

The ANNOUNCER



Rummage Sorting in July

will be every Tues 10-12PM; Wed 6:30-8:30PM, Fridays 10AM-2PM.

7/5 9AM – Convo meet **10AM – Worship w/Holy Communion**
11:15AM – Elders meet

7/11 6-10PM - CRMS

7/12 9AM – Convo meet **10AM – Worship**
Board of Finance Meets on Zoom
11:15 Special Congregational Meeting

7/19 9AM – Convo meet **10AM – Father's Day Special Worship**

7/21 August Announcer Deadline

7/26 9AM – Convo meet **10AM – Worship**

From the Interim Pastor

Dear friends,

There is something sacred about Rummage season. Friends and neighbors can scarcely wait to drop off their items and entrust St. Peter's to find a new home for them. Volunteers are eager to sort, display and promote your goodies. Regular customers are already asking when they can shop. In time, you will make substantial donations to non-profits and community members who will deeply appreciate your generosity. This process is now in motion, made stronger by innovative suggestions and the wisdom of years of experience. The money that it brings for other church ministries is a bonus.

Surely God is involved in every step of this process.

And. What if God has an even bigger vision for St. Peter's? What if there are other ways God wants us to love people beyond even this enormous ministry? What if there is even more to come?

I am grateful to each of you who have taken part in, or simply prayed for, our "Exploring our Future" programs. You have engaged in rich conversation and who we are, why we are here and who our neighbors are. Many of your reflections are documented on newsprint (now in my office). Many of your comments and observations are begging for further conversation. God is moving you. By the time you are done, you just may be thrilled by the transformation that you witness.

By the grace of God, change is on its way. Perhaps it will simply be developmental change: a little refinement of the things we already know how to do. When a church has a Sunday School but then adds more students, it is a simple matter to expand the program. Think of it as a painting. You are just taking the existing canvas and adding a little more paint.

Or we might witness transitional change. We have a clear picture of the kind of change we want, and we can plan steps to make that happen. Perhaps a church that has decided to create a single Sunday School program that meets the needs of children, youth and adults in the same classes. It is daunting, but you know how to get there. That painting will soon appear on a new wall, in a new room.

But God might be inviting us into transformational change. Sometimes we know there is a bigger vision that we can't see yet. It will change the whole structure of the church, but we can't quite imagine what it will be like when we get there. Picture a Sunday School program that addresses the full breadth of questions that each of us has, drawing on each of us as resources and changing our understanding of faith as we go. Picture taking our painting and twisting it, bending the frame into a brand new shape.

The bigger the needs of our community, the deeper the hunger within us, the greater our hopes for the church, the more God might be inviting us into transformational change. It moves us beyond just trying to fix problems in the church. It helps us to think about the church – and God – completely differently.

I wonder. How will we know which kind of change is God asking for? What can guide us as we learn and change and grow?

And how will we keep the conversation going as God continues to speak to us?

This is a question for all of us. I look forward to your responses.

Blessings in this journey, Brenda

SUMMER CONVERSATIONS

St. Peter's Summer Sunday conversation group has begun! Join us on Sundays as you are able. We meet in Lanford Fellowship Hall starting at 9am. This coming Sunday, the group will discuss today's devotional reading which is titled Illogical. You can access the reading here: <https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/illogical/>. A good conversation starts with questions, and each Monday the Daily Devotional delivers some. To receive other issues of the UCC's Daily Devotional sign up at <https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>.

Calling all Crafters! Our Annual Holiday Craft Show and Bake Sale will be on **Saturday November 7th from 10AM to 3PM**. If you are interested in a table or have a question, please see Annie Noorts or contact Wendy Svenson via email at stpeteruccbazaar@gmail.com

NEED FOR 4 KINDS OF CHURCHES

in an age when the systems around us – government, health care, economic, educational, religious and more – are on the verge of collapse

--Cameron Trimble, CEO of Convergence

ACTIVIST CONGREGATIONS

- Willing and able to advocate for vulnerable populations
- Use their prophetic imaginations
- In relationship with other advocates
- Defend civic institutions, promote anti-authoritarianism, hold people accountable

SAFE SPACE CONGREGATIONS

- Offer direct support services
- Network with existing institutions
- Build a sanctuary network
- Prepare to serve when next onslaughts occur.

CONNECTOR CONGREGATIONS

- Bring strength of their establish "brand"
- Foster community relationships and mutual aid
- Promote inclusivity and connection
- Build local community resilience

POSITIVE ALTERNATIVE FUTURE CONGREGATIONS

- Utilize artistic impulses to dream
- Create spaces for story-telling, visioning
- Celebrate and build alternative values
- Embrace elders and creatives in building a new culture

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY JULY 12th

Please plan to attend the special congregational meeting on July 12th. The meeting will start as soon after worship as possible in Lanford Fellowship Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to ratify the expenditure of church funds for emergency repairs to the boiler. We will also use our time together for updates, not with formal reports, but through dialog about our priorities this year: the work of reconciliation, building up our church community, and discerning God's call to the church. Brenda may talk some more about what we have learned in our Exploring our Future sessions and the work that lies ahead.

YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES AND MORE

Your hardworking Church Council meets monthly, except for one month off during the summer. At its June meeting, Council members approved these minutes of the [May 17th Church Council meeting](#). Maintaining our church facilities for ministry is a recurring topic. A leak in our boiler has gotten our attention! The Trustees are still obtaining repair estimates, so the

anticipated cost of the repair job is not yet fully known. However, because of the potentially large, unbudgeted expense, the Church Council decided to hold a congregational meeting after our worship service on Sunday, July 12th. Please plan to stay for coffee or tea and a meeting that day. Thank you in advance for your participation!

WOMEN'S GUILD PICNIC AND SEASON WRAP-UP

St. Peter's Women's Guild closed their season with their annual picnic at the home of President Barbara Todd on Wednesday, June 10th at 11:30AM. 18 Ladies attended and enjoyed a menu featuring Barb's sandwich loves and including an array of salads from members of the Board. The ladies braved the heat and humidity and ate out on the deck, surrounded by lush trees and bushes. They also had Jim Todd's delicious fruit punch to cool them off! Everyone came inside to feast on delicious desserts in comfort, including a special birthday cake for Ginger Kalensky, born on June 11 (year unknown). There was no formal business meeting, but Treasurer Sue Bailey announced that the treasury still holds over \$1500. But we will be helping to pay for new banners for the Sanctuary. Annie Noorts reminded everyone that Rummage Collection and sorting will begin on June 22nd and the sale will be on September 25th and 26th. Barb Todd also reminded everyone that the Bake Sale will accompany the Rummage Sale on those two days, so we need lots of goodies ladies!

There are no Guild meetings during the summer months due to work on the Rummage Sale, but we will resume meeting in October. A big "THANK YOU" to all who donated salads and desserts – and THANK YOU GOD for sparing us the stormy weather that came after in the afternoon. God Bless You All and have a great summer! Barb Todd, President.

SORT RUMMAGE WITH US – YES YOU CAN!

Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from now until September 25th we will be here sorting donations coming in of all kinds of rummage. It takes no amount of prior experience or expertise to help sort rummage. It only takes a willingness to help where you best are able. So we invite you to come check out rummage sorting. We

have daytime hours (Tues 10-12PM, Fri-10-2PM) and evening hours (Wed 6:30-8:30PM) so there's a time that could be right for you! We'd love to have you on the team. If you have further questions feel free to talk to Laura in the office or Annie Noorts. Thanks so much for your consideration!

JULY BIRTHDAYS 🎂

- 7/1 – Mia Paige Speicher
Randy Altmayer
- 7/3 – Mandy McDonald
Mike Taheny
- 7/4 – Dan Mahoney
- 7/6 – Nancy Lindroth
- 7/11 – Wendy Svenson
- 7/14 – Kristin Gulinski
- 7/15 – Jeremy Steegmueller
Shari Meggs
- 7/16 – Mary Taylor
Sydney Kerbel
- 7/21 – Skye Christianson
Pape
- 7/22 – A.J. Tarzian
- 7/24 – Justin Mitchell
Kaitlin Garcia
- 7/27 – Alice Schaller

JULY ANNIVERSARIES 🎉

- 7/3 – Linda and Bruce Mau
- 7/12 – Gail and Greg Thomas
- 7/17 – Beth and Paul Brzozowski
Gail and John Balling
Lisa and Eric Martinek
- 7/21 – Heather Dubinskas
and Kristin Gulinski

Wishing God's Blessings on your special day!



Lector/Nursery for July 2026

July 5 th	Lector: Ann H. Nursery: Laurie M.
July 12 th	Lector: Rita M. Nursery: Kathy Z.
July 19 th	Lector: Jen S. Nursery: Rita M.
July 26 th	Lector: Karen C. Nursery: Mike R.
Aug 2 nd	Lector: Paul F. Nursery: Rita M.



Come see what we've been growing!

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JULY 2026

CEMETERY UPDATE

Earlier this year a group of interested folks started working together to determine the future of St. Peter's Cemetery. As you likely know, it has been difficult to get volunteers to commit to administering/managing the cemetery. So, this group was formed to try to find a way to hand over the ownership and administration of the cemetery while preserving the historical significance and allowing it to stay an active cemetery for the community. This work includes updating the records, conducting a title search and making sure that legal requirements are maintained (taxes and reporting) ... basically "getting our ducks in a row." As this is done, we will work to determine the best organization to honor our vision for the future of the cemetery.

This group will apprise the council and all church members of significant developments. The church members will be asked to vote on any recommendations from this committee before any change will occur. All members of St. Peter's are members of the St. Peter's Cemetery Association. Please send any questions to the church office, they will be forwarded to the appropriate people.

Operating Budget at a Glance for May, 2026

	May Actual*	May Budget	YTD Actual**	YTD Budget
Income	\$18,690	\$13,108	\$67,008	\$57,441
Expenses	\$17,986	\$21,010	\$87,276	\$90,582
Gain/(Loss)	\$704	(\$7,902)	(\$20,268)	(\$33,141)

*May Actual income includes a \$5,000 transfer from Saving to Checking.

**YTD Income includes a \$10,000 transfer in March & \$5,000 in May.

Monthly Income deficits:

January	(\$11,496.88)	
February	(\$8,063.35)	
March*	(\$7,451.82)	*Without the \$10,000 income transfer in March.
April	(\$3,960.49)	
May**	(\$4,295.71)	**Without the \$5,000 income transfer in May.
	(\$35,268.25)	