



St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
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Website [www.stpeters-washington.org](http://www.stpeters-washington.org)

May 2023

Dear Friends,

In the thirty-five years of my ministry there have been only two Sundays when I was unexpectedly unable to lead worship. The first was due to an extreme case of flu. The second occasion, in contrast, was a happy one: my daughter, Rebecca, was born on a Sunday morning.

Now here is what makes those two occasions extra memorable. Both absences fell on none other than Pentecost Sunday, the day we mark as the birthday of the Christian church. This year Pentecost falls on May 28. Acts 2 tells the story of how the Holy Spirit fell upon the followers of Jesus with power and set the church on the Way of continuing Christ's message and ministry in the world. While not of the magnitude of our Easter and Christmas celebrations, Pentecost is still an important day for the church. And did I ever feel bad to miss those two Sundays, even though I think it's special that Rebecca and the church share a birthday.

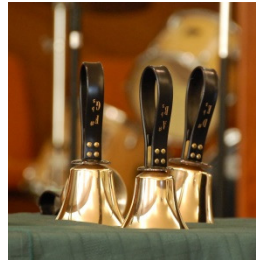
At the same time, if I am going to miss a Sunday, Pentecost is as appropriate a day as any. Because without sufficient time to line up a replacement, members of the congregation stepped in and led worship. And the power of the Pentecost story is that the Holy Spirit gives the whole church ... men and women, young and old, ordained and lay... many and varied gifts of ministry enabling all members to share in the life and work of the church.

The ministry of all members is an important part of what it means to be the church. And may I say how inspired I have been at St. Peter's UCC as I see members sharing their spiritual gifts which bless the many ministries and mission of this congregation. Thank you all for your commitment, work, and prayers for this congregation and the world around us. This congregation is truly a gift!

Pentecost Blessings,

Pastor Kurt

All are invited to a  
*CHORAL AND HANDBELL CHOIR*  
*CONCERT*  
***“Worship Through Music”***



**Sunday, May 7, 2023**  
**4 p.m.**  
**Reception to follow**

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ**

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**Reaching out to our graduates** St. Peter's Church would like to recognize the graduates of kindergarten, high school, trade school, and college by including them in the June MESSENGER. Please send a brief note about you--from where you are graduating and what plans you have after graduation-- to Patty Wood (newsletter@stpeters-ucc.org) before May 21. Thank you!

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**Thanks be to God for the gift of this child!**

Congratulations to Kate (Brinker) & Kyle Maness on the birth of Henley Ryan born on April 10. Grandparents are Dottie & Bob Brinker--six grandsons, first granddaughter!

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

We solemnly offer our Christian love and prayers to the family and friends of Fran Witthaus who passed away Friday, March 31, 2023.

## **Join us for Confirmation on May 28!**

St. Peter's UCC is blessed to have two young men joining the church via the Rite of Confirmation on May 28! Miles Grimes and Tyler Francis will affirm their faith during our 10 a.m. worship service on this Pentecost Sunday. This is an important moment both for these young men and for our church family. Please join us in worship to support Miles and Tyler as they take this important step. Come welcome and affirm them, their gifts, and their presence in our community of care. Congratulations Miles and Tyler!

## **Help Us Make Care Kits for Children**

The St. Peter's UCC Mission Team is picking up the torch from our former Social Concerns team and creating Care Kits for children who are removed from their homes. We have a goal of making 50 kits, but we need your help! There is a list of items below that we want to include in each kit. Please consider donating items by dropping them off in the office or in the receptacle in the atrium. Thank you so much for your generous support of the children who will receive these bags.

Donations Needed:

- Blanket (no larger than 50"x60")
- Adult Toothbrush (1 – 3 pack)
- Toothpaste (travel size)
- Shampoo & Conditioner (travel size)
- Lotion (travel size)
- Soap or Body Wash (travel size)
- Deodorant
- Stuffed Animal (12" or smaller)
- Journal
- Pens & Pencils
- Book

## **Do you wish to join St. Peter's UCC?**

Following worship on May 7 we will hold a new member information meeting in the auditorium. This will offer time for you to meet our Evangelism team and get to know each other, learn information about St. Peter's, and ask whatever questions you may have. If you have thought of becoming a member, consider joining us for this gathering. Please let Pastor Eric know if you are interested, and mark your calendars for May 7!

## **We will welcome new members on May 20 & 21!**

Whether you have just discovered St. Peter's or have been visiting us for some time, if you feel called to join us formally and become a member, an opportunity to do so is coming up! During our worship services on May 20 & 21, we will be welcoming new members. You may join during the service of your preference.

St. Peter's Missions were very busy in March.  
Thank you to all who served!

