

ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL UCC

303 NE PINE STREET, PO BOX 250, BILLINGS, MO 65610

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EMAIL: OFFICE@STPETERSUCC.US OFFICE HOURS- WEDS 12:30 -5:00 PM

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 AM

PASTOR BRITTANY SCARINGELLO

Greetings St. Peter's Family!

We are already into February! It feels like we should still be celebrating Christmas. It is with great joy I remind everyone that Lent will begin February 14th with an Ash Wednesday service at St. Peter's. Please join us as we remember from where we have come and where we shall return.

Lenten services will again be shared with Billings UMC, but I won't have more details for you quite yet. Just make sure to set aside an hour on Wednesday evenings through Lent.

As we move closer to thinking about Lent and Easter, I would ask you to consider in what ways you are approaching this holy season of reflection. What can we do in our lives to have a better connection to Jesus? What ways are we traveling with Jesus in our lives right now? I hope you'll join me in "Traveling Faithfully" this Lenten season with our new sermon series.

Blessings to All, Pastor Brittany



Lenten Sundays —Sermon Topics and Scripture Reader Schedule:

February 11th (Transfiguration Sunday)--Mark 9:2-9 "Wonder and Awe" --Roberta Laney reading

February 18th Mark 1:9-15 "Traveling to Our Baptism" --Kennedy Bick reading

February 25th Romans 4:13-25 "Traveling with Faith and Laws" David Hampton reading

March 3rd John 2:13-22 "Traveling with Conviction" Chris Rauch reading

March 10th John 3:14-21 "Traveling with Love" Herman Steinmann Reading

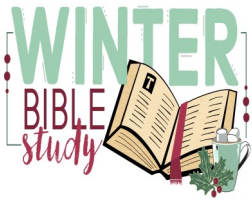
March 17th John 12: 20-33 "Traveling With Jesus" Denise Hampton reading

March 24th (Palm Sunday) Mark 11:1-11 "Traveling With Praise" David Rauch reading

March 31st (Easter) Mark 16:1-8 "Traveling to the Empty Tomb" Sherry Coker reading



Due to the weather, the January Friendship Guild meeting was canceled. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. All ladies are welcome!



Bible Study will meet on Monday, February 26 at 6:00 p.m. (Zoom or in person at the Fellowship Hall). We are studying the book of Job and have had many interesting discussions. We would love to see you there!

February Scriptures

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany—February 4, 2024

- Isaiah 40:21-31
- Psalms 147:1-11, 20c
- 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
- Mark 1:29-39

Transfiguration Sunday—February 11, 2024

- 2 Kings 2:1-12
- Psalms 50:1-6
- 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
- Mark 9:2-9

Ash Wednesday—February 14, 2024

- Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12
- Psalms 51:1-17
- 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
- Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

First Sunday in Lent—February 18, 2024

- Genesis 9:8-17
- Psalms 25:1-10
- 1 Peter 3:18-22
- Mark 1:9-15

Second Sunday in Lent—February 25, 2024

- Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
- Psalms 22:23-31
- Romans 4:13-25
- Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

Liturgical color for Lent is purple.

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

Game Night

Saturday, February 3rd, 2024

4:00 pm

At the home of Alan/Pat Ware

4908 Zoller Road



Confirmation Class

Meet with Pastor Brittany

February 4th, 2024

6:00 pm








St. Joseph Catholic Church

February 16th, March 1st, and March 15th
from 5-7PM



IT'S LEAP YEAR!

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2  GROUNDHOG DAY	3 -4:00 pm Game Night At the Ware's
4 -9:30 Adult SS -10:30 Worship (Communion) -6:00 pm Confirmation Class	5	6	7	8	9	10 -10:00 am Friendship Guild
11 -9:30 Adult SS -10:30 Worship  Transfiguration	12	13	14 ASH Wednesday -St. Peter's Church 6:00 pm	15	16  FISH FRY St. Joseph's 5-7 pm	17
18 -9:30 Adult SS -10:30 Worship	19  PRESIDENTS DAY	20	21 Lenten service to be announced.	22	23 -Newsletter Deadline	24
25 -9:30 Adult SS -10:30 Worship	26 -6:00 pm Bible Study -Job	27	28 Lenten service to be announced.	29  Leap Day		

I wish I could do more.....

"I have seen people give their time, resources, energy, and ideas to love out loud. Many times, people have said, "I know it's not much..." or "I wish I could do more..."; often, my response is, what you are doing matters. Never underestimate the impact that every contribution can have on the life of another. If all you have to give is kindness and a smile- it can sow seeds of hope and value in the life of someone in great need of feeling seen that day. Efforts of every size are needed by people of all ages and experiences matter. Jesus admonished his followers to be *known by their love... may that also be our legacy in this world. Love daily. Love all. Love out loud.*"

—from Pastor Christie Love, former pastor at the Connecting Grounds



ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST							DECEMBER 2023
FINANCIAL REPORT							
CASH ON HAND DECEMBER 1, 2023							\$ 68,835.36
RECEIPTS:	<u>Week 1</u>	<u>Week 2</u>	<u>Week 3</u>	<u>Week 4</u>	<u>Week 5</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	
Current Exp.	995.00	1,005.00	610.00	550.00	1,345.00	4,505.00	
OCWM	20.00			120.00		140.00	
Loose	65.00	97.00	40.00	166.00	120.00	488.00	
Paw Packs		200.00				200.00	
Memorial - J Rauch				50.00		50.00	
School Meal Debt		300.00				300.00	
TOTALS	1,080.00	1,602.00	650.00	886.00	1,465.00		5,683.00
RENTAL INCOME							700.00
INTEREST INCOME							44.24
TOTAL CASH ON HAND AND MONTHLY RECEIPTS							\$ 75,262.60

ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL UCC		
ACTUAL ANALYSIS		
2023		
	ACTUAL RECEIPTS FOR CUR. EXPENSE	ACTUAL DISBURSEMENTS FOR CUR. EXPENSE
JANUARY	6,935	10,034
FEBRUARY	7,276	6,621
MARCH	4,879	6,713
APRIL	5,622	14,429
MAY	4,825	4,497
JUNE	4,583	6,291
JULY	4,987	7,200
AUGUST	3,967	4,165
SEPTEMBER	5,478	7,679
OCTOBER	4,559	7,654
NOVEMBER	6,612	11,663
DECEMBER	5,738	11,744
YTD	65,461	98,690
DIFFERENCE =		(33,229)



It's now easier than ever to give to St. Peter's. We are now set up with **Tithely** to take online donations. It's safe, secure, and simple.



MISSION UPDATE FROM PAUL/JEN SHAEFER-JANUARY 9, 2024

Dear family and friends, Happy New Year! We hope and pray you all had a good holiday season!

This time of year can be challenging for many but we pray each of you had times of respite, restoration, and reflection in the midst of the stressful hustle and bustle.

We have much for which to be thankful! It was a busy time with family, immediate and extended, as well as the reception for Micah and Sam. But we are very thankful for all the time together. We are also thankful that all our Ghanaian friends and colleagues are doing well and seem to have had a good Christmas too. Thursday, Sarah went back to school and Caleb, Micah and Sam started back to work; and Friday, Josiah went back to JBU.

Praises:

--We are thankful that Eden was able to turn in the final chapters of his MA thesis on Safaliba verbs just before Christmas. Paul helped with the editing and remarked how Eden had done a great job!

--And we thank God for a safe Christmas filled with family and friends.

--We give great thanks that all of us stayed well for the most part throughout the holiday time.

--We were especially happy to have more time with the newly-married Micah and Sam over Christmas and New Year's.

--And it was also very good to see Paul's brother John and his boys and to visit with everyone who was able to come to the reception for Micah and Sam.

--We are also very thankful that our kitty who got very sick the day after Christmas is now slowly improving.

--And we give thanks that Josiah made it back to JBU safely, Sarah's new semester has started well, and that Caleb, Micah, and Sam have resumed work (their semester starts on the 16th).

Prayer Requests:

--Paul has nerve testing on his neck and arm at the end of this month (Jan 26).

--Pray for the kids and their new semester of school and work.

--Pray also for Sarah as she is a senior this year with applications to out, interviews, and decisions to make over the next few months, addition to her school projects and papers.

--And pray for Josiah who is taking 18 course-hours this semester addition to working.

--Please continue to pray for progress on the typesetting of the Safaliba NT and OT portions.

--Pray for Nicholas's family member who has typhoid.

--As well, pray for strength, health and energy for all of us to do all what is needed.

Thanks so much for keeping us in your prayers!

Happy New Year!

Blessings, Paul and Jen Schaefer, Caleb, Micah (and Sam), Josiah and Sarah



We had a nice time at the reception for Micah and Sam. It was great to see everyone who was able to come!

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of

Part Time is Real Time

By Lillian Daniel (shared by Sherry Coker)

Paul went to see [Aquila and Priscilla] ... and they worked together—by trade they were tentmakers. - Acts 18:3 (NRSV)

When I started in ministry, my mentors said, “There is no such thing as part-time ministry.” They assumed pastors would and should work full-time in one church, back in the ancient days when phones were still attached to walls and had not yet learned how to be cameras.



How things have changed. I have seen the shift to part-time ministry speed up, as churches get smaller and so do resources. Part-time ministry is nothing new, but it feels new to many churches and clergy that are moving into it.

In the worst cases, pastors' hours and pay are cut but church expectations stay the same. The “dispensable hours” never fall on Sundays. Pastors are still expected to show up to preach in an ever-shortening work week that assumes a serious sermon will sprout straight from the head of Zeus or, God help us, from an AI chat bot. Obviously, we can do better.

I see us doing better when I visit churches where part-time ministry has invigorated the congregation. Lay leaders step up to preach, pray at meetings, and visit the sick. Pastors set boundaries because their other job compels them to, which brings health and freedom to their ministry. People consider a vocation to pastor in which they don't have to give up their calling in another career.

But the best examples are in the Bible. When Jesus called the first disciples to drop their nets and follow him, he didn't tell them to stop by Human Resources on the way out for an exit interview. There's a reason so many of Jesus' sermons and miracles took place at sea and on boats. These people were still working their day jobs!

Was the apostle Paul a tentmaker on the side? Or was the tentmaker Paul an apostle on the side? I reject the whole question. I don't believe the Holy Spirit does anything in our lives on the side.

Prayer

Thank you, God, for being the full-time presence under every minute of every hour. Amen.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lillian Daniel serves as Conference Minister with the Michigan Conference UCC. She is the author of *Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To* and *When “Spiritual But Not Religious” Is Not Enough*

The realm of the impossible

The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something and enter God's realm, where everything is possible. He specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for his almighty power. Nothing is too small for his love. —Corrie ten Boom

FEBRUARY Birthdays

- 02/01 Becky Pannucci
- 02/08 Ruby Dahlman
- 02/08 Hudson Staiger
- 02/18 Roberta Laney
- 02/19 Karen Rumley
- 02/20 Luella Thomas
- 02/22 Jay Staiger
- 02/23 Curtis McCroskey
- 02/23 Clifton Wallace
- 02/24 David Rauch
- 02/25 Sarah Schaefer
- 02/27 Cindy Wagemann



CROSS OF ASHES —

On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers' foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus' death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. Reciting Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

PRAYER list

Health & Wellness:

Larry Mathews, Steve Netzer, Jean Ann/Jenise Huffman, Aaron Sears (Denise Hampton request), Jeannette Wilson (Friend of Cindy Wagemann), Dwight Worstenholm (Chris Rauch's brother), Ann Staiger (Hearing), Shirley Snyder (Luella Thomas's Friend-cancer), Brandy Richter, Rebecca Davis, Mike Rauch, Mary Steinmann, Jennifer Williams, Alicia Verch, Jessie Verch, Mary Beyer, Jami Stocker, Norma Wagemann, Sonya Sears, Marcus Moore, Carol Forester, Bruce Baker, Larry Smallwood, Rex Tinsley, Debbie Custer, family of Elsie Charley, Tom Meeks, the Middle East, Ukraine, and all those dealing with illnesses.

ASH Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Service will be held on February 14th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Church. We will be sharing Lenten services with Billings United Methodist Church and more details on the Lenten service schedule will be forthcoming.



February 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

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