

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 26, 2023

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

10:00 AM

www.youtube.com/stpetersuccwashmo

** - Please rise in body or spirit.*

CENTERING OURSELVES IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Andrew Jackson, Principal Organist

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sue Wehmueeller, Liturgist

One: Where does Jesus meet us?

All: Wherever we are, even weeping in grief.

One: Where does Jesus seek to lead us?

All: From death to life.

One: How do we respond?

All: In faith we follow.

One: How do we respond?

All: With gratitude, we praise God the Source, Jesus the Son, and the Spirit that continues to take on flesh and act among us.

*HYMN

"God Reigns O'er All the Earth"

21

God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and valleys low, the farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beauty show.

God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spreading plains, in rainbow hues—reds, yellows, blues—of streams and country lanes.

God reigns o'er human life! Through youth and aging years, in death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.

God reigns o'er human life! Our inspiration still. Through all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reigning will.

God reigns! Emmanuel! God with us every day, in all our past and to the
last, our comfort and our stay. God reigns! Emmanuel!
Let praise to Christ be sung! God's presence here makes all things dear.
Let joyful bells be rung!

Light of Life, you shine upon our tombs, seeking to draw us out from the realm of death that ensnares us; that binds us with fear, self-service, greed, and bias. Forgive us for embracing the ease of dwelling in such shadows. Animate us anew, we pray, that we will find the courage and strength to step into your light and follow in your paths of friendship, love, and self-giving. Amen.

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.

[illegible]

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 11: 1-45

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY

SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN “My Life Flows on in Endless Song” 476

**My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation, I hear the
sweet, though far off hymn that hails a new creation. Through all the tumult
and the strife, I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul—how can I keep from singing?**

**What though my joys and comforts die? My Savior still is living. What
though the shadows gather 'round? A new song Christ is giving. No storm
can shake my inmost calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging; Since Love
commands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?**

**When tyrants tremble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells ringing;
When friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing?
In prison cell and dungeon vile our thoughts to them are winging;
When friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing?
I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it; And day by day
this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ
makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing;
All things are mine since I am Christ's – how can I keep from singing?**

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

Doxology

**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 (In Unison)

Giver of Life, our faith is in you. We believe, not just in word, but also in deed. We offer these gifts that they will bring life to others. Bless them that they may unbind those who are held back by the forces of death present in our world. Bless these gifts that they will shine resurrection light in places of deep shadow. Amen.

*HYMN

“Lead Us From Death to Life”

581

Refrain: **Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
let peace fill our universe.**

**Still all the angry cries, still all the angry guns,
still now your people die, earth’s sons and daughters.
Let justice roll, let mercy pour down,
come and teach us your way of compassion. (*Refrain*)**

**So many lonely hearts, so many broken lives,
longing for love to break into their anguish.
Come, teach us love, come, teach us peace,
come and teach us your way of compassion. (*Refrain*)**

**Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth,
let us begin to grow into your people.
We can be love, we can bring peace,
we can still be your way of compassion. (*Refrain*)**

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

☞ Thank You for Worshipping Here Today ☞

The Rev Kurt Schaller Blaufuss, Transitional Senior Pastor

The Rev. Eric W. Moeller, Associate Pastor

Ken Tucker, Director of Music

Andrew Jackson, Principal Organist

Carol H. Hackmann, Office Manager

Nathaniel Pfitzinger, Building & Grounds Custodian/Cemetery Sexton

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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 Playground 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. Sunday School is offered for all ages following worship.

The altar flowers are placed by Ben & Janet Alspach in honor of their 40th wedding anniversary.

Pastor Kurt is on vacation through Tues., March 28. He is in the Chicago area where his daughter, Rebecca Blaufuss and Jake Stokes were married yesterday.

