



St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
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August 2023

### August Greetings!

It's been a busy summer! Many of you already know that Mary and I bought a house in Washington. It's one of the niceties of being a "settled" pastor. For any of you who has moved before, you know how chaotic it can be packing, unpacking, and transporting a household in between, even if it's only a five-minute drive. As you read this, the move will be complete, even though unpacking boxes will take some more time. But I'm rediscovering treasures I forgot I had!

It's also been a busy time for our congregation. Last week we held a very successful Vacation Bible School. We had nineteen children registered and our theme was centered on God's act of creation as that story is told in Genesis 1. Kudos to the kids and their teachers.

As a congregation we also approved a parking lot project. Work will begin this last week of July. Please keep these workers in your prayers as they will be working in near 100-degree weather.

I would also like to share with you a very important date for our congregation. My installation as your settled Senior Pastor will be on Sunday, November 5 at 3:00 p.m. I am pleased to announce that Rev. Mary Nelson, our Conference's Transitional Conference Minister, will be preaching the sermon at this service. More details of this special service will be shared as that date draws nearer.

In the meantime, keep cool!

Blessings,

Pastor Kurt

**Women's Fellowship** will be held on Thursday, August 10, at 10 a.m. Please check the weekly E-Messenger and church bulletin for more details.

**Church family:** If you have any musical talents and would like to share those in the next month, please consider either the Saturday evening service or Sunday morning service. We encourage you to display your gifts.

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

For the family and friends of Lucille Homeyer who died June 28, 2023.

For the family and friends of Mike Lesko; Mike was Jill's husband.

For the family and friends of Steve Harms; Steve's dad Eldon Harms of Cole Camp passed away July 15.

Thank you to ALL the volunteers who help the **Food Pantry** continue its vital ministry in our community. In June, 121 individuals representing 47 families were served.

We also thank the following for their generous donations—June Food Pantry donors:

Joline Logan

Wendell & Mary Lou Tyree

Brenda Bruns

United Way

Betty Peffermann

Ameren Missouri

Laurie & Bill Pinnell

Carol Muench

Darlene Langkopf

The **Washington Emergency Relief** would like to thank the anonymous donor who assisted us with some extra funds last month. When we keep getting more calls and for higher amounts, it is always a blessing to know that our generous donors have given us a little extra help for those in need. Thank you so much!

**Thank you** to all who contributed to the Saturday, July 15, Harvest Table meal. Members from St. Peter's helped with the service and contributed to the cookies for dessert.

**Great Decisions**

The 2023 series of Great Decisions will be repeated in an updated form beginning Wednesday, August 2 at 1 p.m. at the Washington Public Library. The series will continue for eight weeks.

We will take these foreign policy topics in the order listed below. If you came to the initial presentation in February and March, come to see what has changed! If this is your first time, this offers an opportunity to learn about the current foreign policy issues the United States government is addressing. Please let Bill Schwab know you are coming so enough handouts can be prepared. Thanks.

1. Energy Geopolitics
2. War Crimes
3. China and the U.S.
4. Economic Warfare

5. Politics in Latin America
6. Famine
7. Iran at a Crossroads
8. Climate Migration



**Aluminum can** drive August 5 & 6! Yes, bring those cans you have been saving to church and put them into Tom Howard's truck sitting in the parking lot. Proceeds from the drive are used for mission projects. Thank you for your support!



### General Synod Panel Presentation and Dinner--Wed., Aug. 23, 6 p.m.



Join Pastor Eric and other local General Synod delegates (clergy & lay) in the auditorium for a presentation and panel discussion regarding the happenings of General Synod 34. We will begin with a meal at 6:00 followed shortly by

the presentation. Come and hear from these delegates about their experiences and the business that was accomplished at this national gathering of the United Church of Christ.

## **Upcoming Educational Opportunities for the Whole Family**

As we move toward the fall and our program year resumes in earnest, here are some upcoming dates to keep in mind. Put them on your calendar and join us!

**August 20:** 10 a.m. - Blessing of the Backpacks

**September 10:** 9:15 a.m.- Sunday School Resumes (weekly)

Childcare available (weekly)

Parent's Gathering (weekly)

10 a.m. - 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders receive Bibles in worship

**September 17, October 1, November 5, & December 3:** 11:15 a.m.- Messy Church

(Messy Church is a time for people of all ages to be together, learn together, play together, and then share a meal together. It's an active, messy, crafty, fun time of engaging our faith. Lunch is always included at the conclusion of these gatherings as well. No sign up is necessary.)

## **St. Peter's UCC's Missional Impact**

Our congregation continues to work together to have a positive impact on our community.

- In June, *Washington Emergency Relief* received 184 calls. We were able to assist 61 people in the Franklin County area by giving out a total of 27 grants equaling \$6,469.70. Eight of those grants were for electricity, one for water, and 18 were for rent. It has been consistently busy in our office.
- The Salam Free Clinic provided medical care for four patients in July.
- Several volunteers helped to create and implement a wonderful VBS program that served 19 children from our congregation and beyond.
- St. Peter's UCC assisted with the costs for three children of the church to attend Camp MoVal.

