



Finding the Spirit in Life

#findingspirit

www.stpeterscarmel.org

#carmelucc

The Epistle - February 2019

Happy Epiphany, St. Peter's!

We were writing our own articles and then saw the first draft of this newsletter... we had written nearly identical thoughts on Epiphany. And so we decided to practice the spiritual discipline of togetherness. Together we wondered what God has in store for us, what will be revealed to and about us, and what we are called to do about it. Following a period of discernment and prayer, we combined our reflections and offer you this:

The Season after Epiphany... Being the Church in New Ways

It's a balmy 7 degrees. The trees are frozen icicles, and even the snow on the ground is too cold to move. From inside, with heaters and blankets wrapped around, it's easier to appreciate the sparkly frozen wonder outside. We're about half way through the season of Epiphany. A season of awe, wondering, and wandering.

As the story goes, it was a star that guided the Wise Ones to the Baby Jesus. Stars inspire, surprise, and guide us, and so we are focusing on them in this season after Epiphany. Our prayer station in the back of the sanctuary invites you to take a star (cut from leftover Advent postcards!), write on it, take it with you, or add it to our growing congregational constellation.

Together, we are shining our lights brightly through prayer and action... and it's working! Here are some of our most recent Epiphany adventures:

MLK Day Celebration



A group of us wandered over to the Tarkington to participate in Carmel's first city celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. on January 21. Together we sang and shared stories with kids from KJI Institute so that

February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Parlor in Use 9-10am Tamil School 2-4pm
3 Youth Group My Faith: Gun Violence 12:30 -2pm	4	5	6	7Women & the Word 9:30am Worship Staff 1:30pm Ministry Council 6pm Handbells 6pm Choir 7pm	8 Women's Retreat -----	9 -----< Parlor in Use 9-10am Tamil School 2-4pm
10 Generosity Team 12:15pm	11 Finance & Ops 6:30pm	12 Young Adults Group (Books & Brews 7pm) Music Team 6:45pm	13 Governance 6:30pm	14 Women & Word 9:30am Handbells 6pm Choir 7pm	15 Movie Night (Keystone Arts Cinema) 6:30pm	16 Parlor in Use 9-10am
17 Chili Cook off and Game Day12:30-2pm	18 Presidents Day (No Preschool)	19 Newsletter Articles Due Music Team 6:45pm	20 Missions Team Meting 6pm	21 Men's Break- fast 8am Women & the Word9:30am Staff Meeting 1:30 Handbells 6pm Choir 7pm	22	23 Parlor in Use 9-10am Tamil School 2-4pm
24	25	26 Senior Pas- tor Support Team 6:30pm	27	28 Women & the Word 9:30am Handbells 6pm Choir 7pm Bystander Training 6:30- 9pm Tech Team 7-8		

From Your Clergy Team

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Becca Lockwood
Sam Locke

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We do not forget the inspiration of a man and movement. Gathered together, we promised to continue the work of justice for as long as it is needed. (See more on [Page 9.](#))

Borderlands Mission



A group of twelve have traveled to the borderlands to create, listen, and experience their own epiphanies about migration. Most of them are back to Indiana... We wonder what has stirred within them, what spark has been ignited, what revelation has occurred... and we eagerly await to hear their stories.



... and there's the story of the one among us who said "no thank you" to a request from their pastors earlier this month, reconsidered, and is now leading a growing movement among us. A star shone brightly.

... and there's a story of one of our youth, who stood up to a local clergyperson at another congregation who suggested that kids who have depression and anxiety just aren't faithful enough. Our youth knew differently and said so. A star shone brightly.

... and there's the story of one of you who went to the MLK event, found yourself moved by one student's testimony, sought out that student afterwards and said, "For me and mine, I am sorry." The student wept in your arms, and love was shared. A star shone brightly.

We wonder how God is stirring within YOU. Have you answered the call to wander to a new place? Do you feel called to show up in new ways in this community and the wider world? Have you found a new way to use your voice, your power, your privilege?

Take a moment this season to feel the awe of the Spirit moving around you, to wonder and invite some self-reflection, and to wander outside of your comfort, even just for a little bit. Know that God journeys with you this season and in every season.

Yes, it's winter, but that doesn't mean our faith has to hibernate! Take hope, justice, inclusion, and peace into your community and together, we will shine brightly with God's love.

Embracing Epiphany,
Lori & Becca

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Governance Council

President: Tim Tomlinson

president@stpeterscarmel.org

Vice President: Jennifer Atkinson

vicepresident@stpeterscarmel.org

Secretary: Dennis Heavin

secretary@stpeterscarmel.org

Generosity Team Leader: Seth Kreigh

generositylead@stpeterscarmel.org

Treasurer: Diane Carr

treasurer@stpeterscarmel.org

Treasurer Elect:

temporarily filled by Nan Bucksten

Financial Transition Nearing Completion

Your patience is most appreciated! We are within a month of having our books from 2017-2018 closed and reconciled. We will have team reports by the end of January as well, and for this, we are grateful. Diane Carr is settling into her new role as Treasurer and is interfacing with our accounting company, ChurchShield. We are pleased with the progress on this administrative task which continued to grow over time. We are confident that we have the right volunteers in place and will be working to add the staff position that was approved at the September Congregational Meeting.

New Website

www.stpeterscarmel.org

Many thanks to Chrissy Searcy and a team of dedicated volunteers and staff who have helped to launch our new website! Please check it out. We are hopeful that members and visitors alike will find the information that they need to engage with St. Peter's UCC. If you have questions or comments about our new website, please contact Chrissy Searcy at spiritualifelead@stpeterscarmel.org.

Ready to do your taxes?

Check your Realm account for a report on your giving in 2018

Trying to remember how much you've given to the church in 2018? Realm can help! Log in here:

<http://onrealm.org/stpeterscarmel>

If you are new to Realm, go look for the email from St. Peter's inviting you to connect to the church through Realm. Click the link in the email and follow the instructions to set up your account.

Once your account is set up, download the Connect app for Apple or Android phones!

While you are in Realm, go ahead and upload a photo for yourself. We are slowly getting our directory populated with everyone's photographs and it would be lovely to have yours.

Once you log in, you can get help by clicking the question mark in the upper right corner.

If you are still having problems, email Katie Lukes (k8ielukes@gmail.com) or Jennifer Atkinson (jennifer.m.atkinson@gmail.com.)



Governance Council (Cont.)

Meet Diane Carr, St. Peter's New Treasurer

Numbers scare a lot of people. But I've been "doing numbers" for my entire life. One year into my retirement from a 29-year career in finance at Lilly, I was asked to take the treasurer role. The timing was right. I was ready to dig into some concrete issues and do some problem solving. Lucky for me these opportunities abound in the accounting underbelly of St. Peter's. In very simple terms, I have learned that our Financial Secretaries focus on the money coming into the church (offerings, contributions), and the Treasurer is responsible for the accounting for money leaving the church (operating expenses, benevolences) and the financial reporting (team budgets, income statement, balance sheet). The Financial Secretaries and I are working closely to provide ChurchShield, our accounting company, the guidance it needs to ensure our financial transactions are recorded accurately. We are very close to closing the books on 2017-2018 and having solid reports for the current fiscal year. I look forward to helping to simplify and streamline our financial activities and bring clear, transparent financial information to the congregation.

Generosity Team

Team Leader: Seth Kreigh

generositylead@stpeterscarmel.org

Be the Church 2.0 – Much Learned and Much To Do

Four sessions were held highlighting the St. Peter's Mission Statement. *St. Peter's is a welcoming community, sharing God's love with our world, and finding the Spirit in Life.* If you weren't able to attend the sessions, contemplate the various parts of that statement, and see what it might spark in your understanding of what it means to Be the Church. Our conversations went deep. We contemplated how our facility and budget reflect our mission, how we can be evangelists for this community of faith, and how spirituality is often much more than church. As we continue to live into this Mission Statement, may we continue to grow as a community!

Finding Balance

A Message From Your Generosity Team Leader

I hope your new year is off to a wonderful start! As I struggle to find balance among church, work, family, and friends, I find comfort in the passages from January 20th because they remind me to have faith. Faith that I don't always need to see the bigger picture and can achieve seemingly impossible tasks, like planning a wedding or managing a complex project, by focusing on just one of the infinite decisions that need to be made. Eventually, with the help of a loving and patient fiancé or an incredibly gifted and dedicated team, the collective work comes together successfully.

I find that generosity works the same way. Thinking about the challenges our community faces can be daunting and depressing, but sometimes the best way to move forward is to focus on one detail at a time, slowly working towards a bigger goal. Generosity and gratitude can work the same way. Sometimes it's not always feasible to feel fully grateful for something or someone, but it can be helpful to start with one thing or aspect of gratitude.

This is often a blessing of community; we individually work towards one piece of the puzzle, together creating the whole image. As our season of generosity embarks, we invite and encourage you to reflect on your piece of the puzzle and how it fits, inhabits, and illuminates the whole of St. Peter's



Formative Congregations Grant Opportunity

Throughout 2018, Lori participated with the Center for Congregations in an experiment they called “Formative Congregations.” There were 10 pastors who were invited to this experience, and the congregations were each given a \$3K learning stipend.

The Center for Congregations was so pleased with the results of our experiments that, for the first time ever, they are inviting 8 congregations to continue this work and apply for up to a \$30K grant. St. Peter’s Governance Council was delighted to begin this journey.

Diane Carr and Jill Olinger will attend sessions with Lori Bievenour at The Center for Congregations to explore the idea of formative congregations even further; our grant proposal will be due in May 2019. (Note: \$10K could be granted without matching dollars. The additional \$20K would require a congregational match. We are *not* required to apply for the full amount. We are certain that by attending the sessions and continuing our exploratory work in January – May, we will craft a strong proposal, no matter the amount that we land upon!)

“How might our congregation provide experiences that enhance the life of our adherents? The goal of a healthy, functioning congregation will not be the end. It will be the means to a greater end: a congregation that helps its members increase their capacity to live in the deepest and best commitments of faith in everyday life. The goal of the program is not to focus on congregational redevelopment or the organizational structure of the congregation. Nor is the focus on community engagement though there may be elements of these in the project. The focus is on the lives of the people in the congregation.” Governance Council will continue to update you on the progress of this opportunity. For now, will you pray for the experience and continue to trust the Spirit as she reveals a way forward for our congregation with this grant opportunity?

Building & Grounds Team

Team Leader: Mike Flener

buildingandgroundslead@stpeterscarmel.org

St. Peter’s Inclement Weather Policy

- **Sunday Services** will be cancelled if a snow emergency is declared by the City of Carmel or Hamilton County. (In the case of cancellation, an announcement will be shared on WTHR, by email, on the St. Peter’s website, and the St. Peter’s Facebook Group if possible.)
- **The church office will be closed and all meetings/groups cancelled** on the days that Carmel Clay Schools are closed for the entire day. If this closure occurs during the week we are hosting Family Promise guests, we will cover our Family Promise responsibilities.
- **St. Peter’s Preschool** will be closed on days Carmel Clay Schools are closed, and on days when Carmel Clay Schools have a two-hour delay, St. Peter’s Preschool will operate on a one-hour delay

Missions Team

Team Leader: Sean Henseleit

missionslead@stpeterscarmel.org

Carmel UMC Food Pantry Donations for February

February is heat and eat month. Please bring in packaged or canned meal items like beef stew, soup, chili, ravioli, etc. Additionally, help Hamilton County families by donating feminine products (tampons, pads), lotion, hair conditioner. These are considered “luxury items” and not provided for with food buying programs.

Bystander and Cop Watch Trainings Offered

Elise Whitaker will be leading Bystander Training in February and Cop Watch Training in March at St Peter’s. These trainings will be open to the congregation and to the public. Elise Whitaker (they/them) is a scholar, an organizer, and an activist. After cutting their teeth in Los Angeles’ Occupy Wall Street actions, Elise went on to co-found an organization called 99Rise aiming to end the corrupting influence of money on the American democracy. Having spent a number of years training in many narrative based, decentralized organizing structures and focusing in particular on issues around money in politics, the movement for black lives, and immigrant rights, Elise is now a full time student and researcher on public policy issues around environmental and racial justice. Both of these trainings were developed by the People’s Response Team in Chicago; Elise was trained by American Friends Service Committee.

Bystander Intervention Training – This training focuses on ways to intervene in instances of racist, anti-Immigrant, anti-Black, anti-Muslim, anti-Trans, and other forms of oppressive interpersonal violence and harassment while considering the safety of all parties. Participants will participate in discussions and role plays to practice intervention techniques. No one is an expert on bystander intervention, as different situations and different individual risk factors will influence how each person will intervene; this training will seek to provide a basic framework and resources for the uninitiated and to hold space for people to share their own skills and experiences in a safe and affirming environment.

February 28, 6:30-9:00p.m.

March 2, 10:00a.m.-12:30p.m.

Cop Watch Training – The goal of this workshop is to quickly train the average person in basic cop-watching laws, methods, and safety considerations, and to promote cop watching as a method of bystander intervention. This training will utilize historical context, group discussions, role playing, and legal information, including tips on how participants might seek to learn more about local laws in their home cities. Questions? Contact Elise Whitaker at 317.946.8641.

March 28, 6:30-9:00p.m.

March 30, 10:00a.m.-12:30p.m.

Family Promise (FP) Hosting

March 24-31

FP is a not-for-profit organization that helps FAMILIES experiencing homelessness. FP runs two rotations, 14 people each, each week throughout the year. During the day their home base is the FP Day Center.

Opportunities available: Drive our guests. (FP van provided), Host meals (breakfast & dinner), Evening Hosts (2 each evening), Overnight Hosts (2 each evening), Set up of guest rooms (March 24), Tear down of guest rooms (March 31), Laundry.

To sign up come by the FP table in Fellowship Hall (online sign up is also available).

Music Team

Team Leader: Heather Kane
Music Director : Cheryl Keckler

musicministrylead@stpeterscarmel.org
musicdirector@stpeterscarmel.org

MLK Celebration

St. Peter's was honored to be asked to participate in the first Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration for the City of Carmel. On Monday, January 21, thirty singers (children, youth, adults) and percussionists from St. Peter's took the stage at the Tarkington Theatre. We sang *Tumefurahi* plus we participated in singing freedom songs with youth from the KJI Institute. It was a memorable day for all.

Indians Baseball Game and the National Anthem

St. Peter's Choir has been invited to sing with Central Christian (Disciples of Christ) the national anthem at the Indians baseball game on Sunday, July 7, a one-service 10:00 a.m. Sunday. Game time is 1:35. **St. Peter's will be having a block of seats and we are inviting the congregation to join us at the ball park for the game.** More information to follow.

Youth Singing

A new venture for youth Grades 6 and older. We will rehearse from **9:45-10:15 in the Music Room each Sunday morning**. The Sunday date for singing is: March 3. All are welcome.

Cherub Choir

For children Kindergarten – Grade 1. **The Cherub Choir will meet in Room 11 from 9:45-10:15 each Sunday morning**. Come join in the fun of making music.

Join in the Ringing and Singing

Music is being made! You can join a choir and join in the music making. We'd love to have new members in the choirs – Chancel and Handbell. If interested, please contact Cheryl at musicdirector@stpeterscarmel.org. Remember, making music is good for your health, your stress level, and the community... so treat yourself!

Rehearsals on Thursdays

Handbells from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary
Chancel Choir from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Music Room

Please share comments regarding our music program with any team member: Heather Kane, Don Kaufman, Sarah Scholl, Jim Vandivier; Addie Yoder, organist; or Cheryl Keckler, Music Director.

In Gratitude

Thank you to the people who prepared a lovely meal following Bill's funeral. Many people remarked about how good the food was and how nice it was to gather together. Thank you! - Renee Bilgram

MLK Day Celebration

January 21, 2019



May the work towards justice
continue in song
and in building relationships!



Spiritual Life Team

Team Leader: Chrissy Searcy

spirituallifelead@stpeterscarmel.org

Lent 2019: The Prayer of St. Francis

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine Master, grant that I may not so
much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eter-
nal life.
Amen.*

This year, we will engage the prayer of St. Francis as individuals and in community in various ways throughout the Lenten season. This prayer offers many ways to explore and deepen your faith, to connect with others, and to nurture justice, peace, and love in the world. The prayer will be at the core of our Sunday worship during Lent, but please also consider joining us for the following:

Wednesday Night Class during Lent

6:15p.m. on March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17

Following worship every Wednesday in Lent, we invite you to stay for 45 minutes to go deeper with the Prayer of St. Francis. A study guide will be available for those who gather. We expect the Spirit to lead... there will be questions, conversation, opportunities for reflection, additional resources, and more. Most of all, this will be a time to be with others from St. Peter's who want to go a little deeper this Lenten Season.

Wednesday Lenten Worship Services

7p.m. on March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17

Do you sometimes crave a space for prayer? Or some more spiritual practices? Or perhaps a more contemplative worship service? For the season of Lent, Becca will be leading a contemplative worship service on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm. Worship will be designed to be soft and provoking, pensive and engaging. We will sing and/or listen to music. We will pray and engage in a spiritual practice. We will celebrate Communion. Our spiritual practice will center on the the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. And worship will be under an hour. Note: If you play an instrument and would like to be a part of this worship experience, please email Becca at becca@stpeterscarmel.org

Spiritual Life Team

Team Leader: Chrissy Searcy

spirituallifelead@stpeterscarmel.org

Women's Retreat – "Seek, Create, and Witness The Good"

February 8-9

"Seek, Create, and Witness The Good" – Does the negativism and conflict in our world today stress you out? We will focus on seeking out, recognizing and creating positive realities in our own lives.

Join us Friday, February 8 at 6p.m. to Saturday, February 9 at noon at Camp Jameson for an uplifting opportunity which will be lead by both of our pastors. All are welcome! Sign up in Fellowship Hall or by contacting the office. The cost is \$40(payment can be put in the collection basket with "Women's Retreat" noted). Scholarships are available by contacting one of the pastors. If you have any questions, please contact Chrissy Searcy at mommy_of_sabrina@yahoo.com

New to St. Peter's? Connections Group to Start February 24th

A new Connections group will begin meeting on Sunday, February 24th! "Connections" is a place to learn more about St. Peter's: how it's organized, what it offers. For those who are ready to affirm participation with St. Peter's officially, it's a way of getting oriented to the workings of our congregation and, especially, for learning where and how you might want to get engaged. For others who are considering affirming participation, it's an opportunity to ask questions and discern in community if this is the right place for you. Above all, it's a place to make friends, an experience to share where you are on your spiritual journey. Co-led by Liz Chandler, Kyle Kroehler and Jon Kroehler, the group meets at 9:45A.M. in the parlor for a total of four sessions. Subsequent meetings have been proposed for March 10th, 17th and 24th, but the group will confirm workable dates once together. Those who wish to formally affirm participation with St. Peter's will do so following the completion of these classes. You can sign up in Fellowship Hall or by contacting the office at office@stpeterscarmel.org. Questions can be directed to Kyle Kroehler at Kyle@Kroehlers.com.

If there is a loving God, why do we suffer?

People of faith have been answering this questions for literally thousands of years - the Book of Job, one of the wisdom texts in the Hebrew bible is one of the only places in the Bible that takes on the question head-on. Beyond the Bible, the Book of Job is often found on lists of the best literary works of all time.

Join with Ministry Intern Sam Locke for a four week study of the text and a read-through of the play JB: A Play in Verse, a "modern" retelling of the story that one the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award for Best Play in 1959.

After this 5 week series, interested individuals (that were or weren't part of the Bible study) will discuss possible dramatic interpretations (or even a more modern retelling) to be performed at Saint Peters!

- Feb. 25 - Job 1-2 - General Bible Study/ Discussion
- March 4 - Job 3-11 - General Bible Study / Discussion
- March 11 - Job 12-27 - General Bible Study / Discussion
- March 18 - Job 28-42 - General Bible Study / Discussion
- March 25 - JB A Play in Verse - Read as a group

Spirituality Retreat

April 26-27

Please mark your calendars for our annual Spirituality Retreat at Waycross Retreat Center in Brown County. Shannon Abbott will be leading this experience. More information will be shared soon.

Education Team

Team Leader: Stacy McIntyre

educationlead@stpeterscarmel.org

Young Adults Group: BB&T (Books, Brews, and Theology)

A Young Adults Group at St. Peter's! We meet at Carmel's Books & Brews (61 West City Center Drive in Carmel) from 7:00pm-8:30pm on the second Tuesday of every month. Books & Brews is a family friendly place for people to come and read, chat, and simply be. Each gathering will have a focus topic for discussion. On February 12 we will continue to hone our trivia skills and talk about how the New Year is going. Young Adult is self-defined, if you're a young adult in age or at heart, you're invited! Contact Becca if you have questions! becca@stpeterscarmel.org

Women and the Word: A Weekly Discussion

NEW STUDY on FAMILIES: Join us 9:30-11:30a.m. on Thursdays in January and February to explore the broad topic of families. No preparation is needed – just an open heart and a willingness to be in relationship with a curious and compassionate group of individuals. Questions? Contact office@stpeterscarmel.org and your inquiry will be forwarded to Nan Bucksten, Sandy Godich, or Sarah Penquite, organizers of this study!

Call To Action: Serving Our Youth

Ways BIG and small to help foster the growth and development of the youth of St. Peter's UCC:

- *Provide a meal for youth group
- *Chaperone a youth group outing
- *Volunteer to teach a Sunday of LAUGH at 10am (PreK - 6th grade)
- *Volunteer to teach a Sunday of Worship and Wonder (PreK - 3rd grade)
- *Volunteer to participate/ lead a 456 discussion group
- *Meet with or mentor a youth going through confirmation

As the new year rings in, how will you show up as your best self? Ready to receive? Ready to serve? For more information, please contact education@stpeters.org

February Chili Cook-off and Game Day

Sunday February 17 from 12:30 to 2:00pm

Do you like UNO? Want to teach your grandchild how to play chess? Always wondered how strategy games work? Have you heard of Codenames, Exploding Kittens or Forbidden Island? Come for some fun, fellowship and food as the Education Team and Youth Group hosts an afternoon of fun! We invite you to make your best chili (yes, this is a contest!) and bring your favorite game. ALL are welcome and multiple gaming options and chilies (including vegan!) will be available!

Education Hour

Join us on Sunday at 10:00am for Lectionary and/or Current Events. This is a time for fellowship and discussion. In Lectionary, we dive deep into the scripture of the morning. Together we interpret and wonder what God is calling us to. Similarly, Current Events is a time for us to reflect on what is happening in the world. Sometimes it can be overwhelming and sometimes uplifting to engage the world's events. We ask each other and ourselves, how is God calling us to respond to the situations around us?

Confirmation!

All 7th-12th graders are invited to participate in our Confirmation process. If you are interested in this journey, please email Becca at becca@stpeterscarmel.org.

Community Connections

Laurie Hesselink, Church Administrator

office@stpeterscarmel.org

Congregation Shaarey Tefilla

Our Partnership Continues!

Last year, we responded to Congregation Shaarey Tefilla after they were vandalized, and we hoped at that time that our relationship could grow into something more. Our dream is coming true! Congregation Shaarey Tefilla sent the following letter and invitation:

To keep the bonds between us growing stronger, I am personally inviting you to two events at Shaarey Tefilla that are coming up this year. The first is our 19th Annual Casino Night and Silent Auction, and the second is our Interfaith Seder.

Casino Night

Saturday, February 23 at 7:30p.m.

Fun and fundraising with real Las Vegas-style gambling, Bingo, food, and spirits, and with a silent auction for everything from vacation activities, sporting events, and restaurants.

Interfaith Seder

Monday, April 1 at 6:30p.m.

A symbolic representation of the Passover Seder with food tasting, readings, and songs for the entire family to enjoy.

The work with you this last year and in the coming year is very important to our congregation and the community at large. As you know, it helps to ensure that we can and will help each other when needed and that we can live, work, and pray side by side within our community peacefully and respectfully. Thank you!

St. Peter's, let's show up. Let's show up and support our neighbors, offer love, and Be the Church. Further information is posted in Fellowship Hall for Casino Night, and as more information comes available for the Interfaith Seder, we will share that as well.

Shameless: A Sexual Reformation

Nadia Bolz-Weber (Lutheran minister, public theologian and best selling author) will be speaking on Feb 13 at Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Indianapolis about her most recent book, *Shameless: A Sexual Reformation*. Join Nadia for a lively evening of truth-telling, conversation, humor, and healing for "...a sexual reformation for those who have been hurt...for those who have done the hurting...and for those who are certain they know all there is to know about what God thinks of sex." Tickets are on sale at [Nadia Bolz Weber's Shameless Book Tour in Indianapolis, IN](#).

Sacred Places: Intersections of Religion and Ecology

The Butler University Center for Faith and Vocation invites you to the last event in a four-part series of free and public lectures that are part of the Butler Seminar on Religion and Global Affairs. The theme is "**Sacred Places: Intersections of Religion and Ecology**." Basic details are below; more information is at www.butler.edu/cfv. This month's offering is:

Greening Indiana: Theologies and Ethics of Sustainability

Monday, March 4, 2019 - 7:00 p.m. in the Schrott Center for the Arts

Community Connections

Laurie Hesselink, Church Administrator

office@stpeterscarmel.org

Spiritual Writers' Conference

March 13-14

Get inspired! On March 13-14, Christian Theological Seminary will host the inaugural "Writing for Your Life" conference at St. Luke's Unite Methodist Church for all who are interested in faith, spirituality, and the craft of writing. The conference will feature keynote addresses by notable writers Barbara Brown Taylor and John Pavlovitz and breakout sessions led by experienced writers and experts in the publishing world. Register at www.cts.edu/writingfaith. Early-bird tuition (through February 15) for the main conference is \$299 and includes all General Sessions and Breakout Seminars, refreshments, one-on-one meetings, and an open-mic session. Regular price registration is \$329 (February 16 and thereafter).

Honoring Phil Gulley and the Power of Progressive Spiritual Writing

March 12 at 7p.m.

Join Christian Theological Seminary to honor Phil Gulley and the power of progressive spiritual writing on March 12 at 7:00 PM at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. Gulley, longtime Quaker pastor and Indiana native, is the author of numerous books including the "Harmony" series of novels, *Front Porch Tales*, *If the Church Were Christian*, *The Evolution of Faith*, and, *Unlearning God: How Unbelieving Helped Me Believe*. The evening will include a talk by Dan Wakefield, fellow Hoosier and celebrated author of *Going All the Way*, *Starting Over*, *Returning: A Spiritual Journey*, and more. Cost is \$25 (free to all students), and all proceeds will go toward an Indianapolis-based literary project.

Preschool Team

Team Leader: Tammy Drummond

preschoolteam@stpeterscarmel.org

Preschool News

In-house registration for preschool families and church members is now until Jan. 30th at 1:00. After that registration is opened up to the public. Members can contact Lori the director if they would like to schedule a tour. Finally, please enjoy these photos of our recent Silly Safari visit. It was so much fun!



Notes from the Church Office

Laurie Hesselink, Office Administrator

office@stpeterscarmel.org

Office Hours & Staff Schedules

Office staffing is Monday thru Friday 8:30-2:30. Please do not hesitate to contact our pastors.

Lori Bievenour, Senior Pastor

lori@stpeterscarmel.org, 317.846.6882 x222 (Friday Sabbath/day off)

Becca Lockwood, Associate Pastor for Missions & Education

becca@stpeterscarmel.org, 317.846.6882, x223 (Friday Sabbath/day off)

Laurie Hesselink, Office Administrator

office@stpeterscarmel.org, 317-846-6882

Newsletter Articles

Articles for the March newsletter should be sent to office@stpeterscarmel.org by February 21st.

Pastoral Support Teams

St. Peter's Constitution requires support teams for both of our pastors. Carol Dobrotka leads the Senior Pastor Support Team, with team members Ryan Hand, Eddie Meyer, and Sue Nye. The Associate Pastor Support Team is led by Elizabeth Roe, and includes Jaesoo Kim, Nan Bucksten, and Eric Smith.

Weekly Emails

Community prayers and announcements are emailed on Wednesday. Notify the church office if you would like to receive these communications.

Altar Flower Donations

Sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact the church office to request floral arrangements for Sunday worship services. **(\$50 donation requested.)** Make checks payable to St. Peter's UCC, "altar flowers" in the memo line. When signing up in Fellowship Hall, please be sure to include your name. If you would prefer to not share your name with the congregation, please sign up by contacting the church office.

Donating Stock or Mutual Fund Shares at St. Peter's

Thank you for generously supporting the mission of St. Peter's United Church of Christ! Donating stock or mutual fund shares to the church is a wonderful way to experience both the joy of giving AND significant tax advantages. The tax advantages may include:

- * NO CAPITAL GAINS TAX payable either by you or by the church
- * NO GIFT OR ESTATE TAX because SPUCC is a charitable organization
- * AN INCOME TAX DEDUCTION based on the present value of the gift

You may find numerous examples of just how powerful this method of giving is by searching online for "donating appreciated stock tax benefits".

An important determination in deciding how to best gift your shares is whether they have increased or decreased in value. If your shares have increased in value they should be "donated" to the church, NOT "redeemed" or "sold" or "cashed-in". If your shares have decreased in value, it's better to sell the shares first and then give the proceeds to the church by personal or brokerage firm check so you may deduct the loss on your taxes.

St Peter's has an account with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management who will help facilitate you in the gifting process. For more information, including our Merrill Lynch account number (not provided here for security reasons), please contact Adam Scholl Financial Secretary (financialsecretary@stpeterscarmel.org), Jenny Terry Financial Secretary-Elect (financialsecretaryelect@stpeterscarmel.org), or Seth Kreigh, Generosity Team Leader (generositylead@stpeterscarmel.org).

THANK YOU for your interest in supporting St. Peter's in this way!

St. Peter's Staff

Lori Bievenour

Senior Pastor

lori@stpeterscarmel.org

Becca Lockwood

Associate Pastor of Missions
& Education

becca@stpeterscarmel.org

Sam Locke

Ministry Intern

ministryintern@stpeterscarmel.org

Laurie Hesselink

Office Administrator

office@stpeterscarmel.org

Lori Jannsen

Preschool Director

preschooldirector@stpeterscarmel.org

Cheryl Keckler

Director of Music

musicdirector@stpeterscarmel.org

Adeline Yoder

Organist

Mission Statement of St. Peter's United Church of Christ

*St. Peter's is a welcoming community, sharing God's love
with our world and finding the Spirit in Life.*

Covenant of Welcome

"Welcome" to everybody who has faith or seeks it, who lives in hope or who needs it.

"Welcome" to all who rejoice and are strong, or who mourn and are weary.

"Welcome" to those who know Christ, and to those who long for an introduction.

We believe God's grace is extended to all. To anyone who has felt unwelcome or has experienced rejection elsewhere, we say, "All are welcome here."

We acknowledge our diversities and we welcome, respect and support people of every race, ethnicity, economic status, sexual orientation, age, gender, marital status and physical and mental ability. We are a community where all are equal, all are loved and all are respected for who and what they are, and what they can become.

We acknowledge that our fears and ignorance sometimes hinder us. We challenge one another to follow the teachings of Jesus, who denied no one and welcomed all. We strive to live our faith by supporting inclusive eness and justice for all humanity, and we invite all who gather here to participate in our ministries of service, word and sacrament.

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

3106 E Carmel Drive
Carmel, Indiana 46033

Phone: 317-846-6882

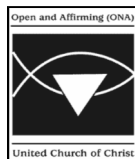
Fax: 317-844-0984

Preschool: 317-846-6860

<http://www.stpeterscarmel.org>

E-mail: office@stpeterscarmel.org

#carmelucc #findingspirit



TO:

