

THE KEYS

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST GRANT PARK, IL



December 2022



815-465-6191

St. Peter's

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

PO Box 220
310 N. Meadow St.
Grant Park, Illinois 60940

www.stpetersgp.org

God is still speaking.



Bah humbug!

Those are probably not the first words you thought you'd read from your pastor as you opened your December newsletter.

However, I know that I struggle at times with being "grouchy." We all do, don't we?

We can easily become agitated, irritated, and not so pleasant when we are busy or over-stressed. It's normal, but it doesn't make it right.

The apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:32, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you."

If I've ever been this way towards you, please accept my sincere apology – and if I ever am this way in the future – please kindly remind me of Ephesians 4:32.

This verse is for each of us this Holiday Season. Work harder at being kind and compassionate. Ask God daily to give you patience with others and to treat others the same way Christ treated us.

We can never remind ourselves enough to be kind to one another.

Merry Christmas,

Reverend Kyle J. Timmons

Reverend Kyle Timmons

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS (TENTATIVE)

DATE:	TIME	EVENT
4TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
4TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE (CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM WITH SANTA & LUNCHEON)
5TH	7:00 PM	4-H MEETING
6TH	7:00 PM	CHRISTIAN ED MEETING
7TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
7TH	8:00 PM	DARTBALL @ MANHATTAN
8TH	6:00 PM	BUDGET MEETING
11TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
11TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
14TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
14TH	8:00 PM	DARTBALL VS. MANHATTAN
16TH- 17TH	5:30 PM- 9:00 AM	YOUTH LOCK IN
18TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
18TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
21ST	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
24TH	4:00 PM	CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE (CANDLELIGHT)
24TH	7:00 PM	CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE (COMMUNION & CANDLELIGHT)
25TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE (NO SUNDAY SCHOOL)
28TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
JAN 1ST		NO CHURCH (ONLINE SERVICE ONLY)

Monthly Church Council Minutes

If you are interested in receiving a copy of the previous month's council minutes, please contact the church office. An e-mail copy can be sent or we can supply a printed version.

stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net
Church Website: www.stpetersgp.org
Facebook: St. Peters UCC Grant Park
Office Hours: Monday–Thursday: 8AM – 11AM
Friday 8AM-12PM

STAFF

Rev Kyle Timmons, Pastor
Jacquelyn Timmons, Office Administrator
Jayne Frahm, Financial Secretary
Ann Smith, Senior Choir Director
Betty Wolfe, Youth Choir Director
Judy Schneider and Shari Ohm, Organists
Laura Foushi, Custodian
Neal Currier & Josh Hamann, Youth Advisors
Neal Currier & Josh Hamann, Connect Sunday School Leaders

2022 CHURCH COUNCIL

David Lehnert, President
Brian McKinstry, Vice President
Heidi Frahm, Secretary
Larry Voigt, Treasurer
Carrie Langlois, Assistant Treasurer
Lou Ann Hamann, Shirley Koehn, Rhiannon Currier, &
Jim Schneider

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***No Matter Who You Are or Where You Are on Life's Journey,
You Are Welcome Here***

How to Worship With Us Online

Facebook: Search for our church page by typing in St. Peters UCC Grant Park. Follow our facebook page. Each Sunday (10:30 am during the traditional school year), our live service will be available.

Church Website: Go to www.stpetersgp.org . On the top menu, go to Media, Choose Sermons, and click the one you want to watch.



You are the Body of Christ!

*If you haven't been to church in a while....
It's okay – we are ready to have you back.*

Services in December:

- 12/04 Children & Youth Program (Santa Visit & Lunch after)
- 12/11 “The Signs of Christmas” – Sermon by PK
- 12/18 “The Songs of Christmas” – Sermon by PK
- 12/24 Christmas Eve (4 pm & 7 pm) – Communion @ 7 pm
- 12/25 Christmas Day (10:30 am) – No SS
- 01/01/23 No SS – Online Service only

Announcements

Deeper During Advent Discussions (Sundays @ 9 am)- Join us during the 9 am Christian Education Hour during Advent for a Bible Study geared towards celebrating Advent. Classes will meet in the Clyde Lange Fellowship Hall on November 27th, and December 4th, 11th, and 18th.

Advent Daily Devotionals by PK - Beginning November 27th, Pastor Kyle will release a new Advent Daily Devotional each day leading up to Christmas. These will be available on our church website at www.stpetersgp.org Under Media/Devotions. We will also try to post them daily on the St. Peter's UCC Facebook Page. If you'd like to receive these daily devotionals via email each day, please email Pastor Kyle at pastorkyletimmons@live.com to be added to the daily email list.

Christmas Program (Children & Youth) Information-The children and youth have been rehearsing the past few weeks during the Sunday School hour for the Christmas Program Sunday, December 4th. The kids would love for you to attend and join them afterwards for Santa, and a soup, salad, and dessert luncheon.

Join us for a Fellowship Lunch following the Christmas Program on December 4th. Please bring a soup, salad, or dessert to share. Sandwiches will be provided.

Fusion Events (Youth Group for 6th-12th graders)- The youth will be having a lock-in on December 16th at 5:30 pm. Pick up is on December 17th at 9 am. More details will be available on 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.

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 \$6,000. 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!

Announcement Deadlines for Bulletins & Newsletters: Just a friendly reminder that announcements for church related functions need to be submitted to the office by Thursday, 10 am, to be included in the bulletin for that week. Newsletter items need to be submitted prior to the 25th of each month (or the Friday just before the 25th if it falls on the weekend). Lastly, if you'd like something included on the church facebook or webpage, please let the church office or Pastor Kyle know. Thank you.

Funeral Planning & Information Form: Most of us don't want to talk about dying; however, like taxes, it is inevitable. While many individuals pre-plan their funeral arrangements with a funeral home, cemetery, and/or attorney, we believe it could also be a relief for your loved ones if your plans for the service were also on file. This saves them from the stress of planning it themselves. We have Funeral Information Forms available at the church office or they are located on the church website at <https://stpetersgp.org/funeral-pre-planning/>

Feel free to pick up or print a copy and fill it out. You may want to leave it with your family in a known location at your home and/or leave a copy with the church office to keep on file. It's never a bad idea to be prepared in life or in death. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.



The Missions' Team at St. Peter's would like to encourage everyone to be involved in serving Jesus. **There are several ways you can actively and financially support local and church missions' projects:**

BEECHER FOOD PANTRY

The Beecher Food Pantry housed at St. Luke's is in *desperate* need of our support. They are asking for donations of canned carrots, spaghetti noodles, pasta sauce, creamed corn, canned pasta, hearty soups, pancake mix, syrup, shampoo, conditioner, dish soap, laundry detergent, and paper towels. Donations can be placed in the basket located in the entrance of the courtyard doors. Thank you.

ST. PETER'S UCC BLESSING BOX

Don't forget that we have a "Blessings' Box" outside the courtyard church entrance. Feel free to donate to it as you can. *Several area youth often check it out to see if there are snacks and other families have relied on it over the years.

MISSION'S SUPPORT AVAILABLE

Are you, or someone you know, in need of financial assistance or support? Perhaps assistance in paying a bill? Food assistance? Help with a mission trip? If you'd like a request form, please email stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net, pastorkyletimmons@live.com, call us at (815) 465-6191, or check out our forms on our church website. Forms are to be submitted to the Mission's Team.

YOUR Local Missions Funds Report

At our November Missions' Team meeting, the team voted to allocate some of our missions' funds to area and worldwide concerns.



\$1,000 was allocated towards building a kitchen at Khunyuam International Christian Church in Thailand. Several years ago, we provided financial assistance in their bathroom project. The church in Khunyuam provides ministry to the town's youth hostel, which provides lodging and ministry for 70-100 kids a year. The kids from the region attend the local youth camp

to attend school and receive the gospel. The church provides the light of Christianity to a culture predominantly Buddhist.

\$2,000 was distributed towards \$100 grocery gift cards to serve local families associated with the Holiday Helpers in Grant Park. In addition to the presents/gifts that are distributed towards the families of those in need, we will also provide one gift card to help towards groceries this Christmas.

\$1,500 was given to the Kankakee YWCA which provides low cost childcare that supports parents' abilities to work. The YWCA is in need of a new refrigerator, some office furniture, and more.

\$3,000 has been distributed to the Verhulst family to help them with a variety of bills occurred from their tragic accident.

\$175 was used to purchase the book *A Love Worth Giving to You at Christmas* by Max Lucado to distribute as gifts and invitations to our neighbors and friends to join us during Advent and Christmas Eve.

\$85 was used to purchase five turkey supper dinners for a family in need.



Supporting St. Peter's

The congregation of St. Peter's UCC in Grant Park has always been a generous people.

We continue to thank God for those who prayerfully and

financially support St. Peter's UCC and its' ministries.

We want to make sure that our church continues to grow and is around for a much longer time. Therefore, we kindly ask you to prayerfully consider giving financially on a consistent basis.

Here are some ways you can honor God with the support of your local church, in addition to the traditional mode of giving your gifts via the weekly offering plates:

Electronic (EFT) Giving

Contact the church office to ask for help to get set up with an EFT (electronic transfer) from your bank account. You can have your gifts taken out weekly, bi-monthly, monthly, etc. and you always have access to changing the amount or canceling at any time.

This is a GREAT way to make sure you are giving on a regular basis (even if you miss church due to illness, vacation, or weather).

Website Giving

In addition to EFT giving, there is another avenue that you can plug into your phone right now that is safe and protected. You can provide a credit card number or a bank account and set it up to give as frequently as you desire. Feel free to share the web address with others. <https://tithe.ly/give?c=696160>



Students in Grades 6-12

Thank YOUth: The compliments came rolling in during our Turkey Supper about the hard work and friendliness of our 26 youth who helped at the 100th Turkey Supper. You don't know how thankful we are for each of you!



December Lock-In: More details will be available on 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.

Fusion financial gifts may be given at any time through your offerings or dropped off at the church office. ***Please be sure to note that your gift(s) are for Fusion Youth Group so that the money is allocated appropriately.

Do you have a student in grades 6-12 or know of a student who may benefit from a Christ-centered program? Contact us for more information about our Fusion Youth Group and stay updated on future meetings, events, and ways to get involved.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY LIST

These birthdays are compiled from church membership records. Please call our attention to any omissions or corrections.

Justin Schriefer III	1	Michael Reaman	15
Robert Dennis	1	Wesley Schneider	15
Theo O’Nions	1	Peggy Weybright	17
Issac Hamann	2	Russell Reynolds	17
Kaleb Lehnert	3	Audrey Lehnert	18
Owen Reynolds	3	Greg Schneider	21
Ella Schriefer	5	Noah Hamann	23
Josie Boicken	8	Ed Bush	24
Brian McKinstry	9	Jerry Ekhoﬀ	24
Jim Overbeek	9	Connie Granger	25
Hollie O’Nions	12	Erin Hamann	25
Keaton Lacer	14	Gabe Toppen	29
Lukus Hamann	14	Clayton McKinstry	30
		Lori Burrell	31

In Our Thoughts and Prayers:

Gene Sievers, Melissa Mort, Reverend Frank Hoss, Carter Fortin, Mason Beseke, Keith Myers, Marge Myers, Heather Phillips, Austin Delaney, Linda Havely, Taylor Cleary, Joy Currier, Richie Rodriguez, Dorothy Kutemeier, Mary Ann Price, Judy Schneider, Sandy Erickson, Brian Koop, Delores Schimmin, Megan Breckenridge, Neal Currier, Alexis Verhulst, Jeff & Jill Miller (& baby), the family of Alex Meyer, the family of Michael Williamson.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS NOT ABLE TO ATTEND CHURCH ON A REGULAR BASIS

Minnie Pfingsten
703 N. East Street
Hudson, IL 61748

Rev Frank Hoss
601 Lutz Road
Bloomington, IL 61704



We have many upcoming events.
Please make sure to mark your calendars.

December 4th Children's Christmas Program @ 10:30 am
4th Santa visit & luncheon after church service
16th Youth Lock In @ 5:30 pm-9 am
24th Christmas Eve Services @ 4pm & 7 pm
25th Christmas Day Service @ 10:30 am (no SS)

Fusion (Youth Group)

Fusion is igniting the lives of young people here at St. Peter's and our local communities through event gatherings, meals, fundraisers, and more!

We are extremely thankful to all who have helped with our recent endeavors through financial support, hands on support, meal support, and prayer.

Here are some more ways you can help us ignite our program:

**Sponsor or Serve a lunch/meal to Fusion when needed
Snacks (i.e. chips) for the lock in**

Again, we thank you for your support and look forward to bringing the hope and love of Jesus Christ to our community.

An Opportunity to Serve

Opportunities to minister to others come in many forms. Larry and I see offering snacks to the children of the Sunday School, the staff, the parents of the children, and all who enjoy the fellowship of kindred spirits is a sort of ministry. We are delighted to mingle with those who join us in the Lange Fellowship Hall at approximately 10:00 am on Sunday mornings. Indeed, we would love to see you. We do, however, sometimes need to be away and would greatly appreciate being able to arrange, in advance, people to take our place. We pray that you, too, would see this as an opportunity to minister to others. We provide paper products, hot chocolate, and coffee. We'll happily show you where the items are stored. We've been serving a homemade or purchased treat and fruit. Numbers vary from fewer than 10 to approximately 20. Of course, we always hope for more people. All donations benefit Fusion Youth. Please see us at church or phone 815-953-6530. Thank you.

REMINDER: For those of you who may need physical assistance using steps to go up/down in the church – we have an elevator (LIFT).

Directions are posted inside and outside of the lift doors – if you need assistance operating it, please don't hesitate to ask one of the ushers or anyone around.