

The Evangel

St. Peter's First
Community Church

April 2025

The purpose of St. Peter's First Community Church is to
GLORIFY God, **BUILD** up the body of Christ, and **REACH** out
to those in our community and world to help them become
followers of Christ.

A Reflection from Megan Condry

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches." Matthew 13:31-32

It's April and we are closer to the end of our Lenten journey than the beginning. We are looking ahead to Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Resurrection Sunday. The most important week of our lives is nearing and while we find ourselves in spring, at times it still feels like winter. Both in the cold snaps outside but also in the moments in our lives that feel dark, sad, and blustery. It's such a beautiful juxtaposition, how winter and spring both hold together. How we can feel deeply in both seasons, sometimes so close to one another. I'm sure we could all name things in our lives right now that feel like spring, like something new is emerging or places where we are filled with hope. I imagine we could also acknowledge places in our lives that feel like winter, like things are dark and dreary or where loss and brokenness are strong.

Ann Voskamp says, "Gratitude always precedes the miracle." It seems so counterintuitive to choose joy right in the middle, to choose to give thanks, to choose to trust, but again, miracles are still happening, so let's believe it.

The kingdom of God is like a seed that gets planted in the ground. It must go underneath, it must get put into the dark for it to later emerge as a tiny little sprout. The dark is necessary for the process. Over time that little sprout continues to grow and grow and grow until it becomes a tree. It becomes a home for animals and it offers shade, a refuge from the heat. God is always working and the kingdom of God is always growing. That's the hope we cling to and the hope that sustains us when the circumstances of our lives feel like that seed, hidden underground. On a Friday evening some 2,000 years ago, the darkness seemed to have won when Jesus was buried. But, that was not the end of the story. Christ arose! Hope springs up from the dark.

We'd just finished learning about the examples of God's kingdom of the seed and the yeast in the dough with the kids on Sunday morning when I heard Ellie Holcomb's new song, "Little Seed." The song is this Scripture put to music for kids (well, really for all of us.) I'll leave you with these lyrics from the song as you enter these final weeks of Lent, looking ahead to the Resurrection, and on into Eastertide, where we celebrate and look for where God is actively growing new things and His light is emerging from the dark.

"But underneath, underneath, you'll be breaking open. Even when we can't see miracles are growing. So help us plant seeds of kindness and imagine how they'll grow up, how they'll show the world the love of God. Little seed, little seed you show us the way. How breaking turns to blooming, like the night turns into day."



ST. PETER'S FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH

phone: 260.356.7728

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Facebook: StPetersFirstCommunityChurch

JOIN US for worship Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in person or
online at youtube.com/@spfcc

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About St. Peter's First

Our Mission

St. Peter's First Community Church is a covenant community committed to glorifying God by building up the body of Christ and helping others in our world and neighborhood become followers of Jesus.

Our Covenant

We covenant with one another to seek God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to obey His Word, and to witness the good news of Jesus Christ to the world around us. This we do through the power of the Holy Spirit who has been given to us by the Father to glorify the Son, looking forward toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

Birthdays

04/02, Sally Morrison
04/03, Jenny Haneline
Satin Lemon
04/05, Malaki Frederick
04/06, Sharon Metzger
04/11, Eva Webb
04/12, Robin Baker
04/15, Cody Clark
04/17, Ryan Lemon
04/18, Hannah Shoue
04/20, Wyatt Bonner
04/21, Jeff Baumgardner
Carson Groff
04/22, Jim Hildebrand
Cindy Yeiter
04/26, Libby Davison
04/27, Maddox Baker
04/28, Sherry Baker

Anniversaries

04/03, Jim and Jane Frierhood
04/15, Terry and Dorothy Rodgers



Journey with St. Pete's!

April - 1st: SeniorPak
5:30 p.m. Circle of Faith at Café of Hope
7th: 6:00 p.m. Choir Practice
8th: 5:30 p.m. Council
9th: 12:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch
11th: 6:00 p.m. Kids' Spring Movie Night
13th: Palm Sunday
Easter Egg Hunt
14th: 6:00 p.m. Choir Practice
15th: SeniorPak
18th: Good Friday
20th: Easter Sunday
21st: 6:00 p.m. Men's Meet-up
26th: Mom's Group at Café of Hope
28th: 5:30 p.m. Meal Ministry
6:00 p.m. Community Sing-in
29th: SeniorPak

Easter People

This month we continue our Lenten journey toward the cross and we move through the final weeks leading up to Easter. The 40 days of Lent can truly be a transformative time. Especially, if you are willing to create space to surrender and experience the plans God has for you and receive the identity as one of the EASTER PEOPLE.

What does it mean to you to be an Easter Person? How have you met Jesus along the way? How has Jesus transformed your life this year? We are a people who do not put our faith in temporary things. We place our faith in God and we know that although "...weeping may endure for a night, joy cometh in the morning." We have a hope that is everlasting. May we find ways each day to share this hope with others along the way.

