

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 19, 2023 TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 AM

www.youtube.com/stpetersuccwashmo

** - Please rise in body or spirit.*

CENTERING OURSELVES IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Carol Muench, Guest Organist

Thanksgiving Prelude on "Come Ye Thankful People, Come" arr. by R. Parks

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION MOMENT

Unleashing Potential

Darlene Sowell,
President & CEO

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Phil Butler, Liturgist

One: Friends, we are alive here and now.

All: With grateful hearts, we gather for a moment together.

One: Our time is precious, and we will not squander it.

All: From moments to material, our Master has entrusted us with much.

One: With nothing to waste, we are on the move.

All: Fear will not freeze our footsteps.

One: Servants of God, good and trustworthy, let us worship our Source and Sustainer.

All: With songs of praise, we enter into the joy of our Master.

*HYMN

"We Gather Together"

421

**We gather together to ask for God's blessing, to live in community,
seeking God's will. We come now, as sisters and brothers,
confessing the sins that divide and the wrong in us still.**

**Beside us, forgiving, enabling, sustaining, you call us, O Savior,
to life that is new. You draw us away from self-centered complaining.
You lead us and guide us in ways that are true.**

**All praise to the Spirit, provider, defender. You offer us freedom,
to follow or stray, Empowering all by the hope you engender.
Grant wisdom and courage to follow your way.**

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (In Unison)

Masterful Maker, you shape each of us with purpose, even weaving yourself into the very fiber of our being. You also entrust us with the gift of choice. What we do with our gifts is up to us. Spirit, stir within us. Guide us. Strengthen our hearts. Grant us the courage to be who you've created us to be; to be bold in our living, taking risks to increase love, well-being, and joy in the world. Amen.

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

ANTHEM "Count Your Blessings" The Chancel Choir
(lyrics p. 8)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 25: 14-30

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

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY

SILENT REFLECTION

SPECIAL MUSIC "Keep On"

By Rev. Eric Moeller (please join in during the 'outro')

We've never taken a wrong turn

Followed directions like a sacred word

We broke down, but we broke down

Look there's a trail through the weeds

Let's leave the pavement and see where it leads

You never know, we might be better for, and I gotta know

(pre-Chorus) **And then**

Eyes widen with jubilation

Spirits spring with rejuvenation

Ears ring with creation's revelation

(Chorus) **That small stream will become the open sea**

This open field feels like an open dream

Do you hear the birds singing in the border trees?

See the lilies dancing in the summer breeze?
An invitation to hurry our feet and keep on. Keep on

We've been working so [so] hard
Royal hearts in the house of pawns
No getting out, no getting out

Look at the star studded sky
How long have they burned, the light's just reaching our sight
It's not too late to embrace our fate, stake our claim
(pre-Chorus & Chorus)

And then
Eyes widen with jubilation
Spirits spring with rejuvenation
Ears ring with creation's revelation
A promise in the air

Fear not, for I am with you
Fear not, for I go ahead
Fear not, I bless and keep you
Fear not, you are held in my hand
Fear not, for I am with you
Fear not. Keep on.

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

OFFERTORY "Lord's My Shepherd" in the setting of "Largo" arr. by C. Berry

*SUNG RESPONSE “We Give You But Your Own” (Tune: 785)

We give you but your own, whatever the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone, we give it thankfully.

May we your bounties thus, as stewards true receive.
And gladly as you bless us all, to you our first fruits give.

To comfort and to bless, to find a balm for woe,
to minister to all who lack, is angel’s work below.

The captive to release, to God the lost we bring,
To teach the way of love and peace, it is a Christ-like thing.

And we believe your word, though dim our faith may be:
What e’er we do for you, O Christ, we do it unto you.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)

Sacred Source, we are deeply thankful for the many gifts you entrust to our care. All that we are, and all that we have, we commit to your purposes. Accept these offerings as a token of our intention to live our moments courageously sharing ourselves and resources for the good of all your children and the world you love. Amen.

*HYMN “O Day of God, Draw Near” 611

O day of God, draw nigh in beauty and in power;
come with thy timeless judgment now to match our present hour.

Bring to our troubled minds, uncertain and afraid,
the quiet of a steadfast faith, calm of a call obeyed.

Bring justice to our land, that all may dwell secure,
and finely build for days to come foundations that endure.

Bring to our world of strife thy sovereign word of peace,
that war may haunt the earth no more, and desolation cease.

O day of God, draw nigh as at creation's birth;
let there be light again, and set thy judgments on the earth.

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE “Holy God” in the setting of “Thanks Be To Thee” arr. C. Berry

☞ Thank You for Worshipping Here Today ☞

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

Nathaniel Pfitzinger, Building & Grounds Custodian/Cemetery Sexton

Music used in this service with permission under One License #A-716613. All rights reserved.

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 in celebration of Carl Clover’s birthday by his wife, Rhonda Stockglausner.

Boxes of offering envelopes for 2024 are now available in the back of the sanctuary. To save the church money, please pick up your box by early December. Call the office if you do not find yours. Also be in touch if you need assistance getting your envelopes. Thank you.

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

Please pray . . . With Betty Warren, The Allemann-Bailey Family, Sarah Holmes, Nola Gorrell; For the Family of David Allemann who passed away Sun., Nov. 12, 2023. Services will be private; For Danielle Grotewiel and Bridgette Kelch and their family on the loss of their mother, Marylou Epple, who passed away Wed., Nov. 15.

Worship Attendance – November 11 & 12, 2023

Saturday In-Person: 16 Sunday In-Person: 86 YouTube Views: 58

Building and Grounds Custodian and Cemetery Sexton Resignation It is with sadness that we received the resignation of our church custodian and cemetery sexton, Nathaniel Pfitzinger. Nathaniel has served as our Cemetery Sexton since September 2017, and he became our church custodian in May of 2021. We appreciate all that Nathaniel has done for our church and the competence and character he brought to these positions. Nathaniel's last day will be Thurs., Nov. 30, 2023.

St. Peter's UCC will now be searching for these two positions. Our congregation's Staff Relations Committee, Church Council, and the Cemetery Board have begun working on this transition and search. If you have any ideas of possible applicants or might be interested in these positions, please contact Pastor Kurt, Marty Derner (council president), or Judy Verdine (Staff Relations Committee chair). We can also provide more information about the position and answer any questions you might have. We will also advertise these positions in our local newspaper.



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!

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

Sunday, November 19, 2023

9:15 a.m. - Sunday School & Parent Gathering

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Monday, November 20, 2023

11:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting

12:00-3:00 - Quilting

6:30 p.m. - Church Council

6:30 pm. - Girl Scouts

7:00 p.m. - Civic Chorus Rehearsal (Auditorium)

Tuesday, November 21, 2023 Newsletter articles due

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

6:30 p.m. - Justice Witness

Wednesday, November 22, 2023

NO Quilting

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

11:30 a.m. - Bible Study

Thursday, November 23, 2023

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!! Church office closed

Friday, November 24, 2023 Church office closed

Saturday, November 25, 2023

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

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

Festival of Trees Decorating

Sunday, November 26, 2023

9:15 a.m. - Sunday School & Parent Gathering

10:00 a.m. - Worship w/Totenfest

Festival of Trees Decorating

Tablecloths: Anyone who has borrowed tablecloths from the church, please return them to the church office or call Cecil Blankenship (239-6130). Thank you.

The **Finance Board** is grateful to all those who have returned your commitment cards. If you have not turned in your card, we will be glad to still receive it. Thank you for the commitment of your time, gifts, and talents to St. Peter's Church.

Women of the Church: Please join us for our annual Christmas luncheon on Thurs., Dec. 14 at the home of Judy Verdine. We ask that you call Rhonda Stockglausner (636-390-3425) to reserve your place. We will meet at the church parking lot at 11 a.m. to carpool. We look forward to having a fun event!

Choir Anthem: "Count Your Blessings" When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed, When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost, Count your many blessings, name them one by one, And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done. *Refrain:* Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your blessings, see what God hath done; Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your many blessings, see what God hath done. Are you ever burdened with a load of care? Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear? Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly, And you will be singing as the days go by. *Refrain* When you look at others with their lands and gold, Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold. Count your many blessings, money cannot buy Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high. *Refrain* So, amid the conflict, whether great or small, Do not be discouraged, God is over all; Count your many blessings, angels will attend, Help and comfort give you to your journey's end. *Refrain*