

Sunshine Thoughts

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

7014 Darmstadt Road Evansville, Indiana 47710 812-909-4391

Search Team Update

Since January, the Search Team has interviewed two candidates who expressed interest in St. Peter's. The initial meeting is held via Zoom. Our time together begins with prayer and short introductions. The goal is to ease everyone into a conversation about ministry, how the candidate practices it and how St. Peter's practices ministry now and our visions for the future. It begins with an easy question: What prompted you to say 'yes' to the call to be a minister? Both candidates heard the call in their late teens and during their time in college.

The next question, "What stirred your interest in our congregation?" helps us understand their interest in us and the Evansville community. Both live in larger cities and liked the idea of moving to a smaller one. Both expressed genuine support and belief in the viability and need for small churches.

Strengths, skills, and talents that the prospective pastor brings to a church comprise Questions 3 and 4. What strengths does the pastor possess? What is their favorite part of ministry that gives them joy when they are doing it? What is their least favorite part of ministry work? What strengths does St. Peter's need in its next settled pastor? Building relationships and sharing their lives and work with members brought both candidates fulfillment.

Question 5 addresses activities that should be done first when coming to a new church. Both candidates wanted time to get to know people, to "sit in the pew" and listen and learn about our ministries before making suggestions or proposing change. A strong interest in engaging young people and ways to do it were also expressed.

The final question, What Opportunities do you hope to have with this position, allows us to better understand their goals and aspirations. Both shared the desire to connect the church to the community and new ministry ideas.

These conversations are "eye opening" for the Search Team members. We have heard that our profile is strong and demonstrates an active congregation. It is refreshing to speak to people who love God and the church, who believe that a congregation is vital to the life of a community. Both candidates gave us hope that we will find the next settled pastor, but it will not be either of these candidates, for multiple reasons (theirs and ours). That said, we are committed to this process, and we believe the right person is out there and she or he is also looking for us!

Submitted by,
Cheryl Whitmore,
Co-Chair, Search Committee

Council Update

Hello Friends,

Our March 16 meeting was full and productive. Laura

Medcalf and Kurt Simpson again reported that our current finances are in good shape. Thank you to our St. Peter's family who are consistently generous in their support.

The wall in the fellowship hall is now ready to be finished out and painted. Building and Grounds are in the process of getting bids for drywall and paint and supervising the process in getting this completed. We have a new thermostat in the sanctuary! Thank you to Roger Schell for doing the install. This Spring is targeted to complete the safety renovation on the playground.

Generosity chair Mike Hobbs reminded us that our next special offering will be Strengthen the Church on May 24 which is Memorial weekend so that date may change. Laura Medcalf and Larry Barchet are reviewing a bid for a much-needed new projector for our Sunday services. This is to replace the current one that is old and outdated and creating technical issues.

We are currently working on updating job descriptions that were implemented in 2013. There is not much to do but other than some wording corrections and other descriptions that need updating.

We will have one more Wednesday Lenten meal/service on March 25. A big thank you to all who volunteered to provide us with a nice meal, and to our Worship/Music Committee for organizing the service each

week. We have had an average of about 21 people attending.

We have decided that our council members will be taking turns doing the Sunday announcements each week. This is a great way for our congregation and online viewers to see some council faces. We line that up during our council meeting for the following month, along with our communion servers.

Regarding our weekly Sunday service, I want to express my gratitude to all of the hard work and attention that our lay leaders and April are doing in providing us with service each week. We are truly blessed in how God provides.

Our next meeting is April 20. Members are always welcome, just let us know ahead of time. We also welcome our members to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Peace,
Sharon Durkee
 Council President

Lenten-Easter Services

Maundy Thursday Service
 5:30 p.m. at Bethany
Easter Sunday
 Breakfast 8:30 until 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
 Worship 10:15 a.m.

Communion Sunday

Holy Communion will be celebrated on April 5th.

February Finances	
Total General Offering*	\$11,506
Building & Grounds	\$145
*Need \$9,467 monthly General Offering to meet budgeted amount of \$113,604.	
Average Sunday Attendance	
In Person	40
Zoom	7
YouTube	

Women’s Guild

Our annual Carrot Cake and Italian Cream Cake Sale will be held April 24th & 25th. A prep day will be held on the 23rd. There will be order blanks in the bulletin.

Our next meeting will be on April 28th at 6 pm.

Men’s Fellowship

Our next meeting has been scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on April 9th at the Log Inn.

Church Office Hours

The Church office hours are: Thursdays 7:30 am to 12:00 pm

2026 Church Council

Sharon Durkee, President
Rose Gentry, Vice President
Kurt Simpson, Treasurer
Laura Medcalf, Financial Secretary
Debra Herke, Secretary
Mike Hobbs, Generosity
Bub Newman, Building and Grounds
David Patterson, Building and Grounds
Brett Vaught, Building and Grounds

Prayers of Healing and Concern for:

- *Judy Allen
- *Bob Berfanger
- *Pat Brown
- *Chris Cheshire
- *Megan Clanton
- *Gary Gantner
- *Lyn Hayden
- *Mike Hobbs
- *Suzie Hobbs
- *Katie Hudson
- *Toni Klueg
- *Mildred Kuhlenschmidt
- *Miss Mary
- *Dala McDaniel
- *Brandon Meeks
- *Jennifer Meeks
- *Katie Mullen
- *Gayle Nelson
- *Mark Noelle
- *Larry Palmer

- *Charlotte Pointer
- *Becky Reeves
- *Brook Smith
- *Mandy Stock
- *Brenda Todd
- *Carl Todd
- *Brian Turpin
- *Tom Wardrip
- *Ursula Wegner
- *Pat Williams

Book Club Happenings

Our April read will be: *By Any Other Name* by Jodi Picoult. We will meet on April 16th at 10:30.

The May read will be: *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi.

June’s read will be: *The Husband’s Secret* by Liane Moriarty.
 Happy Reading,
 Brenda Schell

**Don’t forget St. Peter’s
 in your will!**

Future Needs Fund

The St. Peter’s Church Council has established a “Future Needs Fund” for the church. This fund will function primarily as an emergency fund to cover unanticipated expenses that arise from the operation of the church including (but not limited to) emergency building and equipment repairs. In order to fund this account, we will be receiving a special “First Fruits” offering on the first Sunday of every month. We are asking members to consider giving an extra \$5 each month towards this fund.

**United Caring Services
Monthly Lunch Volunteer
Opportunity**

For the last several years, the 1st Saturday of each month is the day for St. Peter's volunteers to prepare and serve a meal at United Caring Services. We would like to thank the congregation for your continued support over the years of this great outreach program.

Each month we serve between 75-100 lunches. **The supplies for these meals are not provided by the shelter,** so that is why we rely on monetary donations to help offset the expenses for these meals. And in an effort to keep our expenses down, over the last several months we have had tried a variety of menu items. While they all have been well received, we recently we have landed on a menu that seems to be our biggest hit!. The menu includes a pasta bake, breadstick, vegetable, fruit, cookie and lemonade.

While we are spending approx. \$1.25 per meal, we feel we can lower the cost going forward if we ask for non-perishable supply donations.

1# boxes of rigatoni pasta
Large cans (106 oz.) of spaghetti sauce
Large cans (106 oz.) of seasoned green beans
Bottle of grated Parmesan cheese
Bottle of Italian Seasoning
Large can of dry lemonade mix
Package of napkins
100 forks (each meal)

Here is the 2026 UCS lunch date:

- April 4th
- May 2nd
- June 6th
- July 4th
- August 1st

- September 5th
- October 3rd
- November 7th
- December 5th

We ask that you please have your items to the church by the last Sunday of each month. You can place items on the kitchen counter at church.

We are also in need of 2-3 volunteers each month to help prepare and serve the meal. Volunteering includes being onsite at the shelter from 10:45 am to 12:45 pm. Julie & Angel bring all the supplies on that Saturday and we prepare and serve the meal onsite.

Please contact Angel Nelson at 812-204-5473 or Julie Ryder at 812-480-1165 if you have questions or will be a volunteer.

