



The Voice

St. Peter's Church of Coupland

August , 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

Vacant

Vice President

Prissy Rumel

Vice President

Danny Smith

Council Secretary

Kay Hart

Financial Secretary

Kandice Samuelson

Council Members

Robert Bland

Judy Downing

Charles Stark

TREASURER

Ted Wittliff

LICENSED MINISTER

Charlotte Albert

MUSIC DIRECTOR

David Cappolino

CHURCH SECRETARY

Barbara Coleman

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Charles Stark

Welcome Rev. Nikki Stahl!

Dear Friends of St. Peter's,

Grace and peace to you!
I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as your Bridge Pastor during this important season in the life of St. Peter's. While my time with you will be temporary, I look forward to walking alongside you as we worship, grow in faith, care for one another, and prepare for the call of your next settled pastor.



I earned my Master of Divinity from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and my Master of Science in Social Work from the University of Texas at Austin. Over the years, I have served the United Church of Christ in a variety of ministry settings, including local congregations, conference and association leadership, and on several boards dedicated to strengthening the church and serving our communities. These experiences have deepened my love for helping congregations navigate seasons of transition with hope, faith, and a spirit of possibility.

My husband, Ian, and I live in Austin with our two of our three daughters—Emmalee, and Cora. Our oldest, Marian, is currently attending Pratt in New York. Outside of ministry, you'll usually find me cheering from the sidelines at my daughters' activities or spending time with our two dogs, BB Grace and Poppie.

I am excited to get to know you, hear your stories, and discover together where God is already at work among you. Thank you for welcoming me into the life of St. Peter's. It is a privilege to be part of your journey, and I look forward to all that God has in store for us in the months ahead.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Nikki Stahl



Baptism



Charlie Wayne Empkey son of Charles and Daryl Empkey was baptized on July 5, 2026, by Charlotte Albert with family and friends present.

Community Business Luncheon

St. Peter's hosted a successful Community Business Luncheon on Wednesday, July 15, in the Fellowship Hall. Approximately 50 attendees gathered to network and connect. During the event, local business owners had the opportunity to introduce themselves and highlight their services to the community.

Thank you to Prissy Rumel for organizing this event!



Community Senior Lunch

The Ladies' Circle hosted the Community Senior Lunch on July 21st. There were 44 attendees including helpers. The menu included chicken salad sandwiches, potato chips, pickle spears and root beer floats for dessert. The Ladies' Circle want to give a shout out to all who helped serve, especially our youngest helpers, Soren and Simon Strider. Attendees enjoyed bingo and 42 dominoes after the meal.

The next Senior Lunch will be held on September 15th at 11:30 a.m. Our resident Chef, Peter Wabbel will be providing a delicious meal.



Caring and Sharing

As a community, we offer prayers and support for the family of Japheth "J" Singleton and Amy "Mimi" Cavanaugh, whose rented house in Coupland burned in late July.

The family and their four children and pets are all fine, but they face the daunting task of temporary housing, finding a new place to live, and replacing all of their possessions.

For this month's **Mission Offering**, we're asking for donations to assist this family in meeting their immediate needs and rebuilding their lives.

Please note "fire" on your check or online giving.

Founded in 1993 by a church in Taylor, Shepherd's Heart Ministries now partners with 20 churches in the area, including St. Peter's. Their mission is to show the love of God by providing food, clothing, and shelter assistance, offering hope and help to all.



Each week Shepherd's Heart distributes groceries to about 400 households. If there are just 10 items in each bag of food, 4,000 items need to be purchased or donated weekly.

They also provide a low cost source of clothing and household goods through their thrift store and have limited funds available for utility and rent assistance.

St. Peter's will be assisting with food distribution on Saturday, October 3rd. Volunteers needed.

Memorial Service For Willy Zucknick July 25, 2026



Frederick William Zucknick Jr. (Willy), son of Trona LaJuana (Wilson) Zucknick and Frederick William Zucknick Sr., passed away June 11th, 2026.

Willy is preceded in death by his parents, Fred and LaJuana Zucknick; and his brother, Thomas Otis Naron III.

Willy is survived by his sisters, Katherine Friedrich and Patricia Hammack; aunts, Faye Neathery and Hermania Vitek; numerous cousins, including Jim Neathery Jr., Sharon Smith, Jeff Stork and wife Stacy, Herman Stork and wife Nina; 12 nieces and nephews, and 33+ great nieces and nephews, including niece Angela Wolfe and husband Todd, and their children, who he lived with for many years.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to National Alliance on Mental Illness. (nami.org)



PRAYER list

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

We pray for the Zucknick Family, Jeanette Watson, Susan Schmidt, Karen Cappolino, Gene Henze, and Terry Finn.

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 Charlotte Albert at charlottealbert66@gmail.com



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

WORSHIP
SCHEDULE
for the month of August

August 2nd	Rev. Nikki Stahl
August 9th	Rev Steven Swope
August 16th	Rev. Nikki Stahl
August 23rd	Adam Muery
August 30th	Rev. Charles Stark



We need you! Volunteers are essential to the smooth operation of our worship service.

We need volunteers to serve as **Liturgist**, **Projection-ist** and **Ushers** for our worship services. Please remember to check your email and respond so Barbara will know if you are available to assist.

Don't worry if you have never done it before—training and written instructions are available.



Couplandpastor@gmail.com will be out of service for the time being. If you would like to contact Burt Burleson, you can email him at burt_burleson@baylor.edu

NOISY OFFERING

**Sunday,
August
30th**



In months with five Sundays, we invite everyone to bring their loose change for the Noisy Offering on the 5th Sunday.

Remember to **bring your coins on August 30th** and make a joyful noise when you toss them into the metal buckets during the offering!

The money goes to support a local mission.



Social Sunday Potluck August 30th

Don't miss our Potluck Lunch after Worship Services on Sunday, **August 30th**. Please bring a main dish, salad, side dish or dessert if you are able. As always, there will be more than enough food if you aren't able to bring a dish to share!

Join us for lunch—this is a great way to visit and get to know each other better!

Did you Know?

This Congregation was organized in 1894 by German and Swiss Immigrants. Originally known as St. Petri Deutsche Evangelische Gemeinde (St. Peters German Evangelical Church), the Congregation built this vernacular gothic revival sanctuary in 1905-1906.

The meeting hall was added in 1925, and the two structures were connected in 1953. By 1955 English language services, introduced in 1929, had replaced the worship originally conducted in German.



Today, the century-old church continues to serve the local Coupland community while maintaining its traditional rural heritage and overseeing the historic St. Peter's Cemetery.



OUR HISTORIC STATEMENTS OF FAITH

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him.

Amen.

CHURCH COUNCIL SUMMARY - July 7, 2026

July Event Coordinator: Kandice Samuelson

A local-business appreciation lunch is planned for July 15 at 11:30 AM; all council members and the congregation are invited. Coordination and setup will be handled in advance.

Administrative & Old Business Follow-Up

The following items, previously tracked on Rev. Burleson's outstanding list, were reviewed:

- Job descriptions for church roles have been finalized and distributed to council by email.
- CCLI (worship song licensing): council was reminded that the license requires the CCLI license number to be displayed on screen during worship and included on any printed materials containing licensed music.
- Portals of Prayer subscription has been canceled.
- AED replacement pads have been purchased and are on order; they have not yet arrived.
- Ted Witliff submitted proposed wording for a policy update on the cemetery rules to include natural burial.
- Pulpit supply is scheduled through September (including Nikki Stahl, Adam Muery, Charles Stark, and Steven Swope). July 26 is not yet confirmed; two potential names are being considered.
- The monthly "lunch out and potluck" schedule has been changed to occur only on fifth Sundays. A lunch out was held in June; there will be no gathering at the end of July, and a potluck is planned for the end of August (fifth Sunday).

Pastoral Transition – Rev. Burleson Resignation

Council reviewed the circumstances of Rev. Burleson's resignation. Council members had been informed of his decision in the weeks prior to his final Sunday, and a written communication regarding the resignation was subsequently sent to the congregation; that correspondence was previously shared with council. Council discussed the timeline of events and affirmed that the decision to resign was made by Rev. Burleson and his family. No further details were requested by council members present.

NEW BUSINESS

Future Pastor Contract Considerations

Council discussed, as an informational matter, whether future pastoral contracts should include a defined moving-expense provision, noting differing past arrangements for prior pastors. No motion was made; the topic will be considered when a new contract is negotiated.

Council Seat Vacancy

Adam Muery has expressed possible interest. Council discussed the church's membership-tenure expectations for council service and did not reach a decision.

Bridge Pastor — Nikki Stahl

Council discussed securing a bridge pastor (distinct from an interim pastor) to provide pastoral coverage during the search process. Prissy Rumel reported that Nikki Stahl has agreed to serve in this role beginning September 1, 2026, and has also agreed to cover the upcoming funeral service. Proposed responsibilities include approximately three days per week (Tuesday–Thursday) plus Sundays, with visitation of new members and homebound members prioritized. Compensation and schedule will be negotiated with Rev. Stahl.

Search Committee

Council discussed forming a search committee (five members) to review the church profile and applications going forward.

Awareness Items

The funeral service for Willy Zucknick will be held Saturday, July 25 at 11:00 AM, with burial to follow. Nikki Stahl will officiate. Volunteers are needed for funeral food (sandwiches, cakes, tea); coordination is in progress.

Senior luncheon coordination is in progress; a council member will confirm details with Cindy.

Kay Hart will be taking planned time away from ministry and professional commitments over the next two months; she will continue to prepare council meeting minutes during this time.

A list/record of past sympathy and comfort acknowledgments is kept in a binder; Charlotte can help locate it if needed.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 6:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Hart, Council Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Mornings

Adult Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship at 10:15 am

Monday Evenings

Fitness Dance Class 7:00 pm

Tuesday Mornings

Community Coffee 9:30 am

Tuesday, August 4

Council Meeting 6:00 pm

Sunday, August 30

Noisy Offering Sunday
Potluck Lunch

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

Office Email: StPetersCoupland@gmail.com

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

Our Website:

StPetersCoupland.org

Photos of Church Life

