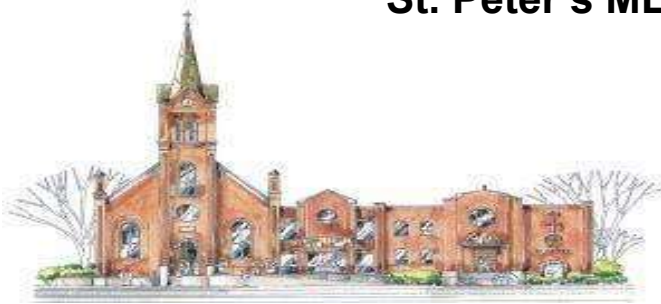


St. Peter's MESSENGER



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

March 2025

Friends,

If you were in church on the weekend of February 15 and 16, you may remember that our sermon was based on Jeremiah 17:5-10. That text spoke a word of caution about our hearts, which can be a source of human goodness as well as a source of sin and self-deception. Knowing that our emotions, thoughts, and will can be self-serving and devious, I suggested that there are checks and balances to safeguard our moral center and spiritual core. I also said that these checks and balances sounded a lot like a Lenten sermon. What are they?

Self-examination: The need for periodic introspection is like a regular wellness check. It is good advice concerning our physical body as well as our spiritual one. The great transcendentalist thinker, Ralph Waldo Emerson, said it this way. "What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

Spiritual disciplines: It is helpful to establish spiritual disciplines to strengthen our inner life. These exercises might include, daily Bible reading, prayer, Bible study, meditation, and devotional reading. If we immerse ourselves in prayer and the study of scripture, we will find it easier to identify those moments when our heart is not being honest with us.

Accountability: We are to surround ourselves with a community of believers who can offer support, encouragement, and accountability. Our church is one such place where we can share our struggles and seek guidance from those who also are on the journey of faith.

Contentment: We should learn to find contentment not only in our lives of faith, but with the material things we have. Many of us will always have much more than we need. Why then do we deceptively believe that attaining one more thing is all we need to be truly satisfied? Paul the apostle puts it this way: "Not that I am referring to being in need, for I have learned to be content with whatever I have."

The holy season of Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, March 5**. Please join us at our 7 p.m. service of worship where we will mark our mortality and shortcomings through the imposition of ashes. We will also share in the sacrament of Holy Communion which gives us sustenance as we embark on our Lenten journey.

Lenten Blessings, Pastor Kurt

Blessed are those who mourn.... for they shall be comforted. Please pray for:
The family and friends of Ray Eickmeyer who passed away Feb. 14.

Call to Congregational Meeting

On Sun., March 23, 2025, the Spring Congregational meeting will take place following worship. Please note there will not be a Saturday evening meeting.

Cemetery Board

The Cemetery Board is seeking volunteers to assist with mowing and trimming at the cemetery for the 2025 mowing season. We typically mow weekly using zero turn mowers. The time required for mowing is typically 2.5 to 3 hours per cutting. We trim every other week with gas powered string trimmers which are provided. The time for trimming is approximately three hours. The more people the less time it will take. Even if you cannot work the whole time any assistance would be appreciated. Our mowing season typically starts late March or early April and ends usually at the end of October. If interested call or text Gary Edler at (636) 667-0918.

Just a reminder that there will be a cemetery cleanup and removal of Fall and Christmas flowers starting March 1 through March 15. If you would wait until March 16 to place Easter and spring flowers it would be appreciated so they are not accidentally removed. Thank you, St. Peter's Cemetery Board

Save the Date

St. Peter's Cemetery 150th Anniversary Party



Sunday, May 18, 11 a.m-2 p.m. (rain date June 1) Come enjoy the picnic at the Cemetery. Food catered by the American Legion, fun and games for all ages, Bounce House, and special guest, Katie Dieckhaus from the Washington Historical Society, will present fun facts and interesting history about our "residents." All are invited!!

New Paraments

The new white paraments will be displayed and dedicated on the weekend of March 1 & 2. Thanks to the efforts of the worship committee, especially Angela Smith, who has pursued this project.



**Daylight Savings
Time Begins March 9**

**Remember to set your
clocks forward one hour.**

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship will meet on Thurs., March 13 at 10 a.m. in the atrium meeting room. Our program will be about the Rhine River Cruise taken by Pat Swinger and Rhonda Stockglausner. We will have a salad lunch. Everyone, please bring your favorite salad to share! All women of the church are welcome.



St. Peter's received a thank you note from the Washington Senior Center for jigsaw puzzles that were donated. Needra Troyer took puzzles to the senior center and nursing homes around the area. Thank you, Needra!! The puzzle ministry is reaching many people.



St. Peter's donated \$1,080 to the Franklin County Foster Closet. Proceeds were from the Christmas Giving Tree. Thank you for your generosity.



Deaconess Nurse Ministry thanked St. Peter's UCC for the \$300 donation given in 2024. This is the nurse ministry that provides the nurse at Harvest Table.

Food Pantry News

Thank you to ALL the volunteers who help the food pantry continue its vital ministry in our community. In January, 111 individuals representing 52 families were served. We also thank the following for their generous donations – January Food Pantry Donors: Joline Logan, Brenda Bruns, Alison & Andrew Fondaw, Alvie & Donna Buchholz & Family

WERF

The Washington Emergency Relief would like to thank Ron & Brenda Brinker for their continued support of our agency. We have had some very busy months lately, so the donation we received was already put toward a client's bill. Thank you again.

WERF received 236 calls and assisted 78 people in the Franklin County area. We gave out a total of thirty-three grants totaling \$8,066. Fourteen of the grants were for electric, two for water, sixteen for rent, and one for fuel.

Harvest Table served 571 meals in January

January 4	122
January 11	151
January 18	118
January 25	180

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.

Pastoral Relations Committee

The Pastoral Relations Committee is a standing committee of St. Peter's UCC. The purpose of the committee is to support a healthy relationship between the pastor and the congregation and to enhance the effectiveness of the church's ministry.

The committee serves in two primary ways:

- As an advisory group to the pastor: sharing ideas, dreams, expectations, and concerns of the congregation with the pastor.
- As a support group for the pastor's leadership: interpreting roles, functions, boundaries, opportunities and needs of the pastor to the congregation.

If you feel the need to voice a joy or concern on any topic, please contact any member of the Pastoral Relations Committee. The current members of the committee are: Ben Alspach, Charles Sincox, Casey Zastrow, ZoAnn Trentmann, Chuck Johns, Rhonda Stockglausner and Molly Derner.

Femme Osage UCC Sausage Dinner

Sunday, March 9, 11:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Dine-In and Carry Out

Immanuel's UCC Holstein Fish Fry

Friday, March 21, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Dine-In and Carry Out

St. Peter's UCC Church
Council Meeting Highlights
Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Treasurer's Report:

January ended in the red. Diane reported it was due to a \$6,000 Insurance bill being paid in January and low income for the month, (One Sunday cancelled, and one Sunday low attendance due to weather.)

Finance Board:

- Cornerstone loan in the amount of \$38,664.98 was paid off. Yea!!
- Purchased a 7-month CD at Heritage Bank, at 4.5% (balance of Heisel bequest funds)
- Recommend we return to the Offering procedure of ushers going forward to receive plates at both Saturday and Sunday services. We will begin this ASAP.
- The Finance Board is planning a campaign to raise awareness of the cost of utilities.
- The Campaign is titled Warm-up St. Peter's. The goal is to raise \$10,000 before the campaign is called Cool-down St. Peter's. The campaign is scheduled to begin on Sunday, March 9.

Pastor's report:

- Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season begins Wednesday, March 5.
- Pastor Kurt will be conducting an Ash Wednesday gathering event at Homestead.
- Grape Cluster Trivia night is scheduled for Friday, March 7 at St. Peter's auditorium.

Building and Grounds:

- Steve Wilmesherr is following up on the electronic key cards.
- Chuck Patterson will bring to the Board discussion on updating the Dining Room bathrooms, a possible roof leak in atrium and security updates. Adding monitors and the ability to unlock the backdoors from Carol and Kurt's offices—ongoing concerns about intruders.

Cemetery Board:

- The cemetery's 150th celebration, held at the Cemetery, is scheduled for May 18. (June 1 is the rain date.) Event details are being finalized.

