



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

May 25, 2025

Memorial Day Sunday

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

Bringing Christ's Light into Worship
and

Youth Acolyte

Matthew Westermeyer, Senior Acolyte

Sharing of Joys and Concerns for Prayer

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

Live Stream Begins

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

Prelude

Garrett Woods, Music Director

***Call to Worship**

Pastor James R. Hill, Liturgist

L: Give God the glory and power!

A: Give God the honor due with worship, in reverence!

L: The Voice of God speaks, and we hear. The Voice thunders, and creation moves.

A: The Voice of God is strong and mighty, secure and majestic.

L: The Living Water of the Savior refreshes us. The Holy Spirit strengthens us.

A: Bless the name of our God!

*Hymn

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

No. 66

***Invocation**

L: Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh upon us.

A: Renew us by your continued creative acts in the world. Your presence among us is a blessing and a gift. Open us to receive, ponder, and grow as you communicate with your people. In Voice, Body, and Spirit, we worship you and invite your transformative power to be alive among us and at work in us. Here we are, O Triune God, here we are. Amen.

***Prayer of Confession**

A: God of mercy and grace, you come to us with loving compassion. You know our shortcomings and our willfulness. Make us new as we seek to become the people you have called us to be.

Help us live according to the spirit and in union with you and community with our neighbors. Help us to be instruments of peace, and witnesses of your loving kindness in the world. Hold us accountable as your empowered people.

Help us to turn toward you with wonder and expectation so that you will lead us into life abundant for all. Amen.

***Words of Grace**

P: Beloved, you are known by the Holy One and invited to live into the life shaped for you in the divine image. Shame and discouragement are not your portion. Holy Love meets you with grace and gladness, with the gift of new life in Christ. Receive it for the glory of God, our Source, Friend, and Counselor.

A: We are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*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.

Remembering, Honoring - All Veterans

L: Would those who have lost relatives or friends, who were service members in the uniformed services of the United States, please stand? We Pause to Remember.

L: Would those veterans who have served or are serving please stand?

A: We salute you, we thank you, and we honor you!

Please share a round of applause for these veterans.

Prayers for Memorial Day *(Note parts for men, women, and all)*

P: God of all people, You alone are the source of life. When we need to fight evil, you are with us. We thank you for the women and men who fought the good fight and stood up for the Gospel and the truth of Scripture, working for our country, and who lost their lives doing it.

A: Strengthen us with ears to hear and eyes to see where evil is, and to fight it. Give us and hearts to serve you.

Men: God of Life, we thank you for all whose lives were spared as they worked together for freedom.

P: Give us thankful hearts that, although there is much to do, we have the uniformed services: the Navy, the Army, the Air Force, the Marines, the Coast Guard, the Space Force, to keep exploring the many ways of freedom that keeps us safe.

A: Inspire us to encourage one another in peace, hope, hospitality and justice.

P: We pray with hope that we would seldom and sparingly have to fight or destroy.

A: Thank you for the Creation, the building up, and the fellowship we have in our faith lives Creator, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Women: We continue to learn from your disciples who traveled with you, Jesus. All of your disciples, children, men and women love you and want to follow you.

A: Give us courage to work together with no divisions, to proclaim your grace and hope. In your mercy, hear all of our prayers.

P: Protect all people who are in any trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or adversity. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, soothe the suffering, guide the powerless, shield the grieving, uplift the joyous, and all for your love's sake.

A: Continue to bless us all to be a blessing! Make us your bold and faithful servants, celebrating the gifts of all people, this day and always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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 – Psalm 29 *(read responsively)*

L: Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

A: Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.

L: The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over mighty waters.

A: The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

L: The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

A: He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

L: The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**A: The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, ‘Glory!’**

L: The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king for ever.

A: May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Choir Anthem

“I Thank You, Lord”

by Joseph M. Martin

Gospel Reading – John 14:23-29

²³Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

²⁸You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

Message

“Our Focus, Our Ultimate Concern”

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

***Affirmation of Faith ~ UCC Statement of Faith, Doxology Form**

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each
one the ways of life and death.**

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, 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.

You promise to all who trust you, forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

***Hymn**

"The Church of Christ in Every Age"

No. 475

***Invitation to Generosity**

L: Our God offers us fullness of life, protecting us and advocating for our needs. We are the protectors of the world and its resources, both locally and globally. What will we give to join Jesus in the work of building beloved community in the world?

A: With these gifts we return to you, to help us care for others in our communities and around the world.

***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: Gracious God, thank you for your gift of Jesus Christ, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, who travel with us always. With these gifts we return to you, help us care for others in our communities and around the world. Bless us to be a blessing. Amen.

***Hymn**

"Shall We Gather at the River"

No. 701

***Benediction**

P: Today you have received the gift of Christ's protective, unceasing love for you. Because you are beloved, may all that you do and all that you are be a reflection of that love.

A: Christ sends us out to proclaim God's good news! God has done great work *in us*. Now let us go and let God work *through us*! Amen!

*Benediction Response

**Up from the grave he arose, (he arose)
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes; (o'er his foes)
he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever with his saints to reign.
He arose! (he arose) He arose! (he arose) Hallelujah! Christ arose!**

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 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
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Altar Flowers



From Jan Williams - To celebrate May birthdays, including Jan and Arnie Williams.



Announcements



On June 8th 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.

We want to celebrate Fathers Day with a delicious breakfast honoring all the men in our church on June 15th. Everyone is invited for biscuits & gravy, specialty coffee and more. Be sure to sign up!

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

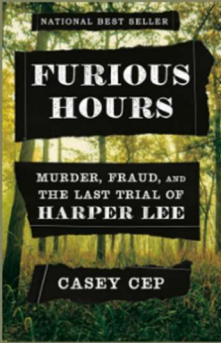
Offer to all the hand of fellowship, allowing the Holy Spirit to work through us

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



NATIONAL BEST SELLER

FURIOUS HOURS

MURDER, FRAUD, AND
THE LAST TRIAL OF
HARPER LEE

CASEY CEP

..... MONTHLY

BOOK CLUB

COME READ WITH US

May 28th

5:30-7:30 pm

3001 Queen City Ave 

www.spspucc.org/calendar 



BITS 'N PIECES 2.0

Every Friday 10 am - 12 pm

**Come join us for
knitting, crocheting,
crafting, fun &
fellowship!
Don't know how?
Come and we can
teach you.**

Free Food Distribution

JUNE 3RD

12:00PM - 2:00PM

(1st Tuesday of every month)

**St. Peter & St. Paul UCC
3001 Queen City Ave**

Our free food pick-up is open to all.
No documentation needed, no questions asked.



LADIES BIBLE STUDY

EXODUS: LIBERATING LOVE
BY TIM CHESTER

A SPACE WHERE WOMEN
COME TOGETHER FOR
MEANINGFUL SPIRITUAL
CONVERSATIONS AND
HEARTFELT REFLECTION.

8 WEEK SERIES
EVERY WEDNESDAY
APRIL 30TH - JUNE 18TH
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL UCC



3001 QUEEN CITY AVE.



We are inviting the community to a fun-filled day to pre-register for VBS as well as to learn more about our church, our food pantry, and the resources we have to offer.

Come join in the fun and help us share God's greatness!!!

June 28th
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

MAY 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5 Church & Ministry - 11am F.H.	6 Food Pick-up - 12-2 pm.	7 Ladies Bible Study - 3-5 pm F.H. Bells - 5:30 - 6:30 - Fellowship Hall Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary	8	9 Bits n Pieces 2.0 - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	10
11 <i>Mother's Day</i> Mother's Day Breakfast - 8:30 am F.H. Communion	12	13 Property - 7pm - Par.	14 Ladies Bible Study - 3-5 pm F.H. Bells - 5:30 - 6:30 - Fellowship Hall Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary	15	16 Bits n Pieces 2.0 - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	17 Community Meal 10:30 - 12 - F.H.
18	19	20	21 Ladies Bible Study - 3-5 pm F.H. Bells - 5:30 - 6:30 - Fellowship Hall Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary	22 Paddle Party Fundraiser - 6 pm - Jim and Jack's Restaurant	23 Bits n Pieces 2.0 - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	24
25	26 HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY	27 Council - 7 pm - Rm. 107	28 Ladies Bible Study - 3-5 pm F.H. Book Club 5:30 - 7PM F.H. Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary	29	30	31