



The Messenger

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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November 2023

The Eastern Association of the
Missouri Mid-South Conference
United Church of Christ

Invites you to

The Installation of the Rev. Kurt Schaller Blaufuss

As Senior Pastor at

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

20 East Fifth Street

Washington, MO 63090

Sunday, November 5, 2023

3:00 PM

Authorized Ministers are invited to robe.

The day's liturgical color is Red.

All are invited to a dinner in the church dining room following the service.

Dear Friends,

As I sit at my desk this morning, I'm looking at a beautiful arrangement of flowers. There were two bouquets on each side of the altar on Sunday. They were placed as a thank you to Pastor Eric and me for our pastoral leadership. May I say how meaningful and appreciated those flowers are. It is an honor and a privilege to be part of your pastoral staff.

Which brings me to the first Sunday in November. At 3 p.m. I will be installed as your settled Senior Pastor. This service is special as it's not only about a covenant between you and me, but also a covenant with the Eastern Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ. There will be promises made between all the partners in this relationship as well as making promises to God. As is true of all covenants, how can we best love and honor each other as well as God.

I always chuckle a bit whenever I hear of a church "installation." Installations are for kitchen appliances, washing machines, and dryers (and a whole lot more, of course.) What do all these things have in common? They are useful to our lives, making life easier and happier in many cases. Perhaps that is an apt description of a pastor, as well as a congregation. How do we work together to make life more blessed for one another? How can we best share life's joys as well as life's sorrows with one another? How do we share Jesus' promise of abundant life not only to our membership, but also to the larger world of which we are a part?

I am looking forward to our service of installation on November 5 and hope your schedule allows you to attend. It will be a day of celebration, thanksgiving, and recommitment to our work together in Jesus' name. I end these reflections where I began. Thank you for your kindness and thoughtfulness. I appreciate St. Peter's UCC and am honored to be one of your pastors.

Blessings,

Pastor Kurt

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Women's Fellowship News

Women's Fellowship will meet on Thurs., Nov. 9 at 10 a.m. in the atrium room. After a brief business meeting we will work on our Festival of Trees ornaments. All are invited to bring a sack lunch. All women are welcome.

Ladies Monthly Breakfast will be Fri., Nov. 17 at 9 a.m. at Bob Evans Restaurant. All ladies are welcome to join in the fun!

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Trivia Night

What a wonderful night of fun and fellowship! Because of generous donations of time, talents, and gifts, the evening of trivia netted \$4,693. Besides making money, all who attended had a great evening!

Thank you to all who helped plan and carried out the plans.

And a HUGE thank you to all who attended! Already planning for the next St. Peter's Trivia Night!

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Congratulations! Ben Oesterly for being awarded Rotary's "Student of the Month" in October.

Blessed are those who mourn . . . for they shall be comforted. Please pray for:
The family and friends of Thelma Lucy who passed away Mon., Oct. 16, 2023.

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Historically here at St. Peter's, a Stewardship Campaign is an event held in the fall. The Finance Board has emphasized the importance of stewardship all year long through presentations, skits, and programs such as "April Showers" and "Lend a Hand." Stewardship is a yearlong process! We all need to be aware of sharing our time, talents, and gifts with our church throughout the year.

You should have recently received a commitment card in the mail. We encourage you to fill in the card and return it to the church through the mail, drop it at the church office, or in the offering plate. This is an opportunity for you to recommit to God's plan for you.

In these next few weeks prayerfully consider what you are able to give of your time, talents, and gifts to your church! Above all thank you for your love and support for St. Peter's. Your commitment is appreciated!

Do you have a "special project" or purchase in mind for St. Peter's? Some members have stepped forward and have underwritten certain projects or events at church, sometimes anonymously but other times with recognition for their gifts.

Recently we have received a large donation toward the parking lot. The balance of the meal for Rally Weekend that was not covered by the free will offering was covered by a church donor. A few years back a member paid for the refinishing of the sanctuary doors. Someone else realized that a larger refrigerator was needed in the upstairs kitchen to accommodate communion supplies. The larger refrigerator was purchased by the person and the older refrigerator found a home in the food pantry. Each year an individual pays for the calendar printing so that any payments for purchase of calendars goes directly to WERF. We have already received some cash donations to underwrite the cost of Pastor Kurt's installation dinner. Here is a short list of underwriting possibilities:

- Pastor Kurt's installation dinner
- Fifth Sunday meal
- Messy Church meal
- Special needs of the music department or Christian Education
- Printing of special mailings and postage

Our pastors are an excellent source of ideas of how to help with underwriting and of course need to be made aware of ideas and plans you may have. Underwriting helps the budget and makes the donor feel good about helping our church!

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Aluminum can collection A pick-up truck is parked in the back-parking lot the first Saturday evening of every month through late in the afternoon on Sunday. Aluminum cans **ONLY** 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!



St. Peter's UCC Missions in September 2023

WERF: Washington Emergency Relief received 252 calls in September. By giving out 25 grants totaling up to \$5,256.27, we were able to assist 60 people in the Franklin County area. Ten of those grants went toward electric bills, twelve towards rent, two towards water and one went to pay for fuel.

