

Welcome to St. Peter's!



Founded in 1858, St. Peter's is a welcoming, participatory, passionate, and creative congregation. We identify ourselves as an Episcopal/ inclusive/ earth-based congregation. For over a century, St. Peter's has been a small but steadfast congregation dedicated to serving those on the margins and working towards peace and social and economic justice.



Worship

We offer one regular worship service on Sundays at 10:30 am for in-person and virtual Zoom participation. Our liturgical style is participatory and generally low-church. Although our sanctuary includes a high altar, for the last two decades we have celebrated the service from a floor level altar table. During worship, members of the congregation are invited to read the daily readings and psalms. After the homily, we offer a time for community reflection where all are invited to come up and share a reflection further opening the Word, making this a “participatory homily.” On any given Sunday, we may hear reflections from a vestry member, someone who is attending for the first time, or a homeless guest who is seeking refuge at the church.

We value inclusive language that is accessible to the diversity of our congregation. We draw on The Book of Common Prayer as well as other global Anglican resources like A New Zealand Prayer Book. We create a new worship bulletin for each liturgical season, and also honor other ecumenical/secular seasons like the Season of Creation, Black History Month, and Pride Month, where we celebrate the lives and contributions of our LGBTQ+ members. Our worship explores questions and encourages faith exploration rather than requiring answers and certainty.



Ministries

Our Parish Hall has a rich history of housing fledgling service organizations. Since 1948, it has served as a halfway house for returning citizens; a homeless shelter (Coalition for Temporary Shelter); a refugee sanctuary for those fleeing Central America (Freedom House); and a shelter for young women on the street (Alternatives for Girls), among others. In 2010, we established the Parish Hall as a “Peace and Justice Hive” which provides office space at below-market rate for local organizations working towards peace and justice. Our Hive is currently at capacity with eight organizations including a puppet theater, mutual aid group, peace team, and environmental stewardship organization. Our Sanctuary often serves as a staging area for peace and justice protests. During the early years of COVID-19, we housed the largest water distribution station in Michigan, in conjunction with We the People of Detroit (then a Hive tenant).

We also house and support two independent ministries in our basement: a Catholic Worker soup kitchen called Manna Community Meal (est. 1976) and a shower and laundry facility (est. 2020). These ministries have established St. Peter’s as a safe place for many people living on the edge. At our Sunday morning worship services, we will often have soup kitchen guests present. For some of them, our potluck following the service is the only meal that they will receive that day. We value their presence in our community and hope that we can follow Jesus’s lead in being good news for the poor.





Strengths

- We have a rich history of working for peace and justice in our neighborhood and city.
- We are hospitable to those on the margins and actively welcome all to participate in our worship services and ministries.
- You never quite know what's going to happen – there is a lot of room for Spirit to come through.
- We have a long history of making our annual tithe to the Episcopal Diocese.
- We are reasonably financially stable given how small our congregation is, but in terms of growing the congregation and fulfilling our mission, we could use more resources.
- We are committed to environmental stewardship and have demonstrated this through our solar panels, bioswales, EV charging station, and energy-efficient renovations.
- We offer our church building to ministries that work for peace and social and economic justice and serve those in need. These ministries fill our building with life, energy, and creativity.
- We provide a safe place for those who have experienced church hurt, including those in the LGBTQ+ community.
- Throughout our history, St. Peter's has been a small and mighty congregation. Our congregants are dedicated and present and we are connected to many networks of individuals and organizations outside our congregational membership.
- In the recent past, our activism has led us to involvement with the Michigan Poor People's Campaign, the struggle for water affordability in Detroit, ad Michigan Coalition for Human Rights, and Michigan Interfaith Power & Light.



Challenges/Opportunities

- We are reasonably financially stable given how small our congregation is, but in terms of growing the congregation and fulfilling our mission, we could use more resources.
- We have the equivalent of one full time staff person: a part time ministries coordinator and a parttime interim pastoral leader. We see this as an opportunity to nurture leadership among our congregants and community.
- We are currently a primarily white congregation in majority-Black city. How might we build coalitions to address city issues of importance to its African American communities?
- Our neighborhood is quickly changing with recent gentrification. This has brought up significant questions for us about how we can engage with the new people coming into our community while still honoring our mission, vision, and values.
- We have recently experienced record-breaking heat, Canadian wildfire smoke, and basement flooding. We are aware of the other coming climate crises and know that our church building is not fully equipped to accommodate these changes.
- Our building is not currently wheelchair accessible.
- Our music program needs attention.
- We currently have a queer affinity group for congregants and we hope to build a stronger program for queer representation and outreach.
- One of our building tenants is a puppet theater company, and we hope to partner with them to help us bring creative energy to our liturgies and invite others into our worshiping community.





Place



St. Peter's acknowledges that our building stands on the traditional land of the Anishinaabe Three Fires Confederacy – the Odawa, Ojibwe, and Potawatami. This place was called “Waawiyatanong” – where the waters go around.

We are located in the Corktown neighborhood in Detroit, in the Southeast region of Michigan. This region has some of the wealthiest and poorest neighborhoods in the state. The city of Detroit has a long history of industry, diversity, creativity, injustice, and community organizing. It has been a majority-Black city since 1980, when white flight led many of its white residents to the suburbs. Through many decades of financial divestment and decline, Detroit communities have organized around social and environmental justice, grown urban farms and gardens, and fought for their basic human rights such as water affordability. Over the last few years, Detroit has begun to experience growth in population and capital investment again, which is creating major transitions in many Detroit communities.



Corktown, known as “Detroit’s Oldest Neighborhood,” was named for its early Irish immigrants. It continues to hold a presence of Irish heritage but has since diversified in race and ethnicity. Over the last 70 years, it has been the home of multiple Catholic Worker houses of hospitality and soup kitchens. It borders downtown on one side and the vibrant 100-year old Mexicantown neighborhood on the other.



Today, Corktown is one of the most rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods in Detroit. This gentrification has been accelerated by Ford Motor Company’s renovation of Michigan Central Station, which will become Ford’s new hub for future-centered mobility. In the last two years alone, St. Peter’s intersection of Michigan and Trumbull Avenues has seen the construction of multiple condominiums, a luxury hotel, a parking structure, and a bank. In addition to newcomers, the neighborhood continues to have an active community of long-time residents, including people experiencing homelessness who still receive services from organizations in the area. We are three blocks from a Section 8 housing complex and four blocks from Holy Trinity, a storied Roman Catholic Church with a school, community center and health clinic.

Finances

[View our 2024 Budget Information at this link here.](#)

**What
we are
seeking
in our
next
rector:**

- Understanding of race/power/privilege
- Excellent preaching ability that inspires, engages in deep scriptural study, and applies to issues of daily life
- Welcoming presence that reaches out to all God’s beloved
- Willingness to engage in the issues facing those who work and live in the Detroit area, especially the marginalized
- Collaborative – both in terms of the congregation and a willingness to engage with other houses of worship and organizations engaged in similar ministries
- Ability to organize and lead meaningful worship
- Ability to assist in leadership development and helping members use their gifts and talents

Interested clergy should send the following documents to the Rev. Canon Ellen Ekevag, Canon for Congregational Development and Transitions for the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan by email: eekevag@edomi.org or mail to 4800 Woodward Ave, Detroit, MI 48201. It is very helpful (though not required) if all three documents can be sent as attachments to a single email.

1. A letter addressed to the Search Committee in which the candidate (a) offers a self-introduction, and (b) describes why they feel drawn into discernment around this particular position. The specific form, length, and content of the letter is at the candidate’s discretion;
2. A current resume
3. A .pdf of the candidate’s current Office of Transition Ministries Portfolio, including answers to all of the narrative questions.