foes? Who consoles my saddest woes?
 Who revives my fainting heart, healing all that grief imparts?
 Jesus Christ, the crucified.

Who is life in life to me? Who the death of death will be?
 Who holds all my days secure, in God's heart where love is sure?
 Jesus Christ, the crucified.

This is that great thing I know; this delights and stirs me so:
 Faith in Christ who died to save, Christ who triumphed o'er the grave:
 Jesus Christ, the crucified.

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

❧ Thank You for Worshipping Here Today ❧

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The Rev. Kurt Schaller Blaufuss, Pastor & Teacher
 Ken Tucker, Director of Music
 Andrew Jackson, Principal Organist
 Carol H. Hackmann, Office Manager
 Gary Edler, Cemetery Sexton
 Nathaniel Pfitzinger, Building & Grounds Custodian
 The Rev. Dr. William H. Schwab, Pastor Emeritus

St. Peter's United Church of Christ welcomes you to today's worship. If you are visiting us today for the first time, please fill out the "Welcome Card" in the pews and place it in the offering plate. We also welcome those who are attending worship online.

The altar flowers are placed in celebration of Janet & Ben Alspach's forty-second wedding anniversary (March 20).

"These Days" devotional booklets and the March Newsletter/2024 Annual Report are available in the atrium and the church office.

Please pray . . . With Marge Jones, Cindy Moeller, Bryce Meyer, Ken, Grace, Amber E., Clayton, Matt Ashley, Greg Berry, Jon Sanfilippo, Charlie Sincox, Todd Ford, Laurie Pinnell, Blake Georgie, The Drees Family, Anonymous

St. Peter's UCC Cemetery is celebrating 150 years this year--A Bit of History--
 March 28, 1886 It was moved and carried that the congregation build one half of the partition fence between the land of Mr. Glosemeyer and the cemetery. It was further decided that the fence on the east side be taken up and built on upon the line, and for this purpose a committee was appointed: H.H. Beinke, H. Kamp, Sr., and Christ Carstens. It was moved and carried that the decision about the fence be reconsidered. It was then moved and carried that the east side fence remain standing, but to make necessary repairs thereon and to make over half of the boundary fence of wire.

Call to Congregational Meeting: The Spring Congregational Meeting will be held following worship today Sunday, March 23. Please plan to attend.

St. Peter's will be co-hosting **Harvest Table** with the Washington Methodist Church on April 26, 2025. If interested in helping, you would be welcome and appreciated. We also need desserts (or money for dessert) and hands-on volunteers. Please call or text Erna Holland (314) 616-7143 with questions or support.

The **Harvest Table** is looking for donations of the following: OTC pain relievers (oral and topical), oral care, cold and flu items, and personal care products, especially feminine hygiene products. (There is a more extensive list available.) If you would like more information on this effort, please contact Janet Alspach at (770) 313-0018. Of course, cash is always welcome, and she will do the shopping. All donations may be dropped off in the church office.



Never have cash or a check handy but want to financially support St. Peter's UCC? Use this QR code to open a link to give via PayPal. PayPal allows you to use your credit card or checking account to give once or a reoccurring gift. Don't forget that your bank also offers reoccurring checks and/or transactions. Thank you for helping to take care of your church!

Ebenezer UCC Augusta Fish Fry March 28, April 11, 5-7 p.m. each night

Easter Breakfast 2025 The council is seeking a couple of volunteers to help coordinate our Easter Sunday morning "pot luck" breakfast (to be held from ~ 8:30 a.m.-9:45 a.m.). Primary considerations will be organizing dining room set-up, laying out the "buffet" and arranging for clean-up afterwards. If you'd be willing to assist with this event, please contact Carol in the office or Ben Alspach. THANK YOU!!

This Week at St. Peter's United Church of Christ:

Sunday, March 23, 2025

10:00 a.m. – Worship

10:15 a.m. – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Confirmation

11:00 a.m. – Congregational Meeting

Monday, March 24, 2025

12:00-3:00 pm. – Quilting

6:30 p.m. – Evangelism

6:30 p.m. – AA

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

1:30-3:00 pm. – Coffee with the Pastor

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

9:00 a.m. – Quilting

9:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m. – Sewing Class

10:00 a.m. – Prayer Meeting

11:30 a.m. – Bible Study

6:30 p.m. – Bell Choir

7:15 p.m. – Chancel Choir

Thursday, March 27, 2025

6:30 p.m. – AA

Saturday, March 29, 2025

5:00 p.m. – Worship

5:00 p.m. – Harvest Table (Dining Room)

Sunday, March 30, 2025

10:00 a.m. – Worship

10:15 a.m. – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Confirmation

Girl Scouts (auditorium)

Worship Attendance – March 15 & 16, 2025

Saturday In-Person: 22 Sunday In-Person: 62 YouTube Views: 23

Come enjoy the free International Zither Gathering on April 13 at 3 p.m. at Immanuel

Lutheran Church--Featuring Tomy Temerson, Master Zither Soloist from Hanau,

Germany. The concert is hosted by the Schwarzer Zither Ensemble and the Washington

Historical Society.

Choir Anthem "Here I Am, Lord" by Daniel L. Schutte, arr. Ovid Young

"I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright, Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone, I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night I will go, Lord if You lead me. I will hold your people in my heart. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame, I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their heart be satisfied. I will give my life for them, Whom shall I send?"

St. Peter's is once again giving everyone the opportunity to remember their loved ones by helping to decorate the sanctuary on Easter with lilies. If you wish to place an Easter lily or a memorial, please complete this form and return it to the church office no later than **Fri., April 11**. Place your order with an area florist, or if you know of an organization who is selling them as a fundraiser, please order from them. We ask that plants be delivered to the church **Fri., April 18 before Noon**.

EASTER MEMORIALS/LILIES

Given by: _____ Phone or email _____

I wish to place an **EASTER LILY** in memory of:

I wish to donate an **EASTER MEMORIAL** in memory of:

Enclosed find: \$___Memorial Fund \$___Building Fund \$___General Fund \$___Cemetery

Please note: **Any lily not picked up by noon Tues., April 22 will be delivered to shut-ins**

Guide Book & Directory Advertising Opportunity We are in the process of updating our annual Guide Book & Directory for the church. This book will contain everything pertinent to our church: the various ministries, organizations, committees, activities, functions and events plus a complete directory of all members. This book is being provided and direct-mailed to each family at no cost to our church, and it is again being subsidized by local businesses that advertise. If you own or manage a business and would like to find out about advertising in our book, please call the church office by April 4.

Updated Information Requested: If you have had any recent changes in your address, phone number, etc., please let the church office know so we have the correct information in the new Guide Book Directory.