



Finding the Spirit in Life

#findingspirit

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The Epistle - October 2019

Pray Day: A celebration!

On Sunday we had an incredible celebration of the ministry we do at St. Peter's. We started the morning with the Hospitality Team and Randy Wahl blessing us with food, nourishing our bodies and spirits! Randy and his family shared their gifts and talents by creating a feast of Oktoberfest goodies. Along with a fantastic spread of food, Randy shared some of his experience during his time in Arizona this past January. He told us about a shelter he visited in Nogalas that feeds and helps hundreds of people in need at the border. While they were there, Tito, named how helpful it would be to have a functioning commercial stove. Randy in that moment heard God's call loud and clear, and while Tito was actually talking to Pastor Randy of Good Shepherd UCC, Randy knew who God was calling to action. As a result, Randy has shared this message with all of us and we have exceeded our initial goal of \$4,000! We are still accepting donations until October 15th; there is endless need and Tito and the shelter will put that money to good use. (If you would like to make a donation, please make out the check to St. Peter's and in the memo line put "Missions Reserve Fund-Tito's Stove.")

After communing together, the Generosity Team split us up into four groups and together we rotated around our building and grounds as we learned more from our different Ministry Teams and just how much this congregation does.

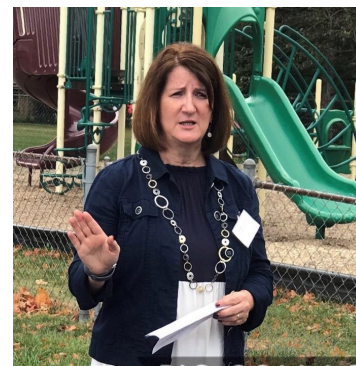
For some, they say parts of the building as yet unknown to them, for others we learned how vast and varied our offerings really are. It was hard to fit in the abundance of what we do, but the resounding sound of prayer throughout the morning was grounding and beautiful. Prayer matters. Praying for and with the ministry that we do for and through this congregation makes a difference and it was palpable yesterday. Thank you to everyone who helped, who were stretched outside of their comfort zones, who asked good questions, and for all who prayed.



Chrissy Searcy
Spiritual Life Team Lead



Lori Radford
Education Team Lead



Tammy Drummond
Preschool Team Lead



Katie Lukes
Missions Team Lead

October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Focus Group 7-8p.m.	3 Women &Word 9:30- 11:30 Staff 1:30 Worship Staff to follow Handbell 6-7	4	5 Parlor in Use 9-10a.m. Fall Work Day 8:30- 12:30 Solar Open House 12:00- 2:00 Tamil
6 Worship 8:30 Fellowship Hour 9:45a.m. Connections 9:45 Parlor Worship 11:00 Singing Visit	7 Education Team Meet- ing 6:30p.m.	8 Young Adult Group 7p.m.	9	10 Women &Word 9:30- 11:30 Ministry Coun- cil 7-8:30p.m. Preschool Fall Break Handbells 6-7	11 Preschool Fall Break	12 Parlor in Use 9-10a.m. Tamil School 2-4p.m.
13 Worship 8:30 Fellowship Hour 9:45a.m. Connections 9:45 Focus Group 10-11a.m. Worship 11:00	14	15	16	17 Men's Break- fast 8a.m. Wome&Word 9:30-11:30 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7-8:30	18 Movie Night	19 Parlor in Use 9-10a.m. Tamil School 2-4p.m.
20 Worship 8:30 Fellow- ship Hour 9:45 Worship 11:00 Youth Group 12:30-2:00pm Family Promise	21 Family Promise Governance 6:30p.m.	22 Family Promise Young Adult Group 7p.m.	23 Family Promise Missions Team 6:30p.m.	24 Family Promise Women &Word 9:30- 11:30 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7-8:30	25 Family Promise	26 Parlor in Use 9-10a.m. Family Promise
27 Worship 8:30 Fellowship Hour 9:45 Fantastic Fall 10:00 Worship 11:00	28 Finance & Ops 6:30- 8pm Twins & Multiples 6:30pm Waterford HOA	29	30	31 Women &Word 9:30 - 11:30 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7-8:30		

From Your Clergy Team

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From Becca

September is my favorite month. It means clear blue skies and the beginning of fall; a mixture of greens, yellows, and oranges against that perfect blue. It also means Bethany Fellows for me. Our fall retreat always falls mid-September. This retreat, we found ourselves in Buffalo, MN, about an hour outside of Minneapolis/St. Paul. Our retreat center was on a lake. (Minnesota is apparently the state of ten thousand lakes, who knew? It is also the state of “Duck, duck, grey duck” instead of “duck, duck, goose” but we’re still waiting for some credible verification on this.)

