

Sunshine Thoughts

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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

Pastor's Paragraphs

Dear St. Peter's members and friends,

November is, of course, the season of Thanks. Not just for turkey and pumpkin pie, but for all the gifts we receive, especially the gift of God's love through Jesus Christ and his church.

I want to take a moment to say Thank You. As many of you know, my last Sunday as your Transitional Pastor will be November 16th. I'm grateful for the time, however short, that you've allowed me to lead you as your pastor.

I've seen a church re-anchor itself after the rocky waves of a pandemic and the departure of a long-term pastor. I've watched you serve joyfully at many tasks, both inside and outside the walls of the church. I've witnessed you shelter those whose loved ones have died. I've heard prayers spoken with fierce honesty and hymns and anthems sung with profound courage. I've listened as you have grappled with difficult questions about your past, your present, and your future. I've been amazed as you took on two new ministries, all while maintaining and even growing your enthusiasm for those that have long been part of who you are.

I'm grateful for your confidence in me as well. I've never walked quite this kind of journey with a congregation. We learned together. You showed me grace, and sometimes even forgiveness.

All in all, I think we've done well together.

So, as I prepare to step aside, I do so with deep gratitude and enduring hope. I have said this with complete honesty to many – St. Peter's is the best church I've ever served, and I will always carry a little bit of St. Peter's with me.

My prayer for you is this: that you will keep pressing forward into your purpose as a faith community, trusting in the Spirit's leading, and fiercely loving one another and all who enter your doors.

Thank you for letting me walk with you in this season. I leave grateful, and I leave believing this – that God is not done with you. There is yet more light and truth to break forth at St. Peter's United Church of Christ.

Always your friend,
Rev. Michael Erwin

Search Team Update

The St. Peter's Profile is ready for publication! We received only minor suggestions from Rev. Monica, the Associate Conference Minister, responsible for Search and Call. Kurt has made the modifications she suggested, and the profile will be in her e-mail mailbox very soon. Her comments about the profile were positive; she said it was "great"!

As we wait to begin interviews, the Search Committee has two upcoming projects. We want to better understand discernment and learn how to practice it when

we consider candidates to serve our church. Ruth Haley Barton defines discernment as "an ever-increasing capacity to "see" the work of God in the midst of the human situation, so that we can align ourselves with whatever God is doing. If we genuinely believe that God is an active agent in the world, then we need practices for attending to God's agency."

Susan Beaumont states, "practicing discernment allows us to tap into wisdom. It is easy to fall back on the tried-and-true practices of decision making. We want to tap into sacred listening. It is not that we do not trust God to speak; we do not trust ourselves to hear what he is saying."

Rev. Michael will lead us through discernment exercises and lead a discussion of this topic soon. The second task we need to accomplish is to practice interviewing candidates. Rev. Monica and others have volunteered to help us with the skills we need to "ask the right questions" that will help our discussions be effective and meaningful.

The Search Team is moving forward, into the second part of our job – to interview and select the best candidate to lead us into the future. We ask that you include us and pastoral candidates reading our profile in your prayers.

Finally, the Search Team is interested in hosting one or two "coffee hours" in the coming weeks when we share the

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written profile document with the members of St. Peter's. I expect these sessions will be after Sunday service. Look for dates and times to be posted in the bulletin.

Submitted by,
Cheryl Whitmore, Search Team
Co-Chair

Source: How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going by Susan Beaumont

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

Communion Sunday

Holy Communion will be celebrated on November 2nd.

September Finances	
Total General Offering*	\$9,534
Building & Grounds	\$136
*Need \$9,467 monthly General Offering to meet budgeted amount of \$113,604.	
Average Sunday Attendance	
In Person	39
Zoom	6
YouTube	12

Women's Guild

Our next meeting will be our Christmas Party on December 9th at 6 pm. Bring a snack to share and a Bingo prize.

Men's Fellowship

Our next meeting has been scheduled for November 13th at the church.

Church Office Hours

The Church office hours are:

- Thursdays 7:30 am to 12:00 pm

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

Prayers of Healing and Concern for:

- *Judy Allen
- *Bob Berfanger
- *Bruce Briel
- *Pat Brown
- *Bob Burkhart
- *Judy Burkhart
- *Jeff Buxton
- *Chris Cheshire
- *Megan Clanton
- *Gary Gantner
- *David Hare-Hart
- *Jaxson Hare-Hart
- *Lyn Hayden
- *Mike Hobbs
- *Suzie Hobbs
- *Katie Hudson
- *Toni Klueg
- *Mildred Kuhlenschmidt
- *Dala McDaniel
- *Jennifer Meeks
- *Katie Mullen
- *Gayle Nelson
- *Larry Palmer
- *Charlotte Pointer
- *Becky Reeves
- *Len Reeves
- *Ryder Family
- *Tessa Shelton
- *Aggie Todd
- *Carl Todd
- *Brian Turpin
- *Tom Wardrip
- *Ursula Wegner
- *Pat Williams

Book Club Happenings

Our Christmas read will be: The Christmas Bookshop by Jenny Colgan. We will meet at St. Peter's on December 4th at 12:00.

Our January read is: The Frozen River by Jenny Colgan. Happy Reading,
Brenda Schell

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

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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.

Parish Nurse Update

A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make the 2025 Drive-Thru Flu Clinic a SUCCESS! Suzie schedules all the people who participate and gets the numbers to Paul's Pharmacy Infusion Nurse. Bethel DOC hosted the clinic this year. It was a beautiful fall day. Participants were able to receive both an influenza vaccine and/or a COVID vaccine. A big thank you to Paul's Pharmacy for providing and administering the vaccines.

The CDC has made changes in regard to who receives a COVID vaccine and insurance requirements were more stringent this year. But everyone was patient and filled out the extra form. Thank you!

As always, the primary goal of the Parish Nurse Ministry is to provide health care education and support to the members and friends of St. Peter's. Many of our members have shared their gratitude for the drive-thru clinic. We also want to thank our members for supporting this endeavor. Hope to see you next year at the 2026 Vaccine Clinic! Joanne, Suzie and Cheryl, St. Peter's Parish Nurses

Burgoo 2025

Thank you to those who have volunteered to help with Burgoo 2025.

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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 are the upcoming 2025 UCS lunch dates:

- November 1st
- December 6th

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

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.

2025 Fall Festival Update

A heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone that supported this year's Fall Festival.

^{342 Cookies Made}
The weather was a bit wet the beginning of the week, but that didn't stop those that love the Fall Festival. Once the rain stopped and the clouds parted, the crowd grew and the booth was busy, the drive-thru at church had a steady line and those at church were baking full steam ahead.

There's a lot of planning, long hours and dedication from everyone that goes in to making

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this Fall Festival a success and I am always amazed at how we are able to do what we do during Fall Festival week, but it always seems to come together with lots of fun and fellowship. I am so very grateful for our church family.

So for all those that took preorders, baked and assembled cookies, washed, rolled and bagged sour grapes, made that fluffy dough, worked in the kitchen, mixed up sugar, worked the drive-thru, bagged a kuchen, worked the booth, ran products to the booth, kept our work area clean, took care of the booth and delivery of the booth, bought a kuchen, said a prayer or two..., had any part in Fall Festival, I WANT TO AGAIN SAY THANK YOU!! YOU ARE ALL SO VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!!

Here, are the final numbers...

109 Batches of Dough Made
26 is the average # Kuchen Per Batch
2,864 Kuchen Baked
2,864 Kuchen Sold from Booth and Drive-Thru
(Sales by Day: M-314, T-372, W-596, T-567, F-632, S-345, S-all that were left!)

543 Pre-Ordered Kuchen
441 Additional Kuchen Sold in Drive-Thru
1,880 Kuchen Sold at Booth
2,864 Total Kuchen Sold

926 Bags of Sour Grapes
\$22,600 Fall Festival Profit

This year was truly a team effort, and this fundraiser wouldn't be successful without our great group of volunteers putting in a lot of hours to make this a successful year! We had a lot of positive comments and many compliments about our kuchen, cookies and sour grapes. So, pat yourself on the

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back and be very proud of our accomplishments.

Again, thanks to the Fall Festival Committee, the Church Council, all of the volunteers and the entire congregation for their support, prayers and financial donations in making 2025 a success.

With Appreciation and Gratitude,
Julie Ryder
Fall Festival Chairperson 2025

Mark Your Calendars for the 2026 Fall Festival - October 5th – October 10th

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 December 2025 Sunshine Thoughts is November 23rd. The December edition will be distributed on November 30th. 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