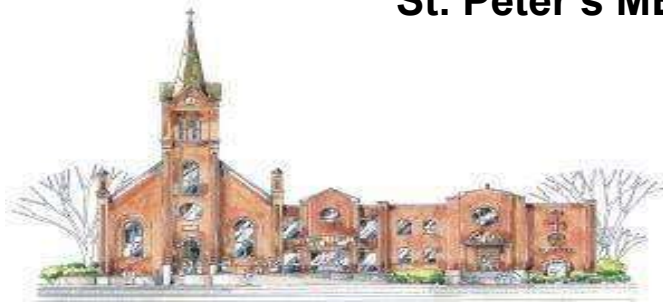


St. Peter's MESSENGER



St. Peter's United Church of Christ
20 East 5th Street P.O. Box 510
Washington MO 63090
636-239-6176

Website www.stpeters-washington.org

October 2025

Call to the Congregational Meeting
The Fall Congregational Meeting will be held following worship **Sun., Oct 19.**
Please plan to attend

October greetings!

I'm back in the office after last week's trip to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. Our group of ten participated in a variety of activities from rebuilding an accessibility ramp to serving in the Micah Day Center. The Micah Day Center provides a variety of services to Back Bay's low-income and unsheltered neighbors. Those services include taking showers, laundry service, distributing clothing, haircuts, and they provide a lunch every day during the work week. Back Bay's website states that "everyone who comes to us is, first and foremost, the precious child of a loving God." St. Peter's UCC has already scheduled our mission trip to Back Bay the week of October 11, 2026.

We also began Confirmation classes at St. Peter's UCC with five youth of our church. Confirmation instruction remains one of my favorite tasks of ministry. Please keep Piper Bryant, Matt Freese, Grant Francis, Morgan Scheer, and Lyla Schneider in your prayers as they learn about our faith and our church.

As October begins, we enter one of the busiest times of the year. Advent and Christmas will be here before we know it. In the meantime, enjoy the many fall happenings at St. Peter's UCC.

Autumn Blessings!

Pastor Kurt

The **Cemetery Board will be hosting a cemetery workday on Sat., Oct. 4 at 9 a.m.** Volunteers are needed. We will be spraying and cleaning stones, leveling grave stones, trimming bushes, and other chores to help beautify the cemetery.

Neighbors in Need

The annual **Neighbors in Need** offering of the United Church of Christ will be collected the weekend of Oct. 4 & 5. Gifts to NIN support the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). The other two-thirds of the offering support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, direct service projects, and grants. Neighbors in Need grants are annually awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities.

Thank you for your generosity in supporting the Neighbors in Need Annual campaign! You may contribute through your weekly offering envelope. please designate "NIN" on your envelope.

Blessed are those who mourn... for they shall be comforted.

For family and friends of Helen Desmond, Elmer Fleer, May Elizabeth Droste, Greg Berry, Jim Perry and LaVerta E. Schulte

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!!!

The Back Bay Mission Group would like to express our sincere gratitude to the St. Peter's congregation for your support. We collected 233 pairs of underwear and \$471 which was given to the clothing closet at BBM's Micah Day Center. Ms. Raysha and Ms. Joyce were thrilled! Plus we helped sort the undies into bins according to sizes!

Also, thank you to the Women's Fellowship for their donation of \$500, to Judy Verdine and Carol Muench for their donations, and to the Council for their financial allocation. These gifts helped defray our individual expenses and were so much appreciated. We will be reporting about this year's trip to the congregation very soon, and hope to have more St. Peter's' members join us in 2026!



Do join our next Back Bay Mission trip next coming October 11-17, 2026!

Food Pantry News

Thank you to ALL the volunteers who help the food pantry continue its vital ministry in our community. In August, 138 individuals representing 52 families were served. We also thank the following for their generous donations – August Food Pantry Donors: Joline Logan, Brynn Kerr, Wendell & Mary Lou Tyree, Brenda Bruns, Carl Clover & Rhonda Stockglausner, Downtown Washington from Food Stock

WERF

The calls for the Washington Emergency Relief just keep rising. In August, we received 261 calls for assistance and gave out 24 grants totaling up to \$5,567.39. Of those, eleven were for electric, one for water, ten for rent and two for fuel. Seventy-one people received the assistance.