### **MARCH 2023 ST. PETER'S UCC MISSIONS REPORT**

- WERF:** In March, the Washington Emergency Relief Fund served 75 people by giving out 33 grants totaling \$7,211.03. Of those grants, 18 were for electric assistance, three for water, 11 for rent, and one went to medication assistance.
- The Harvest Table:** The Harvest Table served 515 meals in March, gave away four tents, five sleeping bags, and eight Blessing Bags.
- Salam Free Clinic:** The Free Clinic saw three patients in March. All were returning patients. The returning patients are developing a trusting relationship with Nurse Leesa and the doctors. The Clinic will be ordering a new banner to display in front of church to alert people that IDs are not required.
- Food Pantry:** Thank you to ALL the volunteers who help the food pantry continue its vital ministry in our community. In March, 91 individuals representing 41 families were served. We also thank the following for their generous donations: Brenda Bruns, Hth Companies, Joline Logan, Rob & Barb Kell, Carol Muench, Betty Peffermann, Darlene Langkopf, Kitty Parsons, United Way and John Strasen.
- Blood Drive:** Your new Mission Team is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, June 5, from 12:00-5:30 p.m. Please note the date now and watch the weekly bulletin and e-Messenger for details.

#### **Washington Emergency Relief Fund (WERF)**

As most of you know, the Washington Emergency Relief Fund receives most of our funding from the United Way and a couple small grants. However, in the month of March, we also received just over \$1,500 in donations from members of St. Peter's United Church of Christ. It always amazes me what the members of this church are capable of, and we wanted to thank all of you for your added assistance. Those who contributed recently include:

St. Peter's UCC Quilters	Roger & Patti Fleer
Steve & Pat Forget	Ron & Brenda Brinker
Carl Clover & Rhonda Stockglausner	Bill & Diane Schwab
Sherry Limbert	Delores Borcharding
Phillip & Beatrice Butler	Souper Bowl of Caring Donors

Kind regards,  
Teresa Gildehaus, WERF Administrator

**Thank you** to everyone who notified the church with their updated membership information. We appreciate the help in keeping the church records current. – Carol H.

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Thank you very much to everyone who helped in any way to make serving at the Harvest Table April 22 possible. St. Peter's will be co-hosting again July 15; more information to follow.

Erna Holland, coordinator

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**Women's Fellowship** will meet on Thursday, May 11, at 10:00 a.m. We will have a guest present to discuss the Open and Affirming issue and look forward to sharing personal stories. We will order in pizza for lunch; salad and dessert will be provided. All women of the church are automatically members of Women's Fellowship and are invited to join us.

At our April Women's Fellowship meeting it was decided that we should resume having a monthly breakfast. We plan to gather at Bob Evans Restaurant on the 3rd Friday of each month at 9 a.m. beginning May 19. Hope to see you there!

Women's Fellowship is pleased to announce that we have:

- Donated \$500 to the April Showers campaign.
- Supported WERF with a donation of \$300.
- Sent \$290 to Guatemala so that two families will have new wood-burning cook stoves in their homes.

We can make these gifts due to proceeds from the monthly aluminum can collection, from *Grace's Merry-Go-Round* donations made by St. Peter's members, and donations made by families after funeral lunches are served. Thanks to all who have helped!

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### **Aluminum Can Collection**



A pick-up truck will be parked in the South parking lot the weekend of May 6 & 7. ONLY aluminum cans, in bags please, should be placed in the truck; please do not include tin foil and/or pie pans. Thanks for all the help we receive from the congregation!

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**Would you like to serve as liturgist for a worship service?**

If so, there are sign-up sheets in the sanctuary.



**The Pareto Principle or the 80/20 rule** suggests that most of us wear 20% of our clothes 80% of the time, we spend 80% of our time with 20% of the people we know or call friends, we spend 80% of our time in only 20% of the space in our homes, and 20% of our carpet gets 80% of the wear. The list can go on and on.

This principal also suggests that 80% of the church's volunteer work comes from 20% of the congregation. As Christians, we are called to be good stewards, balancing the resources given to us by God, sharing our gifts of time and talent with others.

This spring and summer, the Finance Board will explore the many ways members can share their time and talents within our Church, and how our Church can change from an 80%/20% model to a 'helpful many'.

### **St. Peter's United Church of Christ Church Council Meeting Highlights - 17 April 2023**

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

The General Fund is currently positive!

Expenses were higher due to an insurance payment.

The Raindrop Fund is currently over \$13,000. This all goes into general fund.

#### **Finance Board:**

- We have 4 CDs making interest. The Board feels that any interest from a CD should be deposited to the General Fund, as this is how many not-for-profits function. A motion was made and seconded to deposit interest from CDs into the General Fund. The motion passed.
- The Board recommends that we open an interest bearing checking account. The rate will be 2%. There are no limits on checks per month. A motion was made and seconded to open the interest bearing checking account. The motion passed.

