



Finding the Spirit in Life

#findingspirit

www.stpeterscarmel.org

#carmelucc

The Epistle - June 2019

Worship at St. Peter's: Summer Edition

This summer we will be using a form of spiritual practice called *Visio Divina*. *Visio Divina* means sacred viewing and is similar to the practice of *Lectio Divina*, sacred reading. Instead of focusing on a passage of scripture as we pray, we focus our prayer on an image. This summer our image is a tree. Trees have always provided endless symbolism from life to wisdom to shelter to bending and so much more.

There are two specific ways in which trees will be present. First, our Tree Banners will beautify and surround our sanctuary allowing us to imagine being in the natural world. Second, our prayer station will shift from the sandbox to a form of fishbowl prayers. There will be a glass bowl on our prayer station that will hold our prayer slips. The idea is that you put a prayer in and take someone else's prayer with you. The image on our prayer slips will be a tree, with the reminder of the power of prayer written on it: **mighty oaks from tiny acorns grow**. Our prayer is a seed which will grow and transform into something new.

The clergy staff will be leaning into this symbolism of the Tree for a sermon series called: The Bible Doesn't Say That (see below). Trees, like scripture, require time, patience, and perspective. We hope to engage these images and your stories of growth as we explore scripture together.

The Bible Doesn't Say That! - Summer Sermon Series

There is no book more widely read than the Holy Bible. Which means, there is no book interpreted incorrectly, lazily, or wishfully than the Holy Bible. Join us this summer as Lori, Becca, and Sam present a sermon series that explores many of these passages. We'll dive into phrases commonly thought of as biblical but aren't, verses that sound great on a bumper sticker but mean something completely different in context, and verses where words have been changed to reflect periodic special interests. We know this community of faithful questioners will love diving deeper into scripture as a living, breathing document to guide our spiritual journeys.

Other Summer Adventures:

Congregational Meeting—See Page 3

Education Hour for All Ages—See Page 13

Music Offerings—See Page 11

Missions Team Service Opportunities—See Pages 8 & 9

Youth Group Adventures this Summer—See Page 12

TWO Summer Book Studies for All Ages—See Page 13



June 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Parlor in Use 9-10am IKC Annual Gathering
2 Worship 8:30 Fellowship Hour 9:45am Worship 11:00	3 Staff & Worship Staff 1:30	4	5 Janert Memo- rial Service 10:30am Governance 6:30pm	6 Ministry Council 6pm	7	8 Parlor in Use 9-10am Pride Parade 10:00am
9 Worship 8:30 Congregation- al Meeting 10am Worship 11:00 Planting Day 12:00pm	10	11 Young Adults Group (Books & Brews 7pm)	12 Missions Team 6pm	13	14	15 Parlor in Use 9-10am
16 Cincinnati Mission Trip Worship 8:30 Fellowship Hour 9:45am Worship 11:00	17 -----	18 -----	19 -----	20 Men's Breakfast 8am -----	21 Newsletter Articles Due ----- Movie Night (Keystone Arts Cinema) 6:30pm)	22 Parlor in Use 9-10am -----
23 Worship 8:30 Fellowship Hour 9:45am Worship 11:00 ----- 30 Brunch Hour	24 Finance & Ops 6:30	25 Young Adults Group (Books & Brews 7pm)	26	27 Tech Team Meeting 7pm	28	29 Parlor in Use 9-10am

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:	(to be determined)

Annual Congregational Meeting

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.

- **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.

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 86 pledges totaling \$376,740 as of May 20. 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.

Childcare Position

Over the past two weeks Lori, Becca, and Sarah Penquite interviewed several potential candidates to fill one of our Childcare positions. We are thrilled to share that Christie Shell will be joining our Childcare staff. Christie is originally from Indiana and after many years of traveling due to her spouse's in the U.S. Military, they have settled back home again in Indiana. Christie has a background in social work and education, loves working with children, and is excited to make connections in her new community.

Leaders to be Elected at Congregational Meeting

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

Treasurer Elect

Financial Secretary Elect (in process)

If you might feel called to serve in one of these positions, please contact Jen Atkinson at vicepresident@stpeterscarmel.org

Thank You!

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

Education: Lori Radford

Building & Grounds: Craig Penquite

Senior Pastor Support Team: Stacy McIntyre

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 Lori

A few weeks ago, on a whim, I offered to walk the labyrinth with others after the 8:30 service. True, we had a little extra time prior to the Town Hall meeting, and true, I longed to be outside that day. But even more true was that I felt the Holy Spirit nudging me. As I walked the labyrinth with a number of others, I felt God's love. I had to step over downed branches and was reminded that there are always obstacles in life. I had to duck under some overgrown bushes and was reminded that sometimes it is important to stretch to get a new perspective on what is right in front of you. I stood on top of one of the three rocks in the center of our labyrinth and started telling the story of how they were chosen. I realized that we each hold different parts of the St. Peter's story. In the next few months, we will embark on our own summer journeys. Some will travel. Others will cook out. Still others will keep their same rhythms and add some rest to their routines. Friends, I am eager to share the summer with you... may it be a new beginning, and may we each remember to listen for the nudges of the Spirit as we explore the world around and within us!

From Becca

This year has been transformative and humbling. We've survived on a restricted budget. We've waded through the murky waters of years of financial history. We've addressed individual and societal conflict and hurt. We've been voices of justice and love in our communities. We've witnessed life and death and everything in between. It's been a challenging year--and as Lori and I have both named, we are a little weary as a result.

AND...

As we have also named, as much as this past year has been trying, we can't but help to be hopeful for the year(s) ahead. Truly, I am grounded in hope. It's as if I can feel the changing season, the shifting ground, in my bones. I can sense that we are on a new horizon. Perhaps you have felt it too?

I have found the following framework (the work of Bill Kincaid) to be helpful: Change, Transition, New Beginning. St. Peter's found its way through massive **CHANGE** with pastoral staff evolutions from 2013-2015. And in the wake of that change we asked ourselves clarifying questions like, what does our congregation need and what can we offer to each other and the wider community? How does the culture around us, our society, impact our community. How can we stay faithful and relevant in its midst? Asking those questions (and more) have been helpful and necessary, and it led to the next phase of our existence.

From 2015-2019, we have been in **TRANSITION**. Some of what we've learned in the last four years includes:

- We want to be engaged but have challenging schedules.
(This is true for our children, youth, and adults!)
- We long for connection and belonging.
(Again, age doesn't matter. We all want it!)
- Our congregation has a heart for justice and a need to funnel that energy.

- We are a small-feeling community with a big-church amount of activity.
- Our finances were a mess, but they've been untangled and the future is bright.
- Our ministries/programming are often more than one ministry team can handle on its own.
- Our staff sometimes over-function, which is not helpful and is potentially harmful for our congregation. At the same time, we lack staff in certain areas of our community life: (building management, financial management, communications.)

We've gleaned so much helpful information from these last four years, and we have now arrived at a critical juncture: a crossroads, a **NEW BEGINNING** in the life of St. Peter's. With any new beginning and new chapter, it is essential to remember who we are and what our purpose is. With that resounding reminder ringing in our ears, it makes taking the first bold (baby) step that much easier. Here is what I have learned from you, St. Peter's:

- We are a church who is open and affirming of all people, without exception.
- God has called us to the ministry of loving others as Jesus loved us.
- Everything we do, plan, and pray for is informed by our purpose: to love others.
- We are poised and ready to take this next leap of our life together.

Our world needs St. Peter's to not just survive but **THRIVE**. The message of Love needs to be louder than the message of hate and much louder than silence. Will you be a part of this new beginning? I will be. Take this bold step with me. Be fully who God has called you to be. I am so excited and grateful to be able to be part of this journey with you.