We are happy to have a group of wonderful donors help our agency with some extra funds. Thank you Marilyn Sherman, Ron & Brenda Brinker and Royce & Mary Lovern. We truly appreciate the help. –Teresa Gildehaus, WERF Admin.

Harvest Table August Meal Recap –

Thank you to the wonderful folks from **St. Peter's** and **First United Methodist Church** who partnered to serve the meal on **Sat., Aug. 30**. Your teamwork and generosity made a real difference!

Meals Served in August:

- **August 2:** 173 meals
- **August 10:** 110 meals
- **August 16:** 146 meals
- **August 23:** 150 meals
- **August 30:** 169 meals

That's a total of **748 meals** served in August, each a reflection of love, care, and community support.

In addition to warm meals, guests had access to:

- A take-home food table to help stock their pantries
- A chance to visit with a nurse for basic health support and guidance

This ministry continues to be a vital source of nourishment, care, and connection.

Thank you to all the volunteers and supporters who make this possible!



Fall Game Day Invitation



The Evangelism Committee warmly invites you to our first Game Day of the fall season!



Date: **Thursday, October 2**



Time: 12:00 PM (Noon)



Location: Auditorium

Bring your favorite games and a sack lunch—let's enjoy fellowship, fun, and a little friendly competition. We can't wait to see you there!



Food Stock 2025 Results

Foodstock XIV was one incredible night! Thanks to the generosity of our community, we raised over **\$40,000 in monetary donations** and collected more than **3,000 pounds of non-perishables**. All of these donations are divided among four local food pantries: Loving Hearts Outreach, St. Francis Borgia Food Pantry, **St. Peter's Food Pantry**, and Feeding the Hungry of First Washington United Methodist.

 **Aluminum Can Drive – Oct. 4 & 5** It's time to gather up those cans you've been saving! Please bring them to church and place them in the truck provided by **Tom Howard**, which will be parked in the **church parking lot**. All proceeds from the drive will go directly toward **mission projects**, helping us make a meaningful impact in our community and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support!



Trivia lovers, mark your calendars!

 **Trivia Night – Saturday, October 18, 2025**  Join us for a fun-filled evening of friendly competition, great prizes, and community spirit!

 Event Details

-  Date: Saturday, October 18, 2025
-  Time: Doors open at 6:30 p.m., trivia begins at 7 p.m.
-  Location: St. Peter's UCC - enter parking lot door.
-  Cost: \$200 per table (seats 8)
 - Includes 3 free mulligans per table
 - Free beverages provided (no outside drinks allowed)

 Dessert Auction

Kick off the night with our auction of 10 delicious desserts/snack items!

 Raffle & Prizes

- 10X and Lottery ticket raffles open to all church members — attendance not required to win!
- Raffle tickets will be sold before and after church services on the first two weekends of October (Saturday & Sunday)
- Drawing held during Trivia Night
- Bring cash or checks
- Pro tip: Return address labels make filling out raffle tickets a breeze!

 **We Need Your Help!** We're still accepting \$25 gift card donations to boost our prize pool. Every contribution makes a difference!

 **Puzzle Ministry Needs Your Help!** We are currently in need of **300 and 500 piece puzzles** to support our ongoing puzzle ministry. If you have any puzzles to contribute, please bring them to the **puzzle area near the quilting room**.



Say Cheese, Church Family!

It's time to smile for the camera—our **Pictorial Church Directory** is coming together, and we want *you* in it!

Reserve Your Portrait Session

- Sign-ups begin **Sat., Sept. 27** and run through **Oct. 19**
- Reserve **online** or **in person** before/after Saturday and Sunday services.

