



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

April 28, 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

*Matthew Westermeyer, 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**

*Wendy Bauer, Liturgist*

L: We delight ourselves in the presence of Christ and his love for all creation.

**A: Let us open our hearts to receive Christ's abundant love.**

L: Christ calls us to see him as the vine and for us to become the branches.

**A: Let us seek to produce much fruit in God's Garden where all are welcome.**

L: Come, let us worship the Master Gardener, Creator of all that was, is and forever will be.

**A: Amen.**

\*Hymn

**"Gather Us In"**

**No. 284**

**\*Invocation**

**A: Living God, we embrace your presence in our lives. Help us to grow stronger together in your garden of love. Plant us together in your peace. Root us together in your hope. Transform us together by your equal justice for all. In your loving presence, we pray. Amen.**

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

**A: Creating God, we are grateful for the hope that you offer to us and all creation. Prune us so that we may have a cleansed heart. Help us to grow your garden of love. Water our despair so it can be transformed into your hope. Feed our minds so that all may glean from your wisdom. Nurture our spirits so that we can become more fruitful in our lives. Give us new life, we pray. Amen.**

**\*Words of Grace**

P: Merciful God, your love for us grows deep and wide. We ask for your forgiveness in those times when we fail to follow your example; when we choose greed over advocating for human rights; and when we choose silence over speaking truth to power. Create in us your power to change our hearts and minds from earthly scarcity to your divine abundance. Renew in us the courage to get into “good trouble” even when the arc of peace and justice is long. Strengthen us to be branches so that all might know of your garden of forgiveness and love. In your mercy, we pray. 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.*

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 4:7-21**

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup> Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup> We love<sup>[b]</sup> because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup> The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**Choir Anthem      "There is Joy in the House of the Lord"      by Don Besig**

## **The Gospel – John 15:1-11**

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes<sup>[a]</sup> to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed<sup>[b]</sup> by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become<sup>[c]</sup> my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

*Message*

*“Fed and Nourished”*

*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

**“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”**

**No. 419**

*Young people may return to the sanctuary.*

**\*Invitation to Generosity**

L: Cultivating God, in your generosity, we receive new blessings with each passing day.

**A: Great is your faithfulness, O God.**

L: You offer us light from the sun, moon, and stars to guide, nurture, and lovingly shine upon all creation.

**A: Great is your hopefulness, O God.**

L: Your loving generosity is more than we could ever hope for and beyond imagination.

**A: Great is your overflowing abundance, O God.**

L: Let us give our offerings with a heart of gratitude for God’s Garden of blessings and love.

\*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**

**Compassionate God may these gifts be blessed by your light that cultivates love for all creation. As our gardener, O God, sprinkle water on our dry branches of despair to bring us hope. Shine your light of peace on our weariness to bring us justice for all. With Christ as our vine, save us from all that seek to bring us harm. May these fruitful gifts be a blessing in your garden of love. Amen.**

\*Hymn

**“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

**No. 517**

**\*Benediction**

P: Great is your faithfulness, O God, our Strength and our Redeemer. Without you, nothing would be possible. Without you, there would be no light in the darkness. But, in Christ, we see that all things are possible. In Christ, we are the branches on his vine living according to your divine purpose.

**A: Creating God, help us to see your faithfulness as we leave this place of worship. Let us grow in your mercy. Strengthen us as we seek to produce much fruit for the harvest of your love here on earth as it is in heaven. In Christ's name, we pray. 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



*Altar Flowers*

From Wendy Bauer in memory of Guy Bauer  
In memory of Rev. John E. Westermeyer on his birthday from his family.



# Announcements



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.

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## 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 😊)

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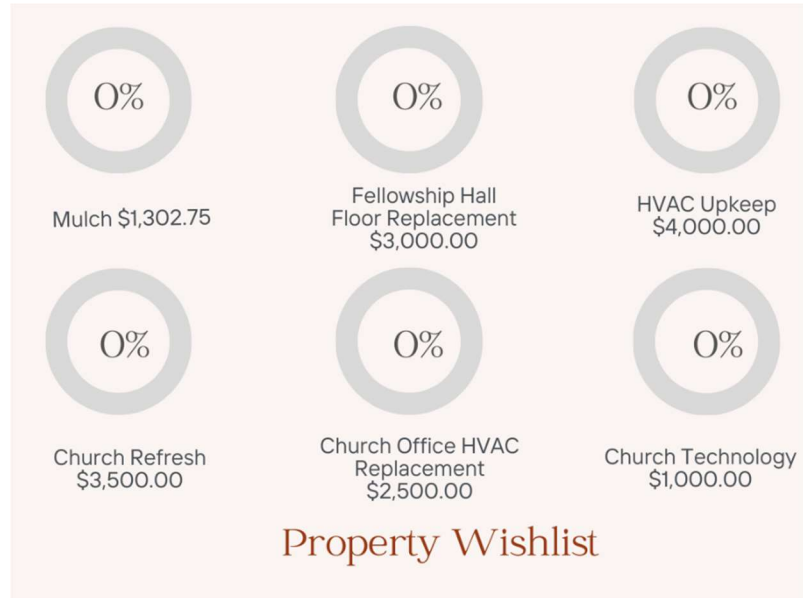
Do you speak any German, French, Japanese,  
Swahili, Italian, or another language?

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.



# 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.



## WEEKLY PRAYER CHALLENGE



**Next Sunday, the 5th we will be kicking off our weekly prayer challenge. Each week we will present everyone with the challenge for the upcoming week. You can also follow along with the poster that will be displayed in the Narthex. The challenge will last for 31 weeks. At the end of the challenge will reward ourselves with a fellowship event to be determined.**

**Week April 28th - May 4th**



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 4<sup>th</sup>). 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.



## 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.**



**FOLLOW**  
US ON FACEBOOK



[facebook.com/stpeterandstpaulucc/](https://facebook.com/stpeterandstpaulucc/)

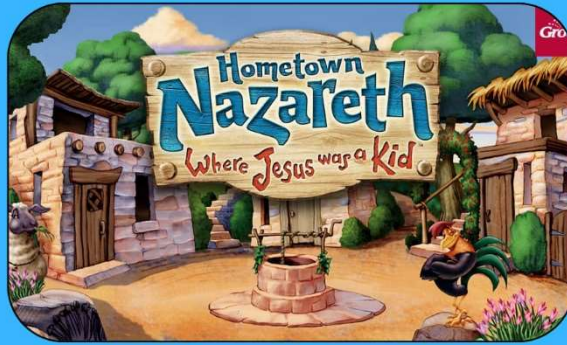


**FOLLOW**  
US ON INSTAGRAM



[instagram.com/spspucc/](https://instagram.com/spspucc/)

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