Vol. 32 No.10 October 2026

Sunshine Thoughts

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
7014 Darmstadt Road Evansville, Indiana 47710 812-909-4391

Search Team Update

In August, the Search Team participated in an introductory meeting with a pastoral candidate.

The Council requested that the Search Team organize the Pastor Support Team and this work has been completed. The Pastor Support Team for Rev. Shane Ranschaert includes John Gentry, Tom Ryder, and Cheryl Whitmore. We will be using materials provided by the Indiana Kentucky Conference. The Pastor Support Team has two primary goals:

- To provide consistent encouragement, spiritual support, and a confidential sounding board for the pastor.
- To be an advisory group to Pastor Shane, sharing ideas, expectations, and concerns of the congregation with the pastor.

The team met recently with Rev. Shane. We had a robust conversation. Our goal is to meet monthly, and our next meeting will be after the Fall Festival. If you have any questions about this committee, feel free to contact Rev. Shane or one of the members.

Year to Date, the Search Committee has received seven profiles and interviewed five candidates.

If you have any questions about the Search Committee, please contact Sharon Durkee, John Gentry, Kaleb Herke, Suzie Hobbs, Tom Ryder, Kurt Simpson (Co-Chair), or Cheryl Whitmore (Co-Chair).

Submitted by,
Cheryl Whitmore,
Co-Chair, Search Committee

Council Update

Hello Friends,

Our council meeting for September is after the newsletter deadline, but here are some updated items:

The pastoral care team is formed. Those members are from the Search committee: John Gentry, Tom Ryder, Cheryl Whitmore. They will be meeting soon with Rev. Shane to get themselves organized. We are very excited for this team, and you will hear more about it from them.

Our church Sexton has resigned, and we need a new person to keep our church tidy. It has been posted on our Facebook page, but if you have any recommendations, please see April or a council member. You can review the qualifications on Facebook. In the meantime, our building and grounds team will see to things, but we all need to make a group effort to maintain the inside of our building. After fall festival, it will need a deep clean for sure! Much appreciated!

Beginning in October, our weekly Sunday Zoom church will be phasing out by the end of the year. In October, November, and December Zoom will be offered only on communion Sunday. Council supports this change. A reminder that the sermons are available on our YouTube channel. Many thanks to Angel for her dedication in providing Sunday Zoom! But this will now allow her and Dillon to participate in person in Sunday service and also become part of a routine rotation schedule in the tech nest, which will allow all of those volunteers to participate in Sunday service. We are very excited to see Angel and Dillon on Sundays and seeing the other tech volunteers with us in service!

Rev. Shane has installed the peel and stick doorbell on the south door. This is very helpful for many reasons, but especially when someone knocks both he and April cannot hear it. Thank you, Rev. Shane!

Your council is here to serve you! It is a privilege to serve in all of our roles at St. Peters, and we are blessed many times over in answering the call to serve.

As a reminder, members are always welcome to attend a meeting, just let us know ahead of time. We also welcome our members to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Peace,
Sharon Durkee
Council President

Communion Sunday

Holy Communion will be celebrated on October 4th.

Sunday School

It's hard to believe summer is almost over! School will be starting soon!

We will resume our Sunday School class on September 27 at 9:00 a.m.

Everyone is invited, young and young at heart!

The hope is everyone had a nice summer!

Carl, Linda & Jaxson

August Finances	
Total General Offering*	$9,500
Building & Grounds	$140
*Need $9,467 monthly General Offering to meet budgeted amount of $113,604.	
Average Sunday Attendance	
In Person	38
Zoom	5
YouTube	14

Women's Guild

October meeting will be held on the 27th at 6 pm. This is our annual Halloween Bingo! Bring a $5 value bingo prize and a snack to share.

Men's Fellowship

Our next meeting has been scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on October 15th at John Gentry's home. We will be having our annual washer tournament at this meeting.

