



# The Beacon • February 2026

## Saint Peter's United Church of Christ

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*"I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord;  
they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope."  
Jeremiah 29:11*

Hopefully we will gather this coming Sunday to be together again in worship and hold our Annual Congregational Meeting. We will gather at the end of worship to hear all the amazing things that happened in our church this year. Through generosity and time and talents, God has used each of you to do incredible and amazing things, and I am honored to lead you on this journey.

We celebrated the baptism of Lily Rutter and the marriage of Derek Rutter and Alicia Lee; wonderful ways in which God's community is at work in our midst. We had the opportunity to welcome visitors throughout the year to worship with us. We mourned the deaths and celebrated the eternal lives of Virgil Coldren, Robert Jones, Jean Kautter, Jack Reinauer, and Ray Miller.

We continued to have visioning sessions this year, dreaming and guiding us into discerning where God is calling Saint Peter's. These sessions gave us the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of what we as a church community are all about and how we can make an impact in our community.

We continued to worship and grow in faith through fellowship, outreach and spiritual growth. Our average attendance in worship was 41, with our largest service being Lydia's Order of the Eastern Star event, with 105 at worship that day, closely followed by Christmas Eve with almost 100 in attendance.

As we move forward into February, I invite you to be open to the ways that God will bring to light the ways in which we can be a catalyst for God's grace and love in the world. I pray we may be known not only for what we believe, but for how we live—doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with our God. I also pray we hear the call to find ways to gain support for our church so that we can continue to do the wonderful ministry we do and continue to work for God's kin-dom.

Let us move forward in confidence trusting the words of Jeremiah 29:11, "I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope." God will lead us and guide us to the future where we will prosper.

—*Pastor Kim*

### *Congregational Meeting—Rescheduled*

Saint Peter's annual Congregational Meeting will now take place on the "Snow Date" of Sunday, February 1, 2026. All members are invited to attend either in person or via a virtual attendance option that will be shared by email just prior to the meeting.

We encourage everyone to attend and learn where Saint Peter's is through updates on various aspects of our church life. In light of all of the detailed information that will be provided in the annual meeting report (copies available to members at the meeting and in the Welcome Center for a period of time following the meeting), this February issue of *The Beacon* will be abbreviated.

### *Communion—Rescheduled*

Communion was scheduled to be served on Sunday, February 1, however in an effort to maximize time allotted to the congregational meeting, we will now have communion on Sunday, February 8.

### *Super Bowl Hoagie Order—Due Date Extended*

The due date for hoagie orders has been extended until Thursday, January 29. Due to the inclement weather many of you have missed out on the opportunity to place your orders so we're collecting orders via email or a phone call to the church.

Choices are Small or Large: Ham & Cheese, Turkey & Cheese, Italian  
Small Sandwiches - \$8, Large Sandwiches - \$10

If anyone wishes to collect orders or has a larger order to place, please feel free to print the copy of the order form included on the last page of *The Beacon* and send back a scanned copy or drop it off to the office by the morning of January 29.

Your hoagie order will be available to be picked up here at the church on Super Bowl Sunday, February 8, between 11AM and noon.

### *Super Bowl “Soup-er Bowl”*

In conjunction with the always exciting Super Bowl Sunday, we’ll be holding our own “Soup-er Bowl” contest so you can vote on who you think will be the champs. We will have signs made for both Super Bowl contenders—the Seahawks and the Patriots—and you will vote by bringing in cans of soup and placing them in front of your pick’s signs. Whoever stacks up the most soup is who we predict will win the Super Bowl!

All the soup will then be donated to Wilson Food Pantry. Please join us for worship on Sundays February 1 and February 8 to share in this fun activity for a good cause.

### *Ash Wednesday Evening Service*

On Wednesday evening, February 18, 6 PM, we will have our Ash Wednesday special worship service and for something new this year, Pastor Kim will be offering “Ashes on the go” out front of the church, both in the morning and around lunch time to make it easier for those commuting to work receive ashes. On the go times will be from 6:45-9 AM and then again from 11:30-1 PM.



### *Book Club Meeting!*

The next meeting of the Saint Peter’s book club is Wednesday, March 11, 6:30 PM at the home of John and Cheryl Yocum. The book selection is *The Measure* by Nikki Erlich.

You are invited to join us in the discussion about this book. Please sign up in the Welcome Center.

## *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.

## *Saint Peter's Shirts*

St. Peter's shirts still for sale! If you missed out on ordering the newly designed St. Peter's shirts or want to order more, another order will be placed later in February. Place your order in the Welcome Center.

## *"Lost & Found"*

Over the last several months we have collected a number of cups and water bottles! If you recognize one in the photo as your own, we are safeguarding it in the office to return it to you, please stop by to claim it!



## *Worship Sign Up*

As of the start of 2026 we began offering a new way of signing up to participate in worship. Sign-up sheets will still be present in the Welcome Center however we now also have an online version.

We hope this encourages more of you to participate in worship – by making it more convenient for you to sign up and also keep track of when you are signed up. We sent you an email in early January with instructions for how to access the online signup and we will periodically send email reminders.

*Dates At a Glance*

January 29	Hoagie orders due
February 1	Spiritual Council meets, 8:45 AM Congregational Meeting at the end of worship
February 8	Communion Scout Sunday during worship
February 15	Consistory meets, 8:45 AM
February 18	Ash Wednesday evening worship service, 6 PM “Ashes on the go” times will be from 6:45-9 AM & 11:30-1 PM
February 22	Breakfast with a Purpose
March 11	Book club meeting, 6:30 PM @ the Yocum residence
July 12	Special Worship, Pastor Emeritus Celebration for Kris Hayden