

ST. PETER'S United Church of Christ

310 North Meadow Street (Grant Park, IL 60940)

Sunday School--9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship – 10:30 a.m. Church Office – (815) 465-6191 Parsonage phone – (815) 466-4048 Pastor's Cell – (567) 249-5130 *Website:* www.stpetersgp.org *Email:* stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net *Facebook:* St. Peters UCC Grant Park

Sunday, December 15th, 2024

*In the way you are able, whether in body or in spirit, please rise.

Welcome & Announcements

Kevin Mussman

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (Helmore)

Lighting of the Candles

Ian Hamann

Pastor Kyle

Kevin Mussman

*Call to Worship

Leader: Our souls proclaim Your greatness, O Lord.

<u>People</u>: And our spirits rejoice in You.

Leader: We will praise You as long as we live.

<u>People</u>: We will sing praises to You our whole lives long.

Leader: We will not trust in the power of this world.

<u>People:</u> But we will trust in You – Creator of heaven and earth.

Leader: The One Who gives food to the hungry; justice for the oppressed.

<u>People:</u> Our souls proclaim Your greatness as we worship You.

*Unison Prayer of Invocation & Confession

God of salvation: In Christ, You have done great things – our hearts are filled with joy. By Your power, You lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy and laughter into Your kingdom. Salvation is Your gift to us. We confess that often we try to replace Your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have. Forgive us for our foolishness. Help us to focus on Your grace. Amen

| *Opening Carol | "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vs. 1,3,4 | <i>t</i>) #180 |
|----------------|---|-----------------|
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Scripture Reading

Psalm 98

Kevin Mussman

Children's Message

Lighting of the Advent Candle

| Scripture Reading | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|------|
| Lighting of the Joy | Candle | |
| An Advent Prayer | | |
| Advent Carol | "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" | #178 |

Worshipping God with our Offerings

| Prayer of Dedic | cation | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----|
| Offertory | "The Huron Carol" (arr. Hayes) | |
| *Doxology | | #34 |

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Kyle

Prayer Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

| Scripture Reading | Luke 2:8-14 | Pastor Kyle |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <u>*Carol</u> | "As With Gladness" | #236 |
| <u>Sermon</u> | "Joy: A Gift to the World" | Pastor Kyle |
| *Closing Hymn | "Joy to the World!" | #179 |
| *Benediction | | |
| *Postlude | "How Great Our Joy!" (arr. Torrans) | |

We at St. Peter's are praying for:

Carter Fortin, Linda Havely, Taylor Cleary, Heather Phillips, Dorothy Kutemeier, Judy Schneider, Pamela Nolan, Kristopher Meyer, Jeff Jones, Jackqueline Dupuis, Sandy Erickson, Ken Erickson, Tim Langlois, Anita Bush, Dornita Hamann, Jack Hiland, Tim Miller, Claudia Scott, Natalie Lacer, Nancy Vittori, Krystal Frahm, and Colette Lawrence

Announcements

Fusion Events (Youth Group for 6th-12th graders): Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the lock in and to everyone who donated food and other items. For more details, visit our Facebook page or go to our church website at www.stpetersgp.org, (Under Ministries Section). You can also contact Josh (815) 693-5341 or Neal (815) 549-5911.

Offering envelopes: Offering envelopes are now available on the table outside of the church office.

COOKIES @ **CHRISTMAS** Advent Adult Sunday School Class: Please join this Sunday at 9 a.m. for the last adult Advent Bible Study. Feel free to bring your favorite Christmas cookies to share with the group. Coffee will be provided. We will be meeting in the Clyde Lange Fellowship Hall.

Beecher Food Pantry: The pantry is looking for donations of shampoo, deodorant, pudding, jello, canned fruit, cream corn, pasta noodles, soup (hearty variety), mayo, spam, tuna, boxed potatoes, canned pasta, hamburger helper, peanut butter, and toilet paper. Thank you.

Lay Readers: We are looking for a lay reader for December 22^{nd} , 24^{th} (11p.m.), 29^{th} and through January. If interested, please put your name on the sign up sheet outside the sanctuary.

Christmas Eve: Christmas Eve services will be held at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Mexican Progressive Dinner



The St. Peter's Church Life committee invites you to our Mexican Progressive Dinner on January 25th, 2025 @ 5 PM.

Plan now to enjoy this fun evening all held at the church as we move from room to room enjoying appetizers, soups, salads, a main dish, dessert, and beverages.

Additionally, we will have a salsa (dip) competition. Plan on submitting your best salsa to see if you win the fun-spirited contest!

We will enjoy fellowship as we cap the evening with some fun games.

Best part....it's FREE! So plan now to attend.

Sign-up will be held soon!



UCC Christmas Fund Envelopes

There are special UCC Christmas Fund envelopes located in the church pews. Donations will go directly to UCC and applied to Christmas Fund account.

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active, retired clergy, and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years. They provide emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lowerincome retirees.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office.