

# THE

MAY

St. Peter's  
United Methodist Church

2025



**A BIG THANK YOU** to our St. Peter's Family for the overwhelming support for our annual Rise Against Hunger mission. We are elated to share we reached our goal of \$8,400.00 to support R.A.H. We are so grateful for the



many hands that have helped get ready for this event. Thank you to Dwayne Kahler for getting tables, Vince Nevius for being our Scout liaison for volunteers, the Forlines Family for providing lunch and everyone that will be volunteering throughout the event.

We are just days away from this special mission and we are eager to serve and fellowship with you on Sunday, May 4 following our 10:00 worship service. If you have not signed up yet to volunteer, there is still time. Please sign up on the missions board in the narthex or call the church office.

## Community Easter Egg Hunt 2025



On Saturday, April 12, St. Peter's hosted a Community Easter Egg Hunt. We would like to thank the many volunteers whom helped make this a fun and memorable day. Our kids and youth had fun with games, cake walks, egg hunts, prizes and visits with the Easter Bunny while learning about the true meaning of Easter. He is Risen!





## May Birthdays

Barbara Adams	3
Patty Shortidge	3
Jesse Merica	6
Karen Merica	12
Ruth Smith	14
Shelley Horton	17
Jacob Stockwell	17
Lynwood Barthurst	18
Jenny Kim	19
Joshua Covington	20
Carolyn Craig	21
Abigail Kim	21
Eula Mae Stanley	28

St. Peters UMC Financial Information	March 2025	Year to date
Donations to the Budget Account	\$24,366.00	\$81,254.00
Transferred from Savings	\$0	\$0
Budget Account expenses	\$20,140.00	\$62,463.00
Gain/Loss	\$4,226.00	\$18,791.00

## ESTHER GILMAN MEMORIAL CLOTHES CLOSET

Our Missions team is finalizing details for our annual Esther Gilman Memorial Clothes Closet. As you do your spring cleaning, we kindly ask you hold onto your donations. Stayed tuned for announcements for the date and when to start bringing in your donations. Thank you all for continued support with this special mission project and serving our greater Montpelier community.

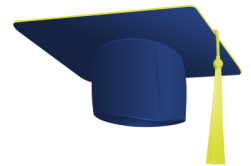


## LUNCHEON

Elderberries will meet at Lola's for lunch on Friday, June 6 at 11:30. Sign up at church, call the church office, 883-5596, or text Ruth Smith, 804-216-1260. All are welcome!

## CALLING ALL 2025 GRADUATES

If you have a graduate you would like to recognize during our Graduation Sunday service on June 1, please email our Youth Director, Jen Kahler at kahlercrew@gmail.com.



**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, 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, Ellen Stanley, Shelley Horton, Kim Fuhrman, Susan Moore, Gene Hall, Kim Jones, Barbara Adam's SIL, Lexi Lowry & family, RJ (Dwayne Kahler's cousin), Walter Taylor, Stephanie Gerskey & family, 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, The Kahler Family, The Walls Family, The Hattorf Family, Jim Wuensch, The Johnson Family

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



## MEN'S GROUP NEWS

Our next regular meeting will be at 8 AM on May 10<sup>th</sup> 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:** We hope you enjoyed the Easter breakfast. It was a pleasure to share this meal with our community! 🍴☑️😊

**Recent Activities:** Picked up and delivered several loads of logs to the firewood ministry in Montpelier; helped a church member with replacing their deck; and purchased a dump trailer to assist with our mission projects.

**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](mailto:MenOfStPeters@stpetersumc.org) or call Butch at 804-496-1399.

May God continue to bless us all!



## A SPRING THANK YOU!

St. Peter's would like to give a special thank you to Mark Booker, Kenny Tyree and Mike Williams for spreading fresh mulch and trimming up our landscaping on April 16. It sure looks beautiful! Also, a big thanks to Jeff Sears for the donation of mulch. Thank you all for your hard work!

Thank you to all our St. Peter's Family for brining in flowers on Easter Sunday to adorn our cross. The beauty of the flowers represented new life and Christ dying for our sins. He is Risen!





## Announcement Sunday

On Sunday, April 27, our Staff-Parish Relations council member, Greg Vig, announced Pastor Yun has been appointed to a new church. We wish Pastor Yun and his family well as they continue to serve God and spread unity to others. We will have a special edition in our June newsletter commemorating the last seven years Pastor Yun has served St. Peter's. If you would like to express your gratitude, share a special story or share a picture, please email our administrative assistant, Amanda, at [stpetersumc@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersumc@gmail.com) by Monday, June 23.

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## WELCOME PASTOR GRETCHEN!

On July 6, we are to excited to welcome our newly appointed, Pastor Gretchen, to our St. Peter's Family.

Grace and peace to you all. Hello everyone. I am excited to come and be in ministry with you at Saint Peter's and your community. I look forward to meeting you, getting to know what excites you about being disciples, learning what ministries you are engaged in, and generally spending time with you expressing our shared/common love for God. Between now and when I am with you in person I will be keeping you in prayer and ask your prayers for me and Mike as we leave our current community and prepare to be fully engaged with you. May your season of Easter bring daily blessings of resurrection. I thank God for everything you are doing and all your ways of being disciples on The Way with Jesus.

Here is a little bit about me:



Having grown up in a United Methodist church raised by a Baptist and a Congregationalist, theological education was broad and began early. Active in church as a child and youth, I love to explore scripture and how to actively live what I learn there.

I earned a Bachelor of Arts at Virginia Wesleyan College and a Master of Divinity at Duke Divinity School. After Ordination I completed Spiritual Direction Certification to further develop prayer and faith practices for journeying with others. Over the last twelve years I have been studying Bowen Family Systems Theory which informs how I lead and live. Serving in ministry for 29 years, being a disciple with hundreds of laity, participating in Continuing Education — I continue to explore, listen, and grow in the wisdom and knowledge of God to be a disciple living a call in vocational ministry.

All of this encourages me to practice experiencing God new everyday; connecting my life with people in service, justice, mercy, compassion, and work for transformation.

My passions are about forming disciples. I love fostering relationships with God through holy conversations, Bible exploration, Spiritual Formation practices, and living service. Being a spiritual companion with others finding ways to live their call brings me endless joy.

Scriptures central to my journey include: Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Matthew 22:34-40, Matthew 25, Micah 6:6-8, Psalm 139, John 15, 4-5, Colossians 3:12-17, and Philippians 4:8-9.

Family brings me strength and joy. Mike and I have been blessed with 30 years of marriage. We have two feline children - Sofia and Fiona (rescue Torties). Mike has one older brother and two canine nieces (Cocker Spaniels). I have two older brothers and one older sister, all of whom have been married since I was in my late teens. Among them I have six nieces, two nephews, five great nieces, four great nephews, with several feline and canine siblings.

Personal interests that fuel this journey include listening to and making music of all kinds, time in nature, movies, coloring, reading, time with friends, playing games, genealogy research, and incorporating favorite and new spiritual practices into every day experiences.

Interesting things about me — living with animals brings daily discovery in silliness and patience, fountain pens make me smile, and I find improv comedy and group laughter invigorating.



As we welcome the beautiful month of May, we are filled with pride reflecting on all that our students have accomplished this year. Their enthusiasm for learning, creativity, and kindness continues to inspire us each day.

Here's a look at what we've been up to and what's ahead:

### Curriculum Highlights:

- **Art Appreciation and Creation:** This past month, the children explored the world of famous artists and their unique styles. They experimented with a variety of media — from paints to pastels — to create their own beautiful masterpieces. We hope everyone enjoyed viewing their creative work!
- **Special Events:** Our Easter Egg Hunt and party were a wonderful success! The children had a fantastic time participating in the hunt and celebrating with friends and family. Thank you to everyone for contributing delicious food and joining in making the day so special.
- **Earth Day Activities:** In recognition of Earth Day, the children learned about the importance of caring for our planet. Through discussions and hands-on projects, they explored how recycling and reducing waste can help keep the earth clean.
- **Upcoming Learning Themes:**
- **Spring Science Exploration:** We are looking forward to "digging in" and getting a little messy as we learn about flowers, butterflies, and caterpillars. Through hands-on activities and observations, the children will explore plant life cycles, metamorphosis, and the beauty of the natural world around us.

**Last week fun week:** We will have an Ice Cream day, Water day, Bubble day, and Bring a Toy to School day.

### Important Upcoming Events:

**End-of-Year Program:** May 23, 2025 @ 11:30 We are excited to invite you to our End-of-Year Program, where the children will share songs, and highlights from their school year. It will be a wonderful celebration of their growth and achievements!

### Reminders:

- As the weather warms, apply sunscreen before school.
- Check backpacks daily for important notes, projects, and announcements.

### Thank You!

Thank you for being a vital part of our preschool community. Your support and involvement make a tremendous difference in your child's education and experience. We look forward to finishing the year with joyful celebrations and lasting memories!



Roxie reenacting Palm Sunday.



Sadie and Ava at the Easter Egg hunt.



Washing of the feet by Pastor Yun.



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**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.**



## **MOTHER'S DAY**

**SUNDAY, MAY 11**

*You have been a beautiful example of God's love.*

*She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. Proverbs 31*

**Happy Mother's Day!**