

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

582 Church Street Amherst, Ohio 44001

Church Office (440) 988-4965

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| | | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Arlen G. Vernava, Interim Senior Pastor | 585-455-2289 | pastor@stpetersamherst.org |
| Pam Schuster, Director of Music & Organist | 328-5571 | heavenlysaints4life@yahoo.com |
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| Katie Yarnell, Administrative Secretary | 988-4965 | admin.ofc@stpetersamherst.org |
| May Poor, Librarian | 988-4965 | maypoor@hotmail.com |

Executive Council

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| Shelley Harmych, Council President | 309-6593 | president@stpetersamherst.org |
| Judy McCurdy, Council Vice-President | 984-2758 | judymccurdy4@gmail.com |
| Janet McGinnis, Council Secretary | 988-4861 | janetmcg@aol.com |
| Lauri Hubach, Treasurer | 988-2459 | treasurer@stpetersamherst.org |

St. Peter's UCC Preschool

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Wendy Kosakowski, Administrator & Teacher | 985-1972 | preschl@stpetersamherst.org |
| Heather Nail, Teacher | | |
| Jessica Widener, Teacher | | |
| Kerri Kobyłka, Teacher's Aide | | |

Web and Contact Addresses

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| St. Peter's Website | www.stpetersamherst.org |
| St. Peter's Facebook | https://www.facebook.com/stpetersuccamherstoh |
| St. Peter's Twitter | https://www.twitter.com/StPetersUCCOh |

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10-11 AM**

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**582 Church Street
Amherst, Ohio 44001**

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 21

January 2019

THE KEY



ST. PETER'S U.C.C.
582 CHURCH STREET
AMHERST, OH 44001





January 2019

Dear St. Peter's Members and Friends,

May I offer a brief overview - a high level look - of the process the Council asked me to help St Peter's through? Think of it as two parts with a theme: more like accompanying a Jazz singer than like building a car. A prayer serves as theme and sings through the whole. Here is the prayer:

"God, what are you calling us (St Peter's UCC) to be and to do? God, who is our neighbor?"

Let's pause here a moment. Your United Church of Christ Local Church Profile, fully revised since your last search, organizes itself using three questions that are almost the same as our theme prayer: "Who is God Calling Us To Become?" "Who Are We Now?" "Who Is Our Neighbor." A few grace notes:

This process is narrative, conversational, and activity oriented

This process invites all - members, friends & neighbors

This process stands on scripture and prayer "not my will, but your will, God, be done."

Consensus, not majority rule, guides prayerful decision-making

Part I begins with exploration and discovery, moves to discernment and clarity, then concludes when the Congregation affirms and a **Transition Team** publishes all of the information needed for the Church Profile.

Let's pause again. A **Transition Team** helps lead and facilitate the process. With me, they help everyone participate and they give focused attention to all that is said and learned during conversations-for-all. They are the Team that helps design how, where and when activities and conversations happen; they keep everyone informed and engaged; they word-smith the congregation's work for inclusion in the Church Profile. They serve both Part I and II. A few grace notes:

They are persons trusted and respected by all. They are known as spiritually wise, emotionally mature and prayer-full. They are regular worship and congregational-life participants, contributing their time, talent and money resources. They are usually not serving as employees or staff. Their strongest gift: they truly live, "not my will, but your will, God, be done." They bring an open heart, mind and spirit; they do not pre-judge or bring a "personal" agenda. They believe everyone contributes to discerning **"God, what are you calling St Peter's to be and to do? God, who is our neighbor?"** They are generous and glad collaborators. They are curious, hopeful, expectant and faithful, believing that "God's will - will be done."

Part II begins with the publishing of the Church Profile. The **Transition Team** hands off to a **Search and Call Team**, chosen using the same criteria as above. They receive Authorized Minister Profiles, and through a consensus decision-making process interview and extend a call on behalf of the congregation. Pause with me one last time:

The **Search and Call Team** may, or may not include **Transition Team** members. Church Council, myself and the Team itself, with Congregational input, will come to know what proves best. The UCC of Ohio Living Water Association General Minister helps train the **Search and Call Team** to understand a clergy Profile and provides guidance about candidate particulars and the specific call process. I help with preparing the **Team** for interviews, and with "process" issues, such as: "what do we do when we are disagreeing and feel stuck?" Or, "how do we best negotiate the Call Agreement?" A few grace notes:

The **Transition Team** continues to facilitate congregational work during Search and Call, for you continue to "live into" your **holy vocation**. (More about that next month). Your **holy vocation**, simply for now, is your joyful and clear answer to - **"God, what are you calling us to be and to do? God, who is our neighbor?"**

The **Search and Call Team** "represents" for the Congregation. They work on the Congregation's behalf and are representative of St Peter's.

The **Search and Call Team**, often serve through the installation of the new, settled Pastor.

This high level look does not detail how the **Transition Team** is chosen and commissioned. Council and I will detail this later in January, after the Council Retreat. Nor does this describe activities or how-conversations-for all take place. The **Transition Team** will help design and decide these details.

Your process - Part I - has already begun, of course. These last three months have been preparing us emotionally and spiritually to begin this work. Anticipate fun and also effort. Expect to surface and name St Peter's "habits of the heart." Like a jazz ensemble, know that your work needs everyone's participation so that in God's time, your discernable core values, your **holy vocation**, will express "God's will be done," with joy and gladness!

Peace,

General Updates and News

A Letter from Council

Hi Everyone,

Council has been discussing the retreat that is being planned for January 12. It will be a time to build on our leadership skills, reflect on our purpose and educating ourselves on the operations of the church.

When you see Kurt Beiswenger or Doug Haney, give them a big hug for giving of themselves to the church as trustees. Please keep each and every council member in your prayers.

Shelley

2019/20 Confirmation Study with Pastor Arlen

Begins January 13 in Fireside Room.

Adults meet at noon. Young people meet at 3.

Questions? Reach Pastor Arlen by email at

St. Peter's Retreat

January 12 from 8:30AM-3:30PM the church council and committees are taking part in a retreat. RSVP to the church office and for more details please call 440-988-4965.

Mission Committee Winter Clothing Collection

The Mission Group is collecting gently used and new winter clothing items to donate to Sub Zero Mission and the Great Lakes Church Homeless Outreach. Needed are winter hats, coats, gloves, boots, scarves, and socks (new only please). Specific requests from Sub Zero are adult size coats sizes L- 4XL and men's boots size 9-13. Tents, sleeping bags, and hand warmers are also needed. Collection bins are in the Walker Lobby.

Food Bank

In December, a total of **225** items were taken to Good Shepherd Baptist Church Food Bank. Thank you for your generous donations.

Birth Narrative Quiz Answers from December's KEY.

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| L Gabriel | M Egypt | Magi carry their gifts in a... | Ethiopia: Horek, king of |
| M Star | L Anna | Treasure Chest / Box | Persia |
| L Elizabeth | L Quirinius | | Basamater, king of Saba |
| M Angel | M Bethlehem | How many Magi? | Karsudan, king of the East |
| B Herod | L Magnificat | More than 1 | |
| L Simeon | L Zechariah | | 6th C: Balthasar, Melchior, |
| L Manger | M Emmanuel | 3rd C: 4 | Gaspar |
| M Divorce | M House | 4th C: 2 | |
| L Gloria | M Gold Frankincense, Myrrh | Eastern Church: 12 | Magi offer gifts of... |
| L Nazareth | L Benedictus | Western Church: 3 | Gold Frankincense Myrrh |
| L Emperor Augustus | | What are Magis names? | |
| M Magi | Who names Jesus? | 4th C: Hormizdah, king of | |
| M Murder | M Joseph | Persia | |
| L Galilee | L Mary | Yazdegerd, king of Saba | |
| L John the Baptist | | Perozadh, king of Sheba | |
| L Shepherds | | | |

Church Council December Meeting Summary:

The General Fund is in the negative. The General Fund Balance as of October 31, 2018 is (\$72,290.98).

Donations for the month of November totaled \$16,173.69. Total donations received from January 1, 2018 thru November 30, 2018 totaled \$157,918.36.

The Preschool passed with flying colors a surprise inspection by the State of Ohio on 12/10.

The Mission Committee is currently looking for members and people to serve as officers.

2018 Annual Report – All committees and church organizations must provide a summary of their activities of the past year. Reports need to be turned into the church secretary no later than 4pm on January 31.

Council and Committee retreat – Date of retreat has been changed from January 19 to January 12th pending securing a site to hold the event. Council and committee members will be invited and are encouraged to attend.

The church council would like to thank Kurt Beiswenger and James Woods for their service on council.

St. Peter's Congregational Meeting, December 16, 2018

Meeting called to order at 11:41am. President Shelley Harmych started the meeting with a prayer.

First item of business was the election of the officers and new members of the church council. Nominees:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| President – Shelley Harmych | Congregational Representatives: |
| Vice President – Judy McCurdy | Kaye Koler |
| Secretary – Janet McGinnis | Christine Burman |
| Trustee – Gary Thompson | Susan Conkle |
| Trustee – Edgar Vargas | Jim Kubuske |

Second item of business was a review of the annual budget approved by council. Swen Nielsen reviewed the budget with the congregation, explaining what funds supported the different groups and functions of the church.

President Shelley Harmych expressed her thanks and recognized the Budget Committee members:

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Dwight Siron | Walter Beal | Swen Nielsen | Becky Woods |
| Karol Schieferstein | Pastor Arlen | Lauri Hubach | Shelley Harmych |

President Shelley Harmych expressed the gratitude of the church to Doug Haney and Kurt Beiswenger who are leaving their roles as Trustees.

January Preschool Update

Christmas is over and the New Year has begun, It was so nice to take time to enjoy the wonder of Christmas through the eyes of the children. They did a wonderful job singing in their Christmas program. The parents and guest had a great time. Santa even stopped by for a quick visit!!

This month the children will learn the letters Nn, Dd, Ii, Ss, and the numbers 4, 5, 6, and 7. We will also introduce the five senses. To go along with the letter Ss, the children and teachers will be wearing sleepwear and slippers to school. We are looking forward to rolling out of bed to come to school.

For our first field trip of the year, we will be going to Skate World.

Now is the time to enroll your child for the up-coming school year. Look for a registration paper in the preschool hallway. You may also call the preschool for more information or schedule an observation. If interested, please call the school at 985-1972.

Have a great New Year!
Mrs. Kosakowski, Ms. Nail, Mrs. Widener, and Mrs. Kobylka

RECIPES from the kitchens of St. Peter's members:

POT STICKERS TRADITIONAL

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 pound ground pork
- 1/2 medium head cabbage, finely chopped
- 1 green onion, finely chopped
- 2 slices fresh ginger root, finely chopped
- 2 water chestnuts, drained and finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon white sugar
- 1 teaspoon sesame oil
- 1 (14 ounce) package wonton wrappers
- 5 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 tablespoon chili oil
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce

DIRECTIONS

1. Crumble pork into a large, deep skillet. Cook over medium high heat until evenly brown. Drain and set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, mix together the pork, cabbage, green onion, ginger, water chestnuts, salt, sugar and sesame oil. Chill in the refrigerator 6 to 8 hours, or overnight.
3. Place a tablespoon of the pork mixture into each of the wonton wrappers. Fold the wrappers, and seal the edges with a moistened fork.
4. In a large, deep skillet, heat 3 tablespoons vegetable oil over medium high heat. Place the pot stickers into the oil seam sides up. Heat 30 seconds to a minute. Pour water into the skillet. Gently boil 7 to 8 minutes, until oil and water begins to sizzle, then add remaining oil. When the bottoms begin to brown, remove pot stickers from heat.
5. In a small serving bowl, mix together the chili oil, soy sauce, and vinegar, adjusting proportions to taste.



BUDGET-FRIENDLY HEARTY WINTER SOUP

INGREDIENTS

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • 2 sweet potatoes, peeled and chopped | • 1 cup chopped carrots | • 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme |
| • 1/2 head cabbage, coarsely | • 1 pound turkey bratwurst, sliced | • 1/2 teaspoon dried rosemary |
| | • 1/2 teaspoon salt | • 1/2 teaspoon ground white pepper |
| | | • 1/2 cup dry white wine |

DIRECTIONS

1. Place the sweet potatoes, cabbage, and carrots into a slow cooker, then place the bratwurst slices on top of the vegetables. Sprinkle with the salt, thyme, rosemary, and pepper. Pour the wine and chicken broth over the vegetables.
2. Cook on Low until the sweet potatoes are easily pierced with a fork, 5 to 6 hours.



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | 1 New Year's Day Office will be closed | 2 Arabica's Hours 9:30-11 AM Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 4:30-7:30PM Mission Meeting 7PM | 3 Compassionate Care 9:30 AM MovementWorks 4:30-7PM Girl Scouts Meeting 6-7PM Fellowship Hall Sanctuary Choir 7 PM Choir Loft Handbell Choir 8 PM Choir Loft | 4 | 5 MovementWorks 9AM- 12:15PM |
| 6 Communion Family Worship 10 AM Fellowship 11 AM /FH | 7 Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 1:30-3:15 PM Boy Scouts Meeting 7-8:30 PM Fellowship Hall | 8 Bible Study 10 AM FR MovementWorks 4:30-8:30PM Preschool Bd. Meeting 7 PM Trustees Meeting 7 PM/FR Bible Study 7 PM Penny K's house | 9 Arabica's Hours 9:30-11 AM Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 4:30-7:30PM | 10 MovementWorks 4:30-7PM Sanctuary Choir 7 PM Choir Loft Handbell Choir 8 PM Choir Loft | 11 | 12 MovementWorks 9AM- 12:15PM |
| 13 Worship 10 AM Sunday School 10-11 AM Fellowship 11 AM/FH Confirmation classes Adult: 11AM FR Youth:3PM FR | 14 Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 1:30-3:15 PM Executive Committee 6:30 PM Boy Scouts Meeting 7-8:30 PM Fellowship Hall | 15 Bible Study 10 AM FR MovementWorks 4:30-8:30PM Bible Study 7 PM Penny K's house | 16 Arabica's Hours 9:30-11 AM Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 4:30-7:30PM | 17 MovementWorks 4:30-7PM Girl Scouts Meeting 6-7PM Fellowship Hall Sanctuary Choir 7 PM Choir Loft Handbell Choir 8 PM Choir Loft | 18 | 19 MovementWorks 9AM- 12:15PM Council & Committees Retreat 8:30AM-3:30PM |
| 20 Worship 10 AM Sunday School 10-11 AM Fellowship 11AM /FH | 21 Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 1:30-3:15 PM Council Meeting 7 PM/FR Boy Scouts Meeting 7-8:30 PM Fellowship Hall | 22 Bible Study 10 AM FR MovementWorks 4:30-8:30PM Bible Study 7 PM Penny K's house | 23 Arabica's Hours 9:30-11 AM Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 4:30-7:30PM | 24 MovementWorks 4:30-7PM Sanctuary Choir 7 PM Choir Loft Handbell Choir 8 PM Choir Loft | 25 | 26 MovementWorks 9AM- 12:15PM |
| 27 Family Worship 10 AM Noisy Collection Fellowship 11 AM/FH | 28 Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 1:30-3:15 PM Craft Night 6:30 PM FR Boy Scouts Meeting 7-8:30 PM Fellowship Hall | 29 Bible Study 10 AM FR MovementWorks 4:30-8:30PM Bible Study 7 PM Penny K's house | 30 Arabica's Hours 9:30-11 AM Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 4:30-7:30PM | 31 MovementWorks 4:30-7PM Sanctuary Choir 7 PM Choir Loft Handbell Choir 8 PM Choir Loft | | |



PRAYER LIST



Please keep the following in your prayers:

Jim Brown, Bev Mischka, Tom Hollstein, Dick Berry, Bob & Sherry Spratt, Roger Becker, George Small, Marge Spangler, Ida Horvatic, Julia Damon, Steve Cooksey, Joyce Darakis, Ruth Kossow and all others in our congregation with conflicts or concerns in their lives that go unspoken.

If you know of any member who wishes to be placed on the prayer list or to be removed from the list, please contact the church office at (440) 988-4965.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1/1 Darlene Mudrich | 1/16 Peggy Settle |
| 1/3 Neva Herchler | 1/18 Jared Hubach |
| 1/6 Bryan Goldthorpe | 1/18 Robin Mead |
| 1/6 Mary Shalkhauser | 1/19 Ruth Kossow |
| 1/7 Brian O'Dell | 1/20 Alvin Chow |
| 1/7 Brooke Robey | 1/24 Aaron Ross |
| 1/7 Pam Schuster | 1/25 Karin Andy |
| 1/7 Eleanor Traster | 1/25 Karel Schieferstein |
| 1/10 Patrica Heatley | 1/26 Douglas Davis |
| 1/11 Brittany Walter | 1/26 Patricia Logar |
| 1/13 Kyle Beiswenger | 1/26 Rachel Pratt |
| 1/13 Frank Jeskie | 1/28 Sarah Readinger |
| 1/14 Judy Baker | 1/29 Kristin Mulica |
| 1/14 Tracy Hall | 1/29 Dwight Siron |
| 1/15 Danielle Nagy | 1/30 Brian Schieferstein |
| 1/16 Susan Conkle | |

If we missed your birthday, please let us know. Call Katie at 440-988-4965.