Church Office Hours

The Church office hours are:
Thursdays 7:30 am to12:00 pm
April is on vacation 10/02 – 10/11

2026 Church Council

Sharon Durkee, President
Rose Gentry, Vice President
Kurt Simpson, Treasurer
Laura Medcalf, Financial Secretary
Debra Herke, Secretary
Mike Hobbs, Generosity
Bub Newman, Building and Grounds
David Patterson, Building and Grounds
Brett Vaught, Building and Grounds

Prayers of Healing and Concern for:

*Judy Allen
*Mary Ballard
*Bob Berfanger
*Phyllis Berfanger
*Marsha Billingsly
*Bruce & Linda Briel
*Pat Brown
*Chris Cheshire
*Megan Clanton
*Frank Copeland
*Alexis Dickerson
*Gary Gantner
*Julie Gogel
*Lyn Hayden
*Chuck Herbert
*Mike Hobbs
*Suzie Hobbs
*Katie Hudson
*Toni Klueg
*Dala McDaniel
*Brandon Meeks
*Jennifer Meeks
*Katie Mullen
*Gayle Nelson
*Mark Noelle
*Charlotte Pointer
*Patty Rathke
*Jean Schroeder
*Sue Anne Simon
*Brook Smith
*Jeff Sprinkle
*Dick Sprinkle
*Mandy Stock
*Carl Todd
*Tom Wardrip
*John Whitmore

Book Club Happenings

October's read will be: The Women of Oak Ridge by Michelle Shocklee. We will meet on October 15th at 10:30 at St Peters.

Nov/Dec read will be: Midnight at The Christmas Bookshop by Jenny Colgan. We will meet on Dec 2nd at 10:30 at St Peters

Happy Reading,

Brenda Schell

Service Flow Change Update

Hello Church Family,

Over the next couple of weeks, you will begin to see a few slight changes to the flow of our worship service. The purpose behind these changes is to help us maintain a continuous spirit of worship, prayer, and reflection throughout our time together.

The changes are outlined below:

1. **The service will begin promptly at 10:15 AM** with the ringing of the bell, followed by the prelude. During the prelude, the Silent Prayer of Preparation will be displayed on the screen as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.
2. **In the future, an Acolyte will process down the aisle and light the Christ Candle**, helping mark the beginning of our time together in worship and reminding us of the presence of Christ among us.
3. **The Pastor will provide the welcome and announcements** and will offer an opportunity for any additional announcements from the congregation.
4. **The Pastor will lead the Call to Worship**, inviting us together into our shared time of worship.
5. **The Liturgist will read the Scripture** for the morning.

We are also exploring the possibility of having a lay leader provide a Children's Message or a "Message for the Young at Heart" as part of our worship service.

Additionally, a congregational survey will be included in the August 30 bulletin and will remain available for several weeks. The goal of the survey is to

hear from you about opportunities for faith formation, topics you would like to explore, and ways we can continue expanding our outreach and ministry within the surrounding community.

These changes are not about changing who we are. They are about being intentional with the time we have together and creating a worship experience that helps us focus our hearts and minds on God from the moment the bell rings until we are sent back into the world.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to a member of the Council or to me.

There are exciting things happening in the life of our church, and I am excited to be here, serving alongside you as we together serve God and our community.

Many Blessings,

Rev. Shane Ranschaert

October Birthdays

Date	Name
10/04	Ron Stevens
10/05	Michael Herke
10/09	Austin Newman
10/22	Mary Ramsey
10/26	Amy Simpson
10/28	Maverick Lankford
10/29	Christine Cheshire
10/29	Chuck Herbert Jr.
10/29	Tom Ryder

Prayers for Service Men and Women

-Caleb Coffman serving in the US Navy.

(Please contact the Church Office, if you know of other service men and women.)

Don't forget St. Peter's in your will!

Future Needs Fund

The St. Peter's Church Council has established a "Future Needs Fund" for the church. This fund will function primarily as an emergency fund to cover unanticipated expenses that arise from the operation of the church the including (but not limited to) emergency building and equipment repairs. In order to fund this account, we will be receiving a special "First Fruits" offering on the first Sunday of every month. We are asking members to consider giving an extra $5 each month towards this fund.

United Caring Services Monthly Lunch Volunteer Opportunity

The 1st Saturday of each month is the day for St. Peter's volunteers to prepare and serve a meal at United Caring Services. We would first like to thank the congregation for your continued support over the years of this great outreach program and invite you to join us when you can. It is such a rewarding experience!