From Sam

As you may have heard, I graduated from Seminary in May. In some ways it feels like it was a long three years and, in other ways, it feels like it went by in the blink of an eye. Regardless, I know my Seminary experience would not have been the same without having been a part of this community. I have enjoyed every second of my time growing in faith with you all which is why I'm super excited that it isn't over yet!

While I'm done with Seminary, it is exciting to share that I will continue to remain at St. Peter's until January of 2020, to help cover some responsibilities while Lori is on sabbatical. I look forward to continuing to be a part of worship, leading educational opportunities, and more as we continue to develop our vision of a radically inclusive and loving God. I can't imagine a better way to lean-in to my calling!

Elsewhere in my life, I continue my fundraising work for Indiana Legal Services (Indiana's provider of free civil legal aid) and serve as the part-time Co-Executive Director for the Q Christian Fellowship, the largest association of LGBTQ+ Christians in the world, actively working to make sure it is safe for any Christian who desires to come out to be able to do so and thrive knowing they are a beloved child of God, just the way they are. This work, coupled with being a Dad and my work with St. Peter's, makes for a busy schedule, but fills my life with hope and energy at the same time. As always, I'm just a call or email away, looking forward to a great summer with you!

Realm Database Information

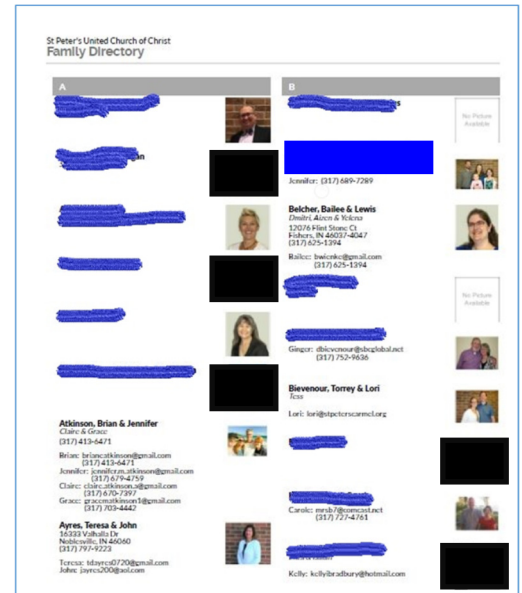
Katie Lukes

realmadmin@stpeterscarmel.org

Jennifer Atkinson

Will You Be In the Congregational Directory?

Check your Realm account to see if you will show up in the Congregational Directory later this year! We will print a Congregational Directory later this year for those who really need the paper version. (Note: it is always best to get contact information online through Realm, as it is updated as soon as changes are made.) YOUR PRIVACY SETTINGS IN REALM dictate whether you show up or not. *Here's a current version of the directory with people listed but no contact information.* ----->



To Check the Status of YOUR Privacy Settings in Realm: On your computer:

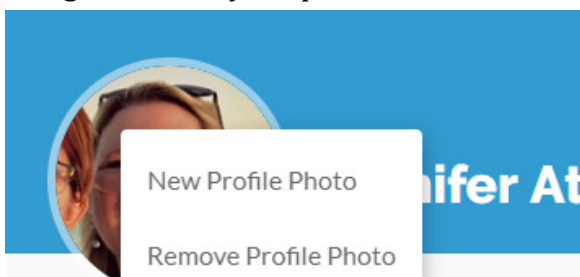
1. Log in here: <http://onrealm.org/stpeterscarmel>
2. In the upper right corner, click the down arrow next to your name and click Manage Privacy.
3. You have multiple options. At least one of them needs to be set to *Group Leaders and Staff* for you to show up. If you want to share your cell phone or address in the directory, go ahead and make sure it is set to *Everyone*. For our church, Everyone = Members of our church.

On your phone:

1. Open the Connect app.
2. Tap the three dots at the bottom and tap Profile.
3. To change the privacy, tap the pencil icon on the right. You have multiple options. At least one of them needs to be set to *Group Leaders and Staff* for you to show up. If you want to share your cell phone or address in the directory, go ahead and make sure it is set to *Everyone*. For our church, Everyone = Members of our church.

Share your photo!

While you are logged in, you can update your photo. Go back to your profile. Click on the profile to change or delete your photo.



To update your family photo, email the photo to us and we can update it for you. This is a bug in Realm and is scheduled to be fixed. But for now, email it to us at RealmAdmin@stpeterscarmel.org.

Need help? If you are still having problems, email Katie Lukes or Jennifer Atkinson at RealmAdmin@stpeterscarmel.org. Or come to one of the help sessions the Technology Team will have this summer.

\$50K Formative Congregations Grant Submitted

Diane Carr, Jill Olinger, and Lori Bievenour have prepared a grant proposal for \$30K which was approved by Governance Council and submitted to the Center for Congregations. If approved, we will have a total of \$50K to complete the work outlined in our grant proposal (\$30K from the Center for Congregations, \$20K matched by our congregation). This is a creative way to fund ministries that will change our congregation and community for the better, and we are hopeful to receive these funds in July. Contact Jill Olinger with questions (jillolinger@comcast.net). Here is a summary of our grant:

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 effectively leading and living through change in positive and healthy ways. Increasing our individual and communal 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 community. We want to change that trend and believe that this grant can provide momentum to do just that.



Preschool Team

Team Leader: Tammy Drummond

preschoolteam@stpeterscarmel.org

Another Great Year

While our 2019/20 classes are pretty full, there are a few spots left in our Tuesday/Thursday 3 year old classes.



Pre-K Graduation



The Wedding of Q and U

Missions Team

Team Leader: Sean Henseleit

missionslead@stpeterscarmel.org

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.

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.)

Breakfast: **First Congregational has offered to host a pre-parade breakfast! Stay tuned for more details. This will be a chance to eat breakfast and get to know our First Congregational friends!**

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.

Carmel UMC Food Pantry Donations for June & July

Because kids are home, we want to stock the pantry with the standards we've been focusing on so far this year. Over the summer, we want to collect boxes of cereal, heat and eat protein meals (canned ravioli, canned beef stew, canned soup), and kid friendly snacks like granola bars, goldfish crackers, raisins.

Also, the Carmel UMC Food Pantry is happy to take donations of your fresh garden produce! You can donate directly to the food pantry at any time. Please contact Liz Chandler for more information on dropping off fresh produce to the pantry directly. Gentlemomlc@gmail.com

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.

Staff Support Team

Team Leader: Daniel Meyers

staffsupportlead@stpeterscarmel.org

Staff Goals and Review Process

This year, our staff worked with Lori Bievenour (head of staff) to create goals applicable to their ministry areas. Reviews of these goals happened in May, and the process has been well received. We will take sabbath from goal setting in June and July and return to the process in August. This helps each of us to explore areas of interest while working to support our congregation in the best ways possible! Special thanks to Staff Support Team Leader, Daniel Meyers, who helped to create this process.

Missions Team

Team Leader: Sean Henseleit

missionslead@stpeterscarmel.org

Family Promise (FP) Hosting

July 14-July 28

FP serves Indianapolis families facing homelessness. 3-4 guest **families** will call St Peter's "home" for two weeks this summer...which means there are many opportunities to put your faith into action.

You ask...what can I do? During our hosting the following opportunities, to share hospitality with our neighbors, will need to be filled:

28 driving slots (FP van provided)

14 dinner hosts

14 evening hosts

28 overnight hosts

4 breakfast hosts

Set up & teardown of rooms

Laundry

New to FP...come by the sign up table, beginning June 9th, in Fellowship Hall to learn more about this ministry & see what opportunity might work best for you. We will happily pair you with a veteran volunteer.

Celebrating our Tamil School Partnership

Every year we are invited to celebrate with our Tamil School partners as they bring their school year to a close with a celebration and award ceremony. Their gratitude is genuine and can be felt as every year they offer their words of thanks. We at St. Peter's are grateful to continue to nurture this relationship as we offer hospitality and space to our neighbors. This is indeed being the church.

