

# THE KEYS

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



August 2017



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 17<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am

Everyone is Welcome  
Please Join Us!

**Bike-a-thon watch for more information**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Grandparents program kick off is on Rally Day. We would like more volunteers to be grandparents for our young people.

Thank you for those who have signed up.

Confirmation letters will be going out mid August for those entering eight grade.

Sunday School will be sponsoring a pajama day once a month this year.

They would also like to start a Jr. Hi 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade class.

Christian Ed will not be entering a float in the Oktoberfest Parade this year.

29 children attended Vacation Bible School this year.

**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 16<sup>th</sup>**.

**YOUNG AT HEART**

The Young at Heart will **NOT** meet in August.

**OPERATION OPEN DOOR UPDATE (ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT)**

<b>Total Cost of the Project</b>	<b><u>\$124,259</u></b>
<b>Amount Received Last Week</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>
<b>Total Amount Received to date</b>	<b><u>\$ 103,205</u></b>
<b>Amount Needed</b>	<b>\$ 21,054</b>



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

Mrs. Louise Sievers  
Riverside Senior Life  
85 Burns Road  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914

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

**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!**

**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.

## THE PASTOR'S NOTE

This month I am copying a God Is Still Speaking Devotional for the Newsletter. I think it speaks to the Schmidt tragedy and other storms in life we have to endure. -Jan

### **Courage in the Storm** **Vicki Kemper**

July 27, 2017

*"So keep up your courage, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. But we will have to run aground on some island." - Acts 27:25-26*

The apostle Paul was speaking to other seasick souls on board a pitching ship. He had tried to talk them out of setting sail (conditions were horrible, drowning was likely, etc.) but the captain and crew were determined to be on their way (winter was coming, time is money, etc.).

You can guess what happened next:

A mighty storm arose, with wind and waves battering both ship and passengers. Everything that wasn't nailed down was thrown overboard. There was no food to be had. Finally, "when neither sun nor stars had appeared for many days, and no small tempest raged, all hope of being saved was abandoned."

Then, and only then, did Paul offer an encouraging word. According to the angel who had visited him the night before, the ship would be lost but their lives would be saved. Despite their harrowing circumstances, they could have courage because God's word is good.

You've gotta love this story. It's got funny human touches

("You should have listened to me!" Paul said), and divine realism. God's life-saving power does not guarantee smooth sailing. (Or, as Paul said, "We're going to survive, but there's a shipwreck in our future.") By God's grace, we will reach our destination, but we may be a little worse for wear.

All this rings true to my experience. When things get so bad that I finally surrender any hope of saving myself, I discover that the God of deliverance is standing by, waiting for an opening. Liberation, redemption, healing, and new life will come, but first I may have to endure a wilderness, a wreck, a refining fire, or (insert your favorite scriptural metaphor here).

With this faith, I can have courage, even in the storm.

### **Prayer**

When the storms of life are raging, stand by me and remind me of your promises. Give me faithful courage and help me to hold on tight.

### **Interim Task Force Update –**

At the July 27 meeting these things were discussed:

**-Community Assessment** questions and streets to be covered. TF members + their team members will be going out into the community to ask what they think the community needs and also if they have heard of St. Peter's UCC and that their impression is of our church. This will be helpful when the search committee starts filling out the church profile. August 1-22 will be the canvas time frame and we will pull the information all together at our August 31<sup>st</sup> meeting. We will not be stopping at the homes of church members. This assessment will be shared with the church on Sunday, September 10.

**-Combined Cookbook:** we are looking for clean copies (unwritten on and not stained) of the 1983/4 church cookbook and the 1993 church cookbook. We will be adding those recipes to the most recent cookbooks so that all the recipes will be together in one 3 ring binder. We hope to have them by November.

**-Search Committee possibilities** are beginning to be gathered. If you would like to be considered for this role in finding a new pastor for the church, please let Rev. Jan know. We are compiling an extensive list as we do not expect everyone to say 'yes' when asked AND we want to ensure that all ages are represented on the Committee: teens, 20's, 30's, 40's, 50's, 60's, 70's. When it comes time to do any visits to possible candidates that are local, or a neutral pulpit, we will invite those in their 80's and 90's to attend. Just because you volunteer, does not mean you will be selected! The church council makes the decision.

**-One church assessment tool** we used among the TF netted this information: New Possibilities, Hopes and Dreams for our church:

- more Eastern Association Involvement
- A Sunday School Parent's Day
- More \$\$ for Mission
- Better use of Social Media
- Attract more youth to Sunday School & VBS
- New/Upbeat Worship
- New Songs (words on the wall)
- New ways of reaching out to people
- Something new for the Christmas program
- Shared activities with other churches – UCC/UMC
- Sunday School for High School Students (perhaps on a different day)
- Attendance incentives for Sunday School
- Fusion – activities with other YF's

Some of these are simple to do, others will take much planning. Expect to hear about something new on August 20th

## 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.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

We encourage you to keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers:

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

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

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

**Peggy Heusing** – prayers for healing,

**Gary Ekhoﬀ** – in thanksgiving for healing,

**Gene Sievers** – prayers for healing

**Dean Schneider** - prayers for healing during treatment,

**Jeff Schneider** – confronting ALS,

**Ron Rundquist** - heart issues

**Mabel Phebus** – prayers for healing from injury following a fall,

**Bonnie Hamann**, prayers for healing,

**Ryder Luhman**, (great grandson of Stanley and Judy Schneider) prayers for healing,

**Pauline Mitchell** -prayers for healing,

*and all of God's children seeking comfort, peace, and love.*

## CONCERNS

Our heartfelt prayers are with the Lamore and Boicken families on the deaths of Beatrice Lamore (July 19) and Gerald Boicken (July 28). May God's arms hold and comfort all who loved these children of God!

## **JOYS**

Dalton and Dustin DeBold born February 25, 2017, were baptized at St. Peters on July 16, 2017. They are the children of William and Krissy DeBold. Dalton's sponsors are Daniel DeBold and Shina Heabel. Dustin's sponsors are Kylene Simek and John Heabel. Grandparents are John and Carol DeBold and Donna and Raymond Heabel.

Baptism for Ryleigh Grace Schneider and Lucas Allen Schneider born on April 20, 2017 was on July 30, 2017. They are the children of James and Kelly Schneider. Their sponsors are Trevor and Raelene Harvey. Grandparents are Jeff & Barb Schneider and Bob and Wanda Koehne. Congratulations to both families.

## **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**

<b>1</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Christian Education Meeting</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Worship Service – Communion celebrated</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Shepherd Meeting</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>12:30</b>	<b>Farmers &amp; Friends</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Church Council</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
		<b>Worship Committee Meeting after worship</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Interim Task Force Meeting</b>

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

A total of **\$252** was received for the Bev Robert’s Fund at the “Worship in the Park” service July 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
 Thank you!



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

**310 N. MEADOW ST. P.O. BOX 220**

**GRANT PARK, IL 60940**

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

**Church Email Addresses:**

**[stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net)**

**Church Website: [www.stpetersgp.org](http://www.stpetersgp.org)**

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

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

**STAFF**

**Rev. Jan Johnson**, Interim 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

**Rhiannon Currier & Rhonda McKinstry** Youth Advisors

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Sandy Erickson**, President

**Evelyn Bond** Vice President

**Vicki Gawlinski**, Secretary

**Kaleb Frahm**, Treasurer,

**Susan Williamson**, Assistant Treasurer

**Karen Brunello, Jim Hamann,**

**Ron Hamann & Bruce Heldt**



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