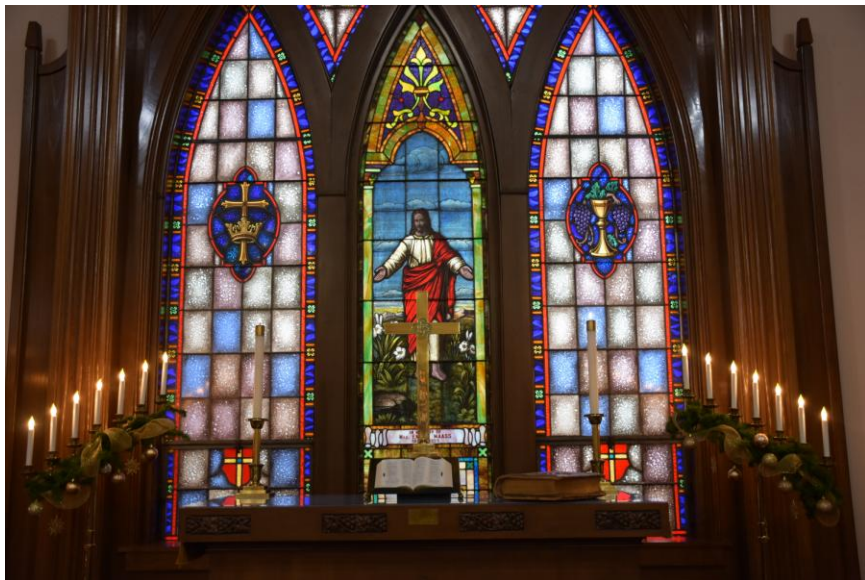


THE KEYS

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



May 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

God is still speaking.



I'm concerned. I know the Bible encourages us not to worry; however, concern about the future of the Christian faith is concerning.

Even prior to Covid, attendance in Christian churches has been on a decline. Experts can theorize the many reasons why people are leaving the Church in droves, but my personal concern is our local church here at St. Peter's.

I've personally seen a huge shift in the attendance pattern here in a few years. Those who may have been regulars a few years ago probably would step into the church today and not recognize many of the newer faces. The newer faces would probably consider you as visitors because you haven't been active in a few years.

While St. Peter's is holding its' own compared to many churches within our denomination and beyond, if we don't address the concern before it gets worse, the dangers could become more alarming.

Have you stopped coming? Has your attendance been more sporadic than it was earlier in your life? I'm praying that YOU would take the time to send me a message, give me a call, or reach out to a council member and let us know what's going on.

This is not a judgmental response, but we sincerely would like to know what's going on. Is there a reason you've stopped attending? Please let us know. We MISS YOU! We LOVE YOU!

Reverend Kyle J. Timmons

Reverend Kyle Timmons

MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS (TENTATIVE)

DATE:	TIME	EVENT
1ST	7:00 PM	4-H MEETING
2ND	6:30 PM	CHRISTIAN ED MEETING
2ND	7:30 PM	CHURCH LIFE MEETING
7TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
7TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
7TH	11:30 PM- 5:00 PM	FUSION EVENT-FAIR OAKS FARM DAIRY TOUR AND ICE CREAM
10TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
13TH	6:00 PM	JOSEPH HABEDANK CONCERT
14TH	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
14TH	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE
17TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
21ST	9:00 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL (EASTER BINGO FOR KIDS)
21ST	10:30 AM	WORSHIP SERVICE (ALL CHURCH POTLUCK & GRADUATION SUNDAY)
23RD	7:00 PM	COUNCIL MEETING
24TH	7:00 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL
28RD	9:00 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
Jayne Frahm, Financial Secretary
Ann Smith, Senior Choir Director
Betty Wolfe, Youth Choir Director
Judy Schneider, Shari Ohm, and Rebecca Timmons, Organists
Laura Foushi, Custodian
Neal Currier & Josh Hamann, Youth Advisors
Neal Currier & Josh Hamann, Connect Sunday School Leaders

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***

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 . 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 May:

05/07	“Do You Need Change?”
05/14	“Are You an Influencer?”
05/21	“How’s Your Spirit?”
05/28	“Why We Remember”

*Sunday School classes for Pre-K through 5th grade meet upstairs

*Middle School/High School meet in the basement

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

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 am, 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.

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. We are studying the Book of Acts. Did you miss it? It's okay. Jump in any time.

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.



Sunday, May 21st

Bring your favorite (aka best) dish(es) to share for our potluck style luncheon on Sunday, May 21st, immediately following worship. Everyone is encouraged to stay for a time of food and fellowship! (You may even bring a copy of your recipes to share with others as many people often ask “Who made this?” and “May I have the recipe?”)



Are you or do you know a student who is graduating this year? Please contact the church office with the name of your preschooler, 8th grader, high school, or college graduate with some information about their achievements and future plans. Graduates will be honored on May 21st during the worship service.

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. On May 15th, desserts will be served. If you have any questions, please contact Dianna at (815)-465-6933. Thank you.

Teacher Book and Supply Drive: Last year, we had a great Supply Drive for the kids at Grant Park Schools. They still have leftovers! This year, we are going to do a teacher book and supply drive. It will run similarly to the school supply drive, but with a few changes. We are hoping to help around 75 local teachers to get books and some other supplies for their classrooms that they would normally pay out of pocket for. Teachers have a “wish list” that will be posted or you can donate directly and we can buy the items for you. If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Timmons at 815-466-4048 or text 567-249-5141. Thank you!



Spring is in the air which means spring cleaning! Want to get rid of the stuff you don't want? Our annual rummage sale is quickly approaching. This year, we are only having ONE rummage sale. We are going to have it June 8th, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., June 9th, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and June 10th, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. As always, we need help setting up tables June 4th after church service, sorting and pricing items June 5th through June 7th, and volunteers to help work the sale. Donated items may be dropped off June 4th (right after church) and June 5th through June 7th between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. or by appointment. If you are interested in helping, please contact the church office at 815-465-6191. Thank you!



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 corn, cereal, dish soap, canned fruit, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, hamburger helper, paper towels, toilet paper, canned tomatoes, french style green beans, baking mixes, ketchup, canned tuna, and pancake mix. Donations may be dropped off in the baskets located by the courtyard entrance. 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, 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 events by going to our Fusion page on our church website or facebook link.



April Youth Event: On April 2nd, the youth went to St. John's (IN) Shrine for Christ's Passion Walk. In May, they are having lunch and going to Fair Oaks Farm for a tour and ice cream. More details will be available on our Fusion Youth Facebook page or by going to our church website at 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

There is a sign-up list sheet on the back table in the sanctuary for individuals, families, friends, groups, (however you want to do it) to provide lunch for the Fusion Youth Group each month. You may sign up to cover a month by bringing lunch and serving it, by providing it and letting them serve it, or providing a monetary donation to offset the cost of the lunch. Josh Hamann or Neal Currier will be in touch with you prior to the month that you sign up for to confirm the date (which is normally the 1st Sunday of the month). On average, there are nearly 20 students and leaders to feed. Fusion truly appreciates your support as this allows them to keep the gatherings free for the students and the overall cost of their monthly gatherings at a lower amount.

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.

MAY BIRTHDAY LIST

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

LaDonna Swanson	1	Pam Lawrence	15
Richard Heldt	2	Sandi Heldt	16
Kim Sherwood	4	Tyler Couwenhoven	16
Luke O’Nions	4	Theo Mussman	17
Samuel Hamann	4	Paul Loverin	19
Cynthia Jacobson	6	Daniel Erickson	20
Erin Williamson	7	Jerry Lorenz	23
Tammy Reaman	10	David Heusing	25
Amy Schneider	11	Minnie Pfingsten	26
James Crocker	11	Tim Toppen	26
Mark Ekhoﬀ	12	Sandy Erickson	27
Tom Morris	12	Kyle Jacobson	28
Marcia Langlois	14	Ken Heldt	30
		Trisha Meherg	30

A special happy birthday goes out to Minnie Pfingsten for her 103rd birthday. Hope you enjoy your day!

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, Pamela Nolan, Katheryn Hickey-Scott, Patricia Regnier, Ann Wessman, Craig Schneider, Corky Schreiner, Jaycie Couwenhoven, the family of Cynthia (Whorall) Carmen, the family of Ann Marie (Kuetemeyer) Lattz, the family of Delores Hartman, and the family of Arlene Armstrong

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

are excited to announce that registration for the 2023 summer camp season at [Pilgrim Park](#) and [Tower Hill](#) is now underway! We hope to share information about the many camp offerings for various age groups, including Spirit Camp, which is geared towards campers in grades 3-10. Our UCC camp provides an opportunity for campers of all ages to encounter God in a truly special way.

Thank you,

Colleen, Diane and Sara
Spirit Camp Directors

Direct link to sign up for camps:

<https://outdoorministries.campbrainregistration.com/>