

ST. PETER'S UCC MESSENGER



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

December 2023

'Tis the Season!

ADVENT WORSHIP

Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

December 2, 9, 16 and 23

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

December 3, 10, 17 and 24

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day with Holy Communion 10:00 a.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

East Central College Concert, Friday, December 1 at 7:00 PM

Washington Civic Chorus Concert, Sunday, December 3 at 3:00 PM

Children's Program, Sunday, December 17 at 10:00 AM

St. Peter's Christmas Concert, Sunday, December 17 at 2:00 PM

Festival of Trees

Dear Friends,

As you read this message, Advent has just begun. But I want to look back for a moment to the day of my installation. And I want to thank you for making that day so special. I appreciate the many people who prepared and participated in the service, all who helped with the meal, and everyone who attended the celebration. I appreciate the support and many kind words shared with me that day. I look forward to our continued ministry together.

I'm now looking forward to the month ahead. There are so many special events happening at St. Peter's UCC! We have many concerts scheduled in our church, including our Children's Program during worship on Sunday, December 17. St. Peter's UCC's Festival of Trees is back in our building, and it will be dazzling and inspirational. There will be festive gatherings and good cheer. I hope you will take advantage of the many events that December offers.

And, of course, there will be many special worship services culminating on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. With all the added activities in our schedules, I would encourage you not to skip worship. If you haven't been in worship recently, Advent and Christmas are a great time to reconnect with our congregation.

During Advent we will remember great gifts that God has given us. The weeks of Advent remind us that God offers us Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. How our world needs those gifts. And on Christmas Eve we celebrate God's greatest gift, the birth of baby Jesus who makes all those Advent promises possible. Please join in the many celebrations and activities that make this time of year special.

Advent and Christmas blessings,
Pastor Kurt

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.

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

Family and friends of Jacqueline Krafft who passed away Nov 7,

Family and friends of David Allemann who passed away Nov 12.

For Bridgette & David Kelch on the loss of Bridgette's mother, Marylou Epple who passed away Nov. 15.

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 taking the time to recommit your gifts, time, and talents to our St. Peter's.



The Festival of Trees



**Come and view our beautiful, uniquely decorated,
Christmas Trees!**

**Festival of Trees will be Open each Saturday and Sunday from 5:00-7:00
until Christmas**

Please help spread the word!!

The Festival is Free, however we are asking for food and/or monetary donations.

Food donations will be divided among all Washington Food Pantries.

Monetary Donations will go to WERF, Washington's Emergency Relief Fund, which assists families in need.



Extra Events Happening at the Festival of Trees.

Santa and Mrs. Clause will be at the Festival each night.

Opening night will be Friday, December 1 as we are hosting an East Central Concert. 7:00

Civic Chorus Concert, Sunday, December 3; 3:00-7:00,

Washington House Tour, Sunday, December 10; 4:00-7:00

Zither, Bell, Choir Concert, Sunday, December 17; 2:00-4:00

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Please join us for our annual Christmas luncheon on Thursday, December 14th at the home of Judy Verdine. We ask that you call Rhonda Stockglausner (636-390-3425) to reserve your place. Due to limited parking, we will need to meet at church at 11:00 to carpool, PLEASE! We look forward to having a fun event!

Christmas Program December 17!



The children's Christmas program will be during worship on December 17! It's entitled Christmas Light Show and will include some of you grown-ups in the fun as well! Please plan to join us. Also, it's not too late for kiddos to join in that would like to! If you have a kid, grand-kid, great-grand-kid or youth who would like to be a part of it, please get in touch with Pastor Eric! We look forward to seeing you December 17!

St. Peter's UCC Missions October 2023

WERF: The month of October was extremely busy for the Washington Emergency Relief Fund. We received 351 calls, which is almost 100 more than the previous month. We were able to give out 30 grants totaling \$6,390.33 in funds. Sixteen of those grants assisted with electric bills, ten for rent, two for water, and two for fuel. These 30 grants helped 86 of our community members.

The Harvest Table: The Harvest Table served a total of 683 meals in October. The volunteers were great! We also gave out several tents and sleeping bags plus extra vegetables and goodies. We are grateful to all and especially to The Geisert Farms.

Salam Free Clinic: The Free Clinic had two patients in October. The doctors have been wonderful and Nurse Leesa has been spectacular, as usual! 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 October, 125 individuals representing 45 families were served. We also thank the following for their generous donations -October Joline Logan, Brenda Bruns, Betty Peffermann, Tim & Ava Diermann, George Sergent, Jeanette Holtmeyer, Mary Lou & Wendell Tyree, Rothschild's Family Restaurant, Max W Mueller Auxiliary VFW, Dan Buschmeyer.

