



Finding the Spirit in Life

#findingspirit

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#carmelucc

The Epistle - May 2019

Town Hall Meeting & Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 19 at 10:00a.m. & Sunday, June 9 at 10:00a.m.

Help us to Be the Church! Our community thrives due to congregational leadership and polity. This means that the people of St. Peter's make decisions for our community (not a regional denominational office, an outside board or committee, or a small group of leaders within the congregation.) We all come together to discuss and vote on our future on a yearly basis. The conversation is always educational as well as inspirational, and your vote truly matters.

YOU are welcome and encouraged to attend these gatherings. The Town Hall Meeting on May 19 at 10:00a.m. serves as an information sessions and discussion prior to our Annual Congregational Meeting on June 9 at 10a.m., where we continue the discussion and vote! At the Town Hall meeting, we will highlight some of the major transitions we've experienced as a congregation this year and how we are looking at the year ahead. Please bring your questions. Topics will include:

- **Proposed 2019-2020 Budget** (Questions? Contact Diane Carr at treasurer@stpeterscarmel.org)
- **A Proposed Change to our Covenant of Welcome** (see Page 10)
- **Our Slate of New Leaders** The Nominating Team is working hard! If you feel called to serve in any of these capacities or have questions about these leadership roles, please contact Jennifer Atkinson at vicepresident@stpeterscarmel.org.

*****We are discerning leadership for:*****

Treasurer Elect
Financial Secretary Elect
Building & Grounds Team
Education Team

New leaders who have agreed to serve:

Music Team: Sarah Scholl
Hospitality Team: Julia Stolle
Missions Team: Katie Lukes
Finance & Operations Council Member: Adam Scholl

Generosity Update

The Governance Council is preparing 2019/2020 operating budget, and as mentioned at the beginning of March, our pledge goal for a fully funded budget is \$500,000. We have received 68 pledges totaling \$318,740 as of April 28. A huge thank you goes out to those who have already emailed or turned in their pledge cards! We are still accepting pledges for the upcoming fiscal year. Please fill out and return a pledge card in the offering plate, via mail, or email Seth Kreigh at GenerosityLead@StPetersCarmel.org with questions or if you need to submit or modify your pledge.

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May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Women & the Word 9:30am Worship Staff 1:30pm Handbells 6pm Choir 7pm	3	4 Parlor in Use 9-10am Tamil School 2-4pm
5 Mission Sunday 10am Youth Group 12:30-2pm	6	7	8	9 Women & the Word 9:30am Staff 1:30pm Handbells 6pm Choir 7pm Ministry Council 6pm	10	11 Parlor in Use 9-10am Tamil School 2-4pm
12	13	14 Young Adults Group (Books & Brews 7pm)	15 Governance 6:30pm Music Team 6:45pm Missions Team 6pm	16 Men's Breakfast 8am Women & the Word 9:30am Handbells 6pm Choir 7pm	17 Movie Night (Keystone Arts Cinema) 6:30pm	18 Parlor in Use 9-10am
19 Town Hall Meeting 10am All Church Picnic 12pm	20 Newsletter Articles Due Finance & Ops 6:30	21	22 Preschool Program 12:15-1pm	23 Women & the Word 9:30am	24 Preschool Last Day	25 Parlor in Use 9-10am
26 Combined Worship 10am	27	28	29	30	31	

From Your Clergy Team

Lori Bievenour
Becca Lockwood
Sam Locke

lori@stpeterscarmel.org
becca@stpeterscarmel.org
ministryintern@stpeterscarmel.org

317-846-6882 x222
317-846-6882 x223

From Becca

This Lenten season has been unique. Granted each year is a little different, but this year, Lent simply felt different than it usually does. As I've been asked over the past several weeks how Lent has been for me, I have answered with something like: "Well, the previous six months really felt like a wilderness-Lenten-adventure...so I'm not really sure how to enter a season when it feels like I've finally emerged from it." That may sound confusing. Read the sentence again and see if that helps. If not, just keep going. The past six months have been challenging in a number of ways and in a lot of ways, mirrored how I usually experience Lent: somber, slow, painful, even desert-like. And just as Lent was beginning, it felt like I had finally found my way across the desert into more lucious terrain. So Lent had a different feeling this year. It was wider and deeper, but not heavy. Add into the mix an inconstant schedule due to knee surgery, and Lent really felt different this year. But there was one thing that kept me grounded and centered.

Several months ago--during the pre-Lenten Lenten season, I was aching for a more contemplative space, worship and/or experience. So Lori and I talked and dreamed and prayed, and I came up with a contemplative worship service to offer for the six weeks of Lent. It was more work, more time, more planning, and it was life giving in a way that I didn't fully realize I had been missing until it was happening. They were simple services centered around prayer, song, and spiritual practice. It was gift to gather, worship, and hold space for one another. I am continually grateful to serve a community who is willing to try new things, willing to expand and deepen their faith, and continue to unfurl themselves for the sake of vulnerability and transparent faith-doing.

So, in some ways, Lent this year felt like an early Easter. Something new was emerging, something that had been in deep slumber has been awoken. I look forward to whatever surprises and new joys this season of Eastertide brings to each of us this year.

From Lori

God is teaching me a lot this spring, and so are you. Here's what I mean:

- I'm learning to risk sharing my faith in new ways. Earlier this year, I was asked to be interviewed for a SparkDialog podcast on science and religion. I have never done something like this before, and if I'm being honest, it scared me. Would I say the right thing? Would I sound respectable? Would my faith come through? You can judge for yourself, but I am thankful to have had this experience and hope that someone, somewhere learned something about our congregation's approach to faith and science as a result. (Find the podcast at <https://sparkdialog.com/science-religion-and-evolution/>)
- Easter is about new life, and I'm seeing it in new ways all around me. Most recently, our resident hawk showed up in the Native Habitat, and I was reminded that there is a bigger vision for St. Peter's UCC; we just have to be patient and ALL share our gifts to help the newness of life emerge within and around us.
- Every week, you show up and offer joy in our community. One week it's written prayers that offer us glimpses into your lives. The next week, you are volunteering in our community to make it a better place. Soon after, you are calling me to share that you had a fantastic conversation with someone because of something you learned at church.



Friends, living one's faith isn't always easy, but if we focus on sharing God's love in the world in creative ways, that IS living our faith, and it makes a difference. As you ponder and engage new life this season, be in touch, and know that you are not alone on this journey.

Spiritual Life Team

Team Leader: Chrissy Searcy

spirituallifelead@stpeterscarmel.org

Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony

Friday, May 3 at 12:00p.m. at the Tarkington Theatre

The City of Carmel's ceremony remembers victims of the Holocaust in conjunction with the National Days of Remembrance events. Performances will be offered by Carmel United Methodist Church Bell Choir, University School of Indiana Choir, Actors Theatre of Indiana. The special guest speaker will be Esther Davidson, who was born in Poland in 1941, at a time when Jews were being concentrated into ghettos. Come to bear witness, to share stories, to spread love.

Building & Grounds Team

Team Leader: Mike Flener

buildinggroundslead@stpeterscarmel.org

Native Habitat Mowed to Promote Growth

Our Native Habitat was mowed in mid-April, and new life is beginning to emerge! This is an intentional nurturing of our native plants and space. In past years, we have burned the Native Habitat, but conditions were not favorable recently, and it is important to give the plants room to grow. Thanks to our Building & Grounds, Missions Team, and Governance Council for making this happen. YOU are invited to enjoy the Native Habitat as often as you can this season... there's always something new to enjoy!

Work Day Success!

Thanks to the small, yet mighty, team of people who made our Spring Work Day a success. Brush was cleared, limbs were trimmed, the entryway was painted, flowers were planted, and more. Mulch was spread by our lawn care providers shortly after our clean up, and we couldn't be more thankful for the beautification of our grounds! If you see something that you'd like to clean up on our grounds, please contact Katy Palmer at ktpalmer44@me.com.



Missions Team

Team Leader: Sean Henseleit

missionslead@stpeterscarmel.org

Join us on Mission Sunday, May 5

Sunday **May 5** at 10:00am is our annual Missions Fair Sunday! The Missions Team has been working hard this year as we continue to grow and distill the many missions of St. Peter's. We are a vibrant community who believes in serving others as expression of our faith. We partner with different communities both near and far. We serve those experiencing economic hardships like homelessness and food insecurity. We participate in social justice movements, missions, and advocacy like border and migrant ministry, LGBTQ+ allyship, and continuing to learn about, confront and dismantle white privilege. We believe we are called to environmental justice as stewards of God's Creation. We strive to make a difference individually and as a community to reduce our carbon footprint. Come join us to learn more about our specific ministries. We'll also have a scavenger hunt (for kids and adults!), because having fun helps us learn.

Join St. Peter's at Circle City's Indy Pride Parade and Festival 2019!

As an Open and Affirming Congregation with the United Church of Christ, we have the opportunity to be a public witness to our commitment to justice for all. Participating in the PRIDE Parade and Festival is a way for us to Be the Church and show that we are a safe and welcoming spiritual community for our LGBTQ siblings. Will you consider joining us this year? This year we have the fabulous opportunity to partner with our UCC neighbors. We are working closely with First Congregational UCC and other congregations to have one large UCC group in the parade.

The Parade: If you would like to walk in the parade please sign up in fellowship hall . Liz and Teagan Chandler will be heading up the group, you can contact them at gentlemomlc@gmail.com

When: June 8 Starting at 10:00am

Where: Downtown Indianapolis (exact starting point TBD, but near Mass Ave.)

The Festival: Perhaps walking isn't your cup of tea BUT sharing the good news and fun facts about St. Peter's IS! We will have a booth again this year! If you are interested in staffing our booth. Please contact Sean Henseleit at missionslead@stpeterscarmel.org. Shifts will be available throughout the day, running from 10am to 7pm.

Cincinnati Summer Youth Mission Trip

Washington UCC Cincinnati Summer Mission Trip will be June 16-22, 2019! Mark your calendars now for this exciting opportunity to serve. If you are a youth in Grade 7-12 or if you are an adult who would like to serve as a chaperone, sign up in Fellowship Hall. Questions? Contact Becca Lockwood at Becca@stpeterscarmel.org.

Carmel UMC Food Pantry Donations for May

In the month of May we will be collecting protein focused easy meals such as canned ravioli, canned soup, easy Mac, cans or pouches of tuna and chicken, canned beef stew. It is helpful to the food pantry if you make your donation in a paper bag or a reusable cloth bag instead of plastic. We will also continue to collect "luxury items" like feminine products (pads, tampons), lotion, toothpaste, and hair conditioner. Also, anyone with garden produce can drop directly at Carmel UMC. Contact Liz Chandler at gentlemomlc@gmail.com for info on dropping directly to the pantry.

Missions Team

Team Leader: Sean Henseleit

missionslead@stpeterscarmel.org

Bystander Training Recap

Coming into the Bystander Training, I wasn't quite sure what to expect. I had an inkling that I'd be learning how to be a better ally maybe to those in need of help. And in broad terms, that is what we learned. What struck me most, however, were the really practical lessons Elise taught us. Often times when we witness a situation that we gut-know is not right: if we hear someone bullying someone else, if we hear abusive conversation, or witness physical violence, most of us freeze and don't know how to respond in the midst of those situations. Through this training we learned some practical (and even life saving) skills. Breathing is number one. Make sure you are present and calm. If you are going to interact or intervene there are several things you can do and some things you shouldn't do. Do: address the person being bullied/hurt. Make eye contact and address them directly. Don't: engage aggressively with person doing the attacking/bullying. Do: redirect. Sometimes redirecting or starting a new conversation can interrupt the flow of abuse long enough to help the person get away or get to a safe place/person. We had excellent conversation, questions, and role playing to help wiggle out some of our own nervousness. Elise did an excellent job making it a safe space to wonder aloud and learning together. (This reflection was written by Becca Lockwood. Another reflection from Diane Crider will be included in the June Epistle.)

Day for Girls IKC Annual Gathering Mission Opportunity

This year's Indiana-Kentucky Conference Annual Gathering Service Project is Days for Girls. Days for Girls is an organization that provides reusable/washable feminine hygiene products for girls and young women in parts of the world where they would otherwise be confined to their homes while menstruating. These kits are a vital part of supporting the education of young girls and women, because without them they would not be able to go to school.

Congregations across the Indiana-Kentucky Conference have been asked to work together to purchase items for the kits and also to sew washable liners and pads to be included in the kits. These items will be combined into the kits at the Annual Gathering May 31-June 1.

If you're able to sew, please consider making and bringing to Annual Gathering the following items:

- Shields made from 100% cotton with PUL (Polyurethane Laminate waterproof fabric) moisture barrier fabric sandwiched between layers, note that the seams need to be serged
- Pads made with 100% cotton flannel (**This is where the greatest need is, because there are 8 pads in each kit!**)
- Drawstring bags, note that a cotton blend can be used for these

You'll need to contact the Days for Girls coordinators for patterns and to find out how to have their help applying snaps to the shields. All shields need snaps. Churches in the northern half of our conference may **contact Linda Lupton at [765-778-8333](tel:765-778-8333) at 1st Congregational Church, Indianapolis**, who can help get you sewing patterns and can apply snaps to your pieces.

First Congregational UCC has expressed an interest in combining our efforts to complete 100 kits by Annual Gathering. **If you are willing to help provide flannel material, tracing skills, cutting skills, and/or sewing skills to help make the 800 pads needed for these kits, please contact Linda Lupton at the number above.** Please look for future notices on upcoming sewing days in weekly e-mails. We thank you for sharing your time, talent, and treasure with us as we support this mission. May God prosper the work of our hands!

Music Team

Team Leader: Heather Kane
Music Director : Cheryl Keckler

musicministrylead@stpeterscarmel.org
musicdirector@stpeterscarmel.org

Take Me Out to the Ball Game... To Sing or Just Fellowship

Join St. Peter's folks at the **Indians Baseball Game** on **Sunday, July 7 at 1:35p.m.** for singing or just a nice afternoon at the ballpark. St. Peter's Choirs and Friends and Central Christian Church Choir will sing the National Anthem before the game! St. Peter's will have a block of seats for the game. The cost of tickets will be \$14. All congregants and their friends are invited to join us.

To attend the game, you can sign-up and pay through REALM or you can sign-up in Fellowship Hall. See posters around church for more info. For those interested in singing, we will be singing a 4-part harmony arrangement of the National Anthem. All are welcome to join. Please let Cheryl know so she can order music: musicdirector@stpeterscarmel.org or 317-213-1871

Chime Time

The first three Sundays in May, we will be ringing hand chimes (for Grades 4 and older) during the music time for children/youth. Rehearsals are on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:15 in the Music Room. In planning, it is very helpful to know who will be participating. Thanks! Email musicdirector@stpeterscarmel.org or 317-213-1871.

Summer Music

It is time to organize our music offerings for the summer. During the summer months we have quite a variety of music and performers. All are welcomed to share your talents. If interested in participating, please contact Cheryl musicdirector@stpeterscarmel.org.

Singing Visit

A Singing Visit was paid to Gary Spiegel on April 28. We had a joy-filled visit. Everyone made music in their own way! If interested in participating in future Singing Visits, contact musicdirector@stoeterscarmel.org. We will notify you when visits are scheduled.

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.

Hospitality Team

Team Leader: Cindy Whitaker

hospitalitylead@stpeterscarmel.org

All Church Picnic Sunday, May 19 at Noon

Bring a dish to share and plan for a fun afternoon at church! We'll enjoy a feast together and then have plenty of fun at our all church picnic. Dishes of all kinds are welcome, and you can also bring bubbles, balls, kites, a game to share, or just yourself!



Education Team

Team Leader: Stacey McIntyre

educationlead@stpeterscarmel.org

Thank You

To the members of the Education Team, those who donated candy/trinkets and everyone who participated - THANK YOU for an outstanding annual Easter Egg Hunt!

May the GAMES be ever in your favor...

Beginning the month of May, the Education Team will be sponsoring an intergenerational game table every Sunday during the 10:00am fellowship hour. This table will include 2-3 choices of games ranging from cards, board games, and many more. Anyone and everyone is welcome to sit down and enjoy this fellowship and fun. This opportunity is intended as an extension of the continued fellowship happening at 10:00am as well as giving our youth (especially those in Middle School/ High School) another opportunity to engage and interact outside of the Sunday worship and LAUGH opportunities.

Youth Group

May 5: 12:30 - 2:00pm Our last conversation of the year! We've been talking about our faith and different aspects of life...on May 5 we'll be talking about: My Faith and...THE BIBLE! We'll be having Bible Trivia and we'll have time for a fishbowl, where we can ask any of those burning questions about scripture. May 19th: Our last Hoorah will be enjoying the All Church Picnic at West Park after church.

Summer in Cincinnati Mission Trip: Camp Washington

June 16 - 22. Mark your calendars now! The mission trip to Cincinnati is a week long experience open to those in 7-12 grade. We spend the week helping with the summer education program and other ministries around the church and community. In the morning our youth buddy up with their younger youth to help with reading, math skills, scripture lessons, and health play. In the afternoon we do various projects around the church and community. If you have questions, please email Becca at becca@stpeterscarmel.org (Once we have a list of participants we will send out an email to schedule Talk Back Sunday.

Summer Parable Exploration

June 9, June 23, July 14, July 28, August 11, August 25

Parables - a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson. Over the past two years, our St. Peters Youth have discovered the power in the simple story of a parable. They have learned how God helps us grow through the story of the sower and the seeds. They have also learned about how important EVERYONE is to God in the story of the two coins and the lost sheep.

This summer - the journey will continue with the story of the lost (prodigal) son. Youth will explore concepts around independence, financial responsibility, celebration, the power of coming 'home', and forgiveness.

The program will start June 9 and run the second and fourth Sunday of the month through August 25, 2019. Opportunities to serve in the summer program include - assisting with a lesson on any given Sunday, providing craft supplies for some of the summer projects, encouraging the youth to attend. Holly Irwin and David Hoff will be leading this adventure.

Sign up sheet will be available in Fellowship Hall. For more information, contact Stacy McIntyre at educationlead@stpeterscarmel.org

Education Team

Team Leader: Stacey McIntyre

educationlead@stpeterscarmel.org

Young Adult Group

Through the miracle of prayer and divine intervention through the knowledge of some of our more wis-
domous young adults--we won first place in Trivia at Books & Brews in April! The young adult gather-
ing on the second Tuesday of every month has been a fun and life giving experience...so much so that we
want to meet more often! Starting in June we will start meeting for Trivia on the second AND fourth
Tuesdays of the month. But you don't have to wait until June to join us. Come to Books & Brews in Car-
mel on May 14 at 7:00 for fellowship, fun, and winning!

End of the Year Reminders

Sunday May 19 is the last Sunday for all School year/program year faith formation educational opportu-
nities - including Worship and Wonder, LAUGH, 456 discussion and Youth Group. May 19 during
10:00am is also a Town Hall. LAUGH will be replaced on this day by supervised playground time. Seek-
ing two adult volunteers.

Formative Congregations Grant Draft Submitted

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 con-
gregations were each given a \$3K learning stipend. Participating congregations have now been offered
an opportunity to apply for \$30K to continue their work. Diane Carr, Jill Olinger, and Lori Bievenour
have prepared a draft proposal which was approved by Governance Council and submitted to the Cen-
ter for Congregations in April. A final version of this grant will be submitted in May, but below is where
we started. Contact Jill Olinger with questions (jillolinger@comcast.net).

*The focus of our Formative Congregations grant is personal narrative as a spiritual practice. Many people
in our congregation have life experiences that, if shared, is certain to inspire others and deepen the faith
and connection of both the storytellers and the listeners.*

*St. Peter's UCC is known as a safe place where people can be their true selves, and we want to build on that
strength. We believe that sharing our stories will bolster our individual and communal capacity for effec-
tively leading and living through change in positive and healthy ways. Increasing our individual and com-
munal ability to lead and live through change is also expected to help us to live more fully and deeply into
our Covenant of Welcome. This Covenant, put to word and adopted in 2005, remains the bedrock of the
congregation and continues to inspire people both within and outside of our congregation.*

*We have also seen a trend in the wider world and in the antidotal stories of congregational members that
people are increasingly uncomfortable talking about their faith when it doesn't match the narrative of
what media, friends, or other family members proclaim what is or is not Christian. We believe that we have
an affirmative Christian message to share, but we also see that our congregational members often struggle
to find words and ways to share their beliefs such that they do not create conflict but instead build commu-
nity. We want to change that trend and believe that this grant can provide momentum to do just that.*



Governance Council (Cont.)

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:	(to be determined)

Covenant of Welcome Changes Proposed

In a desire to fully live out our Covenant of Welcome, and to ensure that it is as welcoming as possible to all members of our congregation and our community, our Governance Council has engaged in a process of discernment around an update to the Covenant. Having heard input from the congregation, and grounded in research on statements of non-discrimination and inclusion from other organizations, we propose to amend our Covenant (as well as our Congregation's Constitution & Bylaws), to the following (additions in **bold**):

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

We propose this addition because we believe that our covenant is not clearly and completely welcoming to all members of the LGBTQ community in its current form. Sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression are distinct. **Sexual orientation** is defined by one's emotional, romantic, or sexual feelings toward other people. **Gender identity** is defined by one's personally held sense of being male, female, a combination of both, or neither. **Gender expression** refers to things like appearance, clothing, mannerisms and other ways that a person expresses their gender identity. Transgender people have a gender identity that does not necessarily match the gender that they were assigned at birth. Some transgender people identify as gay, lesbian, or bisexual, but others identify as straight or heterosexual. Some people have a gender expression that does not conform to traditional societal expectations, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Recognizing that transgender people face some of the highest levels of discrimination in the LGBTQ community, we discern that explicitly naming both sexual orientation and gender identity and expression in our covenant is important to ensuring that our Covenant of Welcome is clearly inclusive of all people.

Bathroom Conversations Continue

Earlier this year, we initiated conversations about possibilities for a bathroom remodel of our front bathrooms. (The ones located across from the coat rack). The desire from each conversation and encounter has been to live out our Covenant of Welcome to the best of our ability. Craig Penquite, Rick Searcy, and Seth Kreigh are leading this endeavor with enthusiasm and care and hope to have an update in the near future.

Our upcoming Town Hall Meeting on May 19 at 10:00a.m. will provide an opportunity for dialog on this amendment, prior to it being formally proposed for adoption at our annual Congregational Meeting on June 9 at 10:00a.m.

If updates to our Bathroom Remodel are available for the Town Hall Meeting, they will be shared as well. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Governance Council at president@stpeterscarmel.org or vicepresident@stpeterscarmel.org

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 June newsletter should be sent to office@stpeterscarmel.org by May 22.

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 weekly. 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
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Sam Locke

Ministry Intern
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Lori Janssen

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preschooldirec-
tor@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

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