The Harvest Table: The Harvest Table served 614 meals in September. In addition to providing food and fellowship for all, Blessing Bags, blankets, tents, sleeping bags, and raffles for gift cards were given.

Salam Free Clinic: The Free Clinic had two patients in September. We are busy getting the word out by handing out flyers, using social media, and sharing information with the Hunger and Homelessness Task Force.

Food Pantry News: Thank you to ALL the volunteers who help the food pantry continue its vital ministry in our community. In September, 118 individuals representing 45 families were served. We also thank the following for their generous donations —September Food Pantry donors: Joline Logan, Brenda Bruns, Betty Peffermann, Downtown Washington-Foodstock, Dan Buschmeyer, United Way.

Festival of Sharing Kits: Thanks to your generosity, we donated 20 hygiene kits to the Festival of Sharing! Those will be used by people around the world who may suddenly be without homes and basic necessities, such as refugees and victims of natural disasters.

If you would like to volunteer or donate to our missions, please see Pastor Eric.

Looking Forward to Mission Moments in November

Nov. 12: We look forward to learning about the Back Bay Mission, a ministry of the United Church of Christ located in Mississippi. The mission of Back Bay is, "Strengthening Neighborhoods, Seeking Justice, Transforming Lives." Back Bay Mission meets emergency needs and helps people begin their journeys out of poverty. **There will be an informal gathering after worship to learn more about this important mission, and an opportunity to take a mission trip together to Back Bay in the Spring of '24.**

Nov. 19: During our worship service on the 19th, we will be joined by Darlene Sowell, the Executive Director for Unleashing Potential (formerly known as Neighborhood Houses). The Mission of UP, which is located in St. Louis, is "to close the opportunity gap for children and youth by building on their strengths. We create educational and empowering experiences through early childhood education, after school programs, youth development and enrichment camps." Just like Emmaus Homes and Every Child's Hope, UP is another historic ministry of the UCC in the region. We look forward to hearing more about the transformative work our covenant partner is doing in STL.

As Pastor Eric says: "We are all in ministry together – We are part of something bigger."

We hope you enjoy these brief presentations and learn how you can be part of the larger ministry of the UCC Church.

Hanging of the Greens

On November 25 and 26 the congregation is invited to Hang the Greens AKA Decorating for Christmas. At 4 p.m. on Saturday, and Sunday after worship, the congregation is asked to stay and decorate trees, stairways, altar, balcony, atrium and other areas of the church that “need a little Christmas”. Please bring your family and help prepare for Advent and Christmas!!



Sunday, Nov. 5 at 2 a.m. is the end of daylight savings time. Turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Sat., Nov. 4 to be on time on Sunday.

Pastor Kurt Schaller Blaufuss will be installed as St. Peter's United Church of Christ settled senior pastor on Sun., Nov. 5 at 3 p.m. A meal will be served following the service. Please join us.

St. Peter's has a prayer group that meets online every Wednesday at 10 a.m. If interested in joining contact one of the pastors or use this link to Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84675634323>

The men of the church will gather for breakfast at Bob Evans, Wed., Nov. 1 at 9:15 a.m.

The women of the church will gather for breakfast at Bob Evans, Fri., Nov. 17 at 9 a.m.

Tuesdays at 1:30 at Undergrounds Espresso Bar, 330 Front Street, Washington is “Coffee with the Pastors”.

Quilters gather at St. Peter's on Monday afternoons and Wednesday all day to quilt.

The Puzzle collection has been moved across the hall from the quilting room.

St. Peter's received a Thank You note for the donation made to ECH, “Every Child's Hope.”



East Central College Music department will have a concert in St. Peter's sanctuary on Fri., Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. All are welcome!!

The annual Christmas Concert of the Washington Civic Chorus will be held Sun., Dec. 3, at 3 p.m. in our sanctuary. All are welcome!!

The Annual House Tour in Washington is scheduled on Sun., Dec. 10 from 4-7 p.m.

The Downtown Washington Christmas Festival of Music is Sun., Dec. 17 at 3 p.m.

St. Peter's United Church of Christ Church Council Meeting Highlights 16 October 2023

Treasurer's Report:

The General Fund is still negative.

The Finance Board is trying to decrease insurance cost. This is the biggest expense we have. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed.

Senior Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Kurt attended the 175th anniversary services at Casco.
- He also attended MO Mid-South
- The Grape Cluster will meet here Oct. 23.
- Work has been done to update the wording in the wedding policy. It now lists a flat fee for non-members and has updated alcohol wording, per the new church alcohol policy.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the new wording in the wedding policy. The motion passed.
- Nominating was discussed. We need one more nominee for Council and several for various boards and committees.

Associate Pastor's Report:

Children's bulletins have been well received.

Messy Church is going well.

Boards and Committees:

Building and Grounds:

- Elevator phone cost will be \$61 per month.
- The elevator had a noise & needed new rollers.
- The boiler is ready to go for winter.
- The leak in the balcony has been fixed.
- Tuckpointing will be done soon.

