



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 4, 2024

\*Please stand if you are able and comfortable

**Congregation reads text in bold print**

Bringing Christ's light into Worship

*Angela Williams, Acolyte*

Welcome

*Rev Paul Burden, Senior Pastor*

Prelude

*Garrett Woods, Music Director*

\*Call to Worship

*Jan Williams, Liturgist*

Do you know? Do you hear?

**Our God is from everlasting to everlasting.**

Come to know. Come to hear.

**Our God gives powers to the weak.**

Are you tired? Are you faint?

**Our God will renew your strength.**

Come, lift up your weary arms.

**Rise up like eagles on the wings of God!**

\*Hymn      *"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"*

No 6

\*Invocation

**Holy One, we come to you,  
listening for your word of compassion.**

**Renew us with your strength.**

**Empower us with your love.**

**Guide us in your ways,  
that we may know you and worship you,  
our everlasting God. Amen.**

\* Call to Confession

As we turn to God in confession, may God's mercy refresh us.

\*Prayer of Confession

**How can we look at this world and not sing of your praises, O God? The beauty and  
majesty of the world is overpowering! Yet we have a tendency to take all that you do for us**

**for granted. We treat the world with callous indifference, using its resources carelessly and with little regard to the future. We insist on war as solutions for problems rather than peaceful striving. We turn our backs on people in need, the weak and downtrodden go unnoticed in our midst. We always believe that someone else will care for those in need. How foolish we are, O God! How ignorant we have become! You have given to us all that we need. You have blessed us with the witness of Jesus Christ who came so that we might learn how you would have us live, in honor and peace. Forgive us. Heal our hearts and spirits. Make us fully aware of all our blessings and our responsibilities. Give us again a spirit of joy in serving you. Help us be agents of peace and hope to others. For we offer this prayer in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

**\*Words of Assurance**

Jesus has come to heal our spirits and our souls. The demons of arrogance, indifference and apathy are being cast out. New life is offered to you in Jesus Christ. Rejoice! Be Glad! For God's love is poured out to you this day. **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.**

Pastoral Prayer

Silent 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 Thy peace. Amen.**

Anthem

*"Lamb of God"* by Twila Paris

Choir

### **The Old Testament – Isaiah 40:21-31**

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel? My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God. Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

### **The Epistle – I Corinthians 9:16-23**

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe betide me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all



**\*Benediction**

We are being sent into a world in need of healing. We have been given all that we need to be God's messengers of peace. Go now into the world, rejoicing in God's presence with you. Bring the news of peace and hope to all you meet. Amen.

**\*Benediction Response**

God be with you till we meet again,  
By His counsels guide, uphold you,  
With His sheep securely fold you,  
God be with you till we meet again.  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you till we meet again. Amen.

**\*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: T, W, Th, & Fri. 10:00am – 2:00pm + 513-661-3745

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During our morning worship service on February 11 the Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, Conference Minister for the Heartland Conference UCC, will bring our morning message. During our Fellowship Hour at 9:00 am Dr. Long-Higgins will be in the Fellowship Hall where you can meet him and ask questions. We hope you will join us and welcome our Conference Minister.



# Announcements



Our Annual Meeting will be held February 11<sup>th</sup>, immediately following service in Fellowship Hall.

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Congregation and Steering Committees Discussions

Who Are We? Who is God Calling Us To Become?

Discussions will be held on February 18<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up for ONE of the dates on the sign-up sheet outside the Pastor's Office.

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SAVE THE DATE  
Annual Easter Egg Hunt  
March 23  
2:00-3:30

Small individually wrapped candy and monetary donations would be greatly appreciated.

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**JOIN US**  
**Free** **FEBRUARY 6TH 2024**  
**Food** **12PM - 2PM**  
**Distribution**  
St. Peter & St. Paul UCC  
3001 Queen City Ave  
513-661-3745

Our free food pick-up is open to all.  
No documentation needed, no questions asked.

## MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEAL

February 17th 2024  
10:30am - 12:00pm  
(3rd Saturday every month)

Join us for a free meal, food bag to take home as well the opportunity to go through all clothing and houseware donations that you may need. All are welcome, no documentation required.



## PRODUCE POP UP WITH FREESTORE FOODBANK

2nd Thursdays || 2-4pm  
Back of Rear Parking Lot

According to the USDA, half of every meal should be made up of fruits and vegetables. Freestore Foodbank & Anthem are working together to deliver Produce Pop Ups to your neighborhood with our community partners, food pantries, and organizations.

The Covedale Branch has partnered in this collaborative effort to distribute FREE food to families in need on a first-come, first-served basis.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



**cincinnati  
public  
library**  
Covedale Branch

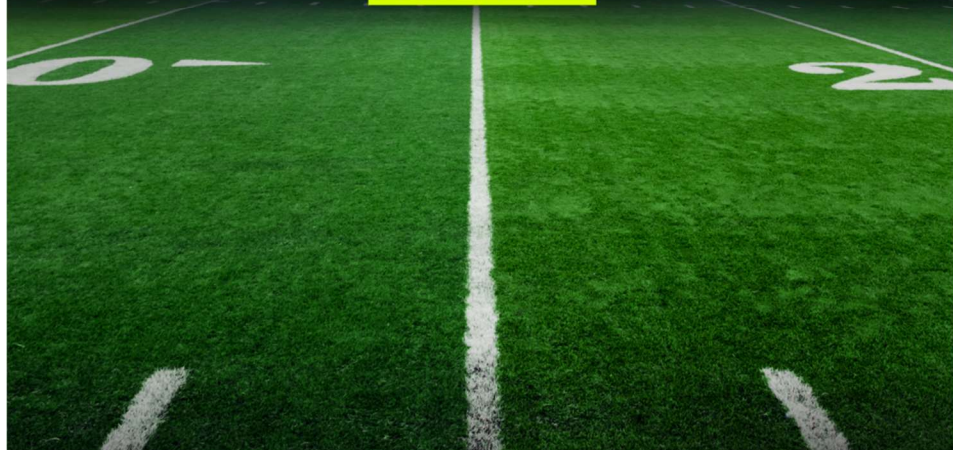
Cincinnati & Hamilton County  
Public Library: Covedale Branch  
4980 Glenway Ave  
513-369-4460  
COV@chpl.org  
CHPL.org



**IT'S  
GAME TIME!**  
**FELLOWSHIP  
TAILGATE**

FEBRUARY 11, 2024 • 5:00 PM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

**BRING YOUR FAVORITE SNACK DISH AND  
JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP, FUN &  
FOOTBALL**

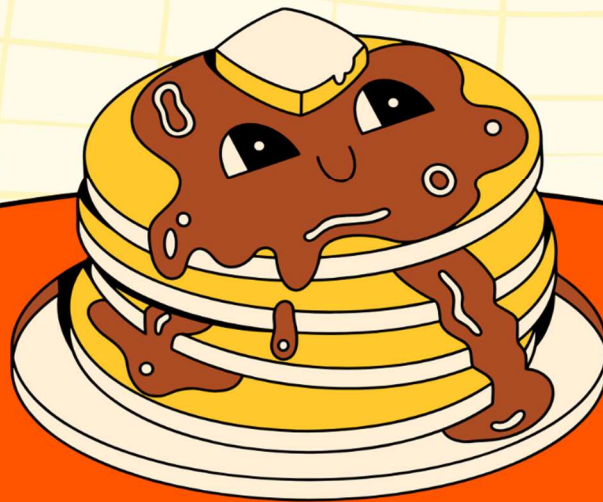


SHROVE TUESDAY

**Annual**  
**PANCAKE SUPPER**

FEB. 13, 2024

6:00 PM- 8:00 PM  
Fellowship Hall



Please sign up outside the Pastor's Office



Ash

Wednesday

Worship  
Service

7:00pm

February 14th

# FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Church & Ministry - 10 am F.H. Food Pick-up - 12-2 pm.	7 Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary Ladies Bible Study - 4-6 pm F.H.	8	9	10
11 Annual Meeting - 11:00 am F.H. Fellowship Tailgate - 5:00 pm F.H.	12	13 Property - 7pm - Par.	14 Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary Ladies Bible Study - 4-6 pm F.H. Ash Wednesday Service - 7:00 pm	15	16	17 Community Meal 10:30 - 12 - F.H.
18 Steering Committee / Congregation Discussion - 11:00 am F.H.	19	20	21 Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary Ladies Bible Study - 4-6 pm F.H. Lenten Suppers / Study-5:00-7:00 F.H.	22	23	24
25	26	27 Council - 7 pm - Rm. 107	28 Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary Ladies Bible Study - 4-6 pm F.H. Lenten Suppers / Study-5:00-7:00 F.H. Book Club 5:30 - 7PM F.H.	29		