

st. peter's

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Finding the Spirit in Life

#findingspirit

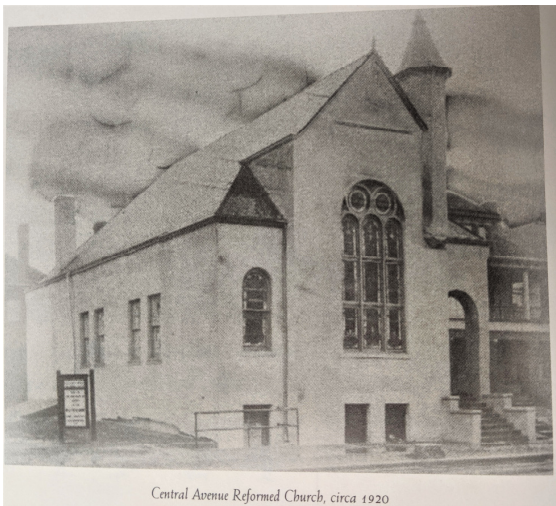
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The Epistle - November 2019

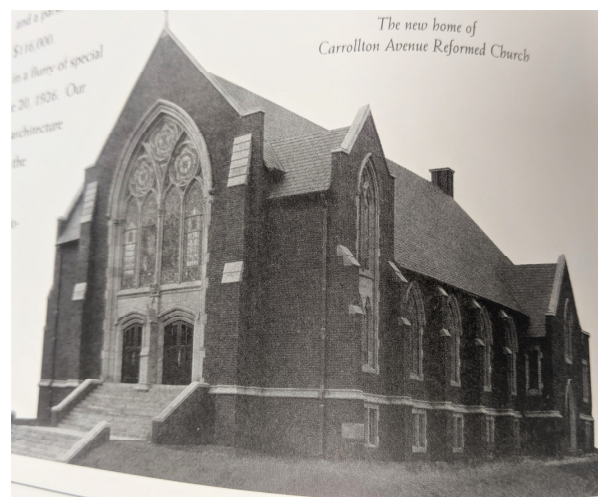
St. Peter's History Reception

On Sunday November 3rd from 10:00-11:00 in between services join us as we learn about our congregation's history. We will have pictures, old bulletins, and other treasures from St. Peter's all the way from our Carrollton Ave days through the decades until now! Carol Dobrotka has been coordinating for this Sunday and even reached out to our former pastor Rev. Zilligt who will be joining us for the event! He will offer some cherished memories of his time at St. Peter's. This will be a precious morning to discover and remember the formation and stories of this congregation. The foundations of who we are have been ever present and strong. St. Peter's has always been a church with a heart for justice and Jesus...and that heart has lead us well. Join us and share your stories as well. Tea and cookies will be served!

