



St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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April 2023

Death and resurrection.

Sorrow and joy.

Despair and hope.

These are the paradoxical themes of the Biblical story. And they describe life as we know it and live it.

We will soon be experiencing the spiritual highs and lows of Holy Week beginning Sunday, April 2. There is the Palm Sunday parade with its cries of *Hosanna!* Later we shall join Jesus in an upper room as he shares the last supper with his disciples and announces that one of his very own shall betray him. During the darkness of Good Friday, we stand in the shadow of the cross. Jesus is buried. Is this the end? No. Finally, there is the surprise and wonder of Easter as we meet the Risen Christ who has triumphed over sin and death.

There is death. We stand under the shadow of Good Friday's cross. We encounter in our own living, experiences of pain and sorrow that make us think that this is the end.

But there is also resurrection. Amid the often-tragic news of our world and our lives, there is Good News! The proclamation of Easter is that God reigns. Life has conquered death. Christ is risen! In the end, love is the victor. Therefore, we have hope, joy and life.

Holy Week and Easter are a special and profound time for the church. There are many opportunities for us during these days to reflect on God's gift of life and love in Jesus Christ. I pray that all of us will enter into the spirit of these holy days as we allow God's Good News to touch and transform our lives.

Wishing you the blessings of the Season,

Pastor Kurt

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

We solemnly offer our Christian love and prayers to:

the family and friends of Marie Martin who passed away Thursday, February 2, 2023;

the family and friends of Jim Parsons who passed away on February 21, 2023. There will be a memorial service for Jim on Saturday, April 15 beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the church;

the family and friends of Jeffery Dietrich who died Friday, March 3, 2023. (Jeffery was married to Shelly and was the son-in-law of Carol Triplett.);

the family and friends of Elaine Kruse who passed on Saturday, March 4, 2023;

the family and friends for Emilie Overschmidt who died Thursday, March 16, 2023;

the family and friends of Dr. Donald 'Don' Northington who passed away on Saturday, March 18, 2023; and

the family and friends of Ervin Ebker who died Sunday, March 19, 2023.

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

- **Palm Sunday** Worship w/Communion April 2 at 10:00 a.m.
- **Maundy Thursday** Worship April 6 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Good Friday** Worship April 7 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Holy Saturday** Worship April 8 at 5:00 p.m.
- **Easter Sunday** Worship w/Communion April 9 at 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

ON EASTER MORNING, a potluck breakfast will be served BETWEEN THE TWO SERVICES 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!

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 the form (on next page) and return it to the church office no later than Monday, April 3. Place your order with an area florist, or an organization that is selling them as a fundraiser. We ask that plants be delivered to the church Friday, April 7 before noon.

EASTER MEMORIALS or LILLIES

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

**Happy
Easter!**
Potluck Party

Sunday, April 9th at
8:30 AM before Service

Church will be providing the sausage and drinks. Please bring an egg casserole, pastries, fruit, coffee cake or any other food item to share. Volunteers are requested for clean-up.

For more information, please contact Bridgette Kelch at 636-346-1444 or via email at bridgette.kelch@eastcentral.edu



Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship will meet in the Atrium Room on **Thursday, April 13** at 10 a.m. We will have a program presented by Denise Towell and Les Kemp on their recent mission trip to Guatemala. After the meeting we will go to Guffey's Restaurant for lunch. (Guffey's is located on High St. and Highway 100 where Los Cabos used to be.) Please reply to Judy Verdine 636-346-9380, or Rhonda Stockglausner 636-390-3425, by April 11 if you can join us for lunch. Hope to see you there!!

April has a 5th Sunday!

Join us for a fellowship and a meal after the 10 a.m. Service!
Sunday, April 29: Baked Potato Bar

A free will offering will be collected to help with expenses.

For additional information please reach out to
Bridgett Kelch at 636-346-1444 or Bridgette.kelch@eastcentral.edu

Or

Ben and Janet at 770-362-6734 or alspachs@comcast.net

Justice Witness

In Matthew 25, Jesus implores his followers to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, visit the sick and the imprisoned. If these words weigh on your heart and mind, then the **Justice Witness Committee** at St. Peter's might be for you.

We are looking for new members who want to study and act on these issues in Washington and the surrounding area. The Justice Witness team has been active at St. Peter's for over five years, yet little is known about what we do. Many think of us as the **ONA** committee, but we're involved in much more.

Studying the **Open and Affirming** process for St. Peter's has been an important part of Justice Witness. Most recently, we've been interviewing church members about why St. Peter's is important to their faith life and listening to their feelings, ideas, and concerns about our congregation becoming an ONA (open and affirming) church (an ONA church makes an active commitment to welcome LGBTQ folks to our church family). On the first Sunday of Lent, we held a "lunch & learn" with a leader from the Gateway Open and Affirming Coalition in St. Louis.

But ONA isn't all we do!

- Our group set-up a Justice Witness library in the parlor (you can find a book review elsewhere in this newsletter).
- Before the 2020 election, we held several voter registration events.
- We started the Little Library at the back door of the church.
- Some members participate in the Banned Book Club at Neighborhood Reads.
- JW hosted the gun violence display honoring children's lives lost to guns in Missouri.
- Our committee also oversees The Salam Health Clinic which has been operating at St. Peter's for 1½ years on the second Saturday of each month in cooperation with Muslim Doctors of St. Louis, the Deaconess Nurse Ministry and Mercy Hospital.

WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?) was a popular campaign with bracelets and T-shirts in the '90's when my kids were teenagers. Here's your chance to reflect on the past and reimagine a future that lives out Matthew 25. Our meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. If you have any questions, feel free to talk to Jill Lesko or Janet Alspach. THANKS!

----Janet Alspach

St. Peter's Missions had a productive February:

FEBRUARY ST. PETER'S UCC MISSIONS REPORT

WERF: February was another busy month for the Washington Emergency Relief Fund. We received 238 calls and assisted 89 people and distributed 34 grants totaling \$7533.10. Of those, 16 were for electric, 13 for rent, one for water, three for fuel, and one for water pipe repairs.

The Harvest Table: Harvest Table served 577 meals during the month of February.

Salam Free Clinic: The Free Clinic (second Saturday of each month from 2:30-4:30 p.m.), had three patients needing care in February. One patient was a welcome "repeat" visitor and two were new patients. We also provided a tour for the good people at The Harvest Table. The doctor and Nurse Leesa put their heads together and are working on an idea to allow us to see more people during the week. The Clinic is growing stronger each month.

Food Pantry: Thank you to ALL the volunteers who help the food pantry continue its vital ministry in our community. In February, 158 individuals representing 62 families were served. We also thank the following for their generous donations:

February Food Pantry donors:

Brenda Bruns
Doris Sleeman
Ruth Konrad
Joline Logan
Jane Rembusch
Washington Lions Club
Wendell & Mary Lou Tyree
Betty Peffermann
Darlene Langkopf
Nola Gorrell

Trudy Ronsick
Elmer Fleer
Bob & Janet Eade
Carol Frick
Chuck & Linda Johns
Andrew & Alison Fondaw
Ray & Dineen Ebert
Bank of Franklin County
Citizen's Bank
Anonymous

The Mission Committee is working on hosting a Blood Drive in June.
Keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities!



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.

Check out the Zither display in our own historical cabinet located near the choir room. Our thanks to Dottie Brinker and Wynn Scheer for putting it together!



Congratulations to **Annelise Obermark** for her second-place finish in state wrestling in the 135 lb. weight class. Annelise is the daughter of Joni Obermark and the granddaughter of D. John & Karen Geisert.

Please take a moment to look at the art work in the atrium; there are some new artists who are displaying their work.



Help will be needed at **The Harvest Table**: St. Peter's and the Washington Methodist Church will co-host Harvest Table on **April 22** and **July 15, 2023**. St. Peter's has been asked to be responsible for the desserts. We will need 120 servings and eight volunteers to help serve and cleanup after the meal. There is a sign-up sheet in the atrium with more information. If you have questions, please call Erna Holland 636-239-6019 or text to 314-616-7143. THANK YOU!

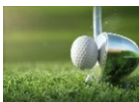
FEELING OLD LATELY???

BYRON STOLTE enjoyed a lovely warm spring day on Sunday, March 26 by RIDING SEVEN MILES on the Riverfront Trail ON HIS BICYCLE !! You really ARE as old as you think you are. Byron is a young 85!! And he enjoys biking with his granddaughter Vicky every week the weather permits!!

Aluminum Can Collection



A pick-up truck will be parked in the South parking lot the weekend of April 1 & 2. 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!



Washington Historical Society 23rd Annual Golf Tournament is May 1, 2023, at Wolf Hollow Golf Club call 636-239-0280 for more information.

The **Justice and Witness Mission Group** of St. Peter's continues to offer a small lending library located in the parlor just off the sanctuary through the atrium. The books cover a range of topics including current events, religion, racism, aging, personal growth and LGBTQIA. If you have a desire to learn more about any of these issues, please, borrow a book. The process is simple. Just sign your name on the index card inside the front cover and place it in the file box provided. When you're finished reading, just drop it in the green bin provided. There is no need to reshelve the book. We will do that for you. If you any questions or books to donate, please, contact Janet Alspach.

April Book Review

Once upon a time, people knew their neighbors. They talked to them, had cook-outs with them, and went to church with them. In our time of unprecedented mobility and increasing isolationism, it's hard to make lasting connections with those who live right outside our front door. We have hundreds of "friends" through online social networking, but we often don't even know the full name of the person who lives right next door.

The Art of Neighboring by Jay Pathak asks the question: What is the most loving thing I can do for the people who live on my street or in my apartment building? Through compelling true stories of lives impacted, the authors (Dave Runyon & Pathak) show readers how to create genuine friendships with the people who live in closest proximity to them. Discussion questions at the end of each chapter make this book perfect for small groups or individual study.

St. Peter's UCC Financial Summary -- February-23

	<u>February 2023</u>	<u>February 2022</u>
Total Receipts	\$54,098.54	\$47,935.47
General Fund	\$39,064.03	\$41,286.24
Building Fund	\$ 8,540.00	\$ 4,923.95
Other	\$ 6,492.51	\$ 1,725.28

Building Fund

Beginning Balance	\$49,623.54
Income	\$ 8,540.00
Expenses	<u>\$10,732.18</u>
Ending Balance	\$47,431.36

General Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ -60.60
Income	\$39,064.03
Expenses	<u>\$39,346.74</u>
Ending Balance	\$ -343.31

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ Church Council Meeting Highlights –
March 20, 2023**

Treasurer's Report: The General Fund is still negative, currently by \$343. The bank was asked about interest bearing checking accounts. They are available, but are actually in a money market. We will investigate these more. The current rate is about 2%. We have some CDs that are getting ready to roll over and will be looking at rates for CDs then too.

Pastor's Report: The Pastor's Report was reviewed. It was noted that the Congregational meeting went well. Coffee with the Pastors is expanding with larger numbers attending. Planning for Holy Week is underway.

Boards and Committees:

Building & Grounds:

- A leak was fixed in the generator.
- Thermostats in the Sanctuary are being replaced with programmable ones.
- The "French Drain" for the parking lot is in progress and quotes have been received. (A "Fr. Drain" is a ditch filled with gravel that directs water away.)
- Price quotes for a new fire panel are expected soon.
- Bids for a new 5th Street sign include turning it 90 degrees so that it can be read from the street.
- Researching cameras for all doors will include a capacity to store pictures of all who enter. (Pastor Eric's computer and a coat were among items stolen from the atrium during a worship service.)

Cemetery Board:

- The frame to display the cemetery rules has been constructed and installed at the cemetery. (Painting or staining will be completed as weather permits.)
- Surplus pews have been placed in our Cemetery Chapel.
- The Board has been asked to look into "Green" Burials (with no embalment, coffin or vault).

Worship Committee: Acutely needed is a group of willing ushers and their leader. Committee Members will contrive special ways to celebrate certain church calendar days during the year.

Christian Ed: Pastor Eric shared some articles on Sunday School. The decline in attendance exists in most traditional churches across America. We also discussed the ***Prayground*** model.

Evangelism: Members intend to send Easter cards to everyone, addressing them by hand.

Finance Board:

- The Raindrop Campaign has been launched. Watch for a mailer in April.
- A Trivia Night is planned for the fall.

Pastoral Search: An update was given during the Congregational Meeting. The group has been meeting almost every Tuesday, has received many profiles and has conducted some interviews.

Brass players for Easter: Music Director Ken Tucker requested funding for Brass players at our Easter services (\$600). Services will be 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. on Easter. A provisional vote was made to approve this in case it is not already listed in the budget.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the funds for the players; the motion passed.

