

THE KEYS

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



March 2016



815-465-6191

St. Peter's

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

310 N. Meadow St.
Grant Park, Illinois 60940

God is still speaking.

**LENT IN THE ROUND SERVICES – WEDNESDAY
EVENINGS THROUGH MAR 16TH AT 7:00 PM**

Our weekly Lenten Services will be in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 PM Wednesday nights, through Mar 16th. Refreshments will be served by the Confirmation Class members, with help from their families.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

Ecumenical Maundy Thursday Service – March 24th, 7:00 PM at St. Peter's UCC. Holy Communion will be served

Ecumenical Prayer Vigil – March 24th (following Maundy Thursday Service) from 8:00 to 11:00 PM and March 25th from 6:00 – 8:00 AM at St. Peter's in the sanctuary.

There **will not** be a sign-up sheet for prayer times.

Good Friday Service – March 25th, 7:00 PM at First United Methodist Church, Grant Park.

Easter Sunday Service – March 27th, 10:30 AM,
Holy Communion will be celebrated

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
(FORMERLY GRANT PARK SENIORS)**

The Young at Heart group will meet on **Monday, March 21st from 1:00 – 3:00 PM** at the Community Center, Dixie Highway in Grant Park.



FARMERS AND FRIENDS

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, March 16th**.

SERVING AT THE SALVATION ARMY ON MARCH 18TH



You can volunteer in two ways:

- * [Serve Lunch](#) – We are in need of four servers. Meet at the Salvation Army at 11:30 am
- * [Donate cookies, cupcakes, or bar cookies](#) (please deliver them to the church by 10:30 am on the 18th).

Over 200 people may be served.

Please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board by the Sunday school entrance. Thank you!

GRANT PARK HIGH SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB PAPER RECYCLING PROGRAM



The Grant Park High School Environmental Club is a part of the Midwest Paper Retriever program which offers money in exchange for recycled paper. Items accepted by the program include: office paper and file folders, magazines and catalogs, telephone books, junk mail, and newspapers.

Cardboard is not accepted.

The ultimate goal is to raise enough money to plant trees in the area.

Contributions may be put in the yellow dumpster on the east side of the middle school.

DARTBALL



Congratulations to the dartball team. They finished in 1st place in the Dartball League, winning all three trophies this year. They also beat a spirited ladies team on ladies night.

A REFLECTION:

The Reluctant Giver

by Jennifer Garrison Brownell, Jan 11, 2016

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." - 2 Corinthians 9:7

The little boy, for whom the words "tow-headed" seemed to have been invented, eagerly ran to the front of the church for the children's message. As they had many times before, most of the children put coins into a basket placed in the aisle along the way. The tow-head ran to the basket and threw two coins in with his right hand. Then he turned back toward the congregation, showed his mother his left hand and declared in a flamboyant stage whisper: "I'm just gonna keep this one." The tow-head's mother waved him over and their heads bent together. After a short exchange, the tow-head trudged back and placed the last coin in the basket. After that, he joined the other kids in the circle. The coin seemingly forgotten, he sang as joyfully and as loudly as any of them.

All due respect to the Apostle Paul, but I just don't agree with him. If I waited until my mind was made up to be generous... Good Lord! Who knows how long it would be until I gave with both hands? Instead, I pray that God loves those of us who sometimes give only under compulsion. Those of us who, coming upon the basket, the envelope or the cup held out in a dirty hand, pause for a moment and confer with their Mother. Those of us who sometimes have to be nudged into giving. Those of us who, having given at last, join the circle of voices with as much cheer as those for whom generosity comes more easily.

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).



MARCH 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. Some of these contributions go to our Associations to cover salaries, benefits, and overhead so they may provide support to the local churches.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

One Great Hour of Sharing is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in the United States and more than eighty other countries. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

This annual United Church of Christ offering will be received March 6th through 20th. Thank you in advance for your donation!

EASTER FOOD BASKET DONATIONS – MARCH 6TH – 20TH

The Mission Committee is sponsoring 5 – 7 families. They will receive Easter Food Baskets on Sat, Mar 20th.

In addition to cash donations (please make checks payable to St. Peter's UCC) the Committee is asking for the following donations:

Soup, canned goods, cereal, instant oatmeal, pasta, paper products, and personal hygiene products such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, etc.

Donations may be placed in basket at the back of the sanctuary Sunday, March 6th - 20th.

Thanks for your help and for helping others!



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 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 – facing surgery,

Janice Petitt – prayers during her treatments,

Mark Ekhoﬀ – recovering from surgery

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

CONCERNS

The family & friends of **Donna Morris** (mother of Tom Morris). Donna passed away on Thursday, February 11, 2016.

The family & friends of **Dorothy Schnell** (mother-in-law of Bruce Heldt). Dorothy died on Wednesday, February 17, 2016.

The family and friends of **Velma Stanbro**. Velma passed away on Monday, February 22, 2016

THANK YOU NOTES

I would like to thank all of the folks who sent beautiful birthday cards and gifts. Thanks to my lovely family for the lovely lunch they served and the beautiful cake. It was a wonderful party which I will never forget.

Mildred Katz



Dear Members of St. Peter’s and Pastor Doug,

My thanks to all for the many cards and for keeping me in your prayers during my recent heart surgery and days of recovery.

A special thank you to Pastor Doug for his prayers, visits and being with my family during surgery.

Your prayers and concern brought comfort to us all.

Daren Lehnert

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!



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
any changes!**



THE PASTOR'S NOTE

Fore Give by Matt Laney

November 2, 2014

Then Peter said to Jesus, "How often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy times seven. - *Matthew 18:21-35*

What could be truer than this: forgiveness is hard. And yet, if we don't practice forgiveness, we miss the whole point of the gospel. Yep, you joined a religion that makes the hardest thing the central thing. Next time, read the fine print.

Forgiveness is tough because no one deserves it. That's why it's called forgiveness, because it's given before it's deserved or asked for. Waiting for someone to be worthy of forgiveness is like waiting for a frog to become a prince. And we have to forgive the "undeserving" a lot. Like every day. Seventy times seven.

Forgiveness is often so challenging we can only do it by the grace of God, mindful of how much God has forgiven us. Jesus said we should pray for God to "forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." Maybe it's a reciprocal thing but I think the order is important. Before there is any mention of the sins done to us, we must first consider the sins God has suffered because of us. Apparently, those who recognize their need for God's forgiveness are in the best position to forgive others.

So if you ever struggle to forgive someone who has wronged you, spend a little more time on your knees seeking God's forgiveness. Like every day. Seventy times seven.

In this Easter season, let us focus on forgiveness. As Matt writes, it's what we signed up for as a Christian. Forgiveness is the whole point of the gospel and what Jesus taught us.

Happy Easter!

Pastor Doug

MARCH 2016



1	7:00 pm	Christian Ed Meeting
2	7:00 pm	Lenten in the Round Worship Service
	7:45 pm	Adult Choir practice
6	8:45 am	Confirmation Class
	9:00 am	Sunday School and Adult Education Class
	10:30 am	Worship Service/Communion
9	5:30 pm	Brownie Troop 71518
	7:00 pm	Lenten in the Round Worship Service
	7:45 pm	Adult Choir practice
10		Girl Scouts
11-13		Grant Park High School Play
13	8:45 am	Confirmation Class
	9:00 am	Sunday School and Adult Education Class
	10:30 am	Worship Service
16	12:30 pm	Farmers and Friends
	7:00 pm	Lenten in the Round Worship Service
	7:45 pm	Adult Choir practice
17		Pastor Doug Communion at Vets home
18	11:30 am	Serve at the Salvation Army
20	8:45 am	Confirmation Class
	9:00 am	Sunday School and Adult Education Class
	10:30 am	Palm Sunday Worship Service
21	1:00 pm	Young at Heart (formerly GP Seniors)
22	7:00 pm	Church Council Meeting
23	7:00 pm	Adult Choir practice
24	7:00 pm	Ecumenical Maundy Thursday Worship Service/ communion
	8:00 -11:00pm	Ecumenical Prayer Vigil
25	6:00 - 8:00 am	Ecumenical Prayer Vigil
	7:00 pm	Good Friday Service at First United Methodist Church, Grant Park
27	10:30 am	Easter Worship Service/Communion
30	5:30 pm	Brownie Troop # 71518
	7:00 pm	Adult Choir Practice



MARCH BIRTHDAY LIST

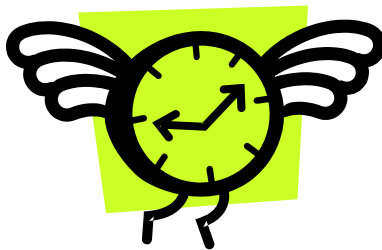
These birthdays are compiled from church membership records.

Please call our attention to omissions or corrections

Josh Schroeder	1	Lyle Lehnert	17
Sawyer Loitz	3	Shari Ohm	18
Judy T. Schneider	3	Emily Voigt	18
Cade Lacer	8	Karen Brunello	22
LouAnn Hamann	11	Ken Erickson	22
Jessica Claussen	12	Jeffrey Lawrence	22
Kristina Pilbeam	13	Dianna Marcotte	23
Bill Riley	13	Anita Bush	24
Elizabeth Cousin	14	Scotty Spangler	25
Beatrice Lamore	15	Austin Jacobson	27
Tracy Langlois	15	Ann Smith	29
Elizabeth Voigt	16	Donna Whorrall	30
Kelly Wade	16	Stacey Lorenz	31

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS, SUNDAY MARCH 13TH

SPRING FORWARD!!



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***