



## ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL UCC

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

417-744-2701 WWW.STPETERSUCC.US

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

### **January 2024**

The year 2024 is upon us. How shall we approach it? No two people enter into the new year with exactly the same emotions. Some enter with fear and reluctance while others enter with optimism and enthusiasm. None of us can look into the future, for God in his great mercy and wisdom has kept the future veiled from our eyes. Thus, we must make our entrance into 2024 in faith. Paul stated, "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7).



Looking to the future will be governed by the way we look at the present. Looking around us today we must not permit the successes or the failures of the past to defeat victorious living in the here and now. Neither must we allow the fear of the future to rob us of contentment today. The prayer of serenity should express our attitude: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference."

Today is all we have. The past is gone. The future never comes because it is always made up of todays. Thus, to insure that all of our todays are worthwhile we must be people of faith. The writer of Proverbs admonishes us: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6). The psalmist wrote: "This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalms 118:24).

-Roger Massey

### **Prayer from Pastor Brittany:**

*God of New Beginnings and Traditions, We have reached a new calendar year 2024 and we are excited for all that may unfold. We know You hold us dearly near You and we recognize how you travel with us through all of life's twists and turns. Help us to open our eyes to Your presence in the coming days and weeks and months, so we can be the best Jesus followers we can be. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.*



Due to a funeral service & the meal thereafter prepared by the Friendship Guild, December's meeting was canceled. The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 13th at 10:00 a.m. All ladies are welcome!

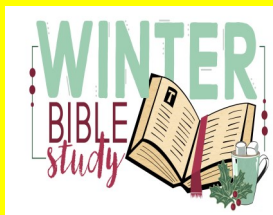


### St. Peter's Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 21, 2024 —After Worship Service

At this time, the board is still seeking nominees for the 3 year trustee and treasurer positions. If you are willing and able to serve, please contact Sherry Coker.

**Thank you** to those board members who have served us in 2023 and are going off the board this year: David Rauch, trustee; Danny Hutter, treasurer; Amber Tinsley, secretary. **Your service doing the work of the church is very much appreciated!!**



**Bible Study** will meet on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 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! The next meeting we will be discussing the 28th Chapter of Job. If you would like more information, please contact Pastor Brittany.

### Puzzle from Job

**ACROSS**

2. cause of Job's trouble
4. twinkling, heavenly lights
6. the Shuhite, a friend (2:11)
8. creature of the deep (41:1)
12. the Temanite, a friend (2:11)
13. sores
15. Job had 7,000

**DOWN**

1. the One who ever lives (19:25)
2. affliction
3. had seven sons
4. ocean
5. precipitation
7. Job had 500
9. the Naamathite, a friend (2:11)
10. Job had 3,000
11. Job's fourth friend (32:2)
12. Job had 500 yoke

Answers: Across 2. Satan, 4. stars, 6. Bildad, 8. Leviathan, 12. Eliphaz, 13. boils, 15. sheep.  
 Down 1. Redeemer, 2. suffering, 3. Job, 4. sea, 5. rain, 7. donkeys, 9. Zophar, 10. camels, 11. Elihu, 12. oxen

**Holiday Open House**

Rescheduled to  
**Saturday, January 6, 2024**  
**4:00 pm**  
**At the home of Alan/Pat Ware**

**Confirmation Class**

Meet with Pastor Brittany  
January 21, 2024  
6:00 pm

### Special dates

- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2024*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2024*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 7, 2024*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, *January 15, 2024*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18-25, 2024*

**Predictions for the new year**

Author Ronald Wilson, in *Stretching the Soul*, describes being certain that four things will occur in the days ahead.

- Trouble will come. Life is difficult. I must mourn as well as dance.
- In this long journey [of life], I'm not in control. God has reminded us of this.
- Many times I will fail.
- I will find forgiveness and get up and go on. God will wipe up the mess I've made of things, take me by the hand and set me back on the right path.

Praise God for his sure presence during the joys and challenges the new year brings!

**Biblical resolutions**

**H**old firmly to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)

**A**ssemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)

**P**ray and thank God earnestly (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)

**P**etition God for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)

**Y**ield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

**N**otice opportunities to serve others (Galatians 6:10)

**E**xamine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)

**W**ork diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

**Y**earn for righteousness (Matthew 5:6)

**E**xercise godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)

**A**im for sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)

***A New Year poem***

Another fresh new year is here ...  
Another year to live!  
To banish worry, doubt, and fear,  
To love and laugh and give!

This bright new year is given me  
To live each day with zest ...  
To daily grow and try to be  
My highest and my best!

I have the opportunity  
Once more to right some wrongs,  
To pray for peace, to plant a tree,  
And sing more joyful songs!

—William Arthur Ward

**A sacred partnership**

Bible scholar William Barclay notes that John the Baptist was “startled and unwilling” when Jesus asked to be baptized. The evangelist thought he needed what Jesus could give, not the reverse!

We are pros at taking our needs to God — indeed he invites this: “Call on me in the day of trouble” (Psalm 50:15). But God also comes to us with needs: “Mortal, I am sending you” (Ezekiel 2:3, NRSV); “Go ... make disciples” (Matthew 28:19); “Carry each other’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2, NIV).

Apparently, God prefers partnership to acting solo. From the beginning, God has invited people to name the animals, tend the garden, welcome strangers, build the tabernacle, proclaim his word, ensure justice and mercy, share his love.

What does God need from you, as Jesus needed baptism from John? Salvation is God’s alone to accomplish, but then he calls us to share work with him, for the world’s sake. So we echo Jesus: “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this” (Matthew 3:15, NIV).

—Heidi Mann

ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FINANCIAL REPORT

NOVEMBER 2023

CASH ON HAND NOVEMBER 1, 2023						\$ 73,455.94
RECEIPTS:	<u>Week 1</u>	<u>Week 2</u>	<u>Week 3</u>	<u>Week 4</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	
Current Exp.	1,360.00	1,030.00	475.00	1,670.00	4,535.00	
OCWM	30.00				30.00	
Loose	70.00	25.00	40.00	60.00	195.00	
School Meal Debt		300.00			300.00	
Paw Packs		100.00			100.00	
TOTALS	<u>1,460.00</u>	<u>1,455.00</u>	<u>515.00</u>	<u>1,730.00</u>		5,160.00
RENTAL INCOME						1,200.00
WESTERN ASSOC. CATERING REIMBURSEMENT						635.00
INTEREST INCOME						47.36
TOTAL CASH ON HAND AND MONTHLY RECEIPTS						\$ 80,498.30

ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL UCC  
ACTUAL ANALYSIS  
2023

	<u>ACTUAL RECEIPTS FOR CUR. EXPENSE</u>	<u>ACTUAL DISBURSE- MENTS FOR CUR. EXPENSE</u>
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	<u>6,612</u>	<u>11,663</u>
YTD	<u>59,723</u>	<u>86,946</u>

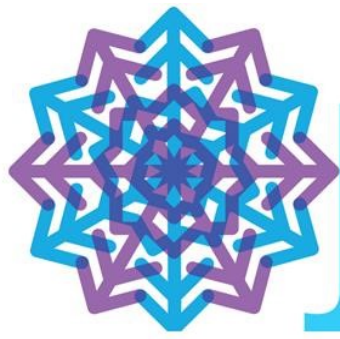
DIFFERENCE = (27,223)



**Ne**

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. Consider giving to help support our ministry. [Click this link](#) or scan the QR





# JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3	4	5	6 
7	8	9	10 -6:30 pm Church Board	11	12	13 -10:00am Friendship Guild
14	15 	16	17	18	19	20
21 Congregational Meeting after Worship  -6:00 pm Confirmation Class	22	23	24  -6:00 pm Job Bible Study	25	26  Newsletter Deadline	27
28	29	30	31	<p><b><u>Sundays:</u></b></p> <p><b>9:30 am Adult Sunday School</b> <b>10:30 am Worship Service</b></p>		



Epiphany, from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means an appearance or manifestation. Christians celebrate this festival each year on January 6, the 12th day after Christmas. Epiphany ends on Ash Wednesday, when Lent begins.

Epiphany marks the coming of the Magi, or wise men, to worship the baby Jesus. Because the Magi were Gentiles, Epiphany symbolizes the first recognition of Christ by non-Jews. It's a reminder that Christ came as the light — and Savior — of the whole world.

The traditional color for Epiphany is green, indicating life, growth, hope and eternity. Symbols for the season include a light, candle or star; a crown or three crowns; three gifts; and a globe. In the modern church, Epiphany has become a time to focus on reaching out and “showing” Jesus as the Savior of all people. It's also a reminder to engage in Christian community and to heal divisions among God's children.

## January Lectionary Scriptures

### Epiphany of the Lord--January 6, 2024

Isaiah 60:1-6  
 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
 Ephesians 3:1-12  
 Matthew 2:1-12

### Baptism of the Lord--January 7, 2024

Genesis 1:1-5  
 Psalm 29  
 Acts 19:1-7  
 Mark 1:4-11

### Second Sunday after the Epiphany--January 14, 2024

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)  
 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
 1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
 John 1:43-51

### Third Sunday after the Epiphany--January 21, 2024

Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
 Psalm 62:5-12  
 1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
 Mark 1:14-20

### Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany--January 28, 2024

Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
 Psalm 111  
 1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
 Mark 1:21-28

**Liturgical Color for Epiphany is Green.**

Christianity affirms that at the heart of reality is a Heart, a loving Father who works through history for the salvation of his children. Man cannot save himself, for man is not the measure of all things and humanity is not God. Bound by the chains of his own sin and finiteness, man needs a Savior.

—Martin Luther King Jr.



# JANUARY Birthdays

1/04 Robin Hatten  
1/11 Alicia Verch  
1/17 Caroline Ryan  
1/20 Kayla Rumley  
1/20 Anna Staiger  
1/28 Jennifer Williams  
1/28 Paula McCroskey  
1/31 Mike Rauch

# JANUARY Anniversaries

1/09 Daniel/Robin Hatten

# PRAYER list

## Health & Wellness:

Larry Mathews, Steve Netzer, Jean Ann/Jenise Huffman, Aaron Sears (Denise Hampton request), Jeannette Wilson (Friend of Cindy Wage-mann), Dwight Worstenholm (Chris Rauch's brother), Ann Staiger (Hearing), Shirley Snyder (Luella Thomas's Friend-cancer), Brandy Richter, Rebecca Davis, Mike Rauch, Mary Stein-mann, Jennifer Williams, Alicia Verch, Jessie Verch, Mary Beyer, Jami Stocker, Norma Wage-mann, Sonya Sears, Marcus Moore, Carol For-ester, Bruce Baker, Denise Hampton, Michelle Lam, Larry Smallwood, (Alice-friend of Teresa Mount), Ethan Bick, Rex Tinsley, the Middle East, Ukraine, and all those dealing with illness-es.

## In Sympathy: Family of Judy Rauch

**Prayer brings heaven to Earth.** When you re-ceived Jesus as your Savior, you began to live in two homes — earth and heaven. You were born the first time into your earthly family. Now you have been born again into the family of God. You are a citizen of both worlds. Your new heavenly home is the big-gest one. It is God's home. It is yours because you are united to Jesus, and heaven is where he lives.

But we don't need to wait until we die to visit heav-en. Prayer is the airline to our heavenly homeland. We walk heaven's streets and view its wonders each time we fellowship with the Lord. —Ben Jennings



### February Newsletter Articles

Due on Friday, January 26, 2024

Send to Mary Kastendieck

Email: marykasten@gmail.com

Call or text: 913-594-2484

*Gracious Lord, just as you've brought us to the threshold of this new year, guide us as we journey through each day.*



January 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	30	31			

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