



## *Finding the Spirit in Life*

#findingspirit

www.stpeterscarmel.org

#carmelucc

## The Epistle - March 2020

### Fearless Dialogues

SUNDAY, March 15 from 8:30a.m.—2p.m.

RSVP by March 1 in Fellowship Hall or at [office@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:office@stpeterscarmel.org)

***"I heard some very moving and thought-provoking stories from the Fearless Dialogues animators and from my fellow congregants. Through these stories, I felt like I heard the Holy Spirit guide me toward changing some of the things in my life. I heard affirmation that we are moving in the right direction as a community of faith."***

- A Member of St. Peter's Leadership Team

St. Peter's has a story to share with our community! Now is the time to discern our future as a congregation. What will our focus be? Whom will we serve? How will we change? Fearless Dialogues will help us to share our stories with each other in creative ways and cultivate tools to be used in future conversations about our congregation.

This experience will be different than typical Sunday worship services. It will be a day full of fellowship, communion, and attending to the Spirit among us. **We encourage you to come for the WHOLE DAY (all 3 sessions) for the most meaningful experience.** If you can only make a portion of the day, there are three unique sessions: 8:30-10:30a.m., 10:45-12:20p.m., 12:30-2p.m.

Food will be provided – let us know if you have dietary restrictions. Want to learn more? Check out [www.fearlessdialogues.com](http://www.fearlessdialogues.com) or glance at the book of the same title. You can also watch this short video: <https://youtu.be/9bRhrTg5hA0>.

**\*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 activities based on who signs up!\*

### Also in this Newsletter:

Bathroom Renovation Opportunity—Page 6 & 7  
Lent 2020—Page 8 & 9

From Our Pastors—Page 10 & 11  
One Service Sundays—Page 3

# March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Worship 8:30am  Fellowship 9:45am  Worship 11:00am   Family Promise	<b>2</b>     — FP —	<b>3</b> Study w/ Lori 1:30pm   — FP —	<b>4</b> Worship Service w/ Becca 7pm   — FP —	<b>5</b> Women & Word 9:30am  Staff Mtgs 1:30pm  Ministry Team 6:45pm  Handbells 6pm Choir 7pm — FP —	<b>6</b>     — FP —	<b>7</b> Parlor in Use 9am  Tamil School 2pm  — FP —
<b>8</b> <b>Daylight Savings  Time Ends</b>  Worship 8:30am Fellowship 9:45am Worship 11:00am  Singing Visit 1:15pm	<b>9</b> Education Team 6:30pm   	<b>10</b> Study w/ Lori 1:30pm  Young Adult Group 7pm  Sr. Pastor Support 7pm	<b>11</b> Worship Service w/ Becca 7pm	<b>12</b> Women & Word 9:30am  Handbells 6pm Choir 7pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Parlor in Use 9am  Tamil School 2pm
<b>15</b>  <b>Fearless  Dialogues:  8:30-10:30am  10:45-12:20pm  12:30-2:00pm</b>	<b>16</b> Waterford HOA 6pm  Finance & Ops 6:30pm	<b>17</b> Study w/ Lori 1:30pm  Music Team 6:45pm  Governance 6:30pm	<b>18</b> Worship Service w/ Becca 7pm	<b>19</b> Men's Break- fast 8am  Women & Word 9:30am  Handbells 6pm Choir 7pm	<b>20</b> Movie Night	<b>21</b> Parlor in Use 9am  Tamil School 2pm  Trivia Night 6:30pm
<b>22</b> Worship 8:30am  Fellowship 9:45am  Worship 11:00am	<b>23</b> Twins & Multiples Group 6:30pm	<b>24</b> Study w/ Lori 1:30pm  Young Adult Group 7pm	<b>25</b> Worship Service w/ Becca 7pm	<b>26</b> Women & Word 9:30am  Handbells 6pm Choir 7pm  Tech Team 7pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Parlor in Use 9am
<b>29</b> Worship 8:30am Brunch Hour Worship 11:00am	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Study w/ Lori 1:30pm				

# 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 4)</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 5</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>

# Governance Council

President: Tim Tomlinson

president@stpeterscarmel.org

Vice President: Jennifer Atkinson

vicepresident@stpeterscarmel.org

Secretary: Dennis Heavin

secretary@stpeterscarmel.org

Generosity Team Leader: Seth Kreigh

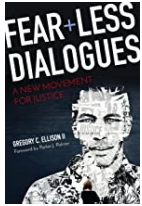
generositylead@stpeterscarmel.org

Treasurer: Diane Carr

treasurer@stpeterscarmel.org

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## Fearless Dialogues: Perspectives from Our Leaders



Fearless Dialogues has served many communities: 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.. On March 15, you're invited and encouraged to be a part of Fearless Dialogues with the whole congregation. Here is what our leadership said about Fearless Dialogues:

*Our conversations that day have been bumping around in my mind ever since.*

*That was a definite God moment for me.*

*I was thankful for the chance to learn something new about whoever my partners were - not to mention what I learned about myself in the process.*

*Spirit magic happened.*

*I saw a lot of vulnerability and support among the participants.*

*Fearless Dialogues is a special opportunity we have because of the Formative Congregations Grant, and the program will help you examine your own life, make connections with others in the church and in the community.*

*I made some personal connections with people I see in church every Sunday but had never spoken to before.*

*I definitely think there will be some new connections made which is wonderful for our community.*

*Have I changed? I definitely think so.*

*I heard thought provoking things from leaders and participants alike. I sensed a spirit of change brewing.*

*I was profoundly moved by some of the experiences.*

*This was an opportunity to learn about yourself and others and how to really connect in a safe, non-threatening space.*

*It was definitely a wonderful environment and set up for positive meaningful dialogue.*

**Plan to attend Fearless Dialogues on Sunday, March 15!  
RSVP Today.**

# Generosity Team


Team Leader: Seth Kreigh

generositylead@stpeterscarmel.org

## 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)

st.peter's  story of generosity is important!

My/Our pledge for July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 is

(select one) ☐ \$\_\_\_\_/year ☐ \$\_\_\_\_/month

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_


Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please contact me about how to be more involved at St. Peter's

☐ I would like to learn about giving online and automatic payment options

\*St. Peter's UCC is a qualifying 501(c)(3) organization; our Federal Tax ID is 35-0975622



## 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>



# Building & Grounds Team

Team Leader: Craig Penquite

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

## Restroom Remodel Update

The “Restroom Evolution” team has been discussing and planning a potential restroom remodel and has some exciting news to share for the upcoming year. The restrooms in question are the “Front-of House” restrooms across from the Sanctuary between the Office Manager’s office and Pastors’ office. Understanding that the existing restrooms are outdated and seeking to live out our Covenant of Welcome, the team sought to create a space that has the following characteristics:

- Gender neutral
- More bathrooms
- Accessible
- Family Friendly
- Chip away at the plumbing renovation problem

The plans on the next page show the existing “Front-of House” men’s and women’s restroom being replaced with communal water closets (individual toilets in walled compartments with standard doors and privacy locks), communal sink area, and a private accessible, family restroom. The current design adds two additional toilets and would be gender neutral. Note that the “Back of House” restrooms, between the Music Room and Youth Room will be unchanged and remain as currently configured.

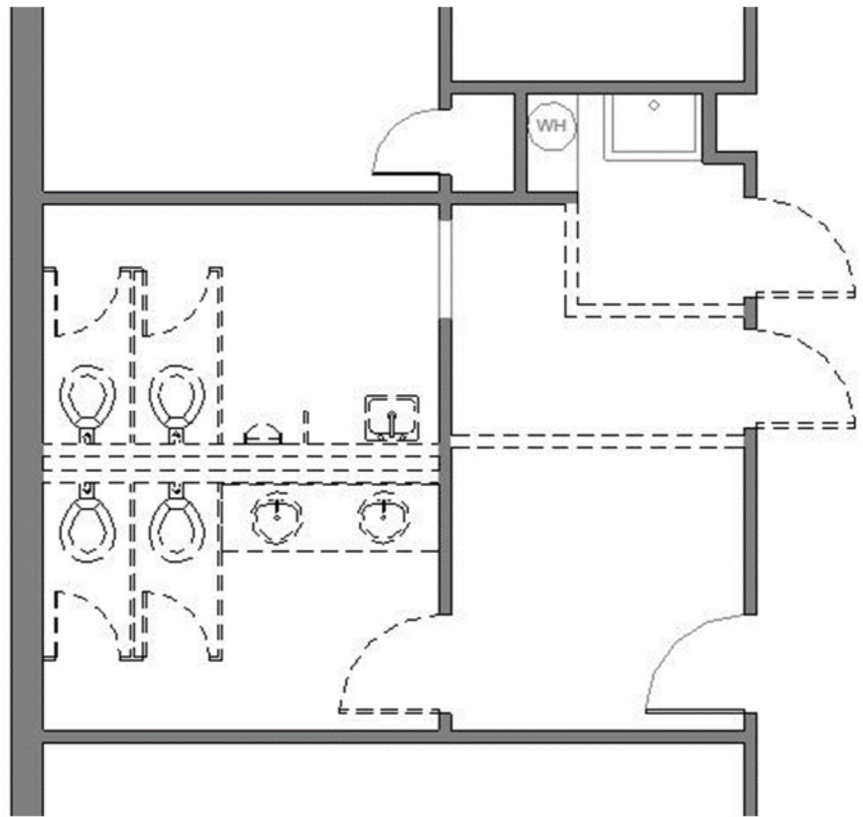
A contractor provided a preliminary estimate and the Restroom Evolution Team worked with Finance & Operations Council and Governance Council to establish a budget of \$50,000 for the project. This will allow for additional design tweaks and construction contingency. Governance Council and Finance & Operations plan to raise the money through donations.

The process moving forward is to finalize drawings to get competitive bids (the goal being 3 bids) in April. The project and bids will be presented for discussion at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Congregational Conversation and again at the May 28<sup>th</sup> Town Hall. The hope is to have a vote at the Annual Congregational Meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup> and start construction, assuming approval, by the end of July, after our next Family Promise hosting dates and while our preschool is out of session. This timeline would allow for construction to be completed before the beginning of September when the preschool begins their school year.

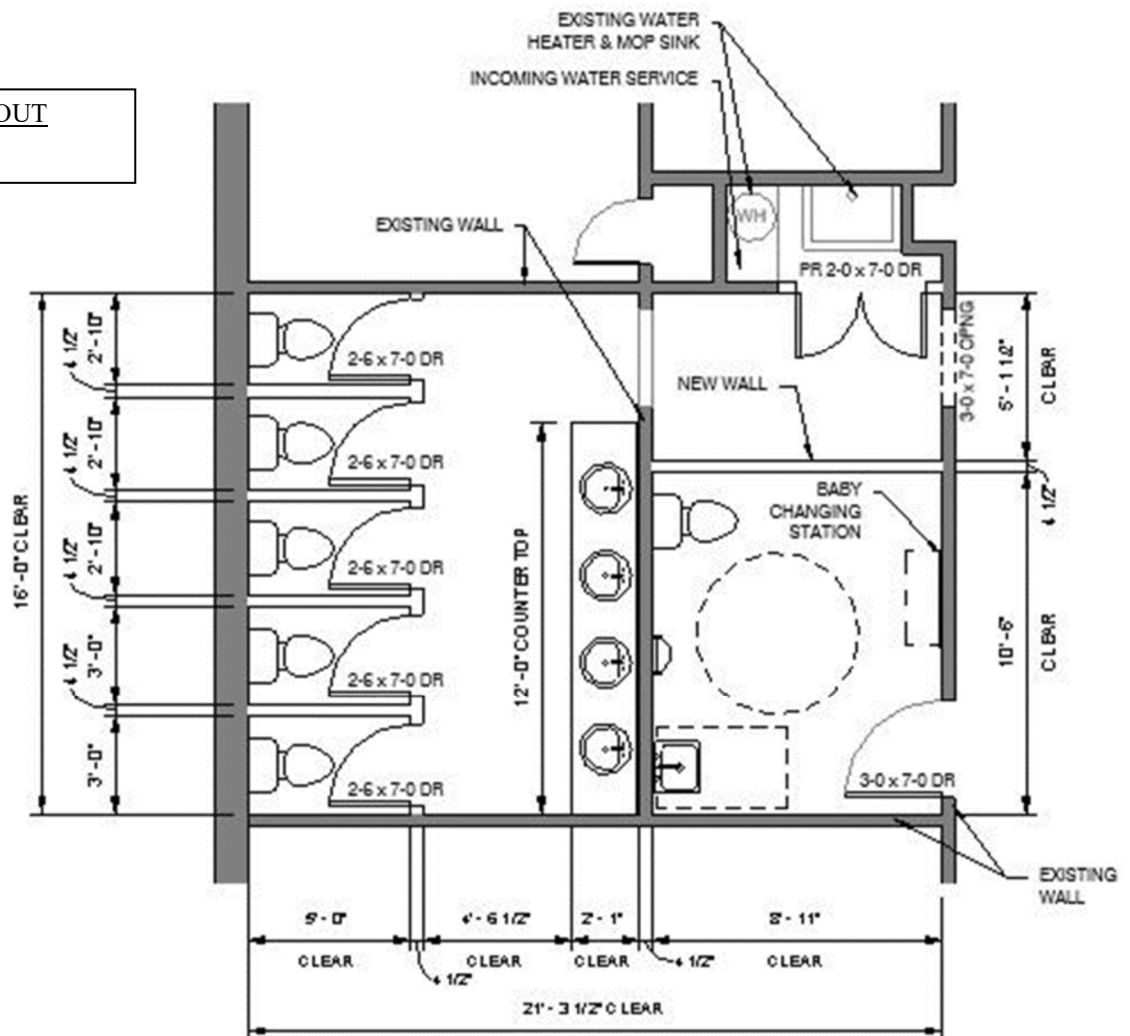
I would like to thank the other Restroom Evolution members (Seth Kreigh, Rick Searcy, Greg McMullen), Finance & Operations and Governance Council for their continued support and enthusiasm for this project. This process has allowed me to experience “Being the Church” both figuratively and literally. If you have questions or comments regarding the project you can reach out to a member of the Restroom Evolution team or email Craig Penquite ([cwpenquite@gmail.com](mailto:cwpenquite@gmail.com)).



EXISTING LAYOUT  
(DASHED LINES REPRESENT ELEMENTS TO BE DEMOLISHED)



PROPOSED LAYOUT



# Lent 2020

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Our theme for Lent 2020 is WILDERNESS. Do you ever feel like you're in an unending wilderness? Do you crave some time away in a wilderness? Have you had an epiphany in a wilderness? Are you trying to escape a wilderness experience? Whatever your case, please join us at St. Peter's to bring renewed meaning to the idea of wilderness as we journey towards Easter! Here are some opportunities to consider:

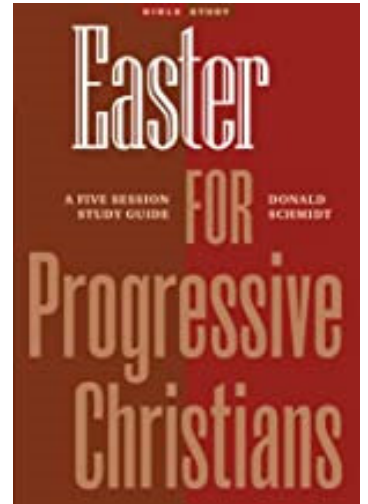
## March Study with Lori

**"Easter for Progressive Christians"**

**5 Tuesdays in March 1:30-2:30p.m.**

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 with Becca

**4 Wednesdays in March 7:00-8:00p.m.**



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.**

## Art Wall Display

**Stations of the Cross**

The art wall display during the Lent and Easter seasons is an installation of the Stations of the Cross. It features artwork from our members telling the story of Christ's condemnation to his entombment. It is traditional to visit and pray or meditate at each station to submerge into Christ's story. Each of our artists has their own unique take on the stations, and we encourage you to engage with each piece in thought. Also there are coloring pages below each station, take one to color and we will display them in Fellowship Hall.



# **God's Home: A Lenten Breakfast Series**

## **Saturdays in Lent, various locations**

Join the Southeast Association of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference for a Lenten Breakfast series focusing on the theme of "God's Home." Breakfast begins at 9:00am. Dates and locations: February 29: The Altenheim Community, March 7: Zion UCC (Troy Avenue), March 14: First Congregational UCC, March 21: St. John (Cumberland), March 28: Methodist Hospital (Downtown), April 4: Zion Evangelical UCC (Downtown)

## **Devotional Booklets & Card Packets**

Increase your devotional time, or just change up the way you interact with God in prayer or in scripture by using devotional booklets and/or card packets. Both offer daily opportunities for reflection on the theme of Wilderness, and the card packets (in particular) are great for individuals/families to contemplate at mealtime. These resources are available at the Prayer Station in the back of the Sanctuary or by contacting the Church Office.

## **Maundy Thursday Worship Service**

**April 9 at 7:00 p.m.**

Maundy Thursday is the day when we honor The Last Supper and remember the difficulty that came when Christ was crucified. Please join us for a contemplative and creative evening. Who are we? Who are we becoming in these days prior to the joy of Easter? Some are bold enough to say, "You can't really experience the joy of Easter without the challenge of Maundy Thursday." If you've never attended a Maundy Thursday service, please consider coming this year. It'll set the stage for the power of Easter and will likely give you plenty to think about prior to Sunday morning's celebration of the Resurrection! Childcare will be provided.

## **Easter Sunrise Service**

**April 12 at 6:45 a.m.**

Sunrise services on Easter morning have been going on for generations. We have held this tradition at St. Peter's for many years, and it will continue this year! Consider being a part of this sacred experience; join us at St. Peter's for Sunrise Service on Easter morning at 6:45 a.m. We plan to experience the sunrise – outside for at least a portion, if not all of the service (weather permitting) – and we'd love to have you join us for this natural testimony to new life!

## **Easter Worship Services**

**April 12 at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.**

## **Easter Egg Hunt: April 12 at 10:00a.m.**

Sunday April 12th, join the Education Team in our annual Easter Egg Hunt! We will hide eggs outside (weather permitting) as a way to have some fun and reflect on the search for new life in the Easter season. We will be accepting donations for prizes for finding eggs. We LOVE stickers, small things, candy with NO peanuts.

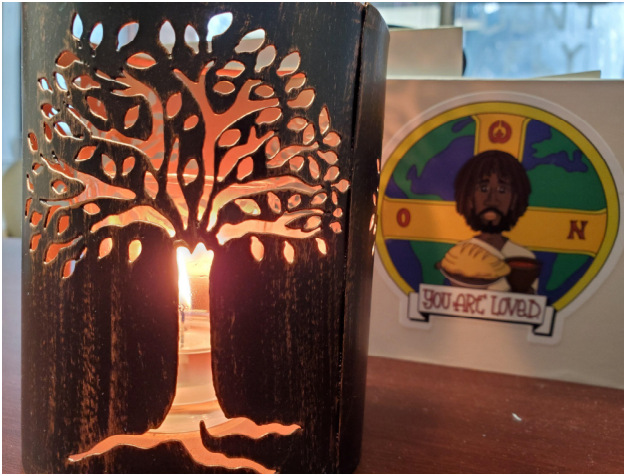
## From Your Clergy Team

Lori Bievenour  
Becca Lockwood

lori@stpeterscarmel.org  
becca@stpeterscarmel.org

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

### From Lori



This is what I looked at all day today. A candle holder given to me by Becca because I love trees *and* candles, and a sticker with Jesus offering me the bread of life and reminding me that I am loved. I am SO grateful for today. This candle and sticker sum it all up for me: There is light in this world... always – AND – We are growing deep, spiritual roots and broad, theological branches... always – AND – I am loved... always. It seems so simple, and yet...

All day, I continued to mull over the advice given to me by Miroslav Volf at a retreat with the Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program. He referenced the words of Dante: “Long for what you have.” So I thought about what I have, and I was almost moved to tears. What I have is a faith community that actually *does* what it *says* it believes. And I LONG for just that. How do I know that this community is something special? Well there are about 1001 reasons, but this has been my day:

- ♦ A conversation with a representative from The UCC’s Cornerstone Fund about congregational and personal financial investments
- ♦ Giving insight into our labyrinth to a person from a neighboring community who wants to bring a group of high school girls over to experience the power of the labyrinth
- ♦ A conversation with 20 of our preschoolers about homelessness and mirrors and the way that God is reflected in all of us
- ♦ At least 20 email responses... or maybe it was 30... or 40
- ♦ An exchange with a Jewish friend about our congregation’s support of them and the importance of interfaith relationships in today’s society.
- ♦ A dialogue with another person about our bathroom remodel at St. Peter’s.
- ♦ Sharing questions with Christian Theological Seminary about a future student
- ♦ Congratulating a family on a new baby
- ♦ Supporting at least four people through medical wildernesses
- ♦ Connecting with a colleague in another town who is wrestling with the need to change worship times
- ♦ Offering compassion to a colleague who serves in an unsupportive work environment
- ♦ Researching doxologies with our music staff
- ♦ Preparing two bulletins, a newsletter, announcements for our weekly email, and some prayers
- ♦ Finalizing generosity letters with our Generosity Team Leader and our Office Administrator
- ♦ Reading the scripture for next Sunday and resting in its goodness
- ♦ Gathering resources for Lenten worship
- ♦ Trying to schedule time with someone who feels the hurt from a LGBTQ+ suicide
- ♦ Talking with a person who identifies as trans about a friend who was forced to enter conversion therapy by their congregation and offering an alternative path

This is not an exhaustive list, and the day is not over. I don’t even want it to be. This is good work, St. Peter’s. The work that I get to do is amazing... I am humbled to journey with you in the myriad ways that are called “being church.” I hope that you can light a candle sometime soon, hear the words of The

Sacred say to you, “You Are Loved,” and then get to work engaging your faith in new ways. This Lent, we are journeying into the wilderness together, and while some people describe the wilderness as scary, unpredictable, and dangerous, I like to think of the wilderness as full of possibility, energizing, and surprising. The same could be said of ministry. True Story. See you Sunday, if not before! - LB

## From Becca

I vacuumed underneath my couch this week. That feels both like a confession and a piece of mundane information. It feels like a confession, because really given the state of it, I should have vacuumed underneath my couch long before this week. And I could have just kept that to myself and let you think I vacuum underneath my couch regularly. But Lent feels like an invitation to vacuum underneath our spiritual couches.

I look forward to Lent every year for that reason. It feels like spring cleaning. It feels like a detox. It feels like all the little dust bunnies are finally being cleaned up.

I’m not completely sure as to why, but Lent feels special in this way. I feel more committed and more attentive than I do the rest of the year. These six weeks are the invitation I actually accept and look forward to attending. It is a time to re-evaluate my connection to God and to make the necessary adjustments for that connection to be streaming clearly.

Lent looks and feels differently for each of us. Here is what I hope for each of us this season: Accept the invitation. Be intentional. Engage this time with God in some way. Stay present to the stories of Jesus’ ministry. Observe and see what happens. And then share that goodness with others; don’t keep it to yourself.

For those who like a good theme: we’ll be exploring the season of Lent through the theme of wilderness. Many of us have experienced a form of wilderness at some point in our lives. I like the imagery of wilderness, which in its many forms, are all spacious in some way. The ocean, the desert, the plains...all feel expansive. Let us see what the Spirit is offering us in this season of expanding and intentionality. Perhaps it’s as simple as decluttering and removing the dust bunnies. - BL



# Missions Team

Team Leader: Katie Lukes

missionslead@stpeterscarmel.org

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## Carmel UMC Food Pantry

March and April means spring cleaning! St. Peter's will be collecting cleaning supplies and personal care items in March and April. Bar soap, shampoo and conditioner, lotion, laundry soap, dishwashing liquid, all purpose cleaner, sponges. And we continue to always collect feminine hygiene products (pads and tampons - all varieties). Pick up some extra supplies when you do your shopping!

## 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.

## One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. If you feel moved to support this important ministry, please:

**Donate online:**

[https://transactions.ucc.org/CampaignForm/UCChrist/one great hour of sharing](https://transactions.ucc.org/CampaignForm/UCChrist/one%20great%20hour%20of%20sharing)

**Send a check directly to:**

United Church of Christ, Financial Services  
6th Floor, 700 Prospect Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44115-1100

## Palm Sunday Giving Tree

St. Peter's Giving Tree at Christmas time is a tradition we all look forward to. It reminds us that the season of Advent and Christmas is about spreading the message of hope and love in the world.

The Missions Team wanted to do something similar for the Easter Season. This, like Advent, is a time to remind each other that we are not alone, that we see each other, and that like Jesus, we will respond in love to each other's needs. So, for the first time, we will have a Palm Giving Tree!

On **Sunday March 22nd** the plants in our front hallway will be decorated with extra "Palm" leaves with an item that can be purchased for either Family Promise or the Carmel UMC Food Pantry. This is a small, powerful, and visual way to remind ourselves and each other that the seasons of Lent and Easter are a time to recenter and focus on our relationships to each other and to God. Please return all items by **Palm Sunday, April 5th**.

# Missions Team

Team Leader: Katie Lukes

missionslead@stpeterscarmel.org

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## Congregational Conversation #2 & Day of Service

Sunday, May 3, 10:00a.m. - ???

On Sunday, May 3, we will host another opportunity to Be the Church and engage the Spirit in a new way. Our second Congregational Conversation will take place preceded by brunch and followed by a Day of Service.

### Timeline for the Day:

10:00 Brunch & Conversation

11:30 Prayer & Communion

11:45 Day of Service Begins

### Brunch

The Missions Team, along with your help, will provide brunch for that morning. As we get closer to the date, please stay tuned for food items you can bring to this pitch-in meal!

### Focus for Congregational Conversation 2: Bathroom Renovation Project

- Craig Penquite (Building & Grounds Team Leader) and the Bathroom Evolution Team will offer some insights, developments, and information about the proposed project.
- We will then have conversations in small groups with prompts on the tables and opportunities to ask questions of those involved.
- After our time of conversation, we will pray and share in communion in preparation for our Day of Service.

### Day of Service Opportunities:

For many years, our community has dreamed of pouring love into our neighborhoods and various projects that we support as a congregation. This year, our dream is coming true. We will have multiple service opportunities in which you can participate. Some will be more active than others. Some will require more skill than others. All will require love and time. Please pray about how you might express your faith through service, and sign up for one of the following opportunities on Realm or in Fellowship Hall starting in mid-March. All opportunities are open to all ages!

- Project A Offsite: A service project at the Day Center for Family Promise (maximum 10 people).
- Project B Offsite: A service project at Carmel UMC Food Pantry (maximum 10 people).
- Project C Offsite: We have options for additional offsite projects if our first two fill up. Sign up as soon as you know your preference so that we can accommodate all who want to participate in offsite service projects!
- Project D Onsite: Fixing the Rain Garden of the Native Habitat.
- Project E Onsite: Writing cards and letters of hope, love, and gratitude to folks serving in the military.

*The sanctuary will be open during the time of service projects for anyone who would like to pray for those engaging in one of the projects.*

Please pray for this unique day in the life of our congregation and begin your own discernment process about how you will participate. Questions? Contact Katie Lukes, Missions Team Leader, at missionslead@stpeterscarmel.org.



## Spiritual Life Team

Team Leader: Chrissy Searcy

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

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### Connections Group to Start March 22nd

#### New to St. Peter's? Join this Group to Learn More

A new Connections group will begin meeting on Sunday, March 22nd. "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. Once together, the group will determine the dates for the other three sessions. 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](mailto:office@stpeterscarmel.org). Questions can be directed to Kyle Kroehler at [Kyle@Kroehlers.com](mailto:Kyle@Kroehlers.com).

### Spiritual Life Retreat

The Spiritual Life Retreat is April 24th-25th and will be lead by Sarah Lund, pastor of First Congregational UCC church in Indianapolis. Signups will be available through Realm. The cost is \$150 for a single room and \$120 for a double room. This includes dinner, breakfast, and lunch at the Way Cross Conference Center in Brown County. Please join us in spending time together in the Spirit

### Mark your calendar for upcoming retreats:

Men's Retreat at Camp Palawopec on September 25-26

Women's Retreat at Waycross in Brown County October 10-11

## Hospitality Team

Team Leader: Julia Stolle

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

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### Brunch Hour on March 29 Between Services

Join us for Brunch Hour on Sunday, March 29 between services. The Hospitality Team will provide the main dish, please bring a dish to share. You won't want to miss this opportunity for breakfast and Fellowship.

### 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, 22, April 5, 12, 26, May 3, 10, 24, 31. Email Julia at [hospitalitylead@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:hospitalitylead@stpeterscarmel.org)

# Music Team

**Team Leader:** Sarah Scholl  
**Music Director :** Cheryl Keckler

[musicministrylead@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:musicministrylead@stpeterscarmel.org)  
[musicdirector@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:musicdirector@stpeterscarmel.org)

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## Singing Visits

A Singing Visit is on the calendar. On **March 8 at 1:00 (note time change) we will sing for residents at Carmel Health and Living, 118 Medical Drive, Carmel.** Please sign up on Realm or in Fellowship Hall. 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 welcome. It's the sharing that's important.

## Folk Music with Dulcimers on April 26

A few years ago the Central Indiana Folk Music & Mountain Dulcimer Society joined our service on a Sunday morning. They will be our guests again! On **Sunday, April 26 at the 11:00 service**, we will again have the joy of singing with the Dulcimer Society (that long name is shortened!). It will be a fun morning of music. They will play the service music plus accompany our "hymn" singing. We look forward to this special music!

## Music for Children and Youth

Music for youth and children continues. Their rehearsal time is Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:15 in the Music Room. On March 8 the group will be sharing a handchime anthem (singing, ringing and even a slide whistle!). Following our ringing time, we will learn a singing anthem for sharing in the spring. This is open to all kids Grade 2 and older. Come join in a variety of music making experiences.



## 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.

# 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!

## Intergenerational Trivia: Saturday March 21st

Are you an expert on sports, religion, popular culture, Harry Potter, or music trivia? Are you the keeper of many random, so called "useless" facts? Are you not sure that you know much about trivia, but just want to socialize and enjoy time with friends old and new?

All of the above are good reasons to come spend an entertaining evening with St. Peter's folks of all ages. Please join the Education Team for an intergenerational Trivia Night on March 21st at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall.

If you feel inclined, please bring an appetizer or snack to share if your last name starts with A-M, or a dessert to share if your last name starts with N-Z. Drinks will be provided. And there are prizes to be won!!

Teams will be formed once you arrive, but we ask that you RSVP on Realm or sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall so we can get an idea of seating needs and room set-up. Hope to see you there!

## Class Facilitators Requested

Did you know that St. Peter's children and 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)

# UCC National Youth Event at Purdue University

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The United Church of Christ's National Youth Event will take place at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, on July 22-25, 2020. This 4-day event is celebrated as the largest denominational gathering in the UCC. Often bringing in 4,000 participants, this time together is centered on faith, leadership, service and social justice to empower our youth.

## Registration is now open!

**Who:** Young people who have completed 6th through 12th grade

**What:** United Church of Christ's National Youth Event

**When:** July 22-25, 2020

**Where:** Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana

**Cost:** \$375

**Please note: Local adult volunteers for National Youth Event are also needed.** Perks include a discounted rate and a t-shirt! (Volunteers will need to have background checks as part of the event safety protocols.)

# [www.uccpages.org/nye2020](http://www.uccpages.org/nye2020)

## Preschool Team

**Team Leader:** Tammy Drummond

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

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## Preschool Openings

The preschool has a few openings left in our 2 year old and 3 year old program for next year. Let your family friends know they can schedule a visit with Lori Jannsen/Director if they are interested.

## Teacher Appreciation

We will be celebrating Teacher Appreciation for our Preschool staff the week of March 16-20th. You can leave a note for any of the staff on our Staff Shout Out board in the back hallway by the Nursery.

## La Braid is Back!

La Braid sales just in time for Easter will begin March 9 and end March 18. Items will be delivered on March 30th. There will be a sign-up sheet posted in Fellowship Hall.

# 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: stpeterssucc\_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 April newsletter should be sent to office@stpeterscarmel.org by March 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."

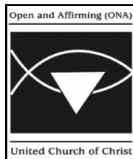
We acknowledge our diversities and we welcome, respect and support people of every race, ethnicity, economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, citizenship status, political affiliation, age, marital status and physical and mental ability. We are a community where all are equal, 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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Fax: 317-844-0984  
Preschool: 317-846-6860  
<http://www.stpeterscarmel.org>  
E-mail: [office@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:office@stpeterscarmel.org)  
#carmelucc #findingspirit



**TO:**