



*Finding the Spirit in Life*

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## The Epistle - February 2020

### One Service Sundays: MARK YOUR CALENDARS

We are experimenting in 2020! One desire that came out of the Focus Groups from Fall 2019 was to have more opportunities to be in conversation about our congregation and its ministries and vision. To facilitate this, a recommendation was made to have 4 Congregational Conversations throughout the year, and on those Sundays, we would have only one service at 10:00a.m.



In addition, it has been our practice to have only one service on many holiday weekends.

Finally, the Formative Congregations Grant includes two unique Sundays meant to build community: Fearless Dialogues and a Day of Service.

This means that 2020 is a unique year. Please mark your calendar for the following Sundays when our schedule will be different, and plan to participate!

<b>March 15</b>	<b>Fearless Dialogues</b>	<b>(see page 3)</b>
<b>May 3</b>	<b>Day of Service &amp; Congregational Conversation #2</b>	<b>(see page 13)</b>
<b>May 24</b>	<b>Memorial Day Weekend</b>	<b>10:00a.m. Worship</b>
<b>June 14</b>	<b>Annual Congregational Meeting</b>	<b>10:00a.m. Worship &amp; 11:00a.m. Meeting</b>
<b>July 4</b>	<b>Fourth of July Weekend</b>	<b>10:00a.m. Worship</b>
<b>August 2</b>	<b>Congregational Conversation #3</b>	<b>10:00a.m. Worship</b>
<b>September 6</b>	<b>Labor Day Weekend</b>	<b>10:00a.m. Worship</b>
<b>November 1</b>	<b>Congregational Conversation #4</b>	<b>10:00a.m. Worship</b>
<b>December 27</b>	<b>Christmas Sunday</b>	<b>10:00a.m. Worship</b>

# February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> Parlor in Use 9-10a.m.  Tamil School 2-4p.m.
<b>2</b> Worship 8:30  Fellowship Hour 9:45a.m.  Worship 11:00	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Music Team Meeting 6:45  Ministry Council 6:30- 8:00	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Women &Word Staff & Wor- ship Staff 1:30 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7-8:30	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Parlor in Use 9-10a.m.  Tamil School 2-4p.m.
<b>9</b> Worship 8:30  Fellowship Hour 9:45a.m.  Worship 11:00	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Young Adult Group 7p.m.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Men's Break- fast 8:00 Women &Word 9:30- 11:30 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7-8:30	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Parlor in Use 9-10a.m.
<b>16</b> Worship 8:30 Fellowship Hour 9:45a.m.  Worship 11:00 Youth Group 12:00	<b>17</b> Presidents Day No Pre- school Finance & Ops 6:30	<b>18</b> Governance Council 6:30	<b>19</b> Associate Pas- tor Support Team 6:30	<b>20</b> Women &Word 9:30- 11:30 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7-8:30	<b>21</b> Movie Night	<b>22</b> Parlor in Use 9-10a.m.
<b>23</b> Worship 8:30  Shrove Break- fast 9:45a.m.  Worship 11:00	<b>24</b> Twins & Multiples Group 6:30	<b>25</b> Missions 6:30 Young Adult Group 7p.m.	<b>26</b> Ash Wednes- day Service 7:00p.m.	<b>27</b> Women &Word 9:30- 11:30 Handbells 6-7 Choir 7-8:30	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Parlor in Use 9-10a.m.  Singing Cir- cle 4-9p.m.

# Fearless Dialogues Experience

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**See. Hear. Change.  
SUNDAY, March 15 from 8:30a.m.—2p.m.**

*Fearless Dialogues is a grassroots organization committed to creating unique spaces for unlikely partners to engage in hard heartfelt conversations that see gifts in others, hear value in stories, and work for change and positive transformation in self and other.*

This experience will be different than a typical Sunday worship service. And, it will still be a day full of fellowship, communion, and attending to the Spirit among us. Fearless Dialogues has served many communities and invited honest and helpful conversation. People from Fortune 500 Companies, Various Religious Communities, Professional Sports Teams, Political Candidates, and St. Peter's Leadership Team have all participated in Fearless Dialogues.

**Now it is YOUR turn.**

**We encourage you to come for the whole day for the most meaningful experience.**

**If you can only make a portion of the day, here are the sessions (Each session is a unique offering; the material will NOT be repeated.):**

**8:30-10:30a.m.**

**10:45-12:20p.m.**

**12:30-2p.m.**

We are engaging Fearless Dialogues because we believe that the people of St. Peter's are ready for honest and challenging conversations about who we are and where we are going. We are doing this because stories matter: yours, ours, theirs, and we want to listen in a new way.

**We received a grant from the Center for Congregations to make this experience possible.**

**Now YOU can help us make it a success.**

To be clear: this experience will be worth your time. Food will be provided – let us know if you have dietary restrictions.

If you are interested in learning more, check out [www.fearlessdialogues.com](http://www.fearlessdialogues.com) or glance at the book of the same title. You can absolutely come without ANY familiarity and have a fantastic experience. This is intentional. Finally, here is a link to a video about Fearless Dialogues. You can choose to watch it or just be surprised. (<https://youtu.be/9bRhrTg5hA0>).

**RSVP to [office@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:office@stpeterscarmel.org) or sign up in Fellowship Hall by Sunday, March 1.**

**\*\*\*NOTE for PARENTS: This experience is for adults and youth (ages 7th grade and older). If you have younger kids who would like to participate in a day of fun with others from St. Peter's, please LET US KNOW. We are planning options for kids in grades K-6 and will tailor the experience based on who sign up!\*\*\***

# From Your Clergy Team

Lori Bievenour  
Becca Lockwood

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## From Lori

I still don't quite have words for what I am feeling. I returned to St. Peter's in December 2019. It's now February 2020, and I continue to be overwhelmed by the uniqueness of this faith community. Honestly, my three-month sabbatical this past fall was a huge gift – one that I didn't realize I needed as much as I did. Oh, I missed you. Please hear me: I. Missed. St. Peter's. A. Lot. And... I needed an extended time away to renew my spirit, to "just" be me., to nurture the next iteration of my ministry among you.

Back from sabbatical, my perspective on ministry is more balanced. I'm working more slowly, more intentionally, with more listening, and many deep breaths. I'm making sure to only commit to two evening meetings per week; my soul and my body need this. I continue to be in conversation with people who love church, like I do, and I am grateful for friends and colleagues who are with me on this journey.

I'm excited for the work we're doing, St. Peter's. Listening to all 24 storytellers from the fall was an overwhelmingly wonderful experience. (Read more about that on Page 6.) Celebrating Advent and Christmas with a full sanctuary and joy from all angles was amazing. Honoring the ministry of intern Sam Locke was pure joy (and I just put in our paperwork to have another student, hopefully this next school year or even this summer!) Participating in Fearless Dialogues with our leaders in late January was (literally) a dream come true. (Read more about that on Page 8.) And now, I am looking ahead to Lent and Easter and the Fearless Dialogues experience that we ALL get to have on March 15. (Read more about that on Page 3.) There is SO MUCH that is worth celebrating, and I am humbled that I get to lead this congregation at this time in its life.

Seriously. I found myself reading *Epiphanies of the Spirit* recently... that's our congregation's history book that was published in 2005, our centennial year. At that time – 15 years ago – I wrote, "I've returned to a place where outreach and mission are not taken lightly. St. Peter's is one of those rare places where serving others is considered the norm, not the exception. It is a place where academic study is balanced with spiritual practice, where strangers are welcomed and long-times are valued, where every person has a voice. For this, I give thanks." I believe that very same thing right now. Truly remarkable.

Last month, we didn't publish an Epistle. That's new too. I came back from sabbatical to a newly-formed social media team. I couldn't be happier, and I am asking YOU to do your part with social media (Read more on Page 18.) I see the results of this work. More and more people are visiting St. Peter's. We have work to do in welcoming them all in the ways that we dream of, but we're doing the work of spreading our message, and for that, I am grateful. Every week since my return from sabbatical, new people have been among us. Completely new people EVERY week. Let's not waste the opportunity to get to know these people who are courageous enough to check out our quirky, spirit-filled, community.

I do not pretend to know exactly what comes next for our congregation. We've got a season of Generosity that will kick off in March, and we have some big questions ahead of us about what our congregation and ministries will look like. Our current and future finances are leading us into challenging but necessary conversation and we hope you'll be part of it. I can sense the energy that many of you are holding around this conversation, and it is GOOD. We are doing important work, St. Peter's, and we're doing it with an eye on justice, inclusion, and love. This gives me great hope. I find myself talking about our congregation all of the time... I am proud to be back, to feel your love, and to dream with you into the future.

And speaking of the future... PLEASE don't stop reading here. Read what Becca has to say in the next ar-

ticle. It's important. She was a fantastic colleague during my time away, and we're excited to launch into this next season. Here we go! In Faith, Lori

## **From Becca - Sabbatical: An Update**

This month, there is exciting news to share... With the support of the Associate Pastor Support Team, our Governance Council, and Lori, I will be taking a sabbatical this summer beginning on Sunday June 21st and returning Monday September 14th. Here's how this decision and revelation unfolded:

I applied for a Clergy Renewal Grant through the Lilly Endowment in order to take sabbatical in summer 2020. However, that application (sent in 2019) was not selected as a grant recipient, so the idea was to push back the sabbatical to 2021 and apply for the grant again in 2020. This was the plan when Lori left for her sabbatical last fall.

And then, things changed, as they often do during a sabbatical period, whether it is your sabbatical or someone else's. After much conversation and support, I have decided not to reapply for the Clergy Renewal Grant. When I learned that my first application was not chosen, I realized that others were sadder than I was about this reality. This was a clue to what would come. In September, with the thoughtful questions and support from my Bethany Fellows colleagues, I realized that while I felt called to take sabbatical, I did not feel called to apply for the Clergy Renewal Grant again. My Associate Pastor Support Team (Elizabeth Roe, Jaesoo Kim, Eric Smith, and Nan Bucksten) have been integral in helping me discern that taking a sabbatical this year rather than next year is wise and that applying for the Clergy Renewal Grant is only one way to take a sabbatical. They have been deep sources of support and guidance, and I am grateful for their wisdom.

Part of my discernment began by realizing that it had not occurred to me to ask if I wanted to apply for the grant; it was assumed that I would. The Clergy Renewal Grant has played a part in our congregation's history and is a tremendous opportunity, especially for clergy based in Indiana where we have a higher percentage of acceptance. However, creating the grant application and then doing it, is actually quite a bit of work, and a bit more stressful than I was hoping for in my first sabbatical in pastoral call.

I talked with Lori when she returned from her sabbatical, and she was immediately supportive of this new plan. Lori has always been quick and steadfast in her support for my call and our shared ministry, even and especially when, it looks different from her own. Soon, her excitement for this new sabbatical plan was matched by my own.

Some sabbaticals are taken "because the contract says so." Other sabbaticals are taken as a result of a profound need of a break and/or experiencing burn out. Still other sabbaticals are taken due to a need to refill the spiritual fuel tank. I would place myself in this last category. I am hopeful that I have many years of ministry ahead of me, and in order for that to happen, rest, self-care, and time alone with the Spirit are essential. I am beyond grateful to serve a congregation that sees and honors this need by including a sabbatical every five years for their clergy in our call agreements.

So, in a nutshell, that's how we've arrived at this place and decision. I listened to myself, the Spirit, and others, and we are now at a place in the life of our congregation where each of your pastors will have taken a sabbatical in just over one year. I will be working closely with Missions Team, Education Team, and Lori to plan well for the sabbatical period this summer and the early weeks of fall when I will return. I ask for your prayers as this journey unfolds. I have yet to plan and decide what this time will hold, and will be excited to share those details as they form.

As we learned from Lori's sabbatical this past fall, it can be a profound and surprising period of growth and deepening for both the pastor and the congregation. I am hopeful and confident that will be true again this summer.

## **Fall Storytellers Reflect Together**

The experiment in storytelling continues! 24 people shared their stories in worship last fall, and the experience is ongoing. After Lori completed listening to all of the stories, the group met to “debrief” the experience and discuss what was impactful and challenging for each of them. The learnings were profound. Some were wondering what to do with the \$100 gift card that they were given to “continue sharing their stories/keep the conversations going.” (Note: if you are interested in talking further with a storyteller, please contact them!) Some were surprised to think back on the process and see that the story they told wasn’t what they expected to share. Others were grateful to learn that they weren’t the only ones who learned a lot about themselves during this experiment. There was consensus that the experiment was “worth it.” And there’s more good news: We’re not finished with this gift. The stories continue to emerge, and connections are being made as we deepen our relationships with each other. We continue to be grateful for the Formative Congregations Grant from the Center for Congregations which is making this possible. Finally, please enjoy the following poem, which was inspired by our storytellers. Lori wrote it using direct quotes and/or her own thoughts after listening to the stories from the fall. It’s definitely a work in progress – one which is being given to each of the storytellers and YOU to play with. Change it as you see fit and/or use it as a tool for prayer. In this way, we will continue to grow these stories and our own stories... and THAT is powerful spiritual work.

### **The Stories You Told and the Wisdom I Heard**

*(compiled February 2020 from the stories shared in worship Fall 2019)*

Do you believe that you have a story?

Testimony – telling your story – is prayer.

(Prayer is testimony.)

Start with a breath.

Take a drink of water.

I don’t know what prayer is, but I try very hard to pay attention -

There is a holiness in endings.

Yet this is the prologue... the story has just begun.

We are woven together with so much still to learn

So please don’t ever apologize for being you

We are all works in progress

The answers are already within us

What I liked least before is what I like most now

Your voices quivered.

They weren’t singing at all.

You made me laugh.

A slow leak.

You carried the pain so gracefully.

The void was significant.

You said their names – the influencers, the pain-makers, the ones who came before.

God is nowhere and everywhere at the same time.

You didn’t put God first.

A core competency.

You only think this is water.

A film canister of four-leaf clovers.

Time and anger and grudges – do they go together?

When I was done being an acolyte, I stopped attending church. I had my out.  
I started bringing people in instead of pushing them away.  
I am becoming my own person.  
I did not volunteer.  
I continue to evolve.  
I allow the thoughts and memories to flow.  
I feel the curiosity.  
I listen.  
I learn.  
I need to be still and know God.  
I am a stranger no matter how long I live in this question.  
I'm religious but not spiritual and that's ok.

You had patience while being on the edge.  
    and the anger subsided.  
You chose to stay.  
    a balance of good and bad emerged.  
You left the questions unanswered, especially the painful ones.  
    sometimes that is all you can ask for.  
You couldn't see or hear, but peace and love emerged.  
    20 years later, it came.  
You showed up in the weeks of so much grief.  
You came and allowed people to care for you.  
You ended with gratitude.

Will you?  
Will you love you, too?

Say yes.  
    See the power of God in everyone.  
        Speak your truth even if it's not their truth.  
            (I know they will keep asking.)  
        Experience hurt without getting stuck there.  
    Rest in God's peace and quiet.  
Show up.

Will you?  
Will you love you, too?

This is the prologue... the story has just begun.  
Yet there is a holiness in endings.  
I don't know what prayer is, but I try very hard to pay attention -  
Take a drink of water.  
Start with a breath.  
(Prayer is testimony.)  
Testimony – telling your story – is prayer.

Do you now believe that you have a story?



## Governance Council

**President: Tim Tomlinson**

[president@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:president@stpeterscarmel.org)

**Vice President: Jennifer Atkinson**

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**Secretary: Dennis Heavin**

[secretary@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:secretary@stpeterscarmel.org)

**Generosity Team Leader: Seth Kreigh**

[generositylead@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:generositylead@stpeterscarmel.org)

**Treasurer: Diane Carr**

[treasurer@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:treasurer@stpeterscarmel.org)

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### Congregational Conversation #1: A Recap

On January 5, we had the first of four Congregational Conversations for 2020. Daniel Meyers presented learnings from the Fall Focus Groups, and an open discussion was had by about 60 people. Here are a few details from Daniel's presentation. We look forward to continuing the conversations with you on May 3, August 2, and November 1. A full report from the January conversation is available on our website or from the church office ([office@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:office@stpeterscarmel.org)). Questions can be directed to Daniel Meyers, Staff Support Team Leader at [staffsupportlead@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:staffsupportlead@stpeterscarmel.org)

### Fearless Dialogues: Leadership Retreat Recap

**(a perspective from Becca Lockwood, Associate Pastor for Missions & Education)**

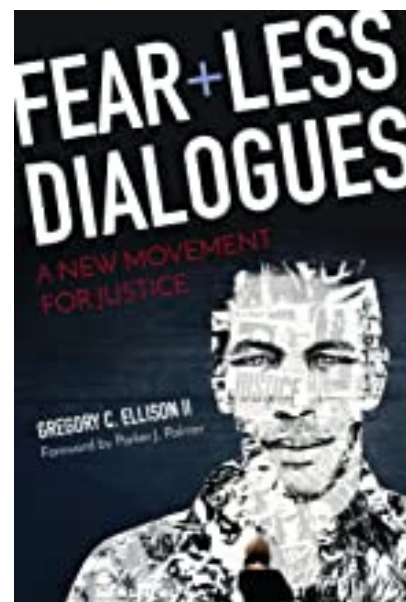
"Good morning! Welcome to Fearless Dialogues. It's good to see you. Are you ready for change?" This is how we were greeted on Saturday January 25. Many of your leaders met from 9:00am- 3:00pm for a day of conversation and learning.

Most of us had no idea what to expect from a Leadership Retreat Day of "Fearless Dialogues." I think it's fair to say that many of us were "fear-full"...or at least a few of us held some trepidation. However, any anxiety quickly dissolved as the day began. Our hosts were gentle, fun, and sincere; qualities that help ease fear and anxiety.

We were each invited to be our whole selves, to bring our life's experience, and our narrative to do the day. Seated at round tables, we began the day with breakfast and conversation. Throughout the day we were led through different conversations, different thought-provoking questions, and opportunities to see with a new perspective.

We grappled with questions, engaged images, laughed, cried, and ate together. And we each did it on our own terms. What we experienced together was an invitation. No one was forced to share. No one was forced to participate (or even speak). We were vulnerable and honest. At a few points, we were broken open and truly heard each other's stories.

On March 15 you're invited and encouraged to be a part of this experience with the whole congregation. It was a powerful experience and we can't wait to see what lies ahead... Please plan to attend, and if you have questions about the experience, just ask one of our elected lay leaders; they will likely have a few things to share with you.



**Plan to attend Fearless Dialogues  
on Sunday, March 15!  
More details are on Page 3.**



# Generosity Team

Team Leader: Seth Kreigh

generositylead@stpeterscarmel.org

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## Thoughts from Your Generosity Team

(Written by Carole Blocher, Generosity Team Member)

When I spoke in Worship on January 5<sup>th</sup>, I spoke from my heart to answer the Question “Why do I give to St Peters?” Gratitude is the first word that comes to my mind. The word gratitude is always followed by the word generosity for me. Ken and I came to St. Peters 10 years ago and immediately felt that we had at last come home. We love the worship opportunities, the Pastors, the classes and most of all, the people, who have become family to us! So when I was asked to become a member of the **Generosity Team**, I was happy to say “yes”! Participation on this team has made me aware of how important generosity is to sustaining all the wonderful programs and gifts that St. Peter’s has to offer to each of us. There are many ways that giving through our time, talents and monetary gifts are so important to the life of St. Peters. As we begin **St. Peter’s Generosity Campaign for 2020**, we are looking to increase our overall financial support. My hope is that each of us will give generously out of gratitude for all that St. Peters means as a gift to our lives and to our spirituality.

## Generosity 2020

Expect to receive a letter in the mail in early March regarding your financial giving to our congregation. The Generosity Team will be reaching out to elected leaders first and then to the entire congregation. We hope you will begin to think about how you will contribute to our community in this vital way. Every gift matters, and generosity is a spiritual discipline. Join us in this transformative journey. We are asking that pledge cards be returned no later than Sunday, March 29. Questions? Please contact Generosity Team Leader Seth Kreigh or team members Sarah Penquite, Carole Blocher, or Jill Olinger. Your pastors are also always available to discuss generosity with you.

Giving Statements for 2019 have been sent by email or by mail. If you have any questions about your giving statement, please contact Jenny Terry, Financial Secretary at [financial@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:financial@stpeterscarmel.org)

## Support St. Peter’s with Very Little Effort...

People often ask us if there are ways to support the work of St. Peter’s. Two VERY easy ways are with Amazon Smile and Kroger Community Rewards. Neither program gives us tens of thousands of dollars, but we do receive money from your purchases, and that makes a difference. Please sign up, and tell you friends.

**KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS** - If you have a Kroger Plus rewards card, then you can help St. Peter's get a tiny percentage of your Kroger purchases. Here's how: Go to [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com) and log into your Kroger account. If you don't have a Kroger account, you can sign up for one.

1. In the upper right corner, click your name and click My Account.
2. In My Account, look on the left for Community Rewards and click it.
3. Look for St. Peter's of Carmel. Our organization number is **QX484**

Save the changes. Now, the next time you use your Kroger Plus card, St. Peter's will get credit!

If you need help with Kroger Community Rewards, call 1-800-KROGERS, option #3.

**AMAZON SMILE** – If you’re shopping with Amazon, consider using Amazon Smile. They donate to a charity of your choice, and we hope you will choose St. Peter’s UCC! <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/35-0975622>

# Spiritual Life Team

Team Leader: Chrissy Searcy

spirituallifelead@stpeterscarmel.org

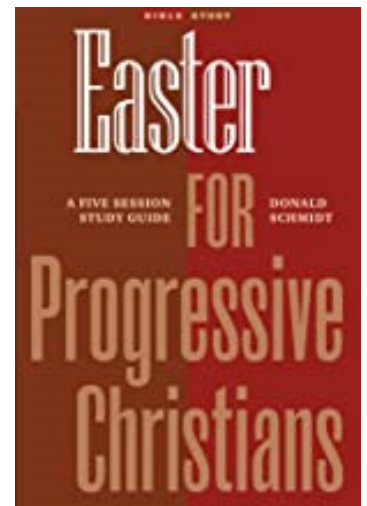
## Prayer Station for February: Mirrors



This month, we invite you to look at yourself in the mirror that is at our Prayer Station. See yourself. Truly see yourself. See yourself as loved, as beautiful, as a reflection and creation of The Sacred. We encourage you to take one of the small mirrors at the Prayer Station to keep for yourself or give to someone else who needs to see that they are loved. Look in the mirror. What do you see? God sees love, and we hope you see it too.

## March Study with Lori – “Easter for Progressive Christians” 5 Tuesdays in March 1:30-2:30p.m. at St. Peter’s

Come prepare for Easter 2020 in a new way... delve deeper, explore more, and do it with other people who are asking questions of their faith as well! Using the book “Easter for Progressive Christians” by Donald Schmidt, we will explore each of the Easter narratives. Each week is meant to stand alone, so come to as many sessions as you’d like! Books are available in the church office. PLEASE SIGN up in REALM or in FELLOWSHIP HALL so that we can keep enough books on hand and choose the appropriate space for our gatherings.



From the book: “So what really happened that first Easter Sunday? The simple answer is that no one knows... [and that is] only a problem if one is trying to prove that each of the stories is factually accurate. If we suspend that attempt for a moment and read the Easter stories in the gospels for what they are – profound statements of faith – we may discover something much more powerful and lasting...”

## Midweek Contemplative Services in March 4 Wednesdays in March 7:00-8:00p.m. at St. Peter’s



After such positive experiences from last year’s contemplative services, we will be offering them again during the month of March. Becca will be leading a contemplative worship service on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm. Worship will be designed to be soft and provoking, pensive and engaging. We will sing and/or listen to music. We will pray and engage in a spiritual practice. We will celebrate Communion. This is designed to be a contemplative space to be attentive and present to each other and the Spirit. **Join us on Wednesdays at 7:00: March 4, 11, 18 & 24.**

## Usher Volunteer Opportunities

Ushering is a fun way to get to know people at St Peter’s and a great way to be a welcoming congregation. Training is available and there are also written instructions available. 8:30 service: June 28. For the 11:00 service, we have one person scheduled and would like a second person on: March 1, 29, April 5, May 3, 10, 24, 31 and June 7, 28.

# Hospitality Team

Team Leader: Julia Stolle

[hospitalitylead@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:hospitalitylead@stpeterscarmel.org)

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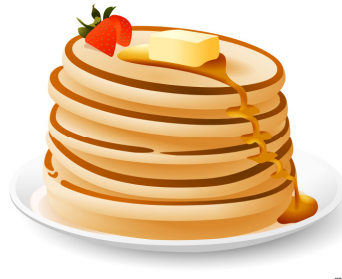
## New Spring Dine with 9 Groups Forming!

"Dine with 9" consists of groups of 9 (give or take!) St. Peter's members and friends who come together for a meal once a month. Each month's host will either choose a restaurant or host in their home, pitch-in style or however you choose! Groups will be formed in early February, so sign up soon in Fellowship Hall or by emailing the church office; [office@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:office@stpeterscarmel.org). Questions? Contact Ann-Marie Rohe [amrohe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:amrohe@sbcglobal.net)



## Shrove Brunch: February 23 Between Services

One Lenten tradition is to not eat meat or animal products. As such, it became common to have a feast prior to the beginning of Lent, using up the last of the animal fat to make pancakes. Our pancakes will be much simpler (and vegetarian friendly), but join us for a celebratory brunch! (Pancakes, sausage, juice, and coffee will be provided!)



## Fellowship Hour Host Opportunities

Can you bring snacks to serve approximately 25 people and stay to clean up before second service starts? If yes, you would make a great Fellowship Hour host! Julia Stolle is available to co-host with you if a co-host would be helpful to you. If you would prefer not to pay for the snacks yourself or don't have time to shop in advance, there are snacks to serve. Hosts are needed from 10:00 am to 11 am on these Sundays: March 1, 8, 29, April 5, 12, May 3, 10. Email Julia at [hospitalitylead@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:hospitalitylead@stpeterscarmel.org)

## Team Members Welcome

Are you interested in sharing your cooking or hosting skills? Hospitality Team needs your help! Email Julia at [hospitalitylead@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:hospitalitylead@stpeterscarmel.org) for more details.

## Round Tables—Have You Noticed?

You are not imagining things. We have new, round tables for use at St. Peter's. These were a part of our Formative Congregations Grant, and while it might seem like a small change to make, it is offering us great benefits. Our preschool is using the tables for conferences. Fellowship Hour now includes easier ways for people to be in conversation. Education Team is using a round table to have games and activities as a part of LAUGH at 10:00a.m. The tables were used by Fearless Dialogues for our Leadership Retreat, and we expect that Family Promise will enjoy the round tables as well. The simple change from rectangular to round tables affects conversations and relationships, and we are grateful for this addition to our community!

# Missions Team

Team Leader: Katie Lukes

missionslead@stpeterscarmel.org

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## **Just Mercy: A Conversation Led by Liz Chandler**

**Monday, February 10 at 7:00p.m.**

"Just Mercy" is the true story of Walter McMillian, who is sentenced to die for murder despite evidence proving his innocence. In the years that McMillian is on death row, lawyer Bryan Stevenson encounters racism and legal hurdles as he fights for McMillian's life. See the movie and/or read the book, and join us for discussion on February 10 at 7:00p.m. St. Peter's in the Parlor. This movie is PG-13 and could be a great opportunity for adults, youth and parents, or anyone interested in this conversation.

## **Borderlands Vigils: February 10 and May 10**

While on the recent trip to the U.S. – Mexico border with the Indiana-Kentucky Conference, one of the stories shared was that of Jose Antonio Elena Rodriguez, a 16 year old boy who was shot and killed on October 10, 2012, by border patrol on the Mexican side of the border while walking to meet his brother at work. His grandmother was at the Common Ground at the Border event in Sahuarita, AZ, and she asked that we share his story and hold vigil on the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month leading up to the Supreme Court trial in June. First Congregational United Church of Christ (71st & Pennsylvania) is planning a vigil for Monday, February 10 at 6:30 p.m. St. Peter's will host a vigil on May 10. All are encouraged to attend.

## **Queer Care Coalition of Hamilton County hosts Talent Show at St. Peter's February 16**

St. Peter's Missions Team is proud to share that we will be sponsoring a new organization in Hamilton County, the Queer Care Coalition. It is a group comprised of LGBTQ+ youth in the Hamilton County area. The goal and mission of this group is to create safe space for LGBTQ+ youth to come together and be amongst peers, learn, and share their gifts. In our first of what we hope will be many partnerships, the Queer Care Coalition will be having a talent show on February 16 at St. Peter's. We are proud to welcome the QCC as a partner in this work for justice and inclusion.

## **Day of Service: Sunday, May 3**

Sunday, May 3 will be another unique day in the life of St. Peter's. We will share in communion prior to engaging in a number of service opportunities that morning. We will not have an 8:30 or 11:00a.m. service – we are hopeful that you will participate in embodying our faith together. There will be opportunities both at church and off-site for people to be involved. Stay tuned for more details.

## **Carmel UMC Food Pantry**

This month we are collecting peanut butter and jelly along with personal care items (shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, pads and tampons, laundry and hand soap).

## Family Promise (FP) Hosting March 1 - 8

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. Come by the FP table, in Fellowship Hall 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 serve our neighbors in their time of need

**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)**
- **7 dinners to host**
- **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 Mar 1st (after the second service)**
- **Tear down of guest rooms on Mar 8th (6:45a.m.)**
- **Laundry**

## Why I Give **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:** **LINDA WALKER and STACY McINTYRE**

Family Promise is a family affair for Linda Walker and her daughter, Stacy McIntyre.

Linda got involved with Family Promise's flagship emergency shelter program in Union County, NJ, 30 years ago. From the beginning, she appreciated how each family's unique needs were addressed.

"Family Promise is willing to listen to families," she says. "There's no one answer or solution that fits everyone."



Family Promise is a family tradition that spans miles and generations for Linda Walker in New Jersey and her daughter Stacy McIntyre in Indiana.

A mother of two young children back then, Linda would bring her family to volunteer. She appreciated the opportunity for them to make a difference together.

"Family Promise helps people of all ages understand they can have a meaningful impact," she notes.

In fact, Family Promise made such a strong impression on Linda's daughter Stacy in her youth that she's now a volunteer and part-time coordinator at Family Promise of

***"Family Promise helps people of all ages understand they can have an impact."***

Greater Indianapolis and volunteers with her own family. Like her own mother did, Stacy wants to teach her children the value of community and giving back.

"Family Promise reinforces the importance



The Walker and McIntyre families are proof that people of all ages can make a difference for families in need.

of community, of checking in with people in need, helping those who are going through a down time," Stacy says.

When Linda visits Stacy's family in Indiana, all three generations find time to volunteer together.

In the end, it's family that mother and daughter treasure most, and they're grateful to reinforce that value through Family Promise.

"They say it takes a village to raise a child," says Linda. "That village is full of families."



# Music Team

Team Leader: Sarah Scholl  
Music Director : Cheryl Keckler

musicministrylead@stpeterscarmel.org  
musicdirector@stpeterscarmel.org

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## Singing Circle is Here!

**Saturday, February 29** is the date. **5:00 p.m.** is the time. Spend Leap Day evening participating in our Singing Circle. A pitch-in supper will start the evening. Then we gather (in a circle) and sing old songs, hymns, funny songs, rounds, whatever we like. We will have an extra treat that evening with Carol Choir members singing some of their “fun” songs. They may even teach a couple of them to you! This will be a fun evening of fellowship. Please sign up on Realm or in Fellowship Hall.

## Dulcimer Society Visiting

A few years ago we had the joy of hosting the Dulcimer Society on a Sunday morning. They will again join us on **Sunday, April 26 at the 11:00 service**. It's a fun morning of music. They will play the service music plus accompany our “hymn” singing.

## Singing Visits

A Singing Visit will be on the calendar soon. Please check the weekly calendar for definite information. What is a Singing Visit? We visit members and friends and share a variety of music (both singing and instrumental) with them. It's like Christmas Caroling throughout the year. All voices are welcomed. It's the sharing that's important.

## Music for Children and Youth

Right now the children and youth are preparing a handchime anthem for March. Following the handchimes, we will learn a singing anthem for sharing in the spring. Music for the kids is scheduled on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:15 in the Music Room. This is open to all Grade 2 and older.

## 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](mailto: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.





# Preschool Team

Team Leader: Tammy Drummond

preschoolteam@stpeterscarmel.org

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## Preschool Registration

Registration went well! We have a few openings in our 2's and 3's program for the 2020-2021 school year. Spread the word!

## Free Speech/Language Workshop

We are excited to offer a free Speech/Language Workshop at the preschool that will be held on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. Laura Loeffelholz, Speech-Language Pathologist from Speech Pathology Services will be facilitating the workshop. Areas that Laura plans to cover:

- Developmental milestones for feeding, speech & language.

- Recommendations to facilitate oral motor development in preschool age children.

- Provide tips for promoting healthy feeding habits.

- Provide activities to boost speech and language at home through play and everyday activities.

## LaBraid

The preschool would like to thank those church members who ordered La braid pastries. We will have another sale in the Spring, just in time for Easter.



# Education Team

Team Leader: Lori Radford

educationlead@stpeterscarmel.org

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## 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)**

#### **10:00a.m. in Fellowship Hall! (Note: Change of Location)**

Starting in February we will be the format and location of LAUGH, our 10:00 children's Education Hour. Due to changing attendance and needs of the congregation we will be holding LAUGH in Fellowship Hall rather than one of the preschool classrooms. Fellowship Hour has become more and more robust and intimate over the last several months and we long to be a part of it. We will have a table in Fellowship Hall designated for LAUGH and those who wish to engage with the younger among us. We will have conversation starters, games, puzzles, and most certainly LAUGHter.

### **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 to talk about the season of Advent. We'll explore and wonder about the scriptures we use each year for this season. We'll talk about the idea of waiting and patience...themes of this season...and together we'll prepare for Jesus to be born among us."

### **Lectionary Class**

If you love to dive deep into scripture and how it intersects with our lives then Lectionary might be for you.

### **Current Events**

Join us in the Conference Room in between services as we talk about what is happening in our community and world. Together we wrestle with hard questions and encourage each other to live our faith in action. Sometimes the world is a difficult and confusing place and we need to remind each other how to create a little more justice, mercy and compassion.

### **Women and the Word**

Join us on Thursdays at 9:30 in the parlor as we delve into The Jesus Fatwah: Love Your Muslim Neighbor, a Living the Questions series.

# Education Team

Team Leader: Lori Radford

educationlead@stpeterscarmel.org

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## Young Adult Group

### 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at Books & Brews in Carmel at 7p.m.

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!

## Youth Group

### Intergenerational Trivia: Saturday March 14th

Do you love trivia? Join the Education Team as we host an evening of intergenerational trivia. All ages, knowledge, fun, and wisdom welcome! We will serve appetizers and dessert to fuel our brains for correct answers. Join us on Saturday March 14th from 6:30-8:30. (A little preview below):

- Which country produces the most coffee in the world?
- How many times does the heart beat per day?
- What are known as the five books of Moses?
- What are the names of the seven Harry Potter books? Double points for correct order.

## Youth Class Facilitators Requested

Did you know that St. Peter's youth have multiple opportunities each Sunday to participate in meaningful discussion about their faith? There is a small, but dedicated team that currently serve as Class Facilitators to make this happen. But we would love to have additional volunteers. The Education Team is looking for facilitators for the following classes:

Worship & Wonder (pre-K-3rd grade on the 1st-4th Sunday's during service),  
456 Class (for 4th-6th grade every 2nd & 4th Sunday during service), and  
LAUGH (all ages between services)

At St. Peter's our approach to education involves wondering, discussing, and sharing rich stories, both based on curriculum and personal experience. Each facilitator has their own style of leading the classes and prior experience is not necessary. Commitments can be every week, 1 time a month, whatever works for the particular volunteer. Training is also provided.

Please contact Lori Radford, Education Team Lead, to volunteer or to learn more: [EducationTeam@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:EducationTeam@stpeterscarmel.org)



# Social Media Team

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## St. Peter's Social Media - So How Do I...?

Our Social Media outreach has now had two months of content and activity! We are excited by the important messages of love and affirmation that are reaching more and more people every time we post. Are you following us on various platforms? If you would like to please find some helpful tips below. Questions? Email our Social Media Manager, Liz Chandler, at [SocialMediaManager@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:SocialMediaManager@stpeterscarmel.org)

### For Instagram our handle/name is: **stpetersucc\_carmel**

Already have an account? Just type in our name in the search engine and you'll find us! Click "Follow" to stay up to date on inspiring prayers, affirmations, and posts of church life. You'll find pictures from our time in Cincinnati over Christmas, Singing Visits, pictures from our sanctuary, and prayers. Right now we're in the midst of exploring the phrases from our UCC "Be The Church" banner.

Instagram coordinator: Stevi Cook Questions? Email her at [SocialMediaI@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:SocialMediaI@stpeterscarmel.org)

### For Twitter our handle/name is: **@stpeters\_ucc**

Twitter has similar postings to Instagram and Facebook. In addition to this Twitter is also used as platform to post and respond in the moment. Perhaps our twitter social media coordinator is moved by something happening in worship; it's possible you'll see a quote from a prayer, confession, or sermon tweeted in response!

Twitter coordinator: Liz Chandler Questions? Email her at [SocialMediaT@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:SocialMediaT@stpeterscarmel.org)

### For Facebook our name is **St. Peter's United Church of Christ**

We actually have two Facebook accounts! One is private for members to stay in touch, share, and communicate. The second account (the one launched with our other social media platforms) is public! It's a way for folks outside of our community to find us on Facebook. Perhaps they will see a powerful prayer, witty joke, or a post from marching in Pride Parade and come to our cool, quirky, and amazing Open and Affirming church.

Facebook coordinator: Emma Bogord Questions? Email her at [SocialMediaF@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:SocialMediaF@stpeterscarmel.org)



# Notes from the Church Office

Laurie Hesselink, Office Administrator

office@stpeterscarmel.org

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## 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 March newsletter should be sent to office@stpeterscarmel.org by February 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 and Greg McMullen. 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

**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.

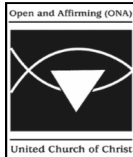
We believe God's grace is extended to all. To anyone who has felt unwelcome or has experienced rejection elsewhere, we say, "All are welcome here."

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 inclusiveness 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



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Preschool: 317-846-6860  
<http://www.stpeterscarmel.org>  
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#carmelucc #findingspirit

**TO:**