

**ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
582 Church Street  
Amherst, Ohio 44001

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**Sunday Worship Service:** 10:00 AM  
**Wednesday Breeze Chapel:** 7:00 PM  
**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday:  
8:30 AM-12:30 PM *and* 1:00-2:30 PM  
Afternoons available by appointment.

 Merry Christmas friends!

"I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." LUKE 2:10

DECEMBER 2022



## THE KEY

"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the **KEYS** of the Kingdom of Heaven."

— MATTHEW 16:18-19

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





# THE KEY

December 2022

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"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the **KEYS** of the Kingdom of Heaven." — MATTHEW 16:18-19

## "THE GLORIOUS NEW CREATION!"

*Pastoral Ponderings*

From the desk of  
PASTOR CHRIS

### THE GLORIOUS NEW CREATION

For I am about to create new heavens  
and a new earth;  
the former things shall not be remembered  
or come to mind.

But be glad and rejoice forever  
in what I am creating,  
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy  
and its people as a delight.  
I will rejoice in Jerusalem  
and delight in my people;  
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it  
or the cry of distress.

ISAIAH 65:17-19 NRSV

"For I am about to create new  
heavens and a new earth!"

Wouldn't that be wonderful? As beautiful and full of promise as this earth is, I'm sure we could all agree that things could be improved. That's not being critical of the artist in residence, God, but it is acknowledging that what we have done with this wondrous earth is far from great. Just like this earth, things in our lives get broken and in need of repair. Not all of us are mechanically inclined, so when our vehicles, or other mechanical creations break down, we depend on professionals to fix them. If our roofs are leaking, we call a roofer. If our plumbing is stopped up, we call a plumber. But who do we call when our earth and society break down? Like the well-known line from the movie





“ADVENT IS UPON US,  
AND THIS IS A SEASON  
FOR US TO REFLECT  
AND TO PREPARE FOR  
THE ARRIVAL OF  
THE ONE WHO IS  
GOING TO HELP US  
REPAIR OUR LIVES.”

“We call for the anointed one of God—Jesus Christ.”

“Ghostbuster,”—who you gonna call? We call for the anointed one of God—Jesus Christ.

Advent is upon us, and this is a season for us to reflect and to prepare for the arrival of the one who is going to help us repair our lives. Emmanuel, God with us, is coming! What do we want, and what do we need Emmanuel to do for us? Hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, the prophet Isaiah spoke of a child who would come and lead us. And by lead, I mean that this child would create a new Earth and Heavens. This child would help us see things in new ways so that we could change our lives to more fully reflect the will of God. The Kingdom of God was going to be constructed and led by this Child—this Son of David. The hope was that under the direction of this Holy One, we would become what God willed for us—to be

**more loving, kind, compassionate, hospitable, humble and always to be seeking justice for all.** By loving all of God’s creation, all of God’s children, we would usher in a new age. This is what we seek. This is what we prepare ourselves for during this time of waiting and watching for the birth of Christ.

I hope you can get a true sense of the excitement and the wonder of Advent by worshipping with us this season. We plan to prepare ourselves for the birth of this Child of David who will usher in a new age. Exciting things await us! Things are changing for the better!

***Remember, you are loved!***

*Rev. Chris Buckingham-Taylor*

Pastor Chris

**December Sermon Scriptures on page 4:**

12/4– Matthew 3:1-12    12/11–Luke 1:46-55    12/18–Matthew 1:18-25    12/24– John 1:1-14    12/25– Isaiah 52:3-10





## DECEMBER SERMON SCRIPTURE READINGS

12/4 Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

12/11 Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

12/18 Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.



12/24 John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*Continued on next page...*

*But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.*



## "Blue Christmas Service"

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21 at 7:00 PM

Each one of us comes bearing the loss of loved ones, or may be struggling to mend our own broken places. Our Blue Christmas Service can provide comfort and hope.

Join us in the Sanctuary.  
There will be a time to light  
a candle in memory  
of loved ones.

## Operation Christmas Child Report



This year we approached this outreach mission project a bit differently. First of all, we looked at it from the perspective of what God would want us to do. We set a goal of 50 shoeboxes which was five more than last year. We also invited the children in our preschool to take part. "Ask and you shall receive." The Lord has greatly blessed us. This year we collected 62 Christmas Shoeboxes for children around the world. You are truly amazing and I thank you!

*Blessings & Prayers, Linda Gatz*

12/25 Isaiah 52:3-10

For thus says the Lord: You were sold for nothing, and you shall be redeemed without money. For thus says the Lord God: Long ago, my people went down into Egypt to reside there as aliens; the Assyrian, too, has oppressed them without cause. Now therefore what am I doing here, says the Lord, seeing that my people are taken away without cause? Their rulers howl, says the Lord, and continually, all day long, my name is despised. Therefore my people shall know my name; therefore in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here am I.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God

reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

## Potluck!

December 4th

Join us for St. Peter's "Holiday Potluck" meal in the Fellowship Hall following worship. Linda has a signup sheet for what you'd like to bring. The Kobiakov family will be joining us. You can present them with your ornament for their Christmas Tree. As a church family we will also present Nataliia with her quilt. So please save the date, plan the dish you wish to share, and come and fellowship with us.

*Blessings to you all! Linda*



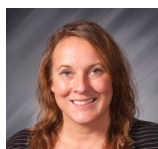
## Kobiakov's Update

Our Ukrainian family is very appreciative of their home and all that the members of our church do for them. Lev and Kuzma have made friends at school and settled into a routine. Hlib celebrated his 19th birthday on November 13th. The family is exploring what they need to do to remain in the United States and all are looking forward to being with us in church on December 4th for our service and the potluck afterwards in fellowship hall. During the service we will be presenting Nataliia with the handmade quilt you all were a part of, and at the luncheon we will be giving them the ornaments that you have for them. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there.

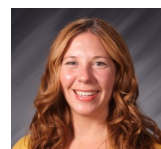
*Blessings & Prayers,*  
Linda Gatz



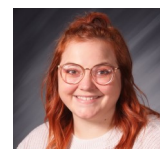
Wendy Kosakowski



Heather Nail



Kerri Kobylka



Ms. Stempowski

# DECEMBER

*The best possible introduction for children to the world of learning.*

Ho Ho Ho!! It's hard to believe that December is here. We will continue working on beginning sounds, numbers, shapes, colors, and the letters of the alphabet. For our mission project, the preschool collected gift cards for the families displaced by the war in Ukraine.

The children are busy getting ready for the Christmas program. They will be singing many wonderful songs to their guests.

The programs will be held on Thursday, December 15 at 9:00 a.m./12:45 and Friday, December 16 at 9:00 a.m.

As we all prepare for this wonderful holiday, may we all sit back and enjoy all the little things that go by so quickly. Our children are growing so fast that we sometimes forget to enjoy the simple sound of their laughter or the look of their sweet smile. May God bless you with a safe and wonderful Holiday.

Preschool registration for the 2023-2024 school year will start in January.

***The preschool staff would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!***

**Sincerely,**

Wendy Kosakowski, Director  
Heather Nail, Kerri Kobylka, and  
Ms. Stempowski



## Sunday School Noisy Collection

November's Noisy Collection will be used to buy **Christmas dinners** for local families that may not be able to afford one. There will be baskets again in front of the pulpit and lectern for other donations. They might include:

**CANNED VEGETABLES  
BOXED SCALLOPED POTATOES  
CAKE MIXES AND FROSTING  
OTHER NON PERISHABLES THAT MAY BE  
GOOD FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER**

**Sincerely,**  
Jessie Kubuske,  
Director of Christian Education



## YOGA with Mary-K

Wednesday Mornings | 8:30-9:45 AM  
Thursday Evenings | 6:00-7:15 PM

Our Wednesday morning, and Thursday evening class will meet in the lower level of St. Peter's Church. Please arrive by 8:25 a.m. for the morning class, and by 5:55 p.m. for the evening class. Enter through the door by the Chapel.

"YOGA with Mary-K" is for anyone who needs lengthening, stretching and loosening as we target the fascia, connective tissue and joints to develop strength and restore flexibility. Bring your own mat, a water bottle and wear comfortable clothes.

Mary-K is a RN/BSN, with over 12 years of yoga teaching experience, and 30 years of personal practice.

Cost is \$10 per class.



# Circle Six Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 6:00 PM

## *Christmas Craft by Dot Wilford*

Circle Six will hold it's next meeting on Tuesday, December 6 in Fellowship Hall. We will be working on a Christmas craft yet TBD. Bring your own meal and beverage.



## *Annual Cookie Sale*

Sunday, Dec. 11 | Fireside Room

Circle Six will also be holding it's annual cookie sale on Sunday, December 11 in the Fireside Room. Each container will include one pound of assorted cookies and can be yours for only \$7.00. Pick one up for yourself and maybe another for a neighbor!

*Thank you, Sally Readinger, President*



## A Message from our Council President

Hello friends,

As I type this final Key letter as President of Council, I want to express my deep gratitude for you, a member of St. Peters. YOU are the heart of St. Peters, and together we will continue to build and grow stronger.

At Our Annual meeting we voted in the new slate of Council for 2023 - men and women who are willing to serve as leaders of our church. It is only because of the tireless volunteers who give much of their time and talents that we are able to succeed at carrying out the mission of St. Peters.

Over this past year we have worked together to strengthen our bond as united members of this church. We have worked to set aside differences and focus on each others' strengths, forgiving our mistakes and shortcomings. By doing so we have made some tangible advances: most importantly, we moved closer to a more balanced budget by significantly reducing expenses.

Changes are not always popular, but the work we have done is based on our strong desire to keep St. Peters alive and well and thriving for future generations.

Our trustees have worked to keep the church safe and sound; aesthetic additions have made the church more beautiful and functional. And volunteers have also helped with moving dirt in the gardens and cleaning out old dirt as well as organizing and removing unneeded items that have hung around for far too long.

The music ministry soothes our souls. Pastor Chris has lent his voice to the preschool schedule, strengthening our bond with that ministry both spiritually and musically. He effectively filled in providing worship music before our new organist (and now choir director) arrived, who has brought his talents to our service.

Post Covid we reinstated Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall which is once again in full swing, creating an opportunity

to share time together and build friendships. And "Coffee Hour with Pastor Chris" provides a place and space to socialize and get to know each other better outside of the church.

And, of course, we are supporting a wonderful Ukrainian family who are keeping our parsonage warm and friendly with their lovely family!

The overall atmosphere of the church is buzzing with excitement and the desire to participate.

We are making progress, not perfection, and in the example of Jesus Christ, we move forward with grace and mercy, keeping the vision of St. Peters as a leader of love in our community.

*Sincerely,*  
**Mary-K Kirsch**  
Council President

# CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

## ATTENDEES:

*"When a leader in the Church inspires council members with vision, he helps them focus on their real mission so that they are ministering to people rather than merely administering programs." — M. Russell Ballard*

President: Mary-K Kirsch	X	Pastor: Chris Buckingham-Taylor	X
Vice President: Christine Burman	X	Trustee: Jim Kubuske	X
Secretary: Susan Cherry	X	Congregational Rep: Kaye Koler	X
Treasurer: Lauri Hubach	X	Congregational Rep: Tom Hollstein	X
Congregational Rep.: Stacy Gleason	X	Financial Secretary: Rebecca Woods	X
Congregational Rep.: Sally Readinger	X	Congregational Rep: Susan Conkle	X
Past President Moderator: Shelley Harmych	X	X= present; E=excused; A=absent	

Visitors: Lynn Hollstein; Wendy Kosakowski | Mary-K opened the meeting at 7:01 pm with Pastor Chris giving the opening prayer.

The first order of business was to approve the pass through payments for October.

**A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE PASS THROUGH PAYMENTS FOR \$335.00. THE MOTION PASSED.**

## Preschool Report

Wendy Kosakowski presented an overview on improvements to the Church facilities, which are also used by the preschool. Wendy has received approval of a grant for church facilities improvement in the amount of \$37,399.80. One of the requirements was that church facilities improved under the grant had to be spaces that the preschool uses— new toilets, partitions, touchless faucets, and new paint for the ladies restroom, and new LED lights. It also included a new vanity in the nursery, stripping and waxing of floors in Fellowship Hall, preschool, and restrooms. Wendy asked that the Trustees pick out the paint colors for the women's restroom. The updating of facilities must be completed by the end of May 2023. Updating of facilities will start as soon as the funding arrives. The total amount of the grant was for \$92,000.

Questions were asked about why three bids were not taken for the work on the project. Lauri Hubach asked what the \$54K preschool portion of the grant would be used for—air purifiers, Google Chromebooks, with a \$10K bonus per teacher, which includes hazard pay and sick pay. A discussion ensued on hazard pay and a comparison to what another preschool had put aside for hazard pay, sick pay, bonuses, and use of bonuses. Mary-K encouraged us to communicate with each other and work together for the betterment of St. Peter's and the preschool. We should encourage transparency and communication.

## Trustee Report (Trustee Minutes 11/15/22)

**Attendance:** Jim Kubuske, Pastor Chris Buckingham-Taylor, Edgar Vargas, Geoff Gatz, Don Krucek.

Jim took a moment to thank all the trustees for their hard work.

-Outside Advent Wreath needs to be set up before 11/27. Don and Jim will meet on 11/19 at 2pm to set it up. Edgar volunteered that it was very easy, and that he would start bringing parts up during the week, this week.

- Boy Scouts will set up the Christmas tree on Monday, 11/21 at 7 pm. They will return on 12/9 to take it down and put it away.

- Jim chaperoned the Boy Scout Eagle Court of Honor on 11/6. All went well, they have done it enough times that they have it down to a science. Jim asked for volunteers for the next Eagle Court of Honor on 12/3, with no one volunteering, Jim will chaperone.

- Geisel repaired the problematic boiler part. There was no charge for the visit, and a discount for the part due to our maintenance agreement. In total, it was less than \$500. Geoff mentioned that there is some water near it, but Edgar said because of the type it is, this is normal.

- Edgar said that he turned his bids in to Wendy for the grant she is writing, and he believes she has turned in the grant. Geoff raised the question of who will oversee these repairs, and whether it is a trustee issue. Pastor Chris said let's wait to see if it gets approved first.

- There is a work order to set up 4 tables and corresponding chairs on Dec. 10 for the Advent Workshop on Dec 11, and then to put the tables and chairs back so the Fellowship Hall is ready for preschool on Monday. Don and Gary will set up and take down at 2 pm on Saturday and a time TBD on Sunday.

### **Geoff Gatz had several things to report:**

- The contract with Republic has been signed. It will cost \$54/month for the single bin. No more recycling. There will be a set up cost of \$154.

- The last windstorm caused a shingle and a shutter to fall off the parsonage. There is no water leak. Shutter is in the garage.

- He raised concerns about people parked in the lot when Born comes to push snow. Edgar pointed out that in the past, they usually move.

- Gary called Callahan and the outside light that was on at the wrong time has been fixed.

- Brian, with the help of Geoff and Tom Janus, was able to bring the low voltage wire to the electronic sign. Jim will contact Wagner Sign to find out about the key to open the sign so it can be attached.

- Geoff asked the group who will continue to be a trustee. Gary will continue depending on health and Don.

- Geoff Gatz resigned as a trustee.

### **Next meeting 12/15/22.**

After review of the Trustee Report, Council was informed there may still be members interested in becoming Trustees. We are hopeful that in the near future we will be adding additional Trustee members.



## Pastor's Report

Pastor Chris thanked everyone who helped with the Christmas decorations.

The organist will be having a choir rehearsal on Thursday for a 12/11/22 choir singing performance. The bell choir will also be performing during Advent.

Church services will be held on Wednesday, 12/21/22, at 7:00 pm for Blue Christmas. On Saturday, 12/24/22, at 7:00 pm there will be a Christmas Eve service. On Sunday, 12/25/22, there will be a Christmas Day service at 10:00 am.

## Treasurer's Report (Oct. 2022)

Pass Through payments needing approval:

### **Payable To: For:**

NIN*	\$230.00
OCWM*	<u>\$105.00</u>
Total	\$335.00

\*Neighbors in Need \*\*Our Church's Wider Mission

Note: Pass-through items are donations received for missions that we forward to the mission.

## General Fund Summary

	<u>Oct. 22</u>	<u>Oct. 21</u>	<u>2022 YTD</u>	<u>2021 YTD</u>	<u>YTD CHG</u>
Offerings Cash/Check	12,101.00	10,833.00	108,404.54	98,745.41	9,659.13
Offerings Breeze	1,445.00	1,340.00	14,983.00	15,017.99	(34.99)
Offerings PayPal	0.00	250.00	205.00	1,665.00	(1,460.00)
Transfer to General from Preschool	2,120.00	1,770.00	17,130.00	13,288.00	3,842.00
PPP Loan Forgiveness/EIDL	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,804.82	(19,804.82)
Blessings from the Saints	817.48	2,693.45	60,772.75	85,196.55	24,423.80
Expenses	(16,483.48)	(16,886.45)	(201,495.29)	(233,717.77)	32,222.48
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	48,847.60

Full report available in the church office.

Lauri pointed out that expenses were down vs. last year at this time and that \$71,436 will need to be taken from the future fund to make a \$0 balance in the general fund.

## Financial Secretary's Report

Offerings for October 2022 were \$13,811.24. Year-to-date offerings for 2022 were \$119,531.00. Pledge cards submitted in 2022 were for \$87,598.00—so far we have collected \$82,678.32 against pledges. Becky commented that for 2023 she has received 36 pledge cards for \$81,450. Our goal for 2023 is \$205,000. It was mentioned we should add a graphic thermometer to The Key to keep track of our progress of the value of pledge cards submitted to the goals we have set. Pastor Chris will have Kaye add this illustration to The Key. Everyone is urged to turn in their pledge cards before the end of December.

## Spiritual Life

Pastor Chris reported the group is still doing home visits, sharing communion, and bringing gifts to the homebound. Pastor Chris thanked Judy and Pam for their time and the gifts they bring to those they call on.

## Altar Guild

Lynn Hollstein reported on Altar Guild activities. There will be a communion service this Sunday. The other communion date for December will be at the Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm on 12/24/22.

## Ushers

Mary-K reported that Allan is contacting ushers to ensure that there are enough ushers at each service.

## Tech Report

Mary-K asked Kaye Koler about the website review. Kaye stated she had not made any changes or additions to the website. She stated that the website is not necessarily user friendly and needs help correcting items. She will look further into these challenges.

## Garden Club

Sue Conkle reported that all of the beds have been cleared out for winter.

## President's Report

Mary-K thanked everyone who worked on the budget reduction project for 2023. The budgeted expense reduction for 2023 was \$75,000. Mary-K then thanked everyone for their hard work this year. Mary-K thanked the council members that are leaving Council (Shelley Harmych, and Susan Cherry) at the end of December 2022.

## New Business

Mary-K asked the Council if we thought it was necessary to have a December Council meeting. The consensus was there were not enough issues to have a December meeting and it would be difficult to get everyone together for a meeting during Christmas week. Therefore, there will be no Council Meeting in December. However, there will be an Executive Committee meeting on the second Monday, 12/12/22, to handle any business that needs to be addressed in December.

Pastor Chris commented he would like to schedule a Council retreat in January. It would take place in Fellowship Hall from about 9:30 am to 12 noon on a Saturday to be named.

Kaye Koler mentioned that she and Teri Walter are giving out "Quilts of Valor" to veterans in our congregation on January 15, 2023.

Pastor Chris gave the closing prayer.

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.  
THE MOTION WAS SECONDED, AND THE MOTION PASSED.**

The meeting concluded at 8:34 pm.

## **Respectfully submitted,**

Susan Cherry  
Council Secretary



## DECEMBER EVENTS

- Dec. 1 Compassionate Care 10:30 a.m.
- Dec. 4 Communion Sunday 10 a.m.  
Potluck after worship
- Dec. 6 Circle Six Meeting 6 p.m.
- Dec. 7 Confirmation Class 6-7 p.m.
- Dec. 10 Men's Fellowship Breakfast**  
**9:30 a.m. St. Peter's UCC**
- Dec. 11 Gingerbread Bash 2-4 PM
- Dec. 14 Confirmation Class 6-7 p.m.
- Dec. 15 9AM & 12:45 PM preschool program  
Trustees Meeting 6 p.m. Zoom
- Dec. 16 9AM preschool program  
NO COUNCIL MEETING THIS MONTH
- Dec. 21 Clergy Lunch Meeting 11:30 a.m.
- No Confirmation | **Blue Christmas 7 p.m.**
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service 7 p.m.
- Dec. 25 Christmas Family Worship
- Spiritual Life: 1-4:00 p.m., Mondays
- Bible Study: 7:00 p.m., Tuesdays, Zoom
- Breeze Chapel: 7-7:30 p.m., Wednesdays
- Handbell Choir: 7 p.m., Thursdays
- Coffee Chats with Pastor Chris  
Sandstone Coffee House (old Arabica's)  
Wednesdays 9-11:00 a.m.
- YOGA with Mary-K, St. Peter's lower level  
Wed. 8:30-9:45 AM & Thurs. 6:00-7:15 PM



## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

**ST. PETER'S UCC  
SATURDAY**

**Dec. 10th at 9:30 AM**

We have changed the day of our breakfast to the 2nd Saturday of the month, so more men are able to participate!

Enjoy breakfast, followed by prayer, and a short devotion-al. We usually conclude by 10:30 a.m. We are looking forward to where this ministry will lead us in faith.

*Please contact Pastor Chris for more information.*



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

DeLayne Hart .....	December 01
Geoff Gatz .....	December 02
Laurie Parham .....	December 04
Carol Battenhouse.....	December 05
Thomas McKinley .....	December 09
Jeffrey Stumpp .....	December 18
Kenneth Bring .....	December 20
Jessie Kubuske .....	December 20
Lois Barankovich .....	December 22
Elaine Thompson .....	December 23
Jean Swift .....	December 26
Arthur Diaz.....	December 27
Terry Deliman .....	December 29

# JOIN US FOR

# Advent Worship

## Sundays at 10 AM





# Compassionate Care Meeting Dec. 1 at 10:30 AM

Joan Whitman, Team Leader | 440-320-8923 | rwhitman1@oh.rr.com

We meet the 1st Thursday of the month in the Fireside Room at 10:30 AM. Joan Whitman is the Team Leader. If you have any questions regarding Compassionate Care, or would like to join our group please contact Joan. We would love to have you join us as we minister those in our church that need care.

## Are you in need of Prayer?

Call Joan Whitman, contact person for the Prayer Team.

Please call Joan if you would like to be added or removed from **THE KEY** prayer list shown below. Also, if you want to keep your prayer request confidential, we can also add your name for our Prayer Team.

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Karin Andy	Jean Marsh	Mary Ann Sterna
Judy Baker	Tom McKinley	Don Swift
Lois Barnes	Bev Mischka	Jean Swift
Roger Becker	Glenn Miskov	Elaine Thompson
Richard Berry	Audrey Montgomery	Edgar Vargas
Joyce Darakis	Darlene Mudrich	Gloria Versace
Tudy Diaz	May Poor	Sue Smith
Valentino Dziak	Serita Reyes	Sharon
Don Flock	Janet Siron	
Ruth Kossow	Sherry Spratt	



St. Peter's UCC  
**FOOD**  
pantry

In November,  
we collected  
**134**  
food items!

Good Shepherd Baptist Food Pantry has started the **Weekend Children's Backpack Program** (*last year the number doubled*). We cannot let any child go hungry if it is in our power. To the right are some suggestions that would be very helpful with this great need.

We will also still collect '**regular food items**' for families in addition to the Backpack Program. Please leave your donations in the drop off boxes at the church. Pam Miskov will ensure that all items are transported to Good Shepherd Baptist Food Bank.

Thank you to everyone who continually donates on behalf of St. Peter's! You are all ROCKSTARS of generosity!



THE WORST ENEMY OF HUNGER IS APATHY.

[Single Serving PB & Jelly](#)  
[Canned Soup \(Pop top lids\)](#)  
[Mac & Cheese \(Microwavable\)](#)  
[Spaghetti-Os \(Pop top lids\)](#)  
[Peanut Butter Crackers](#)  
[Individual Cereals](#)  
[Granola Bars](#)  
[Oatmeal Packages](#)  
[Small Bag Chips](#)  
[Small Bag Pretzels](#)  
[Fruit Cups](#)  
[Jello Cups](#)



## ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

582 Church Street, Amherst, OH 44001

**Office Phone:** (440) 988-4965

**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1-2:30 p.m.

*Afternoons available by appointment  
with Pastor Chris.*



**Chris Buckingham-Taylor, Pastor**  
(920) 650-0761  
pastor@stpetersamherst.org



**Jessie Kubuske, Christian Ed. Director**  
(440) 988-4965  
dir.ed@stpetersamherst.org



**Kaye Oswald, Office Administrator**  
(440) 988-4965  
admin.ofc@stpetersamherst.org

**Sunday Worship Service:** 10:00 a.m. | **Sunday School:** 10:00-11:00 a.m.

**Wednesday Breeze Chapel Service:** 7:00 p.m.

Please visit our website, [www.stpetersamherst.org](http://www.stpetersamherst.org) to make your donation electronically via Breeze or PayPal. Also, we now have the ability to accept donations by TEXT! If you would like more detailed information, please contact the church office.

### Executive Council

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Mary-K Kirsch, Council President	(216) 559-6160	president@stpetersamherst.org
Christine Burman Council Vice-President	(440) 522-8035	redcar1105@yahoo.com
Susan Cherry, Council Secretary	(440) 988-7425	secretary@stpetersamherst.org
Lauri Hubach, Treasurer	(440) 988-2459	treasurer@stpetersamherst.org

### St. Peter's Preschool

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Wendy Kosakowski, Administrator & Teacher	(440) 985-1972	preschl@stpetersamherst.org
Heather Nail, Teacher & Assistant Administrator		
Kerri Kobylka, Teacher		
Taylor Stempowski, Teacher's Aide		

### Website and Social Media Addresses

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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>
St. Peter's YouTube Channel	St Peters UCC Amherst