I was particularly looking forward to this week of Bethany Fellows, not only because I was craving the day of silence and being held by that community, but because our day of learning (Tuesday) would be 12 glorious hours of Enneagram learning. And the day did not disappoint.

The Enneagram is a way of understanding humanity. It is a tool that has been around for 4,000 years, with many ancient cultures claiming origin. The Enneagram has nine numbers and claims that each of us has a core number. Unique to the Enneagram, the number reveals what our motivations are. Not our behavior, though behavior can reflect our motivation. Our number can help us understand how we see the world the way we do. For example, I am a 9 on the Enneagram, The Mediator. My motivation is to avoid conflict. The idea of conflict nauseates me. I avoid it in my life unless it is absolutely necessary to engage. I avoid it when I watch TV. I fast forward through all of the scary and suspenseful parts. (I’m probably not the person you want to watch things with...) I like resolution. My behavior and decisions reflect my motivation.

Joey Schewee was our Enneagram teacher for the day. Joey is one of Suzanne Stabile’s daughters. Suzanne Stabile is a master of the Enneagram with two books (which we’ve used here at St. Peter’s in various settings), a teacher and trainer of the Enneagram across the country, and she has an exceptional podcast called *The Enneagram Journey*. Joey’s life has been steeped in the Enneagram and she has been a teacher of it as well for nearly twenty years.

It would be impossible to try and share or translate everything we learned that day, but the temptation is real. It was truly such a fabulous and enlightening day. Part of what I personally love about the Enneagram is its ability to reveal truths about ourselves--particularly the ones we’d like to ignore and it helps us understand how and why they are there. And it shows us how to use the resources of our number and the other numbers to be a healthier balanced version of who we are. While the Enneagram can reveal some harsh truths about ourselves, it also teaches us to embrace fully who we are.

Throughout the day, Joey said over and over again, “Isn’t it amazing how different we all are? And how each of us, different as we are, are made in God’s image?” The most profound thing Joey offered that day was naming that we can’t change how we see the world. We can only change how we act on what we see. As a 9, conflict will always make me uneasy. But I can learn how to engage it and maintain my inner peace. As a 9, I’m indecisive on things that I don’t have a strong opinion about. I don’t care where we eat lunch or what’s for dinner. I simply want to be fed. I can make a to-do list, but I can’t prioritize it for you. I have no instinctive idea what order things should be done in. But I still manage to complete the to-do list.

The most surprising and relieving part of the experience was connecting with the other 9s in our Bethany Fellows group. It was such a gift to hear the same thoughts, perspectives, self-talk, self-doubt, and experiences that I experience in my mind everyday. The Enneagram is a gift and a tool that can shed light on who we are, who God created us to be. And it helps us understand the people in our lives. The greatest gift was learning about the other eight numbers, because now I have another resource to help me understand and be present to those I love and serve.

So, as always, thank you St. Peter’s for your support of this ministry of Bethany Fellows which is supporting new pastors and their congregations.

If you’d like to learn more about the Enneagram, I’d recommend Suzanne Stabile’s book, *The Path Between Us* or her podcast, *The Enneagram Journey*.

Leadership Retreat



Twenty of our lay leaders gathered on Saturday morning to grow, dream, and work together as we thought about (and painted!) what St. Peter's means to us. Just as the Storytellers were invited into the creative process of painting, our leaders leapt outside of their comfort zones as well and spent the morning at ArtMix downtown. However, we did a slightly different activity than the storytellers did. We did what is called a "Creation Rotation." We started with a giant blank canvas (think the size of a tablecloth) where we were instructed to draw an outline of a heart. From there, we were asked a question and asked to draw/paint it onto the canvas. After a few minutes we rotated to a different part of the canvas and we were asked another question. Together we painted a beautiful creation of vibrant color and teamwork. And in case your intrigue is peaked, here are the questions that were asked!