**Where are the prayer requests?** For some time, we have listed people on the weekly prayer list with their first name and last name initial. In August, we will begin including last names in the bulletin. We, of course, will need the permission of those we list. If you are giving the church the name of another person, we ask that you request their permission to do so. You may also request a first name and last name initial if that is your preference. We will also place an initial period of two months on the prayer list as sometimes names stay on indefinitely. Please notify the church office if you wish to remain on the prayer list at the end of two months.

**Save the Date:** Social Concerns will host a Trivia Night October 21, 2023.

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

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

The General Fund is negative again; income in June was down and expenses were up.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurer's report. The motion passed.

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

- The Pastor's Report was reviewed.
- The Senior Pastor continues as a co-chair of the Committee on Ministry, an association of local UCC pastors.
- Pastor Kurt is mentoring 2 Pastors; each new licensed pastor is assigned a Mentor.
- He also officiated 2 funerals.
- His Installation service is set for Nov. 5 at 3pm. Rev. Mary Nelson will preach.
- Some people have noted they would like full names in bulletins, not just first names and initials (i.e. on the prayer list). This will be changed as long as permission is given to list the full name.

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

- We are in the midst of VBS.
- Pastor Eric is looking into doing a discussion panel on General Synod
- He directed a camp at MoVal, which had 26 attendees. We are considering a fall retreat.

### **Boards and Committees:**

#### Building & Grounds:

- B&G has sought bids for tuckpointing.
  - Two bids have been received; both are greater than \$5,000 and will require Congregational Approval.
  - Building & Grounds recommends going with the B&K bid. A motion was made and seconded to accept this bid, pending Congregational approval. The motion passed. This will need to go to the Congregation in a special Congregational meeting.
- B&G wants to raise the limit that can be spent without a quorum Congregational Meeting as is required by our Constitution. This would be so we don't have to keep having special meetings for every project due to inflation, which is pushing more and more projects over the current \$5,000 limit. This limit has not been changed in many years.
  - A motion was made and seconded to raise the limit that the Council can approve, without additional Congregational approval, to \$10,000. The motion passed, pending Congregational approval.
- The target date for the Congregational Meeting will be the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of August.

- Building and Grounds is seeking bids for AC repair or replacement.
- The boiler passed inspection.
- B&G is getting bids for the elevator phone as AT&T is getting out of the elevator phone business. We are legally required to have the phone.
- Parking lot work to begin around July 27, weather permitting.

#### Cemetery Board:

- Tree damage from the storm has been cleaned up.
- Several stones were knocked off their bases, but none was damaged; all have been reset.
- The CB members are working on a brochure that will have info on the *Traditional Cemetery Burial* and on *Green Burial*.

#### Worship Committee:

- They are working on the Parament Project; currently looking for fabric and embroidery choices.

#### Christian Education:

VBS is in progress. Thank you to Sara Barnett for her leadership and all the work she put into making VBS fun and educational.

#### **Old Business:**

##### Review of Constitution and Perpetual Care for Cemetery:

The Cemetery Board is concerned about the wording of our perpetual care long term commitment as the Constitution is currently worded. Research will be ongoing.

##### Parking lot Repair

- Was approved by the Congregation, and work is planned to start around July 27.

##### AED:

- The AED has arrived. A training session is being set up pending the availability of a trainer. The box needs to be mounted.
- The Training will take about 2 hours.

#### **New Business:**

##### 5th Sunday:

- The plan is to have hot dogs and ice cream sundaes.

##### Festival of Trees Returns to St. Peter's!!

- The committee requests that families decorate trees.
- A letter to sign up will go to the congregation.
- After families have had a period to sign up, the community will be invited to participate.

##### Event Committee Updates:

- Brochures are ready and are placed around church and around town
- They will be looking for some supplies for events.

##### Meals on Wheels:

- Meals on Wheels is looking for a "home" with an organization whose umbrella they could be under. Food is delivered every day to all participants. Each local group takes care of their area, and no national organization is in control. The hospital provides the food. We would need to investigate and speak with our insurance agent.



