



# The Voice

## St. Peter's Church of Coupland

### March, 2026

#### Mission Statement

Recognizing Jesus Christ as the Son of God, we invite all to share the joy of God's Word through the Holy Spirit, calling us to community, worship, service and fellowship.

#### CHURCH COUNCIL

##### President

Michele Dupy

##### Vice President

Prissy Rumel

##### Vice President

Danny Smith

##### Council Secretary

Vacant

##### Financial Secretary

Kandice Samuelson

##### Council Members

Robert Bland

Judy Downing

Kay Hart

Charles Stark

##### TREASURER

Ted Wittliff

##### PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Burt Burleson

##### LICENSED MINISTER

Charlotte Albert

##### MUSIC DIRECTOR

David Cappolino

##### CHURCH SECRETARY

Barbara Coleman

##### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Charles Stark

## Pastoral Installation

### of Rev. Dr. Burt Burleson

On Sunday February 15, St. Peter's Church was excited to have the installation of our pastor Rev. Dr. Burt Burleson. We were pleased to welcome our Interim Conference Minister the Rev. Molly Carlson who preached. We also welcomed our Conference Board President the Rev. Arlene Turner. In addition, we also welcomed the Rev. Bet McDaniel who is a member of our Heart of Texas Committee on Ministry. Finally, our own Prissy Rumel also participated as a member of the Committee on Ministry.



## Holy Week Begins March 29th!



Events for the week include:

- Palm Sunday Service **March 29th** at 10:15 am
- Potluck lunch following Palm Sunday worship
- Good Friday Service, **April 3rd** at 7:00 pm. Please let us know if you need a ride.
- Sunrise Service, **April 5th** at 7:15 am, followed by Easter Breakfast by Peter Wabbel and the Men's Brotherhood.
- Sunday School for Children and Adults.
- Worship Service begins at 10:15 am. An Easter Egg hunt will take place for the children after worship.



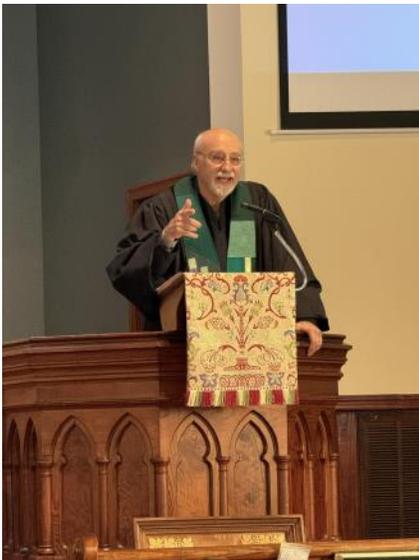
## FROM THE PASTOR

We are one week into Lent and on this Monday morning I'm wondering about us... if we're engaged in the session yet. Is there intentionality... a plan or new practice perhaps... an encouraging voice within you... a conviction towards repentance, inner change, beginning again. Lent is an open door, and I hope you'll walk through it.

But not carrying a heart full of guilt or "ought toos." You can walk through the door of Lent with curiosity and openness. You can reconnect, rethink, and repurpose something you already do. For instance, as you begin your day turn off your TV or radio and repeat a verse of scripture throughout the morning. What if you texted someone (as we do) and said, "*I prayed for you this morning.*" How about every time you turn a doorknob, give thanks to God. If you're a reader, ask a friend or your pastor (hopefully one and the same) what might be a helpful read during Lent.

Know it or not, we're all in a Lenten experience. So, let's pay attention to our hearts... listen, watch, feel, and trust... that the love in your heart will guide you.

You are loved... God's peace.  
Burt



## Volunteer Corner

This section will be dedicated to listing opportunities for you to be involved in helping the ministries and activities of the church.

Volunteers needed for the Easter Egg Hunt. Please contact Julie Burleson at [burtsgirl1282@gmail.com](mailto:burtsgirl1282@gmail.com) if you are interested.



## Sunday School Starts March 8

It has been a while since St. Peter's has had Sunday School for children, and we are so excited to begin again! Starting March 8th, children in Kindergarten through 6th grade are invited to meet upstairs from 9:00-9:50 a.m. to learn about faith, grow in God's love, and build meaningful friendships together.

If you have a child who is younger or older and are interested, please feel free to contact Julie Burleson at [burtsgirl1282@gmail.com](mailto:burtsgirl1282@gmail.com). We would love to connect with you!



