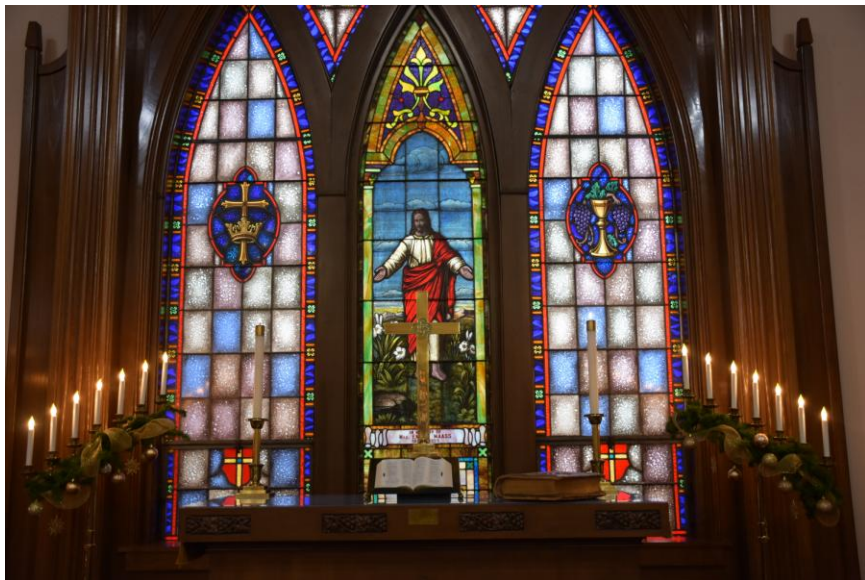


THE KEYS

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



March/April 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.



Matthew 5:16 reads, “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify Your Father in heaven (NIV).”

This verse exemplified the life of England’s Arabella Katherine Hankey, who was a devoted Christian in the 1800’s.

Hankey belonged to a group of evangelical believers which included several members of the English Parliament. The group opposed slavery and the slave trade and had a great influence in abolishing both in England.

In 1866, she wrote a poem which would later be published in a small booklet. She later would put the words to music, but it didn’t gain a following.

A year later, the text was read at a large YMCA gathering in Montreal where a composer named Dr. W.H. Doane heard the words and put it to music. The tune and refrain were eventually adapted by William G. Fisher a few years following.

That became the familiar and popular hymn, “I Love to Tell the Story.”

Do you love the story of Jesus and the Gospel message? I pray that for those of you who do, that you’d be given the courage and boldness to share it with others.

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.

**TOTAL BUDGET: \$31,161 CURRENT OFFERING: \$25,196
BUDGETED EXPENSES: \$34,886 BUDGETED DEFICIT: \$9,690
***REFLECTS JANUARY 1, 2025-FEBRUARY 24, 2025**

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS (TENTATIVE)

DATE:	TIME	EVENT
2ND	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
2ND	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
3RD	6:30 PM	4-H MEETING
4TH	6:30 PM	CHRISTIAN ED MEETING
5TH	7:00 PM	ASH WEDNESDAY
7TH	4:30 PM- 6:00 PM	GIRL SCOUTS MEETING
9TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
9TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
12TH	5:30 PM	LENTEN MEAL/SERVICE
12TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
14TH	4:30 PM- 6:00 PM	GIRL SCOUT MEETING
16TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
16TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
19TH	5:30 PM	LENTEN MEAL/SERVICE
19TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
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
26TH	5:30 PM	LENTEN MEAL/SERVICE
26TH	7:30 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
28TH	4:30 PM- 6:00 PM	GIRL SCOUTS
30TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
30TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE

APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS (TENTATIVE)

DATE:	TIME	EVENT
2ND	5:30 PM	LENTEN MEAL/SERVICE
2ND	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
4TH	4:30 PM- 6:00 PM	GIRL SCOUTS
6TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
6TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
7TH	6:30 PM	4-H MEETING
8TH	7:00 PM	CHRISTIAN ED MEETING
9TH	5:30 PM	LENTEN MEAL/SERVICE
9TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
11TH	4:30 PM- 6:00 PM	GIRL SCOUT MEETING
13TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
13TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE – CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
16TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
17TH	7:00 PM	MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
18TH	7:00 PM	GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
20TH	9:00 AM	EASTER BREAKFAST/EGG HUNT
20TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE (EASTER)
22ND	7:00 PM	COUNCIL MEETING
23RD	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
25TH	4:30 PM- 6:00 PM	GIRL SCOUT MEETING
27TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
27TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
30TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL

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

2025 CHURCH COUNCIL

Larry Hamann, President

Neal Currier, Vice President

Julie Schneider, Secretary

Erin Hamann, Treasurer

Audrey Lehnert, Assistant Treasurer

Ken Bonifield, Jill Claussen, Justin Langlois, & Kevin Mussman



***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.

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

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.

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

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.

I Love to Tell the Story: Have you heard the wonderful story of God's great love for humanity lately? As a new season of Lent is about to begin, we'd like to invite you to journey with us as we offer several opportunities to reflect, repent, and recharge your spiritual souls. Lent begins this week with our Ash Wednesday service (7 pm). On the following Wednesdays (03/12, 03/19, 03/26, 04/02, and 04/09), we will gather for soup and Scripture from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. If you would like to provide a soup, salad or dessert on any of these dates, please text/call Shirley Koehn at 708.254.2694. A short 30-minute service will begin at 6:30 in the Clyde Lange Fellowship Hall. On Sundays during Lent, Pastor Kyle will be preaching a series titled, "Everything (in) Between: Meeting God in the Midst of Extremes." More about Holy Week (April 13th - April 20th) will be shared soon.

Meeting God in the Midst of Extremes: We have several devotional books for Lent printed and available on the back table in the sanctuary. Please feel free to take one. If they run out, please let us know that you want one and we will print more. They are part of our Sunday Lenten series titled "Everything [in] between: Meeting God in the Midst of Extremes." Also, there will be daily devotions available on our church facebook page (St. Peters UCC Grant Park).



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 toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo, pasta (all kinds), pasta sauce, tuna, canned chicken, pancake mix, pudding, and jello (regular and sugar free for both). 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.

Fortitude Homeless Shelter

Recently, the Middle School & High School Sunday School class, led by Shari Ohm, collected donated items from the congregation of St. Peter's to help furnish an apartment for an individual who will be able to move from the streets into their own place.

Pictured below are Anna Timmons, Rebecca Timmons, Nixon Marcotte, Shari Ohm, and Carlie Langlois. The donations were dropped off at Fortitude a few days later.



Fusion Spaghetti Dinner

The Fusion Youth Group held their annual spaghetti dinner in February. A special thank you to all those who donated items, assisted with the dinner, and participated in the evening of food and fun. A total of \$1,712 was raised for Luis Maldonado, a student at Grant Park High School who is battling cancer.





Fiesta!

Church life presented an evening of fun, food, fellowship and fiesta in January. An amazing amount of food and energy created a great atmosphere.

A donation of \$652 was raised to support Luis Maldonado and his family.



Pastor Kyle celebrated his 25th anniversary of arriving at Navy Boot Camp with the children during a recent children's sermon.

MARCH BIRTHDAY LIST

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

Joshua Schroeder	1	Reece Breier	17
Tom Swanson	2	Emily Voigt	18
Judy Schneider	3	Shari Ohm	18
Sawyer Loitz	3	Camden Szelag	19
Isabell Brooker	7	Harper Farina	19
Cade Lacer	8	Jeffrey Lawrence	22
Krissy DeBold	10	Karen Brunello	22
Lou Ann Hamann	11	Ken Erickson	22
Bill Riley	13	Lisa Mussman	22
Kristina Szelag	13	Anita Bush	24
Rylie Breier	15	Scott Spangler	25
Tracy Langlois	15	Ann Smith	29
Elizabeth Voigt	16	Ken Johnson	31
Kelly Wade	16	Stacey Rincker	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

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
Elizabeth 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	Jim Schneider	26
Dawn Schroeder	11	Joliene 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:

Reverend Frank Hoss, Carter Fortin, Heather Phillips, Linda Havelly, 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, Nancy Vittori, Brad Fisher, Betty Jones, Janet Harvey, Jillien Pettit, and Colette Lawrence