



*Finding the Spirit in Life*

#findingspirit

[www.stpeterscarmel.org](http://www.stpeterscarmel.org)

#carmelucc

## The Epistle - April/May 2020

# Being the Church... Always an Adventure

**Being the Church is an exercise in flexibility, humility, generosity, and love.**

**St. Peter's is committed to remaining connected, relevant, and sustainable... Always.  
In this season of the COVID-19 pandemic and well beyond.**

**Our goal is to support people spiritually so that they can live their  
faith in new ways and share love in bold and fearless ways during  
this crisis.**

Our Covenant of Welcome is our foundation. "How can our congregation be welcoming to all during this most unusual experience?" Decisions about when our building will reopen and/or when, how, and with whom in-person worship will resume will be made by our Governance Council with guidance from governmental agencies.

COVID-19 is challenging each of us, and right now, please be honest. Reach out if you need something – even "just" some time to hear one of our voices or see our faces. As St. Peter's strives to live its Covenant of Welcome in this wilderness, our methods might be different than in the past, but the intent is the same: Stay connected to God, each other, and this world that needs us.

Please know that we are praying for and with you, and that God is present with us on this uncertain journey. If you are in need of any type of support (spiritual, financial, social, etc.), please let us know, and allow us to connect with you. We cannot help if we do not know that you are in need.



# April/May 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
19 Worship at Home	20	21	22 Prayers & Announcements*  Spiritual Practice (Chime) 6:30pm	23	24 Worship Resources & Video Update from Your Pastors*	25 Parlor in Use 9am
26 Worship at Home	27 Monday Meditation*	28	29 Prayers & Announcements*  Spiritual Practice (Chime) 6:30pm	30	1 Worship Resources & Video Update from Your Pastors*	2 Parlor in Use 9am
3 Worship at Home	4 Monday Meditation*  Finance & Ops 6:30pm (Chime)	5	6 Prayers & Announcements*  Spiritual Practice (Chime) 6:30pm	7	8 Worship Resources & Video Update from Your Pastors*	9 Parlor in Use 9am
10 Worship at Home	11 Monday Meditation*	12	13 Prayers & Announcements*  Spiritual Practice (Chime) 6:30pm	14	15 Worship Resources & Video Update from Your Pastors*	16 Parlor in Use 9am
17 Worship at Home	18 Monday Meditation*	19	20 Prayers & Announcements*  Spiritual Practice (Chime) 6:30pm	21	22 Worship Resources & Video Update from Your Pastors*	23 Parlor in Use 9am
24/31 Worship at Home	25 Monday Meditation*	26	27 Prayers & Announcements*  Spiritual Practice (Chime) 6:30pm	28	29 Worship Resources & Video Update from Your Pastors*	30 Parlor in Use 9am

\* email

# CARES Act & St. Peter's

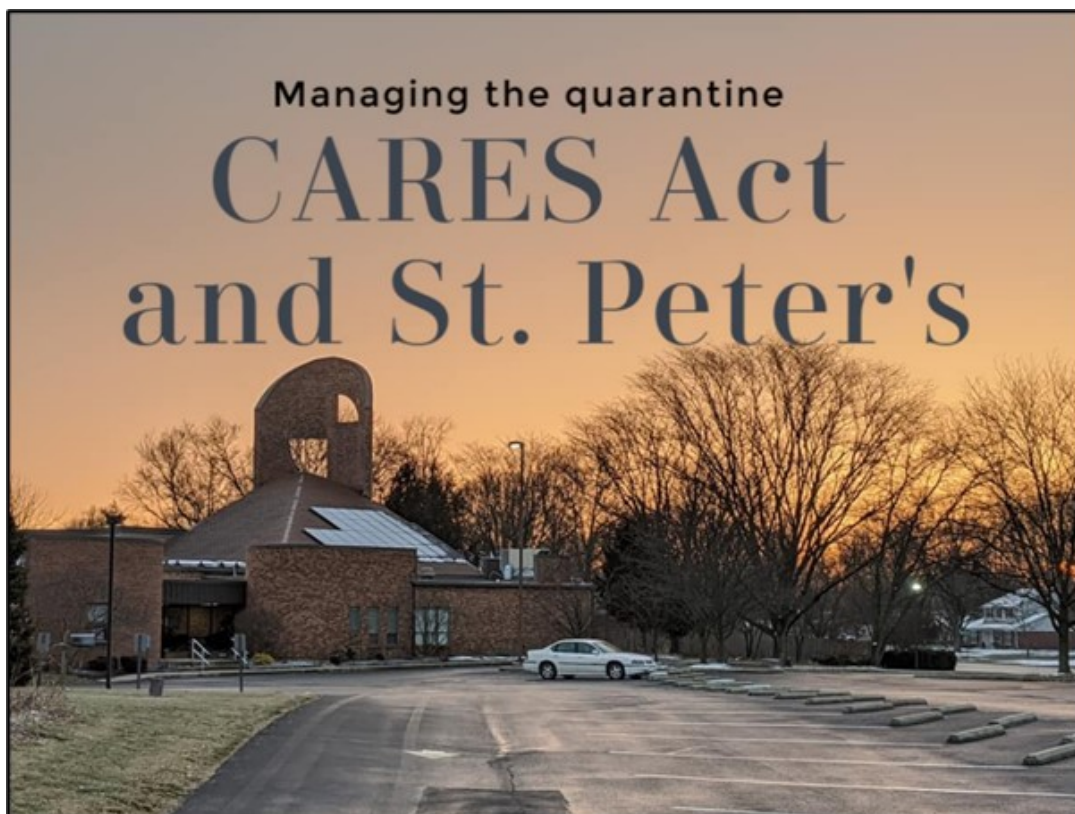
*St. Peter's applied for a PPP loan under the CARES Act – and most of it is forgivable*

**During this unprecedented time, we ask that YOU continue to financially support St. Peter's.** We are doing all that we can to help our ministries thrive, our congregation to stay connected, and our community to meet the various needs of its people. We cannot sustain or grow our ministries without your financial support. To support our efforts for inclusion and care for all, we have also applied for a PPP loan under the CARES Act.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, recently signed into law, includes a forgivable loan opportunity for small business organizations. Not-for-profits, such as our church, do not normally qualify for small business programs, but we ARE eligible for this program. The intent of the loan is to help small businesses meet payroll and continue operations during this time. As long as the proceeds are used for payroll and a few other specific items, most of the loan is forgivable\*, which means it will not have to be repaid.

Due to the unique nature of this loan and the speed with which we needed to act to secure some of the limited funds, Governance Council proceeded with the application process in early April. We received approval for a loan of \$88,100 in mid-April. We expect that almost all of this amount will be forgivable. We will formally vote on this action at our June Annual Meeting.

- *Details of this program: the loan is equivalent to 2.5 months of payroll and related payroll expenses.*
- *The amount forgiven is equivalent to 2 months of payroll and related payroll expenses.*



**Questions? Please contact Diane Carr, Treasurer, at [treasurer@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:treasurer@stpeterscarmel.org)**

# From Lori

## Holy Week and Easter 2020 – Bievenour Style

Everything feels a little different right now, so here's a little different take on my usual "From Lori" article in our newsletter. This COVID-19 crisis has caused me to see the world differently—literally. So here is what I saw this Holy Week. It's a little different, but it's an honest glimpse into my life and my faith.



It all started with a turkey vulture. And a dead raccoon. Yep. My Holy Week started with a gory sight. We watched out our front window as a show took place. First one turkey vulture. Then another. Then we noticed the dead raccoon. And then there were no fewer than 11 turkey vultures. They are big. They aren't the most attractive. They caused me to take pause. Holy Week is supposed to do that to us, I thought.

On Palm Sunday, we installed a pollinator box at our house... This was me digging the hole. It made me wonder who carved out the tomb for Jesus. It wasn't a horrible amount of work to dig this hole, but it wasn't easy either. I remembered that Holy Week wasn't supposed to be easy either.



By Tuesday, I had almost completely forgotten Palm Sunday. We had waved palms in celebration and/or in protest, depending on how you read the story. And then, two days later, the Super Moon came to greet us. It was glorious. I looked out my front window and felt so small while staring at that huge moon. My heart was full. I was humbled and I was hopeful. We woke up our daughter to experience the spectacle. In that moment, I remembered that Holy Week was its own spectacle. I was left speechless.



And then the next day, our neighbor called to say that they had "some rocks" that they didn't want. They wondered if we would like them. We can't pass up free stuff, and we prefer rocks to plants (if I'm being honest), so off we went. It was Torrey's first trip out of the house since being sick for nearly three weeks. (We didn't share widely, but it's likely Torrey had COVID-19 along with a sinus infection. He didn't qualify for testing, but it was a pretty miserable. We are grateful to be on the other side of that experience. If you want more details, just contact me.) The rocks were like a big, huge gift to us... and they were boulders, not "some rocks". It took a few days to move seven boulders with a wheelbarrow that we hadn't used since purchasing it last year. Every neighbor on the street offered to help us... and then realized they couldn't do it and still be socially distanced, so we heaved the rocks on our own, knowing that others would have helped if they could have. I thought about how much work it was for Jesus to move people. The way they thought, the way they acted, the way they connected. I imagine that his ministry often felt like moving boulders. Let's be real: sometimes, *our* ministry feels like that!







On Wednesday of Holy Week, we went on a walk. A long walk. We happened upon this stone, left by an unknown neighbor. It read simply, "You are loved." That's all I needed to hear on Wednesday of Holy Week. That's really all I need to hear on most days. If I can live my faith from that place, life is good. The trouble is, I am often too distracted by my own fears to live into that love. On that glorious afternoon, though, right before all of the "bad stuff" of Holy Week, I was grounded in God's love. I couldn't have asked for more.

Especially because that night, on the eve of Maundy Thursday, we were under a severe storm warning, and we ended up huddled in our bathroom with a weather radio and a few candles and flashlights. Good times. I felt like I couldn't complain, though; the storms that Jesus was about to face were far more intense, and there is something to be said for perspective.



The storm passed, and Thursday dawned. I took another walk, and this time, we played on "our" abandoned tractors. Honestly, they belong to the church across our street, but we have been playing on them as if they were a playground for years. It's fun to see how they are deteriorating and to think about who else finds them intriguing. I keep our kid away from the drug paraphernalia that was left behind after being damaged in what was likely a late night adventure for someone. We make sure that there are no sharp edges on the metal before we climb onboard and pretend we are tilling the crops. We make up story after story and push all of the buttons and mess with all of the levers. I think they call this STEM education these days. Anyway, this time, for the first time, I noticed the plant life more than the left behind trash. I noticed that even in this forgotten place, new life took root. It was a moment of absolute wonder for me, and it was a nice reminder that even in the midst of death and pain and deterioration, there can be new life. The same was true for the ant hill that we discovered on our way home. It was a fascinating discovery and held so much mystery. How do they build those? How many creatures live in there? What happens when it rains? The questions flowed. The same as during Holy Week. We ended our Maundy Thursday by worshipping at home, and we baked bread that we shared later that night. I remembered that Jesus' Last Supper was among friends, and just wasn't that complicated.



Good Friday. An oddly named day, for sure. For me this year, it started with a backyard discovery—a heart-shaped piece of wood discarded from a project. I have no idea whose it was, where it came from, or why we just found it on Good Friday 2020. What I do know is that it made us take a pause, see ourselves on Holy Ground, and remember that we were loved. A good place to start.



Later that day, we finished moving the boulders from down the street, and I couldn't get out of my head the line from scripture, "But who will move the stone for us?" These stones were heavy. Presumably, so was the one on Jesus' tomb. Who moves the big stuff in your life? What stones do you need to move for someone else? I rested with this while Friday came to a close.



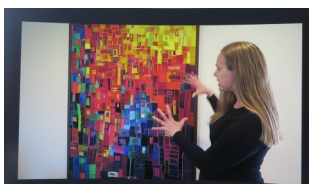
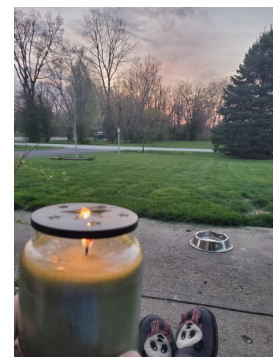




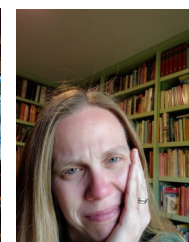
On the Saturday before Easter, Tess spotted a hawk on the “No Parking” sign in our front yard. She came running through the house, “Mommy! Your hawk! Mommy! Your hawk is back!” I was SO excited. Hawks keep showing up when I need them. They are a symbol of vision. They are said to show up when a dream needs to take flight. I have been having a lot of dreams during this COVID-19 crisis, and to see a hawk on the day before Easter, a holiday which is usually one of my biggest professional days of the year, gave me a completely new sense of calm. “It will all be ok,” the hawk seemed to say, “This year will be different, but dreams will be born. Fly with your people.” I can say nothing more, but I can listen to this wisdom and look at this picture over and over and over again. And I will.



Easter Morning. I began outside with a candle (the light of Christ!) and a beautiful sunrise. Inside, plastic eggs hidden around our house had just been discovered. My time alone didn’t last long, but it was long enough for the meaning of Easter to be firmly planted in my heart: hold onto the new life; the sun will rise again.



Our day continued (post-egg hunt) with watching both my Easter message and Becca’s communion reflection online. It wasn’t fancy, but it was worship. How can I be so sure that it’s worship? I saw my child, in her superhero pajamas, completely transfixed on her Pastor Becca. She knew exactly what was happening. And when I watched, I found myself in tears. IN TEARS! What was wrong with me? I was crying at a video of a colleague on Easter. It was for real, and the Easter celebration continued.

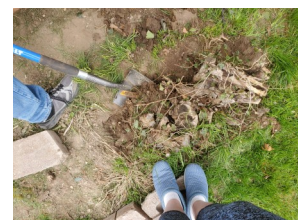


How? With resurrected cinnamon rolls, of course! We pulled them out of our freezer and figured now was as good a time as any. We had made them—wait for it—for Christmas 2015. Torrey noted, “You know, Tess, these cinnamon rolls are older than you are!” She was delighted. I figured it was theological to focus on the resurrection in this way. I mean, this *was* a different kind of Easter. For the record, they were delicious.



The resurrected cinnamon rolls gave us just enough energy to go outside and do some yard work—something that rarely happens on a Sunday (much less Easter!) for me. And what was I greeted by? A heart-shaped stone, of course. It was right in the place where we *always* walk. We had never noticed it before. Did it just show up for Easter? What did it mean? Again, I assumed that the message was love. Just love each other through this time.

We shared love through hard work this Easter. We dug up a dead stump of a burning bush that has been plaguing us for over a decade. We moved landscape blocks that have been waiting for us for nearly two years. We found (and relocated!) a bunch of worms, allowing them to enjoy new life on Easter as well. Our bodies ached. Our minds were stimulated. Our hearts soared. It was time for one last Easter celebration: dinner.





So this is what our Easter table looked like this year. The candle I had lit at sunrise, the bunny that sings “Here Comes Peter Cottontail,” a flower from the graveside service for Barb Hawkins, a little chicken with bunny ears that chirps, and cards from a number of you that truly warmed our hearts. We made Shepherd’s Pie, which seemed appropriate since Jesus is often depicted as a Shepherd and since we had a lot of potatoes to use, and we finished up with a lemon meringue pie (because we had a lot of lemons as well). It was lovely. Throughout our Easter dinner, we shared in the joy of the day *and* talked about how much we missed being at church and with our family.

And then we did what I asked you to do... we went to a window. We went to our front window, in fact—a window covered with animals and dinosaurs and all sorts of clings. We smiled at the oddities that made Easter 2020 so special. We laughed at the fact that none of us even tried to get dressed up; it wasn’t necessary for our celebrations. We took joy in having spent the whole day finding new life. It was one of the strangest Easters that I’ve ever experienced, but I can also call it one of the most memorable.



## From Becca

### Pastoring from Home as an Introvert

It’s a little hard to believe that we’re in week five (?) of this quarantine experience. I admit that I have not been counting the days...or weeks apparently. I’ve been taking each day as they come. In the beginning, each day felt wildly different. Some days were very challenging, lots of stress, fear, and tears, and other days were “normal” and felt fine. The unsettling part was I had no indication about how the day would feel or pan out. Those mountains and valleys have evened out a little bit, but this is still a strange and challenging time. We can’t predict the future, despite the best efforts of the many experts giving their best guess. We don’t know how long this will last or what the lasting effects will be.

Not for the first time, Frozen 2 has offered some words of wisdom and I hear myself saying the words, “just do the next right thing.” And that looks differently for each of us. There have been so many images, quotes, and memes posted on social media about how we’re all in this together. And that’s true, but how we are each experiencing this time varies greatly. It varies based on a number of different things including privilege, race, location, finances, mental health, and many other factors. Many of those factors go unseen. It can be easy to assume we know what this experience is like for others...but we know the downfalls of assumption.

We can even make assumptions for ourselves. At the beginning of this quarantine I naively made myself a schedule. Which, for those who know me well, is absurd and a clear red flag saying, “Becca’s stressed and anxious, help!” It wasn’t a realistic schedule, which isn’t even the relevant part of this story. Throughout my life I’ve tried to live by or create a schedule. I have yet to find one that fits. I was recently talking to a friend (we happen to be very similar in almost every way...except she has a mohawk and I don’t), and we were talking about this exact phenomenon. Having a set schedule for our day is just not



how our bodies or brains work. (That might horrify some of you, it's ok, I promise.) I like to try and create schedules because I see them working for other people and I envy that sense of order. But I also resist it.

The longing for a schedule or a rhythm came out of that stress and anxiety I named earlier. And that stress was coming from being overwhelmed, which I think many of us can relate to at this point. In the beginning (and even now) we were inundated with so much information, so many rules and regulations and dates changing, and trying to stay connected that it was simply too much. People have assumed that as an introvert and someone who lives alone with a cat, I have enjoyed or taken part of this solitude time. This is one of those assumptions. As an introvert, I have never craved "alone time" more. Please hear me clearly: I am so grateful for the many ways so many of us have been able to stay connected and close during these bizarre times. And it makes my spirit overflow with hope and gladness that we can navigate these strange waters together. And. My soul is a little weary and tired.

This week was supposed to be another Bethany Fellows retreat. We will be observing some of the elements of that retreat virtually. We will have worship, small group check ins, and to my great joy we will be observing our day of silence together. It's always been my favorite day. (For the past several years the day of silence has fallen on my birthday, and people always feel sad for me...it's literally been my favorite way to celebrate.) Needless to say, that while it will be different and feel different to observe the day of silence from my home, I am looking forward to it now more than ever.

I hope some or all of that made sense--even if it didn't resonate. I do understand that not all of us are introverts. :) But I hope what you take away from this brief moment of reflection is this: yes, we are all in this together, but we're not all experiencing this time in the same way. So please, be gentle with yourselves and each other. Your job is to show up and survive as best you can. This time will not last forever, but we don't know how long it will last. That's not exactly comforting, but sometimes we need honesty and truth and the comfort comes from bearing that reality together.

I long for the day when we can be together again. I miss your faces. I miss being in the same space together. And I know this time apart is the most loving thing we can do for each other and the world right now. So, until that day, know that you are missed terribly and loved deeply.

## **Helping the Clergy and Members in Discernment of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference**

We are fortunate, through YOUR generosity to support two full-time pastors, whose work you have just experienced in writing. The Indiana-Kentucky Conference has a Pastoral Emergency Fund used to help clergy and Members in Discernment who are not as fortunate as our pastors are during this time of crisis. The Pastoral Emergency Fund is currently depleted and in need of replenishing. If you are able to give, please consider giving online at <https://ikcucc.org/connect/donate/>. You may also send checks to the Conference office:

Indiana-Kentucky Conference UCC  
1100 West 42nd Street  
Suite 155  
Indianapolis, IN 46208  
Attn: Pastoral Emergency Fund





# Generosity:

## Your Financial Gifts Matter... A Lot!

### Financial Generosity 2020

While our Governance, Finance & Operations, and Ministry Councils are committed to retaining our quality staff and continuing our unique ministries in new ways, we cannot ignore the financial impact that this experience will have on our congregation.

- Please **continue to give financially**, even though we cannot be together in person.
- If you are struggling financially, please **reach out** to our Generosity Team Leader and/or one of our pastors.
- Now is a great time to **shift your giving to online**. This reduces the number of hours that our volunteers spend working on deposits, and it also offers us a reliable and predictable stream of financial support.
  - Through Realm: <https://onrealm.org/stpeterscarmel/-/give/now>
  - Text to Give: Send a text to 73256 with the keyword CARMEL and a dollar amount. Click the link sent in the reply text to complete your gift.
- **Mail** your donations to the church at 3106 E. Carmel Drive, Carmel IN 46033.
- For Stocks and IRAs: Contact Financial Secretary Jenny Terry ([financial@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:financial@stpeterscarmel.org)) or Cindy Whitaker ([financialect@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:financialect@stpeterscarmel.org)).

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

Two VERY easy ways to support St. Peter's financially 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>



# Ways to Connect

If you are struggling in any way (spiritually, financially, socially, etc.), please let us know, and allow us to connect with you. We cannot help if we do not know that you are in need.

## Prayer Mailbox

A Prayer Mailbox has been stocked with a journal, hand sanitizer, and pens. If you happen to be at St. Peter's for some outdoor time, please take the time to note your presence in this journal, and know that you are not alone!

## Spiritual Practice Wednesdays at 6:30pm via Chime

One of our pastors will lead the group in a spiritual practice. Please join us for this time of centering, connection, and love. Join via Chime online: <https://chime.aws/6656494972> or call in using your phone: 206-462-5569. Meeting ID: 6656 49 4972

## Mission Team Reading/Watching List

If you're looking for good books, movies, or documentaries during this sequestered time, the Missions Team will be periodically assembling lists of things you can watch or read that pertain to our key focus areas of social justice, economic justice, and environmental justice. Our first list focuses on **social justice**:

- *Waking up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debbie Irving (book)
- *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi (book)
- *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America*, by Michael Eric Dyson (book)
- *Blackkkklansman* (movie)
- *Just Mercy* (movie, book and a version of the book adapted for young adults!)

In addition, the Equal Justice Institute has information about the book and movie on their website here: <https://justmercy.eji.org/>

## Women & the Word Thursdays at 10a.m. via Chime

Join a group of women online each week at 10:00a.m. Thursday for conversation, study, prayer, and a time of connection. Join via Chime online at <https://chime.aws/5197601388> or call in using your phone: 267-866-0999. The Meeting ID is: 5197 60 1388.

## Festival of Homiletics—FREE!

May 18-22 Online

Typically, pastors from across the country attend this event. It's a gathering of fantastic preachers and a way to hear a variety of styles of preaching in a short period of time. This year, due to the COVID-19 crisis, the Festival is FREE! Lori & Becca are already signed up. Consider joining them. Learn more at: [festivalofhomiletics.com](http://festivalofhomiletics.com)

# Music Opportunities

The Music Team is thankful for the many ways that music has allowed us to connect with each other since the COVID-19 shutdown. We pray that music will continue to bring us both joy and comfort in the weeks to come. For many of us, music has a way of expressing or connecting with our feelings when words fail us. In that spirit – may we continue to share freely with our St. Peter's community...musicians of all levels and ages, music lovers of all genres...you are welcome here!

## Watch for...

- Music Notes – on St. Peter's Facebook page and in the Wednesday email
- Hymn Recordings & Historical Connections – on St. Peter's Facebook page and in the Friday email

## Please share...

- Videos of yourselves sharing music on St. Peter's Facebook page
- Links of all varieties of your favorite music...whatever is getting you through!

For assistance sharing music to St. Peter's Facebook page, please contact Sarah Scholl at [musicministrylead@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:musicministrylead@stpeterscarmel.org) or via cell 317-509-3476. To connect to a broader audience via email, send videos and links to [office@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:office@stpeterscarmel.org)

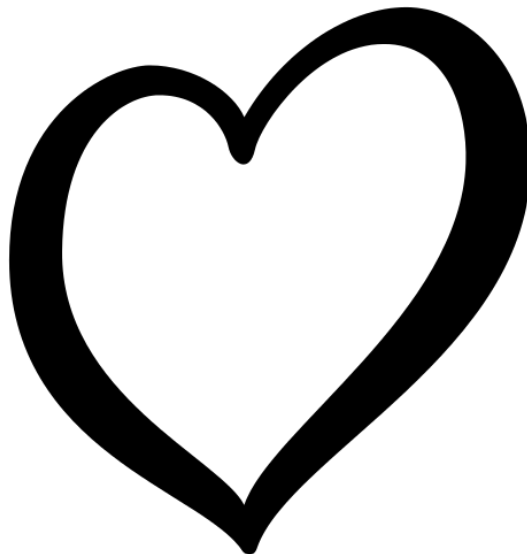
# A Little Hospitality Goes a Long Way

What do you need, and what do you have to offer? As we become aware of needs within our congregation, we will work to address these needs. Contact Julia Stolle, Hospitality Team Leader, with your needs/gifts. ([hospitalitylead@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:hospitalitylead@stpeterscarmel.org))

Are you a phone person? If so, please contact Julia. We have organized an old school phone tree to keep us connected. We've had positive feedback and are happy to add more people on either end... as callers or receivers!

We are identifying those who might be especially vulnerable during this time and are putting together lists of needs/helpers. IF you would like to be on either list, please contact Julia.

Most importantly, we encourage you to reach out – write a card, make a call, send a text – we all crave connection in this wilderness.





# Social Media Team is Reaching New People

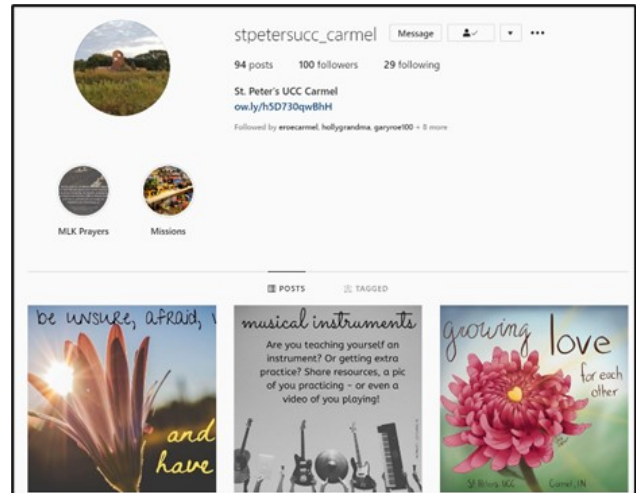
*Launched December 1, the Social Media Team has made substantial progress*

The Social Media Team started with 3 posts a week until mid-March when the quarantine mandated a stay-at-home protocol. Now, the team is posting almost daily. Two posts a week are fun posts, asking to engage with people. Two posts a week are related to the Monday Meditation and the Friday message from the pastors. Those two messages from the pastors are also turned into blog posts on the website, so the website is slowly being populated with blog updates. In addition, Chrissy Searcy (web administrator) and Laurie Hesselink are actively updating the website. This is the current status of the team.



## Twitter

Liz Chandler, who manages our Twitter platform and also serves as the Social Media Team Manager, says there are 23 follows and most are not existing St. Peter's people.



## Instagram

Stevi Cook, who manages our Instagram platform, says we have 100 followers. About 1/3 are St. Peter's people and 1/3 are other religious organizations, camps, schools, and so on. In the most recent week, the posts reached 123 accounts and made 566 impressions. The largest reach was the Just Mercy post (probably because we tagged #michaelbjordan) and that reached 272 accounts. It looks like typical posts are reaching 60 to 80 accounts.



## Facebook

Emma Borgard, who manages our public Facebook platform, says over the last month we added 25 followers to our page and our posts reached almost 1,800 people. The Maundy Thursday post reached 434 accounts. The Palm Sunday one reached 454 accounts. The International Trans Day of Visibility reached 571 accounts. This post had the most reach with 881 and it was posted on Valentine's Day.

## You can help!

If you participate on social media platforms at all, you can help by liking our pages and sharing posts. The following chart shows you how much progress we've made on the public Facebook platform from December 1 to today. We have increased our total page likes over 40%.

We compare our page to other churches in the area. We are coming from behind because all of these have been active for much longer but we are gaining ground. Yes, the other congregations started earlier, but it is also important for us to note the following: most of these congregations have paid staff to create, support, and monitor their social media presence. Special thanks to our team of volunteers who are making such great strides for the St. Peter's faith community! Generosity abounds.



Pages to Watch

Compare the performance of your Page and posts with similar Pages on Facebook.

Create Post

Add Pages

Reactions, Comments & Shares #

Page	Total Page Likes	From Last Week	Posts This Week	Engagement This Week
1 Northview Church	14.2K	▲100%	7	29.6K
2 itown church	8.8K	▲100%	12	26.3K
3 St. Luke's United Metho...	4.2K	▲100%	16	6.4K
4 Carmel United Methodis...	905	▲100%	16	1.2K
5 First Congregational Un...	492	▲100%	8	1.5K
YOU				
6 St Peter's United Churc...	176	▲100%	6	157

## Need Technology Help?

Your Technology Team has been working a LOT in this wilderness. Here is their contact list for all your church technology needs. We've got you covered! Realm, Facebook, social media, email, phones and more! Don't hesitate to reach out. Need online grocery ordering help? Call any of us on the list!

CONTACT	PRODUCT	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
JENNIFER ATKINSON	REALM, AMAZON CHIME	(317) 679-4759	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@stpeterscarmel.org">vicepresident@stpeterscarmel.org</a>
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JON CRIDER	FACEBOOK (PRIVATE PAGE), OFFICE 365, MARCO POLO, SKYPE	(812) 480-4157	<a href="mailto:technologylead@stpeterscarmel.org">technologylead@stpeterscarmel.org</a>
RICK SEARCY	REALM, AMAZON CHIME	(317) 502-3345	<a href="mailto:ifsearcy@gmail.com">ifsearcy@gmail.com</a>
ADAM SCHOLL	REALM ONLINE GIVING	(317) 281-4254	<a href="mailto:FinOpsAtLarge@stpeterscarmel.org">FinOpsAtLarge@stpeterscarmel.org</a>
JORDAN GRIFFIN	REALM	(317) 794-3902	<a href="mailto:jgriffin@gorev">jgriffin@gorev</a>
CHRISSY SEARCY	REALM, FACEBOOK (PRIVATE PAGE)	(317) 502-3350	<a href="mailto:mommy_of_sabrina@yahoo.com">mommy_of_sabrina@yahoo.com</a>

# St. Peter's Spirit Weeks & Another Trivia Night

The Education Team is hosting a dress up theme each week for the next four weeks as a fun way for us to engage and get to know each other.

- April 26th - dress up like a tourist/on vacation
- May 3rd - dress up like a famous person (TV or book character, movie star, athlete, etc.)
- May 9th (trivia night) - wear your favorite pajamas

Pictures can be posted on the private St. Peter's Facebook page, on Instagram, or emailed to [office@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:office@stpeterscarmel.org) if you are not on social media but still want to participate. They will then be compiled and sent out via email. Children/youth can wear their spirit outfits to the Worship and Wonder and/or Youth Group Chime calls on Sundays to participate. The final culminating event will be a second round of trivia on May 9th (details coming soon) where we will all show up wearing our pajamas!



## Worship & Wonder via Chime

Juj Query is leading Worship & Wonder via Chime on Sundays at 10:00a.m. Details and links will be included in our Friday worship material. We look forward to seeing you there!





# Ways to Serve

## Donations

There will be those in our communities, whether it's people out of work or kids home in need of meals and school supplies, who will need a little extra help. Here are some suggestions of organizations that St. Peter's supports and encourages you to connect to:

**Family Promise** has a particular need right now as they are having to pay for alternative housing for families rather than churches, and the families themselves have greater need for childcare. Donate here: <https://fpgi.org>

There are local organizations working to help people in our communities. Since our congregation draws from various cities, please consider helping those closest to you in this difficult time. Here are some options:

- **Carmel UMC Food Pantry** is taking monetary donations (text CARMELUMC to 77977) as well as food donations. <https://carmelumc.org>
- **Fishers UMC Food Pantry** is taking donations. <https://fishersumc.org/FoodPantry>
- **Indianapolis Food Pantry: Rainbow House** is a ministry of Ebenezer Baptist Church and is in great need as the number of families they are serving has increased drastically. They take drop-offs on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 8am to 12pm (10-12 is best). They can accept non-perishable and canned goods anytime. On Thursdays, they could take in fresh food like bread and produce. They also have a need for school supplies and educational materials for kids spending more time at home. Dropoff at 1866 N. Dexter, in Indianapolis - House on the corner, no signage. It's a white house with blue trim, and people can pull up to back door with loading dock, open up their trunks, and the Rainbow House staff will unload for them.
- **Indianapolis: The Damien Center Food Pantry** has been receiving our donations for decades. <http://www.damien.org/food-pantry>
- **Noblesville's Fueled for School** is taking donations at All Local (a store owned by St. Peter's members) in Noblesville as well as monetary donations. <https://www.fueledforschool.org/programs>
- **Westfield's Wellbeing Coalition** site is a hub for a number of organizations helping families in need of help at this time. <https://www.wellbeingcoalitionwestfield.com/>

## Words of Encouragement

Food banks and pantries in Indiana are seeing three times or more the usual demand. Many of the staff are feeling overwhelmed by the increase in need and the amount of work and time to help as many as possible. A word of encouragement and gratitude for their important work would go a long way in reminding them that they are not alone and that they are loved. If you'd like to send a card or note to those working in this area, we know of at least one location that would be especially grateful:

Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana  
3737 Waldemere Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46241

# Building & Grounds Team Updates

Spring is always a busy time for our team managing the grounds and keeping the weeds at bay. We have been busy planning some exciting things for this spring, always with social-distancing and the health of our volunteers in mind. If you have questions, please contact Team Leader Craig Penquite at [buildingandgroundslead@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:buildingandgroundslead@stpeterscarmel.org) or Grounds Team Leader Katy Penquite at [Groundslead@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:Groundslead@stpeterscarmel.org)

## Memory Garden Re-Design

We are happy to announce that a whole new look will be coming for the Memory Garden over the next month. This will include replanting of all areas of the garden including a white rose as symbol of remembrance, installing of a new stone bench and flagstone steps leading out to labyrinth, and focusing on making the area lower-maintenance for years to come. This project was been made possible by an anonymous donation and has been in the works for nearly two years. We are grateful to upgrade this space so that even during this time of social-distancing, members and friend of St. Peter's can honor their loved ones, take some time to be in a space dedicated to sacred memories, and enjoy the beauty of nature all around. This project should begin in the upcoming weeks and be completed by no later than the end of May. We hope you are as excited as we are!

## Rain Drain

For those of you who endured the puddles near the back entrance (near our Music Room) we are hoping our new rain drain will bring some relief. We will be laying a rain trench/rock bed to the east of the sidewalk to allow run-off to better flow into the Native Habitat area. We will also be putting a rock border between the Native Habitat and the playground fence and stone path out to the gate for the playground.

## Spring Clean-Up

Rather than doing a single day like usual, Katy Palmer will be posting times and dates for small groups to gather and help clean up the grounds. This will include the usual weeding and brush pickup. We also may have some plants that need to be planted such as hosta, etc. Please check out our weekly emails or Facebook page for postings and future dates. Contact Katy ([GroundsLead@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:GroundsLead@stpeterscarmel.org)) if you want to help.

## Adopt a Garden

Katy Palmer is seeking volunteers who will sign up for a given area of the church grounds and commit to keeping it weed free over the summer. She is working on a map of areas to be assigned once spring clean-up and planting is done. Please contact Katy (see above) to sign up for this important need to keep our grounds looking great for new visitors.

Finally, given the efforts of several new plantings over the course of last fall and this spring (including Memory Garden) we are asking that individuals do not plant donated flowers, perennials, grasses, etc. If you have ideas, questions, concerns or thoughts about our gardens, please contact Katy Palmer prior to planting.

# Slow down and enjoy the habitat

Last fall, a coffee tree fell in the Native Habitat and volunteers decided to make use of the wood. The tree was cut into stumps. This spring, a volunteer has been sealing the stumps with urethane. They are now available for rustic seats in the Native Habitat, but please be sure to use social distancing guidelines when you come visit! We are grateful for this labor of love and quite excited to hear your stories of what you see, hear, or feel while visiting this sacred space!



## Details, Details

Our Building & Grounds Team has done everything it can to help us be mindful of our resources during this period of time when our building is closed. All appliances have been unplugged, including the refrigerators. Please do not use them! We have adjusted the temperature settings and have reduced our cleaning, towel, and doormat services to save money. We ask that you do NOT use the building, but please know that someone is checking on the building about once a week.

## Preschool Update

The preschool staff has been Sending lots of curriculum & resources to the preschool families. We have also had Zoom & Face time calls. So much fun seeing all the kids! Supply kits that we put together were passed out to the kids. The families drove up just like morning carpool & and the kits were placed into trunks for a no contact pick up.

Most of our preschool families are continuing to pay tuition during this time, and we are humbled by their commitment to our school. As these days of social-distancing continue, know that the learning and love from St. Peter's Preschool also continues! Questions? Contact Team Leader Tammy Drummond at [preschoolteam@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:preschoolteam@stpeterscarmel.org) or Preschool Director Lori Jannsen at [preschooldirector@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:preschooldirector@stpeterscarmel.org).

Here are few photos of the kits that are being assembled for our kids and a few of our little ones working at home!





# Thank You for Supporting Carmel Kids in Need

April 19, 2020

Dear Friends,

In these troubling times, when the news and concerns of the day are more prevalent and sobering, it's been easy to feel a sense of despair or loss of what to do.

We found one, small, way to make this hard time a little less stressful for 600 children and their parents in our community. Because of your donation, we have raised \$21,000 for gift cards to be added to weekly meal distributions through Carmel-Clay Schools. Every child will receive a \$25 gift card to Meijer and a \$10 gift card to Dairy Queen.

Thank you. Thank you for adding your name and being part of this small endeavor that says a great deal.

As you know, every institution is being stretched at this time: School Systems, Health Systems, Government Systems, Agricultural and Production Systems; I believe that religious organizations, and people of faith are the strong net that supports all of these systems. It's the great support that holds people in a way that no other institution can. It's the full expression of faith in action, through generosity, kindness, and love of neighbor that tells the story of humanity at its very best.

When this crisis is history is over, I believe there will be a paragraph in the history books that says, "It was people of faith, who brought light to this dark time. They kept looking for ways to support their communities and their neighbors, their medical providers, and their frontline workers. They came together and responded out of faith and love to their neighbor. They were humanity at its best." Each of you is one strong rope in that great, big net. Thank you for holding so many people.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Shelly A. White Wood  
Pastor, Orchard Park Presbyterian Church

Jayne Slaton  
Executive Director, Merciful HELP Center  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Outreach &  
Pastoral Care Director

This gift is given with love from these faith and helping organizations. All have contributed so that you could have some additional support to grocery shop for your family. Also included is a way to have a warm meal and ice cream treat to lift your spirits! Your community cares deeply. Peace and good health to your family! ❤️



*Above is the sticker that was placed on the envelopes, representing all of us.*

# Notes from the Church Office

St. Peter's is closed until further notice. (We will look to recommendations from the CDC regarding when we can reopen our building.) All of our Staff are working from home. Please do not hesitate to contact our pastors or our Office Administrator.

**Office Administrator** – Laurie Hesselink (8:30-2:30 M-F)  
[office@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:office@stpeterscarmel.org) 317-846-6882

**Senior Pastor** – Lori Bievenour  
[lori@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:lori@stpeterscarmel.org) 317-750-8442

**Associate Pastor for Missions & Education** – Becca Lockwood  
[becca@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:becca@stpeterscarmel.org) 207-650-3748

**Preschool Director** – Lori Jannsen  
[preschooldirector@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:preschooldirector@stpeterscarmel.org) 317-846-6860

**Music Director** – Cheryl Keckler  
[musicdirector@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:musicdirector@stpeterscarmel.org) 317-213-1871

**Organist** – Addie Yoder  
[akyoder88@gmail.com](mailto:akyoder88@gmail.com)

Please note that your pastors and St. Peter's Staff might increase their engagement on social media during this time, and please understand they cannot keep up with all posts on all platforms 24/7. For this reason, phone, email, and text are preferred ways for initial contacts with Becca and Lori, especially during this time of great need. **Do not hesitate to contact your pastors or other St. Peter's staff; they are called to lead in unpredictable and uncertain times such as these.**

## Communications

Staying connected is key in this time of social distancing. If you are in need of any help with our various platforms for communications, please contact Church Administrator Laurie Hesselink.

**Email:** We are sending out three emails each week. Current schedule is as follows:

**Monday:** Monday Meditation

**Wednesday:** Prayers, Announcements, and a Musical Note

**Friday:** Worship Resources for the weekend & Video Update from Your Pastors

**Website & Facebook Group for Members:** Some of the content from emails will be posted on our website ([www.stpeterscarmel.org](http://www.stpeterscarmel.org)) and in our Facebook Group for Members.

**Social Media:** We have a growing social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Follow us and use #findingthespirit, #togetherinthewilderness, and #stpeterscarmel to increase connectedness among us and others. Please note: we do not intend to use Twitter, Instagram, or our Public Facebook Page for prayer updates or internal communications. These are outward facing platforms that are intended to broaden our audience and our reach in the community. If you have questions, please contact Social Media Manager, Liz Chandler, at [socialmediamanager@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:socialmediamanager@stpeterscarmel.org)

**Marco Polo Video Messaging App:** Marco Polo is a free video messaging app for iPhone or Android devices. Your pastors are enjoying this app; it is a good way to see one another's faces. Unlike a conference call, one does not need to be "online" at the same time as the person with whom they are connecting. Instead, one person records a video message and sends it, and the other person can open it whenever it's convenient. Our pastors will happily respond to your short videos with a video of their own. To find your pastors on Marco Polo, search for their name or cell phone number (listed above).

You  
are  
loved.



## 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

Phone: 317-846-6882

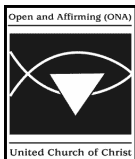
Fax: 317-844-0984

Preschool: 317-846-6860

<http://www.stpeterscarmel.org>

E-mail: [office@stpeterscarmel.org](mailto:office@stpeterscarmel.org)

#carmelucc #findingspirit



TO: