

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 family and friends,

October is one of the busiest months of the year at St. Peter's. As you know, the Fall Festival fundraiser is an all-church effort. For eight straight days, so many of you roll up your sleeves, share your gifts, and work side-by-side. When all is said and done, the proceeds from the Fall Festival are a substantial contribution to your budget and a tremendous blessing for the church.

It's easy to look at the Fall Festival and see only the dollars, but there's more going on than money. When you give your time, your creativity, and your energy, you're doing more than fundraising. You are building fellowship and community. You are deepening relationships. You are showing what happens when God's people come together with a shared purpose. In that sense, the Fall Festival is its own kind of discipleship. It reminds us that faith is lived out in kitchens, parking lots, and fellowship halls just as much as in Sunday worship.

This month, we will also step into the stewardship season under the theme, "Dream God's Dream." We'll reflect on the values that St. Peter's has named as central: Growing in Faith, Serving Your Neighbors, and Building Community. And we'll begin where it all starts: in worship. Stewardship is about more than filling a budget line; it's about aligning our lives with God's

vision for the church and the world.

So as October unfolds, I invite you to see the connections. The Fall Festival shows us what is possible when we work together. The stewardship season asks us to imagine what is possible when we live and give in response to God's dream. Both are about more than money. They are about discipleship. They are about who we are becoming as God's people.

I'm grateful for your commitment, and I look forward to dreaming with you this season.

Rev. Michael

Search Team Update

Last month the profile was shared with the St. Peter's Council and unanimously approved! The Search Team is in the process of completing final edits for the St. Peter's Profile. It will be reviewed by Rev. Monica Ouellette, IKC Associate Conference Minister and then posted on the national UCC website. I want to take this opportunity to **thank** Sharon Durkee, John Gentry, Kaleb Herke, Kristen Hobbs, Suzie Hobbs, Tom Ryder, Kurt Simpson and Dick Sprinkle for serving on the committee. Since January, this group of people have met 24 times. The team has considered our present ministries, past ministries, and our dreams for the future. We have had honest, heart-felt conversations about the challenges we face as a small church in a society

that no longer values faith-based institutions. We have also discussed the strengths of our small church – we believe in God's love and grace, we are a welcoming congregation, we have big hearts, and we care about our neighbors. These strengths are what has sustained St. Peter's for over one hundred and fifty years and we believe they will continue to sustain us. I hope to have dates for one or two Q&A sessions, open to members to share the contents of the profile in the next newsletter.

As always, if you have questions, please contact any Search Team Member. Submitted by,

Cheryl Whitmore,
Co-Chair, Search Committee

Communion Sunday

Holy Communion will be celebrated on October 5th.

August Finances	
Total General Offering*	\$10,634
Building & Grounds	\$200
*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

October's meeting will be held on the 21st. This will be our annual Halloween Bingo. Bring a \$5 value bingo prize and a snack to share. See you at 6.

2 Sunshine Thoughts

Men's Fellowship

Our next meeting has been scheduled for October 23rd at John Gentry's home.

Church Office Hours

The Church office hours are:

The church office will be closed October 11th – 19th for April's vacation.

- 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

October's read will be: Lady Clementine by Marie Benedict. We will meet on October 16th at 10:30 at St Peter's.

Our Christmas read will be: The Christmas Bookshop by Jenny Colgan. We will meet at St. Peter's on December 4th at 10:30.
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 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.

Burgoo 2025

Thank you to those who have already volunteered to help with Burgoo 2025. We are still in need of volunteers. The most current sign-up sheet is included in the newsletter. Some of the more critical times are #'s 3, 7 & 8. Please consider volunteering for these times.

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

October 2025

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 UCS lunch dates:

- October 4th
- 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

3 Sunshine Thoughts

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.

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 November 2025 Sunshine Thoughts is October 19th. The November edition will be distributed on October 26th. 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