



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 17th, 2023

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

Welcome & Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude

“Away in a Manger” (*arr. Murray*)

Lighting of the Candles

Mitchell Hiland

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Hamann family

Call to Worship

Leader: How does a weary world practice joy?

People: **By dancing, by throwing parties, by hanging Christmas lights, and holding sleepy babies. We sing loudly, share stories of good news, and tell the story of Jesus – all to bring joy to this world.**

Leader: There are a million ways to practice joy. So today we light the candle of joy as a reminder and a charge. With God’s help, may we bring joy into a weary world. Amen.

Scripture Reading Psalm 126

Lighting of the Joy Candle

An Advent Prayer

***Hymn**

“Once in Royal David’s City”

#153

Children’s Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:57-66

Pastor Kyle

Worshipping God with our Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

“Midnight Noel” (*arr. Hayes*)

*Doxology

#34

Brief Devotion

“The Weary World is Amazed”

Pastor Kyle

Christmas Program

***Spoken Benediction**

***Postlude & Extinguishing of the Candles** “Psalm of Joy” (*Blake*)

We at St. Peter’s are praying for:

*Gene Sievers, Carter Fortin, Linda Havelly, Taylor Cleary, Joy Currier,
Heather Phillips, Sandy Erickson, Dorothy Kutemeier, Judy Schneider,
Delores Schimmin, Pamela Nolan, Katheryn Hickey-Scott, Ann Wessman,
Roger Sturm, Kristopher Meyer, Ione Engleking, Bill Riley, Larry Erickson,
Shearlene Bartman, Jeff Jones, Craig Schneider, Dean Lohrbach,
Jackqueline Dupuis, Tom Kastner, Margaret Kastner, Kim Woolley.*

Announcements

Fusion Events (Youth Group for 6th-12th graders): Fusion will be doing the “Sleep in Heavenly Peace” bed build on January 13th from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All are welcome to come help. 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.

The Beecher Food Pantry: The food pantry does not need any donations at this time. Thank you.

Dartball: There’s always room for more players, so if you are interested, please contact Tim Frahm at (872) 222-1408.

2023 Young at Heart Meetings: The United Methodist Church of Grant Park would like to invite you to their Young at Heart meetings every third Monday of the month from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Grant Park Community Center. There will be a Christmas luncheon for tomorrow’s meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Dianna at (815) 465-6933. Thank you.

Congregational Meeting: The annual congregational meeting will be held on January 28, 2024, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

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

Christmas Fund Envelopes: Envelopes are inside your church bulletin and go toward the UCC Christmas Fund which provides care for active and retired clergy and lay employees.

Cards from the Past



(Written by Reverend Kyle Timmons)

Pianist: Ann Smith

Children's Choir Director: Betty Wolfe

Director: Kelly Toppen

Helpers: Dawn Schroeder, Debbie Mussman, & Kelly Schneider

Opening Scene: The Grandchildren Arrive at Grandma's House

Children 1	Summer Mussman and Grace Toppen
Youth Reader (Luke 2:10-14)	Adelyn Karstensen
Christmas Carol	"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

****Congregation joins in on second verse***

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, off-spring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see: hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Scene Two: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Children 2	Ryleigh Schneider and Ellen Toppen
Child 3	Theo Mussman
Youth Reader (Luke 2:1-6)	Brianne Karstensen
Christmas Carol	"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dream-less sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Scene Three: Silent Night!

Children 4

Luke Schneider and Gavin Karstensen

Child 5

Jolene Scott

Youth Reader (John 1:14)

Kora Schneider

Christmas Carol

“Silent Night! Holy Night!”

**Congregation joins in on second verse*

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Scene Four: O Come, All Ye Faithful

Child 6

Theo O’Nions

Youth Reader (Luke 2:15-16)

Aria Schroeder

Christmas Carol

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Scene Five: Joy to the World

Child 7

Delaney Karstensen

Youth Reader (Psalm 98:4)

Olivia O’Nions

Christmas Carol

“Joy to the World”

****Congregation joins in on second verse***

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns; let all their songs employ:

While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains

Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

Closing Scene: A Merry Christmas Wish

Christmas Song

“We Wish You a Merry Christmas”

Distribution of Candy Canes

*Thank you to Shirley Koehn for playing the role
of the grandmother in this year’s program!!!!*

*A special thank you to Jennifer Capizzano for her artistic work
on our backdrops for the program.*

Please join us next Sunday at 10:30 am for our morning worship.
Additionally, our Christmas Eve services will be at 7 pm & 11 pm.

*There will not be Sunday School 12/24 & no services on 12/31.