Photography Dates

- **Thurs., Nov. 6 & Fri., Nov. 7:** 2:00-8:30 p.m.
 - **Sat., Nov. 8:** 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
- Sessions last **45 minutes to an hour**

What You will Receive

- A **free 8x10 portrait**
- A **complimentary church directory**
- Option to include **extended family** at no extra charge
- **Christmas card ordering available**
- **Portraits and directories ready by Christmas!**

We're partnering with **Universal Church Directories**, and we're aiming for **100% participation**—let's make this directory a true reflection of our church family.

ONLINE SCHEDULING INSTRUCTIONS FOR FAMILY APPOINTMENT SETTING

- ✧ Go to the Universal Church Directories website (**www.ucdir.com**)
- ✧ Click on the box on the right side of the homepage entitled "photography appointment scheduling login"
- ✧ Enter your church code **mo413**
- ✧ Enter your church password **photos**
- ✧ Click on the Enter button
- ✧ Click on the desired **photography** date
- ✧ Click on the Reserve Time button beside the desired photography appointment time
- ✧ Enter the appropriate information in all required fields (indicated by the asterisk)
- ✧ Click on the Schedule Appointment button at the bottom of the screen to reserve the photography appointment time in your family's name
- ✧ If you have more than six family members being photographed, please reserve two appointments consecutively (such as 6:00 and 6:10)
- ✧ Print the next screen to use as a reminder of your family's photography appointment
- ✧ **Contact your church's online scheduling administrator to change or cancel your photography appointment. Susan Harms at 636-359-1452 or s.harms@charter.net**





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



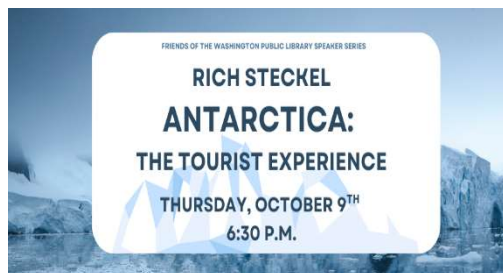
Washington Historical Society Flashback Film Fri., Oct. 3 "Thing from another World" at the One Plus movie theater, 10 a.m. Cost is \$15.

Washington Public Library Speaker Series

Thurs., Oct. 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Friends Speaker: Rich Steckel

"Antarctica: The Tourist Experience" Presentation sponsored by Friends of the Library.



Bethel Hills Dutzow is looking for folks to volunteer when groups come to tour or when there are programs at Bethel Hills. Volunteers would help folks find where they need to be and/or go, serve them snacks, help folks sign in at a welcoming table, etc.—none of it is hard work physically or mentally. If you are interested in helping or even just asking some questions, please contact Billie Kramme at Bethel Hills.

Financial Report

Receipts	August	YTD 2025
General Fund	\$ 44,847.77	\$ 298,508.48
Building Fund	\$ 3,748.11	\$ 63,810.09
Youth Fund	\$	\$
Memorial Fund	\$ 100.00	\$ 10,087.80
Sanctuary Music Fund	\$	\$ 813.00
Pass Thru In	\$ 17,120.75	\$
Total Receipts	\$ 65,816.63	\$ 373,219.37

Expenses	August	YTD 2025
General Fund	\$ (38,455.30)	\$ (285,398.07)
Building Fund	\$ (5,540.00)	\$ (49,236.30)
Youth Fund	\$	\$
Memorial Fund	\$ (304.94)	\$ (3,557.44)
Sanctuary Music Fund	\$	\$ (215.08)
Pass Thru Out	\$ (15,005.94)	\$
Total Expenses	\$ (38,098.24)	\$ (338,406.89)

Bank Balance Report 8/31/2025

Heritage Bank Balance	\$ 135,680.27
Less Building Fund	\$ 26,563.25
Less Youth Fund	\$ 7,914.84
Less Memorial Fund	\$ 73,347.72
Less Music Fund	\$ 4,718.76
Less Perpetual Member	\$
General Fund Balance	\$ 23,135.70

St. Peter's UCC Church
Council Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2025

Treasurer's Report:

August concluded with a balance in the general fund of \$23,125

Chuck moved to approve the treasurer's report, and Dottie seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report:

- A written report of activities for the month was presented by Pastor Kurt.
- The Eastern Association of the Missouri Mid-South will hold its fall meeting at our church on Sun., Oct. 5, 2025, 3:00-5:00
- Confirmation began on Sept. 21 with a parent meeting. The five confirmands will be blessed on Sept. 28.
- Pastor Kurt will be on vacation Nov. 15-16.
- Pastor Kurt requested time for continuing education from Oct. 27-30.
- Vacation request for Dec. 27-28.