April Financial Support Campaign We are hoping you will all join in helping boost the finances of our church. "Raindrops" can be found on the April Shower bulletin board found in the church atrium. Each raindrop is varied in the amount and topic, but each represents the true cost of a church expense. Select a "raindrop" to your liking, and "drop" your 'raindrop' in an envelope along with a check or cash, and place the envelope in the offering plate or the church office. If your "raindrop" has a weekly/monthly/annual amount, choose the amount that fits your budget. We hope to have a 'thundershower' of financial success before the end of April, as well as an educational enlightenment on church expenses.

“These Days” devotional booklets, the March Newsletter and the 2022 Annual Report are available in the atrium and the office.

Worship Attendance – March 18 & 19, 2023

Saturday In-Person: 16 Sunday In-Person: 82 YouTube Views: 26

Ebenezer UCC, Augusta, Fish Fry – March 31, 5-7:30 p.m. Dine In or Carry Out

The Schwarzer Zither Ensemble and the Washington Historical Society present a Grand Zither Concert Sunday, April 2, 2023, 3:00 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Washington. Tickets: \$12 suggested donation. All are welcome regardless of making a donation.

Please pray . . .

With Larry R., Dan H., Nate P., Cara C., Ruth K., Grace, Clayton, Rita R., Betty B., Deloris B., D. Dale, Dave P., A. James, Marylou E., Ruth D., Darlene B., Thelma L., Joan G., Florence S., Glen M., Delores B., Michael A., Bill D., Fred K., and all who need God’s tender care today.

For family and friends of Emilie Overschmidt who died Thursday, March 16, 2023. Services were held for her Friday afternoon.

For family and friends of Don Northington who died Saturday, March 18, 2023. Services will be held for him here at the church tomorrow, March 27, at 11 a.m. Visitation will be held today from 12-5 p.m. at Oltmann Funeral Home and will resume at St. Peter’s Church tomorrow, March 27, at 10 a.m. until the time of service.

For family and friends of Ervin Ebker who died Sunday, March 19, 2023. Services were held for him Friday morning.

For the Search Committee and the search process

For all children, parents, school officials and personnel

For residents of all the nursing homes and assisted living facilities

For friends who have had surgery and those undergoing various kinds of medical tests and treatments

For all who are lonely, sad, or depressed; may God bless them with comfort and hope.

For all who suffer with mental illness and various addictions

For all who suffer violence in our society

For the people of Turkey and Syria in the wake of the recent earthquake

For all those around the globe whose lives are threatened with food insecurity and homelessness.

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

Sunday, March 26, 2023

10:00 a.m. - Worship (In-Person & Online)

11:15 a.m. - Sunday School

Monday, March 27, 2023

11:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting

12:00 p.m. - Quilting

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

1:30-3:00 p.m. - Coffee w/the Pastors at Undergrounds Espresso Bar

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

9:00 a.m. - Quilting

10:00 a.m. - Prayer Meeting (Online)

5:30 p.m. - Lenten Dinner & Program (Auditorium)

6:30 p.m. - Bell Choir

7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir

Thursday, March 30, 2023

6:30 p.m. - AA (Community Room)

6:30 p.m. - Scouts (Dining Room)

Saturday, April 1, 2023

5:00 p.m. - Worship w/communion

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

Aluminum Drive (South parking lot)

Sunday, April 2, 2023

10:00 a.m. - Worship w/communion (In-Person & Online)

11:15 a.m. - Messy Church

Aluminum Drive (South parking lot)



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: “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.”

Remembering Our Loved Ones at Easter

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 **Monday, April 3**. 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 **Friday, April 7 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

Please note: **Any lily not picked up by noon Tues., April 11 will be delivered to shut-ins**

Holy Week & Easter at St. Peter's United Church of Christ:

- Palm Sunday Worship w/Communion April 2 - 10:00 a.m.
 - Maundy Thursday Worship April 6 - 7:00 p.m.
 - Good Friday Worship April 7 - 7:00 p.m.
 - Holy Saturday Worship April 8 - 5:00 p.m.
 - Easter Sunday Worship w/Communion April 9 - 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
- A potluck breakfast will be served beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the dining room. The church will provide the sausage and drinks. Please bring a dish to share. All are welcome!