

# THE KEYS

## ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST GRANT PARK, IL



April 2016



815-465-6191

# St. Peter's

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

310 N. Meadow St.  
Grant Park, Illinois 60940

God is still speaking.

**YOU'RE INVITED FOR COFFEE BEFORE WORSHIP!**

Don't forget the coffee bar in the Sunday school entrance area each Sunday morning from 9:00 am – 10:15 am. You're invited to have a cup of coffee before worship. Proceeds go to the Board of Christian Education.



**THE YOUNG AT HEART**

The Grant Park Seniors will meet on **Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>** from **12:00 – 3:00 PM** for a pot luck dinner at the Community Center, Dixie Highway in Grant Park.



**FARMERS AND FRIENDS**

Farmers and Friends, a support group for men whose spouses have died, will meet at the USA Restaurant in Grant Park at **12:30 pm on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**.



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS)**

The total received for the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering of the United Church of Christ was **\$245.00.**  
**Thank you for your contributions!**

**EASTER FOOD BASKETS**

The Mission Committee has collected **117 pounds** of food and other items as well as **\$379.53.** This year we helped 4 families and 2 seniors. Each received a \$25.00 gift card from Berkot's in addition to the food. Thank you for your donations. They are very much appreciated!



## APRIL MISSION GIVING

### Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) –

Also known as Basic Support, our contributions support God's mission in Illinois, nationally, and globally. 71% of our contribution stays in Illinois to carry out the mission of the Illinois Conference.

### CONSECRA (formerly known as Bensenville Home Society and Lifelink)

CONSECRA is a United Church of Christ related organization that began in 1895. Consecra's purpose is to develop and manage ecologically and financially sustainable affordable housing that strengthens communities.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Warren Wessman** - cancer,

**Cynthia Gerdez** – (friend of Margret Chesterfield) – cancer,

**Nancy Adas** (mother of Marge Myers) – Alzheimer's,

**Richard Schnell** (father-in-law of Bruce [Alyce] Heldt) – Alzheimer's,

**Emma Lou Lemon** – Stage 4 lung cancer,

**Christopher Paez** (husband of Jamie Bakhaus Paez) Leukemia,

**Verne Kochel** (Dawn Schroeder's dad) – prayers for healing

**Karen Pickens** (mother-in-law of Chrissy Pickens) Auto accident,

**Nancy Lewke** – recovering from surgery,

**Janice Petit** – prayers during her treatments



## CONCERNS

The family & friends of **Jeane Seitz** (LouAnn Hamann's mother) who died Fri, Mar 4<sup>th</sup>,

The family & friends of **Velma Stanbro** who died Mon, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>



## **JOYS**

**Jeremy and Chrissy Pickens** are the proud parents of a boy Levi Thomas Pickens. Levi was born on February 27. He weighed 7 lb 1 oz and was 20.5 inches long. Congratulations!

**Mike and Katie Eckhoff** are the parents of a son on Waylon David Eckhoff. He was born on March 7<sup>th</sup> weighing 7lb and 2 oz. He is the grandson of Nancy and David Eckhoff.

## **SOMETHING TO PONDER**

### **Letting Go of Being Right**

By Tony Robinson, February 1, 2016

*"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."* - Matthew 5: 6

It's embarrassing for me to admit how often I want to be "right," and how hard it can be to get off that horse.

A raging need to be "right" is, honestly, sort of childish. And yet, it persists far beyond actual childhood. I also notice that when people feel they are "right" and their cause just, they will say and do just the worst things to those who do not agree with them. Lots of this in the church, but not only there. If you are right, it is apparently okay to do wrong.

I've gotten trapped in wanting to be right -- to prove, show, demonstrate that I am right -- far too often, most of all in closest relationships with family and friends.

What's the alternative to being right? Maybe it is being well. Not trying to control others, but practicing self-control and self-containment.

Does this mean that moral judgment, right and wrong, good and bad, aren't important? I don't think so. It doesn't mean giving up moral meaning, it means giving up my ego.

The paradox is that when you can get into right versus wrong bickering in personal relationships -- even if you believe you have won -- you have lost. On the other hand, surrendering your need to be right, can confer a very different kind of victory. A victory over your own screaming ego. And the survival, maybe even renewal, of a relationship.

Strangely enough, in letting go of what we think we must have, at least sometimes we get what we most need. In letting go of our need to be right, we actually become right in a new and far deeper sense.

**THANK YOU!**



To Pastor Doug and all my friends at St. Peter's,  
I want to thank everyone for all their prayers, good wishes and cards since I have begun my "medical" journey. Everyone has been so kind to me. Thanks! And, I knew I had to survive it all because I couldn't leave and ask you all to try to control my loving husband! (Just kidding!) Thanks again---you are all wonderful!

Love and God's Blessings to all,  
Nancy Lewke (and Bill too!)

\* \* \* \* \*

Thank you, for your prayers, cards, and your support for the loss of my mother, Donna Morris. God bless you.

Tom and Rita Morris

Friends at St. Peter's,  
I had such a surprise when I opened the card. It brought back memories from back at St. Peter's. I do not walk very good. Steps and sidewalks hurt me and as you can see the writing isn't good either.

My thank you to all!  
Beatrice Lamore

Dear Pastor Zimmerman,  
I write to thank you and the members of St. Peter's for your support of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM). Thank you for your commitment of \$12,100 for the year 2016. May God continue to bless you and your ministry.

Rev. Melbalenia Evans

Board of Christina Ed,  
I would like to thank you for the Starbucks gift card. This is the boost I need for my 8 am classes. Thank you for thinking of me.

Madison Langlois

**ILLINOIS CONFERENCE UCC OUTDOOR MINISTRIES CAMP**

**Grandparents & Me Camp (ages 4+)**

Cost: 1st Adult: \$159.00 Additional Adult: \$106.00

1st Child: \$94.00 2nd Child: \$73.00 Each Additional Child: \$66.00

**Four (4) Camps are offered this year:**

**Grandparents and Me** - June 16-18 Tower Hill

**Grandparents and Me** - June 20-22 Tower Hill

Directors- William Grice, Janet Thompson

**Grandparents and Me** - June 16-18 Pilgrim Park

**Grandparents and Me** – July 7-9 Pilgrim Park

Directors – Lorri Fooockle, Karen Karczewski

**For additional information for these and other camps, or to register for a camp, go to [www.il-odm.org](http://www.il-odm.org)**

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS NOT ABLE TO ATTEND  
CHURCH ON A REGULAR BASIS**

Mrs. Louise Sievers  
891 Exeter Turn  
Unit C2  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914

Mr. Clarence Heldt  
Heritage Woods Rm 191  
355 Diversatech Dr.  
Manteno, IL 60950

Mrs. Pauline Mitchell  
84 N. Franklin St.  
Momence, IL 60954

Mrs. Doris Laking  
Humme Home for the Aging  
604 S Webb  
Whittenberg, WI 54499

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS SERVING  
IN THE MILITARY**

Mark & Krysta Farina  
PCS 9 Box 1709  
APO, AE 09123-0018

Austin Langlois  
1321 Medley Loop  
Cheyenne, WY 82007

LCpl Lopez, Jessica R.  
PSC 557 Box 2031  
FPO, AP 96379-2301



## THE PASTOR'S NOTE

### **Is God Easy or Hard?** by Molly Baskette

*"Naaman became angry and went away, saying, 'I thought that for me Elisha would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy!' He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, 'Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" - 2 Kings 5:1-17*

*General Naaman has an itch. The Bible calls it leprosy but really it was more like psoriasis, because it didn't prevent him from active military duty. It just drove him completely bonkers, and everybody around him too.*

*He heard that the prophet Elisha had a gift with things like itches, only when Naaman gets to Elisha's house, Elisha won't even come out to see him. He sends out a servant, who says in a bored voice, "Elisha says you should go wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be made clean."*

*Naaman leaves in a fury. The fury of the proud. The fury of those whose power has availed them nothing. The fury of the itchy.*

*He is all set to go back to Syria and scratch some more, when another servant pipes up. "What's the big deal? If Elisha had asked you to do something hard, you would have done it, right? So why not do this easy thing that he's suggesting?"*

*"When we come to God for healing, how we complicate things that are so simple. It seems as if we can't accept elegant solutions to what seem like very complicated problems. We know ourselves to be intensely complex creatures, steeped in drama. It will take years of therapy to cure us. It will cost tens of thousands of dollars. Sometimes, when I am sitting with someone who is in a lot of pain, I will ask them, "Have you prayed about it?" About half the time, they say no. They are embarrassed. That seems like too simple a solution, right? It can't possibly work.*

*The other half of the time, they say yes. They are usually lying. I know why they are lying - I have done it myself. They lie because they want to be the kind of people who pray to God when they have a problem, but they know themselves to be too complicated, and probably unworthy. They don't want to put God to the test, and be disappointed. They don't want to find out they are the one person God doesn't really want to heal.*

**Your thoughts?**

**Pastor Doug**

**HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?**

Has your house address, email address, or phone number changed?  
*Please contact the Church Office to advise us of the change!*



**APRIL  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<b>3</b>	<b>8:45 am</b>	<b>Confirmation Class</b>
	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Sunday School/Adult Class</b>
	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Worship Service/Communion</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Christian Education meeting</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>8:45 am</b>	<b>Confirmation Class</b>
	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Sunday School /Adult Class</b>
	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Brownie Troop #71518</b>
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>14</b>		<b>Girl Scouts</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>8:45 am</b>	<b>Confirmation Class</b>
	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Sunday School /Adult Class</b>
	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>12:00-3:00</b>	<b>The Young at Heart</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>12:30 pm</b>	<b>Farmers and Friends</b>
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>8:45 am</b>	<b>Confirmation Class</b>
	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Sunday School /Adult Class</b>
	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
	<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Worship Committee Meeting</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Church Council</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Brownie Troop #71518</b>
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>Pastor Doug's vacation – April 24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup></b>		



## APRIL BIRTHDAY LIST

These birthdays are compiled from church membership records. Please call to our attention any omissions or corrections



Shelly Lehnert	2	Ethel Zimmerman	14
Alan Bakhaus	2	Shirley Loverin	17
Jordan Hamann	3	Gina Martin	17
Ron Claussen	6	David Dickson	18
Michael Hammerlund	6	Laura Erickson	18
Madison Meherg	6	Peggy Heusing	18
Morgan Wimberly	6	Shelby McKinstry	18
Connie Schneider	7	Bill Dennis	19
Janice Bonifield	8	Nancy Sturm	19
Joni Reynolds	8	Gerald Boicken	20
Bonnie Hamann	10	Marge Myers	20
Bradly Burrell	11	Madison Langlois	22
Dawn Schroeder	11	Jennifer Mussman	27
Jeffrey Hammerlund	12	Nathan Kuhn	29
Vicki Kuhn	13		
Caden Clausing	14		

## *Mother's Day Carnations*

The Missions Board is selling carnations for Mother's Day Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

The cost of each carnation is \$4.00. Proceeds from the sale support our Good Samaritan Fund.



**IN HONOR OF** \_\_\_\_\_

**IN MEMORY OF** \_\_\_\_\_

**PRESENTED BY** \_\_\_\_\_

**NUMBER ORDERED BY \$4.00** \_\_\_\_\_

# **ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**310 N. MEADOW ST. P.O. BOX 220  
GRANT PARK, IL 60940**

**Church Office/Parsonage Phone: (815) 465-6191**

**Pastor's Cell Phone: (815) 342-8927**

**Church Email Addresses:**

**stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net and stpetersgp@gmail.com**

**Church Website: www.stpetersgp.org**

**Facebook: St. Peters UCC Grant Park**

**Church Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday; 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

## **STAFF**

**Rev. Doug Zimmerman, Pastor**

**Marcia Langlois, Office Administrator**

**Beverly Junker, Financial Secretary**

**Ann Smith, Senior Choir Director**

**Kathy Ekhoﬀ, Junior Choir Director**

**Judy Schneider and Shari Ohm, Organists**

**Christine Garbaciak, Custodian**

**Elizabeth Rodriguez and Joni Reynolds, Youth Advisors**

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Karen Brunello, President**

**Sandy Erickson, Vice President**

**Vicki Gawlinski, Secretary**

**Dave Schroeder, Treasurer,**

**Kaleb Frahm, Assistant Treasurer**

**Kathy Ekhoﬀ, Jim Hamann,**

**Bruce Heldt, Pam Lawrence**



***No Matter Who You Are or Where you Are on Life's Journey,  
You Are Welcome Here***