

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent

10:00 AM

www.youtube.com/stpetersuccwashmo

** - Please rise in body or spirit.*

CENTERING OURSELVES IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

Andrew Jackson, Principal Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT "Come to the Savior All" arr. Fontana Chancel Choir

MISSION MOMENT One Great Hour of Sharing

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Charles Sincox, Liturgist

One: For God so loved the world,

Many: Love assumed human likeness.

One: The Son did not regard equality with God as something to grasp,

Many: But the Son emptied himself.

One: Jesus was obedient to Love, even to the point of death.

Many: Therefore, God exalted him even more highly.

One: Jesus Christ is Lord of our lives.

Many: He leads us to the fullness of life; wraps us up in God. Glory to God!

*HYMN

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

23

**There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.**

**There's no place where earthly sorrows are more felt than in God's heaven;
there's no place where earthly failings have such kindly judgment given.**

**For the love of God is broader than the measures of our minds;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.**

**If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word;
and our lives would show thanksgiving for the goodness of our God.**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Loving Creator, you gave your Son not to judge the world but to infuse it with life. Jesus reveals the values that revitalize: grace, generosity, humility, love, and selflessness. We confess that, at times, our actions reflect disbelief in Jesus. We judge others, value retribution, merit, and ambition, and serve ourselves. Forgive us for not loving as freely as we are loved, or forgiving as freely as we are forgiven. May our actions confess our belief that Jesus is Lord. Amen.

*LAMB OF GOD

801

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
 Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
 Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

*WORDS OF GRACE

THE FIRST LESSON

John 3:14-21

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

CHOIR ANTHEM "I Want To Be Ready" arr. Helvey

Chancel Choir

(lyrics p. 8)

THE SECOND LESSON Philippians 2:1-11

One: The Word of God for a people of God.

Many: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

*HYMN

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

388

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
 teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
 Be present, God, among us and bring us to believe
 we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O God, your lessons, as in our daily life
 we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
 Teach us to care for people, for all - not just for some,
 to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
 in living situations to do the truth in love;
 To practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
 the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

God, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
 who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
 Bring us new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
 renew us with your Spirit; God! Free us, make us one!

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Invitation

Sentences of Scripture

Promises

Welcome and Reception

**We welcome you with joy as partners in the common life of this church.
 We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and
 labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may
 we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be
 witnesses of our Risen Savior. Amen.**

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 STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

INVITATION TO GIVE

*RESPONSE "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" 213 (vs 3)

**"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song is ours.
 We hail the great Redeemer and sing with all our powers:
 "Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.
 Hosanna! In your presence forever we'll rejoice!"**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God, whose giving knows no ending, our Lord withheld nothing from the world you love. As Christ leads us, we look to the interests of others. We offer these gifts that they will bring life to our neighbors; that others may experience some measure of life-of-the-age-to-come, the Commonwealth of God. Amen.

*HYMN

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

43

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of Heav'n on earth be found,
Fix in us a humble dwelling, All your faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, you are all compassion; Pure, unbounded love impart.
Visit us with your salvation, Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit Into every troubled breast;
Let us all in you inherit, Let us find your promised rest;
Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, Let us all your life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore your temples leave.

You we would be always blessing, Love you as your angels love,
Pray and praise for your unfailing, wounded arms out-stretched above.

Finish, then, your new creation; Pure and spotless may we prove;
Let us see your great salvation Perfectly restored in you;
Changed from glory into glory, Till in Heav'n we take our place,
Crowned as saints, we ever shall be, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

☞ Thank You for Worshipping Here Today ☞

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The Rev Kurt Schaller Blaufuss, Senior Pastor
 The Rev. Eric W. Moeller, Associate Pastor
 Ken Tucker, Director of Music
 Andrew Jackson, Principal Organist
 Carol H. Hackmann, Office Manager
 Gary Edler, Cemetery Sexton
 Harold (Hal) Siebert, Building & Grounds Custodian

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.

For the Children: Children are welcome to utilize the Prayground at the front right of the sanctuary during worship. This space is specifically for kids and is stocked with activities for them to utilize for the duration of the service. A pastor or other volunteer is seated there as well, so parents can worship where they choose.

The altar flowers are placed courtesy of Hoffmann-Hillermann Nursery.

We welcome Hal Siebert who began his work with the church Mon., March 4, as the Building & Grounds Custodian.

Welcome new members Carla & Blake Georgie! Carla attended St. Peter's Sunday School as a child. Her older siblings were confirmed here. Her mother was Dolly Bunge Borcharding, and her grandparents, Reinhard & Sylvia Bunge. She has been a life-long member of the UCC having served as Sunday School Teacher, VBS Director and a member of Pulpit Committee, Choir and Bells. She works at Concordia Seminary as an accountant. Blake was born into a UCC Family. His grandfather, Ira Gragg, was a UCC minister at the same church for 34 years. He is retired, having worked in painting and as a Help Desk Manager at IBM. He has been a UCC member for almost 70 years.

Entry to the church building during office hours: If, by chance, the south doors are locked during office hours and you need access to the building we ask that you either call the church office (636-239-6176) or ring the doorbell. If you ring the doorbell, please be patient; it may take several minutes for office personnel to get there to let you in. Thank you for your understanding. Office hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30-4, Fri. 8:30-Noon.

Call to Congregational Meeting: The Spring Congregational Meeting will be held following worship Sat., March 16 & Sun., March 17. Watch your mail for more information.

Women's Fellowship will meet at 10 a.m. Thurs., March 14 in the atrium meeting room. Our program will be presented by Nancy Thater who will share how she researches pictures. The process and the information Nancy has found is fascinating and enlightening. Please join us!

“These Days” devotional booklets and the March Newsletter are available in the atrium and the church office.

Please pray . . .

With Leann Davis, Scott Jacquin, Carol Muench, Blake Georgie

Just a reminder that cemetery cleanup and removal of Fall and Christmas flowers will continue through March 15. Easter and spring flowers recently placed will not be removed.

Worship Attendance – March 2 & 3, 2024

Saturday In-Person: 24 Sunday In-Person: 73 YouTube Views: 28

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

Sunday, March 10, 2024

9:15 a.m. - Sunday School

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Daylight Saving Time begins

Monday, March 11, 2024

11 a.m. - Staff Meeting

12:00-3:00 p.m. - Quilting

6:30 pm. - Girl Scouts

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

1:30-3 p.m. - Coffee w/the Pastors

5:30 pm. - Justice Witness

6:30 p.m. - Advisory Committee

6:30 pm. - Board of Christian Education

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

9:00 a.m. - Quilting

10:00 a.m. - Prayer Meeting

11:30 a.m. - Bible Study

1:00 p.m. - Mission Team

5:30 p.m. - Lenten Program

6:30 p.m. - Chapel Bells

7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir

Thursday, March 14, 2024

10:00 a.m. - Women's Fellowship

12:30 p.m. - Cemetery Board

6:30 p.m. - AA

Friday, March 15, 2024

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

Saturday, March 16, 2024

5:00 p.m. - Worship followed by Congregational Meeting

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

Sunday, March 17, 2024

9:15 a.m. - Sunday School

10:00 a.m. - Worship followed by Congregational Meeting

Lenten Program: "Enter to Worship, Depart to Serve", Wednesdays in Lent, 5:30 p.m. [the remaining dates are March 13 & 20] "Enter to Worship. Depart to Serve."

Those words ought to sound familiar. They are our mission statement. They hang above the door into our sanctuary reminding us why we are there, at least in part. We enter the space to somehow be formed for God's work. This Lent you are invited to join us Wednesday evenings for a meal and a time of exploring the meaning behind this statement more deeply. We will explore worship, its composite parts and its purpose. We will explore the concept of mission and the context in which it all happens: our community. Please come and join the discussion! We are certainly looking forward to it! Pastors Kurt and Eric

Your Pastors' Office Hours:

Pastor Kurt: Monday thru Thursday 9 a.m.-Noon

Pastor Eric: Wednesday Noon-3:30 p.m.



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!

Ebenezer UCC Augusta Fish Fry March 22, 5-7 p.m.**Femme Osage UCC Sausage Dinner** March 10, 11:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.**Immanuels UCC Holstein Fish Fry** March 15, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

2024 New Melle Community Passion Play, New Melle Sports & Recreation Center.

Admission Free; seating is on First-come, First-seated basis. March 23: 4 pm. & 7 p.m.;
March 24: 2 p.m. & 4:30 p.m. For groups or more information call 636-384-0576

Bethel Easter Walk 2024, Londell, 6-8:30 p.m. each day, March 22, March 23, March 24.
Outdoor trail, Handicap accessible. For more information 636-629-2978. Free event.

Choir Anthem: "I Want To Be Ready" arr. Helvey "I want to be ready, I want to be ready.
I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem just like John. I want to be ready I want to be ready,
I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem just like John. John said the city was just foursquare.
Walk in Jerusalem just like John. And he declared he'd meet me there. Walk I Jerusalem just
like John. Oh I want to be ready, I want to be ready. I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem
just like John. Oh, John, oh, John, what do you way? Walk in Jerusalem just like John. That
I'll be there at the coming day. Walk in Jerusalem just like John. I want to be ready, I want
to be ready. I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem just like John. I want to be ready to
walk in Jerusalem, to walk in Jerusalem just like John."

St. Peter's is once again giving everyone the opportunity to remember their loved ones by
helping to decorate the sanctuary on Easter with lilies. If you wish to place an Easter lily or
a memorial, please complete this form and return it to the church office no later than **Mon.,
March 25**. Place your order with an area florist, or if you know of an organization who is
selling them as a fundraiser, please order from them. We ask that plants be delivered to the
church **Fri., March 29 before Noon**.

EASTER MEMORIALS/LILIES

Given by: _____ Phone or email _____

I wish to place an **EASTER LILY** in memory of:

I wish to donate an **EASTER MEMORIAL** in memory of:

Enclosed find: \$___ Memorial Fund \$___ Building Fund \$___ General Fund \$___ Cemetery

Please note: **Any lily not picked up by noon Tues., April 2 will be delivered to shut-ins**