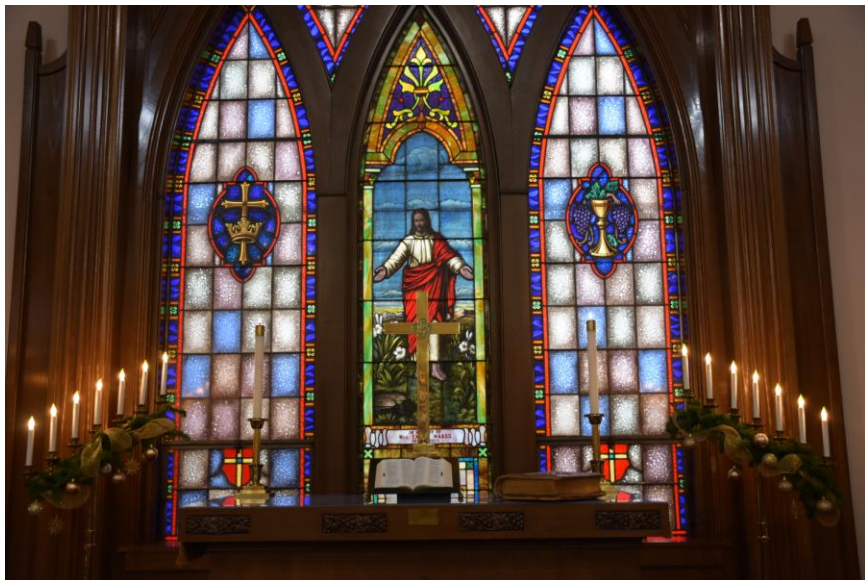


THE KEYS

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



March/April 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.



Numbers are interesting!

My mind was drifting recently while thinking about the history of St. Peter's. Founded almost 154 years ago, I tried to comprehend just how many sermons have been preached here, how many different people have walked through these doors, how many ups and downs the church has gone through, and how many lives have been changed.

Has St. Peter's been a part of your heritage? Maybe you attended as a child, but haven't been back since. Maybe you were born, raised, and barely miss a Sunday. Perhaps you started attending later in life.

The fellowship of believers is important, but weekly worship is vital. We receive encouragement and support when we worship with one another, but we receive strength and hope from on high when we worship God. God never intended for us to refuel just once a month or whenever we feel it is needed. God designed our bodies to need this time of refueling each week (actually, daily).

Mark 2:27 shares Jesus words, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath." Jesus declared that the day of worship and rest wasn't created just in case you needed it, but **BECAUSE** you need it.

So come! Refuel your spirits, fellowship with your church family, and draw close to God.

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 is 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 that 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.



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE BED BUILD



Thank you to all who financially supported Fusion in order to raise over \$8,000 in 2023 toward the Bed Build for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Over 30 beds were assembled at the Schneider family barn a few weeks ago. To learn more about Sleep in Heavenly Peace, go to www.shpbeds.org.



***Next Fusion event is March 3rd after church with lunch and a movie.



Things have been different since Covid. While St. Peter's has done its' best to lower the 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 start 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 or drop/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.

BUDGET: \$31,854 EXPENSES: \$27,789 OFFERING: \$22,752
***REFLECTS JANUARY 1, 2024-FEBRUARY 28, 2024

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS (TENTATIVE)

DATE:	TIME	EVENT
1ST	4:30 PM- 6:00 PM	GIRL SCOUTS MEETING
3RD	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
3RD	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
3RD	11:30 AM	FUSION LUNCH AND A MOVIE
4TH	7:00 PM	4-H MEETING
5TH	6:30 PM	CHRISTIAN ED MEETING
5TH	7:30 PM	CHURCH LIFE MEETING
6TH	5:30 PM	LENTEN DINNER
6TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
8TH	4:30 PM - 6:00 PM	GIRL SCOUT MEETING
10TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
10TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
13TH	5:30 PM	LENTEN DINNER
13TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
15TH	4:30 PM - 6:00 PM	GIRL SCOUT MEETING
17TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
17TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
20TH	5:30 PM	LENTEN DINNER
20TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
22ND	10:00 AM- ?	CHURCH LIFE TRIP FOR LUNCH AND TO THE SHRINE
22ND	4:00 PM- 6:00 PM	GIRL SCOUT MEETING
24TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
24TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP (PALM SUNDAY)
26TH	7:00 PM	COUNCIL MEETING
27TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
28TH	7:00 PM	MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
29TH	7:00 PM	GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
31ST	8:30 AM- 10:00 AM	EASTER BREAKFAST
31ST	9:30 AM	EASTER EGG HUNT
31ST	10:30 AM	EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE

APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS (TENTATIVE)

DATE:	TIME	EVENT
1ST	7:00 PM	4-H MEETING
2ND	7:00 PM	CHRISTIAN ED MEETING
3RD	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
5TH	4:30 PM- 6:00 PM	GIRL SCOUT MEETING
7TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
7TH	10:30 PM	WORSHIP SERVICE
10TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
12TH	4:30 PM- 6:00 PM	GIRL SCOUT MEETING
14TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
14TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
17TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
19TH	4:30 PM- 6:00 PM	GIRL SCOUT MEETING
21ST	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
21ST	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
23RD	7:00 PM	COUNCIL MEETING
24TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
26TH	4:30 PM- 6:00 PM	GIRL SCOUT MEETING
28TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
28TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE

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

Neal Currier & Josh Hamann, Youth Advisors

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.*

Services in March & April:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| March 3 rd : | “Wandering Heart: Praise the Mount....” |
| March 10 th : | Neal Currier – Guest Preacher |
| March 17 th : | “Wandering Heart: Teach Me” |
| March 24 th : | “Wandering Heart: Songs of Loudest Praise” |
| March 31 st : | Easter Worship – 10:30 a.m. |
| | “Wandering Heart: And I Hope” |
| April 7 th : | “Wandering Heart: Here’s My Heart” |
| April 14 th : | “Four Words of Comfort” |
| April 21 st : | “How to Love the Sheep” |
| April 28 th : | “Pruned to Bear Fruit” |

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.

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.

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.

FYI, we received a lot of hand drawn thank-you notes from the girls for allowing them to use our facility! They also left a lot of cookies that we've donated to the Sunday fellowship hour.

Church Life Trip to the Shrine: The Church Life committee is hosting a trip on Friday, March 22nd, for lunch and a trip to the Shrine of Christ's Passion in St. John, Indiana. We will meet at St. Peter's UCC at 10 a.m. and depart around 10:15 a.m. for lunch at Teibel's Family Restaurant in Schererville. Following lunch, we will travel down the road to visit the Shrine of Christ's Passion Prayer Trail, gift shop, and grounds. The first 14 people signed up may ride together in the new church bus, while others may carpool together if needed. While there is no cost for the tour at the Shrine, they do accept donations toward their ministry. Each person will be responsible for paying for their own lunch, and depending on how many sign up to ride the bus, approximately \$10-\$20 a person to help with the cost of fuel. If you'd like to sign up, please contact the church office at 815-465-6191, email the office at stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net, contact Lou Ann Hamann, or sign up on the sign-up sheet on the table outside the sanctuary doors leading toward the church office.

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.



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 only seeking paper products and personal items at this time. 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. 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.

MARCH BIRTHDAY LIST

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

Josh Schroeder	1	Emily Voigt	18
Tom Swanson	2	Shari Ohm	18
Judy Schneider	3	Camden Szelag	19
Sawyer Loitz	3	Gatlin Schneider	22
Isabell Brooker	7	Jeff Lawrence	22
Cade Lacer	8	Karen Brunello	22
Krissy DeBold	10	Ken Erickson	22
Lou Ann Hamann	11	Lisa Mussman	22
Bill Riley	13	Anita Bush	24
Kristina Szelag	13	Scott Spangler	25
Tracy Langlois	15	Ann Smith	29
Elizabeth Voigt	16	Ken Johnson	31
Kelly Wade	16	Stacey Rincker	31

Congratulations to Tyler, Tiffanie, and Aria on the birth of Ivy Lee' Ann Schroeder on Wednesday, January 31st, weighing 6 lbs 1 oz and 20.5" long.

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

APRIL BIRTHDAY LIST

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

Alan Bakhaus	3	Justin Schriefer	16
Todd Sherwood	3	Shirley Loverin	17
Eli Karstensen	5	David Dickson	18
Ellen Toppen	5	Laura Erickson	18
Bucky Burrell	6	Shelby McKinstry	18
Madison Meherg	6	Bill Dennis	19
Michael Hammerlund	6	Nancy Sturm	19
Ron Claussen	6	Lucas Schneider	20
Connie Schneider	7	Ryleigh Schneider	20
Megan Cadieux	7	Marge Myers	20
Tim Frahm	7	Delaney Karstensen	23
Jamie Brooker	8	Will Napolitano	24
Janice Bonifield	8	Austin Langlois	25
Joni Reynolds	8	Katharina Frahm	25
Mary Toppen	10	James Schneider	26
Dawn Schroeder	11	Jolienne Scott	26
Richard Dulin	11	Jennifer Radostits	27
Jeffrey Hammerlund	13	Marge Johnson	29
Allyssa Rodriguez	15	Nathan Kuhn	29

In Our Thoughts and Prayers:

Gene Sievers, Reverend Frank Hoss, Carter Fortin, Keith Myers, Marge Myers, Heather Phillips, Linda Havelly, Taylor Cleary, Joy Currier, Dorothy Kutemeier, Judy Schneider, Roger Sturm, Delores Schimmin, Jeff Jones, Pamela Nolan, Craig Schneider, Bill Riley, Dean Lorbach, Jacqueline Dupuis, Ann Wessman, Eleanor Radostits, Kristopher Meyer, Don Claussen, Tim Langlois, the family of Norma Riley, and the family of Rodger Koehn

Rummage Sale



Want to get rid of the stuff you don't want? Our annual rummage sale is coming up in June. This is your one shot to get rid of stuff. As always, we need help setting up tables, sorting/pricing items, and volunteers to help work the sale. A sign-up sheet will be located on the back table in the sanctuary closer to June. Donated items may be dropped off the week of the sale. We will also be selling parking spots if you want to come and sell your own items. If you are interested in helping, please contact the church office at 815-465-6191. Thank you!

Teacher Book and Supply Drive

We are doing another Teacher Book and Supply Drive. Stay tuned for opportunities to help raise money for these through Dine in and

Donate events. Depending on donations, each teacher should receive roughly \$100 in items for their classrooms. If you know a teacher who is interested in participating, please have them reach out to the church office for a form.

Teacher/Homeschool sale

Mark your calendars as St. Peter's UCC will be having their Second Annual Teacher/Homeschool sale on Thursday, July 18th, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Friday, July 19th, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, July 20th, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Bring anything that you would use in the classroom as teaching supplies, curriculum, books, etc. and sell them. If you are interested in a table or two or have any questions, please contact Jacquelyn Timmons at (815) 465-6191 (church office) or text (567) 249-5141. Tables will be provided and the event is inside the church building. This is at no cost, but if you wish to make a donation, all proceeds will benefit our Teacher Book and Supply Drive. Tables are on a first come, first serve basis. St. Peter's UCC is located at 310 N. Meadow St., Grant Park, IL, 60940. A Facebook event will be created, along with some fliers. Please share this event on social media and anywhere else to get the word out.

Easter Lilies



Want to help beautify our church sanctuary for Easter? We will be selling Easter Lily plants for \$20 each. If you would like to purchase one or more, please fill out the following information with your payment. Please place it in the offering plate or turn it into the office. Forms must be turned in by Friday, March 22nd. Thank you.

Name: _____ Total _____ Pd _____

In Memory of: _____
Qty: _____

In Memory of: _____
Qty: _____

In Memory of: _____
Qty: _____

In Honor of: _____
Qty: _____

In Honor of: _____
Qty: _____

In Honor of: _____
Qty: _____