Jon moved to approve Pastor Kurt's vacation requests. Rhonda seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Board and Committee Reports

Building & Grounds: (Chuck)

- Alley signs are being mounted.
- B & G received two quotes for the dining room bathroom updates totaling, combined, below \$50,000. The board is in the process of finalizing some decisions before presenting the information to Council.
- B & G got quotes for the remote door opener; final details will be settled before presenting to Council.

Cemetery Board: (Dottie)

- Helpers' cleanup is scheduled for Sat., Oct. 4 at the cemetery.

Board of Christian Education: (Jennifer)

- Confirmation classes commenced on Sept. 21.
- Bibles will be presented to the five confirmands on Sept. 28, accompanied by a Blessing.

Finance Board: (Diane)

- Trivia Night is scheduled for Oct. 18.

Worship Committee: (Susan)

- Molly Derner conducted usher training on Sun., Aug. 24. She provided information about procedures, drills, AED usage, and reviewed first aid kits.

Evangelism Committee: (Mary Jo)

- Game day is scheduled for Oct. 2 at 12:00. Participants may bring a sack lunch, which will be followed by game activities.

Mission Group: (Rhonda)

- Rhonda presented the receipts from the Back Bay Mission Trip. A total of \$2,700 was donated for the trip. Gas expenses amounted to \$292.04, food expenses were \$522.16, motel expenses totaled \$925.93, and Kurt's airline expenses were \$510.37. The total

expenses came to \$2,250.50. Of this amount, a \$200 deposit will be allocated for next year's reservation, resulting in a final total of \$2,450.50.

- Jennifer moved, and Mary Jo seconded, that the remaining balance of \$249 be sent to Back Bay Mission. The motion was approved.

Old Business

Constitution-Article VII, section 9-Revise wording for perpetual care funding:

- Listening sessions are being held regarding the transition of the Cemetery to a Not-for-Profit (NFP) corporation for St. Peter's United Church of Christ. The sessions occur each weekend, with the final session scheduled for Oct. 4 & 5. A fact sheet is provided at these meetings.
- The final resolution will be presented at a meeting on Oct. 11 & 12.
- There was a discussion regarding the distribution percentages should the church close. The proposal specified that 50% of remaining assets would be allocated to the Cemetery and 50% to a mission of the church's choosing. Jon Bauer moved to retain the proposed 50% split for the distribution of assets; Jennifer seconded the motion. The motion passed with nine votes in favor and one opposed.

Website Update:

- Donna Houchins' is working on moving music from the services to the website.

Internal Review:

- A positive 2024 Internal Review report was presented to the Council by the chairman, Patty Wood.
- Jon moved to accept the 2024 internal review report, and Cindy seconded the motion.
- The report is scheduled to be presented at the October congregational meeting.

Pictorial Church Directory:

- Photography sessions are scheduled for Nov. 6 & 7, 2-8:30 p.m. and Sat., Nov. 8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Each session takes about 45-60 minutes.
- Sign up online or before/after services; details for online registration will be provided.

Nomination Committee for 2026:

- All Board and Committee positions are currently filled, with the exception of Building & Grounds, which has one vacancy remaining.

Contents & Assembly of Congregational meeting packets:

- Packets need to be in the mail the week of Sept. 29
- Packet includes: Agenda, Spring meeting minutes and treasurer's report, budget proposal, audit initiative, internal review report, cemetery initiative, and board nominations. We will also provide the redline version of the constitution pertaining to cemetery, as well as a copy of the PowerPoint presentation and all resolutions.

Sanctuary Temperature for organ and piano:

- A dehumidifier has been placed in the sanctuary behind the organ to help keep the instruments in tune.