Cemetery Board:

- New section layout is completed.
- Cornerstones have been removed.
- Fall cleanup of cemetery was done.
- There is a proposal to limit the first row on the east street to flat stones only.
- The new green section will be laid out.
- There is a proposal to charge more for weekend/holiday burials.
- There is a proposal to allow purchase of memorial trees with memorial plaques.

Worship Committee:

- The upcoming worship schedule was presented.

Christian Education:

- The children's Christmas program was discussed and a program was chosen.

Mission:

- Nov. 19 - Mission Moment.
- There will be a Giving Tree for One Child's Hope.
- About 20 Festival of Sharing kits were collected.

Old Business:

Website Update:

- The group had its first meeting with Pastor Eric; The next meeting will be on Oct. 24.

Printing of Hymns:

- An image of the hymnal page can be shown to the online viewers. This can be tried to see how it works for these viewers.
- There were additional comments that the hymn lyrics in the bulletin are more accessible for a wider group of members than is reading the hymnals.

New Business:

Life Vac Choking Rescue Device:

- A Live Vac was shown. It is a suction device that can be used on a choking victim if the Heimlich is not working in a choking incident.
- We have one unit available for the church and may want to get more, to be able to keep them in areas where food is consumed.
- They have both child and adult masks in the kits.
- A motion was made and seconded to purchase 3 more Life Vacs. The motion passed.

AED Notice:

- We need to put a notice out to members that we have the AED so that everyone knows we have it and where it is.

5th Sunday:

- The 5th Sunday is coming up and it is the day of the Congregational Meeting. Therefore, there will not be a meal that day.

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Financial Report ending September 2023

	September	2023 YTD	2022 YTD
Total Receipts	41,579.00	462,984.88	437,989.44
General Fund	28,728.62	373,023.08	322,201.87
Building Fund	4,938.95	41,981.56	48,520.85
Other	7,911.43	47,980.24	67,266.72

Building Fund

Beginning Balance Sept 1	1,361.17
Income	4,938.95
Expenses	<u>3,500.84</u>
Ending Balance Sept 30	2,799.28

General Fund

Beginning Balance Sept 1	-13,522.39
Income	28,728.62
Expenses	<u>46,170.40</u>
Ending Balance Sept 30	-30,964.17

St. Peter's is once again giving everyone the opportunity to remember their loved ones by helping to decorate the sanctuary on Christmas with poinsettias or providing memorials.

Please return this form to the church office by Dec. 18 for inclusion in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship bulletins. We ask that the plants be delivered to the church before noon on Dec. 21.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS/POINSETTIAS

Given by: _____ Phone or email _____

I wish to place a POINSETTIA in memory of:

I wish to donate a CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL in memory of:

Enclosed find: \$ _____ for the Memorial Fund \$ _____ for the Building Fund
\$ _____ for the General Fund

Please note: Any poinsettia not picked up by noon Dec. 29 will be delivered to shut-ins.

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The Festival of Trees is happening this year -- at the church!!



Please help spread the word!!
This year's Festival will be held each weekend in December until Christmas.
Your Christmas Spirit is needed to make this happen!!!

Our mission is to stock the food pantries of Washington and provide a safe, fun Christmas Tree viewing experience while collecting canned food.

Please watch for more information on how you can help.

Let's make this the BEST year yet for our Food Pantries!!!



November Birthdays:

Brody Hinrichs	11/01	Gwen Francis	11/15
Alex Phinney	11/01	John Homeyer	11/15
Cole Phinney	11/01	Dale Kriete	11/15
Jacob Renth	11/02	Ruth Wood	11/16
Juliet Renth	11/02	Kendall Schwentker	11/17
Dan Buschmeyer	11/03	Bruce Barnett	11/18
Kartal Stewart	11/03	Linda Jaeger	11/18
Maggie Hinrichs	11/04	Carol Muench	11/18
Evanne Kelley	11/04	Evelyn Noud	11/18
Claudette Walker	11/04	Charles Johns	11/19
Terry Buddemeyer	11/05	Lynn Eckelkamp	11/20
Kacie Huxol	11/07	Karen McDonald	11/20
Michael Abrams	11/08	Taylor Scheible	11/20
Dennis Borgman	11/08	Camden Stoyer	11/20
James Wacker	11/08	Kylee Stoyer	11/20
Karen Dawson	11/09	Joel Sullentrup	11/21
Gary Edler	11/09	Delores Borcharding	11/22
Judy Pope	11/09	Carl Clover	11/22
Colin Briggs	11/10	Kylie Lamke	11/22
Daniel Kriete	11/10	Lauren Roewe	11/22
Melinda West	11/10	Isaac Gildehaus	11/23
Randy Gillig	11/11	Barb Kell	11/23
Emma Menefee	11/11	Laura Pinnell	11/23
Beatrice Butler	11/12	Owen Zastrow	11/23
John Fagre	11/13	Kristen Monzyk	11/25
Emilee Kellermann	11/13	David Triplett	11/26
Patricia Swinger	11/13	Julie Hinrichs	11/27
Lisa Schoonover	11/14	Linda Sentivany	11/27
Daniel Bargaen	11/15	Samantha Wacker	11/28
Kaleb Briggs	11/15	Robert Wacker	11/30
Grant Francis	11/15		