- What is at the heart of St. Peter's?
- When you hear the word community, what image comes to mind?
- What do you offer St. Peter's
- What does St. Peter's give to you?

At the end of our time we took a minute to reflect and debrief. Here's some of what was shared:

"Sometimes you need to do something you don't like or aren't good at; it might surprise you."

"Trust the process (of creating as we go), sometimes you need to just start doing."

"It was a good experiment of working together, seeing what needed to be done or changed and then trusting each other to do it."

"We all had different approaches, some like background, details, or images...the process and result took all of us."

"It's bright and beautiful, messy and unfinished...just like St. Peter's."

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 (or 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!

Focus Groups: Envisioning St. Peter's Future

We are seeking to hear ideas from the congregation about four large ideas: St. Peter's UCC identity, values, impact inside and outside our walls, and how we reconcile our vision with our budget and our capacity. These sessions will be facilitated by Daniel Meyers, Staff Support Team Lead and Seth Kreigh, Generosity Team Lead. We have scheduled four groups with room for 10-12 people in each group. Your input will be included as we seek to hear wider themes on these big ideas. Ultimately a report will be put together and shared with the entire congregation. By signing up, you are not committing to actually making any decisions at this time, but you are lending your voice to a deeper conversation beyond our Annual Meeting that will hopefully inform a set of questions and decisions in our future. Please join us for honest, reflective, and deeper conversation on who we are, what we value, and what impact we can make. The following Focus Groups have space available. Please RSVP for a specific date through Realm or by emailing Laurie Hesselink at office@stpeterscarmel.org.

Wednesday, October 2, 7:00-8:00 pm and Sunday, October 13, 10:00-11:00 am

Spiritual Life Groups

In recent years, we have found Spiritual Life Groups to be a valuable way to build relationships, explore topics of faith, and support our faith community. This fall, we will offer another opportunity for you to engage in hope-filled and curious experiences, held in members' homes throughout greater Indianapolis. Our guide will be the book *Conversation the Sacred Art: Practicing Presence in an Age of Distraction* by Diane M. Millis. Groups will last 6-8 weeks (each group determines their own schedule), and books will be provided through the generosity of our grant. Questions? Contact Becca Lockwood at becca@stpeterscarmel.org. Please sign up now for one of the following groups in Fellowship Hall or office@stpeterscarmel.org: Jill Olinger Tuesday mornings 10:00-11:30 TBD, Pat & Randy Wahl Wednesday evenings 6:30-8:00 beginning October 2, Ben Keckler Wednesday evenings beginning October 9.

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.

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 Lefever	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.

October Prayer Station: Dissolving Paper

In September we spent time praying with the Labyrinths. We were invited to journey with the Spirit inward, to listen deeply, and be open to what we discovered within. During the month of October, now that fall has finally decided to stick around, the leaves are finally letting go. The change of color reminds us of vibrancy, life, and also of death. There's a saying that seems to always go around this time of year, "The leaves are about to teach us how beautiful it is to let go." So for this month, our prayer will focus on what we need to let go of as fall begins and the earth prepares for winter. We will have pieces of dissolving paper and bowls of water. You can write what you need to let go of or simply leave it blank, knowing that the Spirit knows and is present in the release.

History Reception & All Saints Sunday on November 3

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, November 3, we will have a special reception between services that honors our history. Our storytellers on that Sunday will share their connections to our congregation and other UCC congregations from many decades ago. An assortment of photos and mementos from our predecessor congregations (Central Avenue Reformed and Carrollton Avenue Evangelical and Reformed) will be on display. We will be attempting to contact those who had connections to these congregations, so if you know of people who might enjoy an invitation, please contact Carol Dobrotka at c_dobrotka@yahoo.com, who is coordinating this reception!

Lay Leadership: The Heart of Our Congregation Retreats on September 28 and 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 September 28 at ArtMix in Indianapolis (www.artmixindiana.org) and again on January 25 with representatives from Fearless Dialogues (www.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!

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!

Missions Team

Team Leader: Katie Lukes

missionslead@stpeterscarmel.org

Family Promise (FP) Hosting October 20th-27th

Our faith requires us to Risk...Act...Connect!

FP is a not-for-profit organization that helps FAMILIES experiencing homelessness. FP runs two rotations, 14 people each, each week throughout the year. During the day their home base is the FP Day Center. While there, adults get help finding permanent housing, searching for jobs (if they are not already employed) & navigating additional services that are available to them. School age children head off to school/camp from the Day Center. In the evenings, each rotation of guests is welcomed at one of the many congregations in the FP network. St Peter's is one of those congregations. St Peter's typically hosts FP guests four weeks throughout the year. This is where **YOU** come in.

FP provides an opportunity to use your heart and hands to truly make a difference in the lives of people going through an unimaginably difficult time in their lives. You ask...how can **I** help? Let's count the ways!

During our week of hosting, the following opportunities are available to support this St Peter's ministry & share compassion with our neighbors in need:

- **14 times to drive our guests. (FP van provided)**
- **14 meals to host (14 breakfasts, 14 dinners)**
- **14 evening hosts (2 each evening)**
- **14 overnight hosts (2 each evening...wonderful St Peter's parlor accommodations included)**
- **Set up of guest rooms on Oct 20th (after the second service)**
- **Laundry**

Come by the FP table, in fellowship hall (online sign up will be available at that time, also) to see how you can put your faith into action, to help our neighbors in need. New to FP...we will happily partner you with a veteran volunteer. Please consider this opportunity to risk, act & connect in a new way!

E. 10th St. UMC Community Dinners

Thank you to our volunteers and financial supporters for their work with E 10th St UMC Community Dinners! We were able to serve dinner 3 times in 2019 with our last dinner being Sept 15. Some of our volunteers include the Gailey Family, Jon and Diane Crider, John and Kyle Kroehler, Jim Anderson, Sarah Day, and Judy Joutras. Thank you to Marty Weltge for your ongoing commitment to this mission opportunity and maintaining our relationship with E 10th St. We will be announcing dates for serving dinner in 2020 soon!

How can you help? You can be one of our volunteers that prepares, serves, and cleans up at E 10th St. This is a great family or small group opportunity! Can't volunteer but still want to help? You can also provide financial support - the meal is paid for by volunteers (cost is usually around \$200 to feed approximately 100 people). Talk to Marty or Liz Chandler to learn more!

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.

Missions Team

Team Leader: Katie Lukes

missionslead@stpeterscarmel.org

Special Offering for Neighbors In Need, Uspiritus, and Crossroad

There will be a special combined offering in October for Neighbors In Need (NIN), Uspiritus, located in Louisville, and Crossroad Child and Family Services located in Ft. Wayne.



Neighbors in Need: St. Peter's has generously supported NIN and both social service agencies for many years. NIN supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry, two-thirds are used to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects through grants. Special consideration is being given this year to projects serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

Uspiritus and Crossroad: Uspiritus serves abused and neglected youth in Kentucky with residential psychiatric care, therapeutic foster care, community-based services and more. Crossroad also helps troubled youth and their families through a variety of programs providing a continuum of care to provide stability and support. Don Kaufman has served on the Boards of Uspiritus and Crossroad and attests to the excellence of their programming through his personal experiences.

A note on special offerings: This will serve as our last special offering collection due to the resources required to handle the accounting of the 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.

Please give as generously as you can to support their efforts.

Carmel UMC Food Pantry Donations for October

In October we are focusing our collection on soup, canned fruit, and all types of beans. 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.

Church World Service "Crop Hunger Walk"

Sunday, October 6 marks the 50th anniversary of Church World Service's CROP HUNGER WALKS, and once again we at St. Peter's Church can help with hunger relief locally (Hamilton County) and globally. Don Kaufman and Karen Carson will be joining the Hamilton County CROP Walk, which this year will be a joint walk with Marion County and will begin at the Interchurch Center (next to Butler University) on West 42nd Street, Indianapolis. Don and Karen would be delighted to have others join them for the Walk, and they would also gladly receive financial donations from those who want to support Church World Service but opt not to walk. Contact Don by phone (317-846-5258) or email (donik@att.net) for further information. (Checks can be made payable to CWS/Crop Walk)

Building & Grounds Team

Team Leader: Craig Penquite

buildinggroundslead@stpeterscarmel.org

Fall Work Day: October 5th, 8:30am-12:30pm

We need your help even if only for an hour! Bring the kids and put them to work too, or put them on the playground! We will have a variety of small jobs around the inside and outside of the church. Jobs range from cleaning windows and repairing carpet on the inside and weeding and repairing path to playground on the outside. If you have the time, we will find a job for you.

It is important to note our *participation rates at these Work Days has fallen off significantly over the past few years* and we are hoping to see more get involved. We *depend heavily on volunteers to help maintain our building and grounds*. Please sign-up in Fellowship Hall or on Realm. Contact Craig Penquite (buildinggroundslead@stpeterscarmel.org) or Katy Palmer (groundslead@stpeterscarmel.org) with questions.



W O R K D A Y A T T H E C H U R C H

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.

National Solar Tour: October 5th, 12:00pm – 2:00pm

The National Solar Tour is October 5th & 6th where hundreds of people who have gone solar across the nation will open their homes and businesses to engage their communities around the power of solar energy. St. Peters will host a tour on October 5th from 12:00pm to 2:00 pm. (Come work at the Fall Work Day and then spend a little time learning about our solar panel system). Please consider stopping by for an informal “tour” of our system and be sure to tell others either interested (or skeptical) in solar power about the event. Information about our specific tour can be found at <https://www.nationalsolartour.org/open-houses/3163/>. More information about the National Solar Tour, including other sites in our area participating, can be found at www.nationalsolartour.org. Contact Craig Penquite (cwpenquite@gmail.com) with questions.

Spiritual Life Team

Team Leader: Chrissy Searcy

spirituallifelead@stpeterscarmel.org

New to St. Peter's? Connections Group to Start October 6th

A new Connections group will begin meeting on Sunday, October 6th. "Connections" is a place to learn more about St. Peter's: how it's organized, what it offers. For those who are ready to affirm participation with St. Peter's officially, it's a way of getting oriented to the workings of our congregation and, especially, for learning where and how you might want to get engaged. For others who are considering affirming participation, it's an opportunity to ask questions and discern in community if this is the right place for you. Above all, it's a place to make friends, an experience to share where you are on your spiritual journey. Co-led by Chrissy Searcy, Kyle Kroehler and Jon Kroehler, the group meets at 9:45A.M. in the parlor for a total of four sessions. Subsequent meetings have been proposed for October 13th, October 20th and October 27th, but these dates are flexible, and the group will confirm workable dates once together. Those who wish to formally affirm participation with St. Peter's will do so following the completion of these classes. You can sign up in Fellowship Hall or by contacting the office at office@stpeterscarmel.org. Questions can be directed to Kyle Kroehler at Kyle@Kroehlers.com

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:

October 29	Introduction, Genesis (Sodom and Gomorroah)
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: 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

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

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

Following the popularity of last year's "Politics in a Purple Church" education hour programming, we are excited to announce its return for the fall of 2019. The overall goals will be the same, but 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.

Subject to adjustment, the current slate of speakers is:

Date	Speaker
October 6	Jeff Worrell, President and Republican-incumbent seeking re-election to the Carmel City Council
October 13	Miles Nelson, Democratic candidate for Carmel City Council
October 20	Adam Kaps, Democratic candidate for Fishers City Council
October 27	James Brainard, Republican-incumbent seeking re-election as Mayor of Carmel
November 10	TBD
November 17	TBD
November 24	TBD

Education Team

Team Leader: Lori Radford

educationlead@stpeterscarmel.org

Youth Group

We're so excited for Youth Group to kick-off for our program year! 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!

October 4		Campfire at Stevi Cook's
October 20	12:30-2:00	Activity/Family Promise set up
November 3	12:30-2:00	Activity
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

Fantastic Fall!

The Education Team invites you to join us on Sunday, October 27th from 10 to 11am (between services) for Fantastic Fall: A Celebration of Autumn. Dressing up in Halloween costumes is encouraged, and attendees will enjoy a light snack, games, and activities associated with this time of year. This event is open to families or individuals of all ages.



Communication: Remind App

Remind App is a tool we will use this year to communicate with the youth group and parents as well. This is an app used in many school systems as a way to remind students about upcoming events, assignments etc. We're hopeful this tool will allow for quicker and more accessible communication for everyone.

Music Team

Team Leader: Sarah Scholl
Music Director : Cheryl Keckler

musicministrylead@stpeterscarmel.org
musicdirector@stpeterscarmel.org

Singing Visit

Visiting Gary Spiegel is always a joy! Join us on Sunday, October 6 (which is Gary's birthday!) for our next Singing Visit. We will sing and make merry from 1:30-2:00. Come share with Gary and the other residents in his group home fun traditional songs, show tunes, hymns, and whatever else we/they think of! Sign-up in Realm or in Fellowship Hall. Contact Cheryl with any questions, 317-213-1871 or musicdirector@stpeterscarmel.org.

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 doing a jig with joy! Look closely and you will see a high school student in each choir!

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. Right now we are learning an anthem for singing on October 6, World Communion Sunday. It is based on a Psalm, which fits in with the theme of the fall. Through the year we will have different music opportunities. Coming up – ringing chimes, playing Orff instruments and more singing. Come share your talents and join in the music making!

Future Date – Christmas Caroling

♪ *There's a Song in the Air* ♪

It will be here before you know it, so put it on the calendar! **Sunday, December 8, 12:30 p.m.** for Christmas Caroling. Following a soup lunch, we will break into groups and share Christmas music with others. Watch for details and sign up.

Making Music

The music year has started, and we are back in the swing of things. 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. Music is good for your health, your stress level, and for the community. Come join in music making at St. Peter's. New members are always welcomed.



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.

Preschool Team

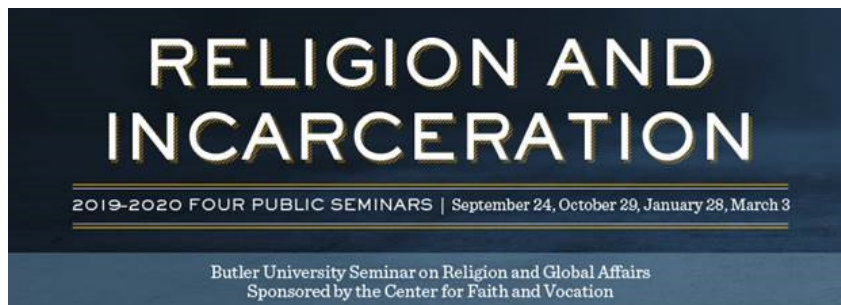
Team Leader: Tammy Drummond

preschoolteam@stpeterscarmel.org

Preschool Is Off To A Great Start!



Community Happenings



The Butler University Center for Faith and Vocation would like to invite you to a four-part series of free and public lectures that are part of the Butler Seminar on Religion and Global Affairs, this year focusing on the theme “**Religion and Incarceration**” Attached is a full brochure that shows the specifics of each event, including brief bios of keynote speakers and respondents. All of this information can also be found on our website ButlerArtsCenter.org

The basic details are as follows:



The Most Merciful: Muslim Work With Ex-Offenders

Tuesday, October 29, 2019 - 7:00 pm in the Shelton Auditorium on South Campus, Butler University

Many of America’s prisoners have embraced Islam while incarcerated and Muslims have also been active in caring for the social and religious needs of ex-offenders. In this session, we explore what Islam has to say and what Muslims are doing about incarceration in America.

Community Happenings (cont.)

Special Invitation to Faith Communities



ALABAMA Story

by Kenneth Jones

The Actors Theatre of Indiana

WHEN:

Sunday, October 27th - Matinee Show @ 2 p.m.

WHERE:

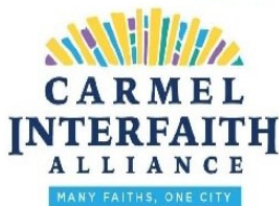
The Studio Theater at the Center for the Performing Arts
4 Center Green, Carmel

TICKETS:

Call the box office at 317-843-3800 or visit thecenterpresents.org
Use promo code **Alabama20** and your ticket will be \$20 for this performance

Carmel Interfaith Alliance presents:

Meet Your Neighbor



Panelists from various faith traditions will provide a window into their beliefs by sharing their perspectives on three thought-provoking topics.

Learn more about the faith traditions within our community while uncovering misconceptions and building understanding.

After the panel's presentation, there will be time for a Q/A session.

Location : Carmel Clay Public Library 55 4th Ave SE, Carmel, IN 46032

Exploring Viewpoints on Free Will and Evil in the World

Wednesday, October 16 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. | Program Room

Exploring Perspectives on the Nature of God and the Purpose of Life

Wednesday, October 23 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. | Program Room

Exploring Perceptions of Heaven and Hell

Wednesday, October 30 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. | Program Room

Free
Event

Open
to the
public

Carmel Interfaith Alliance is a coalition of Jewish, Muslim, Baha'i, Sikh, Hindu, Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Protestant faith communities. Rev. Jerry Zehr is president of the Alliance, if you have any questions you can email him at jerryzehr1@gmail.com

Active Shooter Training for Faith Organizations

Jennifer Atkinson, Vice President

Julia Stille, Hospitality Team Leader

Two of your St. Peter's leaders attended Active Shooter Training for Faith Organizations on August 25 along with many other faith groups.

Right now – can you identify the address of St. Peter's? I failed this test. All of us should know the address, the location of all fire extinguishers, and the location of all exits.¹ Julia Stille (Hospitality Lead) and I learned these rules at the Active Shooter Training we attended in late August.

The training was presented by the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, the FBI, and various other related law enforcement organizations. We were in awe of all the faith groups who attended. We saw Buddhist monks in red robes, nuns in full habit, Sikh men wearing turbans, and many other faiths represented. We were surrounded by safety officers from various organizations.

According to FBI Supervising Agent Brian Monahan, there has been an uptick in threats against houses of worship. Their hypothesis is that houses of worship have weekly gatherings of large groups of people and generally houses of worship welcome strangers. People who want to wreak havoc can leverage this. Agent Monahan mentioned the vandalism committed at Congregation Shaarey Tefilla last summer; apparently the people who committed the crime also had homemade bombs; instead of detonating bombs, they used homemade napalm to burn the grounds. This summer, the FBI arrested two brothers in Fishers for manufacturing semi-automatic weapons with the intent to provide them to domestic terrorists. We can we do? The best advice from the IMPD and the FBI for an active shooter situation is:

AVOID – know all the exits to a building; if one doesn't exist, improvise to get out

DENY – deny the shooter access: lock or barricade the door, turn the lights off, remain out of sight

DEFEND – be aggressive and committed to your actions

The IMPD and FBI have joint task force focusing on active shooter prevention. From 2000 to 2017, active shooter incidents occurred at houses of worship in 4% of the cases. The largest category, commerce locations, represent 42% of the incidents. IMPD Task Force officer Matthew Stevenson said that most of the time, the active shooter will post or brag to friends about a personal grievance, recent inappropriate acquisition of multiple weapons, recent and inappropriate escalation of target practice, and recent and inappropriate interest in explosions and firearms. If you become aware of potential situation, contact Ryan Yarrell, Region Manager for MovementForward at 317-939-6700 or ryan.yarrell@movementforward.org.

Julia and I were grateful to have this opportunity to help raise awareness of this issue and increase safety for our congregation.

¹ 3106 E Carmel Dr, Carmel, 46033; 4 exits (front door, accessible door, choir door, labyrinth door); 6 fire extinguishers (main hall, preschool hall, near the accessible door, near the music room, kitchen, and Fellowship Hall closet)

St. Peter's Emergency Procedures have been updated and shared with all staff and lay leaders. Copies are posted in Fellowship Hall, the Kitchen, and in the Church Office.

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 November newsletter should be sent to office@stpeterscarmel.org by October 21.

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.

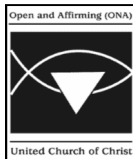
We believe God's grace is extended to all. To anyone who has felt unwelcome or has experienced rejection elsewhere, we say, "All are welcome here."

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: