

THE KEYS

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



September 2016



815-465-6891

St. Peter's

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

310 N. Meadow St.
Grant Park, Illinois 60940

God is still speaking.

ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Sunday Funday!

Kick Off for our
Sunday School Program
Sunday, September 11th

Sunday School - 9:00 am
Worship – 10:30 am
11:30 - Hotdog & chip lunch
12:00- 12:45 – Bike-a-thon

Everyone is Welcome
Please Join Us!

Sunday Morning Summer Worship – 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Doug's cell phone – (815) 342-8927
Website: www.stpetersgp.org
Email: stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net or stpetersgp@gmail.com
Facebook: [stpetersgrantpark](https://www.facebook.com/stpetersgrantpark)

BEGINNING SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH
SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:00 AM
WORSHIP – 10:30 AM

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, September 21st**



GRANT PARK SENIOR

The Grant Park Seniors will be meeting on Monday, September 19th from 12:00 – 3:00pm for a potluck at the Community Center, Dixie Highway in Grant Park.



ADULT CHOIR

Adult choir practices will begin again on September 7th at 7:00 PM. Interested? Come and join us!!



YOU'RE INVITED FOR COFFEE BEFORE WORSHIP!

Beginning Sunday, September 18th. 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 will go to the Board of Christian Education.



SERVING AT THE SALVATION ARMY ON SEPTEMBER 16TH

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, brownies or cup](#)



[cakes](#) (please deliver them to the church by 10:30 am on the 16th). Over 200 people are served. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board by the Sunday school entrance. Thank you!

SEPTEMBER 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.



Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ Outdoor Ministry Century Club

You are invited to be part of a dream. The dream is to have available capital improvement funds for our two Outdoor Ministry sites – Pilgrim Park and Tower Hill. Individuals, families, or organizations who commit to contributing \$100 or more each calendar year become members of one of the two Century Clubs. Two committees – one representing Pilgrim Park and the other Tower Hill – work in cooperation with the Outdoor Ministry System to determine how Century Club funds will be spent for capital improvements at each location. Century Club funds assure that well-kept facilities will be available for years to come.

SOMETHING TO PONDER

Saved by Jennifer Garrison Brownell May 11, 2016

Then he said to them all, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." - Luke 9:23

Not long ago, an earnest and thoughtful person looked worriedly into my face and asked me if I had accepted Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior. Was I, in short, saved?

I was pretty sure I knew exactly what she meant. She meant, had I knelt down, prayed a sinner's prayer and asked Jesus into my heart and life. She meant, had my life been changed from that moment on and into forever.

I don't think salvation usually works like that. Those kind of sudden transformations sound more like magic tricks than the slow work of salvation as I know it. Still, I said, "Yes!" which as I had hoped, ended the conversation at once.

Later, I wished I would have taken up the cross and used it as a bridge between her understanding of salvation and mine. I could have asked her, "What do you mean by that?" And then, I could have really listened to her, instead of ending the conversation the easiest and quickest way I knew how. Maybe, if I had listened, she would listened to me too.

And if so, I could have told her that the only path to salvation I know is to get up every, single, ever-loving day and ask for help. Help to follow Christ's light when there are so many wonderful and terrible distractions glittering along the way. Help to carry the cross along whatever little stretch of road lies before me. Help to have the strength to do it all over again tomorrow.

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,

Christopher Paez (husband of Jamie Bakhaus Paez) Leukemia,

Peggy Heusing – prayers for healing,

Gary Ekhoﬀ - prayers for healing following surgery,

Gene Sievers – prayers for healing from injuries following an accident

Mark Bishir (brother-in-law of Jennie Hamann) – prayers for recovery following his heart attack

Judy Johnson (Clifford Zimmerman’s cousin) prayers for healing from injuries following a car accident,

Dean Schneider prayers for healing during treatment,

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

JOYS

The wedding of Larry Haman and Gail Kearby at St. Peter’s on August 12th.

The baptism of Waylon Eckhoﬀ on August 21. Waylon is the son of Michael and Katherine Eckhoﬀ. His sponsors were David Eckhoﬀ, Nancy Eckhoﬀ, Thomas Reilly and Jennifer Huxford.

The wedding of Christina Pilbeam and Nicholas Szelag on August 27, 2016 at their home.

CONCERNS

The family and friends of Donnie Simpson (Grandfather of Krystal Frahm) who passed away August 17th.

THE PASTOR'S NOTE

Gather Up the Duct Tape by Talitha Arnold April 24, 2015

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands; and put out your hand and put it in my side" . . . Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" - John 20:19-31

The Christian church has many symbols for Resurrection—lilies, eggs, butterflies. I'd like to add some more—a sock, plastic tubing, and duct tape.

In April, 1970, Apollo 13 took off for the moon on what should have been a routine trip. A day later, a huge explosion blew off half the space ship. The astronauts' only hope was to crawl into the tiny lunar module and try to steer it back to earth.

But they, and Houston, had a problem. Oxygen. The blast had damaged the cabin's air filter. Without it, the men would quickly die from their own carbon monoxide. Down on earth, the NASA scientists were equally panicked. Then one scientist gathered up everything they knew was in the space ship. He dumped it onto a table and said to his colleagues, "Here you go, boys. Make your filter."

So the scientists took a hose from a space suit, bits of plastic and wire--and a sock—and fashioned a make-shift air filter, all held together with duct tape. It saved the astronauts' lives.

A sock, a hose, wire, and duct tape. What a great image of the God who, in a UCC Easter prayer, "gathers up the fragments of our lives and creates new possibilities." Today's story of Thomas has no lilies or butterflies. Just fears, doubts, and wounds. But like the NASA scientists with their socks, hoses, and duct tape, the Risen Christ gathered all those fragments of Thomas' life and created new life. And Thomas answered, "My Lord and my God!"

We give thanks to God who “gathers up the fragments of our lives and creates new possibilities” so we might live a life that reflects the love of God.

Pastor Doug

SEPTEMBER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2	5:30 pm	Schneider/ Koehne Rehearsal
3	3:00 pm	Schneider/Koehne Wedding
4	9:30 am	Worship Service/Communion
5		Labor Day Office Closed
6	7:00 pm	Christian Ed
7	7:00 pm	Adult Choir Practice
		Dart Manhattan at Grant Park
11		SUNDAY FUNDAY!!!
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Hot Dog and Chips Lunch
	12:00	Bike-A-Thon
14	7:00 pm	Adult Choir
		Dart/ Grant Park at Peotone
16	11:30 am	Serving at Salvation Army
17	6:00 pm	Church Life Italian Night
18	9:00 am	Sunday School
	9:00 am	Confirmands and Mentor Meeting
	9:30 am	Confirmands and Parent Meeting
	10:30 am	Worship Service
		Levi Pickens baptism
	11:30 am	Confirmands trip to St. John's
19	12:00pm	Young at Heart Potluck
21	7:00 pm	Adult Choir Practice
		Dart/ Matteson at Grant Park
25	9:00 am	Sunday School
	9:00 am	Confirmation Class
	10:30 am	Worship Service
27	7:00pm	Church Council Meeting
28	7:00 pm	Adult Choir Practice
		Dart Grant Park at Manhattan

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



**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. Doris Laking
Humme Home for the Aging
604 South Webb
Wittenberg, WI 54499

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS SERVING
IN THE MILITARY**

Mark & Krysta Farina
PCS 9 Box 1709
APO, AE 09123-0018

Austin Langlois
3320 Randy Road
Cheyenne, WY 82001

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 UCC ADULT SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL
TEAM**

The Softball season has come to a close. Our team,
playing in the Silver Division, won both games; 24 – 4
and 12 – 7, thus winning the Silver Division. Matt Hamann hopes that
next year they will play in the Gold Division and win! Congratulations
to Matt and the team members!



A REFLECTION...

“Pastor as Pointer”

the Stillspeaking Daily Devotional, July 29, 2016

By Matthew Laney

"It has been reported to me that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. Each of you says, 'I belong to Paul', or 'I belong to Apollos', or 'I belong to Peter.' Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul?" - 1 Corinthians 1: 11-13

People in the First Church of Corinth had succumbed to cults of personality. Some strutted about claiming allegiance to Pastor Apollos, some to Pastor Peter, others to Pastor Paul, forgetting that pastors are called to point beyond themselves to Christ. To focus on the pastor is to miss the point of the pastor.

Thank goodness we've gotten over that. Surely no one in your church has the current or former minister on a pedestal so high they block out the cross. If so, you might get a testy email from Paul, similar to the letter he wrote to the cultish Corinthians, saying, "Can Christ be divided? Have any of the leaders you put above Christ died and been raised to new life for you? Were you baptized in their name?"

Your pastor (or their predecessor, or their predecessor's predecessor) might be the most amazing minister ever to grace God's church. As wonderful as they are, they did not die for you and for the sin of the world. You were not baptized in their name. You were baptized in the name above every name, the one who is the true Lord and head of your church.

Far more important than worship attendance and giving, your minister's ability to point beyond herself to Jesus, and follow his lead, is the best measure of success.

Prayer

Jesus, let my church profess you as Lord and help us support our pastor's call to point to you.

MEET OUR CONFIRMATION CLASS

2015 – 2016

Biographies written in October, 2015

Micaelyn Benson

My name is Micaelyn Benson and I am in the 7th grade. I go to Grant Park Middle School and I love to play basketball, softball, and volleyball. My birthday is September 10th 2002. I play the clarinet in the school band also. Some of my favorite things to do are practice sports, play with my raccoons, and hang out with friends. In my future I hope to do something that involves animals. I also love to cook and bake with my 99 year old grandma and Aunt Connie.

Madelyn Dickson

Hi, my name is Madelyn Dickson. I'm in 8th grade at Grant Park Middle School and I'm in softball, basket ball, and volleyball. My favorite hobby is reading. One of my favorite things to do is that I like to be outside. Outside I like to play with my neighbors, I like to sit outside and read, and I like to sit outside and listen to music. My favorite food is cheeseburgers. I am also in the play this year and will continue with that throughout high school. I also am in the band, I play trumpet and piano. Currently I am thoroughly enjoying to read by Rick Rierdon or anything about Harry Potter.

