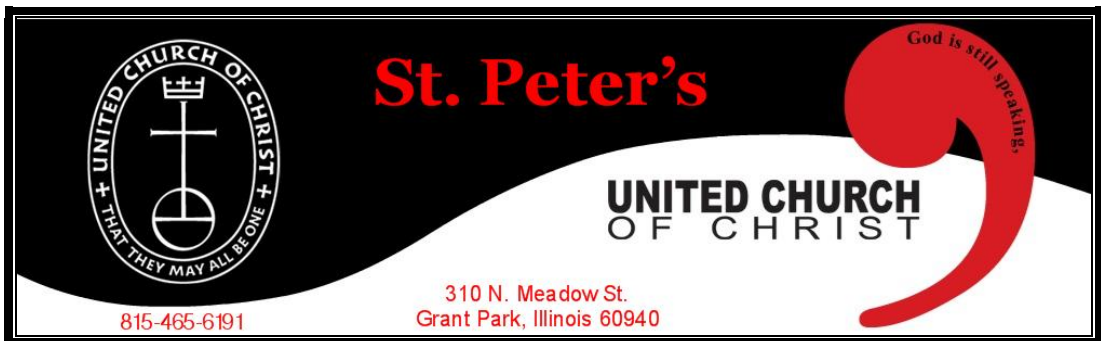


ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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



ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 18th, 2022

10:30 AM

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

Pre-Service Music & Countdown

Welcome & Announcements

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” *(arr. McDonald)*

*Call to Worship

Leader: Come, sinners and saints, friends and strangers, seekers and skeptics, for we are all welcome into God’s loving presence.

People: Today we join the Magi in our search for the Advent God!

Leader: Come, whether you feel well or ill, burdened or carefree, refreshed or exhausted, for we are all welcome into God’s loving presence.

People: Today we join Mary and Elizabeth in our search for the Advent God!

Leader: Come, to learn and grow, to make mistakes and amends, to rejoice and weep, for all are welcome into God’s loving presence.

People: Today we join Joseph, the shepherds, and the angels in our search for the Advent God!

Leader: Come, for today we journey a little farther into the joy and the darkness of Advent, toward the Christ-child.

All: May we find and share God’s hope, peace, joy, and love in our Advent season.

***Closing Song**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

#198

***Spoken Benediction**

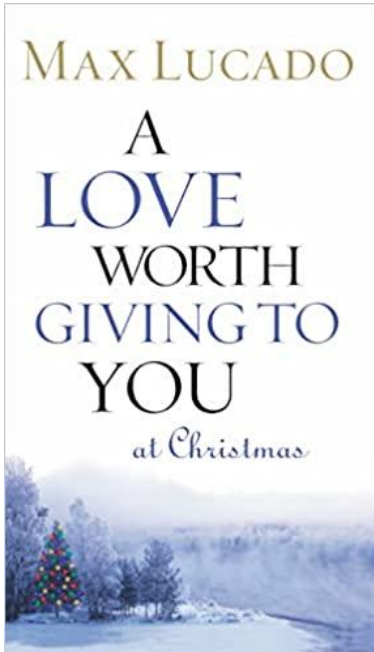
***Postlude**

“How Great Our Joy!” (arr. Torrans)

We at St. Peter’s are praying for:

Gene Sievers, Carter Fortin, Brian Koop, Linda Havelly, Taylor Cleary, Joy Currier, Heather Phillips, Mary Ann Price, Keith Myers, Marge Myers, Sandy Erickson, Dorothy Kutemeier, Judy Schneider, Delores Schimmin, Megan Breckenridge, Neal Currier, Russ Koehn, Pamela Nolan, Alexis Verhulst, the Verhulst family, the family of Randal Currier, and Jill & Jeff Miller & baby Kaiden

Congratulations to Ken and Sandy Erickson on the arrival of their first grandchild. Baby girl Erickson was born on December 14, 2022, to Daniel and Calla Erickson.



“A Love Worth Giving to You at Christmas”

The Missions’ Team has purchased 150 copies of Max Lucado’s book *A Love Worth Giving to You at Christmas* as an opportunity for you to share the love of Jesus with someone nearby this Christmas. With each book, we have provided a postcard with our Christmas Eve service times and other information to invite the recipients to worship with us. Our hope is that you take a copy (or a few) and hand them to someone you know as an invitation to worship with us. Being strategic in using them to give to someone who doesn’t already attend church, has been gone for a while, or as an opportunity to share God’s love with someone who really needs encouraging this Christmas season will help us make the most out

of this outreach opportunity. The books are available on the tables near the back of the sanctuary.

Announcements

Adult Study Hour (Sundays @ 9 am): Join us during the 9 a.m. Christian Education Hour in the Clyde Lange Fellowship Hall located in the church basement.

In January, we will explore the topic of “How to Read the Bible.” We will not meet on January 1st, but we plan on gathering the other four Sundays in January.

Missed a Sunday? It’s okay. Jump in any time. These opportunities are designed to help you strengthen your Christian journey.

Fusion Events (Youth Group for 6th-12th graders): Check out photos from this past weekend's Lock-In. Also, you can find out more details about our Fusion Youth Facebook page or by going 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: is asking for shampoo, dish soap, laundry detergent, toothpaste, toothbrushes, fruit, jello, pudding, tomato products, mayo, salad dressing, cream of mushroom soup, stuffing mix, hamburger helper mixes, and cereal.

Holiday Helpers: Thank you to all who purchased gifts for our 15 local families and over 40 children who needed assistance this Christmas.

Christmas Eve Services: will be at 4:00 p. m. and 7:00 p.m. on December 24th. Communion will be shared during the 7:00 p.m. service. We will have candlelight at both services.

Christmas Day Worship: will be at 10:30 a.m. There will NOT be Sunday School that morning. **New Year's Day** service will be online ONLY. It will be available on our facebook page, our church website at www.stpetersgp.org (Under Media & Sermons), and on YouTube (Search Reverend KJT for the page).

Closing the Gap: As we near the end of the year, we have found that our church giving for 2022 is below our church budget/expenditures by roughly \$16,000. This is not terrible considering the economic times we are in; however, if you are able to give a little more during the upcoming weeks or are making your end of the year contributions, please prayerfully considering giving above and beyond to help St. Peter's finish the financial year on a strong note. Thanks!