

THE KEYS

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



May 2016

Our Mission

*We are a family of faith that seeks to walk in the footsteps of Christ.
We seek to know God's will and purpose in our lives.
Our doors are open to all who wish to join our journey.*

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



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, May 18th**.



YOUNG AT HEART

The Grant Park Seniors will meet on **Monday, May 16th** from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the Community Center, Dixie Highway in Grant Park.



SERVING LUNCH AT THE SALVATION ARMY – FRI, MAY 20TH

You can volunteer in two ways:

* **Donate cupcakes** - please deliver them to the church by 10:30 am on the 20th.

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

* **Serve lunch** - meet at the Salvation Army at 11:30 AM.



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.



FUSION POTATO BAR

In Celebration of the Graduates Recognition Sunday, please join us after church services on **Sunday, May 22nd** in the Fellowship Hall for a Potato Bar lunch hosted by Fusion.



We hope to see everyone there!

Please feel free to contact Elizabeth Rodriguez with any questions.

VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

This year VBS will be July 11 – 15 from 5:30 – 8:00 pm. Please sign up to help. The signup sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Sunday School entrance.

Something to Ponder

FORGIVENESS by Quinn G. Caldwell, Feb 16, 2016

"In Christ God was reconciling the world to Godself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us." - 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

You know what would make Christianity a lot easier? If we could just do away with this whole "forgiveness" thing.

I mean, none of the *other* religions requires it. Also, it's inefficient. Achieving it can take a lifetime. Also, it's not as fun as holding a grudge, or as just smacking the person who wronged you. Also, that person totally doesn't *deserve* forgiveness. They deserve an eye for an eye! They deserve quid pro quo! They deserve to feel bad forever!

Also, it's hard.

On the other hand, doing away with the whole forgiveness requirement would make Christianity a whole lot less, well, Christian.

See, here's the thing: You think forgiving your ex is hard? Try being a deity, getting a body and entering history to try to bring your creations back to you because you love them so much, and then getting killed by them. Now, *that's* hard to forgive.

But somehow, God did. Right? Isn't that why we're here? Isn't that what your church is built on, what inspired the music your choir sings, what made them write the Bible you read, what saved the world you live in?

You know what would make Christianity a lot easier? Doing away with the whole forgiveness thing.

But then, what would be the point?



EASTER FOOD BASKET DONATIONS

Thanks to your generosity **117 pounds** of food and other items were received as well as **\$379.53**. The Mission Committee gave this to 4 local families and 2 seniors. Each received a \$25.00 gift card from Berkot's in addition to the food.

Thank you for helping others in need!

MAY MISSION GIVING

Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) – Also known as Basic Support, 71% of our contribution stays in the Illinois Conference to carry out the mission at the Association and Conference level.

World Hunger – Our annual contribution to this organization through our Mission giving helps combat the issue hunger in our country and throughout the world.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION

The Board of Christian Education Committee has set **May 22nd** as graduate recognition Sunday. They will be sending out invitations to all graduates. College graduates, please inform the church office of your name and future plans as soon as possible.



OPERATION OPEN DOOR UPDATE (ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT)

Total Cost of the Project	\$124,259
Amount Received	\$ 75,750
Amount Still Needed	\$ 48,509



THE PASTOR'S NOTE

PRAY CONSTANTLY by **Martin B. Copenhaver**

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing." - 1 Thessalonians 5:16

In order to "pray without ceasing," as the Apostle Paul urges, it is not enough to set aside time to pray. In order to pray constantly, prayer has to be something other than an isolated activity. It has to be woven into the fabric of your life.

Jimmy Carter once estimated that he prays a hundred times a day. I imagine that few of those prayers are with eyes closed and that few begin with, "Dear God," and end with, "Amen." Rather, I imagine that his life and his prayers are so interwoven that you cannot separate the two.

This is what a day of praying without ceasing might look like: You wake up in the morning and, with God, you think about what awaits you in the day ahead. You pre-live the day as a kind of prayer. At the breakfast table, you open up the newspaper—another day of horrific stories of violence and disaster—and, as you read, you simply think, "God, be in that place, be with those people." You get in your car and the traffic is terrible, so you say to God, "The traffic..." and you don't need to say any more because God knows that the way that sentence ends is, "and the traffic always makes me tense, because I hate to be late." When you arrive, there is a message from your mother. She sounds more confused than ever, so before you pick up the phone you say to yourself, "God, you've got to help me here." And on like that through the day.

Praying. How many times a day do we pray? Perhaps our prayer is a simple prayer like, "Thank you, God!" How do we pray? Without ceasing as we live each day!

Pastor Doug

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,
Verne Kochel (Dawn Schroeder’s dad) – prayers for healing
Karen Pickens (mother-in-law of Chrissy Pickens) Auto accident,
Nancy Lewke – recovering from surgery,
Janice Petit – prayers during her treatments,
Peggy Heusing – prayers for healing,
and all of God’s children seeking comfort, peace, and love.



ILLINOIS CONFERENCE UCC OUTDOOR MINISTRIES CAMP

Grandparents & Me Camp (ages 4+)

Cost: 1st Adult: \$159.00 Additional Adult: \$106.00

1st Child: \$94.00 2nd Child: \$73.00 Each Additional Child: \$66.00

Four (4) Camps are offered this year:

Grandparents and Me - June 16-18 Tower Hill

Grandparents and Me - June 20-22 Tower Hill

Directors- William Grice, Janet Thompson

Grandparents and Me - June 16-18 Pilgrim Park

Grandparents and Me – July 7-9 Pilgrim Park

Directors – Lorri Foockle, Karen Karczewski

For additional information for these and other camps, or to register for a camp, go to www.il-odm.org



**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 change





MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1	9:00 am	Confirmation Class/Parent Breakfast
	9:00 am	Sunday School/Adult Education Class
	10:30 am	Worship Service/Communion
3	7:00 pm	Christian Ed
4	7:00 pm	Sr. Choir
8	8:45 am	Confirmation Class
	9:00 am	Sunday School/Adult Education Class
	10:30 am	Worship Service/ Mothers Day
11	5:30 pm	Brownie Troop #71518
	7:00 pm	Senior Choir
12		Girl Scouts
15	8:45 am	Confirmation Class
	9:00 am	Sunday School/Adult Education Class
	10:30 am	Worship Service/ Pentecost/Communion
16	1:00 - 3:00 pm	Young At Heart
18	12:30 pm	Farmers and Friends
	5:30 pm	Brownie Troop # 71518
	7:00 pm	High School Baccalaureate
19	2:00 pm	Pastor Doug offers communion at Vets home
20	11:00 am	Salvation Army
	7:00 pm	High School Graduation
22	8:45 am	Confirmation Class
	9:00 am	Sunday School Breakfast & Awards
	10:30 am	Worship Service/Graduate Recognition
	11:30 am	Potato Bar
24	7:00 pm	Middle School Graduation
28	1:00 pm	Bridal Shower
29	9:30 am	Summer Worship Service
30		Memorial Day Office Closed



THANK YOU

Thank you all for the prayers as I am undergoing treatment. I am now in partial remission. God is definitely helping me through this time.

Janice Petit

Thank you to my family for the lovely birthday party. Being 95 isn't bad when your children make it so enjoyable!

Thanks to my wonderful church family for the many cards and best wishes! They were so appreciated. It's nice to know one has been noticed!

Bonnie Hamann

I would like to thank my family, friends & church family for remembering me in your prayers and thoughts after my latest surgery and my rehabilitation. The cards, texts, phone calls and delicious meals were wonderful. I especially want to thank Pastor Doug for his visits and prayers. God Bless you all!!

Norma Lehnert

Dear Members of St. Peter's UCC,

Thank you for the lovely bouquet of flowers you sent for our 150th Anniversary Celebration. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
The First Congregational UCC
of Dwight, Illinois

PRINTER INK CARTRIDGE RECYCLING

Did you know that we recycle printer ink cartridges? We earn money while helping to be good stewards of the earth. You can drop off the cartridges in the box on the counter by the east entrance of the sanctuary.

Thank you for recycling!





MAY BIRTHDAY LIST

These birthdays are compiled from the church membership records.

Please call to our attention any omissions or corrections.

LaDonna Swanson	1	Sandi Heldt	16
Rich Heldt	2	Jon Schneider	16
Kimberly Sherwood	4	Paul Loverin	19
Catherine Hamann	4	Daniel Erickson	20
Megan Pilbeam	4	Mary Cirks	23
Sam Hamann	4	Shirley Voigt	23
Cynthia Jacobson	6	Jerry Lorenz	23
Erin Williamson	7	David Heusing	25
Joe Ekhoﬀ	8	Minnie Pﬂingsten	26
Tammy Reaman	10	Sandy Erickson	27
Amy Schneider	11	Jarret Schneider	28
Tom Morris	12	Kyle Jacobson	28
Suzy Bird	12	Jamie Clausing	29
Mark Ekhoﬀ	12	Sharon Dillman	30
Kate Reichel	12	Ken Heldt	30
Marcia Langlois	14	Trisha Meherg	30
Missy Benson	14	Pam Lawrence	15



FATHER'S DAY CARNATIONS

The Missions Board is selling carnations for Father's Day

Sunday, May 29th through Sunday, June 12th.

The cost of each carnation is **\$4.00.**

In Honor Of _____

In Memory Of _____

Presented By _____

Number Ordered x \$4.00 _____

ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTION

Did you know that we have an Electronic Giving program through Vanco Services. This program enables you to make your church offering using electronic funds transfer (EFT). You may already be using EFT to pay your mortgage, car payment, or insurance premium through an automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account.

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. Giving options are Weekly (Mondays), Semi-Monthly (1st and 15th), or Monthly (on the 1st). You can change the amount you give or opt out of the program at any time.

Some may say that this giving option is costing the church money. It is. However, by participating in this program, our church is guaranteed to receive your monthly/weekly donation, even when you aren't able to attend church. That is a win/win for our church and you!

Please contact the church office (815 465-6191) if you are interested in participating in this program. We will provide the enrollment form for you to complete.

Thank you for considering this new giving opportunity.



QUESTIONS FROM OUR CONFIRMANDS:

- * "Was Jesus able to heal people when he was younger?"
- * "Why would they want to let a prisoner go, but not Jesus?"
- * "Does Jesus do things/control things, or is it always God?"
- * "Why did Judas betray Jesus?"
- * "How many people did not like Jesus?"
- * "What do the images on the stain glass windows mean?"
- * "Has God ever answered your prayers?"

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***