- We have some CDs maturing in May. The Board would like to take these back to a traditional bank, and will go with the Bank of Washington, which has rates around 5%. The Crowley estate CD will be split in two, based on the required uses for that money. A motion was made and seconded to set up these CDs with the Bank of Washington. The motion passed.
- There will be a Trivia Night October 21. We want to sell 20 tables of 8 people.

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

The Senior Pastor's Report was reviewed.

- Holy Week has been the biggest item and went very well.
- A letter was presented from the Chamber – We have been members for 40 years.
- Jon Bauer is going to make a presentation about St. Peter's at the Historical Society Museum on June 13 at 7 p.m.
- The Civic Chorus requests use of the building for practice and concert.

### **Associate Pastor's Report:**

The Associate Pastor's Report was reviewed.

Nursery – We are setting up a volunteer rotation. We would like to purchase a TV to put there to connect to livestream of the services, so that those doing childcare could still see/hear the service. A motion was made and seconded to purchase a TV for the nursery, and the motion passed.

Sunday School along with a time with parents will be held before worship services beginning April 23. We are hoping to add childcare / nursery to this before-service time as well.

### **Boards and Committees:**

#### Building & Grounds:

- Water is coming down the front of the church \ black staining that looks like mold is forming on the outside of the building. This will need addressing.
- Parking lot water problem – The best repair bid is \$17,000. This may not be that important to fix for this price - maybe gravel or a grate on the wet spot instead. They are discussing the situation.
- Fire panel – several rooms have no alarms. Still working on this and getting bids.
- New sign for the front of the building / 5<sup>th</sup> Street will be so expensive it is being dropped for now
- Some tuck pointing is needed on the north side
- Card access for doors - We have 25 cards, and are discussing how best to use them.
- Plan to check and update emergency signage throughout the building. For example, to make it clear where to go in severe weather.

#### Justice & Witness:

5th Sunday celebration - April 30 will have Baked Potato bar with a scholarly discussion on ONA and the Bible. It will be lunch and learn style led by Dr. Deborah Krause, Scholar and president of Eden.

### Cemetery Board:

Green Burials -involve no coffin, vault or embalming. They are setting up a committee to work on this as a burial option and will report back next month.

### Worship Committee:

- They are looking at replacing paraments, especially white ones.
- They are updating the Usher list
- Glass communion cups are being ordered.

### Christian Ed:

- Sunday School will be before service starting this week, also with educational time / opportunities for the parents.
- The Egg hunt on Easter went well.
- For Messy Church on June 11 (instead of June 4) we will do kites, with a kite making activity. The Gateway Kite Club will hold their monthly group-fly in Washington that afternoon, and all are welcome to join.

### Mission:

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive June 5 in the dining room from 12-5:30. Volunteers will be needed to help with snacks, etc.

### **Old Business:**

#### Request to Extend Pastor Kurt for 3 Months:

This would extend his term through July. A motion to do so was made and seconded, and the motion passed.

#### Alcohol Policy and Rentals:

The trial with the Zither dinner went well. We have not received any other feedback from the Congregation on the policy. As this is not a Constitutional amendment but rather is part of policy, it will be voted on by the Council. A motion to approve the policy was made and seconded, and the motion passed.

#### Christmas Decoration coordinators:

Patty Wood and Cindy Kriete have volunteered to do this job.

### **New Business:**

Could we remove wall between the upstairs kitchen and auditorium, in order to serve through the wall cafeteria style during events? Building & Grounds will investigate this.

Discussion on multiple services - Could Holidays or some special services be one service to get the whole Congregation together? (Maybe a special "Start the Year" Sunday celebration service.) Worship Committee needs to discuss.

Sunday, May 7, Ken Tucker would like to have a Concert for church members. It will include the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir, from 4-5 p.m. There will be a reception afterward. (approved)

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**St. Peter's UCC Financial Summary Sept. 2022-March 2023**

