

St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

May 19, 2024

Pentecost Sunday & UCC Sunday

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

Liam Miller, 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: Like the pages of some great novel,

A: Each page and paragraph is distinct,

L: Yet, together, they tell a story, an ongoing story of the ministry and mission of Jesus.

A: We are the United Church of Christ, a covenanted family of congregations and believers who, together, witness to the love and grace of God, shown to us in Jesus, and enabled through us in God's Holy Spirit.

L: As the covenanted family, as the pages of that great novel, we gather for worship.

A: Come, Holy Spirit, equip us for this time of worship, and empower us for the ministry in God's name to which it leads us, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***Invocation**

A: Gracious God, we gather today to ask your wisdom and grace. Direct us, establishing us as a community that represents the grace and love of the one who showed us what it means to be faithful to you, Jesus Christ. Let the ethic that drove Jesus to be sustained in us drive us, expanding to meet the needs of our hurting and grieving world. Equip us to exercise that ethic in relationship to every person, in every place, in any circumstance, despite any biases we have. Empower us, O God, that we might faithfully represent Jesus in our neighborhoods and communities, through your eternal grace. Amen.

***Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

L: None of us has been perfectly faithful to the calling of God in Christ.

A: None of us has ideally embraced the power of God’s Spirit.

L: Each of us has fallen short of the incarnational possibilities set before us.

A: Each of us has thought of ourselves, of our particular gift, instead of thinking of others and working for the benefit of all, instead of our own benefits.

L: Pardon us, Gracious God!

A: Forgive us, Merciful One. Continue your work of grace in us that we, together, might better represent your Son. Amen.

***Words of Grace**

P: The sin, the evil, the forgotten good, and death itself are defeated by the Grace of God.

In you, and in the world, life wins, grace abounds, and Love abides. Accept this good news that, in Christ, we are each forgiven, completely pardoned, and made new. All things are now possible, through Christ. 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 #3 - Pray for someone who needs healing – James 5:13-16 ~ 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 – Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' ⁴ Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath^[a] to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath^[b] in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.'

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath:^[c] Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath,^[d] and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely."'

¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.'

Choir Anthem

"Here I Am, Lord"

by Schutte

The Pentecost Reading – Acts 2:2-21 ~ Read in a selected few other languages

Please follow the English text, while you hear the other languages.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' ¹³ But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ "In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

- 18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.
- 19 And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
- 20 The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
- 21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Message

"Music of the Spirit"

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

***Affirmation of Faith ~ UCC Statement of Faith, Doxology Form**

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

You 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 you, 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. Amen.

*Hymn

"Spirit Song"

No. 352

***Invitation to Generosity**

L: 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.

Service of Holy Communion

Communion Prayer

P: Divine Gatherer of Your Children,

There is hope, joy, and peace 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 Healing, encircle these elements today. Surround us with your care, pour your peace that passes all understanding on us. This is the meal of Christ for all God's children. Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer.

Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

No matter where you are on the path of life, each of you are welcome at this table.

Communion Anthem

"A Communion Invitation"

by Mary & Joseph Martin

Distribution of Communion

P: Come. Find your place at this table, you who seek the Spirit's power and grace. Christ is Risen, the Holy Spirit is present! 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 or grape juice. If you are not able to come forward, raise your hand after the regular distribution, or tell your pew neighbor, and someone will bring the Communion to you.

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 mercy in word and deed, through the power of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

*Hymn

"We Shall Overcome"

No. 630

***Benediction**

P: Christ sends you out to proclaim God's good news! God has done great work *in* you. Now go and let God work *through* you! 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!

**Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give God the glory, great things he hath 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 Pew Edition © 1995 / Chalice Press Eleventh Printing, 2001. Used by Permission. / CCLI # 11439836 / CSPLI # CSPL1650 / One License M-401820



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.

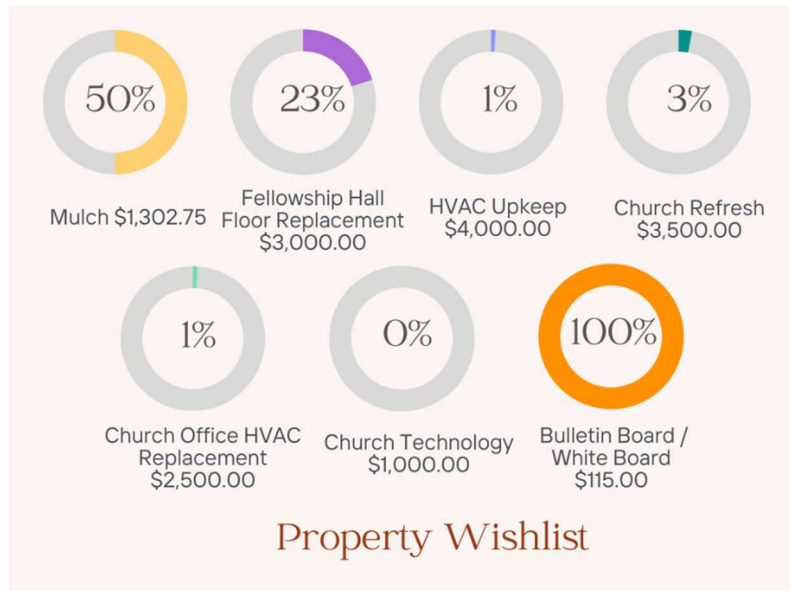
Nursery Summer Volunteers Needed

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



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.



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.



Monthly Book Club

May 22nd

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

(4th Wednesday of every month)

“A pitch-perfect love letter to the power of friendship— honest, uplifting and straight from the heart.”

—Jill Mansell, Sunday Times bestselling author of *It Started with a Secret*

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 Communion	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 Knitting/Crocheting Group - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	11
12 Happy Mother's Day Mother's Day Breakfast - 8:30 am F.H.	13	14 Property - 7pm - Par.	15 Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary	16	17 Knitting/Crocheting Group - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	18 Community Meal 10:30 - 12 - F.H.
19 PENTECOST COME, HOLY SPIRIT Communion	20	21	22 Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary Ladies Bible Study - 4-6 pm F.H. Book Club 5:30 - 7PM F.H.	23	24 Knitting/Crocheting Group - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	25 Steering & Search Committees - 11:00 am
26	27 HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY	28 Council - 7 pm - Rm. 107	29 Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary Ladies Bible Study - 4-6 pm F.H.	30	31 Knitting/Crocheting Group - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	