

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 16, 2025

2nd Sunday in Lent

10:00 AM

www.youtube.com/stpetersuccwashmo

** - Please rise in body or spirit.*

CENTERING OURSELVES IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Andrew Jackson, Principal Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Linda Patterson, Liturgist

One: Be the light, bearing it to all the world.

All: No hiding.

One: Be the light, sharing it with all you encounter.

Many: No stalling.

One: Be the light, so that our neighbors can find their way.

Many: No holding back.

One: Be the light, so that the world will know there is a path forward.

Many: No hiding. No stalling. No holding. We move forward to be the light.

*HYMN

"Arise, Your Light Is Come"

164

**Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!**

**Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive's liberty, Good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the broken hearted ones And comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.**

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Creator and Creative God, the sun rises in the morning, bringing forth the many-colored hues of light illuminating the day. At night, the moon rises to illuminate the sky. The stars shine, giving light where there is none. Regardless of the time of day or night, you, O God, send light to the world. Each of us is called to bear the light in that same way, no matter the time of day or the situation we find ourselves in. As we worship, we follow in the footsteps of the one who was the light of the world, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

THE FIRST LESSON

Psalm 27

CHOIR ANTHEM “Open Thou Mine Eyes” Benjamin Harlan Chancel Choir
(*lyrics p. 5*)

SECOND LESSON

Luke 13:1-9

SERMON

*HYMN “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant” 539

**Won’t you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christlight for you in the shadow of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I’ll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we’ve seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,
Born of all we’ve known together of Christ’s love and agony.**

**Won’t you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

*UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH

885

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Doxology

780

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Generous God, we offer these gifts in the spirit of light and with a heart full of gratitude for what we've been given. These offerings show our commitment to sharing with those in need, neighbors near and far, whom we are unlikely to meet. As we share, we shine the light of our faith with brothers and sisters we may never meet. Bless the gifts, just as you have us, with an extra measure of your grace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

543

**Where cross the crowded ways of life, Where sound the cries of clan and race,
Above the noise of selfish strife, O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.**

**In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed, thresholds framed with fears,
From paths where hide the lures of greed, we catch the vision of your tears.
From tender childhood's helplessness, From human griefs and burdened toil,
From famished souls, from sorrows' stress,
We know your heart does not recoil.**

The cup of water given for you Still holds the freshness of your grace;
 Yet long these multitudes to view The deep compassion of your face.
 O Savior, from the mountainside, Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
 Among these restless throngs abide, O tread the city's streets again.
 Till all shall learn compassion's might,
 And follow where your feet have trod,
 Till glorious from your realm of light, Shall come the city of our God.

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Today's liturgy is provided by our denomination for One Great Hour of Sharing.

☞ 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 welcome those who are attending worship online.

The altar flowers are placed by Pat & Dennis Sahm in celebration of their 70th wedding anniversary.

"These Days" devotional booklets and the March Newsletter/2024 Annual Report are available in the atrium and the church office.

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

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.

In 2025 **St. Peter's UCC Cemetery** is celebrating 150 years--A Bit of History--Jan. 1, 1885 Congregational Meeting--Mr. Joseph Glosemeyer requested the congregation to remove the partition fence between his land and the cemetery, which was granted, under the condition that the congregation would not assume any liabilities should any damages occur. Mr. Henry Kamp was instructed to inform Mr. Glosemeyer of the congregation's decision.

Call to Congregational Meeting: The Spring Congregational Meeting will be held following worship Sun., March 23. Please plan to attend.

“Heat Up/Cool Down St. Peter’s” The Finance Board is sponsoring a fundraising campaign to help pay for the heating and air conditioning bills. “Heat Up/Cool Down” envelopes are available in the atrium and can be returned to the church office or placed in the offering. We hope everyone will give an amount with which they are comfortable. Our goal is to raise \$10,000. Please help us reach our goal by making a contribution.

Worship Attendance – March 8 & 9, 2025

Saturday In-Person: 28 Sunday In-Person: 83 YouTube Views: 25 Ash Wednesday: 32

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** special mission offering of the UCC is our March mission focus. This offering supports disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery. Through your support, OGHS funds comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment. To donate, mark the ‘Other’ portion on your offering envelope with ‘OGHS’. If you do not have envelopes, include a note with your donation stating the donation is for OGHS. Thank you.

Immanuels UCC Holstein Fish Fry March 21, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Dine-In and Carry Out
Ebenezer UCC Augusta Fish Fry March 28, April 11, 5-7 p.m. each night

Choir Anthem “Open Thou Mine Eyes” Benjamin Harlan “Open Thou mine eyes and I shall see. Open Thou mine ears and I shall hear. Incline my heart, I shall desire, order my steps and I shall walk the ways of Thy commandments. Open Thou mine eyes and I shall see, Open Thou mine ears and I shall hear. Incline my heart, I shall desire, order my steps and I shall walk the ways of Thy commandments. O Lord my God be Thou to me a God that I may love You, that I may serve You, that I may worship You and adore You, that I may follow You, that I may look to You. Open Thou mine eyes and I shall see, Open Thou mine ears and I shall hear. Incline my heart, I shall desire, order my steps and I shall walk the ways of Thy commandments. Amen.”

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

Sunday, March 16, 2025

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

Monday, March 17, 2025

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

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

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

Wednesday, March 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, March 20, 2025

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

Friday, March 21, 2025 Newsletter Deadline

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

Saturday, March 22, 2025

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

Sunday, March 23, 2025

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