

Sunshine Thoughts

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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

Search Team Update

Rev. Monica Oulette, Association Conference of the IKC, responsible for Search and Call, has assured us that there will be minimal church inquiries during Advent. We have not received any inquiries and hopefully we will after the first of the year. In January and February, the Search Team will be working on our interview skills. We are also planning one or two coffee hours after the Sunday service to share the contents of the profile.

What can you do for St. Peter's this month?

- ✓ Attend a service, in-person, Zoom, or YouTube.
- ✓ Pray for our church community and our future pastor.
- ✓ Find a mission project that interests you and get involved. In the next two weeks, we will be serving lunch at UCS and helping to serve lunch at Sister Joanne's Table (two different feeding ministries). The Central High School Nurse is asking for sweatpants for girls and boys at Central. The Central Team will be collecting these garments through January.

Thank you for your continued support of the St. Peter's Search Team. Please contact any of the members if you have questions. Members are Sharon Durkee, John Gentry, Kaleb Herke, Kristen Hobbs, Suzie Hobbs,

Tom Ryder, Kurt Simpson, Dick Sprinkle, and Cheryl Whitmore. Submitted by Cheryl Whitmore, St. Peter's Co-Leader 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. Peters 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. Peters. 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

Communion Sunday

Holy Communion will be celebrated on January 4th.

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

November Finances	
Total General Offering*	\$11,496
Building & Grounds	\$165
*Need \$9,467 monthly General Offering to meet budgeted amount of \$113,604.	
Average Sunday Attendance	
In Person	42
Zoom	6
YouTube	7

Women's Guild

Our next meeting will be on January 27th at 6 pm.

Men's Fellowship

Our next meeting has been scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on January 8th at the church.

Church Office Hours

The Church office hours are:

- Thursdays 7:30 am to 12:00 pm

Prayers of Healing and Concern for:

- *Judy Allen
- *Bob Berfanger
- *Pat Brown
- *Bob Burkhart
- *Judy 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 January read is: The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon. We will meet on January 15th at 10:30.

Our February read will be: Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano.

Our March read will be: The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post by Allison Pataki.

Happy Reading,
Brenda Schell

Mission Update

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has contributed to any of the St. Peter's Mission projects in the past few months.

We are a GIVING CHURCH; our congregation proves this repeatedly! Here are two examples:

As we have done in the past several years, the St. Peter's congregation, along with two additional churches, provides a complete Christmas to families that participate in the Grandin Evolution Project within the Grandin Mobile Home Community. This year we received gift requests for two families; one family with four children and two parents; the second family with three children and two parents. Each child receives a minimum of three presents; adults receive two presents and there are two

or three gifts for the entire family. The primary gift requests this year were hats, coats, and gloves. We also give each family \$200 in food gift cards (Ruler's) to purchase food for Christmas Dinner. In addition to these gifts and food cards, we received enough cash to purchase 14 - \$50 food cards. These cards are given to Merna Peden, the Grandin Evolution Director. She will disperse the cards to families who need food support during the winter months.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

In mid-October, the Council approved a special offering for the SAWS (Servants at Work) organization. This group builds wheelchair ramps for people who have mobility issues and cannot afford one.

The St. Peter's offering was \$1,928, which was matched dollar for dollar by an anonymous SAWS donor in Indianapolis. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Submitted by:
Cheryl and JC Whitmore

Parish Nurse Request

Presently our weekly Sunday service is being led by different pastors within our UCC community. Several of these pastors are also willing to visit members who are hospitalized or are home-bound and request a pastoral visit. The parish nurses will facilitate these visits. If you are aware of a member hospitalized or a member who is requesting a pastor to visit them, please notify one of the parish nurses. The nurse will contact the pastor and help schedule the visit. If you have questions, contact Suzie Hobbs, Joanne Klueg, or Cheryl Whitmore.

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 the 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.

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January 2026

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:

- **January 3rd**
- **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:

- **January 10th**
- **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.

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=c3RwZXRlcnNoaWdobGFuZHVjY0BnbWFpC5jb20> Or scan the following QR Code with your smart phone.



Newsletter Deadline

The submissions deadline for the February 2026 Sunshine Thoughts is January 25th. The February edition will be distributed on February 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