



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

August 2025

Foodstock XIV

Saturday, August 23, 2025

5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

At the Washington Farmers' Market
317 West Main Street Washington, MO 63090

Join Downtown Washington, Inc. and local musicians at the Farmers' Market for a night of music to help fill our local food pantries. Musicians donate their talents to support this event. Foodstock XIV will be held on Sat., Aug. 23 from 5-10 p.m.! Admission is a monetary donation or a bag of non-perishable food items. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Please no outside food, drinks, or coolers. Bring your lawn chairs!

Music Lineup:

5 p.m. – The Texas Giants

6 p.m. – The Grey Beards

7 p.m. – Cody & the Chameleons

8 p.m. – Butch Wax & the Hollywoods

9 p.m. – BagLunch Blues Band

Join the pre-party at Vino Di Lafayette from 5-8 p.m. on Fri., Aug. 22. Bring your early donations and enjoy some drinks and live music from Flashback!

This event is presented by Downtown Washington, Inc. and Modern Auto Co.

Foodstock originated with St. Peter's member Pat O'Donnell.

Dear Friends,

As I write this month's Messenger article, I am looking forward to this weekend's worship services as we dedicate our "Back to School" backpacks, shoes, and supplies. I really appreciate this partnership between our church, community, and the Washington School district. That we can help some of our community's children get a good start in the new school year is a blessing for our students, schools, and community. If you were in worship the weekend of July 19 and 20, I commended our congregation's generosity, raising \$3,630 for this mission opportunity. Well done!

During the month of July, I began a summer sermon series on characters from the Bible. I received more than a few comments how nice it was to remember some of the stories of the Bible which we first learned in our childhood. I would echo that, as well as personally challenging me to take a deeper dive into some of these ancient stories which often sound rather modern. So, whose story do I plan on telling in August?

August 9 and 10 Barnabas ... Paul's Leoser Known Friend

August 16 and 17 Ezekiel ... Finding God in Far-away Places

August 23 and 24 Mary of Magdala ... Apostle to the Apostles

August 30 and 31 Daniel in the lions den

As we move through these last weeks of summer, I hope you have had some relaxation time, or a vacation added to your schedule. By August's end we will be back in the swing of things with school activities and fall programming here at church. May these days of August rejuvenate us as we enter autumn with its many blessings.

Blessings,

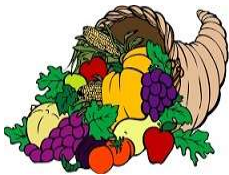
Pastor Kurt

Wings Hall of Honor

Congratulations to Pat O'Donnell who is the recipient of the 2025 Wings Hall of Honor Community Contributor

Little Free Library

Books are still needed for The Little Free Library. Books are needed for all ages--from board books for the littlest ones to novels and non-fiction for adults. We also need books for early readers, pre-teens and young adults. Graphic novels are especially popular with elementary school age kids. Any donations are greatly appreciated. A drop off basket is located in the quilting hallway next to the puzzle shelves for your convenience. For pick up or any questions, please call Janet Alspach at 770-313-0018. This is an on-going endeavor. Thank you to all who have donated.



St. Peter's is cohosting **Harvest Table** with First Methodist Church to serve the meal on Sat., Aug. 30. Ten people are needed to volunteer, and donations are needed to help pay for desserts. If you can help, please contact Erna Holland. (text or call 314-606-7143)

There is a **transport chair** located outside the church office door that is available for use? Perhaps you need it for a doctor's appointment or an outing where walking is difficult. Please return the chair after use.



St. Peter's raised **\$3,630** for the School District of Washington **Back to School Drive!!**
Thank you!!

Sat., Sept. 27 is the semiannual **Christmas Rummage Sale**. 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. Thank you!!!



Sept. 19-21 is the annual **Washington Public Library Book sale**. Donations are being accepted. Workers are always needed, if you would like to volunteer, sign ups are accepted on the library web page.



Ed Wheatly, author of *From St. Louis to Cooperstown: Baseball Legends Made in the Gateway City* will be at the Washington Public Library Tues., July 29 at 6:30 talking about his book.

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

October 18 is the 3rd annual **Trivia Night**



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



Thank you to everyone who sent mom (Bernice Stockglausner) cards for her 95th birthday. She was so happy to get them! As I read them to her, she remembered in particular the quilters. Again, thank you so much, Rhonda Stockglausner.

The Evangelism Committee is moving forward with its Home Helpers program. There will be a bulletin board in the hallway outside the dining room with information and forms for our members to fill out requesting help with minor household tasks. If you are unable to fill out a form at church, you can simply contact Denise Towell at 636-388-2588 or Pat Swinger at 636-980-6728. There is no charge for this help but “thank you’s” are always welcome.



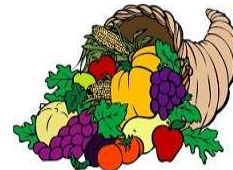
Food Pantry News

Thank you to ALL the volunteers who help the food pantry continue its vital ministry in our community. In June, 129 individuals representing 61 families were served. We also thank the following for their generous donations – June Food Pantry Donors: Joline Logan, Brenda Bruns, Royce & Mary Lovern, United Way.

Harvest Table served many meals in June. In addition to the meals, they provide a take home table and a chance to visit with the nurse.

June 7 179 meals
June 14 177 meals

June 21 180 meals
June 28 180 meals



Washington Emergency Relief

In the month of June, Washington Emergency Relief received 136 calls and gave out 25 grants adding up to \$6,013.04. Of those grants nine were for electric, eleven for rent, two for water, two for propane, and one for fuel. We were able to assist 72 people in our community.

Mission Team

DO YOU KNOW WHAT AN UNDIE SUNDAY IS? If not, the Mission Team would like for you to find out. We will be collecting adult underwear on the weekends of Aug. 9 & 10 and Aug. 16 & 17 to take along when we go to Back Bay Mission in September. They can be any size for men or women and **MUST NOT BE WHITE**. Look for the display in the atrium where we will hang up underwear to be donated to unhoused people in Biloxi, MS. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Thank you for your contribution on Undie Sundays!



Aluminum can drive will be held Aug. 9 & 10 (one week later than usual). Yes, bring those cans you have been saving to church and put them in the truck provided by Tom Howard, which will be sitting in the parking lot. Proceeds from the drive are used for mission projects. Thank you for your support!

Femme Osage UCC Annual Picnic, Sun., Aug. 17, 11:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Kettle Cooked Beef, Deep-Fried Chicken and live entertainment: The Texas Giants

Bethel Hills Annual Fundraiser *Gala in the Hills*, Sat., Oct. 4, 2025.

St. Peter's UCC Church Council Meeting Summary July 15, 2025

Approval of Minutes: The June minutes were corrected to state: Ask Evangelism to see if they would organize the pictorial directory administrative effort, instead of assigning them. A motion to approve the corrected June meeting minutes was made by Dottie and seconded by Jon. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: May concluded with a balance in the general fund of \$7,562.66. Jon moved to approve the treasurer's report, and Dottie seconded. Motion passed.

Cecil Blankenship attended the meeting and presented to the Council issues related to the Market Street Parking lot, including concerns about the fence and retaining wall. The fence is currently being repaired, and contact is being made with American Family regarding water runoff from their parking lot.

He also noted that maintaining the sanctuary temperature between 68-72 degrees is recommended to help prevent potential damage to the piano and organ, as repairs for these instruments can be costly.

The council is seeking guidance to resolve the issue.

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
- This year's confirmation class will have 5 students.
- Participating in this year's Back Bay Mission trip in September; will be away the weekend of Sept. 13-14
- Pastor Kurt will be on vacation, Aug. 2-3 and Nov. 15-16.

Board and Committee Reports

Building & Grounds: (Chuck)

- We are still waiting for additional quotes to update the dining room bathrooms.
- The fence is currently being repaired on the Market Street parking lot wall and contact is being made with American Family regarding water runoff.
- Door key cards are complete for those who need entry into the building

Cemetery Board: (Dottie)

- Delineating infant areas and Green Burial zones, incorporating trees, shrubs, and slightly longer grass.
- Start a tree replacement program, budget funds, and consult an arborist.
- Revised Cemetery Rules will be sent out when plots are purchased.

Board of Christian Education: (Jennifer)

- Confirmation will begin in September. Currently 5 will have signed up for the class.
- 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.
- Starting July 17, we'll begin working on the Shadow Nativity Christmas program. Kids are invited to help make props.

Finance Board: (Diane)

- Three firms were contacted for a church audit, with two submitting quotes. The finance board seeks responses from all before making a decision. They are also considering implementing standardized internal review procedures instead of an audit. Work is underway to provide documentation for internal review guidelines.
- The Finance Board began discussing the allocation of the Crowley Homeless & Hungry Fund.
- Trivia Night is scheduled for Oct. 18, 2025.
- The 2026 budgeting process has begun.
- The committee has begun initial discussions about the stewardship campaign. Diane shared a pamphlet draft, which includes information on church missions, worship, ways to contribute, and upcoming stewardship events.
- Dottie Brinker moved, and Chuck Patterson seconded, to update Club Scout Pack 811's Bank of Washington account signers to St. Peter's Church Officers (Ben Alspach, Jennifer Kroeter, Susan Harms, and Diane Gephardt) until a decision is made regarding Pack 811. Motion passed.

WERF: (Jennifer)

- WERF's office is now located in the main office area.

Advisory Committee: (Cindy)

- The committee is reviewing all church policies.

Worship Committee: (Susan)

- Reviewed worship preparation details in the sanctuary.
- Coffee and light refreshments will be offered prior to and following the service.
- Include an announcement in the bulletin requesting volunteers for the Funeral Usher team.
- Plan to schedule usher training led by Molly Derner.

Evangelism Committee: (Mary Jo)

- A sign-up sheet for home project assistance is on the bulletin board.

Mission Group: (Rhonda)

- Mission August: Undies Sunday
- Mission September: Festival of Sharing/Blanket Sunday
- Back Bay Mission has 9-10 members attending.
- Rhonda spoke at area churches about the Back Bay Mission.

Old Business

Constitution-Article VII, section 9-Revise wording for perpetual care funding A meeting was held concerning transitioning the Cemetery to a Not-for-Profit (NFP) corporation for St. Peter's United Church of Christ. A task force of the Council and Cemetery Board, along with Bob Zick, met and reviewed By-laws and Constitution. Another meeting is scheduled to finalize a proposal, which will be presented to the Council at the Aug. 19 meeting. Q & A sessions with the congregation will follow, and a vote is planned for the Oct. 19 meeting. Feedback from the Council and the Q & A sessions will be reviewed. If necessary, any changes will result in a revised proposal to be presented at the September Council meeting. A fact sheet and the presentation are also being prepared. Bob Zick will participate in the listening sessions and congregation meeting.

Website Update:

- Request the council to review the Church's website.
- Analyzed top-visited sites and plan improvements.
- Considering the inclusion of historical information on the website, which may involve adding confirmation photos with names from the confirmation wall.

School District of Washington, Back-to-School Fair:

- Total collected was \$3,600.
- We will hold a blessing of the backpacks and shoes on Sun., July 27.

Church Intruders:

- Alarms on doors are working
- Harvest Table has stated they are willing to provide funding for security cameras.

Pictorial Church Directory:

- Dottie Brinker, Cindy Holdmeyer, Sara Barnett and Susan Harms will head up the Pictorial Directory.

New Business**Nomination Committee for 2026:**

- All Board members and Committees are requested to review the downsizing of their respective groups. Kindly provide the names and terms of current members and submit nominations for individuals to serve in 2026 at the August meeting. Retiring board members will reach out to three congregational members to join this committee. The slate of board members must be finalized by the Sept. 16 council meeting.

Opening & Closing of Church for Saturday and Sunday Services:

- Jon Bauer made a motion, seconded by Dottie Brinker, to authorize payment of \$45 per service for opening and closing the church, effective with the next full payroll period in August. Motion passed.

Financial Report

Receipts	June	YTD 2025
General Fund	\$ 38,537.81	\$ 213,199.54
Building Fund	\$ 3,257.11	\$ 56,598.34
Youth Fund	\$	\$
Memorial Fund	\$ 125.00	\$ 8,964.94
Sanctuary Music Fund	\$ 50.00	\$ 763.00
Pass Thru In	\$ 14,959.93	\$
Total Receipts	\$ 56,929.85	\$ 279,575.82

Expenses	June	YTD 2025
General Fund	\$ (34,034.28)	\$ (213,547.36)
Building Fund	\$	\$ (43,086.06)
Youth Fund	\$	\$
Memorial Fund	\$	\$ (2,520.00)
Sanctuary Music Fund	\$	\$ (12.49)
Pass Thru Out	\$ (14,959.93)	\$
Total Expenses	\$ (48,994.21)	\$ (259,165.91)

Bank Balance Report 6/30/2025

Heritage Bank Balance	\$ 119,112.89
Less Building Fund	\$ 25,501.74
Less Youth Fund	\$ 7,914.84
Less Memorial Fund	\$ 73,262.30
Less Music Fund	\$ 4,871.35
Less Perpetual Member	\$
General Fund Balance	\$ 7,562.66

Great Decisions

The summer sessions of “Great Decisions” will begin on Wed., Aug. 6, from 1:00 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Washington Public Library and continue for eight successive Wednesdays. Come for the first time, or if you attended the Winter sessions, join us to discuss the changes that have been made since President Trump took office. No registration is required, but it would be helpful if you could let me know if you plan to attend so that I can prepare enough handouts.

Bill Schwab

The 2025 topics are:

American foreign policy at a crossroads. This topic will examine the contours of the U.S. foreign policy

U.S. changing leadership of the world economy. The U.S. has advanced new ideas about trade, technology, industrial policy, competition with China, and the organization of the world economy. For most of the postwar era, the U.S. has tied its global leadership to cooperative agendas aimed at creating a more open world trading system; however, that appears to have come to an end. What are America’s options and opportunities as a leader of the world economy? How will America’s “foreign policy for the middle class” and strategic competition with China impact its leadership role? How can the postwar rules and institutions of the world economy be made safe for economic nationalism and great power competition?

India: between China, the West, and the Global South, and “Impressions of India” by recent travelers there. India is an emerging major power in world affairs, occupying a pivotal position between China, the United States, and the Global South. Its population size, economy, and geopolitical location ensure that it will be an influential voice in debates and political struggles over global order. What are India’s choices and opportunities for regional and international leadership? How will it maneuver between China and the United States, and what is its role as a voice of the Global South? What opportunities exist for Washington to work with India? Recent visitors to India, Patti and Elmer Kellmann, and Les Kemp will make a presentation on “Impressions of India” from 2 to 3 p.m.

U.S.-China relations. Washington’s ties with Beijing have reached an ominous low ebb. Both American political parties have identified China as the country’s preeminent geopolitical challenger and, in the eyes of many, a systemic threat. What is driving this deterioration of Sino-American relations, and what are America’s strategic options in the face of Chinese power and ambition?

International cooperation on climate change. The 2015 Paris Agreement established a UN-sponsored framework for negotiations on climate change and global warming. In subsequent COP meetings, experts and political leaders have come together to seek a common cause for this growing international crisis. What is the future of these efforts, and what has it yielded? What is the U.S. role in fostering cooperation on climate

change? In a divided country, what is the range of possible futures for American policy leadership?

The future of NATO and European security. European security is more uncertain than it has been for decades. Putin's Russia has launched a war with Ukraine on its doorstep, and America's uncertain role as the leader of NATO and security provider has been called into question. What are Europe's options, and how might developments on both sides of Western Europe – in Ukraine and across the Atlantic – impact its choices? What are America's stakes in NATO and Europe's strategic dilemmas?

AI and American National Security. The AI revolution is the leading edge of a larger high-tech revolution that promises to transform the world. Experts argue that international cooperation is necessary to harness the opportunities presented by these new technologies while mitigating the risks they pose to societies. What are the key policy debates in this area, and what are the possibilities and limits on global AI rules of the road? How will the AI revolution impact American national security? What are its policy options to secure the benefits of AI and guard against its dangers?

After Gaza: American policy in the Middle East. The war in Gaza has brought the region to a crossroads. What are the possible outcomes of the war, and how might the United States use its influence to shape a long-term settlement that leaves both Israel and the Palestinians in a better position? How might Arab states in the wider region be brought into a settlement? What are America's interests in the Middle East, and how can it advance them?



August Birthdays

William Rebeck	08/02
Tyler Thompson	08/02
Brian McDaniel	08/03
Edward Wilson	08/04
Chase Merryman	08/05
Bonnie Thompson	08/05
Caroline Miller	08/08
Benjamin Alspach	08/09
Marilyn Luechtefeld	08/09
Roger Fleer	08/10
Wendy McDaniel	08/11
Donna Mueller	08/11
Jason Scheible	08/12
Martha Berry	08/13
Judy Thornsberry	08/14
Tina Schwentker	08/15
Casper Becker	08/16
Ronald Mueller	08/17

Judy Schneider	08/17
Kai Matau	08/18
Pat O'Donnell	08/18
Michael Bauer	08/20
Michael Freese	08/20
Cindy Holdmeyer	08/22
Trudy Ronsick	08/22
Molly Young	08/22
Carol Eckelkamp	08/23
Ardis Briggs	08/24
Kaye Nurnberger	08/25
Mary Bierbaum	08/26
Charles Hellmann	08/26
Joyce Miklos	08/27
Caleb Moritz	08/27
Josie Kleekamp	08/28
Blaine Schmiedeskamp	08/28
Becky Aulenbacher	08/29