



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

September 7, 2025

Thirteenth 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 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

Youth Acolyte &  
*Matthew Westermeyer, Senior Acolyte*

Prayer Requests, Joys and Concerns

*Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse*

*Live stream begins*

Prelude

*Garrett Woods, Music Director*

Welcome and Announcements

*Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse*

**\*Call to Worship**

*Deb Boland, Liturgist*

L: Hallelujah! Give thanks! Give thanks to God!

**A: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!**

L: In his great mercy he has given us new birth,

**A: into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

L: and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

**A: This inheritance is kept in heaven for you. Thanks be to God! From 1 Peter 1:3-4, NIV**

\*Hymn

***"Help Us to Accept Each Other"***

**No. 487**

**\*Invocation**

**A: Lord our God, remind us again and again of what you have done in our hearts and lives to make us certain of your Resurrection. Help us to live in this certainty and to hold fast to everything good and great which you bring into our lives. Amen.**

**\*Call to Confession**

L: Jesus calls us to follow him, knowing that the path is difficult and that sin lurks at every turn. Trusting in God's mercy, let us seek forgiveness, that we may follow more nearly in the way of Jesus.

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**A: A: O God, you have given us a firm foundation in Jesus Christ, yet we have chosen to build on sinking sand. The works of our hands crumble around us, and our best efforts are not good enough; our sin is real, and we are powerless before it.**

**Forgive us for thinking we know best. Mend our broken values and create in us hearts that seek your purposes, so that what we build with our lives may give you glory. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

P: Jesus accompanies us on life's journey, offering abundant mercy and bountiful forgiveness along the way. This is good news!

**A: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! We hear the Good News!**

\*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 Lesson: Jeremiah 18:1-10**

*Matthew Westermeyer, Reader*

<sup>1</sup>The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: <sup>2</sup>“Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” <sup>3</sup>So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. <sup>4</sup>The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. <sup>5</sup>Then the word of the Lord came to me: <sup>6</sup>“Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done?” says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. <sup>7</sup>At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, <sup>8</sup>but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. <sup>9</sup>And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, <sup>10</sup>but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it.

#### **Gospel Lesson: Luke 14:25-33**

<sup>25</sup>Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

*Message*

*“The Form and Growth of Faith”*

*Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse*

**\*Affirmation of Faith – From the New Zealand Prayer Book**

**Here in this place, we lift our hearts in hope.**

**O God, the Creator and King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven.**

**Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and in the eternal, exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

***“Come, Share the Lord”***

**No. 408**

**\*Invitation to Generosity**

**L: I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, family of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. Let us offer our whole lives to the Lord. From Romans 12:1**

**\*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: We give you thanks and praise, O God, for you have chosen the poverty of the world to make your people rich in faith. Help us to put our faith into practice through the offering of our lives—giving food to the hungry, clothes to the naked, and shelter to the poor; all for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, your Word made flesh. Amen. From James 2:5, 14–17**

**Service of Holy Communion**

**\*Introduction**

**P: The Lord be with you.**

**A: And also with you.**

**P: Lift up your hearts.**

**A: We lift them to the Lord.**

**P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God: You created us in your own image and love each one of us, filling us with your Spirit of life. You still continue to shape us to fulfill your purpose.**

**You give us talents to use, you send us out from this place, but still you gather us again and again to share with us your power, love, and compassion, at this Table.**

### **\*Words of Institution**

In the night in which Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, ... do this to remember me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, ... do this to remember me.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### **\*Seraphic Hymn**

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;**

**Heaven and Earth are full,**

**Are full of the majesty of Thy glory,**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord,**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!**

*Please be seated.*

### **Distribution of Communion**

P: Come. All things are ready. The gifts of God, for the people of God.

*All may come forward for the bread (Gluten Free is available) and wine (outer ring of cups) or grape juice (center of tray). If you are not able to come forward, raise your hand and we will bring Communion to you.*

### **\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

L: Let us pray together:

**A: God of glory, in this feast you have made us one with Christ and with that great multitude of the faithful—those who hunger and thirst no more and worship night and day in your temple. Lead us in the paths of righteousness and guide us to the springs of the water of life, until we join the choir of the redeemed, singing: “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” In the Name of our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **\*Sending of Communion**

P: Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother’s tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*.

In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

\*Hymn

*“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”*

No. 588

**\*Benediction**

P: Proclaim the message, be persistent in prayer, do the work of the gospel, and carry out the ministry of Jesus Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.      From 2 Timothy 4:2, 5; Luke 18:1

\*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!*

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

spspuccoffice@gmail.com + www.spspucc.org All Hymns copied from Chalice Hymnal - Red Pew  
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## September 14th is Rally Day

Join us as the Sunday School Kids takeover the Morning worship service.

All readings, prayers and songs will be led by the children.

All are welcome to enjoy a light lunch of kid-friendly food after the service

## Mission Statement

### St. Peter and St. Paul United Church of Christ

Be the lighthouse of the community, letting Christ's life flow through us as a beacon of hope and strength to others.

To enlighten the entire church family on the values of participation and commitment

Offer to all the hand of fellowship, allowing the Holy Spirit to work through us

Light the way for the community, as we serve God and reach out to minister

Offer support and care for one another, with grace

Visit and minister to all in need, as Jesus did

Encourage one another to walk in the faith, actively in love

# September

09/02	Bobbie Deifel	09/16	James Klare
09/02	Kathy Grant	09/17	Michelle Daniels
09/04	Tammi Hart	09/20	Dan Bozich
09/05	Marcia Flaherty	09/24	Elizabeth Zeek
09/08	John Cusick	09/25	Jacklynn (Jackie) Frank
09/15	Susan Graham	09/27	John Klug
09/15	Jim Miller	09/27	Kathy Walpole
09/16	Brian Felthaus	09/28	RaShwan Shellow

*Birthdays*

09/08	Gregory & Bobbi Bradley
09/19	John & Nancy Cusick
09/24	Brian & Donna Felthaus
09/24	Kim & Denise Montgomery

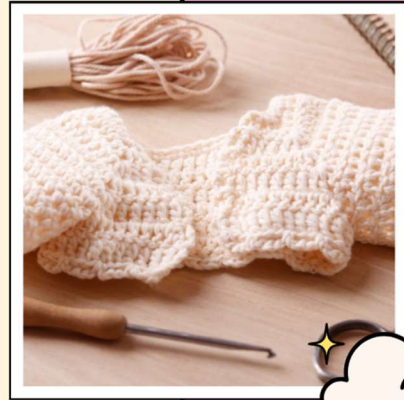


*Anniversaries*

## BITS 'N PIECES 2.0

### COME CRAFT WITH US

Looking for a fun and relaxing way to connect with others? Join our crafting group every Friday from 9:00 AM - 11:00 PM—whether you're a pro or a total beginner, we'd love to have you! Interested in knitting or crocheting? Don't worry if you've never picked up a needle or hook before—we'll teach you!



## ST. PETER & ST. PAUL UCC COMMUNITY MEAL

*Come and get it...*

SEPTEMBER 20TH  
10:30 - 12:00

- Home Cooked Meal
- Free Bag of Food to Take Home
- Clothing and Housewares (when available)
- Friends & Fellowship - All are welcome



# SAVE *the* DATE

*November 16, 2025*

CELEBRATING 75<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY OF  
ST PETER & ST  
PAUL UCC

*More info to come.*

## PRODUCE POP UP WITH FREESTORE FOODBANK

2nd Thursdays || 2-4pm  
Back of Rear Parking Lot

According to the USDA, half of every meal should be made up of fruits and vegetables. Freestore Foodbank & Anthem are working together to deliver Produce Pop Ups to your neighborhood with our community partners, food pantries, and organizations.

The Covedale Branch has partnered in this collaborative effort to distribute FREE food to families in need on a first-come, first-served basis.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



**cincinnati  
public  
library**  
Covedale Branch

Cincinnati & Hamilton County  
Public Library: Covedale Branch  
4980 Glenway Ave  
513-369-4460  
COV@chpl.org  
CHPL.org

# SEPTEMBER 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> Ladies Bible Study - 3-5 pm F.H. Bells - 5:30 - 6:30 - Fellowship Hall	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Bits n Pieces 2.0 - 9 am - 11 pm - Library	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Property - 7pm - Par.	<b>10</b> Ladies Bible Study - 3-5 pm F.H. Bells - 5:30 - 6:30 - Fellowship Hall	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Bits n Pieces 2.0 - 9 am - 11 pm - Library	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Rally Day	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Ladies Bible Study - 3-5 pm F.H. Choir Potluck 5:30 F.H. Practice 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Bits n Pieces 2.0 - 9 am - 11 pm - Library	<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 - 3-5 pm F.H. Book Club 5:30 - 7PM F.H. Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Bits n Pieces 2.0 - 9 am - 11 pm - Library	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				