

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,

Our May18 meeting was spent reviewing several things that have been updated and repaired at church, along with some other needs. Cheryl Whitmore, co-chair of the Search Committee, was our guest. She provided us with an update for pastor supply. We continue to have coverage through June. We touched on organizing a future pastor support team to be in place for a new pastor who will eventually be called to us. This is something Rev. Michael presented to council before he

left, and we will revisit his suggestion.

Laura Medcalf and Kurt Simpson again reported that our current finances are in good shape. We had a couple much needed expenses including a new projector and new lavatories in three restrooms. Thank you to those who volunteered their time for the restroom install and for our St. Peter's family who are consistently generous in their support.

Good news is that the fellowship hall wall is completed. Remaining is some new trim around the door and a couple things put back up. Thank you to those who volunteered their time and some materials to help save on cost, with the bulk of the wall cost going to our insurance. Also, the playground has been tidied up now and is safe to use. A couple finishing touches for the equipment still need to be done though. Thank you to those who provided time and materials to do that. We discussed perhaps getting a bench out there and a little free library would be nice too as a way to support our surrounding neighborhood.

The Girt Scouts will continue to use our building for their monthly meetings for another year. We are grateful in being able to provide this space for them.

Our next meeting is June 22, 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.

Peace,

Sharon Durkee
Council President

Communion Sunday

Holy Communion will be celebrated on June 7th.

April Finances	
Total General Offering*	\$9,715
Building & Grounds	\$145
*Need \$9,467 monthly General Offering to meet budgeted amount of \$113,604.	
Average Sunday Attendance	
In Person	49
Zoom	6
YouTube	15

Women's Guild

There will be no meetings in May, June or 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

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David Patterson, Building and Grounds

Brett Vaught, Building and Grounds

Prayers of Healing and Concern for:

*Judy Allen
*Mary Ballard
*Bob 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
*Brook Smith
*Jeff Sprinkle
*Dick Sprinkle
*Mandy Stock
*Brenda Todd
*Carl Todd
*Brett Vaught
*Tom Wardrip

Book Club Happenings

June's read will be: The Husband's Secret by Liane Moriarty. We will meet on June 18th at 10:30.

July's read will be: The God of the Woods by Liz Moore.

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

FYI

Member(s) in Nursing Centers. Please send a card to let them know they are in our prayers.

Maxine Simpson

Holiday Village
1200 W. Buena Vista Road
Apt 148
Evansville, IN 47710

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 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.

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

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!

June 2026

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 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 by 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:

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June 2026

Seasoned Green Beans

Use 3 cans each meal



Allens
BEAN GREEN CUT SEAS 10 ALLEN
Beans, Green, Cut, Seasoned, #10,
106 Oz Can

\$6.99 Add to Cart
can
\$40.49 Add to Cart
case

Prebaked Breadsticks

Use 5 bags each meal



Tavolini
Plain Breadsticks
Breadsticks, Plain, 8 Inch, Prebaked,
Frozen, 1.79 Ounce, 20 Ct Bag

\$5.99 Add to Cart
bag
\$56.99 Add to Cart
case

Spaghetti Sauce

Use 2 cans each meal



Tavolini
Spaghetti Sauce
Sauce, Spaghetti, with Spices, Fully
Prepared, #10 Sz Can

\$8.49 Add to Cart
can

Pineapple

Use 3 cans each meal



Gordon Choice
Pineapple Chunks
Pineapple, Chunked, in Juice, Choice,
#10 Sz Can

\$8.99 Add to Cart
can

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

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.

Parish Nurse Update

On May 17th, Mental Health
Awareness Sunday, Rev. John
Rich's sermon focused on the
challenges people can
experience when they suffer
from a mental health diagnosis.
He reminded us that we should
find refuge in God's presence,
our hearts should feel the
healing love God has for us,
and that God cares deeply for
our minds, bodies, and souls.

How do we support the
people we love and care about
who suffer from a mental
disease? Five actions were
offered. I consider these
recommendations to be very
helpful in making us more
inclusive and welcoming as a
congregation. The actions
mentioned were:

- Combat the stigma of mental illness. Twenty-three percent (one in four) of U.S. adults experienced a mental health diagnosis in 2024. It is imperative that we accept that mental illness is no different from hypertension, heart disease or arthritis.
 - Stop thinking that substance abuse is a sign of moral depravity. Substance abuse includes use of tobacco, vaping nicotine, alcohol and illegal drugs. In 2024, 168 million people experienced one of these addictions in a single day, but only 20% were able to receive treatment.
 - Listen, do not judge when someone shares their mental health story.
 - Encourage mental health treatment or a mental health evaluation if it is appropriate. Later, inquire how the individual is feeling.
 - Support initiatives that encourage "systems" to provide better treatment for mental health disorders. An example is the 2026 CAJE initiative for county governments to provide monies to the UCS diversion center. St. Peter's, as a membership congregation of CAJE supports this action.
- Rev. Rich ended the service with a responsive blessing, "May the grace that says "you are not alone" encourage you. May the mercy that says "you are enough" comfort you. May the love that says "you are loved" embrace you this day and every day. Amen". May these words give all of us a sense of God's deep and abiding love for each of us.

Congratulations

On May 10th, by unanimous vote, Rev. Georgia Chambers was called as the Pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church (ELCA). She continues in her role as Chaplain at Ascension St. Vincent Evansville and has actually functioned as the supply pastor at St. Mark's for more than 2 years. She is called to St. Mark's in a part-time capacity.

Pursuant to her UCC ordination vows, Rev. Georgia will continue to be a member of St. Peter's Highland UCC.

Vintage Garage Sale Updates

It is hard to believe that **the annual Vintage Garage Sale will be 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!

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
 Socks
 Tampons
 Pads

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 July 2026 Sunshine Thoughts is June 21st. The July edition will be distributed on June 28th.

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