Alcohol and Venue Rental Policy: A draft policy was presented. It has been worked on by three members of the Council and reviewed by Bob Zick. There was a question about where the policy should reside. It is thought that this should be kept as a policy in the operational Policy book rather than as a new part of the Constitution, as the Constitution currently says that outside use of the building is approved by the Council. This policy is an extension of that. The policy can be sent out to the Congregation via the e-Messenger, and will be put on the Council agenda for next month.

Harvest Table Request: Pastor Kurt received a request from Harvest Table. They would like to offer free haircuts on the parking lot on August 12. They are asking local hair professionals to volunteer. It will be advertised to anyone, but focused on kids going back to School. A motion to approve this was made, seconded, and passed.



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.

Remembering with Purpose & Gratitude...

The congregation's Memorial Fund, Building Fund and various other funds receive gifts throughout the year from both members and nonmembers who are looking for a creative way to express their gratitude for the life of a friend or loved one, or for other times and occasions when they are moved to gratefully respond to a blessing of God.

In Memory of **Liz Blumer:** Larry & Marilyn Fullerton, Ralph Cordell, Judy Verdine, Carol Muench, Annette Durchholz, Carroll Blumer, Kevin & Christy Engemann, Andrew Clary, Brenda & Ron Brinker, Paul & Margaret Bringewatt

In Memory of **Mike Slack:** Charles & Carole Sincox

In Memory of **Leola Stolte:** Charles & Carole Sincox

In Memory of **Larry Pogue:** Charles & Carole Sincox

In Memory of **Sue Anderson:** Needra & Sid Troyer, Jackie Krafft, Gene & Kay Hunt, Ardis Briggs, Judy Verdine, Ed Wilson, Matthew Bauer, Rusty & Angela Smith, Cecil & Doris Blankenship, Washington Civic Chorus, Diane & Jim Gephardt, Nancy Johnson, Brunhilde Wahl, Vince & Joyce Sanfilippo, Dottie & Bob Brinker, Nancy Wood, Robert & Wendy Zick, Jon & Barb Bauer, Doris Sleeman, Ben & Janet Alspach, Patty Wood, Michael & Cynthia Gilbertson, Carl & Carolyn Blatt, Kay Hazel, Erna Holland, Jerry & Jacqueline Chambers, Jim & Judy Scannell, Mike & Jeanne Wood, Rhonda Stockglausner & Carl Clover, Dennis Borgman, Mary Jo Stoyer, Dale & Martha Lohmeyer, Doug & Elizabeth Hazel, Frances Turnure, Carol Zanin, Bill & Kathy Miller, Paula Obermark, Suzon Pogue, Arnold & Harriet Sallaberry, Byron Stolte, Mary & Steve Otto, Aneeta & Verle Brown, Frankie Jo Hogan, Cara Czeschin, Georganna & John Carter, Robert & Paulette Monzyk, Ruth Wood, Roy & Brenda Morman, Joan & Tom Howard, June & Jim Wilson, Patti & Roger Fleer, Gail & Keith Gundlefinger, Doris & Melvin Jones, Carolyn Slack, Joline Logan, Donna Kloepfel, Stephanie, Lydia & Ben Juengling, Heather Sullentrup, Donna & Ron Mueller, Sherry Limbert, Barb Schroepfer, Jack Harty, Anonymous, Elmer Fleer, Bob & Jan Eade, Carol Frick, Chuck & Linda Johns, Andrew & Alison Fondaw, Ray & Dineen Ebert, Mary & Winston Brunjes, Florence Kempf, Roger & Patti Fleer, Carol Muench, Richard Smith, James Schaffner, Charles & Carole Sincox, Kaye Nurnberger

In Memory of **Howard Althage:** Jane Rembusch

In Memory of **Marie Martin:** Doris & Cecil Blankenship, Dottie & Bob Brinker, The Martin Family, Mary Jo Stoyer, Florence Kempf, Patty Wood, Kathleen Gentry, Carolyn Slack, Michael & Kathleen Noelker, Joline Logan, Judy Verdine, Carl Clover & Rhonda Stockglausner, Patricia Forget, Marilyn Sherman, St. Peter's UCC Quilters

