

Who is the United Church of Christ?

The United Church of Christ (UCC) was created in 1957 by the merger of several different denominations.

From the beginning, the autonomy of the local church was very important, as each of these denominations retained their own beliefs and traditions.

Our local church determines our style of worship, elects leaders, hires pastors, and makes all decisions locally.

St. Peter's is a member of the Heart of Texas Association and the larger South Central Conference of the UCC. We enjoy many benefits by being part of a denomination, but **we retain control of our own affairs.**

Central to the UCC is the belief that we are all brothers and sisters in Christ, united in our commitment to **follow Jesus' command to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

We are called to love and accept others, rather than judging them.

Nationally, the UCC is committed to peace and social justice issues. Local churches are free to determine their participation (or not) in these causes.

St. Peter's Church of Coupland

PO Box 146
108 Wathen Street
Coupland, TX 78615

Office Hours
8 am to Noon, Monday through Thursday

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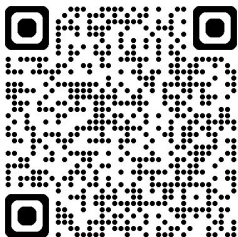
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8/12/24

St. Peter's Church of Coupland

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.

Welcome to St. Peter's Church of Coupland

Joyful Worship

Our traditional Protestant service begins at 10:15 am Sundays with the lighting of candles and ringing of the steeple bell.

Services include a praise song, several hymns, reading of scripture, prayers and a sermon. We finish with the everyone joining hands to sing the Alleluia song.

Sacraments

Everyone is welcome at Christ's table as we celebrate **Holy Communion** on the first and third Sundays of each month. Children usually start taking Communion at St. Peter's after they are Confirmed, but parents determine when their child is ready.

Infant **Baptism** is typical, but we baptize people of all ages and recognize baptisms from other Christian denominations.

Children around middle school age are invited to attend **Confirmation** classes to learn more about our faith and denomination, and to make a formal commitment to the Church.

Growing in Faith

The Adult Sunday School class meets at 9:00 am on Sundays for coffee, followed by discussion at 9:15. Bible Study classes are offered periodically.

Children's Church

After the pastor's Children's Moment, the children may leave the sanctuary for supervised activities such as Bible lessons, art, music and games.

Church Family

At the heart of St. Peter's is our church family, a community of believers who love and care for one another and enjoy extending hospitality to others. **We have diverse backgrounds and beliefs, but share a common bond as friends in Christ.** The last Sunday of the month we gather after church for fellowship with a potluck lunch at church or meal at a restaurant.

Community Outreach

We're committed to sharing the Love of Christ with our neighbors through outreach and service to others.

- Our ladies group hosts a Community Senior Luncheon every other month, attended by about 50 people.
- We contribute to the food pantry at Shepherd's Heart in Taylor and help distribute food several times a year.
- Special Offerings are given to benefit a different local or global organization each month.
- The community is welcome for coffee and fellowship on Tuesdays at 9:30 am.
- Our playground is open to the community.
- St. Peter's facilities are used for local events.

Governance

St. Peter's Church of Coupland is affiliated with the United Church of Christ. Business affairs are governed by our local church Constitution and Bylaws and administered by an 8-member Church Council. The Council is elected by the members and serves staggered 3-year terms.

Pastor candidates are selected by a Pastoral Search Committee and approved by vote of the members.

Membership

Individuals can join St. Peter's Church in several ways:

- By baptism and either confirmation or profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- By transfer from another church of any Christian denomination.
- By renewal of profession of faith and restoration to communicant membership.

History

Coupland was founded in the late 19th Century by German-speaking Swiss immigrants. St. Peter's Church was formed in 1894 and our current Sanctuary was built in 1905-1906. The Fellowship Hall building was added in 1925 and the structures were connected in 1953.

We also own, manage, and maintain the St. Peter's Church Cemetery on Hwy. 95 in Coupland.