



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

July 20, 2025
Sixth 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

David Warner, Lay Leader

Live Stream Begins

Prelude

Garrett Woods, Music Director

Welcome and Announcements

David Warner, Lay Leader

***Call to Worship**

Deb Boland, Liturgist

L: Our God, we want to begin this new day in Your presence.

A: We pray to ask You to be with us through our day, to be with us when we leave here, and to be with us forever and ever.

L: Dear Lord, allow Your light to illuminate our hearts, to make us more faithful and more understanding and sensitive to Your people.

A: Stay by our side on this holy Sunday; allow us to follow the path of light, and may our hearts be full of faith, hope, and love. Amen

*Hymn

"Come Thy Fount of Every Blessing"

No. 16

***Invocation**

A: Dear Lord, thank you for this new day. Please fill this room with your grace and bless everyone present. We seek your guidance regarding the challenges that lie ahead. Help us to place our trust in You and to submit all our concerns to You, for You are our God, and You will direct our paths.

***Call to Confession**

L: If we are honest with ourselves, our hearts condemn us. But God, who knows everything, is greater than our hearts; and God's deep desire for us is mercy, love, and peace. Therefore, let us confess our sins before God and our neighbors as our witnesses.

***Prayer of Confession**

A: Holy God, we are an imperfect people, and we need your love. Forgive us when we ignore your children who cry out in distress. Forgive us when we choose not to see those who frighten us, or those who bother us. Forgive us when our judgment lacks mercy. Enable us to see you as you see and be open to the possibility of compassion and grace. O God, hear our prayer, Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

LL: "Comfort, O comfort my people," says our God.
You have served your term. Your penalty is paid.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven."

*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

Isaiah – 40:1-5

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. ² Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³ The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Malachai – 3:1-3

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. ² But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap. ³ And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

The Gospel – Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; ² As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. ³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Message

“As Told to Mark”

David Warner

****Affirmation of Faith***

A: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the one holy universal Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Hymn*

“Comfort, Comfort You My People”

No. 122

***Invitation to the Offering**

L: Surrender your heart in gratitude. Let your gift reflect your thankfulness for God's abundant blessings. Let us give with joy, knowing that everything comes from God.

***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: Gracious God, as we give, let our hearts be devoted to You. May this act of giving not be routine, but a genuine expression of our love and commitment to You.

***Hymn**

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

No. 86

***Benediction**

LL: The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you;
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you;
And give you peace. Amen

***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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**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...

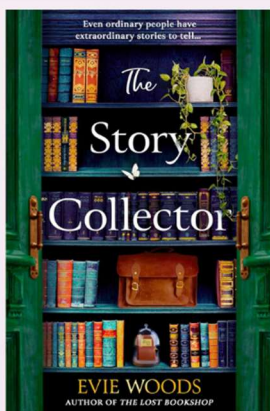
~ A Story ~ A Craft ~ A Song ~ A Meal



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 10:00 AM - 12:00 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!



Monthly Book Club

July 30th

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

The Story Collector by Evie Woods
An evocative and charming novel full of secrets and mystery, from the million-copy bestselling author of *The Lost Bookshop*. In a quiet village in Ireland, a mysterious local myth is about to change everything...With a taste for the magical in everyday life, Evie Woods's latest novel is full of ordinary characters with extraordinary tales to tell.



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		