Constitutional Amendment Regarding Regular External Audit — Article IX, Section 12:

- **Currently it reads,** *At a minimum of every 5 years, the council appoints an independent certified public accountant to conduct a review of the financial books of the church and all its organizations and accounts that operate under the church's federal tax identification number.*
- **The change would read:** At the council's discretion, an independent certified public accountant can be appointed to conduct a review of the financial books for the church and all its organizations and accounts that operate under the church's federal tax identification number.

Jon moved to approve and present the revised audit wording to the congregation, seconded by Chuck. The motion carried.

New Business

Christmas Service Schedule:

- Pastor Kurt shared there will be 3 services on Christmas Eve.
- The Children's Christmas program will be held in the auditorium. The date has not been decided.

2026 Budget Approval:

- Diane presented the 2026 budget proposal. After review, Chuck moved to approve it with a 1% employee raise and adjusted revenue to balance the budget.

Additional:

- Pastor Kurt noted that Rev. Schwab presented information about the sanctuary's history, stained glass windows, bells, and architecture. The presentation was recorded for sharing on the website and with children.

The next meeting will be held on Tues., Oct. 21.

Remembering with Purpose & Gratitude...

The congregation's Memorial Fund, Building Fund and various other funds receive gifts throughout the year from both members and nonmembers who are looking for a creative way to express their gratitude for the life of a friend or loved one, or for other times and occasions when they are moved to gratefully respond to a blessing of God.

In Memory of **Billie Ruth Miller**: Frankie Jo Hogan

In Memory of **Blake Georgie**: Rita & Andrew Lindner, Randy Pehle & June Vogt, Ruthie & Drew Pehle, Bob & Nita Gillig, Howard & Sandy Borcharding

In Memory of **Ray Eickmeyer**: Bonnie Scanlan

In Memory of **Linda Patterson**: Rhonda Stockglausner & Carl Clover, Roy & Brenda Morman, Ron & Donna Mueller, Cecil & Doris Blankenship, Gene & Kay Hunt, SPUCC Retired Men's Breakfast Group, Jon & Barb Bauer, Judy Verdine, Rusty & Angela Smith & Rhonda Wood, Joe & Barb Hagan, John & Sue McAfee, Mike & Kathie Stuckenschneider

In Memory of **Fred Kruse**: Chuck & Linda Johns, Dottie & Robert Brinker, Carl Clover & Rhonda Stockglausner, Armin & Norma Klemme, Ruth Rinne, Gordon & Elaine Epps

In Memory of **Daniel Wisdom**: Rhonda Stockglausner & Carl Clover

In Memory of **Sibyl Kerr**: Brynn Kerr

In Memory of **Mary Elizabeth Droste**: Chuck & Linda Johns

In Memory of **Helen Desmond**: Christine Hogan, Judith Canupp, Kevin Elbert, Debra & Roger Jaeger, Jim Helfrich, Garry & Jane Haberberger, Brian Boehmer, Marvin & Barb Kassebaum, Fred & Sally Haddox, Pat O'Donnell, Tom & Debbie Alferman, Dave & Sarah Homeyer, Lucinda & Stephen Carter, Joe & Karen Maniaci, Buhrs Club, Thomas & Jody Wehmer, Mark & Lana Elzey, John & Crystal Toben, Douglas & Lynnett Voss, Kevin & Janice Feldmann, Roch & Lisa Piontek, John & Laurie Marquart, Bill & Kathy Miller, Sharon & David Leach, Geri & Shawn Krajcir, Christine & Edward Holtmeyer, Richard & Sharon LaPlante, Mary Ann Kandlbinder, Richard & Dawn Deppe, Robert & Tammy LaPlant, Herbert & Elise Homeyer