Ryan Dulin

My name is Ryan Blane Dulin. I am in 7th grade. I go to Grant Park Middle School/High School. I play baseball, basketball, and soccer. I like to play sports and hang out with friends. My favorite things to do are play sports. I also enjoy playing golf.

Sydnew Fritz

My name is Sydne Fritz and I am in 8th grade. I go to Grant Park Schools. I play volleyball, basketball, and softball. I enjoy hanging out with my friends and visiting my family. I like to cook, make crafts, and help animals. My favorite foods are, steak, watermelon, and pinwheels.

Hadleigh Loitz

My name is Hadleigh Ann Loitz and I'm almost 14. I was born on November 20th 2001. I'm an 8th grader at Grant Park Middle School. I play the flute in band, I'm in student council, and a member of National Junior Honor Society. I love to play sports, and the school sports I'm in are softball, basketball, volleyball, and track. I just finished my last year of soccer. My favorite sport and my favorite thing to do is ride horses. I've been riding since I was 5 ½. I ride hunter jumper and I love doing horse shows. I also love to take pictures, and I love animals. My favorite foods are pizza, ice cream, chicken, apples, watermelon, and mac and cheese (especially from Panera).

Clayton McKinstry

Hi my name is Clayton McKinstry. I am in 7th grade and go to school at Grant Park Middle School. I play soccer, baseball, basketball, and track. I work with cows and farm with friends. I like to be with my family and friends also work and play sports. I like chicken, burgers, but I hate any nuts or mushrooms. I love God.

Madison Meherg

Hello! My name is Madison Meherg. I am in the 8th grade and I attend Grant Park Middle School. I participate in softball, basketball, volleyball, track, band, jazz band, math team, drama club, student council, yearbook staff and the National Junior Honor Society. I enjoy spending time with my family, playing sports, and being outside. I also like to draw and read in my spare time. I like almost all fruits and vegetables and enjoy baking and cooking. I especially love animals, ice skating, and watching all of the Chicago sports teams.

Troy Reynolds

Hello my name is Troy Reynolds. I am in the 7th grade at the Grant Park Middle School. I play in 3 sports, soccer, basketball, and baseball. I like hanging out with my friends, playing sports, and going on vacation. My favorite food is buffalo chicken tenders. I also like seafood. I have 2 brothers named Gavin and Owen. Gavin is 16 and Owen is 10.

Alex Rodriguez

Hi my name is Alex Rodriguez. I'm in 8th grade. I go to Grant Park Middle School. I play baseball, basketball, track, soccer, and once in a while golf. I like playing sports and watching them too. My favorite thing to do is play sports. My favorite foods are tacos.

Nick Rodriguez

My name is Nick Rodriguez and I am in the 7th grade. I go to Grant Park Middle School. I play baseball, basketball, soccer and used to play football. My hobbies are sports, playing with my friends, going outside, playing wiffle ball. My favorite things to do are play sports, ride my bike hang out with my friends. My favorite foods are chicken, steak, ribs, Hawaiian bread, hamburgers, and I love God.

Paige Sherwood

My name is Paige Sherwood and I am in 7th grade. I go to Grant Park Middle School. I play volleyball, do the play, and I run track. My hobbies are painting, hanging out with my friend, playing piano, and playing with my dog. My favorite things to do are be with my friends, go on my phone, and have fun. I like sweets, pasta, hamburgers, tacos, burritos, and cream cheese.

CLARENCE HELDT'S BIRTHDAY PARTY!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH

FROM 2:00-4:00



Clarence will be 100 on September 6th .
His family is hosting a birthday celebration in his honor
at St. Peter's on September 18th in the fellowship hall
from 2:00 – 4:00 PM.

Come and help celebrate! All are invited!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY LIST

These birthdays are compiled from church membership records.

Please call to our attention any omissions or corrections

Shirley Holm	2	Dakota Lewke	15
Kyle Wieghaus	2	Larry Voigt	15
Chad Benson	3	Zackary Hamann	16
Troy Reynolds	3	Connie Wimberly	17
Greg Hamann	5	Debbie Dennis	18
Clarence Heldt	6	Jerry Loitz	19
Ella Hamann	7	Betty Wolfe	19
Kyle Ekhoﬀ	8	Charlie Isbell	22
Zoe Gawlinski	9	Pat Hamann	23
Micaelyn Benson	10	Jean Schroeder	23
Reese Clausing	10	Lauren Buttle	26
Neal Currier	11	David Lehnert	26
Ralph Kutemeier	12	Kody Reichel	27
Rodney Ohm	13	Shannon Meherg	28
		Caiden Benson	29
		Susanna Wood	29
		Patty Dulin	30

THANK YOU

Dear “Friends”,

Thank you all for the very thoughtful cards and messages you send for my Birthday, Christmas throughout the year. It means so much.

It has been a hot and humid summer, but we have had lots of rain, so the flowers “we” planted in the big planter in front of the building look great.

I still have my green thumb.

Take care, everyone! I miss you!

Love, Doris

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**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***