



The Voice

St. Peter's Church of Coupland

April, 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

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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

Celebrate the Resurrection!



Join us on Sunday April 5 as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Our celebration begins with Easter Sunrise Service at 7am The service will be moved into the Sanctuary in case of inclement weather.

After sunrise service, the Men's Brotherhood will be serving breakfast in the Fellowship Hall after the Sunrise Service. Everyone is welcome to attend! **Free will offering appreciated.**

Worship Service begins at 10:15am. Afterwards, we will have an Easter Egg hunt for the children.



**Blessed are the pure in heart
for they shall see God.**

Matthew 5:8

The heart is a Biblical Big Deal. Check your concordance and you'll see the word used about a billion times. The heart is "at the heart" of the ancient understanding of who we are and where we meet God. The heart is the center of our knowing. Jesus said, *"Those with pure hearts are blessed because they will see God."* Jesus is not imploring moral purity here but rather he is imparting wisdom about the heart's capacity for spiritual awareness. The unincumbered heart sees the things of God.

Jeremiah says that in order to find God, you must search for God with all your heart. *"You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for me with your whole heart."* The heart is our built-in GPS. Jeremiah and Jesus are drawing from the same deep spiritual well of wisdom. The heart and its health are key to knowing God. The problem is, as those fallen and frail, our hearts can be scattered and tattered. They can be weary and worn. A heart can be hardened or darkened, saints have insisted. And what child of God doesn't know that hearts can be broken and then hidden, maybe buried for good.

Our hearts are often not whole, they are divided. We all have a "cardial attention deficit" and are incessantly pulled this way and that. This chaotic world and an unfocused heart in it will always make for shallow life. No wonder Jesus teaches us that the heart must be purified. No wonder St. Paul tells us it must be guarded. No wonder the Psalmist prays, *"Unite my heart, O God."* Throughout the ages, that prayer for a transformed heart is instinctually uttered and though it is a work of grace, we've known there is spiritual work for us to do. God's deep work in us so humbly cooperative.

So, we must begin cooperating with grace that heals, that awakens, that unites, that purifies, that strengthens, and that fills. Shall we? And then with a whole heart, we will see the things of God.

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 Burlison at burtsgirl1282@gmail.com if you are interested.

Volunteers are needed to help with the bake sale and provide baked goods for the Car Show, Saturday, April 11. Please contact Cindy Alexander at cynalexander@msn.com if you are interested.



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

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

The history of the United Church of Christ is a rich tapestry of unity, social justice, theological diversity, and global outreach. From its early roots to its faithful stance on social issues, the UCC embodies a commitment to living out faith in meaningful and impactful ways. The UCC has been a leader in breaking new ground for the Christian Churches in the United States since its earliest days.

1620 | Pilgrims seek spiritual freedom

Seeking spiritual freedom, forebears of the United Church of Christ prepare to leave Europe for the New World. Later generations know them as the Pilgrims. Their pastor, John Robinson, urges them as they depart to keep their minds and hearts open to new ways.

1636 | Harvard College was founded

This college was the first institution of higher education in this country. It is named for the Congregationalist Minister Rev. John Harvard who was its first benefactor donating his entire library to the college. The Congregationalists were the earliest predecessors of the UCC.

1700 | An early stand against slavery

Congregationalists are among the first Americans to take a stand against slavery. The Rev. Samuel Sewall writes the first anti-slavery pamphlet in America, “The Selling of Joseph.” Sewall lays the foundation for the abolitionist movement that comes more than a century later.

1730 | The Great Awakening

The first Great Awakening sweeps through Congregational and Presbyterian churches. One of the great thinkers of the movement, Jonathan Edwards, says the church should recover the passion of a transforming faith that changes “the course of [our] lives.”

1773 | First act of civil disobedience

Five thousand angry colonists gather in the Old South Meeting House to demand repeal of an unjust tax on tea. Their protest inspires the first act of civil disobedience in U.S. history—the “Boston Tea Party.” of song.”

1773 | First published African American poet

A young member of the Old South congregation, Phillis Wheatley, becomes the first published African American author. “Poems on Various Subjects” is a sensation, and Wheatley gains her freedom from slavery soon after. Modern African American poet Alice Walker says of her: “[She] kept alive, in so many of our ancestors, the notion of song.”

