



COMBINED CHOIRS CANTATA

On December 11, our St. Peter UCC choir will join the First United Methodist choir at their 9:15am service to present the cantata, THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT. Afterwards, both choirs will return to St. Peter to give the cantata at St. Peter's 10:45am service. The cantata is a compilation of Christmas carols with reading of scripture.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

Everyone involved would appreciate your presence for the program to be presented during the regular worship service that starts at 10:45 a.m.



CHRISTKINDLMARKT COMING DEC. 17

Reporter: Verna Steinkamp

Christmas will soon be here, and St. Peter UCC is having Christkindlmarkt as a fund raiser on

Saturday, December 17. To make this a success it will require the efforts of everyone. We may or may not have a Wurstmart this year so are asking your cooperation in this endeavor.

Vendors have been contacted, but any crafts you may wish to bring for sale would be greatly appreciated. We certainly need baked goods to sell and ask that you be receptive to baking cookies, candy, Christmas breads, strudel, gingerbread or any other Christmas baked item. You are asked to wrap your breads in clear wrap, and it would nice and make it more attractive for sale with perhaps a pretty ribbon tied around it. Tags will be on the table in the church hallway in December for you to use to list the type of baked goods you bring. Please list the name and contents (flour, sugar, etc. not necessary) such as nuts especially, type of fruit if used, etc. Cookies and candy will be put in bags. Please label what kind of cookies and candy you bring. Please bring your items to the church **FRIDAY, December 16** either to the church office between 9:00 a.m. to noon or in the evening after 4:00 p.m. so items can be bagged, arranged, etc.

Another thing we are asking is that you advertise this event to your friends, relatives, neighbors, etc. Flyers will be on the table for you to take and distribute (and one is included at the end of this newsletter if you desire to scan and print yourself). We also ask that you come and join in the festivities as there will be hot drinks, tasting, and music to put you in the Christmas spirit as well as complete your holiday shopping.

If you wish to make a donation of money to cover cost of cups, bags, coffee, etc. please see **Verna Steinkamp**.

INDEX	
Prayer, Stewardship Corners, Thank You	2
Pastor's Column	3
Order Poinsettias	4
Vegetable of month supersized!!!	5

PRAYER CORNER*

Jen Ashauer	Elmer Beckmeyer
Rev. Rich Brzowsky	Edna Caraker
Vivian Cohlmeier	Todd Freels
Rev. Lisa Hart	Paul Kluthe
Arlene Luer	Charles Luer
Gracie Niermann	Carter Rankin
Steve Smith	Don Storck
Betty Telford	Gerald Wehrheim
Bess Wesling	Curtis White

**In accordance with HIPPA (It's real name is Heath Insurance Portability Privacy Act.) requirements, the persons on the St. Peter prayer list have requested, or given permission, for their names to be included and published in the prayer list. Names will appear for 30 days unless the individuals or their immediate family request that they be maintained on the prayer list for another thirty days.*

Our Servicemen

Matthew Bratthauar	David Harper
Chris Lyday	Corey Schlau
Nathan Storck	Cole Vehrs
Jared Vehrs	Anna Walls

In Care Centers

Roberta Kleine	Marjorie Nehrt
Henrietta Schmitz	

Please Remember

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of **Marjorie Dinkelman** who died November 11. She has lived in Florida for quite a number of years so our younger members may not remember her personally.

PLEASE HELP US UPDATE

If you know of someone who needs to be added or taken off, please contact the church secretary, **Judy Reichenbacher**, at the office 532-7124, and if no one is available, please leave a message.

**Remember your Church in your will.
A Gift that will last for generations**

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Giving Totals for Oct. 23 - Nov. 20, 2011

General Offering.	\$ 6,294.00
Special Offering.....	400.00
OCWM.....	10.00
CCBA - Mission 1.....	148.00
Improvement Fund.....	30.00
5th Sunday-DuBois Oak Lodge Project.	170,.00
TOTAL.....	\$ 7,052.00

**GENERAL OFFERING YEAR TO DATE
(01/01/11 THROUGH 11/20/11)**

Amount received. \$ 61,660.10

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Oct. 23	43
Oct. 30	28
Nov. 6	58
Nov. 13	42
Nov. 20	36

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

Dear Friends in Christ

This is sent to express our sincere gratitude for your continuing Thoughts & Prayers during my illness & treatment and especially for your very kind and generous "Love Gift".

We are deeply touched by your Love & Support and Pray that you will be Blessed even as you have Blessed us!

Pastor Rich & Carol

In the middle of October (written Oct. 12) we received a letter from **Doni Driemeier-Showers**,

MSW, vice Present of Hoyleton Children's Home Foundation thanking us for our gift of school supplies. The full letter was put on our bulletin board.

Also put on our bulletin board; a letter dated October 21 from **Susan M. Sanders** One Great Hour of Sharing Administrator thanking us for the gift they got from us in the amount of \$422.40.

Our thanks to those that worked at the Recycling Center on October 22: **Judy Reichenbacher, Judy Fehrmann, Jane Edmonson, Cathy Chontofalsky, Edie, Madie & Russell Ruez, Dale Reichert and Nancy Borgmann.**

Special THANKS to the following St. Peter members and guests who have faithfully assisted me with leading devotional services at Friendship House on each Sunday afternoon in November thus far:

Edmonson, Jane Nov. 6th and Nov. 20th
Fehrmann, Judy Nov. 13th and Nov. 20th
Hart, Lisa Rev. Nov. 6th and Nov. 20th
(pianist on this date)
Hart, Walt Nov. 20th
Niekrenz, Helen Nov. 6th, Nov. 13th and
Nov. 20th
Storck, Jeanette Nov. 6th and Nov. 13th
(pianist on these dates)

Rev. Hart also has led us in prayer when present. The residents in attendance at the November 27th service will each receive a small silk potted poinsettia plant as a reminder that St. Peter UCC Church-Centralia members are thinking of them during Advent. (These gifts are financed anonymously on behalf of our church).

Norma Borgmann



Dear Friends,
Now we are beginning the busy Advent season and are getting ready for Christmas. There is a lot

to do, but we are also hopefully spending time preparing our hearts for Jesus to enter. I usually get several e-mails this time of year protesting the commercialism of Christmas, and especially criticizing stores who dare to post "Xmas" instead of Christmas. It always brings to my mind the following letter I received from a friend a couple of years ago. Hope you enjoy it.

Dearly Beloved:

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking my name out of the season. I don't care what you call the day. If you want to celebrate my birth, just get along with and love one another. If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting my birth, then just get rid of a couple of snowmen and put in a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all my followers did that there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town. Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree, instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees. You can remember me anytime you see any tree. Decorate a grapevine if you wish: I actually spoke of that one in a teaching, explaining who I am in relation to you and what each of our tasks are. If you have forgotten that one, look up John 15: 1 - 8.

If you want to give me a present in remembrance of my birth here is my wish list. Choose something from it:

1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way my birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know, they tell me all the time.
2. Visit someone in a nursing home. You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.
3. Instead of writing the President complaining about the wording on the cards his staff sent out this year, why don't you write and tell him that you'll be praying for him and his family this year. Then follow up. It will be nice hearing from you again.
4. Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of my birth, and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.

5. Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.

6. Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and hopeless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile; it could make the difference.

7. Instead of nit picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren't allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas" that doesn't keep you from wishing them one.

8. If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary — especially one who takes my love and Good News to those who have never heard my name.

9. There are individuals and whole families in your town who will have no "Christmas" tree, and no presents to give or receive. If you don't know them, buy some food and a few gifts and give them to the Salvation Army or some other charity which believes in me and they will make the delivery for you.

10. Finally, if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to me, then behave like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in my presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine.

Don't forget; I am God and can take care of myself. Just love me and do what I have told you to do. I'll take care of all the rest. Check out the list above and get to work; time is short. I'll help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have a most blessed Christmas with all those whom you love and remember :

I LOVE YOU,
JESUS

Walt and I wish you a holy and blessed Christmas.

Pastor Lisa

PLEASE NOTE

Reporter: Judy Reichenbacher, Church Secretary

2012 offering envelopes will be ready for pick up from the table in the Narthex throughout December .

The Mission Team has selected the Salvation Army as the recipient of our Advent offering this year. Donations can be placed in an envelope marked "Advent". Checks should be made payable to "St. Peter UCC" so one check can be sent for the total donations.

The United Church of Christ Christmas Fund Offering will be collected during December. The offering for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund helps provide Pension and Health Premium Supplementation to low-income retired church workers, Emergency Grants to clergy families in need and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks to hundreds of annuitants; administered by the Pension Boards.



Poinsettias to adorn the church sanctuary will be ordered from The Feed Bin. The cost is \$11 and the deadline to sign the sheet on the bulletin board is Sunday, December 11. As usual, if you want to be included in the bulletin but purchase yours somewhere else please note that on the sign-up sheet.

REGION 6 QUARTERLY MEETING HELD AT DOLLVILLE

Reporter: Verna Steinkamp

The quarterly Region 6 meeting was held at St. Paul UCC in Dollville. Despite the rain and distance involved for some 14 were in attendance. Representing St. Peter UCC were Verna Steinkamp, Norma Borgmann, Jane Brink, and Rev. Lisa Hart. Much appreciated refreshments of sandwiches, etc. were waiting for us. Verna Steinkamp, Convener opened the meeting, and the local pastor gave the opening prayer. While doing self introductions we discussed how our Thanksgiving turkey was served and only two stated it was brought to the table and carved as is often shown in magazines. Frank and Carol Allbright of Pana gave a power point presentation on their efforts in building a school in

Haiti. They feel it was a miracle of how they became involved. They knew someone who knew someone in Haiti and decided to do something about the problems compacted by the earthquake. They also felt it a miracle of how money was raised to build a school. Various announcements concerning the region and conference were addressed, and a closing prayer was read from the Illinois South Conference Book of Prayer. The next meeting will be in Carlyle the latter part of February.

VEGETABLE A MONTH SUPERSIZED!!!

Reporter: Nancy Borgmann for Mission Team



because it is so expensive we can buy more protein based foods for the families. They have to make decisions like that they don't have enough money to buy what the families want they have to buy what they need for a balanced meal. They also informed me that they didn't get their usual shipment of potatoes so they were running low, so we purchased 20 large boxes of potatoes for the larger families. It's hard to imagine not having enough to feed your children, so hopefully the food items we gave will help make it a easier to make it through the rough times. One person's kindness can feed not only the body but the souls of those around you.

God Bless You.

St. Peter has always been generous in giving food items to the CCBA every month and for the last three years we did an outstanding job in the number of can goods given. This year the UCC National Office in Cleveland, Ohio started a pledge of collecting 1 million food items from the UCC Churches across the United States, their time period was from 11/1/11-11/11/11. On 11/10/11 they broke the million mark with 1,057,411 and at the time the tally was taken on Sunday morning 11/13/11 the total was 1,204,532. St. Peter had a big part in reaching that goal we collected 732 food items for the food pantry. I would find it hard to believe that another church our size membership in Illinois South could match our contributions, not just in the totals but in the generosity spirit. When the request for donations went out no one turned me down with either canned goods or money.

When I asked the food pantry what they wanted they indicated they were getting a large shipment of peanut butter and would like jelly, I was surprised at the request but then she said if you buy the jelly

ST. PETER UCC



CHRISTKINDLMARKT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2011

10am to 2pm

318 W. Third
Centralia, Il.

COME VISIT OUR CHRISTMAS MARKET

For Your

BAKED GOODS – cookies, cakes, candies,
breads, strudel, gingerbread
(diabetic items available)

CRAFTS FOR SALE

Cookie Tasting & Hot Drinks

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOVEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<h1>December 2011</h1>			JANUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		
				1	2	3
4 Communion	5 Worship Team 4 pm	6 B. of L. 9 am - 2 pm Girl Scouts 5:30-7:30 Choir 6:30 p.m.	7 Bible Study @ Redeemer Lunch 12:30 Study 1-2	8 Christian Ed. Team 6 pm	9 Christmas Party Fellowship	10 DuBois Center Dinner 6:00 p.m.
11 Deadline: Poinsettias Cantata 10:45a.m.	12 Blue Christmas Service 6:30pm	13 B G & C 9:30-11 am Stewardship T. 4 pm Choir 6:30 p.m.	14 B.S. Redeemer 12:30 Comm. & Tech. T. 5:30 pm ERM - @ Verna Steinkamp's 7p.m.	15	16	17 Christkindlemarkt 10 am - 2 pm
18 Good News Deadline Christmas Program 10:45 Admin. T. 1pm	19	20 Choir 6:30 p.m.	21 Bible Study @ Redeemer Lunch 12:30 Study 1-2	22	23 Office Closed	24 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service Reception following
25 Christmas Day	26 Office Closed	27 Choir 6:30 p.m.	28 Bible Study @ Redeemer Lunch 12:30 Study 1-2	29	30	31

Unless otherwise noted: Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:45 a.m.,

BIRTHDAYS

3 Edna Caraker	17 Pat Kuhn
4 Judy Reichenbacher	17 Roy Nierman
4 Nathan Storck	19 Judy Luer
7 Bernice Wolenhaupt	21 Betty Rose Johnson
8 Cindy Schubert	21 Jennifer Smith
10 Mark Hill	23 Henrietta Schmitz
12 Scott Freels	23 Christopher Lamczyk
13 Joseph Musial	24 Eula Brammeyer
16 Katelyn Smith	27 Jim Klingenberg

ANNIVERSARIES

13 Clete & Laura Feig



ST. PETER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
318 WEST THIRD STREET
CENTRALIA IL 62801
(618) 532-7124

... where God is still speaking,
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

December 10



Christmas Party

5:00 pm Social Hour

6:00 pm Buffet Meal

December 11
THE CHRISTMAS
LIGHT

A Cantata presented by
the combined choirs of
1st Methodist Church &
St. Peter UCC

December 17

Christkindlmarkt

10 am - 2pm

St. Peter Fellowship
Hall

December 18

Christmas Program
At regular worship time
of 10:45 am

December 24

Traditional Christmas Eve
Service
Everyone invited to stay
for reception to follow

Sunday Schedule: Church School 9:30 am; Worship 10:45 am
Email: stpeterucc@charter.net
Rev. Lisa Hart, Interim Pastor
Jane Brink, Newsletter Editor