



St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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July 2023

Call to Special Congregational Meeting: The Church Council has called a Special Congregational Meeting, on July 8 & July 9 after worship each day.



Rock Our Universe: Vacation Bible School 2023

It's summer, so that means it's....VBS TIME!!! This year we will be exploring the story of Creation in the Book of Genesis! We will gather July 16-19 from 6:30-8 p.m.! Kids ages 4 through those entering the 6th grade are welcome to participate, and there is no cost. Registration deadline is **July 5**.

Dear Friends,

It is with thanksgiving and excitement that I write this month's article for "The Messenger." On Saturday and Sunday, June 17 and 18, St. Peter's UCC voted to call me as your settled senior pastor. I am humbled and honored by this vote of support. This past year and a half have been a joy as I served as your transition pastor. Now as your settled pastor, I look forward to our continued ministry and mission together. This past year I have discovered so many gifts here at St. Peter's UCC and know your gifts will continue to multiply in the days ahead.

Even though I have served St. Peter's UCC since February 2022, questions and concerns will arise as we transition from the transition! My office hours will remain the same ... Monday thru Thursday from 9:00 to noon. We also have a Pastoral Relations Committee which serves as a support group for my ministry among you. Members are Ardis Briggs, Steve Forget, Judy Schneider, Rhonda Stockglausner, Molly Derner, and Patti Flier. Another opportunity for conversation takes place every Tuesday afternoon from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. at the Undergrounds Coffee Shop.

Thank you again for your support this past year and a half. Thank you for your confidence in our future shared ministry. I so look forward to our ministry and mission together as Christ's church.

Blessings,
Pastor Kurt

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

We offer our heartfelt prayers for the family and friends of Todd Geisert. Todd passed away on May 31.



Congratulations to Susannah Cerutti who graduated from St. Francis Borgia Regional High School.

Women’s Fellowship

There will be no **Women’s Fellowship** in July. Please attend the Women’s breakfast the third Friday of the month at Bob Evans at 9. In July the breakfast is Friday, July 21.



Ladies: You are Invited. The Women’s Guild of St. Paul’s UCC, Marthasville, has invited the ladies of the church to a sandwich and salad luncheon Wed., July 12, 2023. You are asked to arrive after 11:30, lunch served at 12:00. After the meal, a guest speaker will share a message. RSVP to Terri Ogle 636-221-1678 by July 1.

Harvest Table

St. Peter’s will co-host Harvest Table with First Washington Methodist on Saturday, July 15. Eight volunteers are needed as well as monetary donations to cover 12 dozen cookies. Contact Erna Holland at 636.239.6019, text 314.646.7143 or erna002@yahoo.com to volunteer. A BIG Thank you to all who contributed in any way for the April 22 Harvest Table meal!

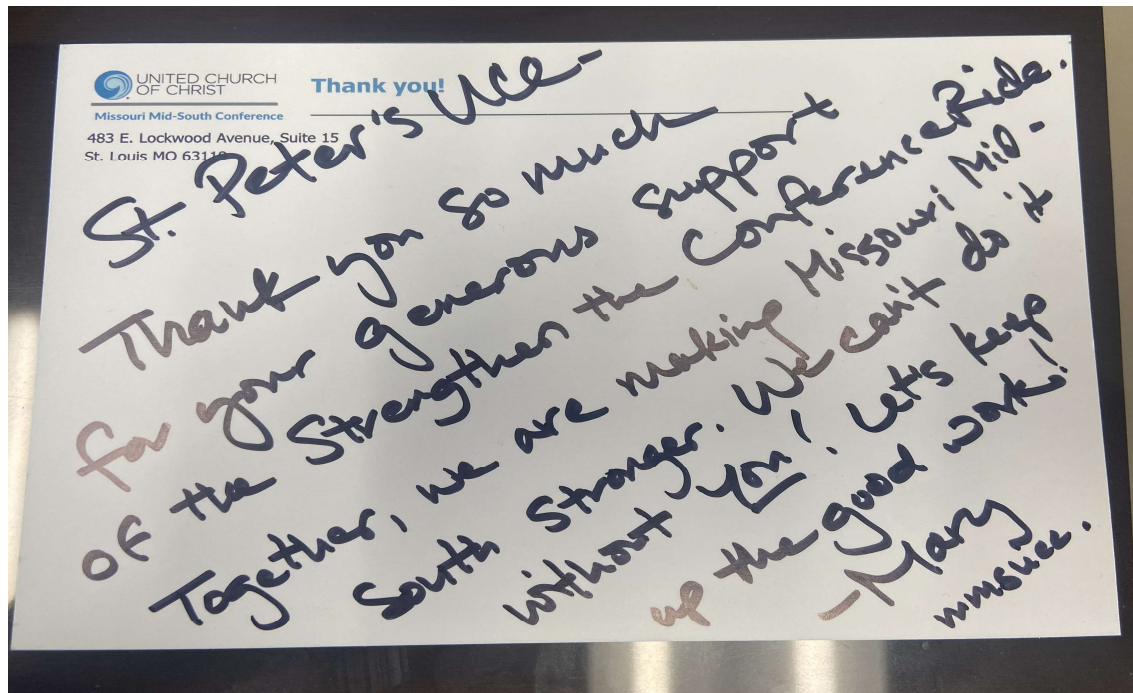
“**These Days**” devotional booklets are available in the atrium and the office lobby.