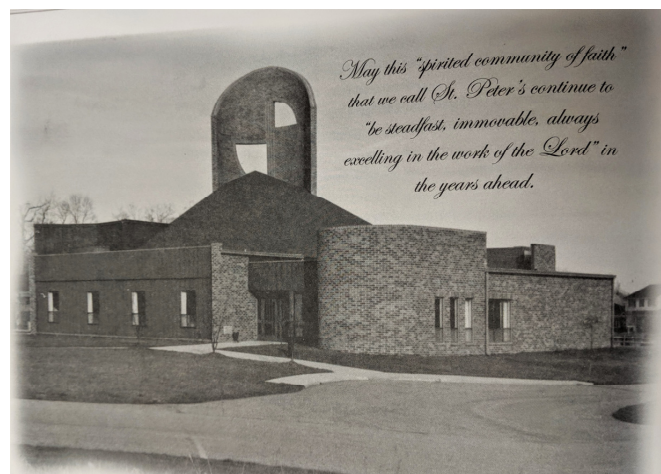


Central Avenue Reformed Church, circa 1920

Central Avenue



Carrollton Avenue



St. Peter's UCC Carmel

November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Parlor in Use 9-10a.m. Tamil School 2-4p.m.
3 Worship 8:30 History Reception 9:45a.m. Worship 11:00 Youth Group 12:30-2p.m.;	4 Education Team Meeting 6:30	5 Group Study w/Sam Locke 6:30- 8p.m. Music Team Meeting 6:45	6	7 Women &Word 9:30- 11:30 Staff & Wor- ship Staff 1:30 Assoc. Pastor Support 6:30 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7-8:30	8	9 Parlor in Use 9-10a.m. Tamil School 2-4p.m.
10 Worship 8:30 Fellowship Hour 9:45a.m. Worship 11:00	11	12 Group Study w/Sam Locke 6:30- 8p.m. Young Adult Group 7p.m.	13	14 Women &Word 9:30- 11:30 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7-8:30	15 Movie Night	19 Parlor in Use 9-10a.m. Tamil School 2-4p.m.
17 Worship 8:30 Fellowship Hour 9:45 Worship 11:00 Youth Group 12:30-2:00pm	18 Finance & Ops 6:30-	19 Group Study w/Sam Locke 6:30- 8p.m.	20 Missions Team 6:30	21 Men's Break- fast 8a.m. Women &Word 9:30- 11:30 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7-8:30	22	23 Parlor in Use 9-10a.m.
24 Worship 8:30 Fellowship Hour 9:45 Worship 11:00	25 Twins & Multiples 6:30pm Maples of Carmel HOA 5:30-8p.m.	26 Governance 6:30p.m. Young Adult Group 7p.m.	27 Preschool Break	28 Thanksgiving Office Closed Preschool Break	29 Preschool Break Office Closed	30 Parlor in Use 9-10a.m.

From Your Clergy Team

Lori Bievenour
Becca Lockwood
Sam Locke

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From Becca

Thanksgiving: A Season of Gratitude

The focus of the month of November has often centered around its holiday, Thanksgiving. It's a focus that perhaps comes and goes. Cultivating a posture of gratitude has been widely studied and found to have massive benefits. Robert Emmons has studied gratitude for over a decade and has found these results to be overwhelming:

Psychological

Higher levels of positive emotions
More alert, alive, and awake
More joy and pleasure
More optimism and happiness

Physical

Stronger immune systems
Less bothered by aches and pains
Lower blood pressure
Exercise and take better care of health
Sleep longer and feel more refreshed

Social

More helpful and generous
More compassionate
More outgoing
Feels less lonely and isolated

(to read more about Robert Emmons work, go here: https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/why_gratitude_is_good/)

This year as November arrives, I wonder if we could as congregation, in our own individual lives and time, cultivate a practice of gratitude. Let's take a month to experiment and see how assuming a posture of gratitude changes us. We all have different schedules and different demands on our time, so here are a few possible practices. Try one, try them all, or pick the one that makes the most sense for your life.

1. A morning of gratitude: begin each day by setting aside a few minutes (maybe 5-10) and just write a stream of consciousness (write whatever comes out, don't over think it) what you're grateful for that day.
2. A gratitude journal: similar to the above, but done at night. Write down three things that happened that day for which you are grateful and why.
3. Maybe you love social media: post a gratitude post everyday.
4. Set an alarm in the middle of the day and name a gratitude.
5. If you like to make things, make a gratitude collage.
6. Or save spare change everyday and offer it to an organization that helps those in need.

As Robert Emmons says, gratitude is a relationship-strengthening emotion. What better time to start cultivating such an emotion and practice? We are about to dive deep into the holiday season, surrounded by family--both family of origin and chosen family, and very soon it will be the season of Advent. I can only imagine how magical the season of Advent might feel after a season of intentional gratitude.

Life is hard. Doing life with other humans is even harder. And yet, there is still so much gratitude to be found, if we take the time to pay attention. Let us together offer gratitude...whether it's gratitude for slow mornings and warm tea, or a community in which we feel loved and seen, or a job that challenges us, or friends that listen, laugh, and cry with us, or a particularly good show on Netflix...whatever it is--name it, and let gratitude bless you this season.

*gratitude
changes everything*

Senior Pastor Sabbatical/Renewal Period

September 2 – November 30

September 2 marks the first day of Senior Pastor Lori Bievenour's renewal/sabbatical, which will continue through November 30. For more details about what she might be doing during this time and what sabbatical is all about, please refer to the August 2019 Epistle, which can be found online in your email inbox.

Formative Congregations Grant

The Center for Congregations awarded us (and only a handful of other congregations) a Formative Congregations grant. The grant totals \$50,000, and all of that money must be used within our congregation. Our proposal was bold; there are many opportunities planned for St. Peter's over the course of the next year. We are excited to be offered this opportunity and are hopeful that you'll enjoy the many things that have been made possible by this grant!

Scripture Series this Fall: The Psalms

Becca and Sam will offer theological reflections on the Storytellers' stories paired with a reading from the Psalms each week during worship. Why the Psalms? Because the Psalms include the entire range of human emotion and are some of the most beautifully written prose and poetry in the entire Bible. We will listen for God in the words of scripture AND in the words of one another. We hope you enjoy this journey through scripture... and if you're planning ahead, we'll return to the Gospel of Matthew on December 1, just in time for Advent.

November Prayer Station: Take What You Need

Have you ever seen posters around town or another building that say, "Take What You Need" and on the poster will be words like: Love, Healing, Hope, Peace etc.? For the month of November we will have something similar. We will have a 3D poster of clothespins with similar words written on them. The prayer is simple: take the clothespin that you need and bring it with you for as long as you need it. Clip it to your bag, jacket, purse, or put it in your pocket as a reminder to pray.

Lay Leadership: The Heart of Our Congregation Retreat on January 25

Did you know that the United Church of Christ (our denomination) practices congregational polity? This means that every local congregation is its own highest authority. Thus, it is the CONGREGATION that makes decisions for our church, not a national setting or other constituency. In our context, this means that we have a congregational meeting to vote on things like our budget and officers. Our LAY LEADERS do the work of our congregation, and these leaders are amazing.

Every year, our Leadership Team (members of the Governance, Finance & Operations, and Ministry Councils) gets together for a retreat prior to the kickoff of our program year. This year, we are doing things a little bit differently. Our Leadership Team will have a retreat on January 25 at ArtMix in Indianapolis (www.artmixindiana.org) with representatives from Fearless Dialogue (fearlessdialogues.com). There will be about 30 leaders gathered to enjoy a creative and spirit-filled experiences. Please pray for our leaders... and thank you!

Storytellers in Worship

Worship is a sacred time of prayer, scripture study, and storytelling, among other things. It's a time for us to be together and to explore our understandings of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. It is a time for rituals and a time for spiritual formation. And this fall, we have an incredible opportunity for you!

24 storytellers – all members of our congregation – have volunteered to share *their* stories of faith with you during worship. The inspiration was a dream that Lori had many years ago: a dream in which people were telling each other the stories that they often told her and the pastoral staff. It was beautiful. Truly, the pastoral staff loves hearing your stories; the contents is inspiring, heart-wrenching, bewildering, tragic, laughable, and the list goes on. In a dream, Lori imagined those stories spreading into the world and transforming communities. It's a vision that she can barely describe with words. The Formative Congregations Grant is making Lori's dream a reality.

A different person will tell their story at the 8:30 and 11:00 worship services September 8 – November 24. The stories will be podcasted so that you can listen to them later, but we encourage you to attend as many as you can... LIVE! Here's the list of storytellers and the dates/times when they'll be sharing their stories. All stories will be recorded and posted to our website via podcast. We realize that most people won't attend all 24 services this fall in order to catch all of the stories live, but we also realize that people might want to hear many (if not all) of the stories. By all means, check out our website for these recordings!

