

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 6, 2025

5th Sunday in Lent

10:00 AM

www.youtube.com/stpetersuccwashmo

** - Please rise in body or spirit.*

CENTERING OURSELVES IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE

Ken Tucker

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION MOMENT

Harvest Table

Karen Dawson

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 126:1-5 CEB, adapted) Pat Swinger, Liturgist

One: When the LORD changed Zion's circumstances for the better, it was like we had been dreaming.

Many: Our mouths were suddenly filled with laughter; our tongues were filled with joyful shouts.

One: It was even said among the nations, "God has done great things for them!"

Many: Yes, God has done great things for us, and we are overjoyed.

One: Change our circumstances for the better, O God; like dry streams in the desert waste!

Many: Let those who plant with tears reap the harvest with joyful shouts.

*HYMN

"We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness"

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**We yearn, O Christ, for wholeness and for your healing touch;
Too long have we felt helpless; our burdens seemed too much.
Forgetting all pretenses we make our pleadings heard,
In hope and expectation await your gracious Word.**

**We long to have companions who travel by our side,
Strong friends to call and answer with whom we are allied;
As we lift up each other when struggles lay us low,
Community develops; our faith and caring grow.**

Along the path of our Lenten journeys, O God, we pause to remember Mary of Bethany's great act of love and devotion to Jesus. Forgive us when we withhold or misplace our love for you. Forgive us when we hide our devotion and commitment because of what others might think, say, or do. Forgive us when we are convinced that we know your will but are really acting out of self-interest and ulterior motives. Grant us an abundance of joy this morning. May your grace so overflow our hearts that your blessings pour from our lives into a world in need. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

Promises

Welcome and Reception

We welcome you with joy as partners in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our Risen Savior. Amen.

Prayer and Blessing

HYMN

"Thank God for Sisters, Brothers"

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**Thank our God for sisters, brothers, one by grace, in harmony,
 Joining heart to heart with others, making strong community.
 With the cross of Christ our standard, let us sing as with one voice,
 Glory, glory, yours the promise: we who are the church rejoice.
 Praise to God for congregations, keeping faith with Christ as guide;
 Many tongues of many nations, song and service unified.
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the carol, when our song is raised as one.
 Glory, glory, yours the power, as in heaven your will be done.
 Holy is your name forever! Heal divisions that remain;
 Bless the church's new endeavors; make our witness one again.
 One in Christ and in Christ's gospel, make us one we now implore.
 Glory, glory, yours the glory, then and now and evermore.**

**WE GIVE WHAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO US
 INVITATION TO GIVE**

*RESPONSE

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise God, all creatures here below;
 Praise God above, you heavenly host:
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

We thank you, O God, for the example of Mary of Bethany who poured out her love as she anointed Jesus that day so long ago. Now may we do the same with our lives and our offerings. May our love for you and for others increase as we dedicate these offerings to you. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: Let us pray. (Communion Prayer)

Remembrance

Prayer of Consecration and the Prayer of Our Savior (debts, debtors)

Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

We celebrate your presence among us, Christ Jesus. In this holy meal we have felt your empowering love and sustaining hope. We thank you this day for the gift of new members and our common connection in your church. Now may we go forth to continue seeking and doing your will, as you have commanded us. Amen.

*HYMN

“Blessed Be the Tie”

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**Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The sharing of a common life is like to that above.**

**Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.**

**We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear,
And often for each other flows a sympathizing tear.**

**When we are called to part it gives us inward pain,
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.**

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

☞ Thank You for Worshipping Here Today ☞

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The Rev. Kurt Schaller Blaufuss, Pastor & Teacher
 Ken Tucker, Director of Music
 Andrew Jackson, Principal Organist
 Carol H. Hackmann, Office Manager
 Gary Edler, Cemetery Sexton
 Nathaniel Pfitzinger, Building & Grounds Custodian
 The Rev. Dr. William H. Schwab, Pastor Emeritus

St. Peter's United Church of Christ welcomes you to today's worship. If you are visiting us today for the first time, please fill out the "Welcome Card" in the pews and place it in the offering plate. We also welcome those who are attending worship online.

The altar flowers are placed by Steve & Pat Forget in memory of her mother, Pauline Birke.

This weekend we welcome our congregation's newest members. They are Mike Freese, Mark Heidmann, Rich Gamble, Donna Buchholz, Tavis Aholt, and Samantha Lampe.

The sacrament of Holy Communion is open to all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people. In the United Church of Christ, we practice "open" communion. All are welcome at Christ's table. This morning's ushers will be passing the elements to worshippers in the pews. We are using gluten free bread and grape juice. Please hold your elements until all are served so we can commune together.

"These Days" devotional booklets and the April Newsletter are available in the atrium and the church office.

Please pray . . . With Dorothy Meyer, Patrick & Christina Flanagan, Pete, Marge Jones, Cindy Moeller, Bryce Meyer, Ken, Grace, Amber E., Clayton, Matt Ashley, Greg Berry, Jon Sanfilippo, Charlie Sincox, Todd Ford, Laurie Pinnell; For the family and friends of Blake Georgie who died March 29. Services for him were held yesterday.

Worship Attendance – March 29 & 30, 2025

Saturday In-Person: 23 Sunday In-Person: 62 YouTube Views: 33

The **Women's Fellowship** will meet this week on Thurs., April 10 at 10 a.m. in the Atrium Room. We will welcome Rev. Mary Schaller Blaufuss as our speaker this month. She will talk about her recent trip to Kenya and the connection to Eden Seminary. Please join us for what promises to be an interesting program. Afterward, we will have lunch at Guffey's.

