



The Voice on the Hill

St. Peter's Church of Coupland

December 2024

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

Carolyn Haverland

Financial Secretary

Anita Holubec

Council Members

Bill Albert

Janet Doss

Judy Downing

TREASURER

Ted Wittliff

LICENSED MINISTER

Charlotte Albert

MINISTER of MUSIC

David Cappolino

CHURCH SECRETARY

Barbara Coleman

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Dana Smith



Christmas Events at St. Peter's Church

First Sunday of Advent and Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 1 at 10:15 am

Join in this fun service as we welcome the beginning of Advent and share in decorating the church for the Christmas season! On **Saturday, November 30**, we need volunteers to meet at 9 am to prepare the decorations for the Hanging of the Greens.

Adult Christmas Party

Saturday, December 7 at 6:00 pm

Celebrate at the Wittliff's home. See details on page 5.

Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 8 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Bring your children and grandchildren to this special event with rehearsal for the December 15 Christmas Program, refreshments and Christmas craft projects, led by **Stephanie Ochoa**.

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 15 at 10:15 am

Enjoy the Christmas story as told through the eyes of our children during Worship Service. **Final rehearsal for the kids is at 9:15 am.**

Angel Tree gifts are also due back to Fellowship Hall on the 15th.

Horseback Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 22 at 3:00 pm

Carolers on horseback will gather at the church at 3:00 pm, carol through town, and finish up at the Depot around 4:30 pm where everyone is welcome to gather.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 24 at 6:00 pm

Celebrate the birth of the Christ child with special music by the Johnson family and an inspirational message. We sing favorite Christmas hymns, ending by singing Silent Night by candlelight.

December Worship Leaders



December 1, Communion, Hanging of Greens

Guest Pastor: Rev. Charles Stark
Worship Coordinator: Michele Dupy
Liturgist: Charlotte Albert



December 8

Guest Pastor: Rev. Linda McWhorter
Worship Coordinator: Carolyn Haverland
Liturgist: Cindy Wood



December 15, Communion Christmas Program

Pastor: Charlotte Albert
Worship Coordinator: Judy Downing



December 22

Guest Pastor: Adam Muery
Worship Coordinator: Prissy Rumel
Liturgist: Judy Downing



December 24, Christmas Eve

Guest Pastor: Adam Muery
Worship Coordinator: Bill Albert



December 29, Noisy Offering

Guest Pastor: Rev. Linda McWhorter
Worship Coordinator: Anita Holubec
Liturgist: Michele Dupy



Angel Tree Gift Project

For the Angel Tree project we provide a shirt and pants and two wish list toys/gifts for each child.

Please pick up gift tags in the sanctuary foyer. You may take all three tags for a child or just one. And, of course, you may shop for more than one child.

When you select your tags, write your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet in case we need to contact you.

Return the wrapped gifts with the tag attached to the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, December 15.

If you have questions, contact **Doreen Streit** at dkstreit@gmail.com or 512-659-3625.

SPECIAL REQUEST: If anyone has a toddler-sized bed (frame and mattress, plus bedding if possible) to donate to a family in need, please contact Doreen or the office.

Council Report

November 11, 2024

PRESENT: Prissy Rumel, Judy Downing, Anita Holubec, Bill Albert, Carolyn Haverland, Danny Smith, Janet Doss and Charlotte Albert. **ABSENT:** Michele Dupy.

NOVEMBER 17 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Ballots and voting procedures were approved.

INSURANCE: Danny signed the renewal of our Property and Liability insurance, but is continuing to work with the insurance company to request a discount for our fire-resistant siding.

FACILITIES USAGE AGREEMENT: Final revisions for the agreement were approved. Anyone who wants to use our facilities for non-church events can download the paperwork from our [website](#) or request it from the office.

Please remember that all church events, including Team meetings, must be scheduled with Barbara in the office to avoid schedule conflicts.

NOMINATIONS: Council discussed possible candidates for leadership positions.

PASTOR SEARCH: Council is pursuing the hiring of a part-time pastor to fill in while we continue our search for a settled pastor.

DECEMBER EVENTS: Schedules and details for December events were approved.

ELECTRONIC GIVING: Prissy is finalizing the arrangements for St. Peter's to begin accepting donations through Venmo.

