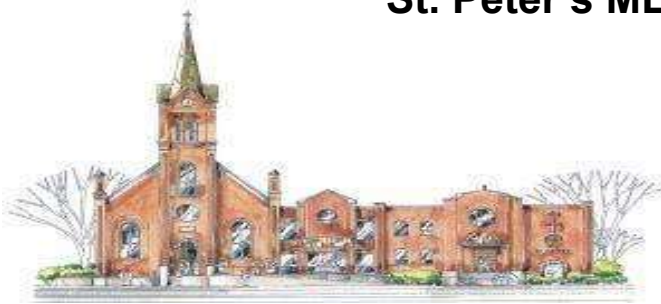


St. Peter's MESSENGER



St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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January 2025



A story about the St. Peter's Salam Clinic, from the Deaconess Nurse Ministry
December Newsletter:

"On November 9th, during our clinic at the Salam Clinic in Washington, MO, an urgent situation arose that truly highlighted the power of our presence. Jill, the church member volunteering that day, called out for immediate help. I heard her shout, "Nurse Leesa, I need you now!"

When I rushed to the foyer, I found a client bleeding from his neck. Without hesitation, I put on gloves, applied pressure to the wound, and quickly led him to the evaluation room where Dr. Lakshmanan was already preparing to help stop the bleeding and close the wound. The client had recently had a precancerous skin lesion removed from his neck, and somehow the incision had reopened. Thankfully, he remembered our clinic was available that Saturday and came in for help. This client is also a regular at the Harvest Table, where I serve as the community nurse each week.

Because of our clinic, we were able to provide immediate care, saving him from an emergency room visit that he could not afford. His gratitude was overwhelming, and it reminded me once again of the incredible work we do as a team. I truly cannot say enough about the awesome doctors I am able to serve with at the Salam Clinic. Our mission with Deaconess to serve others is truly a blessing in my life. I am honored to be a part of this group!"

— Nurse Leesa

An additional response from Nurse Leesa:

By all means the generosity of the congregation is what makes this ALL possible! So happy that Deaconess put this in the newsletter! I am truly blessed by being able to be a part of this awesome mission. Thank you!!!!



Dear Friends,

I hope this message finds you continuing to celebrate the Good News of Christ's birth. As many of you know, my mother, Deloris Blaufuss, passed away on December 23 after several months of deteriorating health. At this difficult time, I have been incredibly grateful for the outpouring of love, support, and prayers from each of you. I thank you all for understanding my need to be away in December as we said goodbye to Mom.

Thank you for your comforting words, cards, texts, and emails and the kindness you've shown my family and me. All these things are a true reflection of the love of Christ, reminding us that we are never alone in our grief. It brings me great comfort to know that I have a congregation that stands together in both joy and sorrow.

Please continue to keep our family in your prayers, as we navigate this time of loss, trusting the resurrection promises of God. I am truly blessed to serve as your pastor, and I appreciate your compassion at this difficult time.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Pastor Kurt and Family

Blessed are those who mourn . . . for they shall be comforted. Please pray for:

The family and friends of Vince & Joyce Sanfilippo on the loss of his sister, Marie Sanfilippo, who died Nov. 25

The family and friends of Patricia Elaine Clark who passed away Nov. 30

The family and friends of Rhonda (Wolking) Naumann who passed away Dec. 9

The family and friends of Debbie & Terry Buddemeyer on the loss of her mother, Elvira Yount, who died Dec. 19

The family and friends of Pastors Kurt & Mary Schaller Blaufuss on the loss of his mother, Deloris, who died Dec. 23

The family and friends of Billie Ruth Miller who passed away Dec. 24

Taking Down of The Greens. Please help in the Taking Down of the Greens or the “de” decorating of the sanctuary and the atrium after worship on Sun., Jan. 5 Thank you

The 2025 All-Boards and Committees Meeting will be Sun., Jan. 19 following worship. If you are serving on Church Council, a board or a committee please plan to attend.

All 2024 Boards and Committees. Year ending reports are due to the MESSENGER for printing in March 2024 for the Annual report. Please forward the reports to Newsletter Annual Report. (newsletter@stpeters-ucc.org) on or before Mon., Feb. 17, 2025. Thank you

2025 Liturgists needed. Thank you to all who contributed to worship by being liturgists. Please contact Pastor Kurt or sign up in the back of the sanctuary if you would like to be a liturgist in 2025

St. Peter’s United Church of Christ Church Council Meeting Highlights 17 December 2024

Harvest Table Presentation:

Brenda Morman and Karen Dawson attended the meeting representing the Harvest Table. They presented \$3,000 to help with electricity and water and \$840 to pay the entire trash bill. They noted that 200,000 meals have been served over 15 years. They also presented a report on meals served this year and groups that have provided volunteers. This has been a community-wide effort.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the November minutes was made and seconded. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

- November was a good month. It was \$10,000 to the positive.
- Expenses were also low for November.
- The General Fund has made up some ground but is currently down \$24,700 compared to budget.
- St. Peter’s has received a large bequest of \$135,000. There is a restriction that it should first be used to pay down debt.
- A motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report was made and seconded. The motion passed.

