

Sunshine Thoughts

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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

Search Team Update

The Search Team meets routinely, and we hope to have more to report in June.

How can you help the Search Team?

- ✓ Pray for the St. Peter's community. This simple activity is so important in our search for a new settled pastor, as well as for our community.
- ✓ Attend worship service as often as you can, whether in-person or via Zoom. During this time of having different people lead the worship each week, we have the privilege to experience assorted styles of worship.
- ✓ Practice your faith by "believing" we will find our next settled pastor; that individual is looking for us now.
- ✓ Challenge yourself to be active in at least one activity or group at St. Peter's. There are many choices and if you need help with choosing one, contact any Council Member.

Please contact any Search Team member if you have questions or concerns. Our team consists of 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,

Our April 20 meeting was again full and productive. Cheryl Whitmore, co-chair of the Search Committee, was our guest. Along with Kurt Simpson, also co-chair and council member, they provided us with an in-depth update of our pastor search.

We have supply pastor coverage through June, and Cheryl is exploring coverage for July and August. The Worship and Music Committee plan to provide one or two lay-led services if needed.

The Search Committee has interviewed three candidates and came to a unanimous decision that unfortunately they were not called to St. Peters. Filling a pastor position takes consistent effort and patience. Along with many prayers. The list of pastors is small, and our profile is posted in six areas. Please continue to pray for our new pastor and for the committee.

A recommendation was made to council for a congregational vote of 90% to install a new pastor. The recommendation was approved.

The committee will start working on interview questions for a second interview so they can be prepared and ready to go. The questions for the first interview are the same for each candidate. These questions will also be the same for each candidate.

Laura Medcalf and Kurt Simpson again reported that

our current finances are in good shape. Thank you to our St. Peter's family who are consistently generous in their support.

Good news that the fellowship hall wall is set to start on the completion on May 4. Building and Grounds expect it to take a few weeks but finished by the yard sale. They are also aware of a couple things that need attention and will be seeing to it.

Laura Medcalf reported on the projector upgrade proposal. Council has approved moving forward in replacing the old projector as it is out of date.

A warm welcome to Kim Armstrong, our new Sexton. She is excited about taking care of our church and is such a nice person. We provided her with a new and much needed vacuum to make her job easier. She also is the office administrator at Salem UMC.

The Grandin Evolution program will be dissolved in June. Items and money belonging to the program will be given to other non-profits who are in need. On behalf of Merna Peden and the program, thank you St. Peters for your commitment in serving and supporting this ministry.

Our next meeting is May 18, 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 May 3rd.

March Finances	
Total General Offering*	\$11,633
Building & Grounds	\$181
*Need \$9,467 monthly General Offering to meet budgeted amount of \$113,604.	
Average Sunday Attendance	
In Person	33
Zoom	5
YouTube	14

Women's Guild

Thanks to everyone who supported the recent cake sale.

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 May 14th 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
*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
*Brook Smith
*Jeff Sprinkle
*Dick Sprinkle
*Mandy Stock
*Brenda Todd
*Carl Todd
*Brian Turpin
*Tom Wardrip
*Ursula Wegner
*Pat Williams

Book Club Happenings

The May read will be: Theo of Golden by Allen Levi. We will meet on May 16th at 10:30.

June's read will be: The Husband's Secret by Liane Moriarty.

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

Happy Reading,
Brenda Schell

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 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.

***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!

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

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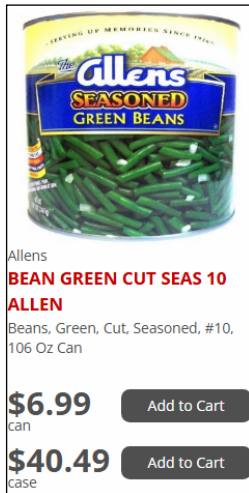
garlic breadstick, a vegetable, a fruit, and a cookie/dessert. And while Angel & Julie shop around to try and keep expenses down, we are still spending between \$110-\$130 for the full meal, which is around \$1.10 to \$1.30 per meal.

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:

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, Chunks, 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.

May 2026

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:

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

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May 2026

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.

May is Mental Health Awareness month, and it is the longest running health theme, begun in 1949. Mental Health America sponsors this month. The purpose is to increase education and understanding about mental health diseases, i.e., depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and others. The theme this year is "More Good Days, Together." This theme encourages communities and people to consider what a "good day" means to them and to use that information to support advocacy, education, support.

Here are some mental health facts specific to Indiana and the nation.

- ✓ **One in four adults experience a mental health diagnosis every year.**
- ✓ In Indiana, **33% of adults experience symptoms of anxiety and/or depression**, slightly higher than the national average.
- ✓ **Indiana is one of the top ten states for 988 call volume.** This number provides immediate access to mental health counselors for people experiencing mental health and substance abuse challenges.
- ✓ In 2023, **47% of middle-school and high-school students experienced symptoms of depression.**
- ✓ **Social media is considered most**

detrimental to teen mental health.

How do we improve mental health for ourselves and our friends?

- ✓ Reach out to other people. Call a friend or someone who lives alone. This simple action yields tremendous benefits for both parties.
- ✓ Take the time to seriously consider your mental health status. There are many excellent depression and anxiety screening tools available. Be honest with your health care provider, share your feelings, and follow the guidance of a trained medical professional.
- ✓ Discover what "makes you happy" and commit to experiencing that activity routinely. It may be as simple as reading an enjoyable book, working in the garden, or meeting friends for a meal.
- ✓ Get involved with a community or church-leading activity or invite someone new to attend a function. We are blessed at St. Peter's to have two strong fellowships, Women's Guild and Men's Fellowship. There are planned activities throughout the year, and everyone is welcome to attend. There are many committees that need more people to make them successful.
- ✓ Pray for guidance, listen for his "still speaking voice." Prayer has been proven to provide comfort, control, and relief of stress.

If you have questions about mental health diagnoses or mental health providers, feel free to contact one of the Parish Nurses, Suzie Hobbs, Joanna Klueg, or Cheryl Whitmore. May

we all experience "more good days."

Source: Mental Health America, Pew Study on Teen Health, Indiana Behavioral Health Facts.

Vintage Garage Sale Updates

It is hard to believe that **the annual Vintage Garage Sale will be here within two short months! Dates for the sale are 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 stairs, no problem – place the boxes near the steps and someone will get them down stairs. 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!

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.



Newsletter Deadline

The submissions deadline for the June 2026 Sunshine Thoughts is May 24th. The June edition will be distributed on May 31st.

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