ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

582 Church Street

Amherst, Ohio 44001

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





THE KEY

February 2021

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

"Mark's Gospel tells this Jesus story."

—Arlen G. Vernava

St. Peter's People,

Mark's Gospel tells this Jesus story.

"Then they came, bringing to him [Jesus] a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him [into the house] to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'"

Friends, this story speaks to our national condition and to the high and humble task you and I regularly meet: extending care, love and forgiveness on behalf of one who does not ask for it, or see a need for it, or have the capacity to seek it. Mark tells us, "Jesus saw their faith." Remarkable, isn't it? We do not know if the paralytic, if the one with sin, expressed a desire for healing. We do not know if they lived a life of faith. We are told that forgiveness and healing for One happened from the faith of others.

Imagine: you are a recipient of healing forgiveness because another has faith in Christ Jesus to forgive you, the one they love. Imagine: your faith in Jesus accomplishes the healing power of forgiveness in a friend, a friend who has no faith, who has not asked or wants or feels a need for forgiveness: they "stand up and return home" [whole].

When public discourse becomes corrosive, when competing values advance "me and mine," not "all-of-us," when parochial interests always outweigh the greater good, the better angels of the community can choose to offer healing forgiveness for those emotionally paralyzed, or unaware, or unrepentant.

If you have claimed this grace, you know the courage and effort. You know the need for strength and stamina. You know the value of partners and ingenuity. You hope, in faith.

St. Peter's people, imagine your faith in Christ's healing forgiveness for the many Senators and Representatives in national governance; for President Trump and his administration; for the many in media; for all you know or know of who have behaved in ways that fail to love both enemy and friend.

St. Peter's people, imagine your faith in Christ's healing forgiveness joined with the faith of Christian siblings faith in Christ's healing forgiveness for all in the public square who have behaved in ways that fail to love both enemy and friend.

Imagine, St. Peter's people, Jesus' gaze focused upon you as these words are spoken: "Because of your faith...." Imagine Jesus' gaze now upon the one(s) in need of healing forgiveness as you hear: "Friend, your sins are forgiven."

Your faith in Jesus to speak healing forgiveness for another, dear ones, creates grace space for God's work in another's life. The paralytic, the one who has sinned in this story, must act too. They must rise in recognition of forgivness. They must return to their community and the humble work of restoration. They must choose, every day, to live life loving friend and enemy alike.

Your faith does not make their forgiveness sure. It makes forgiveness possible. It enlarges your heart on behalf of another. It acts toward the healing of your world.

Harry Emerson Fosdick wrote: "God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power... Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour [and] for the living of these days." St. Peter's people, I invite you to join me in healing forgiveness for those in the public square who have behaved in ways that fail to love both enemy and friend. I invite you to join me in carrying them into God's loving judgement, care, and healing grace. I invite you to hope they will respond to God's invitation of restoration. Our community, state, and nation need it's better angels. St. Peter's people, you are forgiven through the courageous, strong, steadfast effort and love of God, through Christ Jesus. You know, too, a forgiveness experienced in the forgiving behavior of persons in your life. Such effort. Such willingness to see goodness in you. Such commitment to join with you in living into your best self.

Join me in seeing the goodness in the spirit of our Nation and her leaders. Join me in a faith that invites healing forgiveness to our Nation's spirit and to her leaders. Amen. Amen.

Peace,

Pastor Al

Pastor Arlen Vernava

February Sermon Scriptures:

- 2/7 Mark 1:29-39
- 2/14 Mark 9:2-10
- 2/21 Psalm 25:1-10
- 2/28 Mark 8:31-9:1

*Can be found on page 6.





It's hard to believe that we are in the month of February. The children will continue to learn the letters Gg, Hh, and Qq. They will also work on the numbers 6, 7, 8, the colors purple, blue, and the heart shape for Valentine's Day. This month, the children will also continue learning about the five senses.

We will be celebrating Valentine's Day with a fun party and movie. They will also be passing out Valentines to all their friends in school.

Hop for Your Heart! This year we will hold our annual Hop-A-Thon on February 16 and 17.

Now is the time to register your child if you are thinking about preschool for the 2021-2022 school year. Classes are filling up quickly, so don't delay. To schedule a tour or to ask questions, please call the preschool at:



Wendy Kosakowski, Preschool Director Phone: 440-985-1972. Email: preschl@stpetersamherst.org.



Dear Friends, fellow Church members:

First of all thank you for the cards and prayers. Am doing somewhat better on this date. God does hear us and loves us. Also, thanks for the "goody bags". It is amazing of all the neat things. God bless you. You are a blessing to St. Peter's! I wish everyone a blessed Christmas and good health in the New Year.

Peace and Love to Everyone!

Again-many, many THANKS to All!

Karin Andy

Sunday School Noisy Collection

Thank you to all that donate to Noisy Collection. As you know, we try to do things for local charities, if we can, with the proceeds. We are gathering several months of noisy collections and will donate this time to the **Amherst Leo Club's "Backpack Project"** which sends home ready to eat foods with kids that might not have food to eat over weekends and breaks. We will **donate in March** so that they have plenty to send home for Spring Break. Thank you again.

February Noisy Collection is **February 28.** Thank you all so much! Also side note: the Leo Club is collecting **plastic bags** again this year to make a bench for Amherst. You can drop off clean, used bags at the Main Street Amherst office lobby (255 Park Avenue).

Pith God all things are possible.

Food Pantry

The month of December had a total of **234** food items donated!

Thank you to everyone who donated items to the food bank - this is greatly appreciated!

A big thank you to Pam Miskov for taking the time to ensure all the items are transported to Good Shepherd Food Bank. There currently is a need for:



Canned Meat (Tuna, Chicken)	Kleenex	Paper Towels
Canned Soup (Pop top lids)	Spaghetti Sauce	Pasta
Spaghetti-Os (Pop top lids)	Peanut Butter	Jelly
Mac & Cheese (Microwavable)	Oatmeal Cereal	

Please leave your donations in the drop of boxes at the church.

The Spiritual Life Team of St. Peter's UCC

(formerly The Elders) 2020 – 2021

Members of this team are nominated by the Pastor and confirmed by Church Council. Members of this team are St. Peter's UCC brothers and sisters in Christ who are active members of the church, are familiar with church culture and membership. In 2019 and part of 2020 we offered Communion to those who attended the Catholic Charity supper in Lorain. Last year council gave us permission to provide communion to shut-ins, and those in hospital or care facilities with the Pastor or without. We look forward to returning to those duties once the pandemic is under control.

Currently we schedule worship leaders for our church services and continue to make contact phone calls to members of our congregation. We continue to work with the compassionate care team to provide support to members through visitation and phone calls. We are charged with providing an annual record of the active membership of St. Peter's UCC using the guidelines approved by Council in 2020.

Blessings to all,

Judy McCurdy and Pam Miskov



February Key 2021 FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Hello friends!

On behalf of the new council, I want to say "Thank You" for giving us the opportunity to serve St Peter's.

The new year brings us new challenges and opportunities as we *face forward* on our journey together. It is an exciting time to be a member of St Peter's!

We have recently hired an <u>Assistant Treasurer</u>, **Sally Readinger**, whose primary responsibility will be the Preschool Treasurer. (440) 222-3414; sallyreadinger57@gmail.com

Additionally, we have a new <u>Financial Secretary</u>, **Becky Woods**, who can help you with, and answer questions, regarding the various ways to submit your tithe/offering during this time of Covid. (440) 787-7057; makayrrt@gmail.com

Our Trustees who oversee and manage the buildings and grounds are:

Jim Kubuske (representative to council) - (440) 988-4848; jimkuba85@gmail.com Don Krueck - (440) 986-3233; bigdon66@oh.rr.com Edgar Vargas - (440) 653-7863; edg728@gmail.com

Vice President – Christine Burman - (440) 522-8035; redcar1105@yahoo.com Secretary – Sue Cherry - (440) 781-6567; secretary@stpetersamherst.org Treasurer – Lauri Hubach - (440) 320-3690; treasurer@stpetersamherst.org

At Large Representatives:

Kaye Koler - (440) 308-6864; sewhappyquilting@gmail.com Sue Conkle - (440) 537-1749; sueconkle@hotmail.com Stacy Gleason - (440) 213-9379; onecoolteacher@aim.com Tom Hollstein - (440) 988-8066; tomholls06@gmail.com

Also, a reminder that we have a new <u>Office Administrator</u>, **Kaye Oswald**, who is working feverishly to keep things running smoothly. (440) 988-4965; admin.ofc@stpetersamherst.org Her hours are 8:30am – 12:30pm Monday – Friday.

On Saturday, January 23rd, Pastor Arlen led a 5 hour R<u>etreat and Workshop</u> focusing on developing our skills in governance and ministry. It was *volunteer attendance* so a very special thank you to all who attended: All of council, plus Brian Schieferstein, Judy McCurdy, Judy Whitman, Diane Barnum, Sharon and Gary Thompson, Jessie Kubuske and Pam Miskov.

Thanks so much to the <u>Search and Call Team</u> (Brian Schieferstein, Diane Barnum, Judy McCurdy, Kaye Koler, Stacy Gleason, Jim Kubuske) who have worked diligently since the summer representing St Peter's to perspective candidates.

Thank you for all of your support of St Peter's!

Mary-K Kirsch, Council President (216) 559-6160; president@stpetersamherst.org

*FEBRUARY SERMON SCRIPTURES

2/7 Mark 1:29-39

Jesus Heals Many at Simon's House

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

A Preaching Tour in Galilee

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues

and casting out demons.

2/14 Mark 9:2-10

The Transfiguration

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

The Coming of Elijah

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.

2/21 Psalm 25:1-10

Prayer for Guidance and for Deliverance

Of David.

- To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- O my God, in you I trust;

do not let me be put to shame;

do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

- Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
- for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

Good and upright is the Lord;

therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right,

and teaches the humble his way.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

2/28 Mark 8:31-9:1

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.' And he said to them, 'Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.'

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

January 23, 2021 St. Peter's Council Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

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Х

Pastor: Arlen Vernava	Х
Trustee: Jim Kubuske	х
Congregational Rep: Kaye Koler	х
Congregational Rep: Tom Hollstein	х
Financial Secretary: Rebecca Woods	Α
Congregational Rep: Susan Conkle	Х

Visitors: Gary and Sharon Thompson, Brian Schieferstein, Jessie Kubuske

Mary-K Kirsch, President, opened the business meeting at 1:05 p.m. The opening prayer was given by Sharon Thompson.

Review of Financials:

Lauri Hubach gave the Treasurer's report. There were two pass-throughs for the month totaling \$326.26 (Veterans of the Cross, \$101.26, and Neighbors in Need, \$225.00). For the month of December 2020, Offerings exceeded expenses by \$1,374.44. A motion was made and seconded to approve the passthroughs. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Financial Secretary's report was reviewed. Total cash processed for December was \$20,903.19. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report and Financial Secretary's Report. The motion passed.

Pastor Arlen reviewed the job descriptions for Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. A motion was made and seconded to re-hire Lauri Hubach, Treasurer, to hire Sally Readinger as Assistant Treasurer, and to hire Rebecca Woods as Financial Secretary for the year 2021. The motion passed.

Mary-K canvassed the group to ask how we felt about publishing the Treasurer's Report monthly in "The Key." Most were in agreement to publish this information. The suggestion was made to just put the financial information in "The Key" distributed to church members. No financial information should be published in the version of "The Key" posted on the church website. It was also suggested that summary financial information be published in the bulletin monthly on the third week of the month. A list of the methods of giving and the amounts should not be put in the media used for public display.

Jim Kubuske gave the Trustee's Report. Jim related that there had been a gas leak outside the parsonage. Authorities were notified and concluded that it was a normal leak and the situation was nothing to be concerned about (at the valve, a slight leak is a common occurrence). During January a (the Christmas) tree was removed by the Boy Scouts. Upcoming projects for the Trustees are sealing the parking lot and installing a new electric sign. Tom Hollstein updated the group on the parsonage upstairs bathroom renovation. We have received one bid of \$18,000 and we are waiting for two more bids to be submitted.

Pastor Arlen asked the leaders of the various church groups to update the council on future projects.

Mission:

Diane Barnum is still collecting clothing and Pam Miskov is still collecting and taking food to the food bank.

Christian Education:

Jessie Kubuske reported on the noisy collection. They are also working with the Lions Club to make up back-

packs for school children who may not have food to eat over the weekend. The backpacks are distributed at the end of the week containing prepackaged food for take home and for use over the weekend. She is also looking into partnering with Sleep in Heavenly Peace, which builds beds for children, who do not have them.

Compassionate Care:

Sharon Thompson indicated that phone calls are being made and cards are being sent to reach out to congregational members. They are conducting the Weekly Prayer Room on Zoom. Compassionate Care is initiating the Act of Kindness Challenge, which is encouraging people to call and keep in contact with other members. Care Bags will be distributed on 2/14/21. The group continues on with their general mission to keep in touch.

Worship:

Brian Schieferstein reported that a new video camera was added. The group would like to convert the Usher's closet to a control room for video production. They are looking for additional volunteers to be part of the production staff to work as substitutes for the current group and cover for absences due to vacations, illness, etc. Zoom, FaceBook, YouTube, and the website have been added as sources for worship. They are also looking at a more formal screen system to display the Zoom participants. They are also exploring use of an additional camera to project the sanctuary from front to back.

<u>Circle Six</u>:

Sally Readinger indicated that she wants to hold a Zoom meeting for Circle Six members in the next few weeks.

Spiritual Life:

The Spiritual Life group is coordinating readers for worship and ushers to volunteer as counters. They will be providing communion to shut-ins when Covid is over. They will also be verifying membership participation.

Pastor Arlen indicated he will be in New York for the next week. The new pastoral candidate will be arriving the evening of January 29, and members will have an opportunity to meet the candidate in person or on Zoom on Saturday, January 30. Members should call the office to set up an appointment. Jim and Jessie Kubuske will host the pastoral candidate.

There will be announcements of the congregational meeting on February 7 and February 14. Sally Readinger and Tom Hollstein will work together to make sure that the contents of the requested changes to membership criteria that were distributed in November are again sent to members. They will also coordinate provision of a time for members to submit/ ask questions prior to the congregational meeting. Christine Burman will help Sally with the "One Call" on this matter. The date for the congregational meeting is February 28, 2021. The vote to amend membership criteria in the constitution and the bylaws regarding participating voters vs. regular members will also take place on 2/28/21, after the worship service. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting ended at 2:52 p.m. Pastor Arlen led us in the Lord's Prayer to close the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Cherry Council Secretary



You are invited to join St. Peter's Prayer Room! We look forward to you joining us on Zoom where a name for prayer will be read and we will respond "Lord, hear our prayer". There will also be a time for you to submit yourself or someone you know for prayer. The meeting will be every Wednesday 1:00 -1:30 or before. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, Nov 11. Please join us!!! If you have any questions, please contact a member of Compassionate Care.

Saint Peter's Prayer Room

Every Wednesday | 1:00 - 1:30 or before

Join from Zoom app: Meeting ID: 940 8487 2220 | Passcode: Prayer

Join Zoom Meeting from computer: https://zoom.us/i/94084872220?pwd=ckJ2bURSZHIIVW4xdEFLNHVrNnI1Zz09

OR Call in with phone: 1 929 205 6099 Meeting ID: 940 8487 2220 | Passcode: 022121

Sunday Morning Zoom Worship

For our Zoom worship you will join one another through a free video and audio conference application. Download the Zoom app to your smartphone, computer, or tablet and use the meeting login below:

Join from Zoom app: Meeting ID: 524 411 3917 | Passcode: 379205

Join Zoom Meeting from computer: https://zoom.us/i/5244113917?pwd=aEJEcGhWUHh2dTV4eGJBSDZIUWgwdz09

OR Call in with phone: 1 929 205 6099 Meeting ID: 524 411 3917 | Passcode: 379205

"Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you." 1Peter 5:7

Please add the following to your prayers:

Audrey Montgomery Jim & Linda Brown Richard Berry Joyce Darakis Sherry Spratt Karin Andy Louie Zeller Transition to new Pastor Our new church council Lois Barnes Ruth Kossow May Poor Laule Roger Becker Betty Walters Judy Baker Those touched by Covid Our country and government Joy Zickefoose Diane Barnum Carol Battenhouse Darlene Mudrich Glenn Miskov & family Valentino Dziak & family Marge Marshall

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** or Compassionate Care **sgthompson@windstream.net**



Anthony Cambarare	Feb. 01	Jessica Braid	Feb. 13	William Makay	Feb. 20
Duane Kurth	Feb. 01	Connie Cotton	Feb. 14	Julie Sprague	Feb. 21
Sarah Kurth	Feb. 01	Matthew Schuster	Feb. 14	Laura Hause	Feb. 22
Patricia Stumpp	Feb. 01	Richard Berry	Feb. 15	Richard McCurdy	Feb. 22
Matthew Nagy	Feb. 02	Kelsey Gregg	Feb. 15	Nicole Schieferstein	Feb. 22
Erica Duncan	Feb. 03	William Guild	Feb. 15	Stephen Hause	Feb. 23
Angelina Cambarare	Feb. 04	Matthew Wasilk	Feb. 15	Darlene Krieg	Feb. 24
Seth Jeffers	Feb. 04	James Conkle	Feb. 16	Peggy Raesler	Feb. 24
Jennifer Wasilk	Feb. 05	Joyce Darakis	Feb. 16	Betty Washka	Feb. 24
Stacy Bruce	Feb. 06	Andrew Swift	Feb. 17	Alex Bruce	Feb. 25
Paula Goodell	Feb. 06	Dyan Timple	Feb. 17	Beverly McGinnis	Feb. 25
Mary Davis	Feb. 07	Lindsey Van Sparrentak	Feb. 17	Lynn Hollstein	Feb. 26
Bruce Petkovsek	Feb. 07	Gloria Versace	Feb. 18	David Rice	Feb. 27
Donald Krueck	Feb. 09	M Staller	Feb. 19	Robert Spratt	Feb. 27
May Poor Laule	Feb. 09	Linda Brown	Feb. 20	Brenda Isaacs-Pass	Feb. 28
James Hollstein	Feb. 11	Steve Cooksey	Feb. 20	D. Jean Thomas	Feb. 28



St. Peter's United Church of Christ

582 Church Street Amherst, Ohio 44001 Church Office Phone: (440) 988-4965

Arlen G. Vernava, Interim Senior Pastor	(585) 455-2289	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

Executive Council

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 UCC Preschool

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

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

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