



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

August 10, 2025

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

Joel Westermeyer, Lay Leader

Live Stream Begins

Prelude
Director

Garrett Woods, Music

Welcome and Announcements

Joel Westermeyer, Lay Leader

***Call to Worship**

Dorothy Coore, Liturgist

L: Walking by faith is an exhilarating journey!

A: It involves embracing change and discovering new possibilities.

L: Walking by faith is about knowing, believing, and pursuing what truly matters.

A: It's essentially about maintaining a focus on the positive.

L: So, are you walking by faith, or merely relying on what you see?

A: Let's choose faith together, as it brings joy to God, and in return, He strengthens our faith!

L: Let's honor our extraordinary God!

*Hymn

"The God of Abraham Praise"

No. 24

***Invocation**

A: Heavenly Father, in this moment of prayer, we acknowledge our journey of faith. You have called each of us to embark upon a journey where trust in Your unseen plans is paramount. We confess that walking by faith and not by sight is challenging, especially in a world that often demands visible proof and immediate results.

Yet, each of us here has chosen to cling to Your promises, knowing that Your ways are higher than ours and that Your plans are always for our good.

Grant each of us the courage, Lord, to walk by faith, and not by sight, even when the path ahead is unclear. Strengthen our resolve to trust in Your sovereignty, knowing that You are guiding us even when we cannot see the next step. In moments of doubt and uncertainty, remind us of Your unfailing love and Your history of faithfulness in our lives.

***Call to Confession**

L: Dear friends, the Scriptures urge us to acknowledge our sins and not to conceal them in the presence of God our heavenly Father. Let us pray together.

***Prayer of Confession**

A: God who knows each heart, you call us to walk by faith and not by sight, giving us new vision that goes deeper than outward appearance; yet how often we remain blind, returning to a human point of view, relying instead on our society's signs of right or wrong, success or failure. We miss your warning signals of internal corruption or moral deficiency in those in whom we put our trust.

Forgive us, O God.

***Words of Assurance**

LL: Heavenly Father, become our vision as we continue to learn to walk by faith. Teach us to observe ourselves and others as you do, with prudence and wisdom as well as compassion and love, so that your deeper way of seeing might grow within us and among us, in Christ's name, 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.

Children dismissed for Sunday School with Miss Tammi

Silent Prayer -- 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.**

Special Music

from The New Century Hymnal

"Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior"

Joel, Mary Beth, and Aaron Westermeyer, Jan Williams, and Kevin Wesley

The Holy Scriptures

Old Testament - Genesis 15:1-6

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteous.

The Epistle – Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old-- and Sarah herself was barren-- because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore, from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Message

"Walk By Faith"

Joel Westermeyer

Statement of Faith – UCC original version

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image, and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom, which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him.

Hymn

"We Walk by Faith"

Printed in Bulletin

***Invitation to the Offering**

L: We don't always know how much money we have, or how much we will need; in precarious economic times, we are tempted to hoard our money for ourselves. In this offering, we have the opportunity to show our faith that our God will supply all our needs

***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: We walk by faith, we live by faith, we give by faith. God of great gifts, you have given us so much; accept these gifts from our hands, our faithful response to your abundant grace. Amen.

***Hymn**

“ My Faith Looks Up To Thee ”

No. 576

***Benediction**

LL: Go now into the world, not led by what is seen, but by the unseen hand of grace. May the God, who calls us to walk by faith, strengthen your steps, steady your heart, and light your way. When the road is hidden and the horizon uncertain, may trust rise in you like morning light. Let your life echo with the quiet confidence of those who walk not by sight, but by the promise of the One who goes before you and walks beside you always. And now, may the peace of Christ dwell richly within you, the love of God sustain you, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit guide you, this day and forevermore. Amen


***Benediction Response**

**A: The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord lift His countenance upon you.
And give you peace and give you peace.
The Lord make His face to shine upon you;
And be gracious unto you, be gracious
The Lord be gracious, gracious to you. Amen**

Postlude

We Walk By Faith

SHANTI



1., 5. We walk by faith, and not by sight; No
2. We may not touch his hand and side, Nor
3. Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; And
4. That, when our life of faith is done, In

gra - cious words we hear From him who spoke as
fol - low where he trod; But in his prom - ise
may our faith a - bound To call on you when
realms of clear - er light We may be - hold you

none e'er spoke; But we be - lieve him near.
we re - joice, And cry, "My Lord and God!"
you are near, And seek where you are found:
as you are, With full and end - less sight.

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.

spspuccoffice@gmail.com + www.spspucc.org All Hymns copied from Chalice Hymnal - Red Pew

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AUGUST 2025

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