

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.

“Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may go to heaven.”

-St. Rose of Lima

MARCH 2023

THE KEY



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

— MATTHEW 16:18-19

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



FAST + PRAY + GIVE

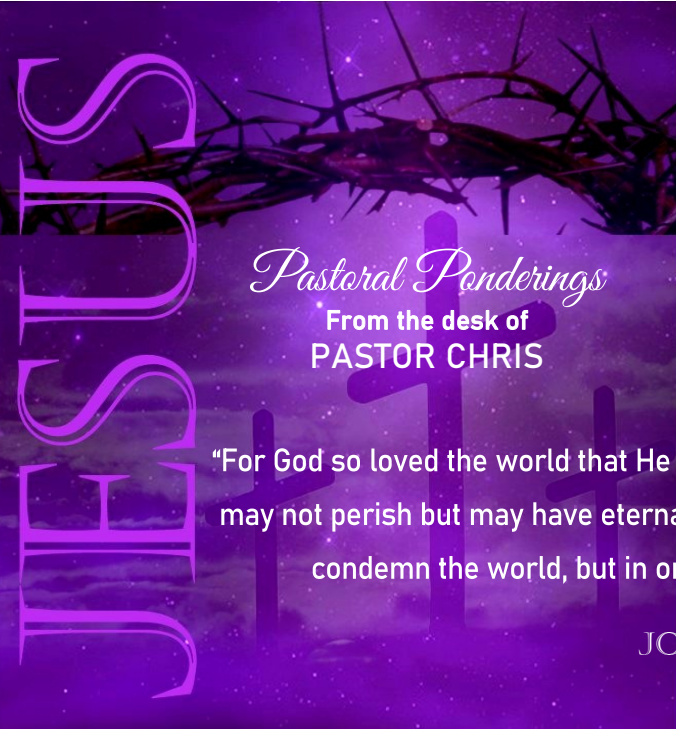


THE KEY

March 2023

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

for God so
LOVED

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him."

JOHN 3:16-17 (NRSV)

We know the phrase, "March comes in like a Lamb it goes out like a Lion. Or, if it comes in like a Lion, it goes out like a Lamb." Maybe you've experienced that to be true, or perhaps March is just a combination of wind, storms and sunny calm?

I think in many ways that March is a bit like our lives, in that some days are stormy and blustery, with occasional moments when the light breaks through the clouds, while other days are mostly sunny, with some clouds. It's rare to have that perfect day when everything is warm, sunny and calm. Most of us

experience our lives with a mixture of the Lion and the Lamb.

For Christians, Jesus is both the Lion and the Lamb. As a Lion, Jesus comes into our lives with a roar. "For God so loved the world..." His preaching, healing, and teaching took the form of a Lion who stood up to those in power without fear or hesitation. While Jesus' life and ministry was brief, he roared as a Lion King, and the echoes of his roar continue through eternity. Jesus was a Lion, but he was also a Lamb. As a Lamb he was gentle and forgiving. As a Lamb he offered



**“As a Lamb Jesus didn't
come into our world
to condemn us but to
save us.”**

his life as an atonement for our sin.
As a Lamb Jesus didn't come into our
world to condemn us but to save us.

When we quote John 3:16 without
adding John 3:17, we miss the fullness
of Jesus being both the Lion and the
Lamb of God. And so, we welcome this
month of March as a reminder of our
Lord, who is both a Lion and a Lamb.
May we hear His roar and know His
authority in our lives. May we see His

love, and gentleness in the form of a
Lamb who doesn't condemn us but
offers us life. And may we have that
perfect day when Jesus is both the
Lion and the Lamb.

**REMEMBER, YOU
ARE LOVED!**



Rev. Chris Suckling-Taylor

Pastor Chris

March Sermon Scriptures:

3/5- John 3:1-17 3/12-John 4:5-42 3/19-John 9:1-12 3/26-John 11: 1-45



3/5 John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify

to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

3/12 John 4:5-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the

Continued on page 4



MARCH SERMON SCRIPTURE READINGS

...continued from page 3

city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."

Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

3/19 John 9:1-12

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

3/26 John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise

Get to Know Your NEIGHBOR



GARY AND SHARON THOMPSON

While many of our longtime members know one another, our newer members do not. We hope this new article will bring us closer together as we serve God as one family.

