

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
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

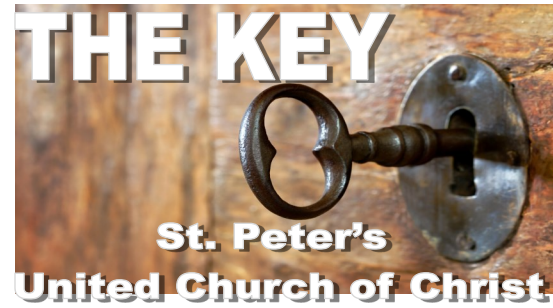
December 2019

THE KEY



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





December 2019

Dear St. Peter's members and friends,

Advent and Christmas... thanks be to God! And in this Season, an invitation: I invite you to begin each December week (plus 1) with a sentence prayer and Bible reading. Doing so unites all in a shared Christmastime - a relationship dependent upon practice, not proximity. Though separate you are together; Holy Spirit companions with you. Only God knows the blessings that await!

(Scripture follows the Sunday text from the Revised Common Lectionary, with prayers from the UCC Book of Worship, edited by me)

First Monday

"O God, ... thank you that Jesus brought [and brings] **hope** into the world."

Matthew 24:36-44 - a reminder to readiness and living wide awake.

Second Monday

"Eternal God, thank you that through all the years you have given [and give] **peace** to your people."

Isaiah 11:1-11 - A verse from a favorite Advent hymn finds its source in this story.

Third Monday

"O God, thank you that Jesus showed [and shows] your **love** for every person."

Luke 1:46b-55 - Mary sings a song of praise and thanks.

Fourth Monday

"O Holy One, as Christmas draws near...[and every day] ... help me / us share your joy with a joyless world."

Matthew 1:18-25 - Baby.

Fifth Monday

"Thank you, God, for your gift of Jesus Christ to the entire world. Thank you that Christ's coming makes hope, peace, love, and joy possible... for me... for us...for all ...here and everywhere."

Psalms 148 - a hymn of praise.

Monday, 6 January.

Eternal God, 'my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared [again] in the presence of all peoples [and me]' (Matthew 2:30ff) - Christ Jesus. Thank-you! Thank-you! Thank-you!

John 1:10-18 - Who and what? An affirmation.

For those of you who wish to practice and celebrate your faith in proximity to each other, **Caring for Us** and **Caring for Others** and **Praising God** opportunities abound...

Advent and Christmas: Worship and Fellowship.

1 December - The first Advent Candle: Hope.
Trim the Sanctuary and Deck the Hall following worship.

8 December - The second Advent Candle: Peace.
Advent Workshop for children. In Fellowship Hall - 3 to 5 pm.

10 December (Tuesday) - *Gift of Music* featuring Mary Beth Ions. 7pm. Sanctuary.
Hosted by Circle Six. Free-will Offering. Reception follows.

15 December - The third Advent Candle: Love. Choir Cantata "*Everlasting Light*"

21 December - *The Longest Night: A Service of Remembrance, Consolation, and Assurance*. Host: Community Congregational Church, 5pm. With Vermillion UCC, Brownhelm, and St. John's, South Amherst.

22 December - The fourth Advent Candle: Joy. "*Deck The Halls*"
Christmas Caroling to Nursing Homes and shut-ins. 2 to 5 pm. Meet at St. Peter's at 1:45.

24 December - Christmas Eve. The Christ Candle. Worship at 5pm and 10pm.

29 December - Guest Minister

5 January - Epiphany Sunday. The Magi arrive with gifts. Happy year 2020!

18 January (Saturday) - All leaders - Retreat. 8:30am - 3:30 pm. Amherst Historical Society Grange Hall. (Save the date!)

O Come O Come Emmanuel!

Peace,

St. Peter's Core Values

- **Praise God.** For example: with words, spoken and unspoken and written; with song and music; alone and together; in worship and in nature; in prayer, the sacraments, and thanksgiving.

- **Caring For Us:** For example: leadership, buildings and grounds, material things and governance; giving time, talent and /or material resources - stewardship; and attention and care to members and friends, friendship, care, concern, welcome, love - in times of gladness and in sorrow.

- **Caring For Others:** For example: attention and care to near-by persons seen (when serving at the soup kitchen) and unseen (donating clothes and food); to far-away persons seen, and unseen (when adopting a child or community project, and through the yearly budget item: Our Churches Wider Mission).

General Updates and News

Letter from Council

Hello Everyone,

During our November council meeting, the 2020 Church Budget was approved and was presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Christine Burman is looking into putting the logo on shirts and other things that the congregation members can purchase.

The council will be holding another retreat for all of the church leaders. It will be held on Saturday, January 18 from 8:30-3:30. Location Amherst Historical Society Grange Hall. All people involved in Altar Guide, Trustees, Ushers, Compassionate Care, Council Members, Transition Team, and Music leaders. Please plan on participating. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Shelley.

Christmas Eve services will be held at 5 pm and 10pm.

We are going on our 2nd annual Christmas Caroling. If you wish to participate, please meet at the church on Sunday, December 22 at 1:45pm. Plan on singing until 5pm.

Blessings,

Shelley

Wedding Coordinator

St. Peter's is currently looking for a wedding coordinator. If interested please email the church office.

Office will be closed

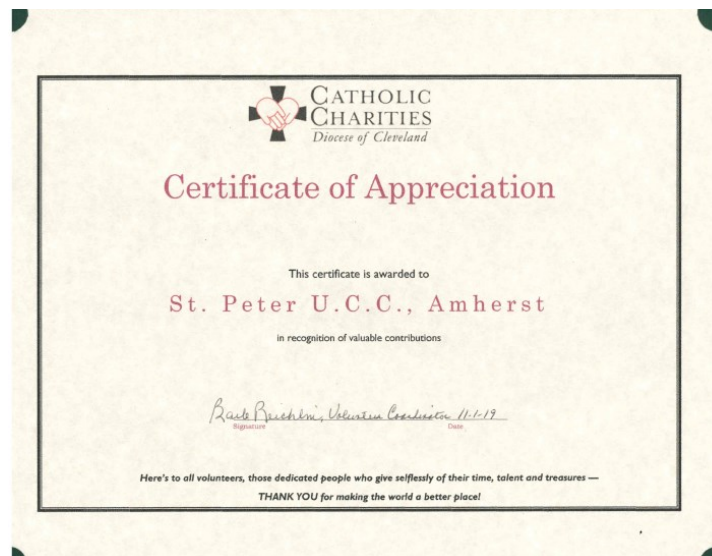
During this upcoming holiday season, the office will be closed from December 25 to January 3. Normal office hours will resume January 6.

Food Bank

The count of items donated during the month of November will be posted in next month's KEY.

The Longest Night: A Service of Remembrance, Consolation, and Assurance

Community Congregation is hosting at 5PM with Vermilion U.C.C., Brownhelm, and St. John's, South Amherst.



Certificate of Appreciation can be viewed in the church office and on our website; stpetersamherst.org.

Stained Glass Window Restoration

The Window Restoration is completed and are as beautiful as ever and better protected against the elements. We have paid back \$80,000 to the Future Fund so far. We still have a little over \$40,000 to finish this process. A generous donor has agreed to match any donation up to \$20,000 toward paying back the future fund. Please

The Gift of Music

The ladies of Circle Six Present: *The Gift of Music* with Mary Beth Ions. December 10, 2019, at 7pm in the Sanctuary, with refreshments to follow in Fellowship Hall. Tickets are required, and are free. They are available at the church office (440) 988-4965) or ask a Circle Six member. Donations will be accepted. Seating is limited, so

Advent Workshop

December 8, from 3-5PM. Able to help? Call 440-988-4965 or email dir.ed@stpetersamherst.org; Jessie Kubuske. Crafts and supplies will be supplied for you, you just have to help at the table.

And calling all chefs to prepare macaroni and cheese in crock pots, or donate hot dogs and buns. Sing-up in the back of the sanctuary.

November Council Meeting Minutes

The General Fund ended the month of October in the **negative**. The General Fund Balance as of October 31, 2019 was **(\$73,797.37)**.

Council voted on and approved the budget for 2020.

The annual congregational meeting will be November 24 after the worship service. During this meeting, the budget summary will be reviewed, and elections held for council positions.

There will be Christmas caroling for shut-ins and at nursing homes on December 22 from 2 to 5pm for those who are interested. Christmas Eve services will be at 5pm and 10pm.

There will be a church retreat for church leaders and committees on Saturday, January 18th from 8:30am to 3:30pm.

We are looking for a church member who would be interested in taking on the role of Wedding Coordinator. If interested, please contact President Shelley Harmych.

October Council Meeting Minutes

The Council meeting minutes from October can be found in the rear of the church or in the church office. For questions please call or email the church office.

Preschool December Update

Ho Ho Ho!!! It's hard to believe that December is here. We will continue working on the beginning sounds, numbers, shapes, colors, and letters of the alphabet.

The children are busy getting ready for the Christmas program. They will be singing 15 wonderful songs to their parents and guest. We are hoping that Santa can stop by for a quick visit. If you would like to hear the children sing, the program will be held on Tuesday, December 17 at 9AM and 12:45PM and again Wednesday, December 18 at 9AM.

As we all prepare for this wonderful holiday, may we all sit back and enjoy all the little things that go by 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 2020-2021 school year will start in January.

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

Wendy Kosakowski
Heather Nail
Jessica Widener
Kerri Kobylka

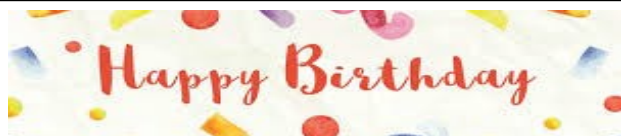
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Family Worship 10 AM Fellowship 11 AM /FH Advent Begins Hanging of the Greens Adult Confirmation Class 12PM Youth Confirmation Class 2PM	2 Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 1:30-3:15PM	3 Bible Study 10AM Fireside Room MovementWorks 4:30-8:30PM Bible Study 7PM Penny K's Home	4 Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 4:30-7:30PM	5 Compassionate Care 9:30 AM MovementWorks 4:30-7PM Girl Scouts Meeting 6-7PM Fellowship Hall Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 7PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 8PM	6	7 MovementWorks 9AM-12:15PM
8 Worship 10 AM Sunday School 10-11 AM Fellowship 11 AM/FH Advent Workshop 3-5PM Fellowship Hall	9 Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 1:30-3:15PM Executive Committee 6:30 PM	10 Bible Study 10AM Fireside Room MovementWorks 4:30-8:30PM Trustees Meeting 7PM/FFR Bible Study 7PM Penny K's Home The Gift of Music 7PM	11 Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 4:30-7:30PM	12 MovementWorks 4:30-7PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 7PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 8PM	13	14 MovementWorks 9AM-12:15PM
15 Worship 10 AM Sunday School 10-11 AM Fellowship 11AM /FH Choir Cantata Adult Confirmation Class 12PM Youth Confirmation Class 2PM	16 Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 1:30-3:15PM Council Meeting 7 PM/FFR	17 Bible Study 10AM Fireside Room MovementWorks 4:30-8:30PM Bible Study 7PM Penny K's Home	18 Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 4:30-7:30PM	19 MovementWorks 4:30-7PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 7PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 8PM	20	21 MovementWorks 9AM-12:15PM The Longest Night SPM Community Congregational
22 Family Worship 10 AM Noisy Collection Fellowship 11 AM/FH Sunday School Children Program 2 nd Annual Caroling 2PM Advent Ends	23 Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 1:30-3:15PM Craft Night 6:30PM Fireside Room	24 Christmas Eve Worship Service 5PM 10PM MovementWorks 4:30-8:30PM	25 Christmas Day Office will be closed	26 MovementWorks 4:30-7PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 7PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 8PM	27	28 MovementWorks 9AM-12:15PM
29 Worship 10 AM Sunday School 10-11 AM Fellowship 11AM /FH Adult Confirmation Class 12PM Youth Confirmation Class 2PM	30 Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 1:30-3:15PM	31 New Years Eve MovementWorks 4:30-8:30PM				

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers:

George Small, Marge Marshall, Audrey Huber ,Pam & Bill Schuster, Jim & Linda Brown, Richard Berry, Maxine Mann, Karin Andy, Dave Roesch, May Poor, Ruth Kossow, Darlene Mudrich, Joyce, Terry and Chris Darakis. and all those with conflicts or concerns left 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.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/1 Julia Damon	12/15 Richard Orseno	12/23 Elaine Thompson
12/1 Stanley Lutz	12/15 Jane Strauss	12/24 Jennifer Novak
12/4 Micheala Jeffers	12/16 Dave Walter	12/25 Bradley Kissling
12/4 Lauri Parham	12/17 Tracey Raesler	12/26 Jean Swift
12/5 Carol Battenhouse	12/18 Ruth Haff	12/27 Arthur Diaz
12/6 Kimberly Haney	12/18 Jeffrey Stumpp	12/29 Terry Deliman
12/10 Benjermin Kildow	12/20 Kenneth Bring	12/29 Kevin Morron
12/11 Alyssa Chow	12/20 Jessie Kubuske	12/29 Elizabeth Newman
12/11 Michael Polansky	12/20 Thomas Walters	12/29 Benjamin Noster
12/13 Lori Goodwin-Pyers	12/21 Patricia Standen	12/29 Vicki Timple
12/13 Natalie Swift		
12/22 Lois Barankovich		

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

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

Corn Salad with Bacon and Honey



Ingredients

- 4 slices bacon, chopped
- 1 medium shallot, chopped
- 1 tbsp. fresh thyme
- 2 tsp. sherry vinegar
- 3 c. frozen corn, thawed
- 1 tsp. pure honey

Directions

1. Cook bacon in a large skillet over medium heat until crisp, 8 to 10 minutes. Transfer to a paper towel-lined plate with a slotted spoon; reserve skillet.
2. Add shallot and thyme to reserved skillet. Cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, 2 to 3 minutes. Add vinegar and corn. Cook, tossing until heated through, 4 to 5 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in honey and reserved bacon.