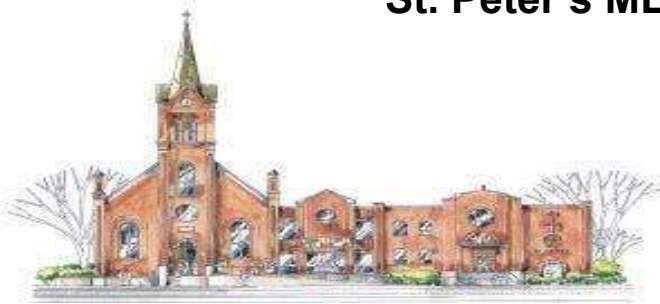


# St. Peter's MESSENGER



St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
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October 2024

**Call to Congregational Meeting: The Fall Congregational Meeting will be held following worship Sat., Oct.19 & Sun., Oct. 20. Please plan to attend and add your voice in being church together.**

## October Greetings

Fall activities are in full swing at St. Peter's UCC! First, however, I'd like to share with you the wonderful time five of us had as we traveled to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. Yes, we worked each day ministering to the unhoused and impoverished population of the Mississippi coast. We also worked on rehabbing a house with major floor issues. But we felt blessed to be doing this work and look forward to doing it again. If you were not in church on Saturday, September 21 and Sunday, September 22, I would invite you to read my sermon from that weekend. It shared some of my immediate reflections on that trip. If you need a link or a hard copy, please let me know.

Now on to October! We started a new Confirmation class at St. Peter's UCC! We began with an assignment on remembering our baptisms. In October we will study the meaning of worship and an introduction to the Bible. As we begin this journey, please keep our Confirmands in your prayers. They are Nathan Francis, Marilee Holt, Sam Freese, and Xander Wisdom. I'd also give a shout out to Patty Wood who is assisting me in teaching Confirmation this year.

On the weekend of October 13 and 14, we will be dedicating a new church plaque in honor of Rev. Harold Wilke, a former member of our congregation and an advocate for the rights of differently abled people. How appropriate that we should celebrate Rev. Wilke's legacy on a Sunday our United Church of Christ designates as Access Sunday and Disabilities Awareness Week.

Please also remember that we will be holding our October congregational meeting the weekend of October 19 and 20. Our items of business will be the election of new members to our council and boards, as well as approving our 2025 budget.

If October is a busy month for us, it won't let up in November and December! But that tells me that our congregation is alive and well.

Blessings,  
Pastor Kurt

## **Blessed are those who mourn... for they shall be comforted:**

Please pray for the family and friends of Ruth Schultz who died August 28.

## **Welcome New Members: Lisa, Judy and Joe**

Lisa Harman is married to Timothy Harman. They have two children: Ruthie 19, and Luke 14. Lisa works at Thierbach Orchard and has interests in art, photography and gardening.

Judy & Joe Thornsberry are both retired and enjoy walking and reading. Joe was an accountant with the Missouri Department of Revenue and Judy was a nurse for 44 years.

## **World Communion Sunday**

The first weekend in October we will celebrate World Communion. We would like to decorate the chancel with items from around the world and are inviting members to bring things in to be used for that purpose: fabrics, baskets, musical instruments, statues--just about anything. We ask that you bring your item(s) to the church, on or before Wed., Oct. 2 by 3 p.m. PLEASE BE SURE TO MARK YOUR ITEM(S) so we can return them to you. Thank you for your assistance with this project.

## **Game Day**

The Evangelism Committee will host its first Game Day on Thurs., Oct. 17. Join us at noon for a soup lunch followed by an afternoon of games and fun. Be sure to invite friends, family, or neighbors to come with you! We have a cornhole game at the ready but if you have a board game or two you'd like to donate, please contact Pat Swinger at 636 980-6728. We hope to see you there!

## **Neighbors In Need *Special Mission Offering***

*Neighbors in Need, (NIN)*, is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States.

As you may recall, one-third of the offering supports *Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM)*. Two-thirds supports *Justice and Witness Ministries* to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects.

In 2024 the NIN theme is "Mental Health Justice for All." We need a just world for all, where human rights and the well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who they are or where they are on life's mental health journey.

During the month of October, we will collect our offering for Neighbors in Need. The St. Peter's Mission Team thanks you for your support and generosity.

## **Bookmarks in Atrium**

Emmaus Home has sent bookmarks to share. On these bookmarks is a link to a message from Norma & Armin Klemme about their heartfelt commitment to Emmaus' Mission, highlighted with just how crucial the church's partnership is to the work of Emmaus, ensuring that each person served can lead a life of dignity and purpose. Please take one, look at the video and be reminded of your advocacy, your volunteering, and how your donation matters. It makes a difference. It transforms lives.

## **Cemetery Help needed**

Cemetery flower and decoration removal will occur from October 1-15. Only items that are damaged, weathered or out of season will be removed.

There will be a cemetery workday on Tues., Oct. 15 starting a 9 a.m. In case of inclement weather, we are scheduling the makeup day on Wed., Oct. 16 at the same time. Any help would be appreciated. We would like to clean stones, re-level stones, trim bushes around the cemetery, fill holes and depressions from settling and varmint activity. Materials and equipment will be provided. If you have any questions, you can contact Gary Edler at (636) 667-0918. Please help spread the word. Thank you.

## **Women's Fellowship**

There **will not** be a Women's Fellowship meeting in October. The next meeting will be held Thurs., Nov. 14 at 10 a.m.

Don't forget the women's breakfast on Fri., Oct. 18, 9 a.m. at Bob Evans. Please join us for good food and conversation!

## **Mission Report August 2024:**

### **Washington Emergency Relief Fund**

During the month of August, The Washington Emergency Relief Fund received 240 calls and gave out 23 grants to assist 67 people: six were grants for electricity, fourteen for rent, two for water, and one for a hotel room. A total of \$5,819.70 was given.

### **The Harvest Table** "August was a great month!"

The Harvest Table folk fed many (see numbers below), helped others with basic needs, provided nursing with Nurse Leesa, provided haircuts, and remained a 'constant' in the lives of those in need. Thank you, Harvest Table!

August 3	139	August 24	132
August 10	132	August 31	<u>105</u>
August 17	178	Total:	683

### **Salam Free Clinic**

The Free Clinic coordinated with The Harvest Table's Free Haircut Day and saw eleven patients. It was a busy, but blessed day. Thank you, Nurse Leesa, for helping coordinate and for caring for many! Hours for the Salam Clinic held at St. Peter's UCC:

2nd Saturday each month from 2:30-4:30 p.m.

### **Food Pantry News**

Thank you to ALL the volunteers who help the food pantry continue its vital ministry in our community. In August, 156 individuals representing 55 families were served. We also thank the August Food Pantry Donors: Joline Logan, Brenda Bruns, New Life Church, Carol Rolwes, Carl Clover & Rhonda Stockglausner, Wendell & Mary Lou Tyree, Hoffmann-Hillermann Nursery, and Anonymous donors.

Congratulations to Pat O'Donnell and Foodstock XIII. This event raised \$13,155 and 2,000 lbs of food which was distributed between St. Peter's Food Pantry, Loving Hearts, St. Francis Borgia Food Pantry, and the United Methodist Church Food Pantry.

## 🍁 Scarecrow Fest for Food 🍁

Is being held at Hoffmann-Hillermann Nursery & Florist now thru Oct. 31. Celebrate the Fall Season as you meander through the departments and gardens viewing creative scarecrow displays at Hoffmann-Hillermann Nursery & Florist! Unique Scarecrow Displays created by Hoffmann-Hillermann staff groups will be set up for viewing and voting on thru Oct. 31. Bring a donation of canned food items and set it by your favorite display. The canned food will benefit St. Peter's UCC, St. Francis Borgia and Loving Hearts Outreach food pantries. The display that receives the most canned items during this time is the winner. The team who creates the winning display will receive a Pizza Party and Bragging Rights. Visit us, join in the fun and donate to a good cause!

## Hoffmann-Hillermann's Raises Funds For Local Charities

As a way to raise funds to benefit charitable organizations, Hoffmann-Hillermann Nursery & Florist offered grilled hot dogs for lunch on Saturdays through spring in exchange for a charitable donation. The company provided hot dogs and supplies and Cecil Blankenship did the grilling. They divided the combined total of donations equally to benefit the four local organizations represented in the picture.



In the picture from left is Linda Farrar with Loving Hearts Outreach, Yvonne Haddox and Earl with Franklin County Humane Society, Fritzie Alfermann, with Pregnancy Assistance Center, **Cecil Blankenship with St. Peter's UCC Food Pantry** and Jacob Reeves with Hoffmann-Hillermann Nursery & Florist. The company is happy to have the opportunity to work with their customers and community to benefit local charities!

## Community Activities:

**Immanuel's UCC Holstein Annual Chicken Dinner** will be held Sun., Oct. 6 from Noon to 6 p.m. and will feature a Country Store, Quilt Raffle, and their famous Holstein Apple Butter.



**St. Peter's will be hosting the Gateway Ringers** on Sun., Oct. 27 at 4 p.m. This is a Bell Choir from St. Louis. We invite you to attend and bring a friend.

**Friends Foundation Fall Festival**, Nov. 3, KC Hall Washington (lower level) from 11:30 am.–2 p.m. or until gone. Homemade soup, roast beef sandwiches and hot dogs will be available for purchase. A live Quilt Auction begins at 2:30 p.m. The Silent Auction features gift baskets, gift certificates and more. An on-line auction runs from 10/24 thru 10/31. (Pickup items Nov. 3 at the Fall Festival.) Go to [friendsfoundation.net](http://friendsfoundation.net) for details. Gourmet booth and more entertainment.

# St. Peter's United Church of Christ Church Council Meeting Highlights 17 September 2024

## **Treasurer's Report:**

- The General fund is now down \$41,000 compared to budget. Last year at the end of August we were \$13,000 down. It is all on the income side; expenses were below budget.

## **Senior Pastor's Report:**

The Senior Pastor's Report was received in print.

- 3 new members will join this Sunday.
- The Back Bay Mission trip is in progress.
- The Worship calendar for the rest of the year was shared.
- The Wilke plaque will be dedicated Oct. 12-13
- The Fall Congregational Meeting is Oct. 19-20

## **Boards and Committees:**

### Building and Grounds:

- The Zone F AC unit was installed on September 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Security – Key cards were recommended over key fobs. We need an implementation plan for these. There was a suggestion to give cards to the council as a test. There is also the possibility of having a button placed in Carol's office to allow remotely unlocking the door.
- Will Electronics came out to gather info to bid on the security system upgrades.
- Gildehaus is coming out to bid on the system update for choir room heat.
- Dave Kampschroeder is going to bid on re-finishing the Sanctuary doors.

### Cemetery Board:

- We plan a picnic at the cemetery in conjunction with the historical society for next October.
- There will be a workday this October.
- The concrete pad for the Pogue sculpture is ready.

### Board of Christian Education:

- Sunday school has started – There were 2 children on the first day.
- Confirmation Class has 4-5.
- Young families are being contacted.
- Sunday School is during church.
- There was a suggestion to advertise Sunday School on the front sign.
- Help is needed in preparing and giving the Children's Message. We need a schedule and plan for this.

### Mission:

- Pastor Kurt and others are in Biloxi at the Back Bay Mission.

### Justice Witness:

- The ONA Statement is being shared.

### Advisory:

- Advisory requested approval on Step 2 letters for the membership survey. Members with email were already sent the survey. The next steps are

letters to those who do not have email, as well as follow-ups with those who have not responded.

- We want to go ahead and send the survey (in postcard if possible) to those who don't have email and haven't gotten it at all. The follow-up letters would be held, and calls made to non-responders first before sending additional letters. A motion to send the survey to those without email, and follow up with non-responders, was made and seconded.

#### Evangelism:

- A game night is in the planning stage.
- Trivia night went well and brought in around \$5,000.

#### Finance Board:

- The proposed budget was presented.
- PayPal has a fee. The negative value for that has been moved to expenses.
- Budget includes a 2% raise for staff.
- This does not include Cemetery or WERF as they set their own budgets.
- There is little additional wiggle room to modify the budget.
- This will go out in a packet for the Fall Congregational meeting.

#### Stewardship:

- Stewardship is part of the Finance Board.
- Stewardship tries to have Stewardship moments every 2nd Sunday.
- Stewardship Weekend is 9-10 November
- They will have cards with a prayer on one side, and a place to sign name(s) on the other side if you pledge to support the Church. This year, these will have no monetary amount on them.
- The cards will not be mailed; they will be passed out at church.
- There will be a dinner hosted by Finance on Nov. 10.

#### **Old Business:**

##### Constitution Review / Cemetery Perpetual Care Funding:

- Input has been received that depending on how the cemetery was originally chartered by the State, it may solve our questions. They are looking into how the cemetery was originally classified.

##### Website:

- The website update group continues to make progress.
- "Give" buttons were found to be non-functional throughout the site; this has been corrected.

##### YouTube Sound Issues:

- Sound has been improved on YouTube.

##### Plans for assistance for Pastor Kurt:

- Assistance / Supply pastors need to be planned in advance. Currently planning on once a month.
- We have a list of potential supply pastors which has been pre-screened.

**New Business:**

Plans for Care Team:

- They are meeting with Pastor Kurt to plan activities.

Letter Regarding Christian Education and Youth Programs

- A letter was received suggesting we consider hiring a non-minister for youth programs.
- There was an additional suggestion to form a committee for visiting thriving churches to see what they are doing with regards to youth programming.

Surplus Items:

- There are suggestions to sell 3 homemade tables with Formica tops, 1 round table, and 7 Chromebooks used during COVID.
- We are Ok with selling the tables but would like to keep the Chromebooks for Sunday School.

Note from Pastor Eric:

- We received a thank you note from Pastor Eric.

**Financial Report**

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>YTD 2024</b>
General Fund	\$ 31,370.16	\$ 307,112.70
Building Fund	\$ 3,023.81	\$ 27,475.41
Youth Fund	\$	\$ 351.00
Memorial Fund	\$ 11,165.00	\$ 15,347.75
Sanctuary Music Fund	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,113.00
Pass Thru In	\$ 1,576.31	\$
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 47,335.28</b>	<b>\$ 351,399.86</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>YTD 2024</b>
General Fund	\$ (41,266.68)	\$ (336,328.61)
Building Fund	\$ (1,774.66)	\$ (18,831.77)
Youth Fund	\$	\$ (938.79)
Memorial Fund	\$ (1,624.74)	\$ (3,571.38)
Sanctuary Music Fund	\$ -	\$ (418.71)
Pass Thru Out	\$ (1,576.31)	\$
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ (46,242.39)</b>	<b>\$ (360,089.26)</b>

**Bank Balance Report 8/31/2024**

Heritage Bank Balance	\$ 63,874.19
Less Building Fund	\$ 15,359.83
Less Youth Fund	\$ 8,123.57
Less Memorial Fund	\$ 77,422.36
Less Music Fund	\$ 3,996.33
Less Perpetual Member	\$
<b>General Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ ( 41,027.90)</b>



**October**

**Birthdays**

Byron Stolte	10/01	Madison Broughton	10/18
David Butler	10/04	Samuel Fredeking	10/18
Norella Keller	10/04	Brian Friedel	10/18
Linda Strode	10/04	Lilie Sample	10/18
Nancy Burke	10/05	Lacy Monzyk	10/19
Nancy Wood	10/05	Colby Smith	10/19
Dane Buschling	10/06	Susannah Cerutti	10/20
Bill Miller	10/06	Trisha Kuenzel	10/20
David Broeder	10/07	Jonathan Noud	10/21
Seth Roewe	10/08	Vincent Spurgeon	10/23
Debra Strauser	10/08	Dorothy Brinker	10/24
Ethan Stahl	10/10	Tori Mebruer	10/24
Karen Geisert	10/11	Jill Shoemaker	10/24
Alexis Thompson	10/11	Barbara Schwentker	10/25
Joyce Brinkmann	10/12	Brunhilde Wahl	10/26
Monica Jacquin	10/12	Rebecca Roehrs	10/27
Wendy Zick	10/12	Betty Allemann	10/28
Bill Pinnell	10/13	Jorie Moeller	10/28
Janette Shocklee	10/13	Linda Rohlfing	10/28
Jessie Huxol	10/14	Jaxson Triplett	10/28
Jennifer Kroeter	10/14	Laura Amlong	10/29
Ian Smith	10/14	Madeline Grimes	10/29
Lynette Voss	10/14	Morgan Hahn	10/29
Max Phinney	10/15	Erin Monzyk	10/29
Andrea Miller	10/16	Weslee Schneider	10/29
Pamela Mutert	10/16	D. John Geisert	10/31
Marilyn Sherman	10/17	Cookie Matau	10/31
Kathy Blackburn	10/18		