



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

September 15, 2024

Season of Creation

If you are visiting us for the first time, welcome!
Thank you for joining us, we're happy you are here.

Please make sure to sign-in in the Narthex and include your name and email so we can keep you updated on upcoming events and special worship services.

*Please stand if you are able and comfortable

Congregation reads text in bold print

In our liturgy, A: is all our voices. L: is the liturgist's voice P: is the Pastor's voice

Pre-Service Music ~ 9:55 a.m.

Please enter the sanctuary to prepare for worship

Bringing Christ's light into Worship

Angela Williams, Acolyte

Prayer Requests, Joys and Concerns

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

Live stream begins

Prelude

Garrett Woods, Music Director

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

***Call to Worship**

Jan Williams, Liturgist

Leader: Holy One, you have searched and known us.

People: You know when we sit down and when we rise up; you discern our thoughts.

L: You search out our paths and our lying downs and are acquainted with all my ways.

P: Even before a word is on our tongues, O Holy One, you know it completely.

L: You hem us in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon us.

P: We praise you, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that we know very well.

*Hymn

"Lift High the Cross"

No. 108

***Invocation**

A: We are called to “observe the Sabbath day and keep it holy, as our God commanded us.” Be with us Holy One, so that we may be refreshed and renewed, every day. May the Holy Spirit descend upon us as we gather in worship and praise, for all you do in Jesus’ name. Amen.

***Call to Confession**

L: As we gather in worship, let us take this moment to consider our needs for transformation and forgiveness. I invite you to quietly reflect on our need for grace. *Allow a short moment of silence.*

***Prayer of Confession**

A: Dear God, the creator of all things based on love. You created us in your image of love and there have been times we have fallen short of that love, not only to you but to each other and all of creation. I ask for your forgiveness and from you, present today, my siblings, sisters and brothers in Christ. I thank you for the comforting strength and compassion of the Holy Spirit to do better in bringing love and grace and all I do. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

P: Scripture tells us “Light will shine out of darkness,” and though we may be “afflicted in every way, we are not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair” and when we turn to God for blessed grace; grace is always granted. Grace is our greatest gift. Amen.

A: We are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*Gloria Patri (Glory be to the Father)

No. 35

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Please be seated.

Time for Silent Prayer ~ Prayer Challenge #20 – Give over your broken heart & deep sadness to God & invite Him to turn them to joy. 1 Samuel 1:10 ~ Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Through Song

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

No. 306

**Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord;
incline thine ear to us, and grant us Your peace. Amen.**

Young People's Message!

All young people are invited to come forward for their own special time with the Pastor.

Young people may go to Sunday School

Tammi Hart

The Holy Scriptures

First Reading – James 3:1-12

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Choir Anthem:

"Walk With Me, Lord"

by Wagner

The Holy Gospel – Mark 8:27-38

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

²⁹He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Message *“Water, Water, Everywhere”* *Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse*

Welcome to New Member – by Affirmation of Faith

P: We invite to come forward **Paul Middendorf III**, who wishes to affirm his baptism by uniting with us in this household of faith. He was here when he was a child, and returns to this community, Thus he joins us by affirmation of faith in this service.

P: Friends in Christ, we all are received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. Paul has found nurture and support in this family of Christ. Through prayer and study, he has been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm his baptism and to claim in our presence his covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. He is here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

P: Paul, God’s message is near you, on your lips and in your heart, that is, the word of faith that we preach. If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by our faith that we are put right with God; it is by our confession that we are saved.¹⁹

***Affirmation of Faith ~ Candidate and Congregation**

P: Paul, do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Paul: I do.

P: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

Paul: I do.

P: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Paul: I do.

P: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Paul: I promise, with the help of God.

P: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

Paul: I promise, with the help of God.

P: Let us unite with the whole church, and this congregation, in all times and places, in confessing our faith together in the triune God.

Do you believe in God?

A: I believe in God.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

A: I believe in Jesus Christ.

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

A: I believe in the Holy Spirit



P: By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Paul, today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

P: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

Paul: I promise, with the help of God.

WELCOME AND RECEPTION

Members of the congregation who are able may stand to say the following words of welcome.

P: Let us, the members of St. Peter and St. Paul, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

A: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

P: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of St. Peter and St. Paul, we extend to you, Paul Milholland, the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this local church. Let us pray.

Eternal God, we praise you for calling us to be your servant people and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank you for sending Paul to us, that we may work together in serving the needs of others. Confirm in us the power of your covenant that we may live in your Spirit, share regularly in worship, and so love each other that we may have among us the same mind which was in Christ Jesus, to whom be all honor and glory.

A: Amen.

The congregation may applaud and/or wave, saying "Welcome."

The Church Council members present move to the center aisle to welcome Paul to membership.

*Hymn

"I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry "

No. 75

***Invitation to Generosity**

L: As Paul has offered his faith, hope and love in worship, discipleship, fellowship and service, so we offer to you all that we are, and all that we have. Let us bring our gifts of time, talent and treasure before God for the love of our neighbor and the world.

*Doxology (Praise)

No. 46

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

A: O Lord our God, maker of all things, through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn

“How Great Thou Art”

No. 33

***Benediction**

P: Dear friends, we have been nourished and renewed in this Sabbath day with the love of God who created us, God who redeemed us, and God who sustains us. Go in peace, sharing the Good News. Amen.

*Benediction Response

**God, who stretched the spangled heavens, infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space,
we, your children, in your likeness, share inventive powers with you.
Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.**

Postlude

Thank you for worshipping with us at St. Peter and St. Paul United Church of Christ!

3001 Queen City Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45238

Current Office Hours: W, Th, & Fri. 10am – 2pm (W & Th remotely) ~ Sat 9-11am + 513-661-3745

In case of pastoral care emergency, please call the office, Deb Boland,
or Pastor Teri Lynn at 513-250-6460

spspuccoffice@gmail.com + www.spspucc.org All Hymns copied from Chalice Hymnal - Red
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Announcements



The family of Judy Graham wishes to thank the congregation of St. Peter and St. Paul for their outpouring of love, support, sympathy, and cards after her passing. We would also like to thank Pastor Teri for her loving care and support, and for helping to fulfill Judy's last wishes at her funeral.

Thank you so much to everyone

Did you know?

Our Health Ministry board is back up on display.

It's located next to the choir room, make sure to stop by and check it out.

The current focus is laughter.

"A good laugh heals a lot of hurts." — Madeleine L'Engle

Mission Statement

St. Peter and St. Paul United Church of Christ

Be the lighthouse of the community, letting Christ's life flow through us as a beacon of hope and strength to others.

To enlighten the entire church family on the values of participation and commitment

Offer to all the hand of fellowship, allowing the Holy Spirit to work through us

Light the way for the community, as we serve God and reach out to minister

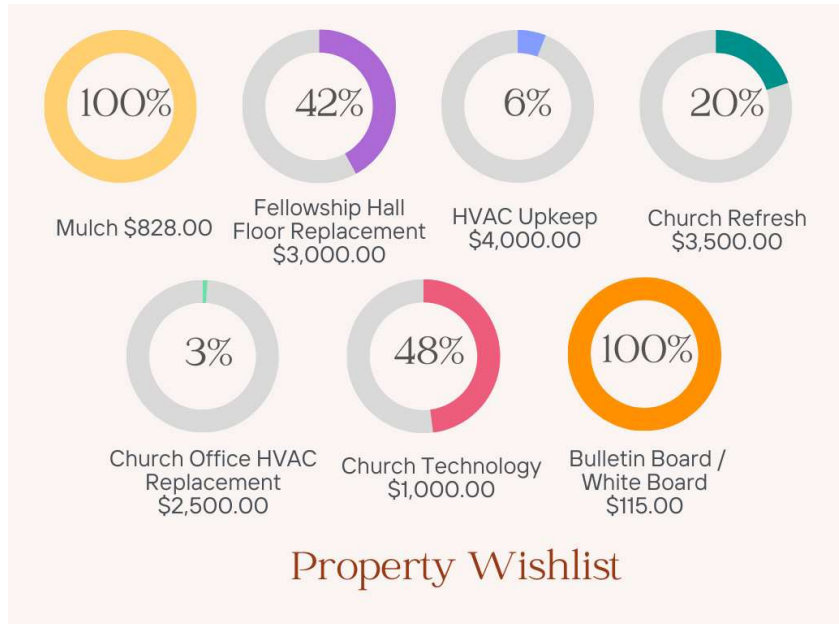
Offer support and care for one another, with grace

Visit and minister to all in need, as Jesus did

Encourage one another to walk in the faith, actively in love

Property Wish List

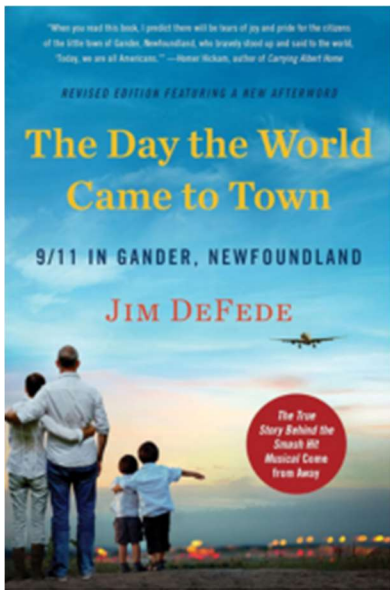
The Property Department is asking for donations to help with the cost of maintaining areas of the church. If you are able to help, please fill out the form located in the Narthex and return it with your donation. We will update the graph each week so you can see the progress of our goal.



ST. PETER & ST. PAUL UCC
MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEAL

COME ON IN FOR A FREE MEAL, A FOOD BAG TO TAKE HOME, AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO THROUGH ALL CLOTHES AND HOUSEWARES DONATIONS YOU MAY NEED. ALL ARE WELCOME, NO DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED.

SEPTEMBER 21ST, 2024 | 10:30AM - 12:00PM
(3RD SATURDAY EVERY MONTH)



Monthly Book Club

September 25th

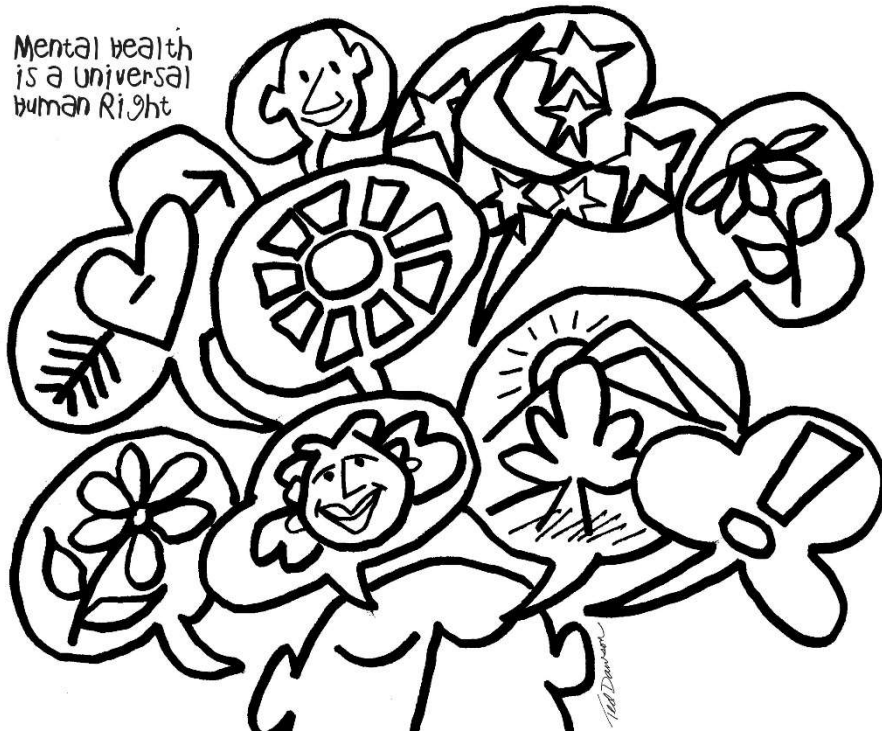
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

(4th Wednesday of every month)

A book by Jim DeFede that tells the story of how the people of Gander and its surrounding communities welcomed and helped thousands of stranded travelers after the 9/11 attacks



Mental health
is a universal
human right



SEPTEMBER 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Communion	2	3 Food Pick-up - 12-2 pm.	4	5	6	7
8  Rally Day Worship Picnic	9	10 Property - 7pm - Par.	11 Ladies Bible Study - 3-5 pm F.H. Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary	12 Operation BRIDGE - 10-2 - F.H.	13 Knitting/Crocheting Group - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	14
15 Bell Choir - 11:30 Rm. 107	16	17	18 Ladies Bible Study - 3-5 pm F.H. Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary	19	20 Knitting/Crocheting Group - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	21 Community Meal 10:30 - 12 - F.H.
22	23	24 Council - 7 pm - Rm. 107	25 Ladies Bible Study - 3-5 pm F.H. Book Club 5:30 - 7PM F.H. Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary	26	27 Knitting/Crocheting Group - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	28 Heartland Conference Convocation - Pastor Out
29	30					