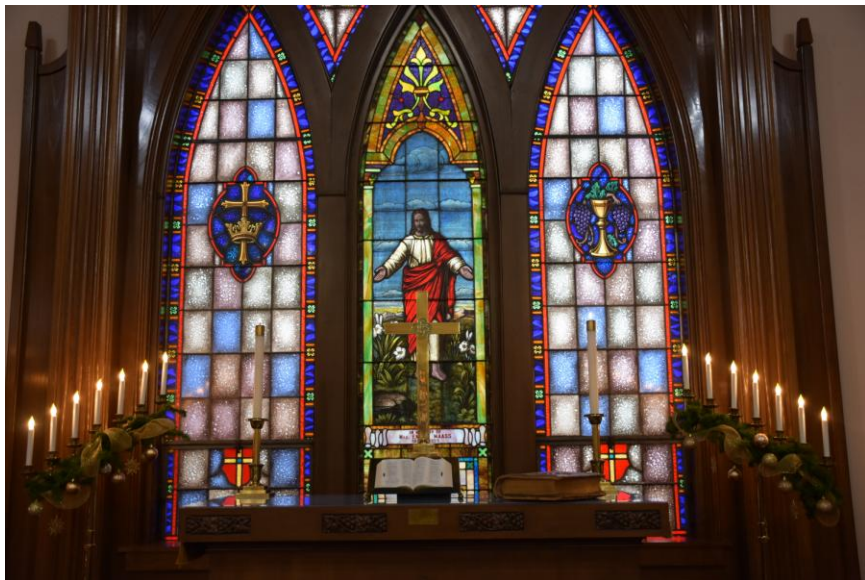


THE KEYS

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



January/February 2024



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.



When I was still in high school, I remember my pastor hanging a sign in front of the sanctuary that had some catchy wording which rhymed with the new calendar. I don't know what it was about the sign, but I've always tried to come up with something similar decades later in my own ministry.

In consideration, I thought the phrase "What's in Store for 24?" seemed like an appropriate question to meditate on here at St. Peter's.

What does God have in store for 2024 as individuals and as a church?

I am confident that God has plans for each of us. Many of you are well aware of Jeremiah 29:11, encouraging those in exile in Babylon from Jerusalem.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

While this promise was a direct promise to those in exile, we as Christians, often claim this as an encouragement in our own lives. Rightfully so! God wants the best for us. Maybe not what we think is the best, but what He knows is best!

What does God have in store for you in the New Year? May His blessings fill your lives and our church.

Happy New Year!

Reverend Kyle J. Timmons

Reverend Kyle Timmons

Learning What Jesus Really Said

If you're like many, knowing what the Bible really says about things can be difficult. There are many people who teach good things, but are they really Biblical? Here is an interesting lesson titled, "**5 Things Jesus did NOT Say:**"

1. Follow your heart. Jesus didn't say that, He said, "Follow Me." If your heart is in line with Jesus and His teachings, then follow it, but be careful to discern what is your heart and what is Jesus' heart.
2. Be true to yourself. While it is practical advice at times, Jesus taught, "Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny himself." Our human nature is sinful and often when we try to be true to ourselves we are not in line with Jesus' spiritual nature.
3. Believe in yourself. Absolutely good advice if you believe everything you want to achieve can be done with the power of Christ. Jesus said, "Believe in Me." When our foundational belief is in Christ, it is easier to navigate our spiritual life.
4. Live your truth. The truths we are being taught each and every day are often lies. Satan wants to deceive us and make us believe things God despises are actually good for us. Jesus said, "I am the Truth." The only truth comes from Him. If something contradicts Jesus' teachings, it is not of God.
5. As long as you are happy. Jesus wants nothing more than for His children to be happy, but our happiness is not the same as what the world defines. Jesus said, "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?"

Always remember Jeremiah 17:9, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" Dive into God's Word and study it to be able to recognize His teachings against the false teachings all around.

BAPTISMS AT ST. PETER'S

***“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”
Matthew 28:19-20***

Over the past two months, we've had the wonderful blessing to baptize seven of God's beautiful children. They include Isla Schneider, Gavin Karstensen, Mackenzie Radostits, Tyler Radostits, Myles Breckenridge, Evelyn Breckenridge, and Eloise Breckenridge.





SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE BED BUILD

Earlier in 2023, the Fusion Youth Fellowship raised money to build beds for the local Sleep in Heavenly Peace program. Now, it's time to assemble the beds. Calling all youth (and adults who are willing to help).

On Saturday, January 13th, we will meet at 11333 North E. Road, Grant Park. Volunteers may sign in around 8:45 a.m. There will be a brief safety presentation and the bed build will begin around 9 a.m. We should be completed and finished loading the trailer between 12 p.m. and 12:30 p.m.

The building is heated, has bathrooms, and snacks/bottled water will be provided.

If you have any further questions, please contact Josh Hamann or the St. Peter's church office at (815) 465-6191.



Things have been different since Covid. While St. Peter's has done its best to lower its expenses and stay below budget, there is still a gap between income and expenses. In 2024, we'd like to not only meet our budget, but also finish way ahead.

Typically, we get off to a slow start in the winter months, catch up a little, get further behind in the summer, and struggle to catch up by the end of the year.

This year, we are challenging each of you to give early, give regularly, and give generously.

If you haven't given in a while, we prayerfully ask you to consider to start giving again. If you have been giving the same amount for the past 5-10 years (or longer), please consider increasing your giving. If you've been consistently giving, we thank you and ask for your continued support.

While you are always welcome to give in the church offering, drop or mail your checks to the church, there are also ways to set up your giving electronically. This helps us keep a constant flow of income even when you're away for a while.

If you'd like more information, or help setting up online giving, please contact the church office and we'll put you in touch with our financial secretary. Thanks in advance – YOUR church family.



A few photos from December 8th's Fusion Lock-in. To view more photos, or learn more about Fusion Youth, check out our facebook page under Fusion Youth Fellowship.

A special thank you to our Fusion leaders, volunteers, and St. Peter's church family for your continual support to make events like these possible for our area youth.

JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS (TENTATIVE)

DATE:	TIME	EVENT
3RD	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
3RD	7:30 PM	DART BALL V. MONEE
7TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
7TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
8TH	7:00 PM	4-H MEETING
9TH	7:00 PM	CHRISTIAN ED MEETING
10TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
10TH	7:30 PM	DART BALL @ PEOTONE
12TH	4 PM-6 PM	GIRL SCOUT MEETING
13TH	8:45 AM - 12:30 PM	FUSION SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE BED BUILD
14TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
14TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE (TAKE DOWN THE GREENS)
17TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
17TH	7:30 PM	DART BALL V. PEOTONE
19TH	4 PM-6 PM	GIRL SCOUT MEETING
21ST	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
21ST	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
24TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
24TH	7:30 PM	DART BALL PLAYOFFS
26TH	4 PM-6 PM	GIRL SCOUT MEETING
28TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
28TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP (CONGREGATIONAL MEETING)
30TH	7:00 PM	COUNCIL MEETING
31ST	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
31ST	7:30 PM	DART BALL CHAMPIONSHIP

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.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS (TENTATIVE)

DATE:	TIME	EVENT
2ND	4 PM-6PM	GIRL SCOUT MEETING
4TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
4TH	10:30 PM	WORSHIP SERVICE
5TH	7:00 PM	4-H MEETING
6TH	7:00 PM	CHRISTIAN ED MEETING
7TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
7TH	7:30 PM	DART BALL ALL STAR GAME @ MANHATTAN
9TH	4 PM-6 PM	GIRL SCOUT MEETING
11TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
11TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
14TH	7:00 PM	ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
16TH	4 PM-6 PM	GIRL SCOUT MEETING
18TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
18TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
21ST	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
23RD	4 PM-6 PM	GIRL SCOUT MEETING
25TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
25TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
27TH	7:00 PM	COUNCIL MEETING
28TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL



Members of St. Peter's are invited and encouraged to join our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 28th, immediately after our worship service.

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
Debbie Mussman, Financial Secretary
Ann Smith, Senior Choir Director
Betty Wolfe, Youth Choir Director
Shari Ohm, Ann Smith, & Rebecca Timmons, Organists
Laura Foushi, Custodian
Neal Currier & Josh Hamann, Youth Advisors

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL

Brian McKinstry, President
Rhiannon Currier, Vice President
Shirley Koehn, Secretary
Larry Voigt, Treasurer
Erin Hamann, Assistant Treasurer
Ken Bonifield, Larry Hamann, Lou Ann Hamann, & Jim Schneider



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

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How to Worship With Us Online

Facebook: Search for our church page by typing in St. Peters UCC Grant Park. Follow our facebook page.

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 January & February:

- January 7th: “The Rituals of Our Faith”
- January 14th: “Fish Stories: The ‘One’ that Got Away”
- January 21st: “Fish Stories: The Prayer that Led to Puke”
- January 28th: “Fish Stories: The Amazing Compassion of God”
- February 4th: “Fish Stories: The Tiny Plant that Gave Shade”
- February 11th: “A Transforming Event”
- February 14th: Ash Wednesday Service – 7 pm
- February 18th: “A Wandering Heart” – Part I
- February 25th: “A Wandering Heart” – Part II

Announcements

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 a.m., to be included in the bulletin for that week. Newsletter items need to be submitted prior to the 25th of each month (or the Thursday 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.

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 not be a meeting in January. If you have any questions, please contact Dianna at (815)-465-6933. Thank you.

Beverly Junker Youth Music Scholarship: St. Peter's UCC in Grant Park is committed to encouraging and financially supporting students as they enhance their skills and love of music/fine arts activities. The Beverly Junker Scholarship may be used to attend a music camp, musical lessons, or toward fees associated with music related expenses (i.e. instrument, etc.). Scholarships up to \$150 will be awarded based on availability and submission guidelines, and will be available to students entering grades 4-12.

Students must be currently studying music in some capacity. Students will complete a scholarship application and submit it to St. Peter's UCC for consideration. Students should be a member of St. Peter's, but not necessary. Consideration towards St. Peter's members will be a priority, along with students who attend worship and youth activities. Students may earn the scholarship a maximum of two times. To apply, contact stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net for a copy of the application form.

College Students: Please contact the church office if you have a student attending college. We would like to compile a list with their addresses. Thank you.

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

Annual Report: Please have your Annual committee reports in to the office as soon as you can in January. Thank you.

Thank you: Thank you to all who donated and helped with the Turkey Supper.

Thank you: The Timmons family would like to thank everyone for the cards and gifts received during the holiday season.



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 not currently seeking any donations.

ST. PETER'S UCC BLESSING BOX

Don't forget that we have a "Blessings' Box" outside the courtyard church entrance. We could use some items to fill it up. 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.

JANUARY BIRTHDAY LIST

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

Julie Schneider	1	Donald Claussen	15
Karen Ekhoﬀ	2	Ian Hamann	16
Andy Bakhaus	3	Myles Breckenridge	17
Paula Cadieux	3	Kathy Buttle	18
Reyna Hammerlund	6	Rhonda McKinstry	20
Kevin Langlois	8	Gretchen Greenholt	21
Shirley Koehn	8	Adelyn Karstensen	22
Karla Lehnert	9	Bonita Heldt	24
Carrie Langlois	10	Tony Brunello	24
Jeanie Schneider	10	Steven Jacobson	29
Betty Jones	11	Jeanine Overbeek	30
Kelly Toppen	11	Laurie Bakhaus	30
Robert Chesterfield	11	Brandon Lacer	31
Vicki Gawlinski	13	Dianna Claussen	31

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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY LIST

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

Tom Wieghaus	1	Denise Bettenhausen	17
Kristine Rausch	2	Carol Kulczyk	18
Ryken Schneider	2	Jacob Dickson	18
Maxwell Markland	3	Nancy Marcotte	19
Dornita Hamann	5	Adam Jacobson	24
Will Schneider	5	Dalton DeBold	25
Zayden Schneider	5	Dustin DeBold	25
Krysta Farina	9	Harper St. Peter	26
Rebecca Timmons	9	Kyle Heldt	26
John Lewke	13	William DeBold	26
Max Currier	14	Benjamin Hastings	27
Kevin Mussman	15	Levi Pickens	27
Jill Claussen	16	Daren Lehnert	28
Sara Senesac	16	Steve Lawrence	28

In Our Thoughts and Prayers:

Gene Sievers, Reverend Frank Hoss, Carter Fortin, Keith Myers, Marge Myers, Heather Phillips, Linda Havely, Taylor Cleary, Joy Currier, Dorothy Kutemeier, Judy Schneider, Sandy Erickson, Roger Sturm, Delores Schimmin, Jeff Jones, Pamela Nolan, Katheryn Hickey-Scott, Craig Schneider, Bill Riley, Larry Erickson, Dean Lorbach, Jackqueline Dupuis, Tom Kastner, Margaret Kastner, Kim Woolley, Ann Wessman, Eleanor Radostits, Kristopher Meyer, Ione Engleking, the family of Shearlene Bartman, and the family of Peggy Weybright