

February 6, 2025



***~ Join Us this Sunday, February 9, 2025 ~***

***with Senior Pastor Erik Hall***

***Sermon Title - Treasure***

***It is better to give than receive. It's good for the mission of the church, it's good for the needs of the world, and it's good for our spiritual health and well-being. When we have a thankful and generous spirit, we joyfully give to others, and we are reminded of all that has been given to us by God and others.***

***Scripture Reading: Mark 12:41-44***

**8:00am - Worship and Communion Service - Sanctuary**

**9:00am - Contemporary - Stainton Room**

**10 - 10:45 - Sunday School**

**11am - Traditional Worship - Sanctuary**

You can learn more about our worship, ministries, and other events on our website, [www.makingwaves.church](http://www.makingwaves.church). You can also stop in or contact the church office at 609-399-2988 if you want to know more, if you need help, or if you are able to donate your time and energy. St. Peter's is located at 501 E. 8th Street in Ocean City. We invite you to stay connected, grow your faith, and join us in "Making Waves" of difference by sharing Jesus with Ocean City and the world.



Please remember those who need your prayers this week.  
Pray for all of our church family who are sick, isolated, disconnected and afraid  
Pray for members of our church family servicing in our military.  
Pray for our leaders and our healthcare workers  
Pray for those struggling with addiction and mental health  
Pray for all who grieve this day.  
Pray for all students and teachers.

Andrea, Marilyn Aishton, The Abbott Family, Abby, Amelia, Brandon, Charlie, Neddy, Nicole, Megan Atkinson, Lee Allen, Carol Angelo, June Appleton, Jessica B., Matt Bechta, Bill Bender, Alice Brown, Bill Z, Ed C., Donna Chapman, Josie Chivalette, Linda Coyle & Family, Bob Cantz, Tina Curione, Evelyn DeFazio, Carol DeMill, Shirley Deming, Shirley Doerrmann & Family, Rosemarie Duncan, Daniel Durkin, Eilenberg Family, Kim Ford, Denise Gaskill, Phyllis Giles, Emma May Goddard, Frank J. Grass, Kim Gremo, Julie Mason Groob, Nick Hand, Clara Hanjian and Family, Chris Harris, Shirley Haskell, Bob Hill, Lukasz Hrabski, Sharon Hotchkiss, Annie Houdart, Kevin Hrtyanski, Sandy Hrtyanski, Sue & Ozzie Jordan, John, Judy, Norma Juzwiak, Ed Kenny, Karen Kenny, Lois King, Constantine Kokkinos, The Laird Family, Normalee Linforth, Mike Kubaska, Wayne Maguire, David (Mac) Mascione & Family, Bobbie Mario, Chris Marple, Don Marple, Kenny Marple, Wanda Marple, Andy Martin Paul M., Bill McCord, Helen McNamara, Olga Messina, Helen Miller, Al Nicolosi, Bernice Nolte, Tracey O'Brien, Peggy & Steve Oden, Charlene Oldfield, Marianne Oliver, Della Ostien, Eleanor Parker, George Pierpoint III, David Powell & family, Haley Raineer, Sandra Rigg, Joan Robertson, Zacci Robertson, Barbara & Joe Rodrigues, Gary Rushmer, Rev. Edward Rusk, Gloria S., Margaret Schock, Jillian Schoenstein, Carol Schoff, Joe Skultin, Barbara Smith, Robin Smith, Jacob Snow, Manfred Stahl, Spear Family, Swen Swenson, Ken Thorpe, Bob Vallerschamp and Family, Pauline Wallace, Dawn Wassinger, Patrick Withers, Bill Woods; **all people with cancer diagnose; and all unspoken requests.**

Please note: Names will only be listed if permission is obtained. Please confirm friends and family are comfortable having their name sent on the electronic mailing list. If you would like your name to be added (or removed), please email or call the church office



**2025 ASBURY SCHOLARSHIP SEASON IS FAST APPROACHING!!!**

This Year the Asbury Scholarship Application process will

**OPEN on MARCH 9th and**

**CLOSE on MAY 11th**

\* This is **EARLIER** than previous years. Please don't miss this opportunity. Look for applications to be available by **March 9th!**



## Revival: Faith as John Wesley Lived it

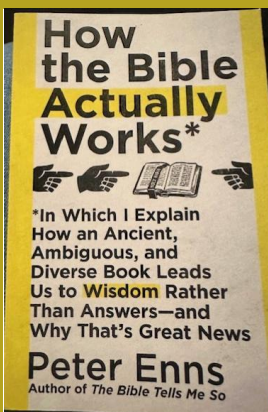
Beginning 1/20: Mondays 10:00-11:00am in-person

Tuesdays 7:00-8:00pm in-person or ZOOM

Experience grace and faith as we discover and explore our Methodist heritage. Join us for this six-week book and video-driven study and discussion series with Adam Hamilton as he travels to England, following the life of John Wesley and exploring his defining characteristics of a Wesleyan Christian.

