



St. Peter's United Church of Christ
 905 S. Russell Street
 Champaign, IL 61821
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 www.stpetersucc.com



It's Strawberry Time!

This year's annual Strawberry Festival will be June 6 following worship service. This is an all-church event sponsored by the Tuesday Circle and everyone is invited. Meat, drinks and desert will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from the Church Office to help us plan.

Focus on Health and Hunger

Early summer is a great time to get out and enjoy our beautiful community. In June, St. Peter's will be going out into the community to collect for the Eastern Illinois Foodbank. On June 6, we will meet at the Church following the Strawberry Festival and go door-to-door in the area surrounding the church to hand out announcements that we will be collecting donations for the food bank on the following Sunday. On Sunday, June 13, we will revisit the same areas to pick up donations for the food bank. Come, have fun and bring friends! It's a great way to enjoy the fellowship while collecting for a good cause.

Hunger Offering



Each dollar donated to the food bank is turned into ten dollars of food. Each month the food bank prepares meals for 44,000 people in eastern Illinois. The majority of recipients are children. The need for donations is greatest in the summer time, so it's a great time to get some exercise, hang out with your friends, and show your neighbors you care about the community.



Your "Focus Group",
 Melissa Records, Nancy and Les Rabe,
 Nancy Kobel, Pastor Laurie

Summer Office Hours

Beginning the week of May 31, the Church Office will be closed on Fridays. Summer office hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday.



Movie Review Group is Back!!!

This group is where everyone (adults) watches a movie on their own time and then comes together to discuss the movie at someone's home! Homes needed!! Host just provides a dessert and beverage, so it's not hard. The summer schedule will vary because of other events happening. At each session, we will choose the following movie to be discussed. Please sign up on the bulletin board to let the host know how many to expect. See you there!

- Sunday, June 13, 1 p.m. — *The Blind Side* at the home of Les & Nancy Rabe, 2104 Emerald Drive, Champaign.
- Wednesday, July 28, 7 p.m. — movie to be determined
- Wednesday, August 25, 7 p.m. — movie to be determined

Beverly Hillbillies Bible Study

Don't miss the next installment of the Beverly Hillbillies Bible Study at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 15. This month's episode "Elly Needs a Maw" focuses on the lesson Motivation. We will be returning to Mayberry in July!



Vacation Bible School



At High Seas Expedition, kids explore the mighty love of God on a journey that will change them forever! High Seas Expedition is filled with incredible Bible learning experiences kids can see, touch, hear and even taste! Bible Point crafts, team-building games, cool Bible songs and tasty dinners and treats each night are just a few of the High Seas Adventures that help faith flow into real life. We will also be participating in a hands-on mission project called "Operation Kid to Kid" that will let the kids in our community blanket the world with God's love. Stay tuned to the July issue of *Connections* for news on when High Seas Expedition will set sail.

Invite your neighbors, kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews, and any other child or children in your life that may enjoy a great adventure!!! And we'll need lots of hands on deck, so please see Rhonda Shoudel or Pastor Laurie if you can help, one night or up to all five!

Ahoy Maties!!! It's Almost Time to Set Sail!



A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Ahhhh, the summer. Most of us long for the summer when there is warmth, sunny days, the ability to be outside, the time to travel. This is the season for graduations and weddings . . . celebrations! And how wonderful it is to celebrate all the blessings God has given us. We are so blessed to live in a land where we are free to visit our loved ones, worship whom and when we want, and speak our beliefs freely. This summer, as we are driving across interstates or flying the friendly skies, I urge you to remember on whose backs those abilities and freedoms were earned. Because they were actually earned, fought for, people actually died so we may enjoy them! We have them as a large inheritance from our ancestors who laid the groundwork for our lives to be easier and better and more just. Those things we believe are "rights" today are ours because they were not rights at some time in history. Our great grandparents fought and argued, organized and sacrificed their balmy summer days for us.



So, what is it worth fighting for in these days? Do we have it all the way we all want it? There is still much more work to do. There are still populations that are suffering in this world, not because there isn't enough to go around but because those in power hoard the resources. There are still children starving. There are many people unemployed. There are groups of people in our society who are ostracized, humiliated and not given the basic rights that others, the elite and fortunate and advantaged, in our lives, have. Suffering has not stopped.

The question remains then . . . "Who brought me food when I was hungry? Or water when I was thirsty? Or power when I was hopeless?" (*Matthew 25:31-46*) Can we stop our work for justice because our world has come a long way to be secure with all we need and want when others are still suffering? Or, do we pave the way for new generations so their world will be even more just, even more blessed, even more joyful than ours?

When I was recently in New Jersey at my friend's husband's funeral, I ran into Mrs. DiFazio. Her son, Vinny, was killed in the second world trade center on 9/11. Vinny was in my class, too. He was the "class clown" and made everyone, including me, laugh a lot! Of course, that meant he was in trouble a lot. One time, because of his insistent gum chewing (at the time not allowed), he had to fill out five pages of graph paper for his five offenses, writing the word "gum" in each tiny box. While I sit and smile at my memories of Vinny, I remember also how many times our world has been shaken since then of violence. When I saw Mrs. DiFazio, I told her she looked the same. She said she had a lot more wrinkles but that she earned every one. I

wholeheartedly agreed. At the same time, I wished I could reassure her that nothing like 9/11 would happen again. But it will unless we continue to be vigilant, watchful, and working tirelessly to replace evil with love, apathy with compassion, deception with truth.

What can we do? We can do something. We can always do something. Even the smallest act of kindness can inspire greatness in others. We can walk the streets of our neighborhood and ask for food donations or inspire monetary ones. 854 million people in the world go hungry, and with rising prices another 100 million are predicted to go hungry in 2010. We can write letters to our state and national leaders speaking our truths. We can stand behind those who are marginalized and make sure we model an attitude of acceptance and affirmation to them, especially when the world is critical. We can call a friend. We can send a card. We can smile. We can share. We can invite others to share their resources. We can invite people to church because it's at St. Peter's UCC, where God's ways and love is shared and taught in abundance!

As we enjoy our bare-footedness, sip our lemonade, put on our sunglasses, let's remember that people from our past made those simple enjoyments possible. Let's remember there are those who still need help to get to the point where they can enjoy life's loveliest treasures. Let's roll up our sleeves and pave some new paths toward the future!



Peace!

Pastor Laurie

Consistory Highlights – May

Editor's Note: The following notes from the May meeting are for your information only. Minutes and actions of this meeting will be approved at the June meeting.



- Due to time constraints Dixie Thornhill has resigned from the Consistory. A replacement is being sought.
- A contractor for the new front doors has been selected. The congregation will be presented with pictures of the new doors shortly.
- The Easter Breakfast donation is being split between the Heifer Project and Salt and Light.
- The draft of the church directory was approved by the Consistory. It should be published soon.
- It was suggested announcements of all church activities be placed on the church's Facebook page.



Attention Care Team!

The St. Peter's Care Team will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 1.



Relay for Life Event

Saturday, June 12-13
Centennial High School
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
Free to Walk

Luminaries with name are \$10.

It's time for June Conference

The United Church of Christ Illinois Conference will be June 18 and 19. A new candidate will be presented for Illinois Conference Minister, amongst other items for vote and discussion.

He's Here!

Congratulations to Harold and Melissa Zahnd on the birth of Tucker Charles Zahnd. Tucker arrived at 6:48 p.m. on Sunday, May 16 weighing in at 8 pounds 8 ounces and 20½ inches long. He has dark hair (for now). Tucker is the grandson of very proud grandparents Larry and Marguerite Zahnd and great-grandson of Charlie and Dorothy Zahnd.



Crop Walk Results

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's CROP Walk. Our four walkers this year were Mark Jacobs and Amy, Ata and Erin Durukan. They raised \$628 to help stop world hunger. One quarter of all money raised helps our local charities.

Thank you for helping make a difference at home and around the world.

In Memoriam

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of former member, **Sharon Jeter**. Sharon Marie Jeter, 65, of Champaign passed to life eternal on Sunday, April 25, 2010, at her residence. Mrs. Jeter, daughter of Everett and Erma Milbourn Sampson, was born on December 25, 1944, in Olivet, Michigan. She is survived by her father, Everett of Urbana; her mother, Erma (Jack) Cain, of Champaign; one daughter, Stephanie (John) Vogel of Lisle; one granddaughter, Emily Vogel of Lisle; one brother, Charlie (Elaine) Sampson of Mahomet; three sisters, Rose Crowe and Nancy (Harold) Wilken of Urbana, and Sue (Dick) Hochheiser of Clearfield, Utah. She was preceded in death by her husband, Earl Jeter, on June 6, 2001.



Church Mailbag

Hello to All,

I am now back in my own home after four weeks in a rehab hospital following my back surgery. My back was messed up more than they anticipated but all went well. 6½ hours later I was on my way to recovery and that has all progressed well, thanks to all of the prayers and good wishes of everyone. I now have Home Health Care with four people coming every week to help me with physical and occupational therapy. I'm also very fortunate to have a young lady come every afternoon to prepare my dinner and help with any tasks that Home Health Care doesn't provide – vacuuming, dusting, laundry, etc.

I am able to get around by myself fairly well – just slow and deliberate. I can't stand for any length of time, but that will come as my back heals and gets stronger. The doctors are pleased with my progress and I believe I'm ahead of the normal recovery scale. God is good and has helped me through all the pain and suffering of the past. I still have some pain but if it never gets any better, I can live with it.

My love and thanks to all of my St Peter's family.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Rayburn

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your donation of Wish List items of diapers, baby wipes, toothpaste/toothbrushes, etc. to The Center for Women in Transition. Your generous support of our mission to provide support services and safe transitional housing to homeless women and their children to foster and sustain their self-sufficiency is sincerely appreciated.

Your donation provides vital housing, programming and child care for homeless women and children in our community. Unfortunately, with the downturn in the national economy and our own state's financial difficulties, the need for our services has never been greater. Within a period of three months, even with outstanding community support, we had to turn away 43 homeless families due to lack of space at the shelter.

. . . On behalf of the clients and staff of The Center for Women in Transition, I thank you for your support of our mission now and in the future.

*John Sullivan
Executive Director*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your gift. Your donation will be used to support the 2008 Midwest Floods Fund as per your request.

Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing made it possible for the United Church of Christ to immediately provide clean water, food and medicines to our partners in Haiti and Chile following the recent earthquakes. A portion of the offering is always set aside for immediate disaster response.

(continued)

Church Mailbag (continued)

OGHS gifts are also building schools and providing education for children from poor families in Laos.

OGHS giving equips a network of community health facilitators in Chile and missionary doctors in India, East Timor and Haiti for ministries of healing.

OGHS giving enables women in Egypt, Zimbabwe, Bosnia and Ecuador to receive micro-credit loans, start small business and provide for their families.

Each day, around the world, One Great Hour of Sharing gifts are at work changing lives. Thank you.

Peace, Susan M. Sanders
One Great Hour of Sharing Administrator

Special Birthdays

Grace Woller celebrated her 90th birthday on May 8, 2010.

On June 12, Kymberly McCarthy will be 21! St. Peter's oldest member, Elvira Ebs, will be 102 on June 28!



Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the July issue of *Connections* is Tuesday, June 15. Please submit articles to the Church Office or leave them in the Office Manager's mailbox. Please include your name and phone number. Thank you!

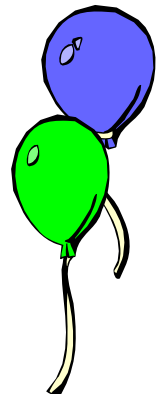
June Ushers

Kurt Eheart
Barb Kobel
Ed Kobel
Patty Kobel
Kymberly McCarthy
Mark Williams
Jocelyn Voss
Nick Voss



June Birthdays

- 1 Eugene Ziegler
Becky Kesler
- 4 Mary Peters
- 11 Bernadine Helbling
- 12 Kymberly McCarthy
- 13 Mark Muller
- 15 Mary Sue O'Neill
- 17 Alexander Pope
- 21 Cleo Pelg
Scott Pointer
Nick Voss
- 24 Glenn Trost
- 25 Walter Claussen
James Crone
- 26 Abbey Knop
- 28 Elvira Ebs



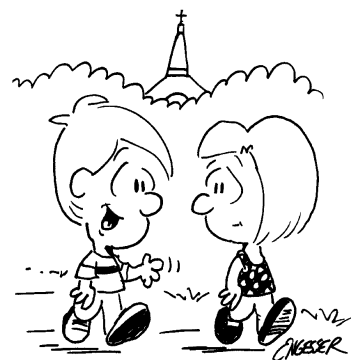
Happy
Birthday 



June Anniversaries

- 1 Les and Nancy Rabe (1974) 36 yrs
- 2 Charles and Dorothy Zahnd
(1946) 64 yrs
- 3 Roger and Carol Pointer (1962) 48 yrs
- 7 Omer and Bernice Benn (1997) 13 yrs
Dale and Sally Pelg (1997) 13 yrs
- 9 Ed and Cleo Pelg (1946) 64 yrs
- 12 Glenn and Joyce Trost (1965) 45 yrs
- 15 William and Susie Kuhne (1957) 53 yrs
- 16 Harold and Melissa Zahnd (2001) 9 yrs
- 18 Ken and Dorris Baumann (1946) 64 yrs
Dale and Shirley Sebens (1983) 27 yrs
- 21 Lee and Sandy Eichhorst (1958) 52 yrs
- 22 Bobby and Shirley Flynn (2006) 4 yrs
- 23 Stanley and Betty Smith (1945) 65 yrs
- 26 Henry and Betty Voigtlander (1954) 56 yrs
- 27 John and Judith Maloney (1997) 13 yrs
- 29 Stuart and Carolyn Yoos (1958) 52 yrs

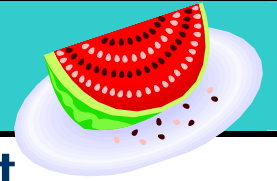
Editor's Note: We apologize for omissions or errors. Information for the newsletter mailing list, birthday list and anniversary list is taken from Church records. Please report changes in writing to the Church Office. You may mail changes, place notes in the Office Manager's mailbox or send an email to office@stpetersucc.com. Thanks for your help!



"If we're all God's children, just think of all the cards he gets on Father's Day."

June

St. Peter's United Church of Christ



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9 a.m. Stitches Weight Loss Support Group 10 a.m. Care Team Meeting	2	3	4 Office Closed 5:30 p.m. Rehearsal	5 4 p.m. Wedding – Ashley Beightler & Derek Holmes
6 10 a.m. Worship Communion Strawberry Festival Focus on Health and Hunger Neighborhood walk	7 1:30 p.m. Women's Fellowship Board Meeting 6 p.m. Worship Committee	8 9 a.m. Stitches Weight Loss Support Group 6 p.m. Building & Grounds	9	10 6 p.m. Illini Country Stitches – Fellowship Hall	11 Office Closed	12
13 10 a.m. Worship Focus on Health and Hunger Neighborhood collection 1 p.m. Movie Review Group "The Blind Side"	14 5:30 p.m. Church & Ministry 6:30 p.m. Missions & Stewardship  Flag Day	15 9 a.m. Stitches Weight Loss Group 7 p.m. Beverly Hillbillies Bible Study <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	16	17 5 p.m. Craft Club	18 Office Closed	19 Illinois Conference
20 10 a.m. Worship  FATHERS DAY	21 6 p.m. Consistory <i>Summer begins</i>	22 9 a.m. Stitches Weight Loss Support Group	23	24 Wedding 6 p.m. Illini Country Stitches – Fellowship Hall	25 Office Closed	26
27 10 a.m. Worship Board of CE	28	29 9 a.m. Stitches Weight Loss Support Group	30		 It's Summer!	

Office Manager out-of-office June 28-July 2

Friday/Saturday – Pastor's days off
 Pastor's Vacation – June 28-July 10

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Champaign, Illinois 61821-4419

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



NEWSLETTER

Church Office Phone: (217) 356-3635

Church website: <http://www.stpetersucc.com>

Email: office@stpetersucc.com

Office hours: Monday through Friday

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Voicemail available after hours

Parish Nurse Phone: (217) 356-3467

Flexible hours. Will arrange meetings by appointment.

Confidential answering machine is available.

In this issue . . .

A Note from the Pastor.....	2
Announcements.....	3
Beverly Hillbillies Bible Study.....	1
Care Team	2
Church Mailbag.....	3-4
Consistory Highlights.....	2
Crop Walk	3
Focus on Health and Hunger.....	2
In Memoriam.....	3
June Calendar	5
June Ushers	4
Milestones (Anniversaries, Birthdays).....	4
Movie Review Group	1
Strawberry Festival	1
Summer Office Hours.....	1
VBS – High Seas Expedition	1

Church Staff

Pastor
Office Manager
Parish Nurse
Choir Director
Organist
Custodian

Laurie H. Hill
Bonnie S. Taylor
LiAnne Kitchen
Jodi Prosser
Chris Holman
Carol Martin

Newsletter Staff

Editor and Layout
Historian

Bonnie S. Taylor
Virginia Zindars

Worship Schedule

10:00 a.m. Worship

