



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

May 5, 2024

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

Kamaya 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**

Deb Boland, Liturgist

L: Christ calls us to a new commandment:

A: "Love one another as I have loved you."

L: When we love one another as Christ has loved us, we will live lives full of joy.

A: We will live with God's love deep in our hearts.

L: Let us worship the one who shows us how to love.

A: Let us worship with joy! Alleluia!

*Hymn

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

No. 16

***Invocation**

A: Loving God, we remember your Child's commandment to love one another as he has loved us. May this time of prayer and reflection remind us of the love we have in Jesus. As we leave this sacred space, may we be filled with joy as we share his love with others. Amen.

***Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

A: Jesus, our sibling and friend, we confess that we do not always love one another. Our divisions and disagreements so often prevent us from knowing the joy of meaningful relationships. Even as we seek to follow your example, we forget that we are chosen and appointed by you to bring hope to a weary world. Help us renew our focus and live by your will...that we may follow you with joy in our hearts. Amen.

***Words of Grace**

P: Leader: Jesus no longer calls us servants, but friends. Each relationship is a new opportunity to abide in Christ's love, and a reminder that we can start again.

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 ~ Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Challenge Week #1 – Start your day with prayer as soon as you wake up – Mark 1:35

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 – Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

The Ascension of Jesus

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Choir Anthem

"Savior Like a Shepherd"

arr. by Ruth Artman

The Gospel – John 15:1-11

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name

to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

The Ascension of Jesus

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Message

“Called Here, Consecrated”

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

***Affirmation of Faith ~ From the Baptismal Service**

P: Hear the words of Jesus: I am the vine; you are the branches. Anyone who abides in me, and I in that person, is the one who bears much fruit. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.¹⁸

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

A: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**A: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**A: I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**A: I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the universal Christian church,**

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

P: You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are equally citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus alone being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in Christ; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.²⁰

*Hymn

“Take My Life”

No. 609

Young people may return to the sanctuary.

***Invitation to Generosity**

L: Jesus has appointed us to bear fruit that will last, fruit that will bring love and justice. To share joy and hope. Bring what you can; together, the gifts we offer can transform lives.

*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: Loving God, we remember that one of Christ’s most important commandments is loving one another. With these gifts, help us show this love in our words and actions, caring for the vulnerable and offering hope in times of despair. Amen.

Please be seated

COMMUNION LITURGY

Invitation

P: God loves you!

A: And God also loves you.

P: Lift up your hearts!

A: We lift all we are to God!

P: May we embrace the gifts of God in these simple things.

A: In Christ’s words we celebrate our love for one another.

Communion Prayer

P: Divine Gatherer of Your Children,

There is beauty in this celebration of YOU. We gather with Christian friends of all time and space here at this Table. We remember your giving of yourself in the First Supper of Love.

It was on that night of love and betrayal that Jesus took a loaf of bread. After he blessed the bread, he broke the bread, and gave it to his friends. "This is my body," he said to them. "Remember me each time you break and eat the bread."

And after supper, Jesus took the cup filled with the fruit of the vine. He spoke to his followers, "This is the cup of the new covenant. As often as you drink from this cup, do this in remembrance of me."

Holy Spirit, Breath of Hope, encircle these elements today. Surround us with your care, pour your peace that passes all understanding on us. This is the sacramental meal of Christ for all God's children. No matter where you are on the path of life, and no matter what age, ability, or any other human characteristic, we are all the children of God. YOU are welcome at this table.

Distribution of Communion

P: Come, taste, and see that Jesus is good. This meal is a foretaste of the feast of love and peace. Join in the meal of love with all Christians. Our God has given Christ Jesus for us, risen, and nourishes us at the Table.

Communion Anthem "How Beautiful" by Twila Paris

Prayer of Gratitude

A: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and you have nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant hope, mercy, and grace of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

*Hymn

"To God Be the Glory"

No. 72

***Benediction**

P: Friends of God, as you leave this place, remember that God has chosen you to share the love you've found with a world of need. You were called here, and now are sent to go out and bear fruit that will last. Let your joyful hearts be signs of hope in these anxious times. Amen.

*Benediction Response

He Lives! He Lives! Christ Jesus Lives today!

He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.

**He Lives! He Lives! salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart!**

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



Beginning in May 30th, we will be starting a grief recovery group. These meetings will be held on Thursday evening for 6 weeks (skipping July 4th). If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the sheet hanging on communication corner with your preferences. These will be open to the public so if you know someone is interested, please pass the information along.





Announcements



On June 9th we will be honoring those who have recently graduated or will graduate from high school, college, graduate or professional schools. If you have a loved one you would like to be included in our Graduation Sunday please provide their name to the Church Office by June 1st.

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.

Nursery Summer Volunteers Needed

Please see Tammi if you are interested
in volunteering on Sundays
(don't forget we have snacks and AC 😊)

Do you speak any German, French, Japanese,
Swahili, Italian, or another language?

If so, let us know! We are looking for members that would
be interested in participating reading the story in
Acts 2 on Pentecost Sunday,
by reading two or three verses of the scripture
in a language other than English.

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 goals.



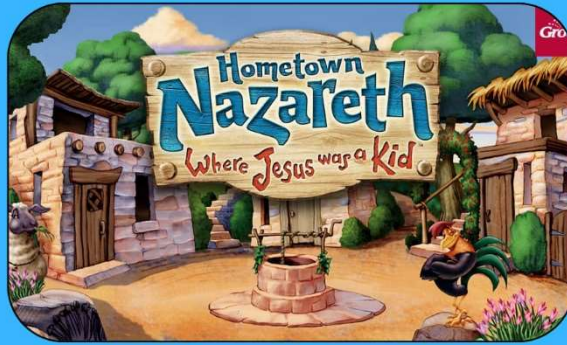
Free Food Distribution

MAY 7TH

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.**

SAVE THE DATE



Vacation Bible School

July 15-19

6:00-8:30pm

St Peter & St Paul UCC

3001 Queen City Ave,

Cincinnati, OH 45238

Community News

The annual **Hunger Walk** is on May 27. It is a major fundraiser for Washington UCC's food ministries. We purchase food for community lunch, Camp Cupboard and Closet, Homework Club and Summer program with the funds raised. Please support their team!
- <https://give.freestorefoodbank.org/team/580546>

Summer Program at Washington June - July

Statistics bear out that at-risk children who have meaningful relationships with adults are less likely to engage in risky behavior.

The summer program at Washington partners children up with youth from other communities offering experiences and engagement for everyone.

This year we are expecting groups from Winchester KY, Strasburg OH, St. Charles MO, Orrville OH, Evans City PA, Holgate OH, Avon Lake OH, and West Liberty OH.

Our programming this summer will also include a Social Emotional Learning unit to guide our children to better self-awareness and self-regulation. We will also have a reading and writing component and the children will create their own books.

Please see the flyer on communication if you'd like to volunteer.

MAY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary Ladies Bible Study - 4-6 pm F.H.	2	3	4
5	6 Church & Ministry - 11:30 am F.H.	7 Food Pick-up - 12-2 pm.	8 Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary Ladies Bible Study - 4-6 pm F.H.	9	10	11
Comunion			15 Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary	16	17	18 Community Meal 10:30 - 12 - F.H.
12	13  Mother's Day Breakfast - 8:30 am F.H.	14 Property - 7pm - Par.	22 Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary Ladies Bible Study - 4-6 pm F.H. Book Club 5:30 - 7PM F.H.	23	24	25 Steering & Search Committees - 11:00 am
19	20  PENTECOST COME, HOLY SPIRIT Comunion	21	29 Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary Ladies Bible Study - 4-6 pm F.H.	30	31	
26	27  HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY	28 Council - 7 pm - Rm. 107				