Board of Christian Education:

- Mardi Gras is scheduled for March 2
- Susan contacted middle/high school students to update and run the games.
- Raffle tickets are being sold before church Saturday and Sunday for Theme baskets.

Justice Witness:

- The goal for the year is to assist with issues concerning "Unhoused" individuals.
- *Peace Lutheran's warming project* is holding a trivia night on Fri., Feb. 21 to raise money for the sprinkler system for their church (as required by the city building code").

Missions Committee:

- Lunch and learn was held on Feb. 16 to share information on the Back Bay Mission Trip scheduled for this fall. Ten people have indicated their interest in attending.
- March Mission: One Great Hour of Sharing

Evangelism Committee (Mary Jo)

- Game days will be held on the 3rd Thursday of each month
- Discussion on visiting or scheduling events at Homestead once a month

Worship Committee: (Susan)

- New white paraments will be dedicated March 1 & 2.
- Ushers have been updated with the Sunday closing instructions.
- Confirmation is scheduled for June 8, Pentecost Sunday.

2025 Spring Congregational meetings:

- Spring meeting: March 23rd (4th Sun.) It was suggested we hold one congregational meeting on Sunday morning. Ben will attend and discuss this suggestion at the service on Saturday night.

Financial Report

Receipts	January	YTD 2025
General Fund	\$ 26,211.28	\$ 26,211.28
Building Fund	\$ 40,926.48	\$ 40,926.48
Youth Fund	\$	\$
Memorial Fund	\$ 80.00	\$ 80.00
Sanctuary Music Fund	\$	\$
Pass Thru In	\$ 2,605.00	\$
Total Receipts	\$ 69,822.76	\$ 69,822.76

Expenses	January	YTD 2025
General Fund	\$ (41,528.51)	\$ (41,528.51)
Building Fund	\$ (40,213.35)	\$ (40,213.35)
Youth Fund	\$	\$
Memorial Fund	\$ (2,520.00)	\$ (2,520.00)
Sanctuary Music Fund	\$ -	\$
Pass Thru Out	\$ (2,605.00)	\$
Total Expenses	\$ (86,866.86)	\$ (86,866.86)

Bank Balance Report 1/31/2025

Heritage Bank Balance	\$ 81,708.88
Less Building Fund	\$ 12,702.59
Less Youth Fund	\$ 7,914.84
Less Memorial Fund	\$ 64,377.36
Less Music Fund	\$ 4,120.84
Less Perpetual Member	\$
General Fund Balance	\$ (7,406.75)

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March Birthdays

Richard Speckhals	03/01	Eric Moeller	03/16
Christina Sehrt	03/03	Morgan Scheer	03/17
Steven Sentivany	03/03	Travis Norvell	03/18
Emily Bounds	03/04	Jo Ann Smith	03/18
Brooke Owens	03/04	Annelise Obermark	03/19
Diane Overschmidt	03/05	Suzon Pogue	03/19
Mary Tyree	03/05	Judith Verdine	03/19
Elizabeth Fleer	03/09	Mary Blaufuss	03/20
Amaya Beck	03/10	Brooks Buschman	03/20
Rosalie Benne	03/10	Jordan Krafft	03/20
Matthew Buddemeyer	03/10	Mark Wood	03/20
Caroline Heimos	03/10	Casey Zastrow	03/20
Angela Kast	03/10	Phillip Butler	03/23
Rusty Smith	03/10	Kodi Gildehaus	03/23
Paisley Travers	03/10	Calvin Obermark	03/23
Mary Mense	03/11	Barbara Wiley	03/23
Vince Sanfilippo	03/11	Jean Kleekamp	03/24
Kim Schroeder	03/11	Randi Bub	03/25
Carla Georgie	03/12	Jill Lesko	03/26
Paulina Broeder	03/13	Thomas Sherman	03/26
Ruth Pehle	03/13	Annette Bebermeyer	03/27
Taylor Scheer	03/13	Carol Buescher	03/27
Laurie Benz	03/14	Ron Miklos	03/27
Clayton Duchatschek	03/14	Barbara Armstrong	03/29
Jake Scheer	03/14	Tammie Buschling	03/29
Doris Sleeman	03/14	Alan Buschman	03/30
Nathan Francis	03/16	Eva Gildehaus	03/31
		Patricia Winfree	03/31