	8:30	11:00
8-Sep	Holly Irwin/Kelly Bradbury	Holly Irwin/Kelly Bradbury
15-Sep	Liz Chandler	Stevi Cook
22-Sep	Juj Query	Ginger Collier
29-Sep	David Hoff	Suzy Storm
6-Oct	Julia Stolle	Elizabeth Roe
13-Oct	Sue Nye	Craig Penquite
20-Oct	Jeff Lefevere	Christie Kievit
27-Oct	Chrissy Searcy	Mark Wallis
3-Nov	Barb Hawkins	Barb James
10-Nov	Dennis Heavin	Carol Dobrotka
17-Nov	Katy Palmer	Jaesoo Kim
24-Nov	Diane Carr	Patti Peck

More Time with A Storyteller

After each storyteller shares their story, YOU will have an opportunity to connect more deeply with them. Just fill out the slip of paper in the pew and indicate that you would appreciate further conversation with that particular storyteller. If you can, share why you've connected to this person's story. The story tellers will each be given a \$100 gift card (courtesy of the Formative Congregations Grant), and we are asking them to continue the conversation with those who are interested... maybe over lunch or coffee or dinner. It's up to the story tellers how many or how few people they connected with post-story. We are trusting that the Holy Spirit will guide us all as we share our stories.

Formative Congregations Grant (cont.)

One Service and Fearless Dialogues Congregational Experience on Sunday, March 15, 2020

Mark your calendars NOW! Our Formative Congregations Grant is offering us a unique opportunity. We are bringing animators from Fearless Dialogues (www.fearlessdialogues.com) to our congregation for a special experience on Sunday, March 15, 2020. Worship will be different on that day. We are still working out the details, but for now, know that we will all be together, and we will be nurturing our faith in new ways on that morning. Our leadership will experience a version of Fearless Dialogues in January, and then a few weeks later, the opportunity will be offered to the entire congregation. We are VERY excited about this spirit-filled, creative, and challenging offering; please pray us through the development process and plan to attend!

Focus Groups Update

Staff Support Lead Daniel Meyers and the Generosity Team are meeting and compiling information and data after the four focus groups. They will be sharing their findings with the congregation soon. Thank you to all who participated

Hospitality Team

Team Leader: Julia Stolle

hospitalitylead@stpeterscarmel.org

Fellowship Hour Host Opportunities

There are several opportunities to host Fellowship Hour; January 12, 19, and 26. February 2, 9, and 23. March 1 and 8. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4daea62aa4ff2-stpeters> If you have any questions about hosting you can contact Julia Stolle at hospitalitylead@stpeterscarmel.org.

Hanging of the Greens, November 24

As you may know, during the week of Thanksgiving we have an activity called The Hanging of the Greens. Directly following the second service, we provide chili for those that want to help decorate the church for the holiday season. Please join us in this fun and productive event on November 24th! We'll put up the Christmas tree, hang ornaments, wreaths and spread the holiday cheer!



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: Cindy Whitaker

treasurerelect@stpeterscarmel.org

Notes from your Governance Council

Here is a sample of what we've been talking about in our monthly meetings

As you know, we have been working really hard to get our financial systems working well for us. And by we, I mean Diane (our Treasurer.) And we have been THRILLED that we can lovingly read four different reports every month. Diane is a master at showing us detailed line item reports and then summarizing the main points. Several of us on the Governance Council dig into details and she answers all of our questions.

Description	Begin	Balance	July
Accessibility Fund	24.00		
Building Fund	75.00		
Education Salary Fund	0.00		
Land Improvement			
Major Maintenance		857.60	798.68
Parish Scholarship Fund			
Preschool Surplus Fund			
Donor Directed Building Fund	144,180.44		
Energy Efficiency Fund			
Centralized Scholarships	1,093.00		
Pastor's Discretionary	10,914.27		
Leadership Development Fund			
Formative Congregation Grant			28,428.84
Christmas Fund			
Produce Relief Settlement Fund			
Family Promise	2,533.00		
Missions Reserve	6,926.71	428.83	
Children in Need			
Open House of Sharing	1,050.00		
Children's Crossroads			
Pack Away Hunger			



Before Lori left on her sabbatical, she briefly reviewed the work she did with the Lake Institute on Faith & Giving. We also discussed how Becca and Sam would handle the pastoral workload.

Becca told us of her recent retreat with the Bethany Fellows and we were impressed with the results related to pastor development. At the most recent retreat, she said the participants spent one day in silence. We pondered the idea of going all day without speaking; Becca was thrilled with the experience!



Becca reviewed the plans for Brunch and Pray Day, we talked about Tito's Stove, and we noted that the Focus Groups (run by Daniel Meyers and the Generosity Team) are ongoing.

We discussed that St. Peter's was asked to host the Ecclesiastical Council for a pastor's Privilege of Call. Most of us on the Governance Council were unfamiliar with this process and how St. Peter's is involved so Becca spent some time explaining it. Becca asked that the Governance Council send some representatives to the Ecclesiastical Council and two of us agreed.

Missions Team

Team Leader: Katie Lukes

missionslead@stpeterscarmel.org

CROP Hunger Walk Update and Thank You!

Karen Carson and Don Kaufman represented St. Peter's on October 6 at the 50th year anniversary Church World Service CROP Hunger Walk for Hamilton and Marion Counties. They were supported by more than \$6,000 in contributions. Thank you for these gifts which help support local food pantries (including the one at Carmel United Methodist Church) and numerous CWS projects domestically and abroad.



Money Raised for Tito's Stove

During inspiring conversations and a fantastic brunch we learned about Tito and his need for a stove to serve those in need on the border. We raised more than what we originally needed for a stove! Unfortunately, soon after such inspiring generosity, we learned that the mission Tito served has closed. As a result, we've reached out to everyone who contributed and offered to refund their donation.

We are continuing to work with The Good Shepherd UCC to identify a different initiative that we can help them with as there is certainly still need, and cash donations to the stove cause will be dedicated to that. Stay tuned! In the meantime, thanks so much to those passionate and generous donors who gave to the fundraiser.

Giving Tree

Starting on Sunday November 24th our annual Giving Tree will be full of tags waiting to be taken! Each year we have different tags which support several of the ongoing ministries and relationships at St. Peter's. This year we will have tags for:

1. Washington UCC in Cincinnati: Each year we go down to set up and host Washington UCC's annual Christmas Gift shop where families from the community (the very families we work with in the summer) come and shop for toys and clothes for their kids at Christmas. Not only do we help set up and host, but we also bring many clothes and presents from our very own Giving Tree.
2. Rural Health: Gifts for the long-term residents of Rural Health. In addition to hosting a Christmas Party (date TBD) we bring each resident a gift!
3. Family Promise - \$50 "rent" tags for donation to Aftercare. Inspired by Evicted book study, we'd like to have a way to further help the families in Family Promise as they work towards finding a home.
4. Damien Center: Leaders in HIV/AIDS prevention and care, we will collect any items they need specifically for the Holiday season
5. Exodus: As a way to welcome and support refugee families adjust and feel at home in a new country we will be collecting items such as:

Christmas in Cincinnati: Friday December 13- Sunday December 15

Join us for a fantastic, full, and busy weekend! Each year we travel to Cincinnati for the weekend to set up, organize, and help host the Christmas Shoppe at Washington UCC. Every year families sign up to shop for Christmas gifts for their children. It is a powerful and exhausting weekend, and truly one of the best ways to embody the Christmas Spirit. Interested in coming? Email Becca at becca@stpeterscarmel.org

We leave Friday evening and return Sunday evening. However, many come down on Saturday or Sunday. Come for all or just a bit, your help and presence is appreciated!

Missions Team

Team Leader: Katie Lukes

missionslead@stpeterscarmel.org

The Missions Team is looking for new members!

Are you interested in getting involved to further missions at St. Peter's? We'd love your help! Get in touch with Katie Lukes through Realm or at missionslead@stpeterscarmel.org.

Carmel UMC Food Pantry Donations for November

In November we will be collecting BAKING SUPPLIES. Everyone likes to bake treats for the upcoming holidays. We will be collecting flour, sugar, brown sugar, canned pumpkin, chocolate chips, spices, cake mixes, frosting, cookie mixes, muffin mixes and more! Think of your favorite holiday treat and pick up supplies for someone else to enjoy them, too! 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. Contact Liz Chandler at gentlemomlc@gmail.com for info on dropping directly to the pantry.

Did you know? Missions Funds

As we always have new members and things change over the years, every now and then it's good to talk about the ways we use St. Peter's Missions funds, for both clarity and transparency within the congregation.

We have an annual budget that we use to fund the "business" of Missions throughout the year. These funds are typically used for more administrative or promotional needs of the various initiatives that we work on throughout the year such as Family Promise, Pride, and others.

We fund initiatives through the Missions Reserve Fund and St. Peter's Local Fund throughout the year as special opportunities arise for the Missions Team to provide financial assistance for important and/or emergency needs locally or globally. The disbursements are made by the consensus of the Team.

We provide emergency assistance through a Crisis Intervention Fund to individuals and families each year who call St. Peter's asking for assistance with a crisis. After speaking with the church office and the mission team lead, these individuals and families in crisis are provided with links to more social service resources. In some cases, a \$50 grocery card is mailed to individuals in need of immediate food assistance.

A note on Benevolences: Benevolences are not a part of the Missions Team budget. Benevolences are currently 5% of the church's overall budget, which are then divided among four benevolences: **OCWM** (Our Church's Wider Mission) helps financially support the Indiana Kentucky Conference of the UCC and the National Offices of the UCC, **St. Peter's Local** a fund used by the Missions Team to help financially with missions within St. Peter's and ministries we partner with, **CTS** (Christian Theological Seminary), and **CUE** (Christian, United, and Eden UCC seminaries).

Some things have changed or are changing. In the past, the Missions team promoted special offerings to support particular ministries affiliated with the United Church of Christ, such as One Great Hour of Sharing and Neighbors in Need. Due to the resources required to handle the accounting of the offerings, we'll no longer handle them as special offerings. However, these causes are important and greatly in need of our support, so in the future we will handle them by sharing direct donation information.

Music Team

Team Leader: Sarah Scholl
Music Director : Cheryl Keckler

musicministrylead@stpeterscarmel.org
musicdirector@stpeterscarmel.org

A Gift to the Music Program at St. Peter's

Sunday, November 3 will be the day for the introduction of St. Peter's Bell Tree. We were gifted by Robin and Mike Croft with a Bell Tree Stand, given in memory of their daughter, Angie, who was a bell ringer as a youth at St. John UCC Southport. With a stand, we take our bells, loop them together by the handles, and hang them on the bell tree stand. Each "hanging" is called a tree. The bells are then played with mallets. You will hear the bell tree during the offertory on All Saints Sunday. Then later in the month the bell tree will be used during the reading of the Psalm. Our thanks for this special gift.

Music for Children and Youth

Every Sunday morning from 9:45-10:15 children and youth (grade 2 and older) can make music in the Music Room. **November 3 we will begin learning the anthem for the first Sunday in Advent, December 1, the day of the Christmas pageant.** Come share your talents and join in the music making!

Christmas Caroling

Ding, Dong, Merrily on High

This may be November, but Christmas caroling is right around the corner! The date is **Sunday, December 8 at 12:30 p.m.** Following a soup lunch, we will break into groups and share Christmas music with others – residents in their private homes, group homes, and nursing facilities. Sign-up either in Fellowship Hall or on Realm.

Music in Which Choir?

Our "adult" choirs are really intergenerational choirs. You don't have to be an "adult" to sing in the Chancel Choir or ring in the Handbell Choir. If a young person, grade 7 and older, would like to participate, we will be absolutely delighted! Look closely and you'll see a high school student in each choir!

Making Music

The music year continues, and we are always happy to welcome new members. Music rehearsals for Handbells and Chancel Choir are on Thursday evenings:

Handbells from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

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

For more specific information on our choirs, please contact Cheryl at 317-213-1871 or musicdirector@stpeterscarmel.org. Come join in music making at St. Peter's.

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



Spiritual Life Team

Team Leader: Chrissy Searcy

spirituallifelead@stpeterscarmel.org

Group Study on the Clobber Passages with Sam Locke

Back by popular demand! Sam Locke will again be offering a weeknight series examining the “Clobber passages,” the scriptures most often used to condemn the LGBTQ community.

Join in the discussion to learn more about the theological grounding for being open and affirming or to hone language helpful in discussing the topic with other Christians.

Two books will be used as the main resources for the study, though specific readings are not required in advance for participation. They are: *Unclobber* by Colby Martin and *God and the Gay Christian* by Matthew Vines.

The study will be held on four Tuesday evenings, from 6:30-8, as follows:

November 5	Leviticus (abominations)
November 12	Romans (natural relations)
November 19	Corinthians & Timothy

Blue Christmas Worship Service December 11

The Christmas season is approaching, but sometimes Christmastime isn't always a joyous celebration for everyone. For those enduring hardship or struggle, celebrating just might not be the most comforting thing. Come join our Blue Christmas service. It's a place where we can be one with God and find a calming place to be amongst the bustle leading up to the holidays. Service will include calming songs and a space for those who need to grieve, pray or just be at peace. If you'd like someone to talk to, or for someone to just listen, we encourage you to stay after service. Retired clergy and other members of our church will be here to listen. Our Blue Christmas service will be held Wednesday, December 11th at 7pm. Anyone is welcome.



Please mark your calendars for the Spiritual Life Retreat on April 23-24 at the beautiful Way Cross Conference Center in southern Indiana. It will be lead by UCC Pastor and author Sarah Lund.

Education Team

Team Leader: Lori Radford

educationlead@stpeterscarmel.org

Education Opportunities During Worship at 8:30 and 11:00a.m.

Worship & Wonder (Pre-K-3rd Grade) Weekly at 8:30 and 11:00a.m.

If you have kids in Pre-K-3rd grade, then Worship & Wonder is for you! This is a time where our kids leave main worship and have time to worship, wonder, and interact with their faith together.

456 (4th-6th Grade) 2nd and 4th Sundays at 8:30 and 11:00a.m.

If you have kids in 4th-6th grade, then 456 is for you! Continuing to form and strengthen friendships, our kids continue to meet during worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays to talk about what is happening in the world, at home, or at school and how that intersects with what is happening in worship.

Education Hour Opportunities at 10:00a.m.

LAUGH (Pre-K-6th Grade)

If you have kids in Pre-K-6th grade, then LAUGH is for you! This is a time for us to be together, to move around, to learn, to wonder about faith and life. This year we are inviting members from the congregation (YOU) to share their gifts, skills, and passions with our kids. If you have a gift you would like to share like: music, baking, yoga, drawing, acting, life skills etc. please be in touch with St. Peter's Education Team.

New This Year: More Fun Youth Lectionary (7th Grade and Up)

By request from our youth, we are offering a Youth Lectionary! If you are in high school and interested in talking about scripture, then this is for you! We'll meet in the Youth Room. We'll look into the Psalms and even practice writing our own Psalms throughout the fall.

Lectionary Class

If you love to dive deep into scripture and how it intersects with our lives then Lectionary might be for you. This fall we will meet in the Parlor and learn more about the Psalms.

If you are interested and passionate about taking the art of listening and sacred conversation to all aspects of life, including politics, then Politics and the Purple Church might be for you! (See next page)

Women and the Word

Women and the Word will be delving into the DVD series Living the Questions. Our first series will be Uppity Women from the Bible. There's no homework or reading ahead needed, so please feel welcome to come whenever you can! We meet every Thursday from 9:30-11:30 in the Parlor.

Young Adult Group

This ministry has been so much fun and we're excited for another year ahead of learning more about each other, having fun, learning some really helpful and life-altering trivia, and simply being together. Age is not a factor! If you are young at heart (or in numbers) you are invited! We gather every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at Books & Brews in Carmel at 7:00pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

Education Team

Team Leader: Lori Radford

educationlead@stpeterscarmel.org

Youth Group

Your youth group leaders have met and planned a fabulous year for you all. We will continue with meeting twice a month. One meeting will be more conversation based and the other more activity based. For our discussion this year, Netflix will be our helper! *One Day at a Time*, is a show on Netflix that deals with the daily struggles of life, being human, and being part of a community. Activities will vary from bowling, to group building games, to lock-ins and much more! Check out our Fall Schedule below!

November 3	12:30-2:00	Carmel UMC Food Pantry
November 17	12:30-2:00	One Day at a Time
December 1	12:30-2:00	Activity
December TBD		Christmas in Cincinnati
December 27 & 28	5:00pm-8:30am	Lock-In

Politics In a Purple Church: Coming to Education Hour This Fall

10-11 am, October 6-November 24 ... except November 3rd (History Sunday)

Politics in a Purple Church will primarily focus on local candidates and issues facing voters in the 2019 elections.

A series of guest speakers and open discussion will provide a safe place to dialogue about issues in a manner appropriate to the church's goal of reconciliation in the community. We will address topics near and dear to some members of the congregation and also challenge people to engage in dialogues with viewpoints that may be less common in our community. In doing so, we hope relationships grow with a recognition that true diversity strengthens our relationship(s) with God.

A wide net was cast to get a representation of candidates from all political persuasions and many of the municipalities represented at St. Peter's. Unexpectedly, we will also have the opportunity to engage in interfaith dialogue, with at least one atheist and one Jewish candidate joining us for dialogue.

Education Information Session November 17th

Sunday November 17th at 10:00am we will have an information session about Education and Faith Formation at St. Peter's! If Pray Day peaked your interest or you have been feeling a pull towards education, come join Juj Query as she shares stories, insights, and information about the faith formation programming at St. Peter's.

Christmas Pageant December 1st 2019

Mark your calendars for Sunday December 1st! At our 8:30 and 11:00 worship services we will begin the season of Advent by embodying the Christmas Story. After a season of storytelling, we will all come together to hear our children and youth will retell this familiar and beloved story. We'll sing carols, hear scripture, and watch together as the scene of the nativity comes together. There will be opportunity for reading the story. If you're interested please email Becca at becca@stpeterscarmel.org Maybe speaking in front of people isn't your thing but you love to dress up! This pageant is for you! During the telling of the story we'll invite characters to come forward and join the tableau of the nativity. (When we read about the shepherds hearing the good news, we'll ask all shepherds and sheep to come forward and join the scene.) We can't wait to begin this special season with you!

Preschool Team

Team Leader: Tammy Drummond

preschoolteam@stpeterscarmel.org

Preschool Fundraiser

Every Tuesday in November (5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th) from 3:00 p.m. to 10p.m. BoomBozz Pizza, 2430 E. 146th St, Carmel will give 15% of your check to St. Peter's Preschool. Fliers (available at church) must be presented with payment

Field Trip

The St. Peter's Pre K class enjoyed a beautiful day on their Stucky Farm Field Trip!



Building & Grounds Team

Team Leader: Craig Penquite

buildinggroundslead@stpeterscarmel.org

Fall Work Day Recap

Thank you to all who helped at the Fall Work Day in October! We had over 20 individuals, young and younger, help out inside and outside the building. Jobs ranged from cleaning windows and repairing carpet on the inside and weeding and repairing path to playground on the outside. Thank you to all who help, on the 5th and throughout the year!

Join the Buildings & Grounds Team

Please consider joining the Building & Grounds Team. Building & Grounds at St.Peters is a little unique compared to other "teams." There are always projects and repairs to do that the more people involved, the more we can accomplish. If interested in a task at a time or on-going projects, the Building & Grounds Team needs your help. We don't meet regularly but will use Realm to communicate the current items at hand. Many hands make light work, so please consider joining the Building & Grounds Team. Contact Craig Penquite (buildinggroundslead@stpeterscarmel.org) or Katy Palmer (groundslead@stpeterscarmel.org) if interested.

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 (On sabbatical until December 1)

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 December newsletter should be sent to office@stpeterscarmel.org by November 20.

Pastoral Support Teams

St. Peter's Constitution requires support teams for both of our pastors. Eddie Meyer leads the Senior Pastor Support Team, with team members Sue Nye and Stacy McIntyre. Another team member will be added in December. 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 Jenny Terry Financial Secretary (financialsecretary@stpeterscarmel.org), Cindy Whitaker 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.

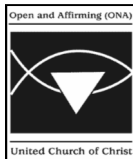
We believe God's grace is extended to all. To anyone who has felt unwelcome or has experienced rejection elsewhere, we say, "All are welcome here."

We acknowledge our diversities and we welcome, respect and support people of every race, ethnicity, economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, citizenship status, political affiliation, age, 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: