



St. Peter's United Church of Christ
20 East 5th Street P.O. Box 510
Washington MO 63090
636-239-6176

Website www.stpeters-washington.org

September 2023

Dear Friends,

Our summer is coming to a close as I write this. The temperatures and humidity levels are brutal. I'm sure many of us are anticipating autumn's cooler temperatures as well as all of fall's activities.

One important activity that starts in September is learning. Schools are back in session. If you were able to join us for worship on August 19 and 20, St. Peter's UCC gave a blessing to our congregation's students and educators. It was inspiring to see so many members of our congregation, both past and present, who have had a hand in educating students in our area.

Sunday School also resumes on Sunday, September 10. On that Sunday we will present Bibles to our third graders. We will also recognize our students who will be a part of this year's confirmation class. On behalf of us all, I would like to say thank you to all the adults of our congregation who are a part of our church's educational program.

Finally, I share with you that we are beginning a weekly Bible Study this September at St. Peter's UCC. The first class will be on Wednesday, September 13 at 11:30 a.m. in the atrium room. We are inviting participants to bring a sack lunch if they so wish. I am looking forward to this opportunity to grow in our faith.

Blessings,

Pastor Kurt

Building and Grounds Appeal

It has been a busy summer for the upkeep of our church facilities. We have had significant projects in the repair and maintenance of our parking lot, tuckpointing parts of our building's exterior, and replacing an air conditioning unit on our roof. As a result, our Building and Funds account needs to be replenished. Please consider making an extra donation to our Building and Grounds Fund. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Please pray . . . For the family and friends of

Jim Schaffner, who passed away Saturday, July 29.

Marian E. Gerling, who passed away Friday, August 4.

Glen D. Meyer, who passed away Saturday, August 5.

Congratulations to **Terry Buddemeyer** for being selected the Wings Community Contributor honoree. The Wings Foundation Hall of Honor Dinner is Saturday, September 30, 2023, at the Elks Hall. Deadline for reservations is Saturday, September 16. For more information contact Susan Harms 636.359.1452. Doug Hagedorn, Alumni award and Jim Perry, Educator award are also being honored.



Attention those interested in participating in the church choir(s) at St. Peter's Church: We will begin Wed., Sept. 6; this is the Wednesday following Labor Day. Bell Choir will rehearse from 6:30 p.m.-7:10 p.m. and Chancel Choir will practice from 7:15 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Please contact Ken Tucker 636.584.3713 with questions.

Thank you

- Thank you to whomever donated the case of copy paper in early August through Office Supplies & Equipment located in Downtown Washington. What an unexpected and pleasant surprise! Carol
- St. Peter's UCC received a thank you note from Emmaus homes for a \$50 contribution.

Women's Fellowship

The monthly meeting of Women's Fellowship will be held September 14 at 10 a.m. in the atrium room. We will have a guest speaker from Turning Point, an organization which has plans to open a women's shelter in Washington by the end of 2024. After the meeting we will carpool to Guffey's for lunch. All women of the church are welcome to join us.

St. Peter's UCC Missions in July 2023

WERF: July was a busy-as-usual month for Washington Emergency Relief Fund. Out of the 130 calls received, WERF was able to assist 54 individuals. The grants given consisted of four for electricity, two for water bills, and 13 for rent consisting of \$4,424.23

The Harvest Table: "July's numbers were down a bit." We made and fed 565 meals, gave away one tent 🏕️, two sleeping bags, two sleeping bag mats, five Blessing Bags, and lots and lots of socks and underwear.

Salam Free Clinic: The Free Clinic had four patients in July. Leesa is looking forward to next month and will partner with The Harvest Table to offer free haircuts for all, a great opportunity to reach and help more people.

Food Pantry News

Thank you to ALL the volunteers who help the SPUCC Food Pantry continue its vital ministry in our community. In July, 106 individuals representing 38 families were served. We also thank the following for their generous donation:

July Food Pantry donors:

Darlene Langkopf	Hoffmann Family
Joline Logan	Alan, Leah & Dean Jacquin
Brenda Bruns	John Strasen
Betty Peffermann	Lucille Homeyer Memorials
Wendell & Mary Lou Tyree	Rotary Club of Washington
New Life Church	Oak & Front Wine Bar

LADIES' Monthly Breakfast:

Remember that we meet monthly at Bob Evans Restaurant on the 3rd Friday at 9 a.m. for breakfast. Because this September the 3rd Friday falls the day after our regular meeting, a decision was made to change our breakfast to Friday, September 22.

Christmas Rummage Sale—As you work on your fall housecleaning, please save any appropriate items for this event which will be held Saturday, October 28.