	Mar-23	Mar-22	Mar-21	2023 YTD	2022 YTD	2021 YTD	2020 YTD
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 47,998.48</b>	<b>\$ 60,132.94</b>	<b>\$ 47,061.83</b>	<b>\$ 171,115.02</b>	<b>\$ 158,808.94</b>	<b>\$ 146,816.05</b>	<b>\$ 163,489.24</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	\$ 37,142.19	\$ 40,366.11	\$ 29,443.55	\$ 130,676.47	\$ 125,577.58	\$ 111,456.28	\$ 120,644.00
<b>Building Fund</b>	\$ 3,676.95	\$ 8,878.00	\$ 8,147.54	\$ 19,135.30	\$ 19,626.90	\$ 19,375.38	\$ 25,907.89
<b>Other</b>	\$ 7,179.34	\$ 10,888.83	\$ 9,470.74	\$ 21,303.25	\$ 13,604.46	\$ 15,984.39	\$ 16,937.35
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>March</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>January</b>	<b>December</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>September</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>							
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	\$ 47,431.36	\$ 49,623.54	\$ 49,728.35	\$ 49,921.56	\$ 45,415.82	\$ 43,361.83	\$ 46,436.79
<b>Income</b>	\$ 3,676.95	\$ 8,540.00	\$ 6,918.35	\$ 5,409.85	\$ 9,357.90	\$ 4,992.15	\$ 4,424.85
<b>Expenses</b>	\$ 5,574.59	\$ 10,732.18	\$ 7,023.16	\$ 5,603.06	\$ 4,852.16	\$ 2,938.16	\$ 7,499.81
<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$ 45,533.72	\$ 47,431.36	\$ 49,623.54	\$ 49,728.35	\$ 49,921.56	\$ 45,415.82	\$ 43,361.83
<b>General Fund</b>							
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	\$ (343.31)	\$ (13,843.36)	\$ (12,505.96)	\$ (17,712.60)	\$ (16,963.89)	\$ (3,577.67)	\$ 6,089.18
<b>Income</b>	\$ 37,142.19	\$ 54,470.25	\$ 55,934.93	\$ 42,419.89	\$ 37,660.17	\$ 33,331.98	\$ 27,286.17
<b>Expenses</b>	\$ 52,586.25	\$ 40,687.49	\$ 57,272.33	\$ 37,213.25	\$ 38,408.88	\$ 46,718.20	\$ 36,953.02
<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$ (15,787.37)	\$ (60.60)	\$ (13,843.36)	\$ (12,505.96)	\$ (17,712.60)	\$ (16,963.89)	\$ (3,577.67)
	<b>Building Fund Balance</b>	\$45,533.72					
	<b>Youth Fund Balance</b>	\$9,793.66					
	<b>Memorial Fund Balance</b>	\$44,006.75					
	<b>Music Fund Balance</b>	\$3,222.04					
	<b>General Fund Balance</b>	-\$15,787.37					
	<b>Total in Heritage Bank Checking</b>	<b>\$86,768.80</b>	0%				
					<b>Loans</b>		
					<b>2029 Cornerstone</b>		2.40%
					<b>Feb 2024 Heritage Bank</b>		4.40%
						<b>\$75,331.97</b>	
					<b>June 2023 Property Sale CD</b>	\$146,000.00	4.55%
					<b>May 2023 Crowley Estate CD</b>	\$160,033.62	4.35%
					<b>May 2023 Memorial Fund CD</b>	\$21,000.00	1.75%
					<b>June 2023 Memorial Fund CD</b>	\$31,000.00	3.75%
					<b>Perpetual Mem. Investment</b>	\$19,319.37	
						<b>\$377,352.99</b>	

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St. Paul's UCC, Defiance, is having a drive thru Chicken Dinner on Sunday, May 7. For \$15 the dinner includes: 1/2 of a fried chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, vegetables, Coleslaw, apple sauce, homemade desserts; bottled water available. Quilt Raffle tickets available, too!



## May Birthdays

Matthew Bauer	05/01	Cecelia Heimos	05/19
Adam Hahn	05/01	Peggy Miller	05/19
Jack Harty	05/01	Dina Vitoux	05/20
Scott Hellmann	05/01	Cindy Kriete	05/21
Diane Jasper	05/01	David Czeschin	05/22
Harold Lindauer	05/01	Essel Kruse	05/22
Kenneth Desmond	05/03	Elizabeth Montgomery	05/23
Louis Obermark	05/04	Amelia Wisdom	05/23
Jo Phinney	05/05	Sabreena Bub	05/24
Jackie Krafft	05/07	Robert Moore	05/24
Jeremy Sherman	05/08	Odelia Gildehaus	05/25
Emmaline Bailey	05/09	Pamela Kinkeade	05/25
Debbie Door	05/09	Logan Gillig	05/27
Andrew Meyer	05/10	Zander Wisdom	05/28
Sadie Mann	05/11	Shane Clines	05/29
Rose Schulte	05/11	Harper Moeller	05/30
Diane Schwab	05/11	Amy Pope	05/30
Renlee Coppotelli	05/12	Amanda Scheer	05/30
Whitley Merryman	05/12		
Logan Owens	05/12		
Kevin Roehrs	05/12		
Tom Howard	05/13		
Carlie Isaak	05/13		
Andrew Smith	05/13		
Jason Wolking	05/13		
Olivia Zastrow	05/13		
Hannah Colter	05/14		
Kim Colter	05/15		
Tabatha Wacker	05/15		
Zane Moore	05/16		
Austin Jasper	05/17		
Julie Wadley	05/18		
Paulette Fitzpatrick	05/19		