

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 2, 2025

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

10:00 AM

[www.youtube.com/stpetersuccwashmo](http://www.youtube.com/stpetersuccwashmo)

---

*\* - Please rise in body or spirit.*

CENTERING OURSELVES IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE

Andrew Jackson, Principal Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (I Corinthians 13:4-8a, 13 NRSV) Ken Tucker, Liturgist

One: Love is patient, love is kind, it isn't jealous, it doesn't brag, it isn't arrogant.

**Many: Love isn't rude, it doesn't seek its own advantage, it isn't irritable, it doesn't keep a record of complaints.**

One: Love isn't happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth.

**Many: Love puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things. Love never fails.**

One: Now faith, hope, and love remain, these three things,

**Many: And the greatest of these is love.**

\*HYMN

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

498

*Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,*

**Show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.**

**Knelt at the feet of his friends, silently washing their feet,**

**Jesu, you acted as servant to them. *Refrain***

**Neighbors are rich and poor, varied in color and race,**

**Neighbors are near and far away. *Refrain***

**These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should love;**

**All these are neighbors to us and you. *Refrain***

**Loving puts us on our knees, showing our faith by our deeds,**

**Serving the neighbors we have from you. *Refrain***

**Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet,  
This is the way we should live with you. *Refrain***

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We are hesitant to confess, Holy God, how hard it is to love as you call us to love. We often love with strings attached. Or we don't love those we deem unlovable. At times we don't even love ourselves, forgetting that we are your beloved. Forgive us, O God. Help us to love others compassionately, to love ourselves genuinely, and to love you as completely as you love us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

## \*WORDS OF GRACE

## MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

THE FIRST LESSON                      Jeremiah 1:4-10

[illegible]

THE SECOND LESSON      Luke 4:21-30

## SERMON

WE GIVE WHAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO US  
INVITATION TO GIVE

## \*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

1 (v 4)

So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,  
Your angels adore you, all veiling their sight,  
All praise now we render as your angels do:  
In awe at the splendor of light hiding you.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**Generous God, you have made rich and poor, powerful and vulnerable alike in your image. Bless the gifts we have gathered today that we may use them to assist the afflicted and bring greater justice to your world. May they reflect the love to which you call us. Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

\*Invitation

\*Communion

“I Come with Joy”

349

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,  
The life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me,  
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,  
The new community of love in Christ's communion bread,  
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends,  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
And strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.

And thus we meet, and better know the Presence, ever near,  
And join our hearts and sing with joy that Christ is risen here,  
That Christ is risen here.

Together met, together bound, in friendship we will stay,  
And go with joy to love the world and live the way we pray,  
And live the way we pray.

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)

**Gracious God, thank you for gathering us together at your table of abundant life. As we depart this place to serve you in the larger world, bless us so that we might share that same abundance both near and far. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

\*HYMN "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" 347

**Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:  
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

*Refrain:* **Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**Christ is able to make us one, at his table he set the tone, teaching people to  
live to bless, love in word and in deed express. *Refrain***

**Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us love  
to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere! *Refrain***

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

☞ Thank You for Worshipping Here Today ☞

*Music used in this service with permission under One License #A-716613. All rights reserved.*

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.

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

**Please pray . . .** With Bryce Meyer, Ken, Grace, Amber E., Clayton, Matt Ashley, Greg Berry, Jon Sanfilippo, Charlie Sincox, Todd Ford, Laurie Pinnell, Blake Georgie

St. Peter's UCC will be taking in new members in the near future. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested, please contact the church office or Pastor Kurt.

Worship Attendance – January 25 & 26, 2025

Saturday In-Person: 27 Sunday In-Person: 69 YouTube Views: 34

**2025 calendars are available for purchase in the church office.** Cost is \$10 each.

**Aluminum Drive:** A pick-up truck will be parked in the South parking lot this weekend where you may place the cans. ONLY aluminum cans, in bags please, 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!

In 2025 **St. Peter's UCC Cemetery** will celebrate 150 years-- A Bit of History- June 30, 1878 As the cemetery had been turned over to the congregation, it was decided to charge only \$10 and \$15 a lot instead of \$15 and \$20 as heretofore. The council was authorized to also sell lots if convenient. January 1, 1879 It was decided to plant the following trees on the cemetery: four small cedars, a large tree in the circular center and one on either side of entrance on the inside.