The <u>supplies we use for these meals are not provided by the shelter</u>. That is why we rely on monetary donations or supply donations to help offset the overall expenses for these meals.

In an effort to keep our expenses down, we have come up with a menu that seems to be a big hit and is cost effective. However, the price of groceries are increasing and we have seen an increase in the number of people we are serving over the last few months: anywhere between 85-110 lunches each month.

Our monthly menu is pretty simple: pasta bake entree, a garlic breadstick, a vegetable, a fruit, and a cookie/dessert. And while Angel & Julie shop around to try and keep expenses down, we are still spending between $110-$130 for the full meal, which is around $1.10 to $1.30 per meal.

So, we would like to ask for your help in donating items so that we can continue to provide a hot lunch each month at United Caring Service.

We will have shelf near the water fountain in the Fellowship Hall for you to place your donations for the non-perishable items and the frozen breadsticks can go in the large freezer. We typically buy the large cans (#10) of these items at GFS, but are open to whatever you are able to donate.

These are the items we are asking for:

Seasoned Green Beans
Use 3 cans each meal



Prebaked Breadsticks
Use 5 bags each meal



Spaghetti Sauce
Use 2 cans each meal



Pineapple
Use 3 cans each meal



Large package of napkins & packages of 100 forks

Please contact Angel Nelson or Julie Ryder if you have questions or will be a volunteer.

Thank You Again for Your Support

Angel & Julie

Parish Nurse Update

It has been a very busy summer and early fall for the Parish Nurse Team. On August 17, we sponsored QPR Training Session and on September 29th, we will provide the Annual Influenza and Covid Clinic. We are also striving to stay connected with our home-bound members and members experiencing health challenges.

It is amazing to me how quickly this year is passing; Halloween decorations are seen throughout our community, which means Thanksgiving and Christmas are coming soon. I recently read an article presented by the American Heart Association; titled Gratitude is Good Medicine. The article states that regular gratitude practice can make you healthier and lead to a better mood, better sleep, lower blood pressure, and improved immune function. Think about this – developing a routine practice of "counting your blessings" can improve our mental health and physical health! This practice costs nothing (no expensive gym membership or new tennis shoes); it can be done anywhere you are, and it only takes a few minutes of each day.

So, how do we start a gratitude habit?

- ✓ Soak it in – Savor those grateful feelings and feel good about yourself. If you enjoy the new habit, you're more likely to stick with it.
- ✓ Pair it up – Do your gratitude right after something else you do every day, such as brushing your teeth or reading your devotions.
- ✓ Jot it down – Find a notebook and write down anything you feel grateful for. Strive for three to five gratitude's each day and you should be finding new ones each day.

Gratitude's don't need to be complex or lengthy. Focus on simple gifts you have received during the day. A safe house to live in, a call or visit from a friend or loved one, hearing a sermon that touched you, attending an event or examples that we experience every day.

I hope that this idea sparks a desire to improve your health, as well as a desire to consciously recognize the gifts received each day.

As always, if you have questions or concerns regarding your health, feel free to contact one of the Parish Nurses, Suzie Hobbs, Joanne Klueg, or Cheryl Whitmore.

Source – American Health Association

Paper Goods Drive

Items needed:
Plates: all sizes, bowls,
Cups: coffee and drink cups,
Napkins, Kleenex, plastic forks and spoons, storage bags: all sizes.

Place items in the fellowship hall. Thanks!

Would You Be Willing to Volunteer for our Tech Team?

The St. Peter's Tech Team is looking to expand our pool of volunteers that can help with operating our technology on Sunday mornings. Training will be provided, and you do not have to be a computer expert in order to help out. We are hoping to have enough volunteers in our rotation that your commitment would be no more than once a month. If you have questions—or would like to volunteer—please contact Laura Medcalf.

Church Calendar

The church is using Google calendar to schedule church events and meetings. You can view the calendar at https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=c3RwZXRlcnNoaWdobGFuZHVjY0BnbWFpbC5jb20Or scan the following QR Code with your smart phone.

Newsletter Deadline

The submissions deadline for the November 2026 Sunshine Thoughts is October 25th. The November edition will be distributed on November 1st. Newsletter items may be submitted via e-mail. Please send to rschell190@gmail.com

Join us for Online Worship at St. Peter's!

On Your Computer

Go to **https://zoom.us/j/850989470**

Zoom will download briefly to your computer and log you into the meeting

Using the Zoom App

Enter the meeting ID: **850 989 470**

Click "Join with a personal link name" and change how you are identified to others in the group

Click "Join Meeting"

On Your Phone

Call **1-312-626-6799**

Enter Meeting ID: **850 989 470#**

Follow the prompts

Fall Festival 2026 - OCTOBER 4th – OCTOBER 10th

Please review the information below and please sign up to volunteer!!

Beginning Monday October 5th through Saturday October 10th, our Booth 100 will operate on Franklin Street from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm

We will continue to offer our drive-thru and preorders pick up at the church (see below for details)

PRODUCTS & PRICES:

- Kuchen are $9.00 Each and Flavors available will be Cinnamon, Cherry, Apple, Peach or Pineapple
- Sour Grapes are $4.00
- Kookie Ice Scream Sandwiches are $4.00 (watch for a new flavor for 2026)

KUCHEN PRE-ORDERS:

- We will be taking pre-orders again this year from September 1st – September 27th.
  - **Pre ordered kuchen will be available for pick up on your designated date/time**
  - **Pre order pick up will only be available Tuesday October 6th through Friday October 9th**
- Kuchen pre-order calls will go to Judy Allen 812-424-5922, Julie Ryder 812-480-1165 or the church 812-909-4391
- Blank order forms are available with the bulletin and newsletter

DRIVE-THRU PROCESS:

- Drive-thru at the church will be open Monday, October 5th – Friday, October 9th from 1:00pm to 6:00pm.
- All orders will be fulfilled at the church in our drive-thru set up
- We will have 1-2 people in the parking lot area to take care of either the pre-orders and drive-thru. To allow for limited contact the customer will stay in their car and their order will be brought to them**.**
  - **Please make every effort to keep customers from entering the kitchen or Fellowship Hall unless there was an emergency.**
- Please see the sign up sheet to volunteer for either drive-thru or cashier
- Please contact Brenda Schell or Rose Gentry if you have any questions

BOOTH:

- Hours of operation will continue to be 10:00 am to 8:00 pm (2 x 5 hr shifts: 10 am to 3 pm and 3 pm to 8 pm)
- We will sell from the street-side
- Due to size of booth, it is recommend to have only 2 people in booth at a time.
- Julie or Tom Ryder will go down each night around 8:00 pm to do an inventory at end of night and pick up the money box
- All other processes for the booth will remain the same as past years **(instructions and phone numbers are listed inside the booth)**
- **Please see the sign up sheet to volunteer**

KUCHEN BAKING PROCESS AT CHURCH:

The FF committee has reviewed the steps and processes needed to make kuchen and feel that we would be able to accomplish baking each day with a crew of 9-11 people. The majority of these people would be inside either in the kitchen and/or fellowship hall. As stated above, we would have 2 additional people outside taking care of the customer orders and 1 person serving as cashier for the pre-orders. We will once again **have a daily shift leader that will oversee the process and answer any questions that come up. Those shift leaders include Julie Ryder, Cheryl Whitmore and Sharon Durkee.**

WORK SCHEDULE:

This will be determined once the pre-orders have been received and an assessment can be done of baking days / times. The plan is to start baking on Sunday (October 4th) so we have kuchen ready for Monday. We will continue to bake mornings & afternoons, (possibly at nights) Monday – Friday. There will be limited baking on Saturday. **See the sign up sheet to volunteer.**

Again please mark October 4th through October 10th on your calendars.

The Fall Festival committee will be contacting members and friends to ask for your help at both the church and the booth in support of the Fall Festival. We also need your help in spreading the word about our Fall Festival Fundraiser plans. We ask that you share this with your family, friends, co-workers, Facebook friends, neighbors….. anyone you know. Please direct any questions to Julie Ryder at 812.480.1165.

Thank you in advance,

Fall Festival Committee