

THE KEYS

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



May 2020



815-465-6191

St. Peter's

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

310 N. Meadow St.
Grant Park, Illinois 60940





If the ole saying, “April showers bring May flowers,” is true, I hope that we don’t just receive the beauty of God’s creation through the blooming of new plants, but also that we receive “May flowers” in terms of good news within our world after a “rainy” April season of our lives.

While the world around us continues to adjust each and every day, even sometimes by the hour, we continue to stay focused on meeting the spiritual needs of St. Peter’s UCC members and our local community.

As your pastor, I want to strongly encourage you to remember that it’s “ok” not to be “ok.”

If you are struggling – spiritually, emotionally, mentally, or financially, please feel free to give me a call or send me a message. Often, talking about our concerns with someone else releases a burden of stress in our lives.

However, we must be honest with ourselves and with others when we just need the support from someone around us.

You all are in my thoughts and prayers and I’m eagerly looking forward to when we can gather together in God’s presence.

Stay healthy & full of God’s holiness.

Kyle J. Timmons

Pastor Kyle Timmons

Be on the LOOK-OUT



All members should be receiving a letter from the church council within the first few days of May.

Due to COVID-19 keeping us from meeting together, and with a policy of having a congregational meeting when we need to approve a purchase of over \$5,000, the church council thought the urgent need should be handled via a letter and a returned ballot.

The letter will explain the dire need of replacing the church roof and some updates to the eastside of the building.

Each letter will contain a ballot (per person/member) in your household. If there is an error in our tally, please simply write down the names of each member on the ballot and their choice for the vote.

Additionally, a return envelope already stamped will be provided along with another envelope for your financial gift to help pay for the roof.

We ask that you quickly fill it out and return it as we would like replies by May 8th. If you have a question or can't get it in the mail before that, please give the church a call (815) 465-6191 and you can register your vote with Marcia or Pastor Kyle over the phone (though we'd strongly prefer your mail-in vote).

Thank you for your understanding and support!

Re-Opening St. Peter's UCC

The Church Council discussed and decided during the April meeting its goal of setting forth a date of Sunday, June 7th for our first gathering since the COVID-19 shutdown.

We want to express to each of you that we have set forth a plan to prepare for how things will look that Sunday, and beyond, as we aim for a safe environment for all.

Our commitment to you includes:

- A major cleaning of the sanctuary, entry ways, bathrooms, hallways, and any areas that people will be congregating. This will take place prior to June 7th and we will provide deeper cleaning after each service.
- A handful of handmade facemasks will be available for those who do not have one. If the state order is that indoor gatherings need to have facemasks worn then that will be our expectation. If you do not feel like you can wear one during the service we encourage you to stay at home and enjoy our online services.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available at each entry/exit and in other areas around the church.

Other things to be aware of (possibilities):

- Pews will be roped off (every other pew) to encourage social distancing. We ask you to sit with your couple/family but respect spaces to the left/right of where others are already seated.
- The choir section will be available for some seating as well.
- If capacity of seating appears to be full, we may consider adding an extra service throughout the summer (we'll have to wait and see how attendance is).
- Service will begin at 9 am.

- There will be no greeters – if you need assistance with the church elevator/lift, please let the Council Representative know and we'll provide help.
- There will be no bulletins (with the exception of maybe a few on given Sundays if reading/song singing is required)
- We will probably not be singing as a congregation (could change). Most likely a special piano/organ/other special musical pieces will be available.
- There will be no children's sermon until restrictions lift.
- We will not pass offering plates. A plate will be available in different areas of the sanctuary if you want to give that way.
- We will not participate in communion (except when the Pastor leads it on our behalf) until restrictions lift.
- Therefore, a service will likely consist of a prelude, an opening prayer, Scripture Reading, a special musical piece, pastoral prayer, sermon, and benediction – That means services will probably be shorter (but I'm not hearing any complaints from any of you – smile).

Again, things are always subject to change as Council will examine the situation during its May 19th meeting to assess that we are able to proceed.

Yes, things will look and feel different – but different is okay. We are also open to any ideas/suggestions along the way. We're learning as we go.

*Please note: We will continue to offer online services for those who do not feel ready to attend in person. Worship opportunities will be available by a few different venues:

How to Worship With Us Online

Facebook: Search for our church page by typing in St. Peters UCC Grant Park. Click on Videos and a list of our videos will appear. We will try to have each day's service posted on or before our normal time that we would have had it (10:30 Sunday mornings, 7 pm evening, etc.)

YouTube: Go to www.youtube.com. In the search engine type Pastor Kyle Timmons and search (you may need to scroll through to find), or the more direct way is to put in the following <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCV5nYMleHefrhCB4v4qHd4Q>

Church Website: (FYI – It's fresh! It's New! Check it out – new content will be added as we continue to develop the site, but now you can access the most recent services. Go to www.stpetersgrantpark.org or www.stpetersgp.org On the top menu go to Media, Choose Sermons, and click the one you want to watch.

Calling All Students for Confirmation

Do you have a student who will be entering 7th Grade in the Fall of 2020 or an older student who has not been confirmed? Please contact the church office to provide the student's name and contact information as we prepare a list for those who will go through the class beginning this September.

WITH MUCH THANKS!!!!

The Christian Education Team would like to thank Neal & Rhiannon Currier for the countless hours of service as the Sunday School Superintendent & Assistant for the past several years.

Words can't express our gratitude for their service! Therefore, when we are able to gather together again, we will be honoring them in person – stay tuned! But until then, thanks Neal & Rhi!

Also, thank-you for your passion in our teaching of our children and youth as Sunday School teachers.

Special thanks also to Josh Hamann and the other adults who helped fill in throughout the last school year.



Students in Grades 6-12

Fusion Summer Trip: Due to complications in planning a summer trip amid the concerns around COVID-19 we are going to ppd. our summer trip (however, if we are able, we will plan some fun, summer events) – Stay tuned.

Congratulations Graduates!

We would like to congratulate our High School graduates on a job well done! Though your final months of High School may not have been the way you had dreamt, your future ahead is full of great opportunities. We wish you all well.

Graduates from St. Peter's UCC include: Madelyn Dickson, Hadleigh Loitz, Madison Meherg, and Sydney Fritz.

Eighth grade graduates include Isaac Hamann and Elizabeth Voigt!

Electronic (EFT) Giving

Are you interested in learning more about setting up your giving to St. Peter's electronically? No more need to worry about checks, offering envelopes, etc. Let Pastor Kyle know if you'd be interested to give electronically and we'll help you set it up. This is a GREAT way to make sure you are giving on a regular basis (even if you miss church due to illness, vacation, weather).

Want to Give, but forgot your cash/check?

In addition to EFT giving (see that announcement) there is another avenue that you can plug into your phone right now and its 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>

Save the Date!
September 20th, 2020

St. Peter's is celebrating
150 years of ministry.
Stay tuned for information
in regards to our special celebration
and please keep the day open to join
us!



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. Thanks!

MAY MISSION GIVING

**The May Mission's Partner is the United Church of Christ's
Strengthen the Church 5-for-5 mission.**

FOOD PANTRY

Beecher Food Pantry Assistance Needed:

The Beecher Food Pantry is in desperate need of our support. They are asking for donations of non-expired foods, hygiene products, and other items such as paper towels, detergent, kitchen soap, etc. If you are able to assist, donations can be placed in the basket located in the entrance of the courtyard doors.

The pantry will be open on from 9:00-11:00, on the second Saturday of each month.

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?

Request forms can be requested from the church office and submitted to the Mission's Team.

If you'd like a form, please email stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net, pastorkyletimmons@live.com , call us at (815) 465-6191 or check out our forms on our church website.

Rummage Sale

Even though we are still in the winter season, spring will be here soon and you know what that means...Spring Cleaning! We would love to have another rummage sale, so please save your items. Anyone interested in helping out with planning, setting up, etc. is to contact Jackie Timmons at (815) 466-4048 or text (567) 249-5141. Thank you for all your support last time and we hope to have the same success this time.

Thank you,
Jackie

In Our Thoughts and Prayers:

Carter Fortin – prayers for healing,
Austin Delaney (Great Grandson of Clifford & Ethel Zimmerman)
– prayers for healing,
Nancy Sturm – prayers for healing,
Ethan Toth (newborn grandson of Russ & Shirley Koehn's
friends) – prayers for healing
Shirley Koop (sister of Bev Junker) –prayers for healing,
Mason Beseke – prayers for healing
Karla Lehnert – prayers for healing,
Stephen Radostits – prayers for healing,
Mary Cirks – prayers for healing,
Nancy Lewke –prayers for healing.
Melissa Mort – prayers for healing,
Tom Barrera – prayers for healing
Delores and James Caton – prayers for healing,
Rev Frank Hoss – prayers for healing
The family and friends of his wife **Elaine Germeck** who was
killed in an auto accident.
and all of God's children seeking comfort, peace, and love.

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

Mrs. Mabel Phebus
19101 State Line Rd
Lowell, IN 46356

Mrs. Louise Sievers
Riverside Senior Life
85 Burns Road
Bourbonnais, IL 60914

Minnie Pfingsten
703 N East Street
Hudson, IL 61748

Mildred Katz
P O Box 215
Grant Park, IL 60940

Pauline Mitchell
Bickford Sr. Living
100 Jones Drive
Room 227
Bourbonnais, IL 60914

Mary Cirks
717 Long Oak Rd.
Manteno, IL 60950

Thank You's

Missions,

Thank you so much for the lovely planter left on my patio. It's beautiful. I love it. It's such an anxious time. This helped me so much.

Blessings and love to all.

Elaine Frahm

Missions Committee,

Thank you so much for the purse shaped planter that was delivered to me this past Saturday. I loved it and it made my day.

Again Thanks!!

Sincerely,

Dorothy Kutemeier

Dear Pastor Kyle,

What an awesome surprise it was to find a sweet gift on my porch. Every time I look upon the "cute" Owl Basket with beautiful little dainty yellow flowers inside –I smile –an "ear to ear" smile!!

There are angels in Grant Park bringing lots of joy to a troubled world! Halleluia!! You touched my heart! "Thank you dear friends" for your kindness! It's beyond measure the positive effect it has had!

May God Bless all St. Peter's Angels!

Judy Lange

Dear Church Family,

What a treat to open my front door and find a sweet owl with a plant! Wow! God bless you all and thank you. Praying for you during this brief (hopefully) interruption in our lives.

Stan's wife

Judy Schneider

MAY BIRTHDAY LIST

These birthdays are compiled from the church membership records.

Please call to our attention any omissions or corrections.

LaDonna Swanson	1	Sandi Heldt	16
Rich Heldt	2	Jon Schneider	16
Kimberly Sherwood	4	Paul Loverin	19
Sam Hamann	4	Daniel Erickson	20
Megan Pilbeam	4	Mary Cirks	23
Cynthia Jacobson	6	Shirley Voigt	23
Erin Williamson	7	Jerry Lorenz	23
Joe Ekhoﬀ	8	David Heusing	25
Tammy Reaman	10	Minnie Pfingsten	26
Amy Schneider	11	Sandy Erickson	27
Tom Morris	12	Jarret Schneider	28
Kate Reichel	12	Kyle Jacobson	28
Mark Ekhoﬀ	12	Ken Heldt	30
Missy Benson	14	Sharon Dillman	30
Marcia Langlois	14	Trisha Meherg	30
Pam Lawrence	15		

"TENTATIVE"

MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

5	7:00 pm	Christian Education Meeting
19	7:00 pm	Church Council Meeting

stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net

Church Website: www.stpetersgp.org

Facebook: St. Peters UCC Grant Park

Church Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

STAFF

Rev Kyle Timmons, Pastor

Marcia Langlois, Office Administrator

Beverly Junker, Financial Secretary

Ann Smith, Senior Choir Director

Betty Wolfe, Youth Choir Director

Judy Schneider and Shari Ohm, Organists

Peg McCraw, Custodian

Jessica Frahm & Kole Stadt - Youth Advisors

Neal Currier & Josh Hamann – Connect Leaders

2020 CHURCH COUNCIL

Russ Koehn, President

Max Toppen, Vice President

Kelly Schneider, Secretary

Michelle Claussen, Treasurer,

Karen Ekhoﬀ, Assistant Treasurer

Heidi Frahm, Garry Junker, Carrie Langlois & David Lehnert



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