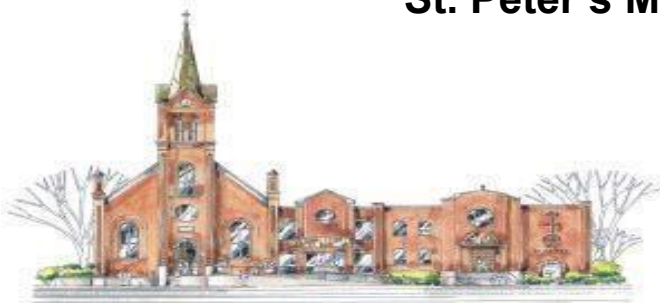


St. Peter's MESSENGER



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

September 2025

September Greetings!

By the time you read this, I hope the weather has cooled down. We've had quite the summer heat wave! But cooler weather is not the only exciting thing in September. Our fall program shortly will be in full swing. Our choirs will be practicing and enhancing our worship. And Sunday School will be meeting again. You can read more about Sunday School elsewhere in this newsletter.

I am pleased to share with you that we will have another Confirmation class this coming school year. Confirmation will begin on Sunday, September 21. We have five confirmands ... Piper Bryant, Grant Francis, Matthew Freeze, Morgan Scheer, and Lyla Schneider. Please keep these youth in your prayers.

Another exciting event this September is our congregation's second mission trip to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. Last year we sent five volunteers. That group accepted the challenge of doubling our numbers and this year we have ten participants! Our mission group is happy with the outpouring of monetary generosity by our congregation as well as other UCC churches in the area. During worship on September 6 and 7 we will be commissioning our group. Come and support them as they embark the following Saturday for Mississippi. And let's not forget a shout out for all who contributed underwear on Undie Sundays! We will be taking 219 pairs for Back Bay's clothing ministry.

It was twenty years ago that Hurricane Katrina made landfall along the Gulf Coast, upending and changing people's lives not only to this day but for years to come. It remains a powerful witness to the whole United Church of Christ who stood by and continues to be committed to recovery along the Gulf Coast, as well as many subsequent disaster areas in our nation and world. That we can be a part of that is a powerful testimony of Christ's caring church.

Blessings,

Pastor Kurt

It is here, the month of the Christmas Rummage Sale!

Sat., Sept. 27 is our semiannual Christmas rummage sale! "This year the Christmas Rummage sale will include **ALL** holidays including **Christmas, Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving, St. Patrick's Day, patriotic**, etc. Please consider donating any decorations, lights, wreaths, ornaments, wrapping paper, etc. (No clothing please) Items are being collected in the auditorium 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.



Music Rehearsals



Bells and Choir rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 3.

Chapel Bells begin rehearsal at 6:30

Choir rehearsal begins at 7:15.

We would LOVE to have you join us!!

Food Pantry News

Thank you to ALL the volunteers who help the food pantry continue its vital ministry in our community. In July, 140 individuals representing 55 families were served. We also thank the following for their generous donations – July Food Pantry Donors: Joline Logan, Brenda Bruns, Royce & Mary Lovern, Dave & Linda Sentivany, Wendell & Mary Lou Tyree, Gary & Beth Brehe, New Life Church.

WERF

"In the month of July, the Washington Emergency Relief Fund received 246 calls for assistance. We were able to give out 30 grants totaling up to \$7282.15, and helping 73 people. Twelve of the grants were for electric, and the other 18 were for rent. With the rising number of calls, we are even more grateful for the donations we receive. Thank you to Ron & Brenda Brinker, Royce & Mary Lavern, Marilyn Sherman, and Jim & Diane Gephardt."

Harvest Table served at least 683 meals in July. In addition to the meals, they provide a take home food table and a chance to visit with a nurse.

July 5 190 meals
July 12 190 meals

July 19 131 meals
July 26 172 meals



Attention All Youth!!

We have something new for you and you are invited to join in on the fun. Beginning in September, the first Sunday of each month will be Family Sunday; on the remaining Sundays, service-oriented projects and activities will be offered following the Children's Moment. We hope to see you all at church.

St. Peter's UCC Youth Sundays of Service

All youth are invited to participate in a range of service-oriented projects and activities following the "Children's Moment" on the second, third, and fourth Sundays each month.

Family Sunday: On the first Sunday of each month, children will stay in the sanctuary with their families for the entire service. They will have the opportunity to observe and participate in the church service. Activity packets for children are available at the back of the church if needed.

September/October – Our Church: Discover more about our church and ways for youth to get involved.

November/December - Christmas program practice. This year's program will include a Shadow Nativity with the song "Hallelujah."

January/February – Community Warm Up: Exploring opportunities to support individuals in need during the winter months.

January/February – Mardi Gras Mania: Youth will organize and facilitate games and activities in conjunction with the annual Mardi Gras Celebration.

March – Lent: Considering ways to enhance charitable giving and engagement during the Lenten season, focusing on contribution rather than sacrifice.

April and May – Spring Service Series: Youth will participate in, coordinate, and lead service initiatives selected by the group. Volunteers

Volunteers are needed. Sign-up sheets will be in the atrium. Background checks will be required. Contact Jennifer Kroeter, Barb Bauer or Susan Harms for information.



Aluminum can drive will be held Sept. 6&7. Please, bring those cans you been saving to church and put them in the truck provided by Tom Howard, sitting in the parking lot. Proceeds from the drive are used for mission projects. Thank you for your support!

Cemetery Clean-up

Please remove decorations from graves in the cemetery before Sept. 15. Items not discarded by you will be removed by cemetery staff. Thank you

Washington Civic Chorus Begins Rehearsals

The Washington Civic Chorus will start rehearsals on **Monday September 8th** for the annual Christmas Concert under the direction of Ken Tucker.

The chorus will practice in the upstairs auditorium of St. Peter's United Church of Christ. rehearsals will begin at 7 p.m. and last for approximately 1 ½ hours. The rehearsal will continue every **Monday** until the Christmas Concert. Come and join the voice for an exceptional good time. All voices are welcome. Help make this concert the best ever.

The concert will be on **Sunday, December 7 at 3 p.m.** For information call 636.239.6131 or 636.239.7394.



Y Literacy program is starting a new "Conversation Class" for persons in the group who would like to improve their speaking skills. The class will meet on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Senior High Youth room at St. Peter's Church. The moderator's name is Jan Long.

St. Peter's UCC Church Council Meeting Minutes, August 19, 2025

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve July meeting minutes was made by Jon and seconded by Dottie. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: July concluded with a balance in the general fund of \$14,628.42

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
- Pastor Kurt will be on vacation Nov. 15-16.

Board and Committee Reports

Building & Grounds: (Chuck)

- Brackets for the alley signs are being fabricated.
- Additional quotes are pending for the dining room bathroom updates. Solutions for managing the asbestos in the flooring are currently being evaluated.
- The fence is repaired on the Market Street parking lot wall and contact has been made with American Family regarding water runoff.
- The Ring Doorbell at the parking lot door is malfunctioning and will be addressed at the next meeting or earlier if possible.

Cemetery Board: (Dottie)

- The board unanimously approved the Cemetery Board Resolution.
- The Cemetery board's next meeting is scheduled to take place at the cemetery on Sept. 11 at 5:30 pm. This will be the annual picnic meeting
 - Fencing at one of the Baby grave corner areas is complete.
- Helpers' cleanup will be Oct. 4 at 8 a.m. at the cemetery.

Board of Christian Education: (Jennifer)

- Bibles will be distributed to 3rd graders on Sept. 7.
- Sunday School kick-off is Sept. 7. Planning to do more projects during Sunday School.

Finance Board: (Diane)

- Fifteen firms were approached for a church audit, but none accepted the church as a new client. The Constitution requires an audit of church books every five years. The Finance Board is considering standardized internal review procedures instead of an audit and is preparing internal review guidelines. Since no auditor can be found, there is a suggestion to amend the Constitution's language. Diane will bring this recommendation to the Finance Board, aiming to present it at the Oct. 19 meeting.
- Trivia Night is scheduled for Oct. 18, 2025.
- The 2026 budgeting process has begun and will be presented at the Sept. meeting.

Worship Committee: (Susan)

- Molly Derner will lead usher training on Sun., Aug. 24.

Evangelism Committee: (Mary Jo)

- Received 3 requests for assistance from Home Helpers
- Engaged in discussions with the Festival of Trees regarding the coordination of a story hour, as well as exploring opportunities to organize and host group tours of the festival for residents of local assisted living facilities.
- Considering reviving the Game Day for fall and winter months and welcome suggestions.

Mission Group: (Rhonda)

- Undies Sunday was a success; we collected 219 pairs of underwear and \$300.
- Rhonda presented information about the Back Bay Mission at some local churches in our area.

Donations of \$600 from St. John's Bem and \$500 from our own Women's Fellowship will be included in this year's funding.

Jon Bauer moved, and Cindy Holdmeyer seconded, to donate \$1,000 to the Back Bay Mission trip. The motion passed, with the suggestion to use funds from Pulpit Supply.

Old Business

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

A meeting was held on transitioning the Cemetery to a Not-for-Profit (NFP) corporation for St. Peter's United Church of Christ. The Council, Cemetery Board, and Bob Zick finalized a Resolution. A listening session for the congregation is scheduled for Sept. 7; any suggestions will go to the task force. The final Resolution will be presented at a meeting on Oct. 12. A fact sheet will be shared at both meetings, with the task force and Bob Zick participating in all sessions.

A motion was introduced by Dottie Brinker and seconded by Jon Bauer to approve the Resolution presented by the Cemetery Board. This Resolution is scheduled to be submitted to the congregation for approval at the Oct. 19 meeting.

Pictorial Church Directory:

- Meeting with Universal: Sept. 15, 7:00. Pictures: Nov. 6-8. Details to follow.

New Business

Nomination Committee for 2026

- All Board members and Committees are requested to review the downsizing of their respective groups. The slate of board members must be finalized by the September council meeting.

Sanctuary Temperature for organ and piano:

- Jon Bauer contacted Jackson Piano Company, who explained that humidity is the main concern for both the piano and organ. They recommended the Piano Life Saver system, estimated at \$1,000. Jon will check if one system can serve both instruments or if each needs its own. Pastor Kurt will also consult with Andrew and Ken concerning this matter.

General Synod report:

- Rhonda Stocklausner participated as a delegate at the General Synod and provided a report on the event.

Pastor Kurt will discuss a microphone for the 2nd lectern and wireless headset updates with Andrew.

Dottie Brinker moved, and Jon Bauer seconded, to allocate funds for a "Historical Walking Tour" of the church with Bill Schwab; the motion passed. Jimmy and Robert Wacker will handle videotaping and production.

The September Council meeting is rescheduled to Tues., Sept. 23, as four members cannot attend on Sept. 16.

Financial Report

Receipts	July	YTD 2025
General Fund	\$ 40,461.17	\$ 253,660.71
Building Fund	\$ 3,463.64	\$ 60,061.98
Youth Fund	\$	\$
Memorial Fund	\$ 1,022.86	\$ 9,987.80
Sanctuary Music Fund	\$ 50.00	\$ 813.00
Pass Thru In	\$ 3,157.50	\$
Total Receipts	\$ 48,155.17	\$ 324,523.49

Expenses	July	YTD 2025
General Fund	\$ (33,395.41)	\$ (246,942.77)
Building Fund	\$ (610.24)	\$ (43,696.30)
Youth Fund	\$	\$
Memorial Fund	\$ (732.50)	\$ (3,252.50)
Sanctuary Music Fund	\$ (202.59)	\$ (215.08)
Pass Thru Out	\$ (3,157.50)	\$
Total Expenses	\$ (38,098.24)	\$ (294,106.65)

Bank Balance Report 7/31/2025

Heritage Bank Balance	\$ 129,169.82
Less Building Fund	\$ 28,355.14
Less Youth Fund	\$ 7,914.84
Less Memorial Fund	\$ 73,552.66
Less Music Fund	\$ 4,718.76
Less Perpetual Member	\$
General Fund Balance	\$ 14,628.42

Walk to End Alzheimer's, Washington Walk, is Sept. 6, 2025. Main Park.

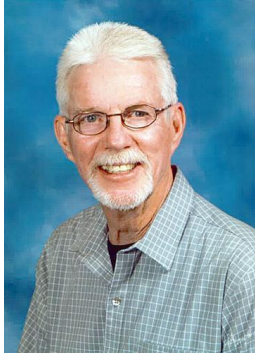


The 21st annual Rotary Trail Day, for seniors and physically disabled, Thursday September 11 at Washington Fairgrounds and Rotary Riverfront Trail. Park in the upper river front parking lot, catch a ride in a golf cart. No reservations are needed. Rotary Riverfront trail tours 9-2.

9-2 Bingo, at the Fairgrounds

**10:30-1:30 Lunch, at the Fairgrounds
Wings Hall of Honor Dinner**

Hall of Honor recipient of Community Contributor Award is **Patrick “OD” O’Donnell**.



The Hall of Honor dinner to celebrate OD will be held Saturday, September 27 at 5:00 at the Washington Elks Hall.

If you would like to attend, please contact Susan Harms at 636.359.1452.

The cost is \$50 per person.

The Alumni Award is being presented to **Don Hahne** and the Educator Award recipient is **Wynn Scheer**



Friends Of the Library Annual Book Sale September 18-21, 2025

Thursday Sept. 18 6pm - 8pm. This night will be for Friends Members Only. There will be a registration table for check in and to pay 2025 membership fee

Friday, Sept.19, 3pm - 6pm

Saturday, Sept 20, 9am - 4pm

Sunday, Sept. 21, 12pm - 4pm

Authors/Speaker Series at the Washington Public Library

- **Tuesday Sept. 16: “Maybe It’s Your Medications”**
- **Thursday Oct. 9: “Antarctica: The Tourist Experience”**





The Washington Historical Society offers Flashback Fridays. Flashback Fridays are held the first Friday of each month at Cinema 1+. Classic movies are shown at 10 a.m. For \$15, watch a movie with soda and popcorn. A portion of the proceeds benefit the Washington Historical Society.

Friday Sept. 5 - Dark Victory

Friday Oct. 3 -The Thing from Another World

Friday Nov. 7- The Thin Man

Evening at the Museum is held at the Washington Historical Society- Houseman Hall on the Second Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, September 9. American Turnvereins by Derek VanBooven—How the organization affected politics and brought Germans into the mainstream of public discourse

Tuesday, October 14. Orphans in Franklin County by Suzanne Paulter—The plight of orphans both into and out of Franklin Country during the 1800's.

St Paul's UCC, Marthasville, Annual Chicken Dinner & Country Store, Sunday September 21. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.



September Birthdays

Josh Zastrow	09/01
Koren Kerr	09/02
Danielle Grotewiel	09/04
Susan Harms	09/04
Rich Houchins	09/05
Wesley Schmiedeskamp	09/06
Betty Buerk	09/07
Jack Sullentrup	09/07
Kurt Vitoux	09/07
Doris Blankenship	09/09
Teresa Hamlett	09/09
Levi Houchins	09/09
Charles Patterson	09/09
Judy Scannell	09/10
Holly Johnston	09/11
Judy Ficke	09/12
Kenneth Bebermeyer	09/14
Tyler Francis	09/14
Kirk Kriete	09/15

John Yager	09/15
Anne Hofmann-Rebeck	09/17
Gene Hunt	09/17
LaVerta Schulte	09/17
David Sullentrup	09/17
Laurie Ebker	09/18
Maxwell Grimes	09/19
Victoria Meyer	09/19
Logan Roewe	09/19
Erin Blankenship	09/20
Kurt Blaufuss	09/20
Jack Czeschin	09/20
Darlene Langkopf	09/20
Daniel Eckelkamp	09/21
Brenda Bruns	09/22
Elliana Stewart	09/25
Tonie Smith	09/26
Carole Sincox	09/27
Randy Buschling	09/29
Zayla Brewster	09/30