In Honor of **Joline Logan:** Rick & Kathleen Marquart, Ruth Wood, Judy Verdine, Cecil & Doris Blankenship, Ron & Donna Mueller, Vince & Joyce Sanfilippo, Erna Holland, Cindy Hackmann, M/M William Miller, Doris Bunge, James & Judy Scannell, Sid & Needra Troyer, Carolyn Slack, Carl Clover & Rhonda Stockglausner, Dolores Ruether, Billie Logan, Eric Logan, Ron & Brenda Brinker, John & Melissa Knoll, Dorothy & Bob Brinker, Carol & Anthony Aholt, Steve & Pat Forget, Koren Kerr, Frankie Jo Hogan, Rusty & Angela Smith, M/M Ralph Roloff, Carleen Rothrock, M/M John Hellebusch, M/M Randy Hellebusch

In Honor of **Florence Kempf:** Judy Verdine

In Memory of **Elaine Kruse:** Judy Verdine, Byron Stolte, Cecil & Doris Blankenship, M/M Paul Standley, Rita LaBoube, David & Diane Boehm, Delores Borcharding, Tom & Carol Buescher, Marilyn Sherman, Joline Logan, Joann Boemker, Erna Holland, Sherry Limbert, Angelia Hilbert, Connie & Douglas Pado, Frankie Jo Hogan, Dennis & Patricia Sahn, Ronald & Brenda Brinker, Bill & Kathy Miller, Mark & Linda Fleer, Glen & Dorothy Meyer, Les & Ann Ruether, Barbara Siebert, Hoff & Scott Family, Steve & Susan Kuenzel, Lillian Danz, Joyce Johnson, Ann & Marie Steils, Eric & Karla Bodine, Ronald & Donna Mueller, Barbara Schroepfer, Dan Buschmeyer, Carolyn Slack, David & Marilyn Sullentrup, Carl Clover & Rhonda Stockglausner, Terrance & Cheryl Martchink, Jimmy & Carlene Knox, Katherine Manson



April Birthdays

Lydia Genthe	04/02	Chuck Huxol	04/18
Jon Mittler	04/03	Fran Witthaus	04/18
Dale Scheible	04/03	Julia Eckardt	04/19
Levere Barnett	04/04	Elmer Fler	04/19
Steven Harms	04/04	Carol Frick	04/19
Helen Roewe	04/04	Ella Speckhals	04/19
Ella Strohmeier	04/04	Zachary Jacquin	04/20
ZoAnn Trentmann	04/04	Ella Kroeter	04/20
Kylie McDaniel	04/05	Olivia Strode	04/20
Parker Owens	04/05	Bill Howard	04/21
Evan Brinker	04/06	Jacob Fagre	04/22
Rita Bub	04/06	Thelma Lucy	04/22
Melissa Duchatschek	04/06	Timothy Kellermann	04/23
Joan Howard	04/06	Grace Sullentrup	04/23
Sharon Limbert	04/06	Matt Buschman	04/24
Needra Troyer	04/06	Michele Roewe	04/24
Miles Grimes	04/07	Ashley Hensiek	04/25
Linda Johns	04/07	Gina Connor	04/26
Wendy Wisdom	04/07	Angela Smith	04/26
Kenneth Bierbaum	04/08	Barb Bauer	04/27
JoEllen Jackson	04/08	Carl Bounds	04/27
Cheryl Coleman	04/11	Anthony Hackett	04/28
Brody Smith	04/11	Tara Hellmann	04/28
Juliann Kelley	04/12	John Phinney	04/28
Luke Kleekamp	04/12	Morgan Hagedorn	04/29
Dalton Schwentker	04/12	Una Mullins	04/29
Samuel Houchins	04/13	Neil Door	04/30
Bill Hubbard	04/13	Colton Moritz	04/30
Carolyn Slack	04/13	Linda Patterson	04/30
Jarrett Hamlett	04/14	John	04/28
James Parsons	04/14	Phinney	
Dennis Sahn	04/14	Morgan Hagedorn	04/29
Brendan Wolking	04/14	Una Mullins	04/29
Edwin Filla	04/15	Neil Door	04/30
Tim Schoonover	04/15	Colton	04/30
Tom Buescher	04/17	Moritz	
Emeline Heimos	04/17	Linda Patterson	04/30
Emily Balken	04/18		