Thank You,
Angel & Julie

Sister Joanna's Table

It's been a great year of the ETSA working together to feed neighbors in our community. In a recent email I received from Reverend Emily Slade, Sr. Pastor at Bethlehem UCC and President of the ETSA (Evansville Tri-State Association), she noted that since beginning this joint mission in July 2023, we have served 15 meals. She also offered a thank you to the ETSA for financially supporting this work, and a thank you to each of you and the other volunteers from your church who have given of their time to this ministry.

Over the last 2 years, St. Peter's has joined five of our sister UCC churches (Bethlehem, Bethel, Immanuel (Ford Road), Zion Lippe and St. Paul's (German Township)) the 2nd Saturday every other month to provide free hot meals to those in need at Sister

Joanna's Table, located at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 301 SE 1st St in DT Evansville.

St. Peter's began this mission project in 2024 and has had the opportunity to join these churches in providing meals 7 different times. I would also like to thank all of you that have supported this mission and outreach project by volunteering or providing food/desserts.

We will continue serving in 2026, so please mark your calendars for these Saturdays:

- May 9th
- July 11th
- September 12th

As we get closer to those dates, we will be asking for 2-4 volunteers to help serve at Sister Joanna's Table. Since we are participating with other churches, the time commitment varies depending on what our task assignment is, but it would be about 2 hours.

Contact Julie Ryder if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

Vintage Garage Sale Updates

It is hard to believe that **the annual Vintage Garage Sale will be here within two short months! Dates for the sale are June 5th and 6th.** This is the time of year to clean out a closet or cabinet and donate the "gently used items" to the sale. It is our first fund raiser of the year!

Please remember these guidelines when you consider donating your treasures to the sale:

- ✓ Make sure all items are "gently used." Small appliances, kitchen gadgets, tools, electronics must be operational.
- ✓ Profits are increased when we **have vintage items or items that are collectible**

for sale. If you have a question about the value of an item, contact Sue Anne or Cheryl.

- ✓ All items need to be clean.
- ✓ Books need to be intact, with front and back covers, clean pages, and dust jackets in good condition.
- ✓ Furniture needs to be functional and clean. Patio sets, cabinets, bureaus, chairs are always needed.
- ✓ Outdoor tools and equipment sell – it would be great to offer these functioning tools: lawnmower (gas or electric), weed-eater (gas or electric), leaf blower (gas or electric), hedge trimmers.
- ✓ We do not take mattresses or televisions.

If you have boxes of merchandise to offer and cannot get them down the basement steps, no problem – place the boxes near the steps and someone will get them downstairs. If you need help getting the boxes out of your house – call Cheryl Whitmore.

In advance, we thank you for your donations to make our first fundraiser of 2026 a SUCCESS.

Sue Anne Simon and Cheryl Whitmore

Paper Goods Drive

Items needed:

Plates: all sizes, bowls, Cups: coffee and drink cups, Napkins, Kleenex, plastic forks and spoons, storage bags: all sizes.

Place items in the fellowship hall. Thanks!

Would You Be Willing to Volunteer for our Tech Team?

The St. Peter’s Tech Team is looking to expand our pool of volunteers that can help with operating our technology on Sunday mornings. Training will be provided, and you do not have to be a computer expert in order to help out. We are hoping to have enough volunteers in our rotation that your commitment would be no more than once a month. If you have questions—or would like to volunteer—please contact Laura Medcalf.

Church Calendar

The church is using Google calendar to schedule church events and meetings. You can view the calendar at <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=c3RwZXRlcuNoaWdobGFuZHVjY0BnbWFpbC5jb20>Or scan the following QR Code with your smart phone.



Newsletter Deadline

The submissions deadline for the May 2026 Sunshine Thoughts is April 19th. The May edition will be distributed on April 26th.

Newsletter items may be submitted via e-mail. Please send to rschell190@gmail.com

Join us for Online Worship at St. Peter’s!

On Your Computer

Go to <https://zoom.us/j/850989470>

Zoom will download briefly to your computer and log you into the meeting

Using the Zoom App

Enter the meeting ID:
850 989 470

Click “Join with a personal link name” and change how you are identified to others in the group

Click “Join Meeting”

On Your Phone

Call **1-312-626-6799**

Enter Meeting ID:
850 989 470#

Follow the prompts