



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

April 21, 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

*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**

*Pastor James R. Hill, Liturgist*

L: When we are scattered, Jesus our Good Shepherd gathers us in.

**A: When we are lost and lonely, we can depend on Christ's love.**

L: When we are oppressed, Jesus our Good Shepherd cares for us.

**A: When we are threatened because of who we are, we can depend on Christ's protection.**

L: We know Christ, because Christ's tenderness has guided us for generations.

**A: Christ knows us by name. Christ will lay down his very life for our sake.**

L: Let us worship our Good Shepherd, who cares for all of us with fierce love.

**A: Let us give thanks for Christ's presence with us.**

\*Hymn

**"Now the Green Blade Rises"**

**No. 230**

**\*Invocation**

**A: Holy God, you sent us Jesus as our comforter and guide. We give you thanks for the ways he cares for us. Help us be empowered to join him in protecting the oppressed and marginalized. We pray this in gratitude for your provision. Amen.**

**\*Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

L: Shepherding Christ,

**A: Even as you lay down your life for us, we confess our unwillingness to support the those in need. Too often, we may be more like the one who runs away in times of trouble. We aren't always bold enough to protect the powerless; following your example is rarely easy or comfortable. Forgive us. Help us lay down our apathy and follow your example. Remind us that we belong to one another, and to you. Amen.**

**\*Words of Grace**

P: Beloved of God, receive this comfort. It is impossible to respond to every need in this complicated world. A full life of faith gives us the grace to lay down our work, take the rest we need, then refocus our energy toward the cause of the oppressed. Rest in the shelter of your Good Shepherd, knowing you can take up the cause again with restored souls.

**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

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 – 1 John 3:16-24**

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

**Choir Anthem**

**"Faithfulness"**

**by Joel Raney**

**The Gospel – John 10:11-18**

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

<sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

*Message*

*“How Do You Make a Circle?”*

*Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse*

**\*Affirmation of Faith ~ The Nicene Creed (paraphrased)**

**I believe in one God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in the one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation Jesus came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and he rose again on the third day, in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
Jesus will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, universal and apostolic Christian Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins;  
I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the Life of the world to come. Amen.**

\*Hymn

*“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”*

**No. 558**

*Young people may return to the sanctuary.*

**\*Invitation to Generosity**

L: Jesus offers us fullness of life, protecting us and advocating for our needs. We are shepherds too. Stewards of the world and its resources, both locally and globally. What will we give to join Jesus in the work of building beloved community in 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**

**Gracious God, thank you for your gift of Jesus Christ, who cares for us and protects us. With these gifts we return to you, help us care for others in our communities and around the world. Help us to be shepherds of others, for you, as you have been the Good Shepherd for us. Amen.**

\*Hymn

**“Because He Lives”**

**No. 562**

**\*Benediction**

P: Today you have received the gift of Christ’s protective, unceasing love for you. Because you are beloved, may all that you do and all that you are be a reflection of that love.

**A: We will reach out, fight for the powerless, help the weak, and provide for the needy, because Jesus provides for us. 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  
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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.



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# Announcements



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On June 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

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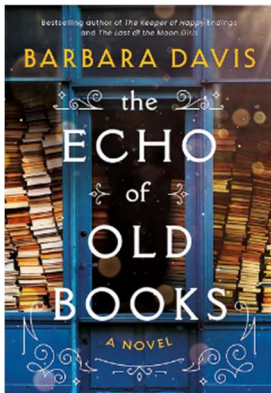
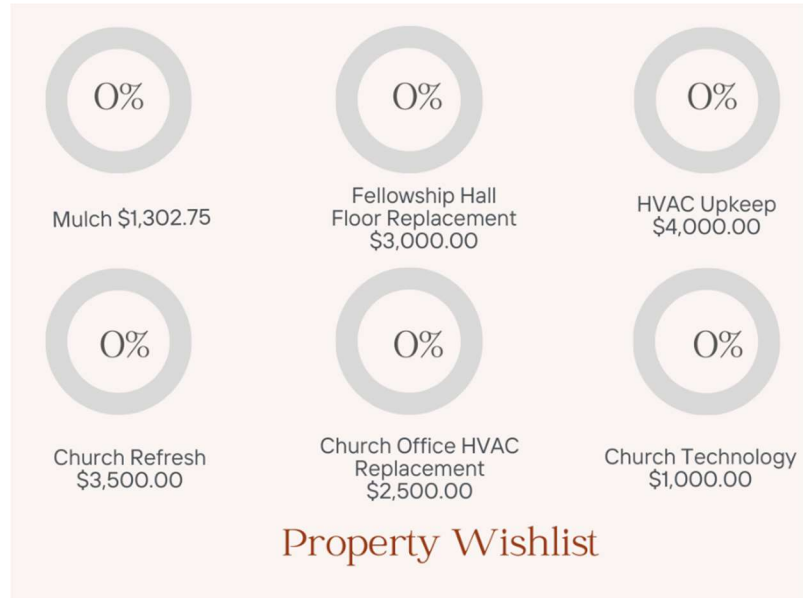
## Nursery Summer Volunteers Needed

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 included in the bulletin and return it with your donation. We will update the graph each week so you can see the progress of our goal.



## Monthly Book Club

April 24th

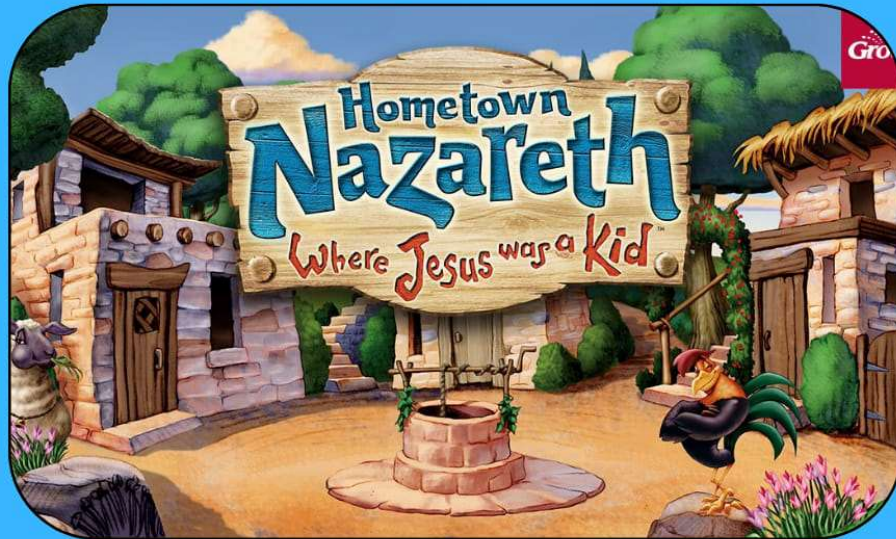
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

(4th Wednesday of every month)

A novel about the magical lure of books and summoning the courage to rewrite our stories by the Amazon Charts bestselling author of *The Keeper of Happy Endings* and *The Last of the Moon Girls*.



# 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**

## About Jesus

A Y L O R D O B M E W E N I V J K S W C  
R B E L I E V E T D D U Q Z E F S U A M  
I V J V R S I J G C M D W X O M F S Y W  
A A M G Q B E J W P R Z P V M Y G E X X  
S Z F F Q J V S N I S F R G T G P J K U  
I S L W I F T M H A I S S E M L S L R K  
R N E T W R E P L E H T M L O M W Y E C  
F O A N G Y S L M S K Y S P C C I F V F  
B I D W E J O T B S T L W A R S J S W K  
W T E F X V T D N E I R F S V O R M U S  
B C R K E N I C F N E C X T G I A D O N  
J E S I E T A G P S O C K E N N O E N V  
U R E L A E H J R U R G I A L F I U R S  
A R P C S K Y M E O X Y T C O G M K R R  
Q U H G R I K X S E F B Y H A G L J P E  
P S G T T E H S L T B R D E A E Z K U B  
Z E F H U I A A C H K C H R G U M O C T  
Q R G Z G R O T Y G L E F I L M A B S I  
Q I Q K H J T K O I F L Z M L N E A U Z  
L P L W B O L O Y R X L T B H V L R L J

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|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| • JESUS        | • MESSIAH       | • KING        |
| • SAVIOUR      | • HEALER        | • FORGIVENESS |
| • HELPER       | • FRIEND        | • LORD        |
| • CROSS        | • SINS          | • TEACHER     |
| • RESURRECTION | • LIGHT         | • GATE        |
| • VINE         | • FIRST         | • LAST        |
| • WAY          | • TRUTH         | • LIFE        |
| • LOVE         | • BELIEVE       | • LEADER      |
| • CREATOR      | • RIGHTEOUSNESS |               |

# APRIL 2024

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

