

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 30, 2025

4th 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 "Lord, Be Merciful Unto Me" Bell Ensemble
Molly Bauer-clarinet

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP Ken Tucker, Liturgist

One: Giver of life, we open ourselves - body, mind, and spirit - to worship this day.

Many: We come with an attitude of generosity and gratitude.

One: We pray that faith, hope and love will fill us and our faith community,

Many: May we carry those gifts into our neighborhoods and across the world which you so lovingly created.

One: Indeed, let love be known in all that we say and do.

Many: In the name of the one who showed us what love is, the name of Jesus. Amen.

*HYMN "The Gift of Love" Hal Hopson
(see insert, page 8)

*LITANY OF CONFESSION

One: Love is patient,

Many: but sometimes we want things to happen on our schedule.

One: Love is kind,

Many: but we do not always show that in our actions towards others.

One: Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude,

Many: but there are times when we are.

One: Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing,

Many: but rejoices in truth and freedom.

One: Love bears, believes, hopes, and endures.

Many: Our deepest desire is to do the same.

One: Love can be shown through our actions.

Many: Love is resilient determination.

One: Love digs deeper.

Many: Love gives more.

One: Love is made evident in big and small ways,

Many: and the world is a better place.

*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 Luke 15:1-2, 11-24

CHOIR ANTHEM "Create in Me" Michael Burkhardt Chancel Choir
(*lyrics p 7*)

SECOND LESSON Luke 15:25-32

SERMON

*HYMN "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" 547

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;

How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;

'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

My God has promised good to me, whose word my hope secures;

God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we've been here ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,

We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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

**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, Amen.

***HYMN**

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

43

**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
Fix in us a humble dwelling, all your faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, you are all compassion; pure unbounded love impart.
Visit us with your salvation, enter every trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
Let us all in you inherit, let us find your promised rest;
Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, almighty to deliver, let us all your life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore your temples leave.
You we would be always blessing, love you as your angels love,
Pray and praise for your unfailing, wounded arms outstretched above.**

**Finish, then, your new creation; pure and spotless may we prove;
 Let us see your great salvation perfectly restored in you;
 Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
 Crowned as saints, we ever shall be lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Today's liturgy is adapted from worship resources provided by the United Church of Christ for "One Great Hour of Sharing."

☞ **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.

"These Days" devotional booklets and the April Newsletter 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, Anonymous

St. Peter's UCC Cemetery is celebrating 150 years this year--A Bit of History--June 27, 1886 The secretary was instructed to inform Mr. Glosemeyer and Mr. Hausmann that the congregation would not build a line fence and would not assume any blame for damages. March 31, 1889 It was moved and carried that a new fence be made on the front of the cemetery of sawed oak pickets. The council should see to it that same be made properly. It was moved and carried that only the pastor of the St. Peter's Church be permitted to officiate at burials on the St. Peter's Cemetery. Other ministers must have the consent of the resident pastor, and in his absence must get a permit from the church council.

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

Sunday, March 30, 2025

10:00 a.m. – Worship
 10:15 a.m. – Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. – Confirmation

Monday, March 31, 2025

12:00-3:00 pm. – Quilting
 6:30 p.m. – AA

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

1:30-3:00 pm. – Coffee with the Pastor
 7:00 p.m. – Building & Grounds Board

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

8:45 a.m. – Men's Breakfast at Bob Evans
 9:00 a.m. – Quilting
 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, April 3, 2025

5:00-7:00 p.m. – Children's Theatre Rehearsal (Auditorium)
 6:30 p.m. – AA

Saturday, April 5, 2025 Aluminum Drive

11:00-4:00 p.m. – Children's Theatre Performance (Auditorium)
 5:00 p.m. – Worship w/Holy Communion
 5:00 p.m. – Harvest Table (Dining Room)

Sunday, April 6, 2025 Aluminum Drive

10:00 a.m. – Worship w/Holy Communion
 10:15 a.m. – Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. – Confirmation

Worship Attendance – March 22 & 23, 2025

Saturday In-Person: 37 Sunday In-Person: 90 YouTube Views: 26

Heat Up/Cool Down St. Peter's Update: This year the Finance Board has established a fundraising goal of \$10,000 to help pay for the heating and cooling of our church. So far, we have received \$4,990.65. This is a great start toward our goal. Thank you to those who have contributed! If you would like to help us reach our goal, you may do so by using one of the

envelopes that are in the atrium or making a note in the memo line of your check. Any amount you can contribute would be appreciated.

Easter Breakfast 2025 Barb Bauer and Judy Verdine have volunteered to help coordinate the Easter Sunday morning “potluck” breakfast (to be held from ~ 8:30 a.m.-9:45 a.m.). If you would like to help, please contact them. The church will provide sausage and drinks. Please bring a dish to share. The meal will be held in the dining room.

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.

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 also looking for donations of 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.

Ebenezer UCC Augusta Fish Fry April 11, 5-7 p.m.

Holy Week & Easter at St. Peter's United Church of Christ:

- Maundy Thursday Worship w/Altar Communion April 17 - 7:00 p.m.
 - Good Friday Worship April 18 - 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service
 - Easter Saturday Worship w/Altar Communion April 19 - 5:00 p.m.
 - Easter Sunday Worship w/Pew Communion April 20 - 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
- A potluck breakfast will be served beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the dining room. The church will provide sausage and drinks. Please bring a dish to share. All are welcome!



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!

Choir Anthem "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me, and renew a right spirit within me."

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.

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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**

INSERT

THE GIFT OF LOVE