



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

July 13, 2025
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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 comfortable and able. The Congregation reads text in bold print.**

In our liturgy, A: is All our voices. L: is the Liturgist's voice. LL: is the Lay Leader's voice.

Bringing Christ's Light into Worship

*Youth Acolyte and
Matthew Westermeyer, Senior Acolyte*

Sharing of Joys and Concerns for Prayer

Michelle Daniels, Lay Leader

Live Stream Begins

Prelude

Garrett Woods, Music Director

Welcome and Announcements

Michelle Daniels, Lay Leader

***Call to Worship**

David Warner, Liturgist

L: O Spirit of the First Song, the Origins of a Lullaby, we come here today with our burdens in tow.

A: Would you grant us a comfort, O Gentle Jesus? Our pain has no place to land, no cradle for our sorrows to rock in.

L: And say to us: Yes, let it out. I've got you now. There, there, dear child, there, there.

A: There, there, to the rhythm of a heartbeat, like a grandmother consoling her kin. There, there.

L: There, there, like the psalmist singing in satisfaction. It's alright now. We made it home. There, there.

A: There, there, shouts the activist and the prophet. That's enough now, never again. There, there.

L: For you are here, right here, ever with us—burden-sharer, light-maker, right here.

A: And it is from this ancient hum that we worship you.

L: It is from this rest that we know you.

A: It is from such a place that we praise you, right here, again. Amen.

***Invocation**

A: O God of Heaven and Earth, who is glorified in the wisdom of children—the experts of presence and oneness. May we evoke your humble heart within us. May we wonder what it might mean to feel our exhaustion *and* your love, at the exact same time. May we consider all you’ve tried to show, give, or say to us that we weren’t yet ready for. Prepare our souls to yoke with yours, to share in the Good News that revives every living thing. We ask this in your name and energy, Amen.

***Call to Confession**

L: Friends, let us confess to God our sins and find rest for our weary souls in God’s love and mercy.

***Prayer of Confession**

A: Spirit of God, you are always among us, and yet at times we don’t notice or get caught up in our judgments. Not recognizing you in the stranger on the street or the stranger in me—who does not do the things I want, but rather the things I hate. Perhaps we thought our certainty would keep us safe or ignorance would keep us pain-free, but you show us the way of trust and awareness is what paves the path of peace. Forgive and help us, O God, by the power grace and connection. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

LL: No matter the weight of our burdens or the age of our weariness, let us come before our rest-giving God. Rest for our shame and unbelief. Rest for our bootstraps, egos, and false idols. Rest to open us up to grace that says, *I feel so much better since I laid my burdens down*. Rest for the receptivity to our *yes*. Yes to forgiveness, yes to repair, and yes to being fearfully and wonderfully made. **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.

A: Silent Prayer - LL: Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

A: 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.**

Children dismissed for Sunday School with Miss Tammi

The Holy Scriptures

The Epistle – Romans 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now, if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact, it is no longer that I do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now, if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The Gospel – Matthew 11:28-30

Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. / Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Message

“What To Do With Our Burdens”

Michelle Daniels

*Hymn

“What A Friend We Have In Jesus”

No. 585

***Invitation to the Offering**

L: Our God plays the flute for us. Do we not hear it? Shall we not respond with a dance? Shall we not come to each other with thanksgiving, and in turn share the gifts that we have? How might we be abundant? And in what ways are we still in need? Let us bring it all as an offering, through our faith and humanity. Amen.

***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 Dedication**

A: What weighs us down doesn't just disappear in the wind but instead lightens because the load is shared. So, God of Our Yoke, may we prosper in solidarity. May what feels hard be the "right" kind of hard—one that strengthens us in growth and connection. Let the cycle of suffering finally have its last day, and the year of Jubilee begins with us. Amen

***Hymn**

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

No. 570

***Benediction**

LL: God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
Course to change the things I can
And, the wisdom to know the difference.

***A: Benediction Response**

**O, how I love Jesus,
O, how I love Jesus,
O, how I love Jesus,
because he first loved me!**

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 9-12pm + 513-661-3745

In the event of a pastoral care emergency, please call the office or Deb Boland.

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**MONTHLY
COMMUNITY MEAL**

July 19th
10:30am - 12:00pm
 (3rd Saturday every month)

Join us for a free meal, food bag to take home as well the opportunity to go through all clothing and houseware donations that you may need. All are welcome, no documentation required.



**St. Peter &
St. Paul UCC**

V.B.S.



July 21st - 25th
6:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Ages 3 - 12 yrs.

Each day the children will enjoy...

~ A Story ~ A Craft ~ A Song ~ A Meal





JULY

Birthdays

07/02 Denise Montgomery	07/22 Brandy Jansen
07/02 Wes liames	07/23 Deb Boland
07/09 Shannon Cozine	07/31 Treyden Anderson
07/10 Rory Ryan	07/31 Noah Walker
07/11 John Fischer	07/31 DeJuan Anderson
07/14 Mary Lou Klene	

Anniversaries

07/02 John & Lyn Klug	07/19 Tony & Julie Ress
07/03 Eric & Katie Gregory	07/27 Michael & Susan Graham
07/05 Michael & Laurie Murphy	07/28 Jim & Carol Klare
07/09 Lee & Karen Williams	07/31 Mike & Jennifer Miller
07/18 Lou & Valerie Fortman	

JULY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Food Pick-up - 12-2 pm.	2	3	4 Bits n Pieces 2.0 - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	5
6	7 Church & Ministry - 11:30 am F.H.	8 Property - 7pm - Par.	9 Ladies Bible Study - 3-5 pm F.H.	10	11 Bits n Pieces 2.0 - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	12
Communion						
13	14	15	16 Ladies Bible Study - 3-5 pm F.H.	17	18 Bits n Pieces 2.0 - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	19 Community Meal 10:30 - 12 - F.H.
20	21	22	23	24	25 Bits n Pieces 2.0 - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	26
		Vacation Bible School 21st - 25th 6:00 - 8:30 pm				
27	28	29 Council - 7 pm - Rm. 107	30 Book Club 5:30 - 7PM F.H.	31		