Pastors Report:

- A written report was received (Pastor Kurt absent – attending to his mother in IA).
- Activities for the month were detailed.
- Pastor Kurt will not be going to Kenya in January.

Boards and Committees:

Building and Grounds:

- Will be looking at the key cards tonight and trying to determine whether they are working properly or not.
- They are trying to find someone to do the electric for the choir room (for new heating unit).
- HVAC Unit F still has a rumble. Fix is unclear.
- There is an area on the roof where water is not reaching the drain. This will be evaluated.

Cemetery Board:

- Grave digging fees are increasing Jan 1. The increase will be \$50 on weekdays and \$100 on weekends.
- Clothing, backpacks, blankets, etc. have been found on the edge of the Cemetery. We need to clear some brush to keep this area clear.

Missions:

- \$1,080 was raised for the Foster Closet from the Mission tree.

Worship:

- Ben has been calling the usher teams. Revised teams and schedule for 2025.
- Byron will be opening church but not closing on Sundays starting in January.

Advisory:

- An update on results was given for the membership survey:
 - There are 116 with no response and no activity in 10 years.
 - There are about 400 current / confirmed members.
 - There are about 26 inactive but left on the membership list because their inactivity is not more than 5 years.
 - There are some inactive but who responded they want to stay on the membership list.
 - 31 responded that they want to be removed.
 - Council would like to look at the list of inactive / no response to determine next steps.

Evangelism:

- There is another game day this Thursday.

Food Pantry:

- Will be paying the church \$3,000 in January for electricity usage.

Old Business:

Website:

- Website updates are ongoing.
- Jon sent Facebook stats. Views and engagement are up dramatically since Festival of Trees information has been posted.

Nominating Committee:

- There are still openings on several boards and committees, including one on Council.

New Business:

- The 2025 Boards & Committees planning session will be on Sunday, January 19.

- Council, boards and committees review is planned for early 2025, to discuss reducing required headcount on various boards and revising the Constitution.
 - There was a suggestion that an ad hoc committee be convened to review the bylaws.

At 6:53 p.m. the current Council retired, and the new Council convened.

Election of 2025 Council Officers:

The 2025 Council officers were elected as follows:

- President - Ben Alspach
- Vice President - Jennifer Kroeter
- Secretary - Susan Harms
- Treasurer - Diane Gephardt

St. Peter's UCC would also like to thank our outgoing council members: Donna Houchins, Marty Derner, Hank Anderson and Sue Wehmueller.

A motion was made and seconded to amend these minutes and vote to elect the 2025 Council officers named above via email. The motion passed and the officers were elected.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer

Financial Report

Receipts	November	YTD 2024
General Fund	\$ 37,435.06	\$ 413,844.45
Building Fund	\$ 3,280.70	\$ 36,462.51
Youth Fund	\$	\$ 351.00
Memorial Fund	\$ 190.00	\$ 16,082.75
Sanctuary Music Fund	\$ 150.00	\$ 1,263.00
Pass Thru In	\$ 5,935.95	\$
Total Receipts	\$ 46,991.71	\$ 468,003.71
Expenses	November	YTD 2024
General Fund	\$ (27,460.97)	\$ (426,766.82)
Building Fund	\$ (938.16)	\$ (32,256.45)
Youth Fund	\$	\$ (1,147.52)
Memorial Fund	\$	\$ (15,171.38)
Sanctuary Music Fund	\$ -	\$ (494.20)
Pass Thru Out	\$ (6,035.95)	\$
Total Expenses	\$ (34,435.08)	\$ (475,836.37)

Bank Balance Report 11/30/2024

Heritage Bank Balance	\$ 64,730.92
Less Building Fund	\$ 10,922.24
Less Youth Fund	\$ 7,914.84
Less Memorial Fund	\$ 66,557.36
Less Music Fund	\$ 4,070.84
<u>Less Perpetual Member</u>	<u>\$</u>
General Fund Balance	\$ (24,734.36)

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Food Pantry News

Thank you to ALL the volunteers who help the food pantry continue its vital ministry in our community. In November, 182 individuals representing 66 families were served. In addition, 52 turkey dinners were given out. We also thank the following for their generous donations – November Food Pantry Donors:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Joline Logan | Kaye Nurnberger |
| Brenda Bruns | IX Nu Theta Chapter |
| Wendell & Mary Lou Tyree | Dan Buschmeyer |
| Max W Mueller Auxiliary VFW | Barb & Dennis Schwentker |
| KC Tractor Cruise | |

Mission Report

In November, the **Washington Emergency Relief Fund** received 231 calls for assistance and gave out thirty grants totaling \$6,638.54. Of those grants, fourteen were for electricity, two for water, two for propane, eleven for rent, and one for fuel.

