

THE KEYS

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



August 2016



815-465-6191

St. Peter's

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

310 N. Meadow St.
Grant Park, Illinois 60940

God is still speaking.

Sunday Funday!



Sunday, September 11th

9:00 am

Everyone is Welcome

Please Join Us!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) STUDENTS HELPING OTHERS

This year, VBS students had two projects to help others. The first, was Operation Kid-to-Kid. Operation Kid-to-Kid is one of the world's largest service outreach programs for children.

Nondenominational Christian organizations, Group's Vacation Bible School programs, and Group Work Camps team up to get kids involved with helping other kids. Kids have the opportunity to help other children around the world by giving gifts and monetary donations. **Our students and adults contributed a total of \$414.95 for this project.**

The other project was contributing non-perishable items for the food pantry at St. Luke United Church of Christ, Beecher. This food pantry helps people in the Beecher area as well as people from our area. **A total of 46 pounds of items were collected for this project.**

Thank you to all who contributed to these projects!



CALLING ALL TEACHERS AND TEACHERS IN HEART

Sunday school will be here before you know it (classes begin Sun, Sep 18th). We are looking for people interested in teaching the youth of our Church. If you feel this is your calling please do not hesitate to contact Neal Currier at (815) 922-4551 or Email him at ndcpo@yahoo.com or you can contact the true boss Rhiannon Currier at (815) 922-5510 or email her at Rhiannon_currier@yahoo.com. Please feel free to call text any questions you may have.

Let's make this Sunday school year something special.



OUR FUSION YOUTH FELLOWSHIP NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Over the past few years Jen Mussman (Director), Elizabeth Rodriguez (Director), Sharon Buchler (Co-Director), and Joni Reynolds (Co-Director) have been our Fusion Youth Fellowship leaders. Jen and Sharon resigned last year. Elizabeth and Joni are resigning from their leadership positions at the end of August.



We thank Jen, Elizabeth, Sharon, and Joni for leading the Fusion Youth Fellowship!

Are you willing to lead our Fusion Youth Group? We are seeking a Director and Co-Director for Fusion. If you are interested, please contact Rachel Lewke (815 954-3420).

COLLEGE STUDENT ADDRESSES

College student addresses (email and regular mail) are needed so we can keep in contact with them by sending our newsletter, *The Keys*, and other information about events at the church. **NEW** and **OLD** addresses are needed to update our records. Please call the church office. Leave a message if you are calling after hours. Thank you.



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,

Christopher Paez (husband of Jamie Bakhaus Paez) Leukemia

Janice Petit – prayers during her treatments,

Peggy Heusing - prayers for healing,

Gary Ekhoﬀ – prayers for healing following surgery,

Gene Sievers – prayers for healing from injuries following an accident

Mark Bishir (brother-in-law of Jennie Hamann) - prayers for recovery following his heart attack,

Bill Riley – prayers for recovery fro receiving a pace maker, and all of God’s children seeking comfort, peace, and love.



JOYS

The construction for our new lift has begun!

Both Gene Sievers and Peggy Heusing have returned to their homes to recover.

St. Peter’s had another successful Vacation Bible School July 11th thru the 15th. Donations totaling \$414.89 were received and will be given to Group Cares Operation Kid-to-Kid.

DARTBALL

Dartball Season will begin on September 7th. Anyone interested in playing on St. Peter’s dartball team this year please contact Daren Lehnert 815-465-6646 or Roger Sturm 815-466-0253.



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, August 17th**.



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. Doris Laking
Homme Home for the Aging
604 South Webb
Wittenberg, WI 54499



CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS SERVING IN THE MILITARY

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

Austin Langlois
3320 Randy Road
Cheyenne, WY 82001

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!

OPERATION OPEN DOOR UPDATE (ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT)

Total Cost of the Project	<u>\$124,259</u>
Amount Received Last Week	\$ 100
Total Amount Received to date	<u>\$ 80,700</u>
Amount Needed	<u>\$ 43,559</u>



SOMETHING TO PONDER

Interventionist God by Molly Baskette May 12, 2016

"All the creatures look expectantly to you to give them their meals on time. You come, and they gather around; you open your hand and they eat from it. If you turned your back, they'd die in a minute—Take back your Spirit and they die." - Psalm 104

Last week I watched a mother, a friend of mine, shovel earth onto her 8-year-old's grave. He died from complications after contracting the flu, strep and pneumonia all at the same time. He was the light of his parents' and brothers' life, and now his light has gone out of the world. His family, who are atheists, in fact believes his light has gone out forever. The week before that I met a man, an ebullient self-made immigrant with a successful business, who told me that God had allowed me to survive cancer because He (sic) had important plans for me. God had selected me, from among the many other people who contract cancer every year, to live.

The relative power of God to intervene in the happenings of our world is perhaps one of the most unresolved tenets of progressive Christianity. We all want to believe in God's interested involvement in our lives. And yet we can't believe that God interferes on behalf of some (especially, as it often plays: white, abled and Christian) while permitting others to go broke, get sick, lose children and/or die themselves.

How can we have it both ways? How can we believe in a God who answers prayer, while not believing in a God who takes sides and picks favorites?

I don't have an easy answer for this, except that I do believe God is with us and very much at work. What I often tell people (with a secular translation for my atheist friends) is that God doesn't send the catastrophe, but God sure will use it, to strengthen, reveal, transform, or heal. Sometimes what the healing God sends is, in fact, death—which is not the end. And sometimes, it's a life we never imagined would be ours—different, and often better, than the one we were living.

THE PASTOR'S NOTE

The Badge of Busyness by Matthew Laney Apr 29, 2016

"Six days you shall work; but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest; you shall do no work." - Exodus 20:9

An exhausted businessman took a vacation in a faraway country to unwind. Every morning he walked from the resort to the beach. Each day he found a local man cleaning a fish in his boat. After witnessing this for several mornings, the businessman said,

"How often do you fish?"

"As often as I want to eat," the fisherman said.

"What do you do the rest of the day?"

"I take a siesta, do some things around the house, enjoy my family, play my guitar and visit friends."

"Listen," said the businessman, "if you fished all day, you could sell your fish, buy a bigger boat, hire helpers to sell your fish all over the world and make a boatload of money!"

The fisherman was confused. "Why would I do that?"

"So you can quit working, take vacations, relax and enjoy family and friends!"

"Sir," said the fisherman. "I'm doing that now and I only have to catch one fish a day to do it."

Of all the commandments, keeping Sabbath is the most counter-intuitive. Especially now. We are increasingly uncomfortable with downtime and relaxation, reaching for our phone in unoccupied moments, wearing our busyness like a badge of honor. "I'm so busy" is both a cry of lament and a pretention to importance.

"Remember the Sabbath" is not only a command for rest; it is an invitation to know the joy of being unnecessary. No one is more important or necessary than God and even God took a day off. So what's my excuse?

Here we are, nearing the end of summer break. Have you taken a "break?" Have you honored the Sabbath? Are we so busy that we can't take a day off? As Rev. Laney says, "...even God took a day off." Amen!

Pastor Doug

**AN ADDITIONAL INSIGHT...**

From Liberating Word Daily Devotional by Michael Piazza

Jesus called himself "the human one." This phrase, translated as "Son of Man" in the King James Version of the Bible, is a powerful reminder of what a human life can look like when we synchronize our heartbeat with the heartbeat of God. A life of unconditional compassion and relentless grace was how God was expressed in the Human One.

It isn't an accident that we have turned Jesus into a sort of holy superhero who did things that no human could be expected to do. That kind of theology totally gets us off the hook. We have no obligation to take his life or teachings seriously because, well, we are "only human." Few sermons ever seem to focus on just how human Jesus was:

- *So exhausted from all of the demands placed upon him, he fell asleep in the bow of a small boat tossed on a stormy sea.*
- *Thirsty in the heat of the day, he asks a woman of questionable reputation if she would help him out by giving him a drink of water.*
- *In the face of hundreds of hungry people, he borrows a little boy's lunch and shows the masses how far it can go when you share.*
- *He ends his life riding a borrowed donkey, eating in a borrowed upper room, and having his body placed in a borrowed grave.*

Jesus wasn't a magician or super human; he always was asking for help. That, too, can be a holy practice: knowing your limits and asking others to help you.

AUGUST MISSION GIVING

Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) –

Also known as Basic Support, our contributions support God's mission in the Illinois Conference, nationally, and globally. 71% of our contribution stays in Illinois to carry out the mission of the Illinois Conference. Part of that mission is the support of local church pastors and the local churches, helping local churches during the search and call process, and providing intervention teams to help local churches work through times of challenge.



AUGUST BIRTHDAY LIST

Birthdays are compiled from church membership records. Please inform us of any omissions or corrections.



Dean Schneider	2	Richard Boicken	19
Shirley Riley	4	Eric Frahm	19
Jessica Frahm	4	Matt Hamann	19
Eric Couwenhoven	7	Harold Voigt	22
Jared Heldt	7	Gavin Reynolds	22
Bob Hoebet	8	Dorothy Kutemeier	23
Larry Ohm	8	Jessie Martin	23
Dennis Granger	9	Nancy Lewke	25
Karen Spangler	11	Russ Koehn	26
Allen Schroeder	11	Brett Buttle	26
Jan Voigt	11	Tyler Williamson	26
Kim Cousin	11	Leisa Rundquist	28
Terry Boicken	13	Paige Sherwood	29
Susan Williamson	15		

AUGUST
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2	7:00 pm	Christian Education Meeting
7	9:30 am	Worship Service – Communion celebrated
12	6:00 pm	Hamann/Kearby Wedding
14	9:30 am	Worship Service
		Wedding Shower
17	12:30	Farmers & Friends
21	9:30 am	Worship Service
		Waylon Eckhoff Baptism
23	7:00 pm	Church Council
25		Pastor Doug offers communion at Vet’s Home
28	9:30 am	Worship Service
31		Committee on Ministry at Gilman

ECUMENICAL “WORSHIP IN THE PARK” LOOSE OFFERING FOR THE BEV ROBERT’S FUND

A total of **\$253.51** was received for the Bev Robert’s Fund at the “Worship in the Park” service July 24th.

Thank you!



YOUNG AT HEART

The Young at Heart will NOT meet in August.

St. Peter’s UCC Adult Slow Pitch Softball Team

The team is now one game under .500 for the season. The team plays at Diamond Point, off of Career Center Road in Bourbonnais. We encourage you to get out and support our team. A Double Elimination Tournament will be held on Aug 2nd & 9th



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***