

THE KEYS

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



March 2017



815-465-6191

St. Peter's

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

310 N. Meadow St.
Grant Park, Illinois 60940



WELCOME AND THANK YOU!!

On behalf of the Council of St. Peter's UCC, we are pleased to welcome our new Interim Pastor , Janice Johnson to St. Peter's UCC. Pastor Jan will begin her ministry with us on March 1, 2017. Pastor Jan is looking forward to starting her service to us and will conduct services for Ash Wednesday, Lenten, Maundy Thursday and of course, Easter as well as the weekly Sunday services. She will be residing in the Parsonage. The Council looks forward to working with her and we encourage all to attend the services, support Pastor Jan and our church. Please welcome Pastor Jan to our church and community!!

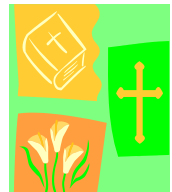
We want to also provide a huge "Thank you" to Brian Clary for his four months of service and dedication to our church and its members. With the security of his availability to serve, the Council did not have to secure any other Pulpit supply ministers. Brian, we are so very thankful and grateful for your service to St. Peter's UCC in Grant Park, IL !!

Blessings,

The Church Council
St. Peter's UCC

LENT IN THE ROUND SERVICES –
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS THROUGH APRIL 5TH

Our weekly Lenten Services will be in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 PM Wednesday nights, through April 5th. Coffee and Tea will be served by the Worship Committee Members. We will be viewing Movie Clips followed by input and discussion. Clips will be from: The Seven Deadly Sins 3/8, Uppity Women of the Bible 3/15, Painting the Stars: Science, Religion, and an Evolving Faith 3/22, and Harry Potter 3/29, and Chocolat 4/5. ALL ARE WELCOME! Young People are especially welcome on 3/29 and women on 3/15.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

Ecumenical Maundy Thursday Seder Meal – April 13 at 6 PM at St. Peter's UCC Fellowship Hall. Holy Communion will be shared. Please call the Church Office for Reservations. All ages are welcome! There are parts for children, including prizes.

Ecumenical Scripture Vigil – following Maundy Thursday Seder Meal from until Midnight – we will take turns reading Matthew and Mark. On April 14, we will take turns reading Luke and John from 6am until noon. These readings will be in the Sanctuary.

Please sign up for a reading time beginning April 1. On

Palm Sunday Service – April 9 at 10:30am

Good Friday Service – April 14

Easter Sunday Service – April 16 at 10:30am

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 Young at Heart group will meet on **Monday, March 20th** from **1:00 – 3:00 PM** at the Community Center, Dixie Highway in Grant Park for a potluck.

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, March 15th**.

SERVING AT THE SALVATION ARMY ON MARCH 17TH

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!



SERVICE KITS

In preparation for this year's heavy storm season, United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries is turning to church congregations to help overcome a shortage of much-needed cleanup buckets, stocked with essential supplies that are used after a natural disaster strikes.

Our church has been awarded a \$250 matching grant as an incentive to assemble Church World Service Kits - in particular, the CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets, which are in short supply. We will be collecting your donations during the months of March and April. Sample kits and supply lists are on display in the Sunday School entrance. We appreciate your help in this worthwhile project! Thank you! - St. Peter's UCC Mission Committee



FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry at St. Luke's UCC in Beecher is currently providing food for 20-25 families on average. If you are looking for suggestions...canned fruit, sugar free items, canned pasta, paper products, and personal products like toothpaste, deodorant, and shampoo are always needed. The pantry will be open on March 4th from 9:00-11:00, and then on the second Saturday of each month. Your donations are always appreciated! Thank You!



RED HAT DAY

Our Mission Committee's Red Hat Craft Day at the Manteno Veteran's Home was a success! We had nine ladies participate in the decorating process of their own hat, and eleven other hats were decorated by our volunteers. The hats will be worn for a future party! Thank you to our volunteers and to all who donated hats, flowers, jewelry, feathers, , etc. A good time was had by all, and the results were gorgeous!



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 12th through 26th. Thank you in advance for your donation!

Don't Mistake Sin
Donna Schaper

March 2, 2017

"For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:21-31

What is sin? It is to fall short of the glory of God. It is to miss the mark of our ideal humanity. It is to be distant from God. Jesus, as the ideal human, might be defined as one who never doubted the full presence of his Father. What made him so special was how close he stayed to the one he called "Abba."

Often we mistake sin for its disguises in right and wrong behavior. Smoking, drinking, and eating too much come to mind. Abuse of our body becomes more important to us than abuse of our souls. Glory, as well as health, is our destination as a human. When we miss the mark of our best humanity, we sin. Smoking, drinking, and temple-disregard are surely sins but they are the outer sign of inner conditions. Glorious souls rarely abuse the temple in which they are housed.

We are in good company! Apparently all of us are in this boat together, this place of minimal glory and maximal distance from our mark as God's creatures. What might be different? We might learn to live in the deep water instead of the shallow. We might try to get closer to God by the practice of prayer or by raising our hands in worship to touch the Spirit of the room. We might work less on the outside and more on the inside. We might become inner actives.

Prayer

O God, You who are the source of any glory we might ever have, draw near. Help us know what it is you meant us to be.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Donna Schaper is Senior Minister at Judson Memorial Church in New York City. Her most recent book is

I Heart Frances: Letters to the Pope from an Unlikely Admirer.

The Season of Lent is a very important time in the life of the church and of those who follow Christ. It is the time we set aside to reflect on our faith and on our life. The journey we make, the pilgrimage really, is meant to give us time to read Scripture, apply Christ's teachings to our lives, and live transformed by His witness among us. Look for Christ in the world around you and you will be surprised by where you find Him!

A Blessed Lenten Journey!

Rev. Jan Johnson

I want to thank you all for such a warm welcome to your church! The James Hamann family gets a big shout out for making the trip to Peoria and loading up my garage full of boxes and tubs! Garry and Bev Junker helped me with the parsonage thermostat and dinner! And even the church sign board was welcoming! (Thanks Bev!) You have made my journey here much easier and I thank you! As we serve God together, let us each help one another along the way!

Rev. Jan

P.S. After office hours you may reach me at the parsonage by the office phone extension

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 - prayers for healing,
Gene Sievers – prayers for healing for a broken hip
Dean Schneider - prayers for healing during treatment,
Jeff Schneider – confronting ALS,
Ron Rundquist - heart issues
Nancy Lewke – prayers for healing,
Mabel Phebus – prayers for healing from injury following a fall,
Lyle Lehnert – prayers for healing following surgery,
Bonnie Hamann, prayers for healing,
and all of God’s children seeking comfort, peace, and love.

CONCERNS

The family and friends of **Clarence Heldt** who passed away
February 22, 2017

The family and friends of **Catherine Hamann** who passed away
February 27, 2017

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

Mrs. Louise Sievers
Riverside Senior Life
85 Burns Rd
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 any changes!

MARCH 2017

1	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship Service
5	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship Service
7	7:00 pm	Christian Ed Meeting
8	7:00 pm	Lenten in the Round Worship Service
	7:45 pm	Adult Choir practice
12	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship Service
15	12:30 pm	Farmers and Friends
	7:00 pm	Lenten in the Round Worship Service
	7:45 pm	Adult Choir practice
17	11:30 am	Serve at the Salvation Army
19	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship Service
20	1:00 pm	Young at Heart potluck
22	7:00 pm	Lenten in the Round Worship Service
	7:45 pm	Adult Choir practice
26	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship Service
28	7:00 pm	Church Council Meeting

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 Szelag	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	Stacey Lorenz	31

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS, SUNDAY MARCH 12TH

SPRING FORWARD!!



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

Church Website: 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***