Game Day April 17, from 12-2, will be a BYOSL (Bring your own sack lunch). All are welcome!

Heat up St. Peter's Fundraising Update: Have you noticed that the temperature has been rising in the Atrium? The thermometer that is showing the progress toward our goal of raising \$10,000 to help cover the cost of heating and cooling. Thank you to everyone that has contributed so far. The total collected so far is \$6795.65. If you have not yet contributed you may do so by using the special envelopes in the Atrium, or marking your check as going toward the Heat Up St. Peter's campaign.

Easter Breakfast Please come and join us for food and fellowship Easter morning, April 20. Breakfast will be served from 8 a.m. until 9:45 a.m. If you plan to attend, please bring any of the following to share--**breakfast casserole, rolls, muffins, breakfast breads or fruit.** We will have sausage and beverages available--milk, orange juice, and coffee. We need volunteers to help with serving and clean-up. We would like 6-8 helpers each shift. Shifts are 7:30-9:00 and 9:00-10:30. Please call or text Judy Verdine (636-346-8380) with your preference of time to work. We will be setting up tables on Saturday night (4/19) after Harvest Table (6:30). Hoping to have a great turnout to share the joys of Easter! Barb Bauer & Judy Verdine

In 2025 **St. Peter's UCC Cemetery** is celebrating 150 years A Bit of History- Quarterly Meeting June 30, 1889 The following resolution was adopted: That a new book be issued for the cemetery in which all the members of the lots, as well as owners of them, be recorded. Also the cost of each lot. The committee to take care of this was: H.R. Baumann, J.H. Diekmann, and Fritz Oberhaus.

St. Peter's will be co-hosting **Harvest Table** with the Washington Methodist Church on April 26, 2025. If interested in helping, you would be welcome and appreciated. We also need desserts (or money for dessert) and hands-on volunteers. Please call or text Erna Holland (314) 616-7143 with questions or support. The **Harvest Table** is also looking for donations of OTC pain relievers (oral and topical), oral care, cold and flu items, and personal care products, especially feminine hygiene products. (There is a more extensive list available.) If you would like more information on this effort, please contact Janet Alspach at (770) 313-0018. Of course, cash is always welcome, and she will do the shopping. All donations may be dropped off in the church office.

Come enjoy the free International Zither Gathering on April 13 at 3 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church--Featuring Tomy Temerson, Master Zither Soloist from Hanau, Germany. The concert is hosted by the Schwarzer Zither Ensemble and the Washington Historical Society.

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

- Maundy Thursday Worship w/Communion April 17 - 7:00 p.m.
- Good Friday Worship April 18 - 7:00 p.m.
- Holy Saturday Worship w/Communion April 19 - 5:00 p.m.
- Easter Sunday Worship w/Communion April 20 - 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
A potluck breakfast will be served beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the dining room. (See details printed earlier in this bulletin.)

This Week at St. Peter's United Church of Christ:

Sunday, April 6, 2025 Aluminum Drive

10:00 a.m. – Worship w/Holy Communion

10:15 a.m. – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Confirmation

Monday, April 7, 2025

12:00-3:00 pm. – Quilting

5:00 p.m. – Harvest Table Board

6:30 p.m. – Girl Scouts

6:30 p.m. – AA

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

1:30-3:00 pm. – Coffee with the Pastor

6:30 p.m. – Board of Christian Education

Set up for Zither Workshop (Auditorium)

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

8:00-6:15 p.m. – Zither Workshop (Auditorium)

9:00 a.m. – Quilting

9:00-3:00 p.m. – Sewing Class

10:00 a.m. – Prayer Meeting

11:30 a.m. – Bible Study

1:30 p.m. – Mission Team

6:30 p.m. – Bell Choir

7:15 p.m. – Chancel Choir

Thursday, April 10, 2025

8:00-6:15 p.m. – Zither Workshop (Auditorium)

10:00 a.m. – Women's Fellowship

6:30 p.m. – AA

Friday, April 11, 2025

8:00-6:15 p.m. – Zither Workshop (Auditorium)

Saturday, April 12, 2025

8:00-1:00 p.m. – Zither Workshop (Auditorium)

2:30-4:30 p.m. – Salam Clinic

5:00 p.m. – Worship

5:00 p.m. – Harvest Table (Dining Room)

Sunday, April 13, 2025 Palm Sunday

10:00 a.m. – Worship

10:15 a.m. – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Confirmation

Choir Anthem: "The Old Rugged Cross" On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame; And I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain. *Refrain:* So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown. Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for me; For the dear Lamb of God left the glory of heaven to bear it to cold Calvary. *Refrain* In that old rugged cross, which bore Love so divine, a wondrous beauty I see, For upon that old cross Jesus suffered and died, to pardon and sanctify me. *Refrain* To the old rugged cross I will ever be true, its shame and reproach gladly bear; When God calls me someday to my home far away, there God's glory forever I'll share. *Refrain*

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 this form and return it to the church office no later than **Fri., April 11**. Place your order with an area florist, or if you know of an organization who is selling them as a fundraiser, please order from them. We ask that plants be delivered to the church **Fri., April 18 before Noon**.

EASTER MEMORIALS/LILIES

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 \$___Cemetery

Please note: **Any lily not picked up by noon Tues., April 22 will be delivered to shut-ins**