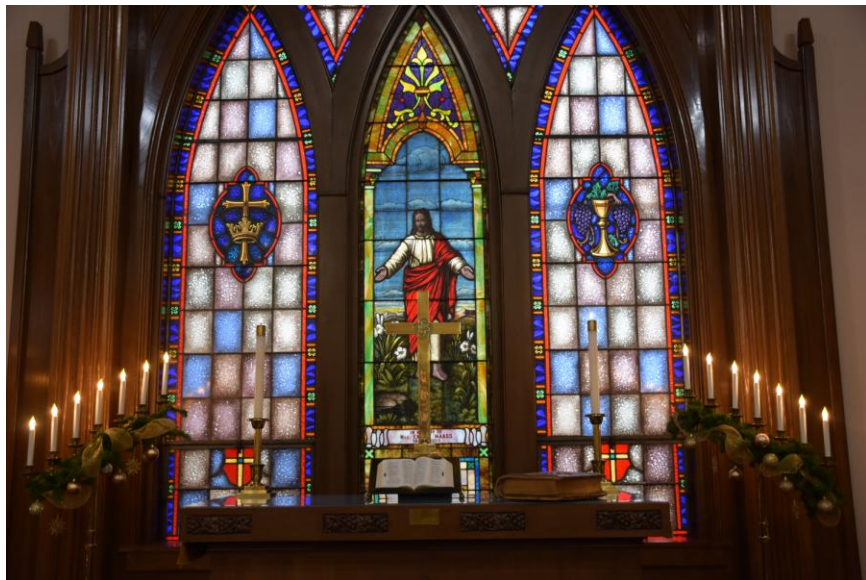


THE KEYS

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



January/February 2025



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.



A new year! New challenges and new opportunities!

As I've reflected on the past 12 months and considered what the new year may have in store for all of us, a Scripture from Paul's letter to the church in Galatia came to mind.

"Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up (Galatians 6:9, ESV)."

One of the fabulous testimonies of St. Peter's UCC is that there are many among us who continuously are looking for ways of doing good works. These individuals aren't doing it for self promotion or selfish gain; however, they genuinely care about their church family and community.

As your pastor, I challenge each of you to focus on the good you can do in 2025. In what ways can you improve yourselves spiritually? In what ways can you serve your church family? In what ways can you be the hands and feet of Jesus in your community?

Additionally, don't give up! The apostle Paul encourages the church in order that they don't get down when they don't see immediate results. What we can't see is how God is moving in the lives of those around us.

Finally, Isaiah prophesied, "For I am about to do something new (Is 43:19, NLT)." I believe God is about to do something new here at St. Peter's!

Happy New Year!

Pastor Kyle



St. Peter's UCC (Grant Park, IL)

In November, Pastor Kyle presented a sermon titled, “Keep Our Story Growing.” On behalf of the church council, he presented a 25/25 challenge for the 2025 calendar year. Most of you should have received a mailing with more information about the challenge. If you did not, please feel free to ask for a copy of the letter.

As of the time of this writing, we’ve received six responses back. Four have pledged to add \$25 extra a week to their giving, one is pledging an additional \$15/week, and another an extra \$50/month. That’s an extra \$6,580 for the year! Imagine how much more we can still receive.

This is encouraging as the pledge cards are just starting to come in.
*Reminder – if you haven’t sent yours in, please do so!

Also, please note, if you are planning on making an end-of-year financial gift to the church, please do so before December 31st.

BUDGET: \$211,974 OFFERING: \$191,574

EXPENSES: \$198,369 DEFICIT: \$6,795

***REFLECTS JANUARY 1, 2024-DECEMBER 30, 2024

JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS (TENTATIVE)

DATE:	TIME	EVENT
5TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
5TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
6TH	6:30 PM	4-H MEETING
7TH	6:30 PM	CHRISTIAN ED MEETING
8TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
8TH	7:30 AM	DART BALL @ PEOTONE
10TH	4:30 PM- 6:00 PM	GIRL SCOUTS MEETING
12TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
12TH	10:30 PM	WORSHIP SERVICE (TAKE DOWN GREENS)
14TH	6:00 PM	CHURCH LIFE MEETING
15TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
15TH	7:30 PM	DART BALL VS. PEOTONE
17TH	4:30 PM- 6:00 PM	GIRL SCOUT MEETING
19TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
19TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
22ND	7:00 AM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
22ND	7:30 PM	DART BALL V. MANHATTAN
24TH	4:30 PM- 6:00 PM	GIRL SCOUT MEETING
25TH	5:00 PM	MEXICAN FIESTA PROGRESSIVE DINNER
26TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
26TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
28TH	7:00 PM	COUNCIL MEETING
29TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
29TH	7:30 PM	DART BALL @ MANHATTAN
31ST	4:30 PM- 6:00 PM	GIRL SCOUTS

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS (TENTATIVE)

DATE:	TIME	EVENT
2ND	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
2ND	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE (ANNUAL MEETING)
3RD	6:30 PM	4-H MEETING
4TH	7:00 PM	CHRISTIAN ED MEETING
5TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
5TH	7:30 PM	DART BALL PLAYOFF GAMES
7TH	4:30 PM- 6:00 PM	GIRL SCOUT MEETING
9TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
9TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
12TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
12TH	7:30 PM	DART BALL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME
14TH	4:30 PM- 6:00 PM	GIRL SCOUT MEETING
16TH	9:00 PM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
16TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
19TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
19TH	7:30 PM	DART BALL ALL STAR GAME/MEETING @ PEOTONE
21ST	4:30 PM- 6:00 PM	GIRL SCOUT MEETING
23RD	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
23RD	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
25TH	7:00 PM	COUNCIL MEETING
28TH	4:30 PM- 6:00 PM	GIRL SCOUTS

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

Debbie Mussman, Financial Secretary

Ann Smith, Senior Choir Director

Betty Wolfe, Youth Choir Director

Shari Ohm, Ann Smith, & Rebecca Timmons, Organists

Laura Foushi, Custodian

Josh Hamann, Youth Advisor

2024 CHURCH COUNCIL

Jim Schneider, President

Lou Ann Hamann, Vice President

Shirley Koehn, Secretary

Erin Hamann, Treasurer

Audrey Lehnert, Assistant Treasurer

Ken Bonifield, Neal Currier, Larry Hamann, & Justin Langlois



***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.

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.

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.

Girl Scouts: Did you know that our local Girl Scouts meet at the church on Friday afternoons? If you have a daughter that would like to be part of their group, please contact the church office for more information.

Children's Choir: Youth choir will now be singing the 1st Sunday of the month.

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.

Lay Readers: If you are interested in signing up, please put your name on the lay reader sign up or contact the church office.

Social Hall Rental Policy: If you are interested in renting the social hall, the cost is \$50 for the rental and \$40 for the custodial fee for members. Non-members would pay \$150 with a \$75 custodial fee.

Thank you: Thank you to Council and everyone who gave us Christmas cards and gifts this holiday season. We greatly appreciate them. The Timmons Family

Call to Congregational Meeting: We will have the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 2nd, 2025, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service.



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 seeking Of shampoo, deodorant, pudding, jello, canned fruit, cream corn, pasta noodles, soup (hearty variety), mayo, spam, tuna, boxed potatoes, canned pasta, hamburger helper, peanut butter, and toilet paper. Thank you for your continued support.

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

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

Minnie Pﬂingsten
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	John Miller	20
Will Schneider	5	Adam Jacobson	24
Zayden Schneider	5	Dalton DeBold	25
Smith Shaxted	8	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:

Reverend Frank Hoss, Carter Fortin, Heather Phillips, Linda Havely, Taylor Cleary, Dorothy Kutemeier, Judy Schneider, Jeff Jones, Pamela Nolan, Jackqueline Dupuis, Sandy Erickson, Ken Erickson, Kristopher Meyer, Tim Langlois, Dornita Hamann, Dawn Schroeder, Tim Miller, Anita Bush, Ed Bush, Claudia Scott, Natalie Lacer, Nancy Vittori, Evelyn Bond, and Colette Lawrence

Mexican Progressive Dinner



The St. Peter's Church Life committee invites you to our Mexican Progressive Dinner on January 25th, 2025 @ 5 PM.

Plan now to enjoy this fun evening all held at the church as we move from room to room enjoying appetizers, soups, salads, a main dish, dessert, and beverages.

Additionally, we will have a salsa (dip) competition. Plan on submitting your best salsa to see if you win the fun-spirited contest!

We will enjoy fellowship as we cap the evening with some fun games.

Best part....it's FREE! So plan now to attend.

Sign-up soon!