

# THE KEYS

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



January 2023



815-465-6191

**St. Peter's**

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

PO Box 220

310 N. Meadow St.  
Grant Park, Illinois 60940

[www.stpetersgp.org](http://www.stpetersgp.org)

God is still speaking.



You've heard the phrase, "Raise the Bar," right?

As Christians, and members of St. Peter's UCC, I want to challenge everyone this upcoming year to "raise the bar" in their spiritual lives.

Some of you are very active in many ways at St. Peter's and in your Christian life; but let's face it, we can all do a little better.

As Christians, God has given us a standard to live up to. God's Word is full of commands and challenges. It's not to give us rules to have to live by, but rather ways to challenge ourselves to grow spiritually and know Him better.

In 2023, may I challenge you to do a few things that I know will help you and will definitely bless the church family?

- Be more active (at worship, events, etc.).
- Read God's Word daily (and journal what you learn).
- Pray more (specifically for your church).
- Give more (of your time, of your finances, etc.)
- Love more. Instead of complaining about your church or the people in it, find ways to love them.

Let's raise the bar of our faith a little more in 2023!

May the New Year bring you good health and God's blessings.

*Reverend Kyle J. Timmons*

Reverend Kyle Timmons

## JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS (TENTATIVE)

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
<b>1<sup>ST</sup></b>		<b>NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>
<b>1<sup>ST</sup></b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE ONLY</b>
<b>2<sup>ND</sup></b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>4-H MEETING</b>
<b>3<sup>RD</sup></b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>CHRISTIAN ED MEETING</b>
<b>4<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>CHOIR REHEARSAL</b>
<b>4<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>	<b>DARTBALL @ MONEE</b>
<b>8<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>
<b>8<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b>
<b>11<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>CHOIR REHEARSAL</b>
<b>11<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>	<b>DARTBALL VS. MONEE</b>
<b>15<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>
<b>15<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b>
<b>18<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>CHOIR REHEARSAL</b>
<b>18<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>	<b>DARTBALL @ PEOTONE</b>
<b>22<sup>ND</sup></b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>
<b>22<sup>ND</sup></b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>WORSHIP SERVICE (ANNUAL MEETING) POTATO BAR LUNCHEON FOLLOWING</b>
<b>24<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>COUNCIL MEETING</b>
<b>25<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>CHOIR REHEARSAL</b>
<b>25<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>	<b>DARTBALL VS. PEOTONE</b>
<b>29<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>
<b>29<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b>

### 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](http://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 January:

- 01/01 (No-SS; Online Service Only)  
01/08 “Why? Why? Why? Why the Bible is Important”  
01/15 “Why? Why? Why? Why Going to Church Is Important”  
01/22 “Why? Why? Why? Why Giving to God Is Important”  
01/29 “Let’s Talk About Love: Love is Present”

\*Sunday School classes for Pre-K thru 5<sup>th</sup> Grade meet upstairs.

\*Middle School/High School meetings in the basement

\*Adult Class is in the Clyde Lange Fellowship Hall (basement)

# Announcements

**New Year's Eve Day Worship:** It will be online only. There will not be Sunday School that morning. Worship will be available on our facebook page, our church website at [www.stpetersgp.org](http://www.stpetersgp.org) (Under Media & Sermons), and on YouTube (Search Reverend KJT for the page).

**Call to the 2023 Congregational Meeting:** The 2023 Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> (back-up date is January 29<sup>th</sup>). We are still accepting nominations for council members. If you'd like to be considered, or if you'd like to nominate someone, please contact a current member of the Council and let them know.

**Potato Bar Fellowship Luncheon:** It will be held immediately after the congregational meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Baked Potatoes and toppings will be provided. Feel free to bring a dessert or a dish to share, or simply just join us downstairs for a time of food and fellowship.

**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 25<sup>th</sup> of each month (or the Friday just before the 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Adult Sunday Morning Group:** Join us on Sunday mornings during the 9 am Christian Education Hour as we fellowship with one another in God's Word. The group meets in the Clyde Lange Fellowship Hall located in the basement of the church.

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.

**2023 “SOUP”er Bowl of Caring Luncheon:** It will be held on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, following our worship service. All donations given will go towards a local food pantry/ministry.

What is the SOUPer Bowl of Caring? It’s a fun, creative way to encourage our youth to make their own soups at home and bring them to church on Sunday to share with the congregation. Each youth is to make a crock-pot or large pot of their favorite soup. Then, they will serve someone else’s soup so that no one knows who made which soup.

Everyone is invited to try samples of as many soups as they want. They will then vote for their favorites. The winning youth will win an award. Adults are encouraged to bring their best chili to serve as well. A vote will be taken for the winner.

Stay, fellowship with one another, and enjoy raising money for a local food pantry/ministry.

**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.

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



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 fruit, jello, pudding, tomato products, mayo, salad dressing, cream of mushroom soup, stuffing mix, hamburger helper mixes, cereal, shampoo, dish soap, laundry detergent, toothpaste, and toothbrushes. 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](mailto:stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net), [pastorkyletimmons@live.com](mailto: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.



## **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

**Fusion Events** (Youth Group for 6th-12th graders) - Check out photos from our recent lock-in by going to our Fusion page on our church website or facebook link.



**January Ice-Skating:** For January's event, the youth will be going ice skating at Kankakee Valley Ice Skating Rink on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Lunch will be provided after church. The kids will depart to go ice skating from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and will return by 4 p.m. More details will be available on our Fusion Youth Facebook page or by going to our church website at [www.stpetersgp.org](http://www.stpetersgp.org), (Under Ministries Section). You can also contact Josh (815) 693-5341 or Neal (815) 549-5911.

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.

## **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**

**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.

## JANUARY BIRTHDAY LIST

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

Julie Schneider	1	Vicki Gawlinski	13
Karen Ekhoff	2	Donald Claussen	15
Andy Bakhaus	3	Ian Hamann	16
Paula Cadieux	3	Kathy Buttle	18
Reyna Hammerlund	3	Rhonda McKinstry	20
Kevin Langlois	8	Gretchen Greenholt	21
Shirley Koehn	8	Bonita Heldt	24
Karla Lehnert	9	Tony Brunello	24
Carrie Langlois	10	Steven Jacobson	29
Jeanie Schneider	10	Jeanine Overbeek	30
Betty Jones	11	Laurie Bakhaus	30
Kelly Toppen	11	Brandon Lacer	31
Robert Chesterfield	11	Dianna Claussen	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 Havelly, 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, Bucky Burrell, Jeff & Jill Miller & baby Kaiden, and the family of Randall Currier

### 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.

January    1<sup>st</sup>    Online church only  
              8<sup>th</sup>    Youth Ice Skating-after church until 4 p.m.  
              22<sup>nd</sup>    Annual Congregational Meeting after church  
                                 Luncheon (Potato Bar) following

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.