1785 | First ordained African American pastor

Lemuel Haynes is the first African American ordained by a Protestant denomination. In 1776, in the midst of the fight for liberty in which he enlists as a soldier, he writes a defense of the liberation of African Americans from slavery: “Liberty, Further Extended.” Next month we will continue this list of how the UCC has been breaking new ground for the Christian Church in the United States.



St. Peter’s Council Meeting Minutes March 17, 2026 (reschedule of 3/3)

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

REPORTS: January Financials reviewed, Financial Secretary reports new Venmo accounting sheet & Prissy to share Venmo login info with Kandice. Edward Jones accounts are doing great !

BURT’S THINGS: Pastoral Report given
~ additionally ~

- Sanctuary Improvements - Sound System, Cabinet, Lectern/Pulpit mic

Screen (maybe TV), possible YouTube channel for airing full Worship Services

Burt had Sound Company look at our entire Systems - will return with pricing.

- Licensure of Worship Songs - \$222 to renew annual Worship Song Licensure

- Repairs & Updates Upstairs - painting & updates, Spring Work Day date TBD

- Small bookshelf in Narthex - physical Book Nook for signing out books approved

(continued on page 4)

(Council Minutes continued)

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Election of Kay Hart as Council Secretary - **MOTION** Danny/Charles/Approved
- b. HyLant Worker’s Comp Insurance Renewal - **MOTION** Charles/Robert/Approved
- c. Filming Request UT student - dates moved to May 22-24 **MOTION - denied**
- d. Burt’s letter to Assoc Members **MOTION** Danny/Kandice/Approved with revision
- e. Memorial List of Project Ideas - reviewed each area, will continue prioritizing
- f. Retreat “Ideas with Ownership” sheet - All people present reported ideas in motion

Meeting Minutes submitted by Michele Dupy, Council President, in Kay Hart’s absence

Meeting adjourned: Next Meeting April 7, 2026 @6pm

Community Senior Lunch

The Community Senior Luncheon was held on March 17th, and was a great success. The menu consisted of Nine Can Soup, Coupland Cornbread, and Lemon Cake. A total of 45 people attended the lunch, and enjoyed bingo after the meal. Special thanks to all the men who help make this event a success. We could not do this without you.

Our next luncheon will be held on May 19th at 11:30. The meal is free, but donations are appreciated. Attendees can enjoy bingo and 42 dominoes afterward. Please bring a \$10 bingo prize if you are able, but not necessary to enjoy in the fun.





The Ladies' Circle met on March 4th at the Texas Bay Seafood and Steak Restaurant to discuss the menu for the Senior Lunch which was held on March 17th. We had 10 attendees and we also discussed possible future events.

We will be having a bake sale at the Car Show on April 11th. Looking for volunteers to help with the sale, and provide baked goods, canned goods, and other goodies. A more detailed list will be provided in the near future.

We invite anyone to attend our monthly meetings to enjoy good food, laughter and fellowship!

Cindy Alexander
President



Men's Brotherhood

Men's Brotherhood met on March 11th at El Corral Lozano in Taylor and had 8 attendees. We discussed details about the Car Show which will be held on April 11th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Anyone wishing to volunteer to help, please contact Jim Alexander and arrive around 9:30 am.

We also discussed preparing breakfast for Easter Sunday which will consist of pancakes and sausage. Breakfast will be served after the Easter Sunrise Service.

As always, there was good food and fellowship.

Jim Alexander
President



PRAYER list

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

Jeanette Watson, and Bill Payne, recovering from surgery, Bill & Michele Dupy's granddaughter Charlie, who is at home.

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.

Remembering Rev. Arlene Turner

Dear Beloved South Central Conference Community, With deep sorrow and abiding gratitude, we share the news that Rev. Arlene Turner, Chair of our Board of Directors, died on Monday, March 16, in a tragic car accident.

Arlene was traveling to visit her sister when a sudden accident involving a detached trailer led to the crash. We share this news with heavy hearts, even as we hold fast to the gift of her life among us.

Arlene was a faithful leader, a wise and steady presence, and a beloved colleague and friend to so many across our Conference. Her leadership as Board Chair was marked by deep commitment, clarity of vision, and a genuine love for the Church. She gave herself fully to this community, and her impact will continue to shape us in the days ahead.

Even as we grieve, we give thanks—for Arlene's life, for her ministry, and for the many ways she helped to nurture the body of Christ in this place. We trust that nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God. Please hold her husband, Ron, her son, Danny, and all who loved her in your prayers. No memorial arrangements have been finalized at this time; we will share details with you as they become available.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Molly Carlson
Conference Minister

Heart Of Texas Association

Spring Meeting:

Saturday, April 18th at Faith United Church of Christ, 970 Loop 337, New Braunfels, TX 78130.

Please **RSVP by April 15**, indicating whether or not you will be able to attend via this Google Form: <https://tinyurl.com/2026SpringHOTA>.

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| <p>2026 Spring Meeting</p> |  <p>HEART OF TEXAS ASSOCIATION SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST</p> |
| <p>4/18 10 AM - 1:30 PM CHECK-IN BEGINS @ 9:30 AM LUNCH IS PROVIDED</p> |  <p>Faith United Church of Christ 970 Loop 337 New Braunfels, TX 78130</p> |
|  <p>Register by April 15, 2026 https://tinyurl.com/2026SpringHOTA</p> | <p>AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOMENT OF MEMORY FOR ARLENE TURNER • CONFERENCE MINISTER SEARCH UPDATE • UNIFIED COM UPDATE • LEADERSHIP UPDATES (VOTE REQUIRED) • WELCOME SPRING OF LIFE CHURCH (VOTE REQUIRED) <p><small>YOUR PRESENCE MATTERS - QUORUM REQUIRES 7 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS AND AT LEAST 8 CHURCHES REPRESENTED</small></p> |

South Central Conference

Sign up for the weekly SCC E-News.

<https://sccucc.org/scc-e-news/>



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

April Mission Offering Community Cupboard



The **Elgin Community Cupboard** non-profit food pantry, located at First Presbyterian Church of Elgin, is open from 10 am to Noon on Tuesdays.

Community Cupboard assists all who request food and serves 80 to 150 food insecure families each week. Children, young adults, those over 50 are the largest groups. Single moms and the elderly are the most food insecure community members.

Established in 1984 by a group of people from all faith backgrounds, the pantry is entirely run by volunteers. It's funded by grants and by donations from local churches, individuals, and businesses, including Central Texas Food Bank, Walmart and HEB.

How You Can Help:

Please **make an offering during April** and write "community cupboard" on your check or offering envelope. We're also asking everyone to **bring non-perishable food items** for the basket in our foyer. Suggested items are beans, rice, peanut butter, and canned foods like soup, fruit, vegetables and meat.

Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry Saturday, April 25



**FEED THE
HUNGRY**

Volunteers are needed to distribute food at the Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry from **7:30 am to 10:30 am on Saturday, April 25.**

If you can help, contact **Charlotte Albert** at CharlotteAlbert66@gmail.com.

We will bag groceries and then distribute the food at curbside—no heavy lifting required!

Shepherd's Heart is at 121 East 2nd Street in Taylor. Please enter through the side door on Porter Street.



Administrative Professionals Day is Wednesday, April 22.

Barbara Coleman has been the Church Secretary for 9 years! Her hard work and dedication to St. Peter's does not go unnoticed.

Thank you Barbara, for everything you do!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Mornings

Adult Sunday School 9:00 am
Children's Sunday School at 9 am
Worship at 10:15 am

Tuesday Mornings

Community Connections at 9:30 am

Friday, April 3

Good Friday Service at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 5

Sunrise Service, 7:15 am followed by breakfast
Worship, 10:15 am
Easter Egg Hunt, after worship

Tuesday, April 7

Council Meeting 6 pm

Saturday, April 11

Car Show 10 am to 2 pm

Saturday, April 18

Heart of Texas Association Spring Meeting
10:00 am to 1:30 pm

Saturday, April 25

Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry Distribution
7:30 am to 10:30 am

Connect With Us

St. Peter's Church of Coupland

PO Box 146
108 Wathen Street (physical address)
Coupland, TX 78615 * 512-856-2433

Office Hours:

Monday to Thursday, 8:00 am -12 noon

Office Email: StPetersCoupland@gmail.com

Pastor Email: CouplandPastor@gmail.com

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



Our Website:

StPetersCoupland.org

Venmo Donations:

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

Photos of Church Life