The General Fund is negative again; income in June was down and expenses were up.  
**St. Peter's UCC Financial Summary June 2023**

	June	2023 YTD	2022 YTD
Total Receipts	37,712.52	321,565.14	288,889.33
General Fund	29,376.00	262,289.67	227,302.20
Building Fund	2,754.61	29,919.21	33,733.30
Other	5,581.91	29,356.26	27,853.83

Building Fund	
Beginning Balance June 1	40,071.04
Income	2,754.61
Expenses	5,061.64
Ending Balance June 30	37,764.01

General Fund	
Beginning Balance June 1	10,312.73
Income	29,376.00
Expenses	51,406.72
Ending Balance June 30	-11,717.99

# foodstock XII

**AUGUST 26, 2023 • 5 PM - 10 PM**  
**WASHINGTON FARMERS MARKET • 317 W MAIN ST**

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a night of music to help fill our local food pantries

admission

BAG OF FOOD OR  
MONETARY DONATION

**5pm UNSPECIFIED RAILROAD BAND**

**6pm THE TEXAS GIANTS**

**7pm THE WIDOW MAKERS**

**8pm BUTCH WAX & THE HOLLYWOODS**

**9pm BAGLUNCH BLUES BAND**

**donation stations**  
**IF YOU'RE BUSY ON AUGUST 26, YOU CAN STILL DONATE TO THE CAUSE!**

**august 24 • 5 - 8 pm**  
**AT SUNSET ON THE RIVERFRONT**  
**MUSIC: TEXAS GIANTS**

**august 25 • 5 - 8 pm**  
**AT VINO DI LAFAYETTE**  
**MUSIC: PAYDIRT**





14th Annual  
Festival of Trees



Trimming Trees with our Families!!

The **Festival of Trees** is gearing up for another successful year. This year we are planning to hold it back at church and would like for St. Peter's families to participate by decorating a tree.

St. Peter's UCC families, come Trim a Tree!

We have the trees; we need you to decorate!!

**Reserve your Tree by September 20.**

After all our church families respond we will ask outside businesses and organizations to participate.

The church will be open for decorating November 18-26. Times will be announced later.

Please complete the information sheet indicating your interest in participating. Once received we will send you information on your tree, the size and color of your tree.

**Reserve your Tree by September 20.**

If you have any questions contact Susan Harms: 636-359-1452, [s.harms@charter.net](mailto:s.harms@charter.net) or Dottie Brinker: [dhbrinker@gmail.com](mailto:dhbrinker@gmail.com) 636-667-8739

The Festival of Trees is open each Saturday and Sunday in December prior to Christmas. Opening day is Saturday, December 2.

The Festival of Trees will support all Food Pantries in Washington and the Washington Emergency Relief Fund (WERF).

For many in and around our community this has become a holiday tradition. Please consider participating in the Festival of Trees.

***Matthew 18: 20***

***"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."***





St. Peter's UCC Family Registration Form

Festival of Trees



Registration Deadline: September 20, 2023

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ We will use a tree from Church. \_\_\_\_\_ We will bring a tree.

Tree Decorating Theme, if decided:

\_\_\_\_\_

Any Tree Preferences on color, size, etc., please list below.

Most trees provided are 7' to 7.5' green trees; however, we have some larger and smaller, white and one black tree. All our trees have lights.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form or call to confirm your interest in participating!**

**Email or call**

Susan Harms: [s.harms@charter.net](mailto:s.harms@charter.net) 636-359-1452  
Dottie Brinker: [dhbrinker@gmail.com](mailto:dhbrinker@gmail.com) 636-667-8739



August Birthdays

Leonard Hackett	08/01
William Rebeck	08/02
Brian McDaniel	08/03
Pierce Simmons	08/03
David Allemann	08/04
Arlene Campbell	08/04
Diane Lick	08/04
Edward Wilson	08/04
Chase Merryman	08/05
Nathan Kleekamp	08/07
Caroline Miller	08/08
Benjamin Alspach	08/09
Christina Filla	08/09
Marilyn Luechtefeld	08/09
Lois Potochny	08/09
Roger Fleer	08/10
Owen Kelley	08/10
Gabriel Noud	08/10
Jonathan Amlong	08/11
Wendy McDaniel	08/11
Donna Mueller	08/11
Darlene Sample	08/12
Jason Scheible	08/12
Martha Berry	08/13
Tina Schwentker	08/15
Casper Becker	08/16
Dean Fitzpatrick	08/16
Robert Kell	08/16
Timothy Kellermann	08/17
Ronald Mueller	08/17
Judy Schneider	08/17
Brent Shocklee	08/17
April Smith	08/17

Wesley Mann	08/18
Kai Matau	08/18
Pat O'Donnell	08/18
Michael Bauer	08/20
Matthew Amlong	08/22
Nola Gorrell	08/22
Cindy Holdmeyer	08/22
Timothy McDowell	08/22
Trudy Ronsick	08/22
Molly Young	08/22
Carol Eckelkamp	08/23
Anna Meyer	08/23
Emily Schonaerts	08/23
Ardis Briggs	08/24
Wyatt Buchholz	08/24
Lisa Heimos	08/24
Lesley Ann Ronsick	08/24
Peyton Triplett	08/24
Kaye Nurnberger	08/25
Lindsay Arnette	08/26
Mary Bierbaum	08/26
Charles Hellmann	08/26
David Whetzel	08/26
Joyce Miklos	08/27
Caleb Moritz	08/27
Josie Kleekamp	08/28
Blaine Schmiedeskamp	08/28
Becky Aulenbacher	08/29
Carrol Ocsody	08/30