Food Pantry News

Thank you to ALL the volunteers who help the food pantry continue its vital ministry in our community. In May, 91 individuals representing 36 families were served.

We also thank the following for their generous donations—

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Brenda Bruns | Darlene Langkopf |
| New Life Church | Wendell & Mary Lou Tyree |
| Joline Logan | Immanuel Lutheran Church |
| Betty Peffermann | |



Above is a Thank You from Rev. Mary Nelson, Missouri Mid-South Conference Transitional Pastor, written for the members at St. Peter's on Friday, June 10. Mary shared breakfast (provided by members of St. Peter's) with members and guests. Her "Strengthen the Conference" fundraising bike ride took her through the conference, beginning in St. Joseph Missouri and culminating at Eden Theological Seminary.

Mission Update:

Things were still busy at WERF. We received 187 calls in May. The 26 grants given helped a total of 72 of our Franklin County neighbors. Eight grants (totaling \$5,714.14) were for electric, 13 for rent, four for water, and one for propane,.

The Harvest Table served 672 meals. We had eager and very helpful volunteers. Besides providing meals, the Take Home Table gave out shorts, tee shirts, dog and cat food, chips, snacks, fruits and veggies, two Cardinal shirts and gift cards.

The Salam Free Clinic provided medical care for six patients in May. Four were return patients and two were new. Nurse Leesa was caring and attentive to all patients as the doctor was available via phone Facetime.

Throughout the month of May, members of St. Peter's contributed enough items to complete 20 bags that will be shared with children from the area in the event they are removed from their home.

Thank you so much, St. Peter's UCC, for all of the ways that you are serving our neighbors.

The Mission Team

Sunday, July 30 is a 5th Sunday!

Join us for Fellowship after service.

We will have hot dogs, chips and ice cream!

Free will offering accepted.



St. Peter's United Church of Christ Church Council Meeting Highlights 19 June 2023

Guest Presentation on Gun Safety Display: A presentation was given by Justice Witness. The topic was Be Smart Education to teach adults about firearm safety. Several years ago we displayed a banner which was accompanied by T-shirts. These T-shirts represented children who had been killed by a firearm. Firearms are the #1 cause of death of children in the USA. The group requests that we display the new banner this year with 40 T-shirts, each shirt representing 4 youth who have been killed by a firearm. Other churches, the hospital and ECC have also been asked to display. They would like us to display for a few days to a week in either June or July. A motion was made and approved to allow the display.

Cemetery Board Presentation on Green Burials: The Cemetery Board has written and approved an update to the Cemetery Rules to allow for Green Burials and requested Council approval. Green Burials were discussed, and the wording of the addition to the Rules was discussed. There will be a west field which will be maintained as the "meadow" field, where green burials are without markers (family gets GPS coordinates) or you can use traditional plots in the rest of the cemetery for green burials, with a marker. The cemetery will operate as mixed--with traditional burials, ash burials and green burials. They are working on brochures for funeral homes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the addition of the Terms of Green Burial to the Cemetery rules. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report & Finance Board Report: The General Fund is still positive! There are CDs coming due that will be reinvested. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Finance Board's reinvestment recommendation. The motion passed.

Pastor's Report: The Pastor's Report was reviewed.

Several community events were attended. Pastor Kurt continues his work on the Committee on Ministry. He noted that he thanks the congregation for his selection as the new settled Senior Pastor.

Associate Pastor's Report: The Associate Pastor's Report was reviewed. Pastor Eric will be going to General Synod as a delegate for the Missouri Mid-South Conference, and then will be directing a camp at MoVal.

Boards and Committees:

Building and Grounds:

- There is a bid for an air conditioner for the quilting room, as that unit has broken down and needs replacement. They are going to get a window unit for now to get through summer and give time to get more bids.
- There is also a need for tuckpointing and several proposals have been received. This can be added to the July Congregational meeting if needed. We need more info on what Building and Grounds recommends from the tuckpointing bids.

Cemetery Board:

- The Franklin County Cemetery Association has provided help at the cemetery.
- A new section will be laid out.

Worship Committee:

- Had a visit from a seamstress who does a lot of paraments. They are looking at fabric options and design options.

Christian Education:

- Messy Church kitemaking happened on June 11 with about 20 participants. Outdoor flying with the Gateway Kite Club was postponed due to rain and will be rescheduled.
- VBS is set for July 16-19, from 6:30–8 p.m.
- The board is investigating what parents currently want in Christian Education. A survey will be developed and sent.
- The board discussed sharing a write-up on new confirmands / members to introduce them to the congregation.

Mission:

- The blood drive was cancelled due to Red Cross staffing. They are looking at rescheduling.
- They have been collecting items for Care Kits bags. About 20 are completed.
- A mission trip to Back Bay Mission in Mississippi, in the spring of next year is a possibility.

Old Business:

Facility Rental: Prototype printed rental flyers were shared on various paper stock types. The rental price list will be a printed insert that is easily updated. These brochures are planned to be made available around town. A motion to proceed with printing the brochures was made and seconded, and the motion passed.

New Business:

Volunteer Opportunities: A list of things that volunteers could do around the building on a periodic basis could be prepared, like dusting, cleaning, etc. This could be in the form of “Adopt a Room”, or” Adopt a Chore”, like the raindrop fund.

Building Rental Fund Proposals: At the May meeting, the Event Committee described that they would like to start a fund for upgrading the rental spaces. They proposed 50% of the funeral lunches money to go to this fund until rental income was available. That proposal was not voted on, pending a discussion with Women’s Fellowship regarding the proposal as this money has traditionally gone to Women’s Fellowship. This proposal also was not voted on at this meeting, and Marty will speak with a Women’s Fellowship representative about it. However, at this time the proposal has been changed to get seed money from another fund. The Council suggests that the Event Committee group should present a line-item list of what they need at the July Council meeting. Any income from future rentals is proposed to be added part to the General Fund and part to the Event Committee for items to enhance rental opportunities.

Pastor Review: The process for reviewing pastors was brought up at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 18 and needed further review from Council. There is an employee manual which states that the Council evaluates the Pastors, the Senior Pastor evaluates the staff, with input from Staff Relations if desired

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The Justice Witness Group of St. Peter’s continues to offer a small lending library located in the Parlor just off the Sanctuary. 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.

The Light We Carry by Michelle Obama is the follow up book to Becoming. This is from the dust jacket. “There may be no tidy solutions or pity answers to life’s challenges, but Michelle Obama believes that we can all locate and lean on a set of tools to help us better navigate change and remain steady within flux.” In The Light We Carry, she opens a frank and honest dialogue with readers, considering the questions many of us wrestle with: How do we build enduring and honest relationships? How can we discover strength and community inside our differences? What tools do we use to address feelings of self-doubt or helplessness? What do we do when it all starts to feel like too much? Michelle Obama offers readers a series of fresh stories and insightful reflections on change, challenge, and power, including her belief that when we light up for others, we can illuminate the richness and potential of the world around us.

St. Peter's UCC Financial Summary May 2023

Building Fund	May 2023	General Fund May 2023
Beginning Balance	\$40,256.00	Beginning Balance \$ 8,029.87
Income	\$ 3,753.20	Income \$38,154.00
Expenses	<u>\$ 3,938.16</u>	Expenses <u>\$35,871.14</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 40,071.04	Ending Balance \$10,312.73

	May 2023	May 2022
Total Receipts	\$42,408.60	\$41,094.72
General Fund	\$38,154.00	\$35,362.53
Building Fund	\$ 3,753.20	\$ 4,133.00
Other	\$ 501.40	\$ 2,599.19

Treasurer's report

- Finance Committee is working on a Trivia Night for October 21. More details to come.
- The new interest-bearing checking account (2%) at Heritage Community Bank is open and Carol has begun making the necessary changes to start utilizing it.
- The new CDs are noted in the report. They are held at Bank of Washington.
As a side note we do not want to have more than \$250K at any bank as to not go over the FDIC guarantee.

- CDs that mature next will be reinvested at Heritage Community Bank.

Heritage Bank 5 month at 5.18%

- Property Sale CD at \$46,000 (November 2023 renewal)

Heritage Bank 8 month at 5.35%

- Memorial CD at \$31,000 (February 2024 renewal)
- Property Sale CD at \$100,000 (February 2024 renewal)

Loans

2029 Cornerstone	\$55,465.60	2.40%
Feb 2024 Heritage Bank	<u>\$12,330.66</u>	4.40%
	\$67,796.26	

Investments

6/23/23 Property Sale CD @ EJ	\$146,000.00	4.55%
6/17/24 Crowley CD @ BofW	\$106,000.00	4.75%
12/17/23 Crowley H&H CD @ BofW	\$ 40,000.00	5.10%
12/17/23 Memorial Fund CD @ BofW	\$ 21,000.00	5.10%
6/26/23 Memorial Fund CD @ EJ	\$ 31,000.00	3.75%
Perpetual Mem. Investment @ UCC	<u>\$ 19,319.37</u>	
	\$217,319.37	

From the Finance Committee

The Following was done as a skit in worship on June 11

Often the congregation seems to be struck by blindness and deafness when it comes to seeing announcements for volunteer opportunities. It seems we need to promote something 5 or 6 times before people SEE or HEAR it! The average potential volunteer seems to have this thought pattern:

Member: Week 1: (Doesn't even notice the announcement in the bulletin, Messenger or E-Messenger.)

