

THE

APRIL

St. Peter's
United Methodist Church

2025

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THANK YOU to our St. Peter's Family for the overwhelming support for our annual Rise Against Hunger mission. We are excited to share we are only \$1,200.00 away from our goal of \$8,400.00 needed for RAH. In the narthex, there is a donation board to help us reach our goal. You can select an envelope with amounts from \$10 - \$200. Then, drop your donation in the offering plate or drop off to the church office. Inside your envelope, you'll find a little inspirational prize too! If you are donating by check, please make your checks out to St. Peter's UMC with "Rise Against Hunger" on the memo line. If making an online donation (visit www.stpetersumc.org and select "GIVE") please select "Rise Against Hunger". If giving cash, please place in money envelope located on the back of church pews and write "Rise Against Hunger".



VOLUTEERS NEEDED: As we draw closer to hosting Rise Against Hunger on **Sunday, May 4th**, we are finishing up final plans to make this day a big success. We are needing volunteers to help with set up, prepping/packaging and cleanup. A sign-up sheet is on the mission's board in the narthex or you may call the church office at 804-883-5596 to sign up. Thank you all again for your support and we can't wait to serve with you!



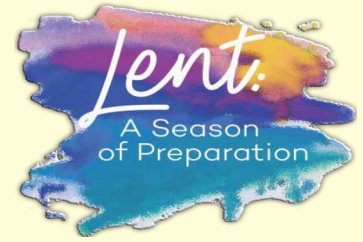
PRAYER CONCERNS: **Missionaries:** Our covenant missionaries to the Congo: Gaston Nkulu Ntambo **Our Military:** Matt Chapman, Madison Siple, Ayden Carter **Children:** Taylor Macaulay, Gavin Yonce, Jackson Andrews, Teddy D.

Prayer Requests: Asa Daniels, Jonathon Horton, Cynthia Kersey, Bob Richards, Ellen McIlhenny's sister, Eileen Siple, Laura Smith, Louise Tanner, Kyle Dobb, Lauren Andrews, John Militzer, Cecilia Taylor, Janet Ervin, Fay Turner, Leann L., May Shiplett, Kathy Richard, David Miller, Patty Taylor, Ryan Spencer, David Coats, Karen Tatti, Keri Nicholsan, Amanda Nevius' colleague—Pamela, Ellen Stanley, Shelley Horton, Kim Fuhrman, Susan Moore, Gene Hall, Paul Giles & Family, Kim Jones, Barbara Adam's SIL, Lexi Lowry & family, RJ (Dwayne Kahler's cousin), Walter Taylor, Stephanie Gerskey & family, Winnie Morris, Alice Newman, Kevin Shaver, Tom Gilman, Jessica Matyiko Green, Mike Jones, Kathy Sullivan, Missy Bauder, Debbie Murphy, Ricky Pillow, Carrie Wright, May Shifflet, Thomas Jordan, Anne Babel, Latrice Knight, Mandy Nevius, The Kahler Family, The Walls Family, The Hattorf Family

Always in Our Prayers: Lydia Bowles, Katherine Stone, Pastor Yun and his family.

From Ashes to Joy

Dear St. Peter's Family,



Grace and peace to you in this sacred season of Lent and Easter. It may seem unusual to reflect on Ash Wednesday when Easter is already on the horizon. In today's world, Lent often goes unnoticed. Many are drawn to the joy of Easter Sunday—the music, the flowers, the celebration—while skipping past the quiet, sobering call of Ash Wednesday. But if we rush ahead to resurrection without walking the path of Lent, we miss something essential.

There is no resurrection without the cross. There is no Easter joy without first receiving the ashes.

Ash Wednesday confronts us with a truth we are often too quick to forget:

"You are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19)

This is not a statement of despair, but an invitation to live with clarity and humility. The ashes remind us that we are human—finite, fragile, and dependent on grace. In recognizing our mortality, we are not diminished; we are awakened. Only when we accept our limitations do we truly begin to see the value of the gift of eternal life.

I once heard Christian author Cindy Trimm say, *"Life is like being enrolled in school—there is a curriculum, and we must learn each subject."* Some of those subjects, like grief or weakness, we would rather avoid. I used to dislike math—unlike many other Asians—but I still had to take it. Not because it was easy or enjoyable, but because it helped me grow. Lent is like that. It may be difficult, but it leads to growth we can't find elsewhere.

There was a hospice worker who once cared for a 94-year-old retired general. One day, the general asked her, "Why am I still here? I've completed my life's work." She replied with gentle wisdom, "Perhaps there's still something God wants to teach you." In his final months, he learned the practice of silent prayer—sitting quietly, listening for God's voice. Not long before he passed away, he said, "Thank you for teaching me to pray. Now, I am ready to go."

Even at the end of life, we are still students in God's classroom. Lent reminds us that the ashes are not the conclusion—they are the beginning of deeper wisdom, of learning to see what truly matters.

When Pastor Tim Keller received his terminal diagnosis, he called it a gift. With time suddenly made precious, he let go of what was trivial and leaned into what lasts. He no longer had space for bitterness, pride, or empty pursuits. Instead, he chose to pour himself into love, grace, and presence. He spent his remaining days with people—creating joy, offering care, and preparing for what lies beyond. That is what the ashes invite us to do: to live with holy urgency, to give our attention to what endures.

Ash Wednesday and Easter are not separate moments—they are part of the same sacred story. Lent teaches us how to live—and how to die—with faith, humility, and hope.

So let us walk this Lenten road together—slowly, intentionally, prayerfully. Let the ashes settle gently on your heart, not as a burden, but as a blessing. And when Easter morning comes, may our joy be deeper, because we did not skip the journey that prepared us to receive it.

With you on the way,

Pastor Yun



Karen Siple	7
Lydia Bowles	8
Ginny Sirc	11
Millie Simmers	13
Sarah Parks	14
Bryan Nevius	15
Lee Gentry	22
Katherine Stockwell	22
Tara Forlines	23
Aubrey Kahler	23
George Eanes	24
Peggy Harris	24
Bill Horton	27
Leon Stockwell	30

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE PART IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICE as a "helper". Needed are scripture readers, acolytes, video techs, and sound techs. Want to help but not sure what to do? We are here to help you learn.

We are starting to put together the worship helper calendar for June - December 2025. If you are interested or want more information, please contact the church office 804-883-5596 or email Amanda at stpeter-sumc@gmail.com.

St. Peters UMC Financial Information	February 2025	Year to date
Donations to the Budget Account	\$35,243.00	\$56,888.00
Transferred from Savings	\$0	\$0
Budget Account expenses	\$23,912.00	\$42,323.00
Gain/Loss	\$11,331.00	\$14,565.00



Saturday, April 12
10:00 - 11:00 AM

Meet the Easter Bunny

Carnival Games



Egg Hunt Times

Ages 0 - 7 hunt at 10:15

Ages 8 and up hunt at 10:45



15599 Mountain Road-Montpelier, VA



LUNCHEON, APRIL 11

The Elderberries will meet for lunch on Friday, April 11 at 11:30 at Kaipai Japanese Steak House. The address is 11964 W Broad St in Short Pump. We will be seated as a group after everyone has arrived, so please try to be on time.

Sign up at church, call the church office, 883-5596, or text Ruth Smith, 804-216-1260. We are limited to 20 guests. All are welcome!

MEN'S GROUP NEWS

Our next regular meeting is at 8 AM on April 12th at Kitchen 33 & Bakery. Join us for breakfast, fellowship, and a discussion on ongoing and new projects. These meetings are typically brief, focusing mainly on bonding with other Christian men.

Easter breakfast: Join us for a delightful breakfast after the Easter Sunrise Service. We look forward to sharing this meal with our community! 📷😊

Recent Activities: Picked up and delivered logs to the firewood ministry in Montpelier.

Wheelchair Ramp Initiative: We have 6 ramps installed at this time. If you know someone who needs a temporary wheelchair ramp, please let us know.

Ongoing Support: We handle small repairs and maintenance issues for those in need in our church and community. Please let us know if we can assist you or someone you know.

Donations: If you would like to make a monetary donation to our group, please make your check out to St. Peter's UMC and write "Men's Group" in the memo line; or visit the church website, click **GIVE** in the upper right hand corner, insert your amount, and select "**Men's Group**" from the drop-down list; or simply drop your donation in the offering plate with a note "**Men's Group**".

We welcome you to join us at any of our meetings or projects. No special talents are required—just come for the fellowship! If you have any questions or would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact us at MenOfStPeters@stpetersumc.org or call Butch at 804-496-1399.

May God continue to bless us all!



EASTER SUNDAY FLOWERS

On Easter Sunday, April 20, we are going to create an Easter cross of flowers. We are asking if each family could bring a small bouquet of flowers/stems which will be placed on the cross. If you have any questions, please reach out to the church office.

CALLING ALL 2025 GRADUATES

We will have a special Graduation Sunday service on June 1 recognize our graduates and their achievements. If you would like to recognize your graduate during this service and in our May newsletter, please reach out to our Youth Director, Jen Kahler at kahlercrew@gmail.com.



CELEBRATION OF LIFE

On March 12, our sister in Christ, Jean Hattorf, was called home to join our father and be reunited with her husband, Percy. Jean had an unwavering love for our God, family and friends and showed that love through her strength and kindness. She befriended anyone and would greet you with an infectious smile. During Sunday worship, she would fill the room with her beautiful voice as she sung for the Lord with our choir and as a solo. All were simply blessed to know her and hear her angelic voice.

A celebration of life service will be held for both Jean and Percy on July 28 at 11:00 AM at Cedar Grove Cemetery located at 809 S. Henry St., Williamsburg, Virginia.

St. Peter's Christian School

April 2025

Spring is in full bloom, and we had fun last month eating green eggs and ham and other wacky adventures for Dr. Suess week, learning about different authors and illustrators, getting a treat from the leprechaun, welcoming Spring, mixing colors to make a rainbow, looking for clouds in the sky (there weren't any clouds) and having fun with farm and zoo animals. We even had to shelter in place for a tornado warning. The children were super good. We are excited to welcome April with new learning adventures! This month, we will explore the wonders of **Spring and Nature**! Our activities and lessons will revolve around:

Famous Artists - use of mixed media and styles of art

Easter - waving palm leaves, telling the story of Easter using resurrection eggs

Earth Day and Recycling - Teaching the importance of caring for our planet.

Life around the Pond - Discovering the world above, around, and in the pond



Cloud and Rain
Experiment

Important Dates to Remember:

- March 31 to April 4 - Closed for Spring Break
- **April 12** - Church's Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt, come meet the Easter Bunny, play some games, and hunt for eggs. 10:00-11:00 am
- **April 17** - Preschool Easter Egg Hunt and Party
- April 14-18-Parent-Teacher Conferences - sign-up sheets will be sent home in cubbies
- April 8 - Kindergarten Online Registration for Hanover County Schools

We are in need of the following items: recyclable items to sort, cheap paper plates for crafts, and black or colored tape.

We appreciate your ongoing support and look forward to a month filled with growth, exploration, and joy! As always, feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.



Eating Green Eggs with
Ham!



Lucky Leprechaun!



Mixing colors to make a
rainbow.



St. Peter's United Methodist Church
15599 Mountain Road
Montpelier, Virginia 23192
Phone: 804/883-5596
E-mail: stpetersumc@gmail.com

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

OUR VISION STATEMENT

We envision our church welcoming all people, encouraging a journey of faith, and serving the world in the name of Christ.

April Events

4/2 - 4/16 Lent Study - Wednesday's @ 7:00 PM

4/12 Easter Egg Hunt @ 10:00 - 11:00 AM

4/13 Palm Sunday @ 10:00 AM

4/18 Good Friday @ 7:00 PM

4/20 Sunrise Service @ 7:00 AM

(Join us for breakfast immediately following Sunrise service.)

4/20 Easter Service @ 10:00 AM