Spiritual Life Team

Team Leader: Chrissy Searcy

spirituallifelead@stpeterscarmel.org

Ministry Server Opportunities

Are you looking for a easy way to start volunteering at St Peter's? The Spiritual Life team is looking for volunteers to help with ushering and preparing communion for our next calendar church year which begins July 2019 and runs through June 2020. This is a great opportunity for both people new to St. Peter's as well as those who have been attending for years. You can help out as much as once a month to as little as once a year. Many people do both communion prep and ushering, but several people do only ushering. Any amount you can volunteer is helpful and appreciated! There are detailed instructions available on how to do both ushering and communion prep and training will also be available. Please consider helping out with this important ministry. If you are interested, please contact Kyle Kroehler at KyleKroehler@yahoo.com or 317-578-3654

St. Peter's Labyrinth

The Spiritual Life Team is evaluating a refurbishment project for the St. Peter's Labyrinth which is just southeast of the church building. After 12 years, tree roots have grown above the ground and some pavers have settled into the ground. Various options are being considered to restore this meditative space. If you have input on this, contact Brian Atkinson at brianeatkinson@gmail.com or 317-413-6471.

Spiritual Life Team

Team Leader: Chrissy Searcy

spirituallifelead@stpeterscarmel.org

Evening Study on the Book of Job—Success!

A big thanks to everyone who participated in the Job Bible Study this Spring. We confronted big theological questions related to the nature of suffering, God's power, and questioned the extent to which we can expect justice from God. The study inspired creative thinking as well, taking in the play JB, a modern (in 1950) retelling of the text. A quote from the play really sums up the tough (though also, oddly, reassuring nature of our faith). At the end of the play, the wife of Job's character reacting to their fortunes being restored but not being the same says: "You wanted justice, didn't you? There isn't any. There's the world ...Cry for justice and the stars will stare until your eyes sting. Weep, enormous winds will thrash the water. Cry in sleep for your lost children, snow will fall ... snow will fall. I couldn't help you any more. You wanted justice and there was none - only love." May we continue, as a community, reconcile the differences between justice and love so they ultimately begin to look the same.

Building & Grounds Team

Team Leader: Mike Flener

buildinggroundslead@stpeterscarmel.org

SURPRISE Grounds Work Day - Helping Hands Needed

All—We have a unique opportunity. Our mowing and snow removal company, Providence Outdoor, is going to help us clean up some of our beds that are overgrown with plants that are not only more sustainable but also a GREAT price. Join us on Sunday, June 9 at noon (after second service) to help a crew from Providence to plant a number of new plants! We feel grateful for this opportunity and hope that at least 10 people will volunteer their time and muscle to help us make our front planting more easily maintained. Sign up in Fellowship Hall, through Realm, or by contacting office@stpeterscarmel.org. Contact Katy Palmer with questions at ktpalmer44@me.com.

Wider UCC

Contact: Lori Bievenour

lori@stpeterscarmel.org

Indiana Kentucky Conference Annual Gathering—May 30, 31, & June 1

Lori Bievenour will be attending the IKC Annual Gathering at Friedens UCC May 30—June 1. This is a gathering of delegates from all of our UCC congregations in Indiana and Kentucky. Those gathered learn and play together, and we also vote on business matters (elected officials and a new budget). St. Peter's members Chad Abbott (IKC Conference Minister) and Jill Olinger (IKC Board Chair) will also be in attendance.

UCC General Synod—June 21-25 in Milwaukee, WI

General Synod is a national gathering of UCC congregations and individuals. General Synod is a decision-making body for the denomination, responsible for giving general direction to the evangelistic, missionary, and justice programs of the UCC. General Synod speaks TO, but not FOR local congregations. (We have an explicitly congregational polity, meaning that each congregation is its own highest authority.) Lori will be a delegate of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference to General Synod this year; expect a report in an upcoming Epistle!



Music Team

Team Leader: Heather Kane
Music Director : Cheryl Keckler

musicministrylead@stpeterscarmel.org
musicdirector@stpeterscarmel.org

Take Me Out to the Ball Game



Join St. Peter's folks at the **Indians Baseball Game on Sunday, July 7 at 1:35 p.m.** for a nice afternoon at the ballpark. St. Peter's Choirs and friends will join Central Christian Church Choir in singing 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. See posters around the church for more information. To attend the game, you can sign-up and pay through REALM or you can sign-up in Fellowship Hall. **Sign-up and payment deadline is Sunday, June 16.**

A Little Help from Our Friends

Thank you to the host families who are graciously opening their homes to singers for the Union Church Choir from Berea, Kentucky. The choir is singing at the Indiana-Kentucky Conference Annual Gathering May 31-June 1. St. Peter's was asked about providing lodging for the choir. It's a busy weekend with graduations, vacations, and baseball games, so many responders said, "We'd like to host, but can't." A total surprise response came from a member at Congregation Shaarey Tefilla – they emailed that they would love to help out and host some singers. What a warm feeling that we are working together.

Thank You Music Makers

It's hard to believe another choir year (September-May) is over. We have had music from singers, ringers, children, and instrumentalists of all ages and levels. Everyone is special and you have added to our worship services by sharing your talents. A huge thank you to all!

Summer Music and Singing Ensembles

Love to sing, but can't make a weekly commitment? Love to sing and have a good time? This summer we will have a **Men's Chorus on Sunday, July 21** (rehearsal Thursday, July 18) and a **Treble Ensemble on Sunday, August 11** (rehearsal Thursday, August 8). We will have one rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. to prepare an anthem for the following Sunday. If interested in having your name on the contact list, let Cheryl know, musicdirector@stpeterscarmel.org. Emails will be sent closer to the dates. Thank you!

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.

Education Team

Team Leader: Stacey McIntyre

educationlead@stpeterscarmel.org

Youth Group: Summer Edition

This summer we have some exciting things planned for Youth Group! A reminder: Youth Group is for all youth from incoming 7th graders through 12th grade. Mark your calendars for the dates below:

- Sunday June 2nd 12:30-2:00 Pre-Cincinnati Team Building Fun! This will give youth going to Cincinnati this summer a chance to get together, team build, and ask questions!
- Camp Washington UCC Mission Trip: June 16-22. (see article below)
- Saturday July 13 we're going bowling!
- July 27 Youth Group will host Family Promise! We'll serve dinner and get to know our Family Promise guests! Please RSVP for this with Liz Chandler at gentlemomlc@gmail.com
- Friday August 16th Lock-In!

Summer in Cincinnati Mission Trip with Camp Washington June 16 - 22

The mission trip to Cincinnati is a week long experience open to those in 7th-12th 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

Talk Back Sunday will be June 30.

Summer Parable Exploration

Parables - a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson. Over the past two years, 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.

Holly Irwin and David Hoff will be leading our youth and other volunteers. ***The program will start June 9th and run the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month through August 25th, 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.

Mark your calendars: June 9, June 23, July 14, July 28, August 11, August 25

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

Young Adult Group

Due to the immense amount of fun (and winning) starting in June we will start meeting for Trivia on the second AND fourth Tuesdays of the month. We've had a wonderful time testing our knowledge and getting to know each other better. Each time we meet our group grows and our skills improve. Come to Books & Brews in Carmel on June 11th and June 25th at 7:00 for fellowship, fun, and trivia! "Young Adult" really is self-defined! If you are young at heart, we hope to see you there!

Education Team

Team Leader: Stacey McIntyre

educationlead@stpeterscarmel.org

Education Hour for All Ages this Summer

Movies & Munchies: A Summertime Fellowship: We are excited to continue exploring alliteration and faith formation during Education Hour at 10:00am on Sunday mornings this summer. Last summer in between services we offered Snacks & Stories. This summer we are excited for a new series called Movies & Munchies. At the beginning of our gathering we watch a short film that has a message for us to ponder and some lessons to teach us about the value of storytelling. Becca, Lori, and Sam will rotate leading this class. All ages are encouraged to join us!

Lectioary: Each week we will gather in the Parlor to discuss our scripture passage for that morning. All are welcome to attend. No theological background or savviness is required; just an inquisitive mind and a willingness for conversation.

Current Events: Each week we will gather in the Conference Room to talk about the contemporary issues of our time and culture. Our conversation will focus on how we interpret our faith and how it compels us to action and into relationship.

“Evicted” Book Study

June 13 & 20, July 11 & 18, August 8 & 15, 6:30-8:00pm in the Parlor

Evicted, by Matthew Desmond, vividly paints a detailed and heartbreaking portrait of America’s eviction problem, and how it feeds into a cycle of poverty. Many of the characters that populate this book are women and children. They are true heroes, showing great courage and strength against forces that are much larger than the individual. This is a story about one of the most basic human needs...a roof overhead. Indianapolis is discouragingly ranked in the top 20 cites for highest eviction rates. You won’t want to miss this opportunity to discuss the book & this social justice crisis. Evicted is “the all read” book chosen by the UCC for this season. They have created a study guide, which we will use to lead our discussion. Hope you will join us.

Inter-generational Book Study

While volunteering in the Forest Dale Elementary Library, I came across the book "George" by Alex Gino. The simple cover drew me in, so I read the jacket. "BE WHO YOU ARE. When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl..." I decided to get the audiobook from the public library so our family could listen together on Spring Break. It turned out to be a very sweet story about George, a 4th grade transgender girl, who wants desperately to play Charlotte in "Charlotte's Web". But boys can't play Charlotte. You can read more about "George" and Alex Gino on the author's website: <http://www.alexgino.com>.

My family and I were inspired by this book... so much so that I am leading a book study for it this summer. While this book is written at a 4th-6th grade reading level, we encourage people of all ages to join us, especially parents with their kids!

We will meet from 6:30-8pm in the Parlor at St. Peter’s for 5 weeks starting July 17 (July 17, 24, 31, and August 7, 14) . We will begin with introductions and general information about people who identify as transgender. We will cover 3 chapters each week for the following 4 weeks. Books are widely available and can be purchased online, in stores. or borrowed from the library. If you have questions, contact Sarah Penquite at curllyq@hotmail.com or call/text 317.679.7841.

Governance Council (Continued)

(Leaders and their emails are listed on Page 3)

Covenant of Welcome Changes Proposed

In a desire to live out our Covenant of Welcome fully, and to ensure that our congregation is as welcoming as possible to all, our Governance Council has engaged in a process of discernment around an update to our Covenant of Welcome. 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, citizenship status, political affiliation**, 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.*

At the Town Hall meeting on May 20, lively conversation about our Covenant of Welcome was shared. In order to maintain our status as officially "Open & Affirming", we must specifically name the LGBTQ+ community. Governance Council proposes this additional language 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.

In addition, two other changes were encouraged at the Town Hall. Governance Council supports the addition of "citizenship status" and "political affiliation" to our Covenant of Welcome. We are a congregation that has supported refugees for many decades, and in recent years, we have offered Borderlands ministry opportunities. We are also a "purple" church, meaning that we have people who identify as blue, red, Democrat, Republican, everything in between or beyond, and nothing at all. We feel it is important to name these areas as a part of our Covenant of Welcome, and we look forward to this conversation at our Annual Meeting.

Bathroom Conversations Continue

Craig Penquite is leading the Bathroom Evolution Team (BET) that is working towards a bathroom remodel proposal that includes accessible, family-friendly, and gender-neutral options. Stay tuned for further information.

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 June 17.

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
becca@stpeterscarmel.org

Sam Locke

Ministry Intern
ministryintern@stpeterscarmel.org

Laurie Hesselink

Office Administrator
office@stpeterscarmel.org

Lori Janssen

Preschool Director
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

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: