

303 NE PINE STREET, PO BOX 250, BILLINGS, MO 65610
417-744-2701 WWW.STPETERSUCC.US
EMAIL: OFFICE@STPETERSUCC.US
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 A.M/WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 A.M.

Faithfully serving in Jesus' name since 1880. Honoring traditions of the past, growing spiritually in the present, and preparing for the future

ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL UCC

JULY 2020

Are You A Doubting Thomas?

Our family is large and contains forty people in our immediate group. In a group text I was thanking everyone for making my Christmas happy. I began thanking them all by first name. As I went through their names, I inserted the name Thomas, along with all the others and we don't have a Thomas in the family.

It was like throwing out a fishing plug to see who would bite.

I did get some bites of, "Who is Thomas"? I wrote back "Are you doubting Thomas?" I guess that's an example of my warped sense of humor.

My question today is, "Do we ever doubt God?"

These three things are signs we may be doubting:

Criticism: do we allow the thoughts expressed by others to diminish our resolve of God's infallible Word in light of current changes in our cultural views?

"They scoff at God...how proudly they speak! And so God's people are dismayed and confused and drink it all in. Does God realize what is going on?" Psalms 73: 8-11

"And again they scoff, "Where is that God of yours? But O my soul, don't be discouraged. Don't be upset. Expect God to act." Psalms 42: 10-11

Conscience: do we override our conscience and sometimes, even quench the Holy Spirit who may be speaking to us?

"for some people have disobeyed their consciences and have deliberately done what they knew was wrong. It isn't surprising that soon they lost their faith in Christ, after defying God like that." 1 Tim. 1:19

Circumstances: An example of a current day circumstance: any time we pray to God about anything and then immediately begin to doubt that he will answer our prayer -- this is a waste. We are told that anyone who is double minded about a prayer cannot expect to see anything good come from their prayer. Let's say you are facing a serious issue in your life. You pray about it and you see no answer in a couple of weeks so you begin to doubt and then subsequently try to handle it yourself because you have already doubted God and edged him out. (Read James 1:6-8)

Examples of those who doubted: The storm on Lake Galilee: "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" Mark 4:35-41

"When John heard in prison, what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, "are you the one who was to come or should we expect someone else?" Matt. 11:2-3

The disciple Thomas said, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side." John 20:25

As Christians, we must doubt our doubts...and hold on to God's irrefutable Word.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding." Prov. 3:5

"Lord, I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief." Mark. 9:24

"Be merciful to those who doubt." Jude 1:22

"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed...nothing will be impossible for you." Matt. 17:20

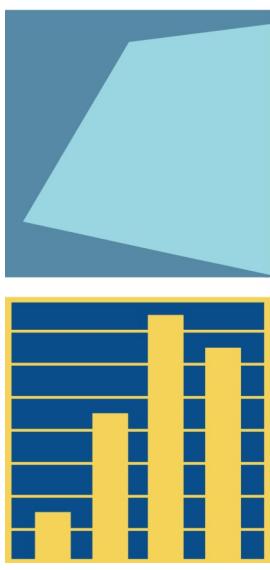
"I will never leave you nor forsake you." Deut. 13:5b

God says that he has given each of us a measure of faith and without faith it is impossible to please him.

Lord help us to trust you more!! Pastor Larry Worden



CHURCH BOARD REPORT



The St. Peter's board met for our monthly meeting on Wednesday evening June 10th. All members were present except Pastor Larry who was with his son Mike at the hospital due Mike undergoing open heart surgery.

The meeting was opened with David Hampton leading in prayer over several prayer requests that board members made.

The board reviewed and then approved both the May meeting minutes and treasurer's reports.

The board then turned our attention to a couple of items of Old Business regarding progress on the maintenance items of —
-Sump pump back up system installation
-Vacant lot stump grinding
-Replacement of the Fellowship Hall security light

The board then reviewed information provided by Danny Hutter on the church investments.

The following New Business item was then handled—

After looking at several pieces of information from the CDC and the Health Department regarding Covid 19 social distancing recommendations, the board voted to continue the measures in place regarding social distancing thru the end of June. For this reason we will not resume celebrating communion or holding Sunday School; Ladies Guild meetings; Bible Study or Youth meetings.

The board hopes we can return to holding all the above mentioned meetings in July.

Planning Calendar:

- Board meeting on July 8th in the Fellowship Hall
- July Newsletter deadline is Monday June 22nd.

July Communion Steward is David Hampton

The board adjourned by praying the Lord's Prayer together.

Continued on page 3...

Church Board Report continued from page 2...

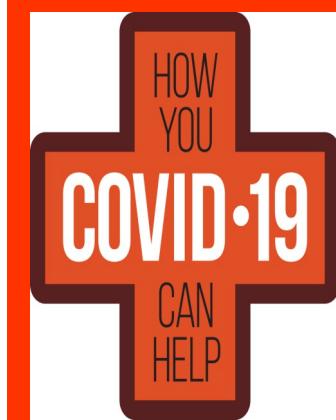
I want to encourage all St. Peter's congregants to be faithful in your attendance. We need each other and we draw strength from worshipping God together. God's Word encourages Christians to assemble for worship as often as possible. I believe God has a great future planned for St. Peter's and for this to be the case we must each do our part by faithfully attending services.

Remember the words from John 4:4-

We are of God and we have overcome the devil, for greater is He that is within us than he that is in the world.

May God richly bless each and everyone is my prayer.

David Hampton, Board President



Reminder...

Guidelines for Church Attendance

- Maintain social distancing sitting 6' apart in family groups
- No physical contact with people outside your family
- Face masks are highly recommend and should be worn at all times
- Please do not attend if you have any of the symptoms that are associated with the Covid 19 virus

July Scriptures

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost July 5, 2020	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Psalm 45:10-17	Zechariah 9:9-12 Psalm 145:8-14	Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost July 12, 2020	Genesis 25:19-34 Psalm 119:105-112	Isaiah 55:10-13 Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost July 19, 2020	Genesis 28:10-19a Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24	Isaiah 44:6-8 Psalm 86:11-17	Romans 8:12-25	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost July 26, 2020	Genesis 29:15-28 Psalm 105:1-11, 45b	1 Kings 3:5-12 Psalm 119:129-136	Romans 8:26-39	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

St. Peter's Evangelical United Church of Christ

Financial Report

Cash on Hand May 1, 2020		\$68,607.45				
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 Expense	540.00	1,085.00	1,110.00	3,720.00	1,035.00	7,490.00
OCWM					25.00	25.00
Loose				87.00		87.00
Totals	<u>540.00</u>	<u>1,085.00</u>	<u>1,110.00</u>	<u>3,807.00</u>	<u>1,060.00</u>	<u>\$7,602.00</u>
Rental Income						\$950.00
Interest Income						\$5.75
PPP Account Funds						<u>\$3,219.15</u>
Total Cash on Hand and Monthly Receipts						\$80,384.35

**ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL UCC
ACTUAL ANALYSIS
2020**

	ACTUAL RECEIPTS FOR CUR. EXPENSE	ACTUAL DISBURSEMENTS FOR CUR EXPENSE
JANUARY	\$6,231.00	\$3,099.00
FEBRUARY	\$5,636.00	\$3,922.00
MARCH	\$3,807.00	\$8,085.00
APRIL	\$6,821.00	\$3,412.00
MAY	\$11,752.00	\$3,796.00
YTD	<u>\$ 34,247.00</u>	<u>\$ 22,314.00</u>
DIFFERENCE =		\$11,933.00

Treasure the Present...

Patience asks us to live the moment to the fullest ... to taste the here and now, to be where we are. When we are impatient, we try to get away from where we are. We behave as if the real thing will happen tomorrow, later, and somewhere else. Let's be patient and trust that the treasure we look for is hidden in the ground on which we stand.

—Henri Nouwen



JULY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Sunday School, Bible Study, Ladies' Guild, Youth Group, and other church activities will resume when the Church Board determines it is safe to do so.</i>			1	2	3	4 
5 <i>Worship Service 10:30 am</i>	6	7	8 <i>Church Board Meeting 7:00 pm</i>	9	10	11
12 <i>Worship Service 10:30 am</i>	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 <i>Worship Service 10:30 am</i>	20	21	22 <i>August Newsletter Deadline</i>	23	24	25
26 <i>Worship Service 10:30 am</i>	27	28	29	30	31	



Do you have any suggestions for materials that you find particularly helpful for Bible study or spiritual growth? These could be books, podcasts, websites, phone apps, etc. If you have a suggestion that you would like to share, please drop me a line at marykasten@gmail.org and I'll add some each month to our newsletter.

One audio resource that I would like to recommend is a phone app called Daily Audio Bible. As the name suggests, it provides old and new testament scriptures read daily that over the course of the year complete the entire Bible. The reader is excellent and provides a very captivating narration of the scriptures. The app is free to download in both Android and iOS formats. It also has a website if you prefer that format: <https://dailyaudiobible.com/> It is free and I use it as a guest so I don't have to provide any personal info to create an account. Hope that you will enjoy it as much as I do.

Hymn for a Summer Day...

Maltbie Davenport Babcock, a minister in upstate New York at the turn of the 20th century, often walked near Niagara Falls to enjoy the view of Lake Ontario and the surrounding scenery. He'd tell his wife he was "going to see the Father's world."

After Babcock's death in 1901, his wife, Katherine, published a book of his writings, including the 16-verse poem "My Father's World." Franklin Sheppard set it to music in 1915, using two verses of text for each hymn stanza.

This is my Father's world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.



This is my Father's world,
the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world:
he shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me everywhere.

Youth Group News

The St. Peter's Church Board will be discussing youth group activities at their July meeting. At that time the Board will decide if/when the next Youth Group Meeting will take place.



PUZZLE

WATER WORKS!

The gospels record Jesus' miracles, many of which involve water.

Directions: Using the illustrated equations, fill in the blanks to describe each miracle. Use the Bible references for help.

	+ e	Water changes to	_____
			JOHN 2:1-11
	- k + d	Heals a man born	_____
			JOHN 9
	- op + w	Calm a	_____
			MATTHEW 8:23-27
	- d	Catch of	_____
			LUKE 5:1-11
	- ch + er	Walks on	_____
			MATTHEW 14:22-33

Answers: wine, blind, stormy, fish, water

"Prayer is not a spare wheel that you pull out when in trouble; it is a steering wheel that directs us in the right path throughout life."
—Anonymous



GREETERS SCHEDULE

No greeters assigned for July 2020.



No Scripture Readers assigned for July 2020.

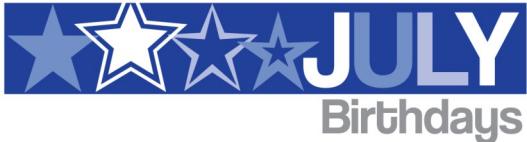


Have we missed celebrating your birthday or anniversary? Missing out on church emails? Please let us know! Our directory has not been updated for a while, so please let us know if you have a new information to add to our church directory. Please give any updates to Gail Boswell, Amber Tinsley, or David Hampton.

Thank you!



Please send any August Newsletter articles to Mary Kastendieck at marykasten@gmail.com



07/08 Herman Steinmann
07/19 Paul Kastendieck
07/24 Diane Zell
07/24 Sam Schaumann



07/01 Jim/Gale Boswell
07/02 Jesse/Mellisa Jones
07/02 Mark/Andrea Schultz
07/18 Lee/Lavona Lurvey
07/28 John/Debbie Wagemann



Prayer Requests

Nursing Home Care: Mary Lou Hutter, Ray Schultz, and Judy Rauch

Health & Wellness: Jerry Davis, Mike Rauch, Chet Jenkins, Kay Rill, Larry Mathews, Steven Zoller, Raymond Garbee, Jenise Huffman, Steve Netzer, 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), Marilyn Mattas (request by Judy Crockett), Cody Verch, Alicia Verch, David Hampton, the Meny Family, Randy Menkel (shoulder), Brandy Richter (Cassie Staiger friend), Becky Pannucci, Mike Worden (heart surgery)

In Sympathy: Family of Chrissy Wilson (Cassie Staiger's sister) and family of 6 year old Colston Henderson.

God, thank you that by your power, small things like seeds — and faith — can grow big and strong. Nurture our growth in you always. Amen.



July 2020						
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	

St. Peter's Evangelical UCC
303 NE Pine
Po Box 250
Billings, MO 65610