**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
FESTIVAL OF SHARING**



St. Peter's has traditionally participated in the Festival of Sharing coordinated here by the former Social Concerns Committee. As we no longer have this committee, we now have a group called the Mission Team. Our team is collecting Hygiene Kits for people who are forced to abruptly leave their homes due to emergencies. We will send our donations to the Festival of Sharing collection site in Missouri. To assemble a kit, please follow these simple instructions.

PLACE IN A ONE GALLON PLASTIC ZIPLOCK BAG

*One hand towel measuring 15"x28" to 16"x32".

*One washcloth.

*One sturdy, wide tooth comb removed from the package. Must be sturdy with at least 6" of teeth.

No pocket combs or pics.

*One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from package.

*One bath size bar of soap in the original package

*One toothbrush in the original package.

*Ten standard size band-aids

*For each kite we need a \$2 donation for the processing fee.

PLEASE DO NOT ADD ANY EXTRA ITEMS OR TOOTHPASTE.

Of course, if you prefer to make monetary gifts you may make checks to St. Peter's UCC with Festival of Sharing in the memo line. Thank you for your much needed gifts to the Festival of Sharing. For more information you may contact Rhonda Stockglausner at 636.390.3425.

There will be a display sample in the atrium where you can add your donation. Please have all your kits to the atrium before September 30. Thank you for your help!!

Aluminum can drive September 5 & 6! Yes, bring those cans you have been saving to church and put them into Tom Howard's truck sitting in the parking lot. Proceeds from the drive are used for mission projects. Thank you for your support!

Trivia Night at St. Peter's!! Save the date: October 21, 2023. Find the details in October's *Messenger*.

The **Festival of Trees** is gearing up for another successful year. This year we are planning to hold it here at church and invite St. Peter's families to participate by decorating a tree.

St. Peter's UCC families, come Trim a Tree!
We have the trees; we need you to decorate!!

Reserve your Tree by September 20.

If you have any questions contact Dottie Brinker: dhbrinker@gmail.com, 636-667-8739 or Susan Harms: 636-359-1452, s.harms@charter.net.

Justice Witness

Come Discuss the Book: **The Children are Free**

Back in June the Justice & Witness Mission Team invited members to read a book, The Children are Free, during the summer with the promise that there would be an opportunity for conversation. The time has come! Please join us on **September 24** following worship for a discussion about this book as part of our Open & Affirming discernment process. Please contact Pastor Eric if you'd like assistance obtaining the book. A review of the book is below. Thank you!

In The Children Are Free, Rev. Jeff Miner and John Tyler Connoley offer a comprehensive yet easy-to-read examination of the biblical evidence regarding loving same-sex relationships and God's attitude toward them.

In Chapter One, the authors lead the reader through a discussion of each of the six passages traditionally used against gay, lesbian, and bisexual people. They demonstrate how an anti-gay interpretation is a misapplication of these scriptures.

In Chapter Two, Miner and Connoley turn our attention to the biblical stories and passages that affirm loving same-sex relationships. Did you know Jesus once met a gay person? Jesus' loving response is just one of the well-researched stories presented in this chapter.

Chapters Three and Four ask readers to take seriously the call of Jesus to think more deeply about biblical rules and act to make a connection between early Church conflicts and today.



**Family Programming
Resumes
SEPTEMBER 10**

<p>9:15</p> <p>LITTLES Nursery Available</p> <p>CHILDREN Sunday School</p> <p>PARENTS Coffee & Conversation</p>	<p>10:00</p> <p>LITTLES Nursery, Prayground, or Pew</p> <p>CHILDREN Prayground or Pew</p> <p>PARENTS Nursery, Prayground, or Pew, it's up to you, worship w/ your kids or in solitude, this village has you covered, whatever you'd like to do.</p>
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<p>SPECIAL DATES</p> <p>SEPT 10 Regular programming resumes</p> <p> 3rd graders receive Bibles in worship</p> <p> Confirmands are introduced & receive Bibles in worship</p> <p>SEPT 17 11:15- Messy Church returns! (also Oct 1, Nov 5, & Dec 3)</p>	<p>WHAT IS...</p> <p>PRAYGROUND A special area in the sanctuary for kids! They can play quietly while soaking in worship. Beginning Sept 10, new elements will invite their deeper engagement with the practices of worship.</p> <p>MESSY CHURCH A time for people of all ages to be together, to learn, & play, then share a meal together. It's an active, messy, crafty, fun time of engaging our faith.</p>
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St. Peter's United Church of Christ Church Council Meeting Highlights 21 August 2023

Guest Presentation about Meals on Wheels:

Meals on Wheels has been under the Presbyterian Church "umbrella" since its beginning (50+ years). However, as the Presbyterian Church has their own program at this time, the Meals on Wheels program needs a different organization whose umbrella they can be under. They are requesting to be under St. Peter's umbrella and use our EIN number. (They are only asking to use our EIN number; no funding would need to come from St. Peter's.)

- Over 100 volunteers share the duties of a delivery schedule that runs three routes daily and serves 14-15 people per route.
- Some clients are served every day and some only certain days of the week.
- The hospital prepares the food, and many members from this church volunteer.
- United Way funds this.

They checked into whether there could be liability issues if Meals on Wheels is under our EIN and there are not. The hospital makes the food and the drivers are volunteer. Meals on Wheels can supply us with accounting info.

Before we commit to assuming this role, we want to see past annual accounting information. We also need to check with our insurance to make sure there are no issues with it. We need to answer these questions before we can make a decision. This item will be tabled until next month, pending answers to our questions.

Treasurer's Report:

The Building Fund doesn't have enough in it to cover all current projects/responsibilities. Funds will need to be moved to cover these projects This was noted on the Congregational Meeting Minutes from Aug. 19-20. We would like to put an appeal in the newsletter that we need to replenish the Building Fund for these projects. As they are capital improvements, we can use funds from the Memorial Fund. A motion was made and seconded to pay for the tuckpointing project from the Memorial Fund. The motion passed.

July was a higher income month.

We would like to consider treasurer training or a shadow person to train new treasurers for succession, since currently treasurers change every 1-2 years.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed.

Senior Pastor's Report:

- There was a gathering on **General Synod** on Wednesday, Aug. 23.
- **Foodstock** occurs August 26; donations support Washington food pantries.
- **Rally Day**, Sept. 9-10, promotes learning opportunities and ministries here.
- The **Missouri Mid-South Conference** meeting is Sept. 17. We will need delegates.
- **Pastor Kurt's Installation** is November 5.
- We received a thank-you note for the t-shirts display.

- Pastor Kurt has a Continuing Education request. Jan 6-13 there is seminar in El Salvador that he would like to attend. He will need \$800 from the Continuing Education budget. A motion to approve this was made and seconded. The motion passed.
- A Tuesday night group called “Manna and More” is offering food on Tuesday nights on our parking lot. They are not affiliated with any specific church.

Associate Pastor’s Report:

There is a lot going on with Christian Ed.

- VBS was successfully completed.
- The *Prayground* is being modified by a kid-friendly bulletin board, developed to help youth understand and become more involved in the worship service.

Sunday School starts Sept. 10 at 9:15 a.m.

- Bible Presentation to 3rd graders and Confirmands is also scheduled that day.
- Each group will receive age-appropriate versions.
- Pastor Eric is seeking better ways to let families know what is happening and promote these activities.
- Recruiting Sunday School teachers and nursery staff is also ongoing.
- A suggestion was received to purchase a large map of Palestine. Kids can put a star or other marker on where events referenced in the service happened and gain perspective on Bible events. A map has been found and BCE gave approval to order.

Conference Annual Gathering is coming up in October.

Boards and Committees:

Building and Grounds:

- They checked with the Event Committee about the idea to open the wall between the kitchen and auditorium and it was decided not to pursue this.
- Elevator phone – A bid was received for \$500 to install and then \$51 month service.
- Tuckpointing project was approved by the Congregation. There is a suggestion that photos are taken for future reference regarding where the work was done.
- Parking lot repair work is done; it has to settle before it can be sealed.
- AC unit for quilting room - would cost \$10,000 to replace. We have a window unit now that is working fine so it was decided to stay with this.
- Auditorium carpet needs cleaning. We do have replacement squares if they are needed.
- AC unit on the roof that services the auditorium was replaced.

Cemetery Board:

- This Saturday a group will meet to lay out new sections.
- Someone came to look at the trees. We will get an estimate and long-term action plan regarding maintenance and care.
- A new brochure for the cemetery is almost finished.

Worship Committee:

- Still waiting for additional info on new paraments.
- Choir resumes Sept. 6.

Christian Education:

- Blessing of backpacks occurred, and educators were recognized.

Old Business:

Constitution Article Review and Perpetual Care of Cemetery:

- We need more information regarding the policies of what other churches with cemeteries do to address this. State laws control what is allowed.

AED:

- AED training is Aug. 24 at 6 p.m. for Council, ushers, and staff. (This regards equipment training to use for emergency health events.)

New Business:

WERF:

- WERF asked permission to start a fundraising campaign and would reach out to other churches as well.

ECC Choral Concert:

- ECC Choral Dept would like to have a concert here on Fri., Dec. 1.

WINGS Event:

- WINGS organization may hold a fundraising event here on Sat., Nov 4.

Website:

There are concerns about the current website. Nothing there entices people to come here. There are few photos and mostly just descriptive text. We have paid a fee which allows re-design, so we can update the current content ourselves as part of our overall marketing. We would like to form a small group that will take this on.

Christmas Rummage Sale:

- Christmas Rummage Sale will be held the last Saturday in October.

	July	2023 YTD	2022 YTD
Total Receipts	60,247.27	381,812.41	330,065.11
General Fund	51,878.26	314,167.93	261,583.72
Building Fund	3,672.10	33,591.31	39,778.00
Other	4,696.91	34,053.17	28,703.39

Building Fund

Beginning Balance July 1	37,764.01
Income	3,672.10
Expenses	<u>20,588.08</u>
Ending Balance July 31	20,848.03

General Fund

Beginning Balance July 1	-11,717.99
Income	51,878.26
Expenses	<u>44,449.89</u>
Ending Balance July 31	-4,289.62



2023 Annual Dinner Auction
 Washington Turnfest
 Thursday, September 14 - Washington Elks Lodge
Doors Open At 6 PM
7:00 p.m. - Dinner from Mosaic Catering
 Classic Caesar with House Made Creamy Dressing
 Lightly Blackened Beef Tips - Creole style Chicken Thighs
 Roasted Yukon Gold Potatoes with Cajun Seasonings
 Zucchini, Yellow Squash, and Carrot Medley with Fresh Thyme Butter
 Strawberry Shortcake with Vanilla Bean Whipped Cream
 Chocolate Mousse Cups with Whipped Cream and Berries

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ANNUAL CHICKEN DINNER
& COUNTRY STORE

SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2023
 11AM - 5PM

CAFETERIA STYLE DINE-IN OR CARRY-OUT	TICKETS: \$15 - ADULTS AND CARRY-OUT \$7 - CHILDREN 6-12 (\$5 AND UNDER FREE)
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QUILT SIZE 88" X 102"

QUILT RAFFLE
 \$2 EACH OR 3 FOR \$5

1ST PLACE - QUILT
 2ND PLACE - \$50 GIFT CARD
 3RD PLACE - \$25 GIFT CARD





103 SOUTH SECOND STREET, MARTHASVILLE, MO 63357



September Birthdays

Josh Zastrow	09/01
Koren Kerr	09/02
Aaron Bounds	09/03
Danielle Grotewiel	09/04
Susan Harms	09/04
Sharon Thompson	09/04
Rita Bub	09/05
Rich Houchins	09/05
Wesley Schmiedeskamp	09/06
Betty Buerk	09/07
Mary Kate Montgomery	09/07
Jack Sullentrup	09/07
Kurt Vitoux	09/07
Doris Blankenship	09/09
Samantha Hackett	09/09
Samuel Hahn	09/09
Teresa Hamlett	09/09
Levi Houchins	09/09
Charles Patterson	09/09
Tina Triplett	09/09
Alexander Buschman	09/10
Judy Scannell	09/10
Holly Johnston	09/11
Judy Ficke	09/12
Kenneth Bebermeyer	09/14
Tyler Francis	09/14
Kirk Kriete	09/15

John Yager	09/15
Denise Balken	09/16
Joshua Buchholz	09/16
Debra Lamke	09/16
Christina Shocklee	09/16
Anne Hofmann-Rebeck	09/17
Gene Hunt	09/17
Mary Montgomery	09/17
LaVerta Schulte	09/17
David Sullentrup	09/17
Laurie Ebker	09/18
Maxwell Grimes	09/19
Victoria Meyer	09/19
Logan Roewe	09/19
Erin Blankenship	09/20
Kurt Blaufuss	09/20
Jack Czeschin	09/20
Mivea Hahn	09/20
Darlene Langkopf	09/20
Leo Becker	09/21
Daniel Eckelkamp	09/21
Brenda Bruns	09/22
Tara Lang-McDowell	09/22
Lyla Schneider	09/24
Elliana Stewart	09/25
Tonie Smith	09/26
Carole Sincox	09/27
Nicholas Kackley	09/28
Randy Buschling	09/29
Marie Kellermann	09/29
Jason Oesterly	09/29
David Poe	09/29
Zayla Brewster	09/30
Kevin Hausmann	09/30
Eleanor Meyer McAndrew	09/30