

St. Peter's Connect

To help us connect with all that is happening in and around our parish community, we will periodically publish a newsletter- St. Peter's Connect. If you have any questions or feedback, please reach out to Communications@stpetershebron.com or give your feedback to one of our committee members (Candace O'Shea, John Loge and Kathy Kniep.

A Message from Father Ron

Integrating Architecture, Safety, Accessibility, and Functionality in our Sanctuary

The idea for changes in the church began with a simple idea on my first Sunday with you in 2017 when I watched people go to the communion rail and step backwards off it to return to their seats. That following week Jack Gasper and I went into the church and I demonstrated the problem to him. He said it never occurred to him that it was an issue, but clearly it was.

From that simple visit and a lot of research on the history of the front of the church we discovered the church has been modified no less than 8 times in its 200-year history. Each time it was changed to accommodate the changing needs and tastes of the congregation as well as changes in the liturgy.

Again, out of the blue the architect who redesigned Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford agreed to work with us on developing a plan that both brought the space up to date making it more accessible and safer while maintaining its historic integrity emphasizing the strong architectural features in the church, namely the gothic windows and the beautiful gently curved ceiling. The result was work done in collaboration with Duo Dickenson architect, myself, and Jack Gasper.



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A Message from Father Ron (Cont)

The design model which you see in the back of the church and in the photo page 1 echoes the gothic windows and the gentle curve of the ceiling and in the balcony. Moreover, the three paneled cabinets in the front of the church echo the three panes of the window above the altar as well as the organ and its three-cabinet pipe case in the balcony. The overall effect will be a unified design in the church.

The front cabinets will also house the items used in worship by the altar guild and minimize constant going into the tower for routine supplies. The cabinet on the right is the doorway that will go directly into the tower, making it safer entrance and exit from the altar sanctuary.

We also hope to restore the beautiful winged-eagle lectern that was created for the church when it was built in 1826 and return it to its rightful place in the sanctuary.

There are many, many people to thank for helping us with the improvements so far: our generous donors and grantors, our tireless buildings and grounds committee, and our strong, faithful vestry for staying the course and seeing these projects through.

From lighting to roofing, restoration of windows and the tower, high-efficiency HVAC, and insulation, our church restoration project has taken the efforts of all of us. They tell of a new chapter of honoring our past while moving into the future of our wonderful community.

Thank you all for joining in this journey.

Blessings, Fr. Ron

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Weekly Meetings

Sunday School:	Sun at 10am
Balance Class:	Mon at 10:30 am
Fall Book Group:	Mon 11:30 - 1pm
Garden Committee:	Mon at 4pm
Communications:	Mon at 2pm
Choir Practice:	Wed at 6pm
Weekly Virtual Coffee Hour:	Wed at 10am

Monthly Meetings

Building/Grounds	1 st Tues at 7pm
Vestry	3 rd Thurs at 6pm

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First Annual St Peter's Founders' Dinner – *All are invited!*

Friday, October 17 at 5:30pm

On October 19, 1826 our beautiful church opened its doors for worship. But our parish began over 90 years earlier, in 1734. Since then, our parish community has moved with the world, experiencing the many changes in society and our country. Most importantly, our parish stood together as a family. To celebrate our wonderful history, look forward to the future, and have some fun, we will have a potluck dinner on Friday, October 17.

Attire is casual- Come dressed as a modern day parishioner or come as a parishioner from the 1840's, the colonial period, roaring 20's, even the 1970's. You choose! Come as a farmer, a teacher, or just as yourself. Together we will honor several centuries of parish life while eating great food! And we'll share a little history about our beloved church and parish. Then the mike will be open for all to share their stories and recollections about what it means to be a part of our St Peter's. And bring a photo of yourself, your spouse, your family from your own history. We'll share them at the dinner!

We can promise you a fun-filled evening! More information & sign-ups coming soon!

ALZ Sunday at St. Peter's, Sept 28, 2025 (8 & 10am services)

For the second year in a row, we will dedicate one Sunday to support the efforts of community members who are participating in the ALZ Walk on October 19 at Rentschler Field in East Hartford. Hebron's team, **HEBRONROCKSALZ**, will be walking in support of Alzheimer's and dementia research. Both services will focus on this disease that continues to affect members of our own congregation and many of our families.

At each service, Tonya Maurer and parishioner Pam Atwood will speak about Alzheimer's and related illnesses as well as the walk. One of our parishioners, Cindy Matejek, who attends the 10am service, will share her daily journey with her beloved husband, Len. You can also sign up to walk or donate to support our home team using the QR code below. Donations are taken until the end of October.

If you have questions about the walk please contact:
Tonya Maurer at multitasking@comcast.net.

and wear your **Purple for ALZ**



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A Special Thank you to all who made our
"Thanksgiving in September" dinner such a great
success!! We couldn't do it without you!

Community Events – Pumpkin Fest

Sat, Oct 4 from 9am-3pm; Sun, Oct 5 from noon to 4pm

Join us for this fun and delicious celebration of all things autumn! Looking for a unique pumpkin or a Jack-o-Lantern to be? We will have a variety of pumpkins, squash and gourds- perfect for both eating and display. As usual, we'll have mums of various sizes and colors. There will be local apples and fresh cider for sale, and, of course, a yummy selection seasonal baked goods. On Saturday, we'll also serve a luncheon of hot dogs and hamburgers- all cooked on the grill.

And of course, there will be the popular hay-ride!

How can you contribute?

Baked goods: The bake sale table is always popular so help us by baking seasonal cookies, breads, cakes, and pies. Whatever suits your fancy! And remember the prettier or more attractive the bake goods look, the more likely it will sell.

Perennials: As you are putting your gardens to bed, think about opportunities to thin out your perennial beds. Fall is not too late to transplant perennials, so consider digging some up and sharing. We will have a fall garden corner so help us fill it!

Gently-Used Halloween and Fall items: We are looking for donations of Halloween and autumn decorations for sale in our tag sale area. This is always a popular stop as folks look for a special fall decoration or spooky surprise. Please only clean, gently-used items.

Community Events Planning Dates



Sept 25, 7pm (Pumpkin Fest Planning)

Oct 2, 7pm (Harvest Moon Planning)

Oct 23, 7pm (Pork Tenderloin Dinner Planning)

Community Event Questions? Want to help? See Chuck and/or Marcia Eaton

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Annual Blessing of the Animals

October 5 at 2pm

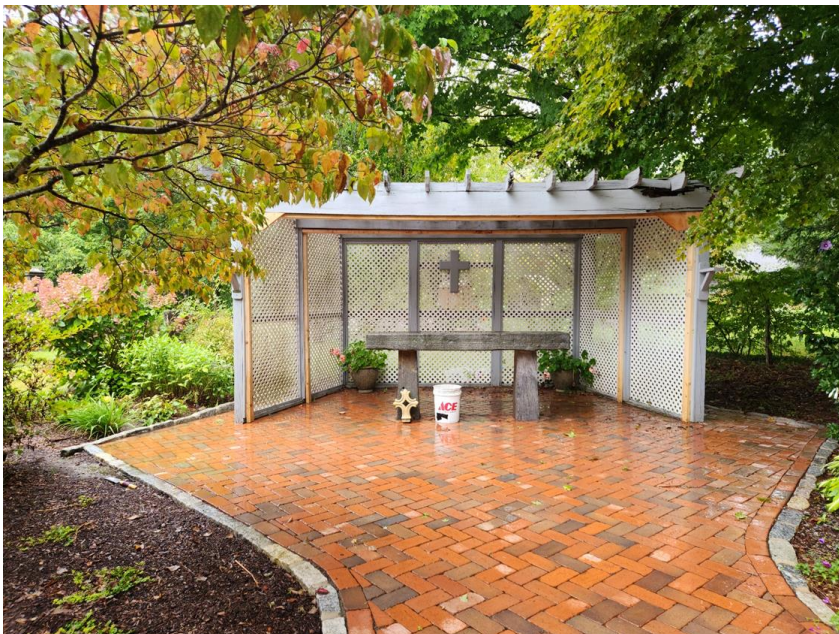
Open to all, so invite a friend to bring their pets! Father Ron will lead us in a special service and then bless each of the four-, two- or even no-legged critters who attend this special service.

St. Peter's also has beautiful pet memorial garden specially designed as a final resting place for our much loved animals who have passed. After the blessing of the animals, there will be a pet memorial service and pet ashes will be interred.

A donation of pet food would be appreciated. All donations will be given to H.I.H.S. (Hebron's food pantry).

From the Garden Committee

Have you stopped by to visit the Memorial Garden lately? It's looking lovely these days! We've had just the right amount of rain to keep the flowers blooming and the hydrangeas at the back are in their full glory right now. The main beams of the pergola have started to deteriorate, but Rick Marks and his son-in-law AJ Kohr (Kelsi's husband) installed temporary supports that will keep it safe until they have time to do the full repair.



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St. Peter's Scarecrows coming to Hebron Town Center Once Again!

Thanks to a group of creative, spirited parishioners, St. Peter's will again, for the fourth year, submit an entry into the "Scarecrows along Main" sponsored by The Town Center Project as part of their Hebron Harvest Moon Festival October 18th. We have participated since the inaugural year with the first place award for our jolly, laughing monk scarecrow. (chosen only because we had an available monk costume)! Of course, it is not about the winning, but instead the message that we try to share with each entry. The monk boasted a scroll that stated "Love is the Way."



The second year featured 5 scarecrows, of various skin tones, in a row holding hands as a diversity message. Their sign was "God loves ALL his Children," which now sits in our small garden as you enter the hall.



Last year was a large Chef holding a giant spatula (did someone say he looked like Curt?) with the message "If you cook it, they will Come."

This year's brain child of Cathie Litwin promises to be a delight (shhh, it's a secret) with three "beings" in the display. Many thanks to Lino Rodegher for providing the wood and building the spines and clavicles, to Ray Litwin for building up the shoulders and creating arms with pool noodles and wooden dowels to pose in the most pious way to send this year's message.



Thanks for local artist, Sandy Waldo, for redesigning to now appear animated for delivery of the hopeful message; to Marcia Eaton for painting the signs, Stephanie Wheeler for donation of props and Dan and Joann Osmond who assisted with the essential and challenging job of installation.

The creatures will be installed the final weekend in September, across the highway from Flour Girl Cafe and will be on display thru October. Be sure to

VOTE for St. Peter's at the Harvest Moon on Oct. 18

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Vestry Notes

The St. Peter's vestry is made up of parishioners who serve, with Fr. Ron, as the leaders of the church. They are elected at the January annual meeting to three-year terms on a rotating basis so that it is always composed of new and experienced members. They are responsible for the finances and management of the church property as well as working as a team to create a vision and a plan of action that reflects God's dream for the congregation. They meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings which are always informative and interesting. The minutes of the meetings are posted on the bulletin board in Phelps Hall.

The officers of the vestry are Marcia Eaton and Dan Osmond, Wardens, Barbara Parklyn, Treasurer, and Cathy Gerke, Clerk (non-voting member). The current regular members are Dave Anderson, Chris Gerke, Gayle Kataja, Kathy Kniep, Curt Kraemer, Kath Talbot, Candace O'Shea, John Ostrout and Steve Wells. If you have questions about things that are happening at St. Peter's, the vestry members are a really good place to start!

The photo below was taken at the signing of the lease between St. Peter's and the Commons Community Development Corporation (CDC) for the purpose of building mixed-income affordable housing on the rectory site.



Pictured front row: Cathy Gerke, Candace O'Shea, Marcia Eaton, Rob Mangiafico, Kathy Kniep, Steve Wells, Kathryn Talbot. Back row: John Ostrout, Chris Gerke, Dan Osmond, Ron Kolanowski, David Anderson, Curt Kraemer, Kathy Dorgan, Barb Parklyn



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WHAT ACTUALLY IS THE ALTAR GUILD?

Tradition is the handing down of long-established customs or beliefs from generation to generation. In theology, it might be a doctrine believed to have divine authority, although it may not be in scripture. In our ever-changing world where we can feel uncomfortable, uncertain or insecure with that change, tradition can take on a powerful reassurance. This can be especially important in one's church.

The Altar Guild is a ministry whereby the members (along with Fr. Ron and the liturgical committee) are caretakers of the church's worship traditions. We feel it is an honor and privilege to do so. Their task is to maintain vestments, linens, vessels, sacred elements, and needed supply items, and setting them appropriately for all worship and celebrations. This work offers us a time alone in the church and with the Holy Spirit, a time which we can use as an opportunity for our own meditation and connection with God.

The guild members, under the direction of Fr. Ron, are Ellen Kraemer, Barb Parkyn, Joann Osmond, Cathie Litwin, and Denise Ward. This allows for a rotation of each member serving every 5 weeks for one week of responsibility, generally requiring 2 hours per week. If there are additional services (holidays, baptisms, funerals), the additional tasks are divided as it works for each person. There is abundant teamwork and no one is left doing more than they can allow time for. Our adjunct members are Curt Kramer, Dan Osmond, and Ray Litwin for any tugging, reaching, and lifting, along with Lino Rodegher for occasional carpentry work.

We welcome new members of any gender. A current member would work with a new recruit until he/she feels comfortable with the procedures and methods. Please reach out to the rector, church office or any member of the guild if you have interest in joining our team.

Stay tuned for future issues of the newsletter to read specifics of our traditions. Learn about our tabernacle, sanctuary candle, Paschal candle, and liturgical colors and what the guild uses and changes on the altar with each of our feasts and liturgical celebrations!

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2026 SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS BACK UP OCTOBER 3

We have been blest to reboot Sunday school last year. Last year we found that starting Sunday School in September just added one more thing to parents' busy checklist with getting regular school off the ground so we began in October.

I am writing to let you all know that we will start of up **Sunday School Sunday, October 3.** This year we will have nearly all boys in our young kids' program. We are going to begin with the basics of worship such as the Lord's Prayer (Our Father) and the Creed. Since liturgy is so central to our identity we will also dedicate one Sunday for something called instructed Eucharist. In this special Eucharist I will explain the various aspects of our celebration we do each Sunday. It will be instructive for both children and adults to remind and teach all of us why we do what we do and the meaning behind every action.

We are also looking at the possibility of doing a confirmation class for both adults and young people with the goal of confirmation in October 2026.

On our first Sunday October 3 we will be signup Sunday after the 10am service for parents and children.

Your Connect BOOST (Cathie Litwin)

Station 11 in Cape Coral, FL was conducting it's 9/11 ceremony at the fire house on September 11. They raised the ladder on their ladder truck, displaying a giant American flag, as they began a moment of silence in remembrance of those lost. Exactly during the moment when a bugler began playing taps, a bald eagle swooped in and landed on the roof of the fire house! He let out a screech as he landed, stayed until the end of the song, then flew off in the fashion of a military fly over. An attendee at the ceremony was able to capture it all of video while others looked on in awe. There are no coincidences...



Have you had a “Godwink” moment recently?

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St. Peter's Episcopal Church
30 Church Street, Hebron, Ct
06248

Label



VOCE Choral Group October 11 at 7:30

New England's premier choral group, is launching their 20th season with a concert "Radiant Dawn", an uplifting event celebrating connection, renewal and hope.



Scan for tickets: \$30

St. Peter's Fall Calendar

Sept 20, 4pm 'til sold out: "Thanksgiving in September" Community Dinner

Sept 28, 8 and 10am Services: ALZ Sunday

Oct 4, 9 am-3pm: Pumpkin Festival

Oct 5, Noon-4pm: Pumpkin Festival

Oct 5, 2pm: Blessing of the Animals and internment of pets' ashes

Oct 11, 7:30pm VOCE New England Choral group (\$30)

Oct 17, 5:30pm: 1st Annual Founder's Dinner (Parish wide potluck)

Oct 18, 11-6:30 Harvest Moon (and Vote for St. Peter's Scarecrow!)

Oct 24-25: Connecticut Episcopal Diocesan Convention

Nov 2: All Saints Sunday

Nov 9: Veteran's Sunday

Nov 15: Pork Tenderloin Dinner Community Dinner