



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

June 16, 2024

4th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Keelyn Anderson, Acolyte

Prayer Requests, Joys and Concerns

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

Live stream begins

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

Prelude

Garrett Woods, Music Director

***Call to Worship**

Jim Miller, Liturgist

L: It is good to give thanks to the Holy One, to sing praises to your name, O Most High,

A: To declare your steadfast love in the morning and your faithfulness by night.

L: To the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

A: For you, O God, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

L: The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

A: They are planted in the house of the Holy One; they flourish in the courts of our God.

L: In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of nectar,

A: Showing that the Divine One is upright; God is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in the Holy One.

*Hymn

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

No. 517

***Invocation**

L: Oh God, who is all-wise,

A: You are the creator of heaven and earth, who grants us life. May the seeds of wisdom from the ancient sacred texts grow within us so that we may bear good fruit that nourishes a hungry world. May the Holy Spirit of Pentecost descend upon us this day as we give thanks to you Holy One, in Jesus's most precious name we pray. 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 I pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

P: Scripture tells us that we have been shown the way to reconciliation by the Christ which is within us whenever we turn to God for guidance and strength to transform our lives for a better family of God here on earth. Know the peace of the Divine grace that is always there for you in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*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.

Prayers for Fathers & All Men of Faith (read responsively)

God, how I love You. Thank You for adopting me into Your family and making me Your child. Thank You for being my heavenly parent who loves me unconditionally, cares for me unendingly, and provides for all my needs. I'm so blessed to be Your child. Heavenly Father, you entrusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph, an earthly father.

Bless all fathers as they care for their families. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience.

Support them in the work they have to do, protecting those who look to them, learning from their patience, and for the examples of love and salvation, given to parents through Jesus Christ our rock and defender!

For some of us, as we think of what this day represents, we see all of the positivity surrounding today, a part of some of us may feel broken over a relationship with a distant, hurtful, or absent father.

Our heart desires restoration, and may it be restored either on earth or from heaven. Bring healing to what is broken and hope that the relationship can be mended.

I know that sin has led to broken relationships, sometimes between parents and children. Give us healing from those fathers, and not allow bitterness to grow inside the heart.

For all fathers and their children, help us to build a healthy relationship with one another, and to make use of the time that we both have on this earth.

Remove any barriers that have kept parents and children apart, and redeem our relationships, as only You can.

God, some of us are grateful for Father's Day today, as one of those gifts that You have placed in some of our lives is a stepdad.

For those whose stepdads came into their life at such an important stage, to help me grow, and that through him, you have shown us what a chosen family looks like.

Our prayer is that You bless him with the strength, wisdom, guidance, patience, and love that he needs from You. May our relationship with one another be blessed, and give us great love and understanding for one another.

What a gift to celebrate other father figures in our lives. Today there are so many of us who are celebrating this day not only in honor of the fathers who are related to us by blood, but also those who have chosen us, and become our family.

We thank You for the special gift that they are to us, and how they enrich our lives.

For love and support, for mentors, teachers, and role models in our lives, for the learning and for the joy that they have brought into our lives.

May they know that their presence is appreciated and that their place in our lives is irreplaceable. May they be filled with encouragement, and may they live in the midst of Your everlasting goodness.

We thank you for Biblical Fathers, such as Adam, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joseph, and the Apostles who followed Jesus. May we find such faithfulness to God in our journeys in life. Amen.

Time for Silent Prayer ~ Prayer Challenge #7 – Confess your sin and embrace God’s grace and mercy. Luke 18:9-14 ~ 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 – Psalm 92 *(Read responsively)*

¹It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

²**to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,**

³to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

⁴**For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

⁵How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!

⁹**For your enemies, O LORD, for your enemies shall perish; all evildoers shall be scattered.**

¹⁰But you have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox; you have poured over me fresh oil.

¹¹**My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies; my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.**

¹²The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

¹³**They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God.**

The Holy Gospel – Mark 4:26-34

²⁶He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Message

“Watch Us Grow”

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

***Affirmation of Faith ~ Statement of Faith of 1981 – United Church of Christ**

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You the Creator call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death. You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ’s baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust your forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you, Jesus Christ—the life of the world.

Amen.

*Hymn

“Faith of Our Fathers”

No. 635

***Invitation to Generosity**

L: We are grateful for the gifts that we receive in our lives. We invite you to participate in this opportunity of generosity to continue the mission of God's Love to the world. We are grateful and thankful as we give, as we are able.

*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: Holy One, You are the Giver of life, Christ is the Gift sent to share our life, and the Holy Spirit the power that enables us to continue in generosity, justice and joy.

With our gifts, grow our service for you. Use them to calm storms and create in our communities some new, imaginative, and life-giving streams. Use our gifts for the care and protection of all you have made, for the sake of Him who gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*Hymn

“Rise Up, O Saints of God!”

No. 611

***Benediction**

P: Dear friends, we have been nourished and renewed this day, go out and spread the seeds of God's Love—into the kingdom on earth and bring love to all you encounter. In the Holy name who created us, who redeems us, and who sustains us: Go in peace, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Benediction Response

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus, the Son,
And give God the glory! Great things he has done!**

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

Adults, we need ushers! Women or men, please help your congregation by volunteering yourselves!
We need you!

Summer Singing

Anyone interested in singing during worship this summer please sign up at communication
corner.

Community Meal – Clothing Donations

Thanks to everyone who has donated clothing to our Community Meal. We have received an
abundance of donations recently and need time to sort and organize them. If you have clothing
donations for the church, could you hold onto them for a couple weeks to give us time to sort
through the inventory we have. If you have any questions or are interested in helping to sort
through items, please see Jackie Frank.



FOLLOW
US ON FACEBOOK

facebook.com/stpeterandstpaulucc/



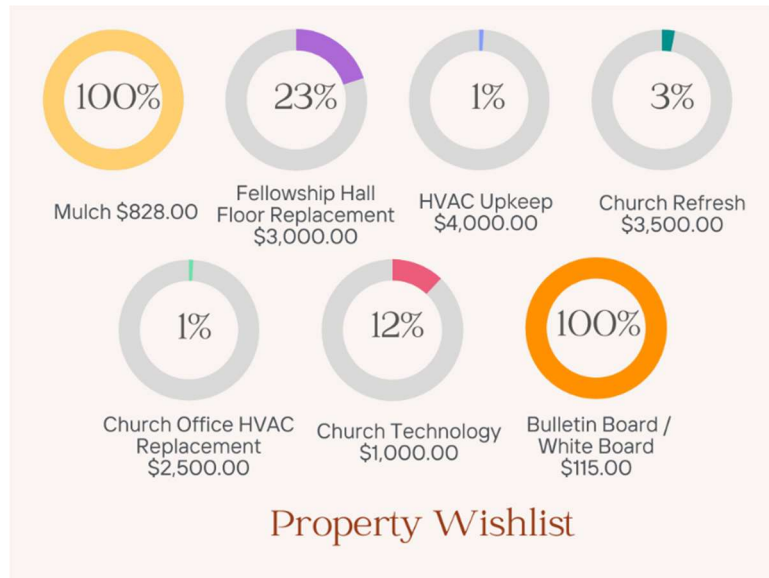
FOLLOW
US ON INSTAGRAM

instagram.com/spspucc/



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.



STARTING JUNE 17TH

PRAISE DANCE EXERCISE

Every Monday 7:00 to 5:00 PM
Every Thursday 3:00 to 4:00 PM

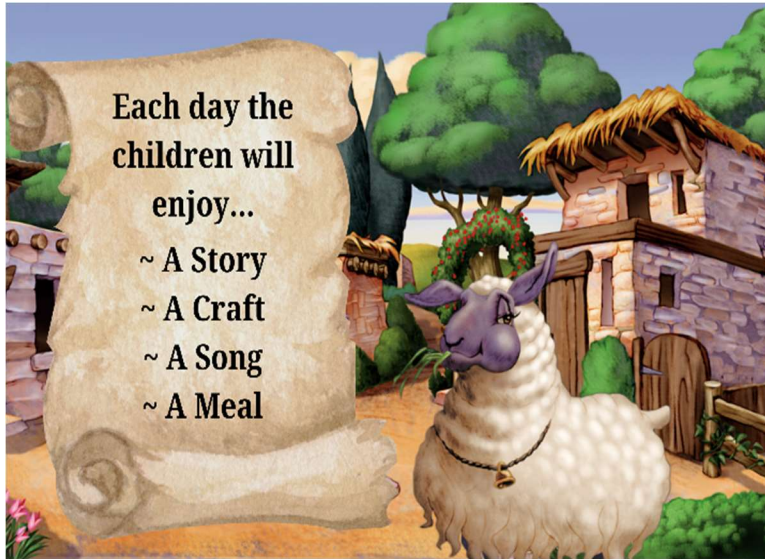
Over 18 \$5.00 a session or \$20.00 for 5 sessions
Under 18 \$3.00 a session or \$12.00 for 5 sessions



We are inviting the community to a fun filled day to pre-register for VBS as well as to learn more about our church, our food pantry and the resources we have to offer.

Come join in the fun and help us share our greatness!!!

A banner for a youth group. The top part is a solid yellow-orange rectangle with the text "ST. PETER & ST. PAUL UCC MONTHLY YOUTH GROUP" in white, sans-serif font, and "JUNE 29TH 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM" in a smaller white, sans-serif font below it. Below the text is a photograph of three young people (two women and one man) smiling and looking down at something they are holding together. The bottom part of the banner is a solid light orange rectangle with text in a dark orange, sans-serif font. On the left, it says "GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR AND YOUR FAITH" followed by a vertical line of three dots. To the right of the dots, it says "Each meeting will include cooking a meal, an icebreaker, a life lesson and a fun activity with a craft or something to take home." Below this, in a smaller font, it says "THIS GROUP IS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN ALIENATED FROM FAITH GROUPS, AS WELL AS THOSE WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH FAITH GROUPS. IT IS FOR RISING 6-12 GRADE STUDENTS."



Each day the
children will
enjoy...

- ~ A Story
- ~ A Craft
- ~ A Song
- ~ A Meal

VBS 2024
July 15th – 19th

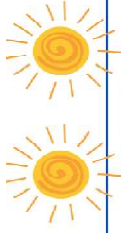
Want to Volunteer? - Just ask
Tammi Hart how!

Want to Donate? - Shop our
Amazon Wish List with this QR
code



This past week we emailed to everyone our first edition of “The Saints.” This is our new monthly newsletter that will be sent out each month of events going on in the church. If you didn’t receive it please check your spam folder and, if not there, please contact the office with your updated email address.

JUNE 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 Church & Ministry - 11:30 am F.H.	4 Food Pick-up - 12-2 pm.	5 Ladies Bible Study - 4-6 pm F.H.	6	7 Knitting/Crocheting Group - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	8
Communion						
9	10	11 Property - 7pm - Par.	12 Ladies Bible Study - 4-6 pm F.H.	13	14 Knitting/Crocheting Group - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	15 Community Meal 10:30 - 12 - F.H.
16	17	18	19 Ladies Bible Study - 4-6 pm F.H.	20	21	22 Steering & Search Committees - 11:00 am
HAPPY FATHERS DAY Father's Day Breakfast - 8:30 am F.H.						
23/30	24	25 Council - 7 pm - Rm. 107	26 Book Club 5:30 - 7PM F.H.	27	28	29 Mission Services, Steering & Search Committees - 11:00 am VBS Registration - 12:30 - 2:30 - Outside Youth Group - 4:00 - 6:00 - F.H.