

**ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

582 Church Street Amherst, Ohio 44001

Church Office (440) 988-4965

Fax (440) 988-5068

|  |              |                               |
|--|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Arlen G. Vernava, Interim Senior Pastor    | 585-455-2289 | pastor@stpetersamherst.org    |
| Pam Schuster, Director of Music & Organist | 328-5571     | heavenlysaints4life@yahoo.com |
| Jessie Kubuske, Christian Ed. Director     | 988-4965     | dir.ed@stpetersamherst.org    |
| Katie Yarnell, Administrative Secretary    | 988-4965     | admin.ofc@stpetersamherst.org |

**Executive Council**

|                                      |                |                               |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Shelley Harmych, Council President   | 309-6593       | president@stpetersamherst.org |
| Judy McCurdy, Council Vice-President | (419) 433-6598 | judymccurdy4@gmail.com        |
| Susan Cherry, Council Secretary      | 988-7425       | scherry@stpetersamherst.org   |
| 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  | <a href="http://www.stpetersamherst.org">www.stpetersamherst.org</a>                                      |
| St. Peter's Facebook | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/stpetersuccamherstoh">https://www.facebook.com/stpetersuccamherstoh</a> |
| St. Peter's Twitter  | <a href="https://www.twitter.com/StPetersUCCOh">https://www.twitter.com/StPetersUCCOh</a>                 |



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

Care for Us

Care for Others

Praising God

**ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

582 Church Street  
Amherst, Ohio 44001

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid

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

April 2020



**THE KEY**

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



Care for Us

Care for Others

Praising God



April 2020

Dear St. Peter's members and friends,

Join me in a Holy Week Journey ...

Psalms 118, verses 1 -15, in Robert Alter's translation speaks this way:

"Acclaim (give thanks to) the Lord, for He is good, forever is His kindness... From the straits I called to Yahweh (God), Yahweh answered me in a wide-open place. The Lord is for me, I shall not fear. What can humankind do to me?... Better to shelter in the Lord than to trust in humankind. Better to shelter in the Lord than to trust in princes. ...surrounded... They swarmed round me, oh they surrounded... They swarmed around me like bees, ... but the Lord helped me. My strength and my might is Yahweh, and He has become my rescue."

This Palm Sunday reading includes this familiar line: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. From the Lord did this come about - it is wondrous in our eyes. This is the day the Lord has wrought (made). Let us exult and rejoice in it." (verses 22-24).

Palm Sunday is called "Jesus' triumphant entry," a title with a double meaning.

Humankind does not prove trustworthy. Jesus' arrival provides his enemies - both secular and religious - the legal justification to arrest and convict him. Jesus' entry captivates his followers, who later abandon him, with the hope of revolution and victory upended.

Yahweh (God) does prove trustworthy. Jesus' arrival provides post-resurrection enemies - both secular and religious - a clear and profound example of loving kindness and justice. Jesus' entry speaks to the post-resurrection church, then and now: choose peace over violence, for in peace we experience God's power perfected.

Thursday Jesus is arrested. Psalm 116 speaks:

"I love the Lord, for He has heard my voice, my supplications. For He has inclined His ear to me when in my days I called. The cords of death encircled me - and the straits of Sheol (death) found me - distress and sorrow did I find. And in the name of the Lord I called. 'Lord, pray, save my life.' Gracious the Lord and just, and our God shows mercy.... I beseech You, Lord, for I am Your servant. I am Your servant, Your Handmaiden's son (child). You have loosed my bonds.... "

Arrested, tried, convicted. These are the events that begin Thursday and end Friday, with Jesus' crucifixion. Jesus' last hours are a behavior template and lesson learned. Death will encircle someday. Emotional and spiritual and physical hardship land us on the straits of Sheol.

Jesus's example: vulnerable, honest, kind, courageous. Not fake, not pretending. Lesson learned: against all advice, despite repercussions, and ignoring one's instinct, choose to stay with, to be with others when they are on the straits of death. Jesus' followers left him isolated and alone. Choose to stay with and be with; choose to stay vulnerable, honest, kind and courageous ... with God ... with yourself ... with your neighbor ... and the stranger .... and the enemy. "God ... you have loosed my bonds...."

Friday. Crucifixion and death. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Far from my rescue are the words that I roar... My palate turned dry as a shard and my tongue was annealed to my jaw, and to death's dust did You thrust me. For the curs came all around me, a pack of the evil encircled me, they bound my hands and my feet. They counted out all my bones. It is they who looked, who stared at me. They shared out my garments among them and cast lots for my clothes. But You, O Lord, be not far. My strength, to my aid O hasten!"

Psalms 22 begins with words the Gospel has Jesus quoting from the cross. Later verses describe, in part, the events of Jesus' death.

Then, like now, social rules and fear and law separate the dying from loved ones. Those tasked with acting, watching and waiting live on an emotional and spiritual knife-edge. Some protect their hearts and minds with callous talk and actions. Jesus is no longer a person, a human being, but a title, an object, a living corpse. A covid-19 afflicted woman is no longer a person, but a contagion, a body in a bed.

And what of the one who really sees? What of the one who feels another's every cough and feverish perspiration? Who knows every name, feels crushed by failure, grieves? They are those who, one day, stay at home, who 'break-down' at work, whose hearts and souls experience a wound unto death.

How does one maintain body and soul when one's circumstance lives in horror, terror, decay and death? The Gospel stories say that a soldier and a thief and Jesus' family members, grounded and awake, lived into their circumstances neither callous nor overwhelmed. They saw themselves. They saw Jesus.

Stay intimately in conversation with God. Remain grounded in your being fully and completely yourself. Keep awake to *now*. With these powerful choices, you and others remain human. You and others are neither callous nor defeated. You and others see yourselves and affirm God, God alone.

Resurrection. Alleluia! Resurrection.

"When Israel came out of Egypt... the sea saw and fled... the mountains danced like rams... Before the Master, whirl, O earth ... who turns the rock to a pond of water, flint into a spring of water." Psalm 114.

The story of Lazarus describes God's power, through Jesus, lifting Lazarus from death to life; the corpse, John's gospel says, comes forth out of the grave, still bound by grave cloths. Lazarus lives, but is not restored to community - not whole - until family and friends remove the grave-clothes.

God raising Jesus from death to life, O friends, is more miraculous than God making a dry path in the midst of a sea of water, or mountains dancing like rams, or the whole earth whirling, or a rock becoming water, or a flint, the hardest of rock, becoming a spring of water.

Jesus does not rise a breathing corpse, still wrapped in grave clothes; he rises from death fully restored, fully himself, whole in body, mind and spirit. In God raising Jesus from death, we observe the reality and promise of full communion: with ourselves, God, neighbor, stranger and enemy. Resurrection says intimacy does not stop. Death's "quarantine" cannot hinder or defeat abundant life: the love of God through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Dear friends, holy week and this Covid 19 pandemic invites us to ponder ...

God's power and purpose perfected through the way of loving kindness and justice  
Choosing to stay vulnerable, honest, kind and courageous ... always  
Seeing - being with - oneself and others while affirming God, God alone  
Living abundant spiritual and emotional life, no matter one's station or circumstance

Then together we "Shout out to the Lord, all the earth, worship the Lord in rejoicing, come before Him in glad song." Thanks be to God!

Peace,

## General Updates and News

### Holy Week and Easter Worship

Zoom meeting I.D. 2965078915

Zoom passcode 5854552289

Following Zoom worship on Palm Sunday you are invited to drive to and through the carport at St. Peter's where Pastor Arlen will pass to you palms beginning at 11:45am to 12:15pm.

Easter Sunday Pastor Arlen will pass out Easter lilies following worship in the same manner as Palm Sunday.

And if you choose to not drive to the church for palms or Easter lily, e-mail Pastor Arlen or phone 585-455-2289 and St. Peter's will leave a palm and an Easter lily by your front door.

Muandy Thursday Zoom worship begins at 7PM.

For all worship services plan to have your wine or grape juice and bread for communion.

### Transition Team News

The church profile is nearing completion. Soon you will have opportunity to read it and provide feedback.

### Circle Six Update

Circle Six had a well attended meeting on March 3, with about 30 people in attendance. Our guest speaker was Rebecca McFarland. She spoke about Eliot Ness: The Cleveland Years. Members and guests were enthralled as Rebecca shared tidbits about Eliot's time in Cleveland, and how he transformed Cleveland from one of the most dangerous cities in the nation to one of the safest! If you missed it you missed a very informative presentation!

Due to the "stay at home" order from Governor DeWine, there will be no meeting in April. Also, the bake sale for April 5 is postponed. Stay tuned for an update on when the new date is. The annual All Daughter's Tea will not happen this year. This is not because of the virus. This decision was made several months ago.

Stay safe and wash your hands!

### Scholarships

Scholarships for continuing education can now be picked up in the church office. Graduating high-school seniors furthering their education may apply to the church for a final scholarship. E-mail the church office for an application. All scholarships must be turned in by May 15th of this year.

### Food Bank

The month of March had a total of 76 items donated. Thank you to everyone who donated items to the food bank.

### Templed Hills Summer Camp Registration

Registration for the 2020 Summer Camp is now open! . Please visit <https://heartlanducc.campbrainregistration.com> to register today! Templed Hills also offers scholarships. Check out more information at <http://www.heartlanducc.org/discounts-scholarships-and-camperships/> Campership scholarships up to 50% are available through Christian Education. Contact Jessie Kubuske at 440-988-4965 or email [dir.ed@stpetersamherst.org](mailto:dir.ed@stpetersamherst.org) to apply.

### Sunday School Update

Parents/Grandparents/Guardians of Sunday School kiddos: if you did not receive your email or text message, we have a private Facebook page called St Peter's Shelter in Place Sunday School. Go to Facebook and do a search. You will need to ask to join. It will have video links, activities, crafts and sometimes even snack ideas associated with each Sunday's scripture lesson. A good way to stay connected while we are "staying at home"

### Preschool April Update

In these uncertain times the preschool is keeping in touch with our preschool parents through Facebook. I have posted their work up until April 3 on the web site. The preschool board will reassess if need be after that date as per the Governors orders. We are hoping to finish out the year with our students. Only time will tell. Until then, I am praying for everyone's good health.

Prayers to all,  
Mrs. Kosakowski

## Summary of the March 2020 St. Peter's UCC Council Meeting Minutes for the KEY Meeting Date: March 23, 2020

### Treasurer's Report

Lauri Hubach gave the Treasurer's Report for the month of February 2020:

Offerings: \$13,823.00  
Income from Endowment: 14,479.76  
Expenses: (28,302.76)  
Balance: -0-  
February 2019 Income from Endowment: \$8,825.80  
Invoice from Midway Trophy: Paid

Checking Account Balance: \$20,878,08  
Investment Account Balance: \$570,090.32

### Financial Secretary Report:

Karel Schieferstein gave the Financial Secretary's Report for February. Income of \$584.00 was added to the Stained Glass Windows Fund.

### Develop Participating Membership and Membership Criteria

The Council picked up the discussion of this subject, which was begun in the February meeting. After much discussion, an additional meeting was scheduled via Zoom for Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. to continue discussion on membership criteria.

### Memorial Day Parade

Shelley asked for volunteers to take on the organization of St. Peter's participation in the Memorial Day Parade. Christine Burman and Stacy Gleason volunteered to take on this project.

### Wine and Chocolate Walk, May 17 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Shelley asked for a volunteer to coordinate a station along the Walk in the Kubuske's front yard, which would include refreshments (water and brownies) for the participants of the walk, and to raise awareness for St. Peter's in the community. Judy McCurdy volunteered to coordinate the organization of this project.

### Digital Sign

Sam Bonfiglio gave a report on quotations received for a digital sign for St. Peter's. He had two quotes for \$32K (approx.) for a large sign, (8' wide) and a smaller sign at \$27K (approx.). Trustees are also researching the Congregational U.C.C. digital sign installation costs.



## PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Please keep our entire St. Peter's family and all those who lives we touch and those that touch ours in prayer. Pray for our leaders and medical care givers. Pray for all those feeling lost or lonely and reach out to let them know they are not alone. Give thanks for our strong faith and faith family.

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.



### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

|     |                   |      |                    |      |                   |
|-----|-------------------|------|--------------------|------|-------------------|
| 4/1 | Pamela Beiswenger | 4/6  | Sharon Thompson    | 4/22 | Deborah Raesler   |
| 4/1 | Katie Orseno      | 4/7  | Steven Bosworth    | 4/24 | Debra Brown       |
| 4/2 | Kaye Koler        | 4/10 | Kobe Goodwin-Pyers | 4/25 | Jacqueline O'Dell |
| 4/3 | Peter Hause       | 4/14 | Mike Harmych       | 4/25 | Marcia Ramsey     |
| 4/4 | Swen Neilsen      | 4/15 | Allan Murphy       | 4/27 | Joan Whitman      |
| 4/4 | Lucas Shalkhauser | 4/18 | Neil Wasilk        | 4/28 | Karie Slavik      |
| 4/5 | Thomas Davis      | 4/19 | Margaret Wiegand   | 4/29 | Kody Beiswenger   |
| 4/5 | Clifford Elliot   | 4/19 | Joseph Zahorec     | 4/30 | Terrence Clark    |
| 4/5 | Sharon Slavik     | 4/20 | Emma Ranney        | 4/30 | Kathryn Neilsen   |
| 4/5 | Donald Wearsen    | 4/21 | Kimberly Boian     | 4/30 | Kevin Neilsen     |
| 4/6 | Brady Jeffers     | 4/21 | Bonny McQuaid      |      |                   |

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

### April Fools Grilled Cheese



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

- Ingredients**
- 1 pound cake, cut into 1/2-inch slices
  - 6 tablespoons butter, softened
  - 1 cup white frosting
  - 1/2 teaspoon yellow food coloring, or as needed
  - 1/8 teaspoon red food coloring, or as needed

### Directions

1. Spread butter on both sides of each pound cake slice.
2. Heat a griddle over medium heat. Cook cakes slices on hot griddle, turning once, until golden brown on each side, 3 to 5 minutes. Transfer cake slices to a wire rack to cool completely.
3. Stir frosting, yellow food coloring, and red food coloring together in a bowl until frosting is the color of American cheese.
4. Spread frosting on 1 side of half of the pound cake slices and top with another slice of pound cake.

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| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday                                       | Thursday   | Friday            | Saturday                                       |
|---|--|---|---|--|-------------------|--|
| 5<br>Communion Worship 10 AM<br>Sunday School 10-11 AM<br>Fellowship 11 AM/FH         | 6  | 7<br>Bible Study 10AM Fireside Room<br>MovementWorks 4-9PM<br>Bible Study 7PM Penny K's Home  | 8<br>Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM<br>MovementWorks 4-8PM  | 9<br>Maundy Thursday<br>MovementWorks 4-8PM<br>Sanctuary Choir 7PM Choir Loft<br>Bell Choir 8PM Choir Loft   | 10<br>Good Friday | 11<br>MovementWorks 8:30AM-12:45PM             |
| 12<br>Easter Sunday<br>Worship 10 AM<br>Sunday School 10-11 AM<br>Fellowship 11 AM/FH | 13<br>Church Office will be Closed<br>Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM<br>MovementWorks 1-3:45 PM<br>Executive Committee 6:30 PM | 14<br>Bible Study 10AM Fireside Room<br>MovementWorks 4-9PM<br>Bible Study 7PM Penny K's Home | 15<br>Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM<br>MovementWorks 4-8PM | 16<br>MovementWorks 4-8PM<br>Girl Scouts Meeting 6-7PM Fellowship Hall<br>Trustees Meeting 7PM FR<br>Sanctuary Choir 7PM Choir Loft<br>Bell Choir 8PM Choir Loft | 17                | 18<br>Passover<br>MovementWorks 8:30AM-12:45PM |
| 19<br>Worship 10 AM<br>Sunday School 10-11 AM<br>Fellowship 11AM/FH                   | 20<br>Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM<br>MovementWorks 1-3:45 PM<br>Council Meeting 7 PM/FR                                     | 21<br>Bible Study 10AM Fireside Room<br>MovementWorks 4-9PM<br>Bible Study 7PM Penny K's Home | 22<br>Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM<br>MovementWorks 4-8PM | 23<br>MovementWorks 4-8PM<br>Sanctuary Choir 7PM Choir Loft<br>Bell Choir 8PM Choir Loft   | 24                | 25<br>MovementWorks 8:30AM-12:45PM             |
| 26<br>Family Worship 10 AM<br>Noisy Collection<br>Fellowship 11 AM/FH                 | 27<br>Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM<br>MovementWorks 1-3:45 PM<br>Craft Night 6:30 Fireside Room                              | 28<br>Bible Study 10AM Fireside Room<br>MovementWorks 4-9PM<br>Bible Study 7PM Penny K's Home | 29<br>Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM<br>MovementWorks 4-8PM | 30<br>MovementWorks 4-8PM<br>Sanctuary Choir 7PM Choir Loft<br>Bell Choir 8PM Choir Loft   |                   |  |