

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 14, 2025

14th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

www.youtube.com/stpetersuccwashmo

** - Please rise in body or spirit.*

CENTERING OURSELVES IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE

Andrew Jackson, Principal Organist

WELCOME

One: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey ...

Many: You are welcome here.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

CHORAL INTROIT "This Is the Day The Lord Has Made" Hopson

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively) Patti Herrell, Liturgist

As a shepherd seeks a lost sheep, so God seeks and saves the lost.

As a woman searches for a lost coin, so God rejoices over one soul restored to wholeness.

As a parent welcomes a returning wayward child, so God welcomes and accepts us.

We come to worship the God who is with us wherever we go and who searches for us when we are lost.

*HYMN "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing" 459

**Come, O fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.**

**Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,
Come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,
Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.**

Holy God, we know that Jesus came into the world to seek and save the lost, and we accept this good news with gladness. But we also confess that it is all too easy for us to judge those we think are lost, condemning the sin we see in them. We do not recognize our own sinfulness or the many ways we ourselves are lost. We are content to wander away from your covenant, thinking only of ourselves and our pursuits. Forgive us, Gracious God. Grant us courage enough to place our trust in you, and lead us in the way you would have us live. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

When we are lost, all is not lost. God is seeking us, ready to turn lives around.
The grace of God overflows, and we know forgiveness, love, and hope.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

HYMN

“God's Great Love Is So Amazing”

Words © Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 1999 Tune: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

God's great love is so amazing! See — a shepherd with his flocks!

Ninety-nine are safely grazing; one is lost among the rocks.

That good shepherd goes and searches till he finds the one astray.

So God says to fill our churches with the ones who've lost their way.

God in love is always seeking! See — a woman with her broom!

For a single coin she's sweeping every corner of the room.

When it's found she calls each neighbor, telling friends from all around.

So God says to search and labor till God's precious ones are found.

God keeps waiting, searching, yearning! See — a father's heartfelt joy!

Thankful for his son's returning, he runs out to greet his boy.

To the angry older brother, hear the father's patient call.

So God says to love each other, for in Christ, God loves us all.

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 For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
 For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
 God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

**We thank you, God, for your wonderful creation that continues to unfold all
around us. Receive our offerings as symbols of our commitment to live
inspired by your Spirit. Stretch us and our gifts to do more than we would
have thought possible, to build your kingdom in this time and place. Amen.**

*HYMN

“My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff”

418

My faith, it is an oaken staff, the traveler’s well-loved aid;**My faith, it is a song of trust, sustains me undismayed.****I’ll travel on and still be stirred by silent thought or social word;****By all my perils undeterred, a pilgrim unafraid.****My guide is Jesus Christ whose steps, when travelers have trod,****Whether beneath was flinty rock or yielding grassy sod;****They carried on, their joy unspent; through pain and trial they onward went,****Unstayed by pleasure, still they bent their zealous course to God.****My faith, it is an oaken staff, O let me on it lean.****My faith provides the ground of hope, supports a purpose keen.****Your Spirit, God, upon me send, that I may be what you intend.****With patient courage, we’ll contend as radiant saints serene.**

*BENEDICTION (responsively)

The God of Love turns us from ourselves to a world in need.

We go out to offer God’s compassion and patience to those who usually exasperate us.

Jesus calls us to serve in difficult places, challenging the false values of our world.

We go out in the confidence that God cares for us and will strengthen us with overflowing mercy and grace. Amen.

*POSTLUDE

 **Thank You for Worshipping Here Today** *Music used in this service with permission under One License #A-716613. All rights reserved.*

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 honor of the choir’s return, in appreciation for sharing their time and talents to enhance our worship. Thank you!

“These Days” devotional booklets and the Newsletter are available in the atrium and the church office. The deadline to submit articles for possible newsletter inclusion is the 21st.

Please pray . . . With A.V., Mike J., Syd F., Christine Sanfilippo, Katie Buckles, Emily, Jason, Delores Borcharding, Cheryl, Samantha Cerutti-Wacker, Patrick & Christina Flanagan, Pete, Bryce Meyer, Ken, Grace, Amber E., Jon Sanfilippo, Bill & Laurie Pinnell, Shirley Osthoff, Carol Frick, Sara & Bill A. D., Desmond Family, Matt Ashley, for Hank Anderson and family on the loss of his sister, Mary Elizabeth Droste, and for the family and friends of Greg Berry. Greg was the son of Martha Berry and brother-in-law of Diane & Jim Gephardt. Also, please pray for those who are on the Back Bay Mission Trip this week. Prayers are also requested for the family and friends of Elmer Fleer who passed away Sept. 8. Services will be held for him Tues., Sept. 16.

Another highlight marking **St. Peter's UCC Cemetery** celebrating 150 years in 2025. A Bit of History- October 8, 1911 The cemetery committee reported that the shed has been built, the house repaired, and the cistern made on the cemetery. They also reported that a new gate was needed and they were instructed to have the necessary work done.

Cemetery Clean-up: Please remove decorations from graves in the cemetery before Mon., Sept. 15. Items not discarded by you will be removed by cemetery staff. Thank you

Do you have a light bulb that needs changing, or a battery that needs replacing? Maybe you need a ride to an appointment or help with groceries. Call any member of the **Home Helpers** team: Denise Towell, Pat Swinger, Donna Houchins, or Trudy Ronsick and they'll do their best to get you the help you need.

Save the Date:

Christmas Rummage Sale Sat., Sept. 27, 8-Noon. This year the sale will include ALL holiday items--Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving, St. Patrick's Day, patriotic, etc. and Christmas!! Please consider donating any decorations, lights, wreaths, ornaments, wrapping paper, etc. (No clothing please) We will collect items from Thurs., Sept. 18 to Thurs., Sept. 25. The Rummage Sale is in need of newspaper, bubble wrap, plastic/paper bags, and boxes to help people safely carry home their "treasures". Please deposit on the designated table in the auditorium. Thank you.

St. Paul's UCC Marthasville Annual Chicken Dinner Sept. 21, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Immanuels UCC Holstein, Annual Chicken Dinner Oct. 5, Noon-6, Country Store, Quilt Raffle and their famous Holstein Apple Butter

The **Eastern Association** of the Missouri Mid-South Conference will hold its **Fall Meeting** at our church on Sun., Oct. 5, 2025, 3:00-5:00

Trivia Night is scheduled for Sat., Oct. 18, 2025. To reserve a table, pre-register in person in the church office. Deadline is Noon, Oct. 13. For more information contact Susan Harms 636-359-1452 or s.harms@charter.net

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

Sunday, September 14, 2025

10:00 a.m. – Worship

10:15 a.m. – Sunday School

Monday, September 15, 2025

12:00 p.m. – Quilting

6:30 p.m. – AA

7:00 p.m. – Civic Chorus Rehearsal

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

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

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

9:00 a.m. – Quilting

6:30 p.m. – Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:15 p.m. – Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 18, 2025

9:00 a.m. – Eastern Association COM

6:30 p.m. – AA

Friday, September 19, 2025

9:00 a.m. – Women's Breakfast

Saturday, September 20, 2025

5:00 p.m. – Worship

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

Sunday, September 21, 2025

10:00 a.m. – Worship

10:15 a.m. – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - Confirmation

Worship Attendance – September 6 & 7, 2025

Saturday In-Person: 24 Sunday In-Person: 84 YouTube Views: 30

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

“This Is Our Story” “What we sing with our lips, we believe in our hearts. What we believe in our hearts, we will show through our lives. What we show through our lives, we will give God the glory, for this is our story and this is our song. What we sing with our lips, we believe in our hearts. What we believe in our hearts, we will show through our lives. What we show through our lives, we will give God the glory for this is our story and this is our song. This is our story, this is our song. We’re praising our Savior all the day long. This is our story, this is our song. We’re praising our Savior all the day long. Blessed assurance, Jesus is Mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, lost in His love, His wonderful love. This is our story, this is our song. We’re praising our Savior all the day long. This is our story, this is our song. We’re praising our Savior all the day long. What we sing with our lips, we believe in our hearts. What we show in our lives, we give you the glory. You are our story. You are our song, our story and song.”