

Sunshine Thoughts

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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

Search Team Update

The Search Team is considering the questions we will use to introduce the St. Peter's congregation and learn about a prospective pastor. This is one of the projects necessary to facilitate a "good interview" with any candidate. We will also practice interviewing.

What can you do for St. Peter's this week? Put St. Peter's on your prayer list. Pray for our church community, pray for the person who is coming to be our next pastor, and pray for all leadership teams leading St. Peter's.

If you have questions about this process, please contact a Search Team Member – Sharon Durkee, John Gentry, Kaleb Herke, Suzie Hobbs, Tom Ryder, Dick Sprinkle, Kurt Simpson and Cheryl Whitmore. Submitted by, Cheryl Whitmore, Co-Chair, Search Committee

Search Committee Moment Friends,

This year of 2026 will be a time of faith, hope, and patience. We all know change can bring uncertainty, but transition is nothing new to us. It reminds us of how St. Peter's is rooted in Christ and our mission.

With this in mind, we invite you to pray in unity for patience, wisdom for the search committee in the interviewing process, and for our future pastor who is waiting to be called to us.

Thank you for your faithfulness and dedication to St. Peter's. We are grateful to be on this journey together. Let's continue to anchor our faith and trust in God's timing.

"Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand." Isaiah 41:10

Peace,
Search Committee

Prayer from Search & Call Committee

Please keep and pray this prayer these next few weeks with us as we prepare in our search to find St. Peter's UCC next new Pastor to lead us. The Search and Call Committee is working diligently on this process and we need everyone's prayers. Thank you in advance.

Our Father, who has watched over our church these last three years as we have prepared to look for a new Pastor to lead us into the future, we say Thank you. Please give the Search Team guidance of wisdom and courage as we begin the endeavor of making the decisions as we read and interview perspective candidates. Please be with each of us and give your Blessing. We pray this in Your name. Amen.

Communion Sunday

Holy Communion will be celebrated on February 1st.

Don't forget St. Peter's in your will!

December Finances

Total General Offering*	\$10,259
Building & Grounds	\$220
<small>*Need \$9,467 monthly General Offering to meet budgeted amount of \$113,604.</small>	
Average Sunday Attendance	
In Person	40
Zoom	5
YouTube	11

Women's Guild

The bake sale planned for this month has been postponed. A new date will be announced in the next newsletter.

Our next meeting will be on February 17th at 6 pm. This will be our annual Sundae Lovers meeting. Bring your favorite ice cream topping. Ice cream will be provided.

Men's Fellowship

Our next meeting has been scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on February 12th at the church.

Thank you to all who supported our BBQ sale. The sale was a great success.

Church Office Hours

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

2026 Church Council

Friends,

I am happy to introduce your council for 2026:
Sharon Durkee, President
Rose Gentry, Vice President
Kurt Simpson, Treasurer

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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

It is our privilege to serve and take care of the business of St. Peters on your behalf. As a reminder, all members are welcome to attend a council meeting at any time. Just let us know in advance. Please pray that we serve humbly and that we are productive in conducting the business of the church.

In working with the Search Committee, we ask that you please pray for God's guidance in their preparation for the interviewing process. Please continue to pray daily for our new pastor who is waiting to be called to St. Peters according to God's perfect timing. And pray for flexibility and acceptance in what God may have in His plan for us.

Peace,

Sharon Durkee

Council President

Prayers of Healing and Concern for:

*Judy Allen

*Bob Berfanger

*Pat Brown

*Bob Burkhart

*Jeff Buxton

*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

*Ryder Family

*Aggie Todd

*Brenda Todd

*Carl Todd

*Brian Turpin

*Tom Wardrip

*Ursula Wegner

*Pat Williams

Book Club Happenings

Our February read will be: Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano. We will meet on February 19th at 10:30.

Our March read will be: The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post by Allison Pataki. Happy Reading, Brenda Schell

Parish Nurse Updates – Improving a Health Care Visit

It is not uncommon to hear from a member that they were recently disappointed with a health care visit. Either the patient did not get his/her questions answered or they felt the provider was not interested in their concerns.

Here are some suggestions that may be helpful:

1. Every time you talk with a health care provider, ask, "What is my main problem?"
2. The second question is, "What do I need to do?" If you don't understand what you need to do, tell the person. You might say, "This is new to me. Will you please explain that to me one more time." Don't feel rushed or embarrassed if you don't understand something.

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3. The third question is, "Why is it important for me to do this?" This question ties together all three questions, what is the medical diagnosis (Question 1), what action needs to be taken in regard to the diagnosis (Question 2), and why the action is important (Question 3)

4. Another important suggestion is to always take someone (whom you trust) along with you to the visit to listen. It is very easy to become a little anxious during the visit, even easy visits, and important statements are missed. A friend or family member can be a second set of ears to help ensure your questions are answered and later, he or she may be able to provide the answers to the questions that you don't remember being discussed.

The Parish Nurses can go with members to a health provider appointment. Please consider asking them several days or a week prior to the appointment so that they are more likely to be available. If you have questions about a diagnosis or treatment recommendation, feel free to call Suzie Hobbs, Joanne Klueg, or Cheryl Whitmore, the St. Peter's Parish Nurses.

Submitted by,

Cheryl Whitmore

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

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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)

February 2026

Here is the 2026 UCS lunch date:

- February 7th
- March 7th
- 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:

March 14th

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.

Mission Moment

The Central High School Committee would like to thank you for the generosity of everyone that donated to Central's need for sweatpants for both the boys and girls at Central. You more than answered the call for this need. The entire backend of our car was full with large garbage bags and boxes filled with sweatpants for the students' needs. John Gentry

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and Mike Hobbs delivered them to the School Nurse. She sent me a note saying Thank You!

To all of you from our committee we say Thank You! You have again answered the call from the community and our need to participate and help others.

Thank you!

Your Central High School
Committee

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=c3RwZXRlcnNoaWdobGFuZHVjY0BnbWFpbC5jb20> Or scan the following QR Code with your smart phone.

**Newsletter Deadline**

The submissions deadline for the March 2026 Sunshine Thoughts is February 22th. The

March edition will be distributed on March 1st.

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