Member: Week 2: "Oh, look at that! They need some ushers!"

Member: Week 3: "Hmm. Looks like they still need some ushers!"

Member: Week 4: "What? The haven't found any ushers yet?"

Member: Week 5: "What is wrong with people around here? Why isn't anyone signing up to usher? It can't be that difficult!"

Member: Week 6: "Oh for pity's sake! I guess I had better do it! Where do I sign up?"

We need every member of the congregation to take part in some way. Of course, your financial gifts are vital but your support through giving of your time and talents are vital as well. When you participate, you feel more a part of the church! Please don't make us ask for six weeks before you see the need and come forward to help out our church! We are developing a list of volunteer opportunities which will be made available to everyone. We hope each of you will look over the list and find an opportunity that appeals to you! A church is made stronger when its members take part!

Thank you!



Aluminum can drive July 1-2! Yes, bring those cans you have been saving to church and put them in the truck provided by Tom Howard, sitting in the parking lot. Proceeds from the drive are used for mission projects. Thank you for your support!

Table Cloths: It has come to our attention that some of the church table cloths have disappeared. If, by chance, you borrowed some of them and haven't yet had a chance to return them, please do so as soon as possible. Or if you know of someone who may have borrowed them, please mention this to that party. We want to have the table cloths available to all who use the facility if they so desire. Thank you for your assistance.

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 **Sue Anderson**: Koren Kerr

In Memory of **Marie Martin**: Barb Schroepfer

In Memory of **Jim Parsons**: Barb Schroepfer

In Memory of **Jeff Dietrich**: Barb Schroepfer

In Memory of **Emilie Overschmidt**: Barb Schroepfer, Cecil & Doris Blankenship

In Memory of **Ervin Ebker**: Jim & Diane Gephardt, Judy Verdine, Kathleen Rust, Carl Clover & Rhonda Stockglausner, Donna Houchins, Maurice & Mary Mittler, Carol Branson, Richard & Karen Houchins, Raymond & Barb Ebker

In Memory of **Don Northington**: Jim & Diane Gephardt, Carol Muench, Byron Stolte, Alex & Carol Graham, Meglio & Associates, Bonnie Scanlan, Judy Verdine, Gene & Kay Hunt, Judy Schneider, Barb Schroepfer, Carl Clover & Rhonda Stockglausner, Ruth Wood, Sharon Fenner, Gary & Sandy Lucy, Jon & Barb Bauer, Larry & Karen Dawson, Pete & Judy Tobben, Bill D & Kathy Miller, Robert & Dorothy Brinker, Charles & Carole Sincox, Patty Wood, Tobin, Springe, & Hilton Families, Anonymous

In Memory of **Elaine Kruse**: Gary & Sandy Lucy, Charles & Carole Sincox, Jerene Knicker

In Memory of **Marie & Arnold Mueller**: Lee & Joyce Mueller Banner



July Birthdays

Charlotte Bobo	07/01	Alex Schonaerts	07/15
Jon Bauer	07/02	Alexander Connor	07/16
Emma Schoonover	07/02	John Connor	07/16
Paige Schoonover	07/02	Wayne Campbell	07/17
Alexis Sherman	07/02	Easton Kemp	07/17
Rhonda	07/02	Keli Schneider	07/17
Stockglausner	07/02	Linda Becker	07/18
Andrew Arnette	07/03	Anna Travers	07/18
Matthew Kroeter	07/03	Charles Moeller	07/19
Gene Becker	07/04	Steve Wilmesherr	07/19
Janet Alspach	07/05	Madelyn Renth	07/20
Karen Houchins	07/05	Mary Beth Wilson	07/20
Molly Derner	07/06	Patricia Sahn	07/22
Patty Clark	07/10	Therese Wood	07/23
Gloria Marquart	07/10	Bill Schwab	07/26
Zachary Harms	07/11	Penelope Martin	07/28
Chris Smith	07/11	Lainie Decker	07/29
Heather Sullentrup	07/11	Sabastian Dowdy-	07/29
Genice Hackett	07/13	Matau	
Kay Hunt	07/13	Harper Travers	07/29
Dorothy Meyer	07/13	Jerry Merrell	07/30
Joyce Sanfilippo	07/14	Edward Menefee	07/31