

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

582 Church Street Amherst, Ohio 44001

Church Office (440) 988-4965

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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
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Executive Council

Shelley Harmych, Council President	309-6593	president@stpetersamherst.org
Judy McCurdy, Council Vice-President	(419) 433-6598	judymccurdy4@gmail.com
Susan Cherry, Council Secretary	988-7425	scherry@stpetersamherst.org
Lauri Hubach, Treasurer	988-2459	treasurer@stpetersamherst.org

St. Peter's UCC Preschool

Wendy Kosakowski, Administrator & Teacher	985-1972	preschl@stpetersamherst.org
Heather Nail, Teacher		
Jessica Widener, Teacher		
Kerri Kobylka, 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

Care for Us

Care for Others

Praising God

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

582 Church Street

Amherst, Ohio 44001

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid

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

May 2020



THE KEY

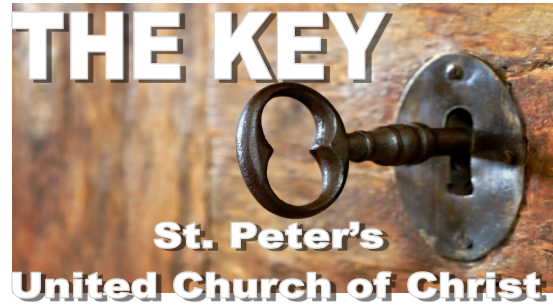
ST. PETER'S U.C.C.
582 CHURCH STREET
AMHERST, OH 44001



Care for Us

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May 2020

Dear St. Peter's,

The poet Wendell Berry writes in 1999, this sabbath day poem:

"The incarnate Word is with us,
is still speaking, is present
always, yet leaves no sign
but everything that is."

Jesus is with us, with you and with me. God is with us, with you and with me. Holy Spirit is with us, with you and with me. Not three, but One who speaks with attention and intention to you and to me.

Some of you "be with" Jesus... in the faces of neighbors and strangers; in the Gospel stories and in those beloved to you; in persons known and unknown, friend and enemy. Some of you "be with" God in the mystery and beauty of nature, music, art of every kind, physics, science, and the cosmos; in how things are fashioned and made; in the unknown. Some of you "be with" Holy Spirit in the energy of your body; in intuition and movement, action both purposeful and random; in meditation silence, writing, words spoken and sung, thoughts made plain.

"The incarnate Word is with us, is still speaking..." Take solace and courage. Feel rejoicing and gladness. Be with the Holy One, dear St. Peter's, no matter your situation. And in so doing, you are with one another, no matter your situation.

And ... the month of May includes the United Church of Christ *Strengthen The Church* offering. "The funds raised support leadership development, new church starts, youth ministry and congregational revitalization." writes the Reverend Traci D.Blackmon. Your generous contribution returns to St. Peter's through Heartland Conference and Living Water Association resources, including for VBS, camping scholarships and Faith formation.

Thanks for this, and for the life-giving financial, emotional and spiritual currency you provide one another in support of St. Peter's and St. Peter's Pre-school mission and ministry. Jessie, Katie, Lauri, Karel, Becky, Wendy and the Pre-school staff, Caroline and her sisters, Mary K, Sharon and her team, and Edgar --express a note of thanks to them. They are educating, supporting, accounting, administrating and teaching, musicing, Zooming, Caring and custodiansing.

Church Council (Shelley, Judy, Stacey, Tom H., Sam, Susan C., Susan Conkle, Christine, Kaye with Lauri and Karel) and Transition Team (Brian, Kaye, Christine, Mary K, Tom McG., Janet McG.) are great, aren't they?

One of you sent in... "Knock knock - who's there? Ima. Ima who? Ima thankful for Pastor and all the folks at St. Peter's." Thanks be to God!

Peace,

Sermon Study Scripture - May

Method for study: preferably with at least one other person

- 1 read aloud
- 2 notice the one word that "sticks" and write it down
- 3 read aloud in a different translation
- 4 notice the one phrase that "sticks" and write it down
- 5 what are you curious about? what questions have you for the text? what questions does the text ask?
- 6 read aloud
- 7 name the "one thing" God is asking you to be or to do. (based on hearing the text aloud, and your conversation and questions).

- May 3 Psalm 23
- May 10 John 14: 1-11
- May 17 John 14:12-24
- May 24 John 17:1-11
- May 31 Acts 2:1-21



Zoom Worship

Join us for Sunday worship Sunday mornings at 9:45 am. Use the link and credentials listed below to begin the Zoom worship.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2965078915>

Meeting ID: 296 507 8915
Password: 5854552289

If you do not have access to use Zoom please join us with the phone number listed below.
+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdMIDAKodd>

We look forward to you joining us for worship Sunday mornings.

Suggested Protocol for In Person Gatherings in Church Buildings during COVID 19

This document is adapted from guidelines created by the Rev. Jason Thompson, West Pak UCC, OH We are grateful to Jason and West Park leadership

Matthew 7:12 – “**In everything** do to others as you would have them do to you.”

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

- Enter the building through front doors only. Additional entrances will be locked.
- Temperature checks at front door with infrared Thermometer. Those with temperatures over 100 will be given a special blessing and asked to return home
- Close off every other pew in the sanctuary, including the balcony, to keep physical distance from anyone outside of ones household
- Observe one-way traffic into the Sanctuary. Enter through center aisle, leave via side aisle
- At the end of the service exit one row at a time
- The offering basket will be positioned at the entrance to the Sanctuary and will not be passed during worship
- Worship Bulletins will be positioned in an appropriate place to be picked up. ushers will not hand them out.
- No passing of the peace during worship
- If communion is served - elements are displayed on table and self served, picked up by each person
- Choir is suspended during summer months
- Cushions should be removed from pews. Pews should be sanitizes following each gathering.
- All should wear face masks. Masks will be available at the entryway to be picked up.
- Coffee hour can be held in open space, such as parking lot
- Anyone unwilling to comply to help keep everyone safe will receive a blessing and asked not to enter the building.

DURING THE WEEK:

- No large gatherings will be held in Fellowship Hall
- No Sunday School or Faith Formation hour will be held for children during summer. For younger children, packets of coloring pages of Bible lessons will be available for pickup and use during worship
- Small Groups - One or two specific locations in the building can be available for small groups to meet, other rooms are off limits.
- Small Group gatherings can be held in Fellowship Hall/or any specific location with attention to physical distancing and face masks.
- Each group must sanitize following their meeting
- Hand sanitizer will be permanently mounted on walls - Office, narthex, fellowship hall, etc...
- Consider no-touch soap dispensers
- Continue to live streaming worship
- Encourage people who are sick and immune-compromised to stay home and worship online

A Letter from Living Water Association and Heartland Region, UCC Ohio. 27 April, 2020

Rev. Patricia Battle - patricia.cseoa@heartlanducc.org

Rev. Nayiri Karjian - nayiri.agm@livingwaterone.org General Minister, Living Water Assoc.

Rev. Carl Robinson - crobinson@sonkaucc.org

Rev. Dan Busch - dlbusch@nwoa.org

Rev. Dave Long-Higgins - dave@heartlanducc.org Interim Conference Minister

1. Many of you have asked about re-opening church and gathering again in person. Some of you received this email from the Conference. I am making sure all and each of you receives it.

The season of the COVID 19 pandemic continues to lengthen testing our patience in many ways. There is a palpable, eager longing to gather and return to a sense of what is familiar. Especially there is a yearning to gather in person for worship. We certainly share this desire and also carry a deep concern for everyone's health and safety. Because of this, **we write to offer our strong recommendation that congregations not gather for worship at least until May 31st and possibly beyond.** We recognize that each congregation has the authority to make its own decisions in this matter but there are several concerns we feel are deeply worthy of your consideration.

First, there still remains the restriction from the Ohio Department of Health regarding large group gatherings and the importance of the continued practice of physical, social distancing. While the COVID 19 curve has been flattened, the potency of the virus remains. Those over age 65 and those with respiratory and autoimmune health issues are still at higher risk, even as we know that COVID 19 has claimed the lives of those much younger and those with no apparent prior health challenges.

Second, the re-engagement of in-person worship will require special planning and protocols that will be necessary to keep our gathered congregations safe. It will be vitally important to have these protocols well developed and well communicated in order to do our part to help prevent a resurgence that would again cause the need for sheltering at home. Now is the time to begin thinking carefully about the guidelines you will follow when the time to meet in person comes.

Toward that end, we are attaching a: <https://livingwaterone.org/wpcontent/uploads/2020/04/Guidelines-for-in-persons-worship-.pdf> that has been developed by Rev. Jason Thompson, pastor of West Park United Church of Christ. Together with his church leaders Rev. Thompson has developed specific guidelines that seek to cultivate an environment of safety for all. We hope this may be helpful to you as you begin your intentional planning for your own settings of ministry.

These weeks and months have been challenging indeed. We are so thankful for your leadership and care. We know this time has required new ways of engaging ministry at practically every level. As always, we hold you in our prayers and are glad to be available as you consider the next phases of church life and the possibilities of re-gathering.

Worship Matters From Pastor Arlen

Friends, Church Council will take up the question of when and how St. Peter's will resume worship in the Sanctuary. This letter and guidelines hopefully include you in the upcoming conversation. Reach out to members of the Council; Sam Bonfiglio, Christine Burman, Susan Cherry, Susan Conkle, Stacy Gleason, Shelley Harmych, Thomas Hollstein, Lauri Hubach, Kaye Koler, Judy McCurdy and Pastor Arlen to share your wisdom. Know that whether we are "only" Zoom worship, or both Zoom and face to face worship, or "only" face to face worship, you have a say and a choice.

Until we are face to face in person, in the sanctuary on a Sunday morning, see you face to face on Zoom!

Offering income report for April 2020

Offering \$13,478
Easter \$ 1,872
Maundy Thursday \$ 265

our total offering is \$15,615

That is a good month for us and even exceeds the amount received for April (including Easter) last year. St. Peter's members and friends have indeed been faithful and generous considering our unusual circumstances caused by the pandemic. Thank you!

One Great Hour of Sharing received \$70
The sale of lilies was \$74
Stained Glass Window Fund received \$299

The money was donated in the following methods:

checks \$13,141
cash \$ 127
Breeze credit/debit card \$ 240
Breeze through bank account (ACH) \$ 800
PayPal \$ 920
Vanco \$ 830

The church receives more of the donation when paying directly from a bank account (ACH) . The 1% ACH fee charged by Breeze is about 1/3 of what Breeze and Vanco charge for payments using a credit/debit card. PayPal does not have any fee for making a payment to "a friend" using the direct bank account ACH.

Bank accounts do not have the same protections as credit cards. Since we are making more payments electronically from home these days, it can be a good idea to have a separate checking account to be used for those payments - or even incoming funds such as tax refunds. There are banks that do not charge fees for these if they are considered an online/no paper statement account plus some of these accounts can be opened online without having to visit a local branch. The separate account makes it possible to keep a low balance -- enough to make the payments -- without risking a more significant part of one's savings. Having the additional checking account with the same bank that holds the primary account makes it easy to do online (or phone app) transfers to and from the account used for online payments.

Your financial secretaries,

Karel Schieferstein and Rebecca Woods

A report from the Transition Team

The Transition Team was assembled by vote over a year ago. After receiving guidelines, work began on planning the first event to collect important information from the congregation. This resulted in a tureen dinner followed by a meeting where all were invited to write down those events that were "sweetest" and "most tart." These were placed on a large timeline around Fellowship Hall. Other important events were also recorded on this timeline.

Next were the Cottage Conversations where those in smaller groups told of events at St. Peter's bringing deep gladness. The team went through all of this information and made lists. Those were reviewed in October at the end of worship and a following dinner so the team would be able to claim _St. Peter's_ core values: Praising God, Serving us, Serving others. This was followed by a few small group meetings at the church to learn opinions of Marks of a Faithful Minister.

After collecting this large amount of information, the team continues to work diligently in completing the lengthy profile of St. Peter's which will be studied by pastors who may be searching for a church. This process is nearly finished and the congregation can expect to soon see the result of all of this effort, decide if it is all true of St. Peter's, and suggest any modifications. Once finalized, the profile will be submitted to the United Church of Christ office and a pastoral search team will be formed.

Throughout this process the experience, insight and guidance of Pastor Arlen have been invaluable and we are grateful.

After more than a year the team is ready for our work to be completed and we are sure the congregation is anxious to be a step closer to welcoming a settled pastor.

St. Peter's Transition Team

Letter from Council

Hello Everyone,

Council has been working on membership criteria. What makes a person an active member of St. Peter's. This is not an easy task.

We also are trying to fine tune the new settle pastor's compensation. Without breaking the bank so to speak.

New Spiritual Life Team has been voted on.

Blessings,

Shelley Harmych

General Updates and News

Circle Six Update

Circle Six did not have an April meeting, and the May meeting is canceled as well. The June meeting (Mystic Belle cruise on the Vermilion River) is still TBA. Looking ahead: Circle Six is in need of a member to volunteer to take the Secretary's position for the 2020-2021 term. Please contact Sally Readinger if you are interested. We will be doing voting for officers by mail. Please stay tuned for updates! From Jessie Kubuske

Sunday School Update

If you have Sunday School aged children, and have not yet joined the "St. Peter's Shelter in Place Sunday School" closed facebook page, here is the URL: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/236897134377937/> You will need to be ask permission to join. Each week, there are puzzles, coloring pages, crafts, snack ideas and usually a video...all connected to the weekly scripture read in church. From time to time there are other little fun things to do with your children during the week while staying at home. Stay safe, and remember to Wash Your Hands! The February and March noisy collection that was to buy Easter Dinners for needy Amherst families will go to another mission, TBA. From Jessie Kubuske

Compassionate Care Update

As everyone is aware, because of the shelter in place request and the no admittance to care facilities, Compassionate Care has been unable to physically visit our shut ins. We have been keeping in touch with extra cards, notes, phone calls, e-mails, etc..

We are also doing our best to keep in touch with the congregation in general. Most everyone is watching TV, playing games, reading, eating too much, bored, sick of cleaning, So far, we have not ran across anyone with COVID19, which is a blessing, although there could be someone we are not aware of. If you know of a member that has it, please let us know. In addition, some of us are available to make a grocery or prescription pick up for you. Please contact me, Sharon Thompson 440-327-3447, if you are in need.

If you are looking for a mask, Kaye Koler and Dot Wilford are making them. Please contact them for details. You can find their phone numbers in your church directory.

Although we try to do our very best, we are only human. There could be someone that we miss in regards to sending a card, note or visiting. If you feel we have missed someone, **please contact us directly or leave a message with church office** so that we may rectify the problem.

"Try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud" Maya Angelou

Compassionate Care challenges you to "be a rainbow". Call someone you don't usually have a chance to speak with at church. It might be just the thing they need for their "cloud"
Compassionate Care—Sharon Thompson

Trustee Update

Trustees are looking for 2 people to join the Trustee Team. Trustees are seeking volunteers to help with some light yard work around the church. Date to be determined. Donations of red mulch are greatly appreciated and can be dropped off by the garage door. If interested please call Jim Kubuske at 440-370-4678 or email at jimkubas85@gmail.com.

Sam Bonfiglio, Edagr Vargas and Jim Kubuske

Food Bank

The month of March had a total of 82 items donated. Thank you to everyone who donated items to the food bank and to Pam Miskov who takes time out of her day to deliver our donations to the Food Bank.

Care for Us

Care for Others

Praising God

Preschool May Update

With the schools closed due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the preschool has come up with many ideas to keep teaching the children with on-line learning. The preschool has created a private Facebook page where teacher's post educational videos, stories and crafts. Starting at the end of April, bedtime stories were posted every Friday at 7p.m. The staff has been coming to school to help put together packets for the students to coincide with the lessons posted on the web site. Since the closing of preschool, we have had two packet pick-up dates where parents drove thru the church parking lot and received all the papers needed for online lessons. We had one pick-up in April and just recently another for May lessons. During the last packet pick-up, we had so many parents thanking us for the papers, videos, lessons and all the hard work we are doing to support at home learning. The teachers are also planning a day in May for parents to drive thru and receive the end of the year folder and gift. The staff will also get together in May to finish lesson planning and prepare for the next school year. I am very proud of my staff and all the hard work they are doing with the video lessons and keeping in touch with parents on the page. St. Peter's Preschool Staff rocks!!

Preschool Director, Wendy K

May Council Meeting Summery

New Pastor Compensation:

Shelley Harmych began the meeting with the topic of new pastor compensation. Pastor Arlen then explained the baseline cost of a full time pastor with a Master's Degree and associated expenses for one year for projected budgeting expenses. After some discussion, Pastor Arlen asked us to come to an agreement on the total cost maximum to which we would be able to commit for 5 years. The amount would cover compensation for both housing considerations--parsonage or housing allowance. The amounts ranged from \$65K to \$85K. Pastor Arlen then gave council members an assignment to get together in groups of three to discuss and concentrate on a maximum faithful amount of \$85K. Imagine some candidates don't want to work full time (2/3 only). Imagine some candidates have a part time job and are looking for a part time ministry. Results will be discussed at the next council meeting.

Spiritual Life Team:

Four persons have been nominated for the Spiritual Life Team--Pam Miskov, Tom McGinnis, Bev McGinnis, and Judy McCurdy. A group discussion ensued regarding Spiritual Life Team members administering communion resulting in the following motion: Christine Burman made a motion to accept Pam Miskov, Tom McGinnis, Bev McGinnis, and Judy McCurdy as members of the Spiritual Life Team and allow them to administer communion. Sam Bonfiglio seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports:

Karel Schieferstein gave the Financial Secretary's report. Lauri Hubach gave the Treasurer's report. She also stated there were pass through items totaling \$416.00. Judy McCurdy made a motion to accept the Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's reports as presented. Tom Hollstein seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Preschool Bonuses:

Shelley Harmych spoke with Amber, President of the Preschool Board, today on bonuses for the preschool personnel and on updating preschool bonus policies and procedures. The next meeting of the preschool board will be on May 12, 2020. Amber advised Shelley that it was agreeable for bonuses to be paid in July or August. Sam Bonfiglio made a motion stating that Lauri Hubach is authorized to pay via direct deposit preschool bonuses on 8/14/20. Tom Hollstein seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Secretary, Susan Cherry

Care for Us

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Praising God



PRAYER LIST



Please keep the following in your prayers:

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

If you know of any member who wishes to be placed on the prayer list or to be removed from the list, please contact the church office at (440) 988-4965.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/1	Kasey Haney	5/6	James Woods	5/21	Kaitlyn Mullen
5/1	Brad Sprague	5/6	Lewis Zeller	5/21	Janet Orseno
5/1	Allison Zahorec	5/8	Natalie Kendrick	5/22	Nicholas Kosakowski
5/2	Jill Harmych	5/9	Thomas Hollstein	5/22	George Small
5/2	John Scalli	5/10	David Roesch	5/25	Courtney Noster
5/3	Nancie Murello	5/11	Richard Ashton	5/28	William Greenless
5/4	Tami Selent	5/11	Haley Mullen	5/28	Lori Kissling
5/4	Kay Sutton	5/15	Olivia Cotton	5/28	Dana Smith
5/5	Olivia Kendrick	5/15	Gregory Huber	5/29	Drew Ashton
5/5	Lindsey Stumpp	5/16	Andrea Bockwich	5/29	Katelyn Schuster
5/5	Benjamin Zahorec	5/19	Joel Cotton	5/30	Mary Ann Sterna
5/6	Delores Campbell	5/19	Kyle Park	5/30	Sharon Vollmer

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

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

5-Ingredient Slow-Cooker Pulled Pork

Ingredients

- 2 large sweet onions, cut into 1/2-inch slices
- 1 (5- to 6-lb.) boneless pork shoulder roast (Boston butt)
- 2 tablespoons garlic-oregano-red pepper seasoning blend
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 (10 1/2-oz.) can condensed chicken broth



Directions

- Place onions in a lightly greased 6-qt. slow cooker. Rub roast with seasoning blend and salt; place roast on onions. Pour broth over roast. Cover and cook on LOW 8 to 10 hours or until meat shreds easily with a fork.
- Transfer roast to a cutting board or serving platter; shred with 2 forks, removing any large pieces of fat. Remove onions with a slotted spoon, and serve with pork. (Reserve 4 cups shredded pork for Pork Noodle Bowls and Pulled Pork Nachos, if desired.)

Note: We tested with McCormick Grill Mates Backyard Brick Oven Seasoning.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Communion Family Worship 10 AM Fellowship 11 AM /FH	4	5 Bible Study 7PM Zoom	6	7	8	9
10 Worship 10 AM Sunday School 10-11 AM Fellowship 11 AM/FH	11	12 Bible Study 7PM Zoom Preschool Board Mtg 7PM Zoom	13	14 Trustees Meeting 7 PM Zoom	15	16
17 Worship 10 AM Sunday School 10-11 AM Fellowship 11 AM /FH	18 Council Meeting 7 PM Zoom	19 Bible Study 7PM Zoom	20	21	22	23
24/31 Family Worship 10 AM Noisy Collection Fellowship 11 AM/FH	25 Memorial Day	26 Bible Study 7PM Zoom	27	28	29	30
Worship 10 AM Sunday School 10-11 AM Fellowship 11 AM /FH						
Care for Us	Care for Others	Care for Others	Care for Others	Care for Others	Care for Others	Praising God