We would like to give a shout-out to those who donated to WERF, allowing us to help more clients. Thank you: Chuck & Linda Johns, Ron & Brenda Brinker, Carl Clover & Rhonda Stockglausner, Marilyn Sherman, and Charles & Carole Sincox. We truly appreciate the help.

THANKS!

Harvest Table served the following number of meals in November:

11/2	160 meals	11/23	105 meals
11/9	170 meals	11/30	105 meals
<u>11/16</u>	<u>174 meals</u>		

Total of 714 meals!!!

The Salam Clinic saw five patients in December.

THANK YOU! The Mission Team's Giving Tree was a huge success! In only two weekends we collected \$1,080 which was given to the Franklin County Foster Closet Christmas Fund. There will be more information to come about this effort in the coming year. Again, Thank You to all who gave so generously!

Another THANK YOU to Bruce Barnett for driving the school bus all about Washington on Dec. 14 so we could take in the beauty of Christmas lights. There are so many beautiful light displays this time of year and a good time was had by all!

The Justice Witness Team will meet on our regular meeting day the second Tues., Jan. 14, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

The Mission Team will meet immediately after Justice Witness on Jan. 14 as well. Our Mission Team is down to only three members. We welcome anyone who is interested in promoting missional activities.

2025 Altar Flowers If you would like to place altar flowers in honor or in memory of someone, or a special occasion, please contact the church office by phone 636-239-6176 or email office@stpeters-ucc.org and we will make a note on the 2025 Altar Flower Chart, letting you know whether or not that particular date is already spoken for. The chart is posted at the back of the sanctuary if you would like to sign up. Information we need from you: date you wish to provide the two arrangements; the information you wish to have printed in the worship bulletin; whether or not you will come by church the Monday after worship to pick up the bouquets. After a date has been secured, please contact a florist and make arrangements to have them deliver your selection on Friday before noon. Thank you

2025 Worship Bulletins The worship bulletin is an integral part of our worship service each week. If you would like to purchase the bulletins for a service in honor or in memory of someone, please mark the Bulletin Chart (2025 chart is posted at the back of the sanctuary) accordingly and contact the church office to inform us at to what you wish to have printed in the bulletin. Thank you



Online Opportunities Worship

We continue to provide worship on YouTube on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m.

There is a time for prayer online via Zoom on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. The link for the Zoom meeting is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84675634323>.

The Bible study group meets on Wednesdays at 11:30. Join us!!

St. Peter's has a quilting room that is open for quilting on Monday afternoons and Wednesday's. If you have an interest in learning how to quilt or share your talents, please join!!



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

January Birthdays

Piper Bryant	01/02	Shannon Roewe	01/21
Shawn Koesting	01/02	Tammy White	01/23
Ken Tucker	01/03	Robert Hawker	01/24
Jax Maune	01/04	Doris Jones	01/24
Lorin Rachels	01/04	Carol Triplett	01/24
Ruth Rinne	01/06	David Clines	01/25
Janis Fox	01/08	Nancy Rich	01/25
Bruce Miller Jr.	01/08	Steve Schmitz	01/26
Taylor Rich	01/08	Jodi Schulte	01/26
Sandra Meyer	01/09	Jeffrey Francis	01/27
Joyce Schatz	01/10	Morgan Menefee	01/27
Keith Bobo	01/11	Jeffrey Schonaerts	01/27
Ellie Isaak	01/11	Sherry Huxol	01/28
Joni Obermark	01/11	Zachery Jasper	01/28
Steve Sherman	01/11	Nicole Ott	01/28
Jacob Clines	01/12	Madeline Menefee	01/29
Ellen Maune	01/13	Jacque Owens	01/29
Lisa Kreamalmeyer	01/14	Donna Houchins	01/30
Kim Luechtefeld	01/14	Rodney Stoyer	01/31
Marilyn Sullentrup	01/14		
Bridgette Kelch	01/15		
Clint Schneider	01/15		
Daniel Houchins	01/16		
Johanna Smith	01/16		
Emma Briggs	01/17		
Nichole Briggs	01/17		
Frankie Jo Hogan	01/17		
Jim Gephardt	01/18		
M. Jaden Larkins	01/18		
Cecil Blankenship	01/19		
Jenifer Fagre	01/20		
Fred Kruse	01/20		
Krista Meyer McAndrew	01/20		
Jeffrey Hamlett	01/21		