## St. Peter's Council Meeting Minutes February 2, 2026

**ALL PRESENT:** Michele Dupy, Prissy Rumel, Danny Smith, Kandice Samuelson, Judy Downing, Kay Hart, Robert Bland, Charles Stark, Rev. Burt Burleson

**1. Organization of Council Officers** - Council proceeded with organization of officers for 2026.

- **President:** **MOTION** by Robert Bland to nominate Michele Dupy as President; seconded by Prissy Rumel. Michele Dupy accepted. **Motion carried.**

- **Vice Presidents:** - Danny Smith and Prissy Rumel offered to serve. **MOTION** by Kay Hart to accept Danny Smith and Prissy Rumel as Vice Presidents; seconded by Charles Stark. **Motion carried.**

- **Financial Secretary:** **MOTION** by Judy Downing to nominate Kandice Samuelson; seconded by Prissy Rumel. Kandice Samuelson accepted. Kandice will ask Anita to be trained as a backup for counting offerings and deposit procedures. **Motion carried.**

- **Secretary:** **MOTION** by Kay Hart to postpone appointment of Secretary pending evaluation of an AI transcription program; seconded by Charles Stark. **Motion carried.**

**2. Council Meeting Schedule** - Council discussed changing the regular monthly meeting time.

- **MOTION** by Charles Stark to move Council meetings to the **first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM**, beginning March 3, 2026; seconded by Robert Bland. **Motion carried.**

**3. Event Coordination - February Event Coordinator:** Kay Hart

**March** - Danny Smith, **April** - Michele Dupy, **May** - Charles Stark, **June** - Judy Downing, **July** - Kandice Samuelson, **August** - Danny Smith & Prissy Rumel, **September** - Robert Bland, **October** - Michele Dupy, **November** - Burt Burleson and **December** is also Burt Burleson.

**8. Awareness Items (No Council Action Required)**

- Pastoral Relations Committee members: Prissy Rumel, Scott Ging, Sharon Kreidel, Brett Hart, Hermania Vitek (meets at least quarterly, or as needed)

- Charles Stark confirmed January 19 to fill Ruby Wabbel's unexpired Council term (ends January 31, 2028)

- Rev. Burleson out February 27–March 6 (absent Sunday, March 1)

### 9. New Business

- **Filming Request:** Request from a UT film student to use the church mid-March. \*(dates were later changed to May 22 - 24) Usage parameters discussed. **MOTION** by Charles Stark to approve the request with a total fee of \$200; seconded by Prissy Rumel. **Motion carried.**

- **Visitor Engagement Ideas (Visitor Visitation, Aisleway Conversations, Standing Outside):** **MOTION** by Kay Hart to table discussion until March meeting; seconded by Charles Stark. **Motion carried.**

- **Associate Members Letter:** Review of Rev. Burleson's draft letter. **MOTION** by Kandice Samuelson to table discussion until bylaws review is complete; seconded by Charles Stark. **Motion carried.**

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 6:00 PM  
**Respectfully submitted, Kay Hart, Acting Council Secretary**



### WEBSITE TRANSITION

As you read this newsletter, the church website will be in a period of transition at the end of February. We are moving our website to a new hosting company and in the process we will get a significant reduction in cost and an increase in our ability to design and structure the website.

Please note that you will see the new website by the first week in March. Also, please understand that this will be a website that is still being developed and so you can expect changes as we move through the month of march.

As your new webmaster, please don't hesitate to let me know what you like and what you might like to see changed. You can email me at [clstark52@gmail.com](mailto:clstark52@gmail.com).

Charles Stark, Webmaster



### Valentines Day Tea

The Ladies' Circle hosted a Valentines Day Tea on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall. Twenty-one ladies attended the tea and some were wearing their "tea attire" including hats. Charlotte Albert led the devotion on the baggage we carry around both physically and spiritually. She provided bible passages that referenced baggage and how we can converse with God to deal with all the problems.

We had to complete a list of items we had in our purse and calculate a score for all of them. The highest score was 93 which included a sewing kit. Tickets were handed out and purses and bags were given as prizes, including two Consuelo purses.

A light lunch and desserts were provided after the devotion which included cucumber and chicken salad sandwiches, fruit, petit fours, chocolate covered strawberries, raspberry filled cake hearts, nutella and strawberry croissants, and punch and tea to drink. Everyone had a great time.

Thanks to all the ladies who participated in the program and provided the refreshments to make this a special Valentines.



# Men's Brotherhood

Join the Men's Brotherhood for good food and Fellowship on Thursday, March 12, 6:30 pm at El Corral Lozano in Taylor (the green building)

# CLASSIC CAR SHOW



FREE ADMISSION - DONATIONS APPRECIATED

## ST. PETER'S CHURCH OF COUPLAND

108 WATHEN ST, COUPLAND, TX

**SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026**  
**10AM - 2PM**

**TROPHIES, BAKE SALE & CONCESSIONS**



## LADIES CIRCLE

Ladies' Circle will be meeting on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at Texas Bay Seafood and Steak Restaurant, located at 200 W Lake Dr, Taylor TX. We will be discussing the menu for the Community Senior Luncheon which will be held on March 17th.

Also, we will be discussing plans for the Easter Egg Hunt and the Classic Car Show on April 11th.

Hope to see all of you there!



The Community Senior Lunch will be held on March 17th at 11:30. The meal is free, but donations are appreciated. Attendees can enjoy 42 dominoes and bingo afterward. Please bring a \$10 bingo prize if you are able, but not necessary to enjoy



### Lois Schmidt's Birthday

On Tuesday, February 3rd, several Ladies went to the SPJST to celebrate Lois' birthday. We had a variety of mini-bundt cakes and punch.

Attendees included Charlotte Albert, Carolyn Haverland, Janet Doss, Hermania Vitek, and Cindy Alexander.

We miss and love you Lois!!



# PRAYER list

We lift up prayers of healing and comfort for all members, friends, and family, who are sick, grieving, or facing challenges.

**Jeanette Watson, recovering from surgery, Bill Payne, recovering from surgery, Burt & Julie's granddaughter Bradley, who is in the hospital, Bill & Michele Dupy's granddaughter Charlie, who is in the hospital.**

As a community we hold in our hearts and pray for those who are impacted and grieving the tragedies in our nation and around the world: the floods and fires, the shootings, accidents, and escalation of war.

**Lord, hear our prayers.**

For pastoral care contact Pastor Burt at [CouplandPastor@gmail.com](mailto:CouplandPastor@gmail.com).



Mark your calendar for the Spring Plant Sales at Down Home Ranch on Saturday, March 14 and Saturday, April 11, from 9 am to 2 pm.

Buying plants is another way we can support the amazing work that Down Home Ranch does to empower people with disabilities. Get your spring garden ready as you shop for succulents, annuals and perennials, plus vegetable and herb starters.

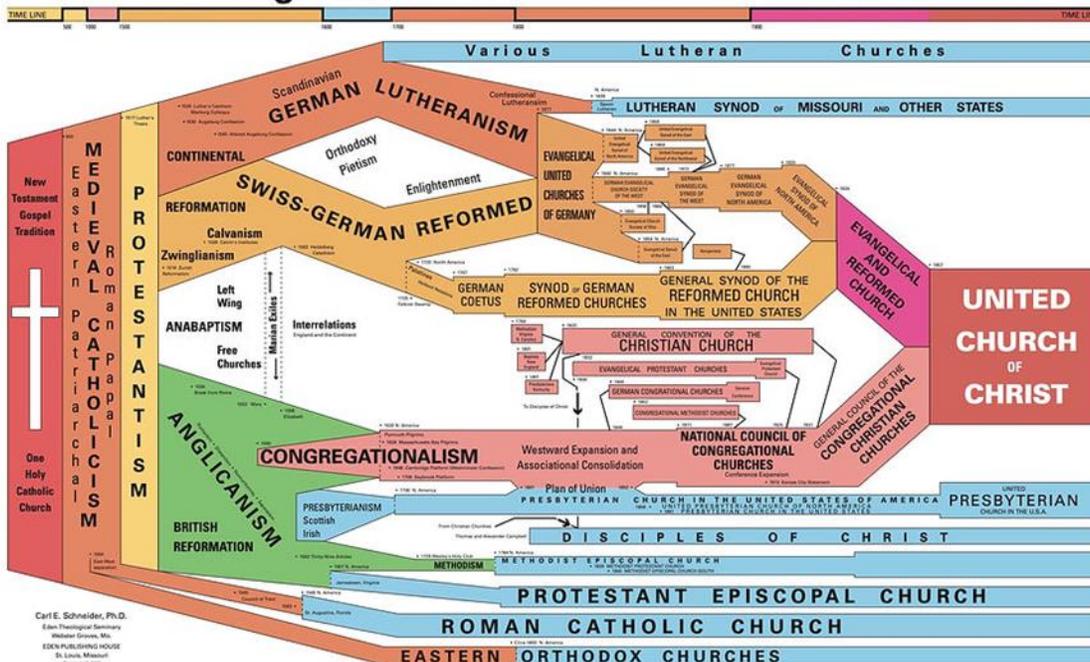


Down Home Ranch is located between Coupland and Elgin at 20250 FM 619, Elgin, Texas.

## THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (UCC) – Did you know?

The United Church of Christ was formed in 1957 by the union of two denominations. Prior to this union, the Evangelical and Reformed Church (E&R) and the Congregational Christian Churches were our predecessor denominations. Our own St. Peter's Church grew up in the Evangelical Synod of North America which was a predecessor of the E&R denomination. Below is a detailed graphic of our historical roots.

### Origins of the United Church of Christ



## Members in Care Facilities

**Lois Schmidt:** SPJST Skilled Nursing, 1810 Old Granger Rd, Room 101, Taylor, TX 76574

**Robert Gebhardt:** Autumn Leaves of Georgetown, 3600 Williams Drive, Georgetown, TX 78628

**Calvin Ging:** SPJST Assisted Living, 505 East Lake Drive, Room #111, Taylor, TX 76574

**Denney Poldrack:** Will-O-Bell Nursing Home, P.O. Box 107, Bartlett, TX 76511

**Karen Rhoades:** Heritage Lakes Assisted Living, Room #17, 19005 Pleasant Bay Drive, Pflugerville, TX 78660



**In Memory of Phyllis Petrus**

Murray & Jocelyn McDonald

**In Memory of Pug Matetzschk**

Bill & Charlotte Albert  
Virginia Callanan

**In Memory of Nancy Palmer**

Stephen Heinrich

**In Memory of Brenda Redman - Scott Wasdin's mom**

Bill & Charlotte Albert

**In Memory of James Brazell**

Buz & Susan Garry

**NOTE FROM FRANK AND KAREN DIETZ**

Friends who gather on the Coupland hill in faithful service as St.Peter UCC:

Karen & I lend our voices of joy and celebration for the ministry covenant you have expressed in joining your new Pastor & Teacher, Burt, for the faithfulness journey God places before you. May you prosper in lifting the beacon high and touching the lives of those you are inspired to serve. Indeed, may you experience a deep church blessing on your journey of love, . . .

SHALOM!

Frank H. & Karen P. Dietz - New Braunfels

## March Mission Offering



For more than 75 years, the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS) has helped Christians bring God's hope and healing to hurting people worldwide. OGHS's mission is to support domestic and international development; fight poverty and its consequences; aid communities torn by war or ravaged by national disaster; provide advocacy and resettlement assistance for refugees and displaced persons; and combat injustice in its many forms.

We live in a world where people are hurting, resources are concentrated in the hands of fewer people, and compassion is diminishing. This world needs love in ways that matter and make a difference for the better.

OGHS shows up when there is a need, providing funding and hands-on assistance in collaboration with local and international partners such as these:

- International Assistance Mission in Afghanistan: Eye care, prosthetics, mental health, and rehabilitation efforts
- Children's Future International in Cambodia: Community development and anti-human trafficking program
- Mediterranean Hope in Italy: Refugee and migrant service ministry
- YWCA of Palestine: Programs of economic empowerment, women's rights, youth leadership, and children's education, including nursery schools and kindergartens in refugee camps

In 2 Corinthians 9:7 the Apostle Paul reminds us that we should give cheerfully, gladly, unselfishly, and generously as God has given to us. We live our lives, transformed by God's grace, with open hearts and hands. Our contributions are our love offering to the world!



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Sunday Mornings

Adult Sunday School at 9 am, Worship at 10:15 am

## Tuesday Mornings

Community Connections at 9:30 am

## Tuesday, March 3

Council Meeting 6 pm

## Wednesday, March 4

Ladies Circle, Texas Bay Seafood and Steak Restaurant, at 1:00 pm located at 200 W Lake Dr, Taylor TX.

## Sunday, March 8

Children's Sunday School at 9:00 am

## Thursday, March 12

Men's Brotherhood 6:30 pm, El Corral Lozano

## Thursday, March 17

Senior Lunch 11:30 am

## Sunday, March 29

Palm Sunday

# Connect With Us

## St. Peter's Church of Coupland

108 Wathen Street, PO Box 146  
Coupland, TX 78615 \* 512-856-2433

## Office Hours:

Monday to Thursday, 8:00 am -12 noon

Office Email: [StPetersCoupland@gmail.com](mailto:StPetersCoupland@gmail.com)

Pastor Email: [CouplandPastor@gmail.com](mailto:CouplandPastor@gmail.com)

Facebook: St. Peter's Church of Coupland  
or [ww.facebook.com/StPetersCoupland](http://ww.facebook.com/StPetersCoupland)



## Our Website:

[StPetersCoupland.org](http://StPetersCoupland.org)

## Venmo Donations:

[StPetersCoupland](https://www.venmo.com/StPetersCoupland)

# Photos of Church Life