In Memory of **Elmer Fleer**: Gene & Kay Hunt, Pat & Steve Forget, Sid & Needra Troyer, Maureen & Larry King, Carolyn Slack, Richard & Mary Elbert, Bill & Kathy Miller, Gary & Terry Wesselschmidt, Richard & Sharon LaPlante, Willard & Judith Halmich, Georganna & John Carter, Roland & Connie Lutz, Steve Wilmesherr, Judy Schneider, Leroy & Gloria Eggert, John & Janet Wertzberger, Gary & Deborah Schulte, Kenneth Siefert Jr., Rhonda Stockglausner & Carl Clover, Larry & Helen Ballmann, Randy & Christy Feldmann, Harold & Judy Eckelkamp, Eric Laboube, Dale Homeyer, Paul & Debbie Schroeder, Don & Jackie Willenbrink, Wayne & Barbara Struckhoff, Peggy & Jon Meyer, Bill & Mary Baucom, Charles & Jeanne Schroer, Susan Ley, Marcella, Tyler & Meagan, Tom & Carol Piontek, Bill & Lisa Ley, Thomas & Marilyn Brinker, Joan & Tom Howard, Barb Schroeffer, Kurt & Myrna Mueser, Joann & Rick Lampe-Wilmesher, Gary & Joyce Mutert, Carol Muench, SPUCC Retired Men's Breakfast Group, Keith & Charlotte Bobo, Patty Wood, Alex & Carol Graham, Judy Verdine, Dottie & Robert Brinker, Jim & Judy Scannell, Jim & Diane Gephardt, Frankie Jo Hogan

*This article appeared in the EMMAUS MESSENGER. Reprinted here with approval of the family.
Jim & Joan Heisel were active members of St. Peter's.*

THE HEISEL FAMILY LEGACY: A Tradition of Love and Service

The Heisel family's connection to Emmaus is a story rooted in love, faith, and generations of quiet generosity. It began with Esther Roedder, who lived and worked on the Marthasville campus in the 1960's and 1970's. Her sister, Alice, supported both her and Emmaus by creating Ivory soap dolls for the Bazaar and handcrafting a quilt each year for the quilt auction. These small acts of care helped raise funds and planted the first seeds of a family legacy. Alice's daughter, Joan Heisel, carried that tradition forward. A nurse by profession and a caregiver by nature, Joan served on the Emmaus Board of Directors and volunteered her time and skills to support the mission. She and her husband, Jim, were faithful members of Pilgrim UCC in Labadie, MO for many years before moving to St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Washington, MO, where they lived out their values through a lifelong commitment to Emmaus. Their daughters, Amy, Nancy, and Peggy, grew up visiting their great-aunt Esther on campus, building relationships with the people we serve and becoming part of the Emmaus

family. Joan was known for her gentle spirit; Jim, for his warmth and easy smile. Together, they lived a life of kindness and faith. When Joan passed in 2010 and Jim in 2024, they left behind a generous estate gift to Emmaus. In their honor,



we have named a training room in our Learning Lab after them, a space where our nurse trainer equips staff with the skills needed to provide exceptional support. It is a fitting tribute to a nurse, a family, and a legacy built on compassion. The Heisel family reminds us that when you share Emmaus with your loved ones, the impact grows—across generations.



October Birthdays

Byron Stolte	10/01
Linda Strode	10/04
Nancy Wood	10/05
Dane Buschling	10/06
Bill Miller	10/06
David Broeder	10/07
Rich Gamble	10/07
Seth Roewe	10/08
Debra Strauser	10/08
Matthew Freese	10/10
Karen Geisert	10/11
Alexis Thompson	10/11
Erin Freese	10/12
Wendy Zick	10/12
Bill Pinnell	10/13
Jessie Huxol	10/14
Jennifer Kroeter	10/14
Lynette Voss	10/14
Pamela Mutert	10/16
Marilyn Sherman	10/17
Kathy Blackburn	10/18
Brian Friedel	10/18
Lacy Monzyk	10/19
Susannah Cerutti	10/20
Vincent Spurgeon	10/23
Dorothy Brinker	10/24
Barbara Schwentker	10/25
Brunhilde Wahl	10/26
Rebecca Roehrs	10/27
Betty Allemann	10/28
Linda Rohlfing	10/28
Madeline Grimes	10/29

Erin Monzyk	10/29
Weslee Schneider	10/29
D. John Geisert	10/31
Cookie Matau	10/31