My name is Sharon Thompson (nee Sterna). I was born and grew up in Amherst. I have two living sisters, a deceased sister and three deceased brothers. I enjoy spending time with family, genealogy, puzzles, and gardening. At age 15, I started working as a kitchen aide, then a nurse's aide and 30 years as a credit manager.

I was baptized in Brownhelm Church and confirmed at St. Peter's in 1968. My confirmation class was fairly large. Most of confirmation class was memorizing things and each of us having to recite the assigned memorizing the next class. We were also required to take turns as an acolyte. The best part of St. Peter's is the people and the family feel. I think it has influenced me to lend a helping hand, give emotional support, and comfort to people I see in need. I believe it is important missions of church serve not only the community at large but also its own church family. My best memories of the church is our wedding and when Gary joined the church. I was very proud and happy the day he joined St. Peter's. My vision for St. Peter's is to adapt as the world changes around us, without discarding but maybe adjusting some of our traditions. I believe God is calling St. Peter's to be open minded to ideas and changes, serve each other as we serve others, live each day by his teachings.

My name is Gary Thompson.

I was born in Lakewood, the oldest of three other siblings. I lived most of my younger years in Cuyahoga County. I have three children from a previous marriage, and many years ago, Sharon and I took a young Vietnamese boy under our wing and consider him our son. I served in the Navy during Vietnam. I worked in the elevator (up & down not grain) business for 42 years. When I retired, I worked as a starter at a golf course, and served on the VFW Honor Guard for many years. I like golf, old cars and car shows, working on projects with my son, and helping people.

I was baptized in a Methodist church, but in 2013 joined St. Peter's to attend with Sharon, after I stopped being a golf course starter on Sunday mornings. The people are the best part of St. Peter's. The best memory I have, besides my marriage in the church, is working with the four guys that were Trustees when I first became a Trustee. Working with these guys inspired me to do more in the church, especially helping older people, free of charge, with small repairs they needed done.

3/26 John 11:1-45 *continued*

again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going

to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a

stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

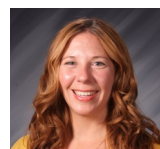
Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, and believed in him.



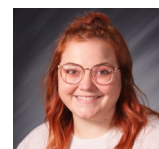
Wendy Kosakowski



Heather Nail



Kerri Kobyłka



Ms. Stempowski

MARCH

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

Our goal is to encourage and instill in children a joy of learning, and a love for God and his creation.

This month, the children will work on the letters Ll, Kk, Ee, and the numbers 6 and 8.

We will also be working on telephone numbers and opposites.

March is full of many activities for the preschool. We will also celebrate Easter with lessons

using the resurrection eggs and also coloring Easter eggs.

SPRING BREAK STARTS
APRIL 3RD - APRIL 10TH.

Preschool is now enrolling for the 2023-2024 school year. For more information, you can call the preschool at **440-985-1972**.



© www.123artsonline.com

Sincerely,
Wendy Kosakowski
Preschool Director



Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 12th.
Set your clocks 1 hour ahead before going to bed Saturday.

Recycling Plastic Bags Returns

The **Amherst Leo Club** is sponsored by the Amherst Lions Club. It is comprised of approximately 75 High School students. They are the youth part of Lions International. The Leos are recycling plastic bags through the TREX Recycling project, and it takes **500 pounds to achieve the goal to receive a recycled bench**. So far, they have received 4 benches, which have been placed in various sites in Amherst.

Lions International is one of the only service clubs that **returns 100% of funds acquired from the community BACK to the community**. They specialize in eye care, but provide hearing care, and other health care projects. The Amherst Lions sponsor Bowling for Sight, Easter Egg Hunts, Lasagna Dinners, and other projects to help our community.

The Amherst Lions are accepting new members, but you need to have an existing member as your sponsor. Contact Lion David Rice (440) 714-5544, or Lion Christine Burman (440) 522-8035 for more information to join one of the most "prestigious clubs" in the world.

Sincerely, Christine Burman, Council President

St. Peter's 
Craft Club

TUESDAY | MARCH 28 | 6:30 PM

Join us!

Craft Club will meet on Tuesday, March 28, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Fireside room. Bring your current (or old) craft project to work on and to have some fun fellowship with other crafters! All are welcome. Can't wait to see you!

CIRCLE SIX MEETING

TUESDAY | MARCH 7 | 6:00 PM

Circle Six will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, March 7 in Fellowship Hall. The program will be "Old Breweries of Cleveland", presented by Rebecca McFarland. Members may invite guests and the program is open to the congregation.

Members will hold a brief meeting at 6:00 PM (do not bring your meal - each member is requested to bring at least 1 dozen cookies). At 6:30 we will set up for the speaker, cookies, coffee and fellowship. The program will begin at 7:00 PM.



THE MYSTERY OF THE SHROUD of TURIN

Presented by David M. Onysko

Wednesday | March 15 | 7-9 PM
in the Sanctuary

Circle Six is hosting a program titled "The Mystery of the Shroud of Turin" *presented by David M. Onysko* on Wednesday, March 15 at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

A reception will be held afterwards in Fellowship Hall. Tickets are free and donations will be welcome. Tickets can be obtained from Sally Readinger, and also available in the office.



YOGA with Mary-K

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

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

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

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

Cost is \$10 per class.

Physical benefits of Yoga

- increased flexibility
- increased muscle strength and tone
- improved respiration, energy and vitality
- maintaining a balanced metabolism
- weight reduction
- cardio and circulatory health
- Improved athletic performance
- protection from injury

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

ATTENDEES:

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

President: Christine Burman	X	Pastor: Chris Buckingham-Taylor	X
Vice President: Judy McCurdy	X	Congregational Rep.: Susan Conkle	X
Secretary: Tom Hollstein	X	Congregational Rep: Stacy Gleason	X
Treasurer: Lauri Hubach	X	Congregational Rep: Kaye Koler	X
Assistant Treasurer: Sally Readinger	X	Congregational Rep: Don Ramsey	X
Financial Secretary: Rebecca Woods	X	Congregational Rep: Joan Whitman	X
Past President Moderator: Mary-K Kirsch	X	Preschool: Wendy Kosakowski	X

X = present
E = excused
A = absent

Visitors: Lynn Hollstein, Fred Helyes, Sharon & Gary Thompson . **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by President Christine Burman and began with a prayer from Pastor Chris.

Secretary's Report

The January meeting report was sent out a few days after the January meeting, and was approved online by a majority of council members. No further action is necessary.

Preschool Report

Registration is complete. They are full in their 3-day mornings and their 2-day mornings, and they are ½ full in their 2-day afternoon class. They are currently suffering illness with the teachers. Their Hop-a-thon was successful, returning almost \$4,000. Conferences will be held in April. Next board meeting is 3rd Thursday of March.

Treasurer's Report

2022 income was up compared to last year, and expenses were down. We still had a year-end deficit of \$71,743 but it was improved from last year's deficit of \$112,000. Money to rationalize was taken from the Future Fund. January giving was up from January of last year, in part because several members gave their entire year's donation at once.

Pass Through payments needing approval:

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

Payable To:

Veterans \$50.00
OCWM \$105.00
\$155.00

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE PASS-THROUGH PAYMENTS WAS MADE AND SECONDED. MOTION PASSED.

Bills needing approval: NONE

1/31/2023

Checking Account Balance \$ 110,122.44
Endowed Investment Account \$ 119,819.19
NonEndowed Investment Account \$ 251,951.20

General Fund Summary

	Jan. 23	Jan. 22	2023 YTD	2022 YTD	YTD CHG
Offerings Cash/Check	13,763.00	10,719.85	13,763.00	10,719.85	3,043.15
Offerings Breeze	1,520.00	1,592.00	1,520.00	1,592.00	(72.00)
Offerings PayPal	65.00	0.00	65.00	0.00	65.00
Transfer to General from Preschool	2,120.00	1,770.00	2,120.00	1,770.00	350.00
PPP Loan Forgiveness/EIDL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Blessings from the Saints	1,691.62	6,086.19	1,691.62	6,086.19	4,394.57
Expenses	(19,159.62)	(20,168.04)	(19,159.62)	(20,168.04)	1,008.42
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,789.14

Financial Secretary's Report

Contributions were up for January. The following amounts were received:

Offerings	\$ 14,678.84
Improvement Fund	103.00
Communion	5.00
Initial Offering	155.00
Christmas	530.00
OCWM	106.31
Noisy Collection	0.00
Christmas Veterans' Fund	50.00
January TOTAL	\$ 15,628.15

Report on High School Choir Singers

The M.L. Steele Choir Director, Mr. Eric Watts, is very much in favor of helping us. However, the students have shown little interest. We will keep the door open and perhaps an opportunity will present itself in the future.

Pastor's Report

Thanks to everyone for their help concerning Sunday's incident. There was no panic just calm Christian care. Zoom was cut so most outside watchers were not aware. She was contacted the following day and is feeling fine. Blood pressure instruments are kept in the Ushers' closet. The incident points out the need for training and practice in case of future emergencies. The Council Retreat was productive; goals were generated for the coming year, to be discussed later. Ash Wednesday service will be held Wednesday Feb. 22 at 7:00 PM. This marks the official beginning of the Lenten Season.

Compassionate Care

Valentine cards were sent out to all shut-ins.

Altar Guild

Thanks to those who set up the cross this past Sunday. With Easter coming, lilies will be available for purchase at \$8.00 each, same price as last year. Order forms will be available in the church bulletins beginning with the Ash Wednesday service.

Circle Six

Next meeting is March 6. It will be a program by Rebecca McFarland, on the Cleveland breweries, open to the congregation with refreshments following. The next program will be March 15 on the Shroud of Turin, with refreshments following. Invitations have been sent to other churches as well. Tickets are required but are no cost. Free will donations will be accepted.

Ushers

No report but all seems to be well; everything is running smoothly.

Tech Report

January views of all of our YouTube videos totalled 88. The "Minute With Pastor Chris" segments have been well-received and are a good way of providing exposure to our church. Everyone is encouraged to watch them and spread the word. There have been recent problems with the church's email server and it needs to be replaced. Brian Schieferstein estimates a cost of \$500, which he is willing to pay himself. Also needed is a contract renewal with Microsoft for approximately \$300. It is felt that Brian should not be charged personally with this expense, not to mention that he spent a whole day of his own time working on the problem. He will probably present the matter at the next council meeting.

President's Report

The Saturday retreat was very productive. Three goals were identified for church council for the coming year: 1) Adhering to our by-laws; 2) Living faithfully within our means; 3) Rebuilding the endowment fund. The third goal is especially important to keep our church operating - it will require fresh thinking and cooperation from all of us. We will need to be creative in finding ways to increase the church's income.

Old Business

The grant project is moving along well. Three contractors have been solicited for bids: Shinsky Builders, Inc., Loosli Builders, Inc., and Zigmer Maintenance. Zigmer has declined to bid. The two remaining contractors have both been very helpful. However, Shinsky really stands out. They have been extremely helpful in suggesting cost cutting measures, and also making sure that nothing has been overlooked in the scope of the project. They have recommended we use Joe Simone as an independent painter, rather than as a subcontractor to Shinsky. This will save approximately 10%. We will buy the light fixtures on our own, which will further reduce costs. They will be installed a few at a time to make sure they are properly suited to our needs before buying the entire quantity.

A masonry expert will be consulted concerning the erosion of the sandstone on the education building facing the parking lot. Geoff also had the gutter replaced at the east entrance to the Walker Lobby which corrected a long-standing flooding issue.

Additional questions/comments concerning the grant project:

(Q) Will the damaged paneling in Fellowship Hall be repaired?

(A) Yes, it will be repaired or replaced, although probably not under the grant project.

(Q) Will touchless faucets be installed in the preschool?

(A) No, they will not be touchless. Per contractor's advice, touchless faucets are quite often difficult to operate, especially for young children. One badly leaking faucet will be replaced with a new conventional faucet. The rest of the existing faucets are Moen which have a lifetime guarantee. New cartridges will be obtained from Moen, which will revitalize the faucets.

(Q) Will there be any problems meeting the schedule?

(A) No, the contractor is aware of the concerns and will manage the work schedule so that preschool is not affected.

(Q) Will expensive plumbing work be necessary?

(A) No, the contractors shared the opinion that the toilets are all working properly and do not need to be replaced.

(Q) Is Zigmer Maintenance being considered for this project?

(A) No, Zigmer Maintenance has withdrawn its original bid and has declined to bid.

MOTION: TO APPROVE SHINSKY BUILDERS, INC., FOR THE GