

**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.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among  
the nations, I am exalted in the earth.”

Psalms 46:10

May 2022

**THE KEY**



MAY is  
MENTAL HEALTH  
AWARENESS  
M O N T H

God has you  
in the palm of  
His hand.

MAY 8 is  
Mothers'  
Day!

“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

May 2022

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

"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

## *Pastoral Ponderings*

From the desk of  
PASTOR CHRIS



## "MAY WE"

If it's true, "that April showers bring May flowers," then, since I'm writing this in mid-April, by the time you read this we will be surrounded by flowers! Life is breaking forth all around us as we bask in the afterglow of Easter Sunday. We are the children of the resurrection. In addition to flowers blooming, another sign of Easter is the butterfly. As you saw on Easter Sunday, I was wearing a vestment covered in butterflies. Just as we celebrate the empty tomb, the caterpillar spins its chrysalis and then, when the time is right, emerges out of its cocoon completely transformed. Since we are the children of the resurrection, we too, like butterflies, emerge from our Easter cocoons as new beings. We are all unique and beautiful, and we soar with Christ. This is good news!

My Easter prayer is that we will all try to appreciate God's beauty found in the people of St. Peter's UCC. God has given us new life and we need to celebrate it with every breath we take.

It is time for St. Peter's to embrace joy and take flight!

In some ways, we have been in a cocoon for the last few years. Suffering the loss of Pastor Beverly, only a few years ago, and then moving through the interim period of ministry with Pastor Arlen, all during the pandemic, we've finally arrived at a

point in our church's history where we can take to the skies again. It's time for us, and it is time for our local community to witness the resurrection of St. Peter's, as we take flight by doing the work and ministry of Christ.

You may remember a car commercial from many years ago (1988) when Oldsmobile





“MY EASTER PRAYER IS THAT WE WILL ALL TRY TO APPRECIATE GOD’S BEAUTY FOUND IN THE PEOPLE OF ST. PETER’S UCC.”

attempted to rebrand itself with the phrase, “This is not your father’s Oldsmobile!” That may not have worked out in the end, but it will for us—this is not the St. Peter’s of the past, this is a new St. Peter’s! We have shed the argumentative, and painful past and have emerged as a glorious butterfly! If you’ve ever had the opportunity to watch a butterfly emerge from its cocoon, you realize how much it must struggle to break free.

There are moments when, as an observer, you may be tempted to help the butterfly break free, but you must resist that temptation. For a butterfly to have the

strength it will need to fly; it must go through the struggle of breaking free in order to develop the strength it will need to fly. We’ve struggled too, and now we have the strength to see and be the beauty of Christ.

It’s May, so “may” we look for the beauty in each other and celebrate our new lives with joy, excitement, energy and love.

It’s a new day!

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

Pastor Chris

#### 5/1 Acts 9:1-20

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.” The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called

Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.” But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

***May Sermon Scriptures continued on page 4:***

5/8– Acts 9:36-43    5/15– Revelation 20:11-15, 21:1-8    5/22–Acts 16:9-15    5/29– Acts 16:16-34





# MAY SERMON SCRIPTURE READINGS

## 5/8 Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

## 5/15 Revelation 20:11-15, 21:1-8

Then I saw a great white throne and the one who sat on it; the earth and the heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, the book of life. And the dead were judged according to their works, as recorded in the books. And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and all were judged according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire; and anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

## 5/22 Acts 16:9-15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and

help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

## 5/29 Acts 16:16-34

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.



# Mission and Outreach, St. Elizabeth Center

For those that don't know, and as a reminder to others, St. Peter's has had an ongoing mission and outreach that started in downtown Lorain at Catholic Charities. Originally, this was a place that provided hot meals for the homeless, and our church helped once a month.

Back then, Lynn and Tom Hollstein were in charge of cooking a spaghetti meal and then delivering the meal. Others from our church would bring desserts. Members

who have served in the past *and* today include Pam Miskov, Judy McCurdy, Betty Pekare, Diane Barnum, Danielle Nagy, Margaret Wiegand, Ken and Cindy Bring, Beverly Mischka, and Serita Reyes. *(apologies if we've omitted anyone)*

Years later, the place downtown closed and opened St. Elizabeth Center (still in Lorain), which was originally the old Polish Club. The Center serves daily hot meals to the homeless, and up to 50 men who

shelter there, with a focus on supporting those with special needs.

Dave Rice, a member of the Lions Club got the "Leos" involved. They help the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 4:30-6:00 p.m. One girl, Jasmine (a Leo), actually was flying to Costa Rico at 3:00 a.m. that morning, and she was still there to help out. That's how important it was to her! If anyone is interested in helping, please call Betty Pekare at **(440) 245-1231**. Thank you!

The St. Elizabeth Center is located at 2726 Caroline Avenue, Lorain, OH 44055



## Yoga returns to St. Peter's!

Wednesdays  
**8:30-9:45 AM**

Please  
note time  
change!

On Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

You-Stretch-Yoga (a very basic approach) started. No yoga experience is necessary.

200 RYT Instructor Mary-K Kirsch will be teaching a "light on yoga but big on stretching class" from 8:30-9:45 a.m.

Bring your own mat, wear comfortable clothes, and be ready to loosen up those tight muscles and joints with a gentle, personalized approach to a healthy body.

Please arrive by 8:20 a.m. and enter through the door by the Chapel, and go down to the lower level.

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.



## Cinderella's CLOSET

*We're Once Again Accepting Formal Wear  
for Cinderella's Closet*

Cinderella's Closet provides formal wear and accessories to high school girls, boys, and also seniors living in Nursing Homes who have Prom Night, and do not have the financial resources to purchase such items.

Through donations of new and gently used formal dresses, suits, tuxedos and accessories (including jewelry, shoes, purses), they are able to "Turn These Items Into Dreams". Even more than a dress/suit, Cinderella's Closet provides an unforgettable, amazing experience. From the moment our princesses and princes dance through our doors, they are greeted with an environment of kindness and respect. **It is our mission that they leave knowing they are cherished and respected.**

The **Encore Consignment Shoppe** in Vermilion, Ohio participates in Cinderella's Closet. Any donations can be placed in the Fellowship Hall and Lynn Hollstein will make sure they are delivered to Encore. Any questions, please contact Lynn at (440) 988-8066.

# St. Peter's Preschool News



Wendy Kosakowski



Heather Nail



Kerri Kobylka



Ms. Stempowski



We have had a very busy year at preschool. The children have worked on letters, numbers, colors, rhyming and their names. Everyone has had so much fun; it is hard to believe that it is coming to an end.

This month the children will learn the letters Vv, Qq, Uu, and Vv. They will also make something special for Mother's and Father's Day.

The children will attend the reception of the letters Qq and Uu. Qq can not make any words without Uu by his side, so he asked her to marry him. We will have fun dancing and eating cake to celebrate.

The children will end the school year with a picnic and performance on the church lawn. They will sing a few of their favorite

songs and receive their Preschool Diploma.

If you would like to register your child for preschool, please call 985-1972 for more information. There are only a few spots left for next school year.

***Have a safe and wonderful summer!***  
The Preschool Staff



## Christian Education Update

Just a reminder, we now have a box for you to place your clean used **plastic bags** for the Amherst High School Leo club's recycling project. The Leo Club has been collecting plastic to be recycled by the Trex company. The club is given 6 months to collect 500 lbs. Last year we reached the goal and the Leo members decided to donate the bench to Amherst City Hall. There is also one in Patriots' Park.

Looking for volunteers to help with VBS this summer. Tentatively planned for the week of **June 27-July 1**. Please let Jessie Kubuske know if you are willing to help in ANY capacity.

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**Our last Sunday school will be Sunday, May 8.** Anyone willing to volunteer to help next year, please contact **Jessie Kubuske** at **440-988-4895** or **dir.ed@stpetersamherst.org**

Make sure to let the office know of any high school senior graduating this year so that they may be recognized in church on May 21.

## Garden Club Report

Thank you to all the gardeners who have been beautifying the grounds in time for Easter—Sue Conkle, Becky Woods, Walter and Luena Beale, Geoff and Linda Gatz, and Fred and Lynda Helyes. Special thanks to the Gatz's and Helyes's for shopping for and delivering the new brown mulch.

The garden club meets a few times each month when the weather is pleasant. Please contact **Sue Conkle** at **440-537-1749**, if you'd like to help out!

# Circle Six Meeting | Tuesday, May 3

## Fellowship Hall



**Don Mould's Program**  
Herbs for purchase! \$1.99

Our annual bake sale was held on Sunday, April 10 and it was a huge success. I'd like to thank everyone who baked—we had a wonderful variety of deliciousness and without all of you this event wouldn't be possible. I'd especially like to thank everyone

who purchased the baked goods. You make it possible for us to continue our annual Holiday donations to various charities.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 3 @ 6:00 in Fellowship Hall. Please bring your own

dinner. Our program is being *presented by* Don Mould's and they will be bringing herbs that you can purchase at \$1.99 per herb. See you then!

**Respectfully,**  
Sally Readinger, President



## A Huge Thank You from Compassionate Care!

Compassionate Care would like to give a huge thank you to **Circle Six** for the cookies that were donated to our team for distribution, and to **Altar Guild and congregates** that donated their Easter lilies to Compassionate Care to deliver to those we reach out to. The recipients are always so grateful for the gifts they receive, and for being remembered as part of our family of faith at St. Peter's, and our larger family of Christ. *Thank you for all you do!*

**Amherst Memorial Day Parade & Program on May 30, 2022** Parade line-up will take place on Washington Street beginning at 9:00 a.m. The parade will kick off at 10:00 a.m. Individuals and groups interested in participating should register by May 10 by calling **440-714-1213**. Political candidates are discouraged from participating in this event.

## Wagner Sign

Hopefully, everyone has had a chance to view the messages on our Wagner Sign. The form to the right was created for Board/Committee members, and groups to fill out and turn in 2 weeks prior to post date.

Forms are outside the office. Please make sure to complete all information and turn into the church office. Pastor Chris will make sure the message sounds appropriate for St. Peter's. If there are an abundance of messages, we may reach out to you for a change of date. This will be a work in progress, and we hope everyone will work with us in honoring the 2 week turnaround time. We are excited to share messages to the community!



### Wagner Sign Form

To be considerate of the normal workload of the Administrative Secretary, and the time it takes to create, and integrate your message into the LED Studio programming, please turn in this completed form **2 WEEKS prior to your post date**. Thank you for honoring this request.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Board/Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Removal Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please keep your message as short as possible, since the normal screen time is 4 seconds.

Print Clearly:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Examples.** Please make sure to *minimize* your message.





# CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

April 25, 2022 Minutes

## ATTENDEES:

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

Visitors: Sharon and Gary Thompson, Geoff and Linda Gatz, Fred and Lynda Helyes, Lynn Hollstein, Jessie Kubuske  
The meeting opened at 7:03 p.m. and Pastor Chris then gave the opening prayer.

## Trustee Report

Mary-K asked if there were any questions for Jim Kubuske concerning the Trustee Report, as submitted below:

Trustee Meeting 4/19/22

Attendance: Pastor Chris Buckingham-Taylor, Jim Kubuske, Geoff Gatz, Gary Thompson, Edgar Vargas.

### **Old Business:**

The original chimney guy is unable to do the chimney above the offices, referred us to Adam Bartlett, Silverton Enterprises, 1104 Milan Ave., Amherst 216-389-1811. Cost estimate is \$3000, will need council approval, so Jim will present it at the Council Meeting on Monday.

Still no response from the city on occupancy of rooms.

Gary put in solar lights around the flagpole so that we don't have to go in and out of parsonage area to turn it on or repair it.

### **New Business:**

#### **Work Orders:**

Preschool hallway light needed a new ballast which Edgar replaced at no cost to the church Preschool bathroom stall needed a latch replaced. Gary used one from another area and fixed it.

Gary contacted Maxim elevator about light and it will be fixed next time elevator man comes.

Dumpster: Geoff and the finance committee have researched and once our contract is up with Rumpke we will remove the recycling dumpster and add a larger dumpster with Republic at a cost of \$57/month. We must make sure we contact Rumpke within 60-120 days of Jan 1 to cancel our contract.

Phones: Geoff and the finance committee are asking council to approve \$2,995 for the fire panel, remove the landlines and convert phones to the internet. They will begin to save the church money after 1 1/2 years. (Rebman systems)

Garden club: when the club was originally set up, trustees specified that any change or charges are to be run past trustees for approval. The mulch should be by donations of mulch or money.

Pastor Chris would like to have many of the plaques and pictures that have been removed hung around the church. He will discuss it with Edgar and then trustees will move forward.

Geoff discussed the wooden preschool sign. He asked the city if it could be on the corner and the city said as long as it wasn't blocking the right of way.

Geoff questioned mowing. Cost is per week, with 1 mow a week. At this point it was also asked about the equipment, the mower, blower, inside vacuum, etc. All equipment is the property of Zigmer maintenance.

Geoff questioned the \$50 cleaning fee after an event in the church. Discussion followed as to what denotes a "Special Event" and it was determined that Trustees will decide what signifies a special event.

Geoff asked the trustees for ideas to reduce costs. One thing that was mentioned was the Cintas contract, which will cost us to get out of, so we will revisit before the contract is up November 2024.

### **Next meeting, Thursday, May 1, 2022, still on Zoom.**

Toward the end of the council meeting, motions for two Trustee projects were made.

**A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED FOR CHIMNEY REPAIRS AT \$3,000, UPON RECEIPT OF A WRITTEN QUOTE FOR THE PROJECT. THE MOTION PASSED.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO ACCEPT REBMAN'S BID TO UPGRADE THE FIRE PANEL SYSTEM (\$2,995). THE MOTION PASSED.**

Jessie Kubuske suggested that we use the funds from the Little Church to fund Trustee capital projects.

## Treasurer's Report

Lauri Hubach was not able to attend the meeting but she submitted the financial reports with the following highlights:

Continued on next page...



## General Fund Summary

	<u>Mar. 22</u>	<u>Mar. 21</u>	<u>2022 YTD</u>	<u>2021 YTD</u>	<u>Change</u>
Offerings Cash/Check	9,340.26	10,247.00	31,508.54	29,034.00	2,474.54
Offerings Breeze	1,275.00	1,818.00	4,202.00	4,475.00	(273.00)
Offerings PayPal	160.00	600.00	185.00	875.00	(690.00)
Transfer to General	1,770.00	1,450.00	5,310.00	4,350.00	960.00
PPP Loan					
Forgiveness/EIDL	0.00		0.00		0.00
Blessings from the Saints	9,427.16	11,863.95	22,971.66	25,409.29	2,437.63
Expenses	(21,972.42)	(25,978.95)	(64,177.20)	(64,143.29)	(33.91)
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,875.26

## Pass-Through payments needing approval:

<b>Payable To:</b>	<b>For:</b>
Ukraine	\$285.00
Veterans of the Cross	\$8.00
OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission)	\$395.00
Total	\$320.00

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

**A MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE  
THE PASS THROUGH PAYMENTS. THE MOTION PASSED.**

## Pastor's Report

Pastor Chris stated he is working with the Budget/Finance Committee to find a replacement for Daniel Jacky. At this time we do not have a replacement. A question was raised if we were interested in candidates for organist? Pastor Chris stated we want candidates but at this time we are not hiring. In the interim we will be using the music in the Red Hymnal.

Pastor Chris indicated that questions may arise about what will happen with the church in 2 years. He stressed that we need to be grateful for our current contributions and steady pledge income, and that we have a lot of positive things going. He stated that next year's budget will be more balanced and the Finance Committee will make recommendations when the time is right. Most importantly, we want to continue our good trends.

## President and Moderator's Report

Mary-K stated that we are moving forward on the right track. She also wanted to thank all of the volunteers, who do such good work.

## Tech Report

Mary-K is looking for 1 or 2 volunteers to work as substitutes for her and also for Brian Schieferstein so that she and Brian may take a Sunday off when needed. Any interested persons should contact Mary-K.

## Financial Secretary Report

Becky Woods gave the Financial Secretary's report. March total offerings were \$12,672.64. Becky stated that this Sunday, and possibly next, the collection basket for mulch will be again set out to collect contributions.

## Financial Team

Geoff Gatz briefed the council on the proposed conversion of the current telephone system of landlines to internet-based phone lines with the exception of the phone in the elevator, which must stay a landline. All of this is contingent upon updating the "fire panel to use internet and cell monitoring capabilities." The group

is also looking at doing away with the recycling dumpster, converting to a larger trash dumpster, and switching from Rumke to Republic Services. This is ongoing based on timing with the end of the Rumpke contract.

The Team is still working on their analysis of the Cintas contract, which will not be up until November 2024.

The copy machine contract is also being reviewed. That contract will not be up until April, 2023.

Members of the Financial Team are Geoff Gatz, Brian Schieferstein, Shelley Harmych, Lou Zeller, Tom Hollstein, and Neil Walsilk. In a future meeting the Team will meet with Sally Readinger. Also, there will be a meeting scheduled with the Financial Team, Lauri Hubach, and the congregation, which will take place in the sanctuary.

## Spiritual Life

Pastor Chris and the Spiritual Life committee will be reviewing the membership rolls. The team is also visiting retirement homes, but due to Covid, they are doing visits less often for some residents. Linda Gatz stated that she is making prayer quilt cloths for people to carry in their pockets or purses. Pastor Chris will set up a display in the sanctuary for people to offer prayers.

## Altar Guild

Lynn Hollstein stated that in May we will be using a new method of preparing the communion, which will be more cost effective.

Ushers No formal report was given.

## Garden Team

Sue Conkle thanked the team workers for the work they did in putting down mulch, planting, bulbs, etc.

## Old Business

Linda Gatz reported that she has not heard anything on the Ukrainian families coming to our area.

Becky Woods is handling the Daniel Jacky Fund. The account has received \$220 to date. She will have a check request prepared for the balance and sent to Sally before Daniel's 5/21/22 concert. Linda Gatz is working on sending out notices to other UCC churches and churches in Amherst. Mary-K will help Linda Gatz with contacting Main Street Amherst to put the concert information on their website.

## New Business

We are moving forward with income producing and budget reducing ideas. Mary-K is looking for a volunteer to head a rummage sale project. Pastor Chris suggested that the rummage sale take place in the summer, when the preschool is not in session.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed. Pastor Chris gave the closing prayer and the meeting ended at 8:22 pm

## Respectfully submitted,

Susan Cherry  
Council Secretary



## Rev. Kathryn Ketchum

Guest Minister

Sunday Worship | May 29, 2022

Kathy grew up in Elyria, graduated from Centenary College in Louisiana, and then received her Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta. She served United Methodist churches in the Louisiana Conference until 1996, when she returned to Ohio. *"The food and the people were wonderful! The heat, humidity and fire ants were NOT."*

Kathy transferred her ministerial orders to the UCC in 2001, serving Pilgrim church in Elyria, and working as a Christian counselor in a private practice. In 2016, she resigned from the practice, and became the full-time pastor at the newly formed Community of Faith UCC in Elyria. After her retirement last July, she has found every day brings something new. *"God continues to intrigue, inspire and guide me in the ways of grace. I'm looking forward to sharing worship with St. Peter's!"*

## MAY EVENTS

- May 1 Communion Sunday
- May 3 Circle Six 6:00 p.m.
- May 5 Compassionate Care 10:30 a.m.  
Girl Scouts 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- May 11 Preschool Board Meeting
- May 13 Boy Scouts Flower Distribution 1:30 p.m.
- May 14 Boy Scouts Flower Distribution 9:00 a.m.
- May 16 Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- May 18 Clergy Meeting Vermilion UCC 11:30 a.m.
- May 19 Trustees Meeting 6 p.m.
- May 22 Family Worship Sunday Service
- May 23 - June 4 Pastor Chris on Vacation**
- May 29 Rev. Kathryn Ketchum, Guest Minister**



"MAY HE GRANT YOU  
YOUR HEART'S DESIRE  
AND FULFILL ALL  
YOUR PLANS!"

P S A L M 20 : 4

Jill Harmych	May 02
Tamara Selent	May 04
Lindsey Stumpp	May 05
Delores Campbell	May 06
James Woods	May 06
Lewis Zeller	May 06
Thomas Hollstein	May 09
Lois Barnes	May 11
Joyce Zickefoose	May 11
Janet Orseno	May 21
David Heatley	May 26
Lori Kissling	May 28
Mary Ann Sterna	May 30
Sharon Vollmer	May 30

# Happy Mother's Day

Mother's Day is  
Sunday, May 8



### Proverbs 31:25-28

She is clothed with strength and dignity;  
she can laugh at the days to come.

She speaks with wisdom,  
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

She watches over the affairs of her household  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children arise and call her blessed;  
her husband also, and he praises her.

Thank you dear God for *all* of our Mothers either with us,  
or in Heaven, for their unconditional love, self-sacrifice, and  
wisdom. A Mother's bond is a tie that can never be broken.



In April,  
we collected  
**185**  
food items!

## *Help feed our Children!*

Cheryl at Good Shepherd Baptist Food Pantry recently shared with us that the need for their weekend children's backpack program has doubled! We cannot let any child go hungry if it is in our power. Following are some suggestions that would be very helpful with this great need:

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

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!

*\* Just a suggestion that Sam's Club has Single Serving PB & Jelly with a nice size serving.*

### ***Dear Heavenly Father,***

We ask You for a fresh vision for what breakthrough will look like in our lives. Help us to pursue healing while we wait for our miracle. Show us how to rest right in the middle of the storm. Help us to enjoy the feast You prepare for us, right in the middle of the battlefield. I want my whole life to testify that there's a God in heaven who knows our name and who will get us safely home. Fill us afresh with the wonder of Your love and power. We are determined to win this battle. Help us to discern when to rest, when to feast, and how to actively engage our faith as we wait for You to breakthrough. May our lives display Your power. Do the impossible in and through us.

***We believe and pray, in Jesus' name!***

### *Please add the following people to your prayers:*

Karin Andy	Judy McCurdy
Judy Baker	Tom McKinley
Lois Barnes	Bev Mischka
Carol Battenhouse	Glenn Miskov
Walter Beale	Audrey Montgomery
Luena Beale	Darlene Mudrich
Roger Becker	May Poor
Richard Berry	Serita Reyes
Christine Burman	Dave Rice
Joyce Darakis	Janet Siron
Tudy Diaz	Sherry Spratt
Valentino Dziak	Mary Ann Sterna
Don Flock	Don Swift
Jay Gatz	Jean Swift
Shelley Harmych	Elaine Thompson
Ruth Kossow	Edgar Vargas
Jean Marsh	Gloria Versace

## *Lord hear our prayer.*

If you would like to be added or removed from this list, please contact the church office at  
**440-988-4965 or [adminofc@stpetersamherst.org](mailto:adminofc@stpetersamherst.org)**





## 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, Administrative Secretary**  
(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