**This is also a great introduction to those who are interested in traveling with St. Peter's UMC to England for a Wesley Heritage Tour and Pilgrimage in October of 2025!**

Call or email the church office for the book or to sign up for zoom. Contact Pastor Erik ([erik@stpoc.org](mailto:erik@stpoc.org)) for details regarding the trip in October.



## Adult Sunday School resumes

How you ever wondered how the Bible actually work? Author and Biblical Scholar, Peter Enns, has just the book for you!

*How the Bible Actually Works\* (\*In Which I Explain How an Ancient, Ambiguous, and Diverse Book Leads Us to Wisdom Rather Than Answers—and Why That's Good News).* What a mouthful for a book title! But it describes exactly what this study will help us to discover. Come and join us in the Mary Marr Room for a lively, faith-deepening discussion.

Books are available in the church office or speak to/call/email Pastor Kathleen to get a copy.



**The Altar Flowers are in Celebration of**

**Homer Gerken's 100th Birthday!!!!**

**Given by the St. Peter's Congregation!**

In Loving Memory of  
Dr. Bob Mohr  
on his birthday!

Given by his wife Mary  
and his family.

We love you and miss you!!!



***Celebrate with Family and Friends the  
100th Birthday of Homer Gerken***

***on Saturday, February 8th at 3:00pm***

***At The Shores of Wesley Manor!***

***2201 Bay Avenue***

***Feel Free to Send Cards or Stop By!***

***What a Wonderful Way to Celebrate Homer!!***



### **For Black History Month: The Wesley's Confront Slavery**

Black History Month gives us the encouragement to reflect on often neglected parts of the historical narrative. There is much in the Methodist story involving African-Americans that should not be neglected. Both John and Charles Wesley, the brothers so formative in the development of Methodism in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, condemned the practice of slavery.

John Wesley's *Thoughts Upon Slavery*, published in 1774, provided a wide-ranging attack on the institution of slavery filled with much detail about the plight of the enslaved. Wesley's final letter was to William Wilberforce on February 24, 1791, encouraging the abolition of slavery. Wilberforce was a British politician and philanthropist who underwent an evangelical conversion in the 1780's that shaped his life ever after. He gave leadership to the political effort to end British participation in the slave trade but it was not until 1807 that Wilberforce was able to obtain that result. Wesley wrote to Wilberforce the following.

Unless the divine power has raised you up..., I see not how you can go through your glorious enterprise in opposing the execrable villainy, which is the scandal of religion, of England, and of human nature. Unless God has raised you up for this very thing, you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils...Go on, in the name of God and in the power of his might, till even American slavery (the vilest that ever saw the sun) shall vanish away before it...In reading this morning at tract wrote by a poor African, I was particularly struck by that circumstance that a man who has a black skin, being wronged or outraged by a white man, can have no redress – it being a law in all our colonies that 'the oath of a black against a white goes for nothing'. What villainy is this!

This letter is housed in the special collections at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, and I have had the privilege and thrill of holding the original, in Wesley's handwriting, in my hand. While slavery is not our issue today as it was in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, Wesley's commitment to those most vulnerable and suffering is a part of Methodist heritage and calls us to such commitment today. This letter can remind us that John strenuously opposed slavery 73 years before the Emancipation Proclamation. Next week I will share Charles Wesley's journal entry of August 2, 1736 when he was in Charleston, South Carolina.

Robert Williams

St. Peter's Church Historian





## **MUSIC AT 11....**

This week is the "Sunday of familiar hymns" !!

Wesley's idea for the text of Sunday's opening hymn was taken from a popular song by the poet John Dryden, "Fairest isle, all isles excelling." Its theme is the great thread of divine love which runs through all of Wesley's hymns. After a prayer addressed to Christ to dwell within our lives, the hymn turns to the theme of sanctification - God's great salvation is all we need to live our lives and be cleansed from sin and guilt. We are going to "perfection" being "changed from glory into glory."

Frances Havergal (1836-1879) during a visit with friends prayed that God would use her witness to win all of the people she was with and bring them to Christ. She wrote that; "Before I left the house everyone had got a blessing." On the last night of her visit she thought of the following couplets dealing with consecration and they were: mind, body, words, deeds, intellect, will, money, possession and the whole self. And, finally the following which she said sums up all of her thoughts. "Ever, only All for Thee."

The text for this morning's last hymn comes from a Latin Antiphon of the Carolingian Era (the 9th century). This is a hymn about the love which Christ showed for us and the love which we are expected to show each other. Omer Westendorf translated the text and it was first published in the Peoples Mass Book, 1961. Westendorf was from Cincinnati, Ohio and composed over 35 hymns and compiled four Catholic Hymnals culminating in the People's Mass Book.



**We are helping Wesley by the Bay spread love to our local veterans by collecting the following items:**

- **Wrapped Valentine heart candy boxes or sealed bag candy**
- **Individual sealed packs of crackers, cookies, Tastykakes, trail mix, Little Debbie cakes, potato chips, pretzels, cheese curls**
- **Any items that are red: socks, gloves, T-shirts (any size), hats, sweatshirts**
- **A gift card from any area restaurant such as Wawa, Walmart, Dunkin Donuts, etc.**
- **There is also an Amazon wish list: <https://a.co/7dW8NTt>**

**These items must be dropped off to us by February 09, 2025!!**



ST. PETER'S UMC

# MARDI GRAS

*Dance Party*

MARCH 4, 2025  
6:00-8:00

KICKING OFF THE  
LENTEN SEASON  
MARDIS GRAS STYLE

**DJ - DANCING - GAMES - SNACKS**  
**SILENT AUCTION FOR DR MISSION TRIP**

FREE TO ALL BUT RSVP REQUIRED BY 2/23  
CONTACT [CHURCHOFFICE@STPOC.ORG](mailto:CHURCHOFFICE@STPOC.ORG)  
OR [AMY@STPOC.ORG](mailto:AMY@STPOC.ORG) / 908-278-7076

**St. Peter's UMC's  
Youth and Church Mission Trip  
Red Bird Mission, Kentucky  
July 6 -13, 2025**

**TOUCHING THE LIVES  
OF PEOPLE IN THE  
APPALACIAN REGION.**



**All Are Welcome to Attend!**

The Mission trip is open to 6th Graders-12th Graders and Adults.  
There are many opportunities for everyone to serve.

**Information Session:  
Sunday, November 17: 10:00**  
Contact Amy for more info: [amy@stpoc.org](mailto:amy@stpoc.org)  
908-278-7076



ELL Classes are held Tuesday nights  
from 6:30 to 8pm Room 101

Help us to continue to give the Gift of  
Learning!

Your time or donations are welcomed!

## UMCOR

You can help those who are suffering  
from the wild fires in Southern California!

UMCOR is already there on the scene and bringing their  
expertise.

You can make a donation to UMCOR for their work through St  
Peter's. If you send in a check please make the check out to St.  
Peters UMC and put UMCOR-wildfires in the memo line.



## ***Super Soup Sale***

***Sunday February 9th -***

***assorted varieties***

***\$15.00 quart 2 quarts \$25.00***

***Benefits Dominican Republic Mission Trip 2025  
– sheltering another family***

***Chicken Noodle ~ Chicken & Rice ~ Italian Sausage***

***Minestrone ~ Phil's Famous Beef Barley ~ Split Pea***

***Bean & Ham ~ Cream of Potato ~ Cream of Broccoli***





St. Peter's  
Hospitality Committee

Volunteers are need to prepare meals, deliver meals, or be a Calling Captain.

For more information contact:  
Kathy Thompson - 609-399-4126



**SERVING ON SUNDAY**  
**The Missions Sunday Team**

We meet in the Fox Room each Sunday at 10:00 am.

We do many different missions tasks like:

Assembling hygiene kits for UMCOR

Make lunches for the homeless in Rio Grande

Clean the church kitchen

Wipe down pews & railings during cold & flu season

Assemble holiday bags for our shut-ins

+ many other tasks in the church & community!

Join us in being the hands and feet of Jesus!!

**METHODIST MEN'S MINISTRY**

The Methodist Men's Group meets the First Saturday of each month 9am in the Fox Room



St. Peter's UMC

**WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP**

~ App and Chat ~

THIS MONTH'S PICK . . .

**The Women - By: Kirstin Hannah**

February 24, 2025 - 7PM TO 8PM

We'll enjoy an **APP**etizer as we chat about great books!

Email Amy with any questions: [amy@stpoc.org](mailto:amy@stpoc.org)

## **Grace Circle**

**Come join us on Thursday, February 13th at 12:30 in the  
Stainton Room for our Special Guest Speaker,**

**Debbie Biskey from Options For Her  
(Formerly Hope Pregnancy)**

**Grace Circle meets the Second Thursday of each month!**



## **EVE CIRCLE**

**Next meeting is February 27, 2025  
at 1:00 at The Shores at  
Wesley Manor**



## **Mary Circle**

**Mary Circle meets the 3rd Wednesday of  
each month.**

**Next Meeting: February 19, 2025  
7pm at St. Peter's All are welcome!**



## **Grief Support Group Meeting**

**Our group meets every other Tuesday from 6:30pm to 8pm. The group is  
open to all adults who are grieving the death of a loved one.**

**For more information call Jane Taylor 609-412-1855 or  
email: [Janeht927@yahoo.com](mailto:Janeht927@yahoo.com)**

**Next meeting: Tuesday, February 18, 2025  
Where: St. Peter's UM Church**

**Please spread the word that we are holding space for everyone and their grief.**

**I always say: "I'm sorry you are here, but I'm glad we are here for you."**



## Called to Care

One of the important ministries of St. Peter's UMC throughout the years has been the visitation ministry. This vital outreach to our members and friends by making "check in" calls and visits has served to express our care and support.

If you would like to be a part of this group of visitors please call the church office (609-399-2988) or contact Pastor Kathleen (609-432-2726) or email her at [kathleen@stpoc.org](mailto:kathleen@stpoc.org) to express your interest.

## *Veterans Coffee Club (aka)*

### *"A Cup of Joe"*



**Saturday, February 15, 2025, at 9am**  
**Enjoy coffee, pastries, and fellowship with other veterans who meet on the first and third Saturday of each month!**

## JUST US TOGETHER

**Meets the Third Wednesday Each Month  
6:30-7:30 in the Mary Marr Room**

## AA Meetings Held at St. Peter's UMC

**Monday through Saturday from 7:30am to 8:30am in Room 121**

## EQUAL EXCHANGE - Fairly Traded Organic Chocolate and Coffee for Sale!

Visit the Mission's Team chocolate and coffee cart to purchase a variety of delicious flavors and blends! All grown by Small Farmer Co-ops! All proceeds benefit St. Peter's Missions!

**Coffee \$12 or (2) for \$20 - Chocolate Bars \$6 or (2) for \$10**

Checks payable to: St. Peter's UMC

Mission's General in memo Line or exact cash.

Thank you so much for your support!



By saving the tabs on aluminum cans, you can help our environment and help families in need. The Ronald McDonald House helps families with seriously ill children who are receiving medical treatment far from home by providing food, housing, and so much more. The Ronald McDonald House raises charitable revenue by recycling aluminum can tabs. Can tabs have significant value in the recycling industry, representing the purest form of aluminum. The aluminum that is donated to the Ronald McDonald House is taken to a local recycling station where it is weighed and cashed in by the pound. The money netted is used to assist the Ronald McDonald House with operational expenses such as household supplies.

Please prayerfully consider saving aluminum can tabs and dropping them off at church. Collection tubs will be available in the Stainton Room and other locations around the church. The Southard Family, who were recently guests at the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House while their son Richard was receiving medical treatment, will collect the can tabs on an ongoing basis.

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### **TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

You can send in checks to 501 E. 8th Street, Ocean City, NJ 08226  
or donate online via the church website: [makingwaves.church](http://makingwaves.church)

### **NEEDS?**

Please contact the church office at 609-399-2988 if you need food or assistance.  
St. Peter's invites you to stay connected, grow your faith and "Make Waves"  
of difference in this hurting world.

### **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Regular Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9am to 3pm; Friday 9am to Noon



For more information check us out @  
<http://makingwaves.church>

OR

Use the QR code.

**DIVING DEEPER IN FAITH - REACHING WIDER WITH GOD'S LOVE  
MAKING WAVES OF DIFFERENCE BY SHARING JESUS  
WITH OCEAN CITY AND THE WORLD.**

**St. Peter's United Methodist Church  
501 East 8th Street  
Ocean City, NJ 08226 - 609-399-2988**