PARSONAGE: Emma Ortega has done a thorough cleaning of the parsonage and William Dupy is continuing to work on some repairs.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS: These documents have been revised many times over the years and are in need of an administrative overhaul to make them more consistent and easier to read and understand. Michele will lead a Team to review the documents and make recommendations.

Constitution and Bylaws

Revisions Approved

At a Called Congregational Meeting on November 17, the 47 members present **unanimously approved** changes to the language in St. Peter's Constitution and Bylaws regarding membership.

These changes allow members who do not regularly participate in the life of the church to remain as "Associate Members," instead of being removed entirely from the membership rolls as required by the previous Constitution and Bylaws.

The Council proposed these changes after making phone calls to dozens of members and getting feedback on their relationship with St. Peter's Church.

The full text of the changes is available from the office or you can read it [online here](#).

President's Message

The Lesson of "Even If" from Daniel 3:17-18

During the reign of king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, Daniel and three companions were captured from Jerusalem and brought for service in the king's palace.

They were threatened with being thrown into a blazing furnace for refusing to worship the king's gods. Daniel replied (paraphrased) that the God we serve is able to deliver us from the flames . . . but **EVEN IF** he does not . . . we still won't serve your gods, because ours is the one True God.

They were miraculously delivered from harm, but it's their **EVEN IF** attitude that is our point of focus.

EVEN IF things in life don't go our way—illnesses linger, loved ones are estranged, change causes angst, pastoral searches drag on, or life just doesn't seem fair—we are reminded to always worship and serve our Almighty Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Even if we're having a particularly bad day. AMEN

Michele Dupy
Church Council President

Meet Our New Members!

On November 10 we were blessed to welcome four new members to our St. Peter's Church family.



Adam Muery and his wife, **Astrid Muery**, moved to Coupland in June of 2023, but Adam grew up here and his family has been here since the 1890s.

Adam is an attorney and a Marine Corps veteran. He has been guest pastor at St. Peter's several times recently and he previously served as the pastor at the Elgin EFCA Church. Adam has four children; **Serena** (18), **Christian** (17), **Daniel** (16) and **Adalyn** (8).

Astrid met Adam while he was representing a client in her native Colombia. They were married in September of 2020. She studied industrial engineering at the Mexican Polytechnic University and is currently studying English as a second language at ACC. She has 7 brothers and sisters and grew up in a Protestant church.



Rev. Dr. Van Herd is an ordained UCC minister who was formerly our pianist at St. Peter's. He's currently teaching Engineering and Physics at Amarillo College and also serving as organist and minister of music at a church in Friona. Because there are no UCC churches the Amarillo area, Van requested membership at St. Peter's to retain his standing in the UCC. We welcome Van long distance!



Mick Lemp has lived in the Coupland area for 10 years and has three children, **Thoren** (9), **Skylar** (7) and **Gunnar** (4). Mick is a pilot and flight instructor and he's originally from Germany.

Mick and Thoren (who loves anything farming, especially tractors) are growing Christmas trees on their little farm and hope to have some available for harvest by next Christmas.



Christmas Program December 15

The Children's Christmas Program will be performed during church services on **Sunday, December 15**.

Practice, along with snacks and Christmas crafts, will be held on **Sunday, December 8, from 3 pm to 5 pm**.

A final practice, including breakfast, will be held on **Sunday, December 15, at 9:15 am**.

The program is open to all children of all ages, so invite your friends and grandkids!

If you are interested in participating, please contact **Stephanie Ochoa** at 512-818-4651 or email stephanieochoa@gmail.com so she can plan parts.

Christmas Party

Adult Christmas Party December 7 at 6 pm

Join us on **Saturday, December 7, at 6:00 pm** as we celebrate the Christmas season at the home of **Cynthia and Ted Wittliff**.

Please bring finger foods to share, beverages, and a gift under \$20 if you want to participate in the gift exchange. There's a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

The address is 17458 FM 1660 in Taylor, but GPS can be unreliable. From Highway 95 in Coupland, head West on FM 1660 for about one mile and you will see a lighted address sign on the left. Go down that driveway to the third house.



Teams for 2025

Because we got a late start in organizing Teams this year, Council is asking everyone to continue on their Teams for 2025. See the list on the bulletin board.

If you aren't able to continue serving, please notify your Team Leader or the office. And of course you can sign up for one of these Teams if you haven't already!

- Building and Security
- Worship and Music
- Kitchen and Events
- Altar and Communion
- Mission and Outreach
- Communications

**THANK YOU
SO MUCH**
YOU ARE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!

Our dedicated members make the mission and programs of St. Peter's Church possible.

Danny Smith, William Dupy, Arthur Henze, Michele Dupy and Carolyn Haverland trimmed trees and worked on flowerbeds on November 2.

Adam Muery organized the recognition of Veterans at our November 10 service and also preached on November 10 and 17.

Michele Dupy, Danny Smith, Anita Holubec and Barbara Coleman coordinated a last-minute request by a film crew making a commercial in the area to rent our fellowship hall and parking lot on October 22. We earned \$700 for the day!

Prissy Rumel spent many hours studying the Constitution and Bylaws of St. Peter's and other UCC churches, and crafting the proposed new language regarding Membership definitions.

Michele Dupy revamped our outdated Facilities Usage Agreement. Anyone using our facilities for non-church events must complete this paperwork.

Charlotte Albert met with our new members and coordinated their joining with St. Peter's.

Danny Smith installed a new ramp at the side door to the Fellowship Hall to make access easier for wheelchairs and walkers, repaired the coffee maker, and changed lightbulbs.

Anita Holubec, Charlotte Albert, Janet Doss, and Judy Downing organized the Kirchenfest luncheon on October 27 and the refreshments after church on November 10 to honor our veterans and welcome new members. As always, we thank Charlotte for the fun table decorations!

PRAYER list

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

Continued prayers for **Gene Henze, Troy Watson, Robert Bland, Terry Finn, Betty Marosko** and also for **Fred Marosko** in his steadfast care for her, and for our homebound and those in care facilities.

For pastoral concerns or prayer requests, please contact Charlotte Albert at 512-924-3335 or email CharlotteAlbert66@gmail.com.



After the pastor's **Children's Moment** during Sunday Worship Services, children may leave the sanctuary to participate in supervised activities such as art projects, Bible lessons, music and games.

And kids up to 6th grade may choose one item from the Treasure Chest at the sanctuary entrance each week. Coloring sheets are also available.

Please bring your kids and grandchildren to church and invite your neighbors!



Children's Moment on November 10 with Adam Muery.

Thinking of you

Members in Care Facilities

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

Calvin Ging: S.P.J.S.T. Assisted Living, 505 East Lake Drive, Room #110, Taylor, TX 76574

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

Karen Rhoades: Heritage Lakes Assisted Living, Room #9, 19005 Pleasant Bay Drive, Pflugerville, TX 78660

Offering Reminder

It's a big help to the folks who count and record the offerings if you **write on the memo line of your check what the money is for** (regular offering, food pantry, memorial for xxxx). It's not necessary to use an envelope for checks. Thanks!

December Birthdays

3rd Jacob Doss, Tessa Streit
 5th Sophia Rae Eiben, Amber Ging
 7th Reagan Fischer
 15th Cameron Dupy
 16th Sydney Snell Payne
 17th Johnathan Dupy
 18th Craig Albert
 20th Michael Wellings
 21st Gene Henze
 22nd Cody Cox
 23rd Teddy Wittliff
 24th Carrie Townsend
 29th Dakota Brown
 30th Brittney Brown
 31st Kimber Finn

★ HAPPY ★
BIRTHDAY!



Regular Giving for November: \$9,911

Year-to-Date Regular Giving: \$114,234

Special Offerings:

UCC Disaster Relief Fund \$65

Playground \$50

Music \$25

Donation for newsletter mailings \$25

Donations by Venmo



St. Peter's is now able to accept donations through the Venmo app. Use this QR Code or search for "StPetersCoupland" on your Venmo app.

This is a great way for visitors to contribute! And if you need to pay to sign up for an event or make a Mission or Memorial offering and don't have cash or checks with you, this will come in handy.

We ask that members continue to make Regular Offerings by cash, check or bank bill pay, because the Venmo payments cost the church 2% of the amount donated.

Thank you to **Prissy Rumel** for all her work on this.

Bottle Cap Mission



Please bring your plastic bottle caps to church by the end of the year and place them in the container in the sanctuary foyer.

Coupland resident Maria Cervera takes the bottle caps when she visits Mexico. An organization there sells them to a recycling company and the funds are used to help pay for children's cancer treatment.

Acceptable plastic bottle caps:

- Soda Milk
- Water Juice

Size and color do not matter, but no chemical or medication tops please.

December Mission Project: UCC Christmas Fund

The **Christmas Fund** has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

Special offering envelopes will be available at the Christmas Eve service, or you can use the regular offering envelope any time.



St. Peter's on Facebook

Thank you to **Prissy Rumel** for streaming our sermons on Facebook, allowing people to watch live or later at www.Facebook.com/StPetersCoupland.

This is a great way for people who can't be in church to participate and for people who are curious about our church to get to know us better!



Meet our Licensed Minister



After attending classes for two years, **Charlotte Albert** was licensed in 2006 as a Minister through the Heart of Texas Association of the South Central Conference of the United Church of Christ.

This year Charlotte has been vital to the life of St. Peter's as she volunteers to handle Pastoral Care and other functions that would normally be filled by our full-time pastor.

She calls and visits our sick and home-bound members and those in grief, and has conducted several funeral services.

Charlotte is leading a weekly Confirmation Class for three young people and she recently coordinated the joining of four new members into our church.

She organized our Totenfest remembrance of members who died in the past year and the Kirchenfest recognition of prior confirmands, and she attends Church Council meetings.

On top of all that, she continues her usual work in teaching Adult Sunday School, assisting in the service of Communion, serving on the Mission Team, working with the Kitchen and Events Team to plan and serve at special events, and decorating the tables in the Fellowship Hall for events.

Charlotte has been actively involved in church activities as long as she can remember. She grew up in the Nazarene faith. In 1966, she joined Bethel United Church of Christ in Houston and found a perfect fit with her religious beliefs.

After moving to the Beakiss Community, Charlotte and her husband, Bill, joined St. Peter's in 1981. She was active in church life and shortly became very involved in the UCC association, conference, and national church, serving as a delegate representing St. Peter's and serving on committees and boards.

We thank Charlotte for everything she continues to do for our St. Peter's family!

December Events

Sunday Mornings

Adult Sunday School, 9:00 am
Worship Service and Children's Church, 10:15 am

Sunday, December 1

First Sunday of Advent and Hanging of the Greens: Join in decorating the church for the Christmas season.

Saturday, December 7

Adult Christmas Party at 6 pm at the home of Cynthia and Ted Wittliff. See page 5.

Sunday, December 8

Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Program from 3 pm to 5 pm. See page 4.

Monday, December 9

Council Meeting at 6 pm

Sunday, December 15

Children's Christmas Program during Worship Service, with rehearsal at 9:15 am. See page 4.

Angel Tree gifts due back to church on the 15th.

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service at 6 pm

Connect With Us

St. Peter's Church of Coupland
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Coupland, TX 78615 * 512-856-2433

Office Hours:

Monday to Thursday, 8:00 am -12 noon

Email: StPetersCoupland@gmail.com

Facebook: St. Peter's Church of Coupland
or www.facebook.com/StPetersCoupland



Our Website:
StPetersCoupland.org



Venmo Donations:
StPetersCoupland

Special Music in November



Emma Leigh Maciazek



St. Peter's Singers: Doreen Streit, Krista Poldrack, Martha Poldrack, Paul Johnson, Prissy Rumel, and Judy Downing

Community Senior Luncheon November 19

On November 19 we provided a delicious turkey dinner to 43 church and community members, plus the 9 adult and 8 student servers.

These luncheons are such a team effort! The turkey and dressing came from Meyers, but the rest of the food was furnished by our dedicated members. **Cindy Alexander, JoAnn Ging and Janet Doss** made sweet potato casseroles. **Charlotte Albert and Prissy Rumel** brought green beans.

Cynthia Wittliff, Doreen Streit, and Anita Holubec made pineapple cake. **Carolyn Haverland** furnished the rolls, **Joyce Henze** provided butter, and **Hermania Vitek** brought cranberry sauce.

Thank you to **Charlotte Albert, JoAnn Ging, Cindy Alexander, Janet Doss, Danny Smith, Mick Lemp, Prissy Rumel, Donna Reynolds** (from Citizen's National Bank), **Wanda Walther**, and the students from **Coupland School** for serving and cleaning up.

Also thanks to **Cindy and Jim Alexander** for ordering the turkey, **Charlotte Albert** for the table decorations, **Evelyn Draehn** for calling bingo, **Barbara Coleman** for putting out bingo prizes, and **Arthur Henze** for helping with bingo.

You are all amazing!



Senior Luncheon Photos



*Grateful,
Thankful
&
Blessed*



