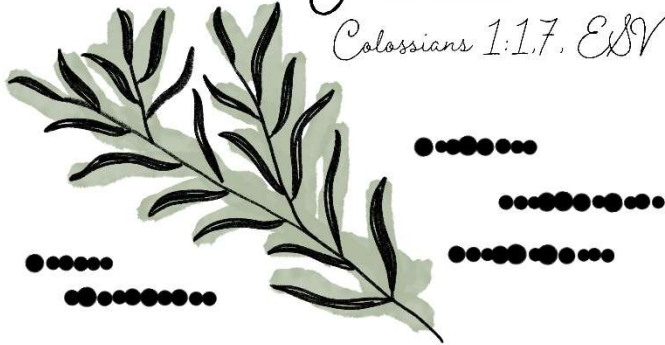


.....
.....
And [Christ]
is before
all things, and
in him (all things)
hold together.

Colossians 1:17, ESV



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

September 1, 2024

Service of Holy Communion

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

Brody Strahn, 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**

Bob Hedspeth, Liturgist

L: The Holy One is just and merciful, righteous and compassionate, wise and near.

A: O God, you desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach us wisdom. Enliven love and gladness within our hearts.

L: We long for your presence and gather with joy before you. We bring our hearts to you in gratitude and in awe of your steadfast love.

A: O God, you desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach us wisdom. Enliven hope and gladness within our hearts.

L: Create just, righteous, and loving hearts within us. Renew our spirits as we declare your praise and seek you in prayer.

A: O God, you desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach us wisdom. Enliven joy and gladness within our hearts.

*Hymn

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

No. 86

***Invocation**

A: Christ, you have taught us how the unbelievable can be possible. When there is so much to fear in the world, we can find peace in your presence. As we worship, breathe your Spirit on us, that we may carry it with us. Help us comfort our neighbors. Help us serve a world of need and help us to create joy and gladness in that service. We pray this with thanksgiving for your work among us. Amen.

***Invitation to Confession**

L: Gracious God, we come before you today with our hearts open. Drawn to Christ and seeking your abundance, we confess our sin.

***Prayer of Confession**

A: We confess our comfort holds more influence over us than your command that we love our neighbor as ourselves. Forgive us and release us from the bonds of guilt and shame so that we can be free to change and grow, free to receive your power and new life, and free to be your agents of transformation in the world. Holy One, in your mercy, hear our plea. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

P: Beloved, Jesus comes to us with grace, telling us we can believe. Beloved people of God: in Jesus, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. 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.

Time for Silent Prayer ~ Prayer Challenge #18 – Pray over your dreams and desires, releasing them into God's hands. Eph. 3:20-21 ~ 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

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-9

"So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you. ³You have seen for yourselves what the Lord did with regard to the Baal of Peor, how the Lord your God destroyed from among you everyone who followed the Baal of Peor, ⁴while those of you who held fast to the Lord your God are all alive today.

⁵"See, just as the Lord my God has charged me, I now teach you statutes and ordinances for you to observe in the land that you are about to enter and occupy. ⁶You must observe them and perform them, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!' ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹"But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children."

Special Music:

"Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone"

Choral

The Holy Gospel – Mark 7:1-8, 14-15

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ² they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³ (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders, ⁴ and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash, and there are also many other traditions that they observe: the washing of cups and pots and bronze kettles and beds. ⁵ So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶ He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷ in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸ “You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴ Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

Message “Labor, Love, Law and Gospel”

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

***Affirmation of Faith – “The Jesus Creed”**

**We have confidence in Jesus who healed the sick, the blind, and the paralysed.
And even raised the dead.
He cast out evil powers and confronted corrupt leaders.
He cleansed the temple.
He favoured the poor. He turned water into wine,
walked on water, calmed storms.
He died for the sins of the world, rose from the dead, ascended to the Father,
and sent the Holy Spirit.**

**We have confidence in Jesus who taught in word and example, sign and wonder.
He preached parables of the kingdom of God on hillsides, from boats, in the temple,
in homes, at banquets and parties, along the road, on beaches, in towns,
by day and by night.**

**He taught the way of love for God and neighbour,
for stranger and enemy, for outcast and alien.
We have confidence in Jesus, who called disciples, led them,
gave them new names and new purpose and sent them out to preach good news.
He washed their feet as a servant.
He walked with them, ate with them, called them friends,
rebuked them, encouraged them, promised to leave and then return,
and promised to be with them always.
He taught them to pray. He rose early to pray, stole away to desolate places,
fasted and faced agonising temptations, wept in a garden, and prayed,
'Not my will but your will be done.'
He rejoiced, he sang, he feasted, he wept.**

**We have confidence in Jesus, so we follow him, learn his ways,
seek to obey his teaching and live by his example.
We walk with him, walk in him, abide in him, as a branch in a vine.
We have not seen him, but we love him.
His words are to us words of life eternal,
and to know him is to know the true and living God.
We do not see him now, but we have confidence in Jesus. Amen.**

- The Jesus Creed was first used at the Emergent Convention, Nashville, May 2004. ©
Brian McLaren

*Hymn

"The Gift of Love"

No. 526

***Invitation to the Offering**

L: The richness of God's love extends to all persons and in response to God's abundant compassion, we are invited into a spirit of generosity so that God's love may be known to the very ends of the earth. Let us give generously.

*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.

Service of Holy Communion

Communion Prayer

P: Pastoral Leader: We practice an open communion, which means all are welcomed to this table...it is God's table. You don't have to be a member of this church or any church to partake in the sharing of the bread and drink of the vine. we have been welcoming people of all abilities and ages, from every time and every place, to join in the Sacrament.

We remember, the night before Jesus would be betrayed and crucified, that he sat among his friends and took bread, blessed, and broke it, and said "Take and eat for this is my body given for you. As often as you do it, do it in remembrance of me."

After the supper had ended, Jesus took the cup, blessed it and said, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

My friends, whenever we share this bread and cup, we remember the compassion and love Jesus taught and the call to follow Christ in all we do.

*Seraphic Hymn

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and Earth are full,
Are full of the majesty of Thy glory,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!**

Distribution of Communion

P: Come. Find your place at this table, you who seek the Spirit's power and grace. We are a community in Christ. Join in the meal of love with all Christians. Our God has given Christ Jesus, for us, forever!

All may come forward for the bread (Gluten Free is available) and wine (outer ring of cups) or grape juice (center of tray). If you are not able to come forward, raise your hand and we will bring Communion to you.

Prayer of Gratitude

A: Holy Creator, we remember the sacrifice of Jesus, and all who follow to bring love and hope to the world. May this bread and drink nourish us as Christ's presence between us, and in all of us. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

*Hymn

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling ”

No. 517

***Benediction**

P: May you, according to the riches of God's glory, the presence of Christ, and by power of the Spirit, be strengthened. May you find healing in miracles of hope, faith, and love, and be filled with the fullness of God, of Life and for Life. Amen.

A: Thanks be to God.

*Benediction Response

There is strength in the name of the Lord;

There is power in the name of the Lord;

There is hope in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

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 Pew Edition © 1995 / Chalice Press Eleventh Printing, 2001. Used by Permission. / CCLI # 11439836 / CSPLI # CSPL1650 / One License M-401820



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US ON FACEBOOK

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FOLLOW
US ON INSTAGRAM

instagram.com/spspucc/





Announcements



Sept 8th - Rally Day – Worship Picnic

Let's Rally!

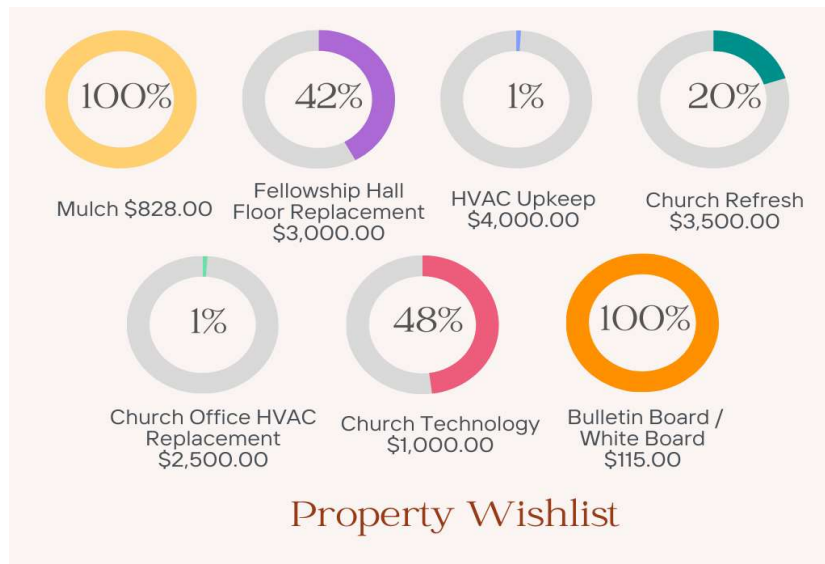
After a long summer, Rally Day is our time to celebrate being back together as a church family. Invite your friends and neighbors and join us for lunch, family friendly games, basket raffles and more! You don't want to miss this fun event - let's Rally!

- ❖ Picnic Style Food – Hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, etc. Food supplied by the church.
- ❖ Dessert Contest – Judged by everyone.
- ❖ Raffle Baskets & Split the Pot – 6 tickets for \$5.00
- ❖ Outdoor games for the family



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.



Free Food Distribution

SEPTEMBER 3RD



If you or someone you know is in need stop by our free food distribution between 12:00 - 2:00 PM.

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

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL UCC

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The Story of the Birth of Jesus Christ told by Matthew and Luke

WEDNESDAYS STARTING
SEPTEMBER 11TH
FROM 3:00 - 5:00 PM
5 WEEK SERIES

A gathering that encourages deep spiritual conversations and reflections among women.





OPERATION BRIDGE

Join us at the BRIDGE Summer Block Party and Resource Fair hosted by the Hamilton County Quick Response Team - an event dedicated to breaking down barriers and providing easy access to essential community services!



PARTNERS:

- Cincinnati Police Department - District 3
- St. Peter and St. Paul United Church of Christ
- RecoveryOhio
- Ohio Department of Public Safety

SERVICES OFFERED

- **FREE FOOD!**
- Drug Take Back
- Addiction & Harm Reduction Services
- Mental Health Services
- Housing Assistance
- BMV Services



**THURSDAY,
SEPT 12**

St. Peter & St. Paul UCC

3001 Queen City Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45238

10:00AM - 2:00PM

CONTACT US

 HCQRT@hamilton-co.org

 513 - 946 - HEAL

Operation BRIDGE Booth
Registration!



SEPTEMBER 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Communion	2 Food Pick-up - 12-2 pm.	3 Property - 7pm - Par.	4 Ladies Bible Study - 3-5 pm F.H. Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary	5 Operation BRIDGE - 10-2 - F.H.	6 Knitting/Crocheting Group - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	7 Community Meal 10:30 - 12 - F.H.
8 Rally Day Worship Picnic	9 Property - 7pm - Par.	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 Community Meal 10:30 - 12 - F.H.
15	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					