

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 16, 2025

6th Sunday after the Epiphany

10:00 AM

www.youtube.com/stpetersuccwashmo

** - Please rise in body or spirit.*

CENTERING OURSELVES IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE

Andrew Jackson, Principal Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 1:1-3 CEB, adapted) Pat Swinger, Liturgist

One: The truly happy person doesn't follow wicked advice.

Many: Nor do they stand on the road of sinners or sit with the disrespectful.

One: Instead, the truly happy person loves God's instruction.

Many: They recite God's instruction day and night!

One: The truly happy are like trees replanted by streams of water.

Many: They bear fruit at just the right time and their leaves don't fade!

*HYMN

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

425

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.

For God's gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,

Future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.

In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.

In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,

In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,

Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

***UNISON PRAYER**

Holy God, we gather today seeking your blessing and the happiness that comes when we abide in you and walk in your ways. So often we seek happiness in passing fads and frivolous pursuits. Bless us with roots which sink deep into your love and grace. Water us with hope and a thirst for justice. May your leaves shade us when we grow tired along the way. And then grant us that joy which only you can truly provide us as you live in us and we in you. Amen.

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 1

CHOIR

“Since Jesus Came into My Heart” Shackley

Chancel Choir

(lyrics p 7)

SECOND LESSON

Jeremiah 17:5-10

SERMON

***HYMN**

“Like a Tree beside the Waters”

313

**Like a tree beside the waters, nurtured by your loving care,
We, O God, your sons and daughters, your enduring witness bear.
In each passing generation may your voice of love be heard.
Bless, we pray, this congregation with your holy, living Word.**

**Like a tree beside the river, drawing life from holy streams,
Fill us with your love forever; recreate our hopes and dreams.
Through the storms of life sustain us by the wisdom of your grace.
May the changing of the seasons find us in your warm embrace.**

**We, beside the living waters, drink from your eternal life.
Give to all, your sons and daughters, faith that rises over strife.
O Living God, most glorious, strengthen us for life today.
By the hope of timeless promise guide your church upon the Way.**

***UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH**

885

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE GIVE WHAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO US
INVITATION TO GIVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” 1 (v 4)

**So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,
Your angels adore you, all veiling their sight,
All praise now we render as your angels do:
In awe at the splendor of light hiding you.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Giving God, in you we find our rest. In you we find our inspiration. In you we find the energy and resolve to go forth from this place to serve you and all people. Bless these offerings. May they bear fruit and become leaves for the healing of the nations. Amen.

*HYMN “For the Healing of the Nations” 576

**For the healing of the nations, God, we pray with
one accord; for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords; to a life of
love in action help us rise and pledge our word.**

**Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your
world release, that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.**

**All that kills abundant living, let it from the
earth be banned; pride of status, race, or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan. In our common
quest for justice may we hallow life’s brief span.**

**You, Creator God, have written your great name on
humankind; for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our
response and service earth its destiny may find.**

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

☞ **Thank You for Worshipping Here Today** ☞

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The Rev. Kurt Schaller Blaufuss, Pastor & Teacher
Ken Tucker, Director of Music
Andrew Jackson, Principal Organist
Carol H. Hackmann, Office Manager
Gary Edler, Cemetery Sexton
Nathaniel Pfitzinger, Building & Grounds Custodian
The Rev. Dr. William H. Schwab, Pastor Emeritus

St. Peter's United Church of Christ welcomes you to today's worship. If you are visiting us today for the first time, please fill out the "Welcome Card" in the pews and place it in the offering plate. We also welcome those who are attending worship online.

The altar flowers are placed to honor Joline Logan on her birthday by her many friends.

"These Days" devotional booklets and the February Newsletter are available in the atrium and the church office.

Please pray . . . With Cindy Moeller, Bryce Meyer, Ken, Grace, Amber E., Clayton, Matt Ashley, Greg Berry, Jon Sanfilippo, Charlie Sincox, Todd Ford, Laurie Pinnell, Blake Georgie

St. Peter's UCC will be taking in new members in the near future. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested, please contact the church office or Pastor Kurt.

A special thank you to all who donated money to the Souper Bowl of Caring last week. We raised \$619 which will go to the hunger ministries of the Harvest Table.

2025 calendars are available for purchase in the church office. Cost is \$10 each.

In 2025 **St. Peter's UCC Cemetery** is celebrating 150 years-- A Bit of History--March 29, 1880- It was decided to have the southeast quarter of the cemetery be laid out in lots and passageways, and the lots thereon to be numbered. June 27, 1880- The lots on the proposed new quarter of the cemetery should be designated with a cedar peg with a tin placard bearing the number of the lots. March 26, 1882- Every lot should be provided with a stone marker on which the number of this lot be inscribed. The expense incurred to be added to the price of the lot.

The Mission Team will host a Lunch and Learn today following worship. We will have lunch and then learn about **Back Bay Mission** in Biloxi, MS. Our team that traveled to the Mission last September will present a program on what Back Bay Mission is and our experiences while there. Another trip is planned for the 3rd week in September this year--Sept. 20-27. All are welcome to come have lunch and learn more about Back Bay Mission!

All 2024 Boards and Committees. Year ending reports are due to the MESSENGER for printing in March 2025 for the Annual Report. Please forward the reports to Newsletter Annual Report (newsletter@stpeters-ucc.org) no later than tomorrow, Mon., Feb. 17.

Mardi Gras is set for March 2, following worship. Please join us for all the things kids and adults love: the games, the food, the dessert walk, and the basket raffle. Baskets will be displayed in the atrium before and after services this weekend and next, and raffle tickets can be purchased. (You do not need to be present at Mardi Gras to win a basket.) Donations for the dessert walk are still appreciated and welcome. Please bring the dessert donations to church March 2. We are also seeking food donations. A sign-up sheet will be in the atrium before and after service this weekend and next. All proceeds from this event go to the General Fund. Questions? Contact Jennifer Kroeter, Wendy Wisdom, Barb Bauer or Linda Patterson.

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

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.

This Week at St. Peter's United Church of Christ:

Sunday, February 16, 2025

10:00 a.m. – Worship
 10:15 a.m. – Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. – Confirmation
 11:00 a.m. – Lunch & Learn Back Bay Mission

Monday, February 17, 2025 Year end reports are due today

12:00-3:00 pm. – Quilting
 6:30 p.m. – AA

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

1:30-3:00 pm. – Coffee with the Pastor
 6:30 p.m. – Church Council

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

9:00 a.m. – Quilting
 10:00 a.m. – Prayer Meeting
 11:30 a.m. – Bible Study
 6:30 p.m. – Bell Choir
 7:15 p.m. – Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 20, 2025

9:00 a.m. – Committee on Ministry
 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Game Day
 6:30 p.m. – AA

Friday, February 21, 2025

Newsletter Deadline
 9:00 a.m. – Women's Breakfast at Bob Evans

Saturday, February 22, 2025

5:00 p.m. – Worship
 5:00 p.m. – Harvest Table (Dining Room)

Sunday, February 23, 2025

10:00 a.m. – Worship
 10:15 a.m. – Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. – Confirmation

Worship Attendance – February 8 & 9, 2025

Saturday In-Person: 28 Sunday In-Person: 86 YouTube Views: 30

St. Paul's UCC Marthasville Pork Sausage & Sauerkraut Dinner, Feb. 23, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Country Store, Quilt Raffle, Meat Sales

An upcoming **Trivia Night** is scheduled for Fri., March 7. It will be held in our auditorium. This event is sponsored by the Grape Cluster of UCC congregations in our Eastern Association, benefiting Camp MoVal. The cost is \$25 per person. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the first question will be at 7 p.m. Look for more details in the E-Messenger or you can ask Pastor Kurt if you are interested in registering.



Never have cash or a check handy but want to financially support St. Peter's UCC? Use this QR code to open a link to give via PayPal. PayPal allows you to use your credit card or checking account to give once or a reoccurring gift. Don't forget that your bank also offers reoccurring checks and/or transactions. Thank you for helping to take care of your church!

Choir Anthem: "Since Jesus Came into My Heart" Shackley

"What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought since Jesus came into my heart! I have light in my soul for which long I have sought, since Jesus came into my heart! Since Jesus came into my heart, since Jesus came into my heart, floods of joy o'er my soul like the sea billows roll, since Jesus came into my heart. I shall go there to dwell in that city I know, since Jesus came into my heart! And I'm happy so happy as onward I go, since Jesus came into my heart! Since Jesus came into, came into my heart! Since Jesus came into my heart, since Jesus came into my heart, floods of joy o'er my soul like the sea billows roll, since Jesus came into my heart. There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus. No, not one! None else could heal all our soul's diseases. No, not one! No, not one! Jesus knows all about our struggles. He will guide till the day is done. There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus. No, not one! No, not one! There is a name I love to hear; I love to sing its worth; it sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth. Oh, how I love Jesus! Oh, how I love Jesus! Oh, how I love Jesus, because He first loved me! Floods of joy o'er my soul like the sea billows roll sea billows roll since Jesus came into my heart, into my heart!"