

Sunshine Thoughts

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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

Search Team Update

The work of the Search Team continues. Recently, Kurt and I participated in an IKC Search and Call Zoom meeting to listen to how other open churches are progressing with the Search process. It was so good to say, "Our profile work is finished; we are ready to interview candidates". Five churches were represented on the call; two are beginning the Bridge work; three are awaiting candidates, including us. Everyone recognized the importance of staying faithful to the Bridge/Search process. We are not alone in our search for a pastor.

I hope that you have had the opportunity to be present or listen to one or more of the pastors who have led our worship services since November. In our time, we need to hear that "God loves everyone" and we are called to do the same. We hear this message every Sunday. I am confident you are grateful for these pastors who have agreed to lead our worship services. I see many members giving a warm, St. Peter's welcome to each of them – thank you.

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

- ✓ Pray for our church community, our lay-leaders, and the teams they lead.
- ✓ Pray for our future, settled pastor.
- ✓ Come to a Lenten mid-week service. Enjoy the simple meal provided and sing the Holden Evening Service with us.

If you have questions about this process, please contact a Search Team Member – Sharon Durkee, John Gentry, Kaleb Herke, Suzie Hobbs, Tom Ryder, Kurt Simpson and Cheryl Whitmore.

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

Council Update

Hello Friends,

Well, January presented us with two immediate decisions for our new council. We came together quickly in resolving the issue of the maple tree by the parking lot and its declining condition and a potential safety hazard. A big thank you to Building and Grounds, along with JC Whitmore who had previously done the research and for managing the job, and Dave Patterson (B&G) for monitoring the job.

Of course, we remember the snowstorm! We voted to close the church for in-person Sunday service on January 25, 2026. Angel came to our rescue in providing Zoom church, and Rev. Mark Sirnic, our supply pastor for that day, came to our rescue in providing us with God's still speaking Word. There were 26 who logged on. We are grateful that God provides a way for our St. Peter's family to come together for Sunday service.

Another shout out to the Building and Grounds team for organizing the clearing off of our parking lot and the sidewalk. We were able to have

in-person service the following Sunday.

We had our first meeting on February 9, 2026, with our new president and our other two new members. I want to express my gratitude for this good group of people who have accepted the call of leadership to serve you here at St. Peters.

Cheryl Whitmore provided us with an in-depth Search Committee report in person. We are grateful for having supply pastor coverage through Easter. Thank you to Cheryl and April for organizing the supply pastor schedule.

Brett reported that the beams on the construction wall in the fellowship hall are up. There will be a need to hang dry wall and finish out the wall. Please be mindful when walking around that area.

Laura and Kurt reported that our financial state is good and stable. Thank you, St. Peters, for your generosity and support.

Another decision came right after we had our February meeting: deciding if and how we can provide a Lenten supper/service. We are happy to announce that the Worship/Music committee and Council will be working together in providing Lenten suppers/service. They will begin at 5:30 pm from February 25 through March 18. Please watch for the details in the Sunday bulletin and on Face Book. There will be a menu sign up for the meals. There is nothing confirmed for Maundy Thursday at the time of this writing.

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Our next meeting is March 16, 2026. Members are always welcome, just let us know ahead of time.

Peace,

Sharon Durkee
Council President

Communion Sunday

Holy Communion will be celebrated on March 1st.

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

Women's Guild

The Bake Sale will be held on March 20th & 21st. There will be order blanks in the bulletin.

Our next meeting will be on March 31st at 6 pm.

Men's Fellowship

Our next meeting has been scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on March 12th 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
*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 March read will be: The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post by Allison Pataki. We will meet on March 19th at 10:30.

Our April read will be: By Any Other Name by Jodi Picoult

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

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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.
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).

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

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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 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:

- 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

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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

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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 three short months!** This is the time of year to clean out a closet or cabinet and donate the “gently used items” to our garage sale. The Basement is beginning to look like we’re going to have a garage sale. There is plenty of room for more stuff.

Please remember these simple guides 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 on the concrete pad outside help draw in customers.
- ✓ 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

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=c3RwZXRIcnNoaWdobGFuZHVjY0BnbWFpbC5jb20> Or scan the following QR Code with your smart phone.



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Newsletter Deadline

The submissions deadline for the April 2026 Sunshine Thoughts is March 22th. The April edition will be distributed on March 29th.

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

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

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