Food Pantry donors:

Mission Trip Possibility

Thanks to everyone who attended our session with the representative from Back Bay Mission in Mississippi! We had a great and informative conversation. We are continuing the conversation about travelling to this site in the spring, date TBD. Here are some details for those who may be interested:



- The cost is \$250 per person for the week. This covers lodging and materials for mission projects.
- We would be responsible for our own meals, though there is a commercial kitchen on site.
- There are opportunities for people of all abilities and ages (above age 14 that is)
- There is no minimum group size

If this sounds of interest, please get in touch with Pastor Eric.
Thanks for your prayerful consideration!

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

WERF News

The members of St. Peter's church are just amazing! In the past two months, the Washington Emergency Relief has been given donations totaling up to \$1305. That amount of funds will assist at least six families. We truly appreciate those who have stepped up to help us help others. Thank you to Jon & Barb Bauer, Ron & Brenda Brinker, Marilyn Sherman, Phillip & Beatrice Butler, Royce & Mary Lovern, and Delores Borcharding (in memory of Thelma Lucy).

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS/POINSETTIAS

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.

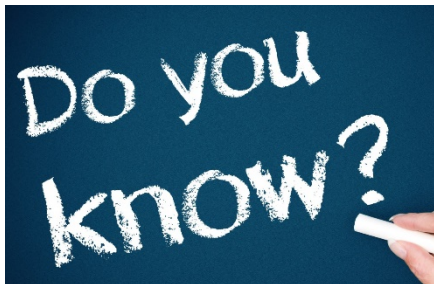
Please note: Any poinsettia not picked up by noon Dec. 29 will be delivered to shut-ins.

End of Year Giving

Please be advised that if you want to receive credit for any contribution for 2023, the church office must be in receipt of it by 4 p.m. Dec. 28, 2023. **The only exception to this is that if you mail your contribution, your check MUST be dated not later than Dec. 31, 2023 AND the postmark MUST be dated no later than Dec. 31, 2023.** Of course, you may also drop your donation in the offering plate at worship Sat., Dec. 30 or Sun., Dec. 31.

**Please note: The church office will be closed all day the following dates:
Dec. 26 & 29, 2023 and Jan. 1, 2024.**

Important Notice: to ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2023 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. Please contact the church if you need your information before Jan. 31.



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 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 annual on **Sun., Dec. 10 from 4-7 p.m.**

The Downtown Washington Christmas Festival of Music concert is **Sun., Dec. 17 at 2 p.m.**

The men of the church will gather for breakfast at Bob Evans, **Wed., Dec. 6 at 9:15 a.m.**

The women of the church will gather for breakfast at Bob Evans, **Fri., Dec. 15, 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.

The Washington Brass Band has over 100 years of history as a community band in Washington MO. There are 30 volunteer musician members that are keeping the tradition alive with an annual Christmas Concert which will be held on **Sunday, December 10 beginning at 3:00 pm** at the Washington City Park Auditorium.

In addition to the group's traditional concert selections, performances of Christmas medleys entitled Spirit of Christmas, German Christmas Festival and La Fete de Noel will be offered. Christmas standards like Frosty the Snowman, Sleigh Ride and White Christmas will be included in the performance as well.

There is no charge for admission, but a free will offering will be available.



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! This collection benefits on-going project.s





Never have cash or 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!

Council highlights and financial information.

Marthasville flyer



December Birthdays

David Homeyer	12/02	Mary Howard	12/18
Kelsey Rich	12/02	Noelle Kellermann	12/19
Caleb McDaniel	12/04	Alvie Buchholz	12/20
Kelly Schneider	12/04	Susan Abrams	12/23
Mary Ann Boland	12/05	Stephanie Schonaerts	12/23
Josh Buschling	12/05	Michael Brinkmann	12/24
Calvin Fredeking	12/06	Ruth Engemann	12/24
Elaine Menke	12/07	Matt McDonald	12/24
Bob Coleman	12/08	Marjorie Donner	12/25
Jenna Hamlett	12/08	Lisa Moore	12/25
Betty Peffermann	12/08	Gracie Buchholz	12/26
Laura Sentivany	12/08	Hudson Scheer	12/26
Lucas Meyer	12/10	Natalie Shocklee	12/26
Ava Strohmeier	12/11	Perry Schatz	12/27
Sue Winistoerfer	12/11	Jody Krafft	12/28
Sharon Miller	12/12	Jennifer Kriete	12/28
Mary Phillips	12/12	David Montgomery	12/28
Dale Trentmann	12/13	Paisley Amsinger	12/29
Ray Eickmeyer	12/15	Amy Roewe	12/29
Evan Holdmeyer	12/15	Hunter Triplett	12/29
Terry Hunt	12/15	Larry Dawson	12/30
Leann Allemann	12/16	Roger Rohlfing	12/30
Bailey	12/16	Noreen Wayne	12/30
Steve Hackett	12/16	William Amlong	12/31
Brenda Morman	12/16	Louanne Merrell	12/31
Brendan Smith	12/16	David Mutert	12/31
Molly Bauer	12/17	Maggie Noud	12/31
Scott Jacquin	12/17	James Scannell	12/31
Dylan Shoemaker	12/17		