



## The Beacon • April 2026

### Saint Peter's United Church of Christ

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*"We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song." - St. Augustine*

Each spring we see signs of new life all around us in creation. After the long quiet of winter, the earth begins to awaken. The days grow warmer, longer and brighter. Buds appear on the trees, flowers push up through the soil, and green shoots begin to cover fields. These simple yet beautiful changes remind us that God is always at work bringing life out of what once seemed lifeless. These moments of new life remind us of Easter and the hope we find in and through Christ. You are warmly invited to experience this rebirth and new life with us by worshiping with us:

March 29—Palm Sunday Worship at 10 AM, in our sanctuary and online

April 2—Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:00 PM, in our sanctuary and online

April 3—Good Friday Open House, the sanctuary will be open from 12:00 to 3:00 PM for prayer and reflection

April 5—Easter Sunday Communion Service at 10 AM, in our sanctuary and online, followed by our kid's annual egg hunt

The joy and experience of Easter is not limited to a single day. We often treat Easter like a finish line, spending forty days in the wilderness of Lent, journeying through the shadows of Holy Week, and then—with a burst of lilies and trumpets—arriving at the empty tomb. But in the tradition of the early church, Easter Sunday wasn't the end; it was only the beginning.

The Easter season continues for fifty days, culminating in the celebration of Pentecost. In this season, we are invited to live fully in the joy and hope of Christ's resurrection. This season is our chance to let our Alleluia's change how we walk, talk, and treat our neighbors. The stone has been rolled away, not just from Jesus' grave, but from the doorways of our own hearts. We are no longer prisoners of fear or despair. During April and into May, we will explore the post-Resurrection appearances of Jesus—those beautiful, mysterious moments where he met his friends on dusty roads and lakeshores to offer them peace. He is meeting us, too. As we open our hearts to receive God's word, direction, and guidance, we are invited to step into new life and flourish in God's vision for us.

*—Pastor Kim*

### *Pastor Emeritus Celebration*

For more than thirty years, the Rev. Dr. Kris Hayden led the congregation of Saint Peter's United Church of Christ. On July 12, 2026, we will hold a special worship service and luncheon to commemorate naming the Rev. Dr. Kris Hayden as pastor emeritus. We look forward to celebrating with Pastor Kris and his family.

### *Beautifying St. Peter's Property*

Now that it's officially spring, we're call on our members and friends to come together for our property cleanup day. If you are willing to help with pulling weeds, trimming old growth, mulching and general sprucing up and cleaning up around the grounds, please bring your trimmers, rakes, shovels etc. and join us anytime on Saturday, May 2, beginning at 8 AM.

### *Women's Ministry Flower Sale*

Please mark your calendars for the Mother's Day Flower Sale on Sunday, May 10. Women's Ministry will have beautiful pots of flowers perfect for a porch or patio. Flowers make a bright and cheerful gift to yourself, or for someone special to enjoy all summer and fall.

### *Outdoor Worship*

Outdoor worship in our pavilion returns in June. Whether permitting, outdoor worship is scheduled to take place on: June 14, June 28, July 26, August 9, August 23

As always, if the weather conditions are not comfortable, worship will move indoors.

If temperatures continue to be seasonable, we may extend outdoor worship into September so keep an eye out for updates at the end of the summer.

### *Facility Rental at Saint Peter's*

Saint Peter's has a calling to love and serve our community and one of the ways we do so is by providing affordable, versatile, and enjoyable rental spaces for social, family and community gatherings. We have continued to put our space to good use through rentals to community groups and private events over the past year and we approach the summer & graduation party season, St. Peter's beautiful grounds are ideal for summer picnics and gatherings. If you or someone you know needs a space for any type of private event, we hope you'll consider our community center, kitchen, outdoor pavilion, and lawns a welcome option for yourself or for referral to others.

Please share the [page](#) from the St. Peter's website where community members can find information, photos and conveniently contact us regarding facility rental. Please also feel free to call or email the office if you are interested in learning about hosting an event here.

### *Wilson Food Pantry*

Saint Peter's is continuously accepting donations for the Wilson Food Pantry. The following nonperishable food items are always needed:

1. Canned fruits & vegetables
2. Pasta/tomato sauce
3. Spaghetti
4. Canned meats, especially canned tuna, chicken or spam
5. Peanut butter
6. Canned soup
7. Mac & cheese
8. Dried foods such as beans, rice, oats, instant potatoes

### *Blood Drive Dates*

During 2025 Saint Peter's once again met and exceeded our goal of collecting 200 units of blood through the mobile drives we host throughout the year. And 2026 is off to a great start with a successful donor appreciation blood drive held in January where we once again filled 2 busses worth of donation appointments.

Blood drives for the remainder of 2026 are scheduled for May 10, July 12, September 20, November 15.

Appointments go fast so if you plan to donate blood during one of our upcoming drives, book your appointment in advance at <https://donor.giveapint.org/donor/schedules/zip>.

## *Dates At a Glance*

March 29	Palm Sunday worship, 10 AM
April 2	Maundy Thursday special worship, 7 PM
April 3	Good Friday Open House, 12:00-3 PM
April 5	Easter Communion Service, 10 AM Kids Easter Egg Hunt, 11 AM
April 19	Consistory Meets, 8:45 AM
April 26	Breakfast with a Purpose, 11 AM
May 2	Spring Property Cleanup, 8 AM
May 10	Women's Ministry Mother's Day Flower Sale Miller-Keystone Blood Mobile
June 7	Graduation Sunday during worship
July 12	Miller-Keystone Blood Mobile Special worship & luncheon, Pastor Emeritus celebration for Kris Hayden