**Souper Bowl of Caring 2025** On February 8 & 9 we will celebrate the **Souper Bowl of Caring**. The Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990 when a South Carolina youth group asked if they might address hunger in their community on the weekend of the Super Bowl, by asking worshippers to contribute a single dollar as they left worship. That year, 22 congregations collected \$5,700 and gave it to local hunger ministries. That idea just grew and grew. Since 1990, \$198 million has been collected across our country by many houses of worship and other organizations. Our offering that weekend will benefit the work of the Harvest Table. Feel free to wear your NFL gear and cheer on your favorite team!

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

### **Sunday, February 2, 2025** Aluminum Drive

10:00 a.m. – Worship/Holy Communion

10:15 a.m. – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Confirmation

### **Monday, February 3, 2025**

12:00-3:00 pm. – Quilting

5:00 p.m. – Harvest Table Board

6:30 p.m. – AA

### **Tuesday, February 4, 2025**

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

### **Wednesday, February 5, 2025**

8:45 a.m. – Men's Breakfast at Bob Evans

9:00 a.m. – Quilting

10:00 a.m. – Prayer Meeting

11:30 a.m. – Bible Study

6:30 p.m. – Bell Choir

7:15 p.m. – Chancel Choir

### **Thursday, February 6, 2025**

6:30 p.m. – AA

### **Saturday, February 8, 2025**

5:00 p.m. – Worship

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

### **Sunday, February 9, 2025**

10:00 a.m. – Worship

10:15 a.m. – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Confirmation

**Women's Fellowship** will meet on Thurs., Feb. 13 at 10 a.m. Our program is sharing with one another what you did to stay safe and sane during the snowstorm of 2025. Did you start a new craft, read a great book, work on a jigsaw puzzle, or clean a closet? If possible, bring a picture or an example of your activity. Lunch will be served. It will be a fun time of sharing!

**All 2024 Boards and Committees.** Year ending reports are due to the MESSENGER for printing in March 2025 for the Annual Report. Please forward the reports to Newsletter Annual Report ([newsletter@stpeters-ucc.org](mailto:newsletter@stpeters-ucc.org)) on or before Mon., Feb. 17, 2025. Thank you.

The Mission Team will host a Lunch and Learn on Sun., Feb. 16 following worship. We will have lunch and then learn about **Back Bay Mission** in Biloxi, MS. Our team that traveled to the Mission last September will present a program on what Back Bay Mission is and our experiences while there. Another trip is planned for the 3rd week in September this year-- Sept. 20-27. All are welcome to come have lunch and learn more about Back Bay Mission!

**Mardi Gras** is coming up March 2, following worship! Please join us for all the things you love: games, food and the silent auction. **We would appreciate your help this year, just as in the past. We need desserts and gift cards for prizes, and silent auction basket donations. Basket donations should be made by February 12 to display prior to the event.** Thank you for your generous assistance! If you have any questions, please reach out to Jennifer Kroeter, Wendy Wisdom, Barb Bauer or Linda Patterson. See you on March 2! Everyone is invited!!

Just a reminder that there will be a **cemetery cleanup and removal** of Fall and Christmas flowers starting March 1 through March 15. If you would wait until March 16 to place Easter and spring flowers, it would be appreciated so they are not accidentally removed. Thank you, St. Peter's Cemetery Board

The **Cemetery Board** is seeking volunteers to assist with mowing and trimming at the cemetery for the 2025 mowing season. We typically mow weekly using zero turn mowers. The time required for mowing is typically 2.5 to 3 hours per cutting. We trim every other week with gas powered string trimmers which are provided. The time for trimming is approximately three hours. The more people the less time it will take. Even if you cannot work the whole time any assistance would be appreciated. Our mowing season typically starts late March or early April and ends usually at the end of October. If interested call or text Gary Edler at (636) 667-0918.

**St. Paul's UCC Marthasville Pork Sausage & Sauerkraut Dinner**, Feb. 23, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Country Store, Quilt Raffle, Meat Sales



Never have cash or a 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!

Choir Anthem: "Trust in Jesus" M. Hayes

"'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His word, just to rest upon His promise, just to know, "Thus saith the Lord." Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er! Jesus, precious Jesus, O for grace to trust Him more! Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just for sin and self to cease, just from Jesus simply taking life and rest and joy and peace. Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er! Jesus, precious Jesus, O for grace to trust Him more! I'm so glad I learned to trust Him, precious Jesus, Savior, Friend; And I know that He is with me, will be with me to the end. Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er! Jesus, precious Jesus, O for grace to trust Him even more. Trust Him more."