

Sunshine Thoughts

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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

Search Team Update

Presently there are 6 churches within the IKC searching for a settled pastor; four churches are within our Evansville Tri-state Association. These churches are Bethel UCC, Christ UCC, Immanuel UCC (Mt. Vernon), and St. Peter's UCC (Highland). The committee has not received a candidate profile to review since early April. When a candidate profile is sent to us, from the IKC office, the individual is contacted within one to two days, and an introductory interview is scheduled. If you have questions about the search process, please contact Sharon Durkee, John Gentry, Kaleb Herke, Suzie Hobbs, Tom Ryder, Kurt Simpson, or me, Cheryl Whitmore.

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

Council Update

Hello Friends,

This month we had two council meetings that included a special meeting on June 9 and our monthly meeting on June 22.

The Search Committee met following our June 7 service with Rev. Shane Ranschaert leading our service. The committee was in full agreement in recommending to Council that St. Peters call Rev. Shane as our Bridge Pastor for six months at 20 hours per week, while we continue in our pastor search.

On June 9, Council met with the Search Committee co-chair Cheryl Whitmore. Council was in full agreement to accept the recommendation from the Search Committee to call Rev. Shane Ranschaert as our Bridge Pastor for six months at 20 hours per week, while we continue in our pastor search. Kurt Simpson, Search Committee co-chair, presented the announcement with information to the congregation during our June 14 service. Once the call agreement is completed, we look forward to Rev. Shane spending time with us as our Bridge Pastor beginning the first part of August.

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Whitmore or Kurt Simpson or other Search Committee members.

Our June 22 meeting was full and productive. We have had another month of our finances being in good shape. Thank you for your continued support. With this being said, council supported and voted on the purchase of a much-needed new computer for the administrative office, replacing one that is at least 10 years or more old and having difficulties. Mike Hobbs has a contact who will provide us with specifics to purchase.

Debbie Herke provided us with recorded minutes and her experience at the 2026 annual Tri-State Association meeting. Thank you to Debbie and Julie Ryder, along with Rev. Michelle Freeman for representing St. Peters at this meeting.

Finishing touches are being completed around the doors on the newly finished wall in the fellowship hall. Thank you to Roger Schell for getting the exit light put back up, and to our building and grounds team for taking care of the other finishing touches. Also, we are continuing to find a solution to the broken stall door in the ladies' restroom. The rental house has had some air conditioning issues which has been fixed.

We continue to hear positive feedback and excitement to have Rev. Shane join us in August. On July 19, Rev. Monica Ouellette, IKC Associate Conference Minister, will lead our service. Rev. Shane Ranschaert will also join us for service. Council will provide a meet and greet coffee hour following service. This will be a great opportunity to have fellowship and meet both Rev. Monica and Rev. Shane. We hope all of you can join us.

Our next meeting is July 13, 2026. 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.

Reflecting on Rev. Stephanie Weiner's recent message, I hope you all have found some laughter in your day.

Peace,

Sharon Durkee
Council President

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Communion Sunday

Holy Communion will be celebrated on July 5th.

May Finances	
Total General Offering*	\$10,441
Building & Grounds	\$175
*Need \$9,467 monthly General Offering to meet budgeted amount of \$113,604.	
Average Sunday Attendance	
In Person	40
Zoom	4
YouTube	10

Women's Guild

There will be no meeting in July. See you in August for our annual Patio Party.

Men's Fellowship

Our next meeting has been scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on September 10th at the Church.

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
*Mary Ballard
*Bob Berfanger
*Phylis Berfanger
*Bruce & Linda Briel
*Pat Brown
*Chris Cheshire
*Megan Clanton
*Gary Gantner

*Lyn Hayden
*Mike Hobbs
*Suzie Hobbs
*Katie Hudson
*Toni Klueg
*Dala McDaniel
*Brandon Meeks
*Jennifer Meeks
*Katie Mullen
*Gayle Nelson
*Mark Noelle
*Larry Palmer
*Charlotte Pointer
*Sue Anne Simon
*Brook Smith
*Jeff Sprinkle
*Dick Sprinkle
*Mandy Stock
*Carl Todd
*Brett Vaught
*Tom Wardrip

Book Club Happenings

July's read will be: The God of the Woods by Liz Moore. We will meet on July 16th at 10:30.

August's read will be: The Swan House by Elizabeth Musser.
Happy Reading,
Brenda Schell

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

Prayers for Service Men and Women

-Caleb Coffman serving in the US Navy.

(Please contact the Church Office, if you know of other service men and women.)

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

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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

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 first like to thank the congregation for your continued support over the years of this great outreach program and invite you to join us when you can. It is such a rewarding experience!

The supplies we use for these meals are not provided by the shelter. That is why we rely on monetary donations or supply donations to help offset the overall expenses for these meals.

In an effort to keep our expenses down, we have come up with a menu that seems to be a big hit and is cost effective. However, the price of groceries are increasing and we have seen an increase in the number of people we are serving over the last few months: anywhere between 85-110 lunches each month.

Our monthly menu is pretty simple: pasta bake entree, a garlic breadstick, a vegetable, a fruit, and a cookie/dessert. And while Angel & Julie shop around to try and keep expenses down, we are still spending between \$110-\$130 for the full meal, which is around \$1.10 to \$1.30 per meal.

So, we would like to ask for your help in donating items so that we can continue to provide a hot

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lunch each month at United Caring Service.

We will have shelf near the water fountain in the Fellowship Hall for you to place your donations for the non-perishable items and the frozen breadsticks can go in the large freezer. We typically buy the large cans (#10) of these items at GFS, but are open to whatever you are able to donate.

These are the items we are asking for:

Seasoned Green Beans
Use 3 cans each meal



Prebaked Breadsticks
Use 5 bags each meal



Spaghetti Sauce
Use 2 cans each meal



Pineapple
Use 3 cans each meal



Large package of napkins & packages of 100 forks

Please contact Angel Nelson or Julie Ryder if you have questions or will be a volunteer.

Thank You Again for Your Support,
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 be serving July 11th and then our last meal for 2026 will be on September 12th.

As we get closer to this date, 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.

CWS Kid Kits

God loves a cheerful giver. School bags are now called 'Kids Kits'. I've talked with Church World Service and as I expected the need is great. Last year because of our love and generosity 57 children of all nationalities had big smiles on their faces because they

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could further their education - yes, we sent 57 filled bags!

I know sewing is becoming a dying art, but if you do sew and want to make bags call Mary Ramsey, Susan Rudisill or Susie Hobbs for directions. If you would like to donate supplies, leave them in a marked box in the foyer.

Supplies needed for one bag:

- 1- Box of 10 Colored Pencils
- 1- 2 Pocket Folders
- 1- Glue Stick
- 1- Pair of Blunt Scissors
- 1- 70 Count Spiral Paper Notebook
- 1- 12" Ruler
- 1- Handheld Pencil Sharpener
- 1- Box of 24 Crayons
- 6- Unsharpened Pencils

We take these bags to Bethlehem in October and they take them along with their cleaning supplies to CWS to be given to those who need help anywhere in this beautiful world God gave us. We start collecting early because it takes time to make bags and also because school supplies go on sale in July. Bags can be filled fairly inexpensively. Those of us who sew will make bags for all supplies donated.

A processing fee of \$2.00 goes along with each bag.

Who knows - one of our bags might help to educate a farmer who feeds us. A doctor who keeps us well or a Minister who tells us of God's love.

Mary Ramsey

Parish Nurse Update

Facts about Indiana's Suicide rates:

* It is the second leading cause of death for our youth and the primary cause of death for young teens, ages 10 - 14 years.

* Males, ages 35 - 44, had the highest rate accounting for 50% of all suicides in 2024.

* Adults older than 65 years represent 19% of all suicides in 2024.

* Vanderburgh Co is one of five counties with the highest rates of suicide.

This summer, the St. Peter's Health Ministry Team will sponsor QPR training at St. Peter's. QPR stands for "question, persuade, and refer". QPR is similar to CPR, both classes teach fast, effective ways to save a life. This program is considered the most trusted name in suicide prevention. St. Vincent will provide the training and the class duration is less than two hours.

We hope to have the class sometime in August and we will share the date as soon as we have it secured.

We look forward to offering this class. If you have questions, please contact Cheryl Whitmore, 812.455.7536. Joanne, Suzie, and Cheryl

Vintage Garage Sale Update

Sue Anne and I want to give a big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to our garage sale this year. Donating, planning, pricing, setting-up, promoting, sorting, organizing, moving, selling, baking, bagging, boxing, praying, and finally loading are the actions that are necessary to make the sale a success. It can't happen without a group of dedicated people who give of their time and talents.

Our net profit is \$6,000. This total is after all bills were paid. There was not a particular item or items that increased our profits, compared to previous years. There were many 'gently used' items at the shelter house and they all sold. Our profits from the shelter house were over \$1,000.

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In the near future we will have a meeting after Sunday service to consider how we can improve the sale in the future. The dates for the 2027 Vintage Garage Sale will be June 4 and June 5.

Again, we say THANK YOU!
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!

Central High School Donations

Over the summer we will be collecting supplies again for Central High School for their students. We will begin June 7th until August 2nd, so that we can get them to the students prior to the start of school and the nurse can sort and have them ready.

The needs at this time are the following:
Deodorant for all genders
Tampons and Pads
Combs
Clothing for the Bear Closet: Socks, Belts, Pants and Sweatpants of all Sizes (larger sizes are of a greater need)

There will be containers in the Narthex. Thank you for contributing.

The 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=c3RwZXRIcnNoaWdobGFuZHVjY0BnbWVpbC5jb20> Or scan the following QR Code with your smart phone.



Newsletter Deadline

The submissions deadline for the August 2026 Sunshine Thoughts is July 26th. The August edition will be distributed on August 2nd. 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