

THE KEYS

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



February 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 support Board of Christian Education programs.



GRANT PARK SENIORS MEETING

The Grant Park Seniors will meet on **Monday, Feb 15th** from **12:00 – 3:00 PM** at the Community Center, Dixie Highway in Grant Park.



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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, February 17th**.



FEBRUARY 14TH - VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY

Where: Bob Chesterfield & Evelyn Bond's, 8435 N 7000E Rd, Grant Park, IL 60940

When: Sunday, Feb 14th after church (begins around 12:00 – 12:30 PM

Bob and Evelyn are inviting church members and their families for an afternoon of fun and good food.

The event begins right after church, between 12:00 and -12:30 and goes to...? **Please bring a side dish to share.**

RSVP to Evelyn Bond 815.922.3237 or sign-up on the sheet on the bulletin board by the Sunday school entrance.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE – FEB 10 AT 7:00 PM

The annual Ash Wednesday service will be on Feb 10th at 7:00 PM. Holy Communion will be celebrated.



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From the Liberating Word by Rev. Michael Piazza, Jan 13, 2016

Change does not equal growth, but change is the price we pay for growth in any area. Wallace Ford told a powerful story about a people who lived in a community that was enclosed in a glass dome. Although the dome limited them greatly, they knew that they would die a horrible death on the outside, and that story passed from one generation to the next. They had lived with the dome for so many years that they long ago stopped noticing the limits it placed upon them.

There was only one offense so heinous that the penalty was to be cast outside the dome. One day, to everyone's horror, someone committed that very offense. The punishment was swift. The entire community escorted the offender to the edge of the dome and pushed them out into the world beyond. Then they all pressed their noses to the glass to watch them die.

At first, the offender lay on the ground face down, cowering in terror, wondering how death would come, every muscle clenched against the inevitable.

Nothing happened. After a bit, the offender rolled over, looked around, and then, to the amazement to everyone inside, the outcast stood up and soon began dancing and singing and shouting. Banging on the outside of the dome, the offender shouted, "Come out, come out! It's wonderful out here. Lots of room, fresh air, warm sunshine!"

The people inside the dome were confused and so distressed that they got buckets of black paint and painted the glass walls as high as they could reach so no one could see the person outside dancing and singing. Then they all breathed a sigh of relief and went back to the way things always had been before that day.

Change is hard and often painful. It is, however, the price we must pay for growth, and the opposite of growth is death.

Jesus personally knew that God's vision of a people redeemed, forgiven, and liberated from guilt and the fear of death came with a very high price. Without the cross it was nothing more than a dream, a nice thought, a pleasant thing to contemplate on a warm fall afternoon.

FEBRUARY MISSION GIVING

Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) or Basic Support –

Our contributions, sent to the Illinois Conference office, 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. 29% of our contribution goes to the national setting of the UCC to support ministry that reaches from our church to people in need throughout the world.



Chicago United Eden; CUE Seminaries of the United Church of Christ

The mission of the seminaries includes preparing new leadership for our churches, nurturing and supporting current leaders, and maintaining and adding to the tradition of theological scholarship in the UCC.

AN OPPORTUNITY...

The members of the Cemetery Board are seeking a person(s) to mow the cemetery next year. Please contact Ron Claussen for more information (815 465-6625).



DART BALL

St Peter's dart ball team won first place in the playoff games. They will be playing for the championship at St. Peter's on Wednesday, February 3rd. Good Luck!!



CHRISTMAS CARD MAIL BOX

Thanks to everyone who supported the Christmas Card Mail Box! A total of \$136.75 was donated, which will support our Confirmation program. 13 cards were mailed to families that didn't pick them up.



PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Warren Wessman - cancer,

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

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

Richard & Dorothy Schnell (father-in-law & mother-in-law of Bruce [Alyce] Heldt) – Alzheimer’s and ALS,

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 – facing surgery,

Janice Petit – prayers during her treatments,

Daren Lehnert – prayers for recovery after surgery

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



THANK YOU NOTES WE RECEIVED:

Thank you for all the support, prayers, cards, and visits during Steve’s illness and passing. Thank you to all the people who donated food and their time to serve the nice funeral lunch. A HUGE thank you to Pastor Doug for a wonderful sermon that will forever be cherished in our hearts.

Sincerely, **The Steve Jones Family**

Thank you so much for thinking of me during the holiday season. Thank you also for letting me clean and care for your church.

Christine Garbaciak

Friends of St. Peter’s,

Thanks for the cookies!

Pauline Mitchell



LENT IN THE ROUND SERVICES – FEB 17 – MAR 16 AT 7:00 PM

Our weekly Lenten Services will be in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 PM Wednesday nights, Feb 17th – Mar 16th . Refreshments will be served by the Confirmation Class.



ELECTRONIC GIVING TO THE CHURCH - VANCO SERVICES

Electronic Giving enables every household or individual to make their church offering using Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). You may already be using EFT to pay some bills.

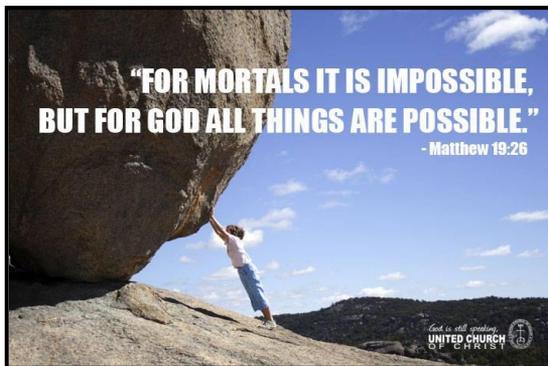
There is no cost to you for this new giving option. The church will be charged an initial fee of 50 cents to set up your account and a 25 cent fee for each donation.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes if you use Vanco. And when travel, illness, or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

Giving options are Weekly (Mondays), Semi-Monthly (1st and 15th of the month), or Monthly (the 1st or 15th).

A few people and families, including Pastor Doug, have taken advantage of this opportunity since its inception in Nov, 2011.

To participate, all you have to do is complete a form. Please contact the church office (815.465.6191) if you are interested in participating in this program. Thank you for considering this new giving opportunity.



THE PASTOR'S NOTE

Big Old Softie by Quinn G. Caldwell, Aug 19, 2015

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit." - Psalm 34:15-22

This one's a no-brainer. When it comes to the down-on-their-luck and the never-had-any-luck, the down-at-the-heels and the can't-afford-any-heels, the downcast and the cast-off, God is a big ole softie. Like a little old lady who can't stop taking stray cats into her house, God won't stop going to the crushed in spirit and taking them into her own heart. Unlike the cat lady, however, God actually has all it takes to give every one of those spirits a good forever home. And you're part of the plan.

You know somebody with a broken heart. I know you do. So here's today's assignment: be a big old softie. Go visit or call him or her on the phone and say, "I've been thinking about you. How are you?" Then listen, hard. Distribute hugs and sympathetic noises and tears liberally, as needed. Sometime before the conversation is over, say, "I love you."

Because here's the thing: that person might not have noticed just how close God is. But in your love, they won't be able to miss it.

February is a month we think a little more about love. Valentine's Day is a day when we remember those we love. Quinn gives an assignment: "be a big old softie." Will you accept his assignment?

Happy Valentine's Day!
May every day be filled with love!

Pastor Doug

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR CHURCH?

If you are interested in joining our church, please contact the church office



FEBRUARY 2016
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2	7:00 pm	Board of Christian Education meeting
3	7:00 pm	Adult Choir practice
		Dartball championship game
7	8:45 am	Confirmation Class
	9:00 am	Sunday School and Adult Education Class
	10:30 am	Worship Service - Communion
8		All Star Dart ball game
10	5:30 pm	Brownie Troop # 71518
	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship Service-Communion
	8:00 pm	Adult Choir practice
11		Girls Scouts
14	8:45 am	Confirmation Class
	9:00 am	Sunday School and Adult Education Class
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	12:00/12:30	Valentine Day Party
15	12:00	Grant Park Seniors meeting
17	12:30	Farmers and Friends Lunch
	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship Service
	8:00 pm	Adult Choir
21	8:45 am	Confirmation Class
	9:00 am	Sunday School and Adult Education Class
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	12:30 pm	Council and Staff Luncheon at McVey'
23	7:00 pm	Church Council Meeting
24	5:30 pm	Brownie Troop # 71518
	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship Service
	8:00 pm	Adult Choir practice
27-28		Confirmation Class Weekend
28	8:45 am	Confirmation Class
	9:00 am	Sunday School and Adult Education Class
	10:30 am	Worship Service

DO YOU KNOW? Do you know that even if you aren't on Facebook, you can see many of the pictures that are posted on the internet on our church webpage?

Go to the church webpage at www.stpetersgp.org. Click on the “Event Photos” tab on the left side of the homepage. In keeping with our Safe Church Policy, you will be asked for a password after clicking on the tab. Call the church office, (815) 465-6191, for the password.



ARE YOU WONDERING?

Do you wonder who posts information on our church Facebook page? The answer is simple.

Jen Mussman, our Facebook guru. Jen posts information she receives from the announcement page, the church calendar, and **from you!** Email Jen at jennifermussman@gmail.com with the latest information about your group or event. She'll post it.



Then, we will all be informed!

ARE YOU FRIENDS WITH ST. PETER'S UCC, GRANT PARK?

Are you friends with St. Peter's UCC on Facebook?

If not, you might want to be. A lot of people are currently friends with St. Peter's! To become a friend, go to “St. Peters UCC Grant Park” and click the “Like” icon. You will then be friends and receive all of the latest information about St. Peter's.



HAVE YOU HEARD??

Many times you, the members and friends of St. Peter's United Church of Christ, learn of events, illnesses, and deaths before we do in the office. Please contact the church office (815.465.6191) with the information you learn about.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY LIST

These birthdays are compiled from church

membership records. Please call to our attention any omissions or corrections

Tom Wieghaus	1	Jill Claussen	16
Kristine Koehn	2	Sarah Senesac	16
Max Markland	3	Jacob Dickson	18
Dornita Hamann	5	John Loitz	19
Will Schneider	5	Nancy Marcotte	19
Krysta Farina	9	Caleb Benson	22
Dan Holm	9	Adam Jacobson	24
Carsen Ackley	11	Connor Claussen	26
John Lewke	13	Kyle Heldt	26
Mike Dillman	14	Steven Lawrence	28
Kevin Mussman	15	Daren Lehnert	28

SOME QUESTIONS & COMMENTS FROM OUR CONFIRMANDS

- ✓ I like how we all took down the church decorations as a church and as a community.”
- ✓ “What if the church didn’t have a symbol?”
- ✓ “Why do people know more about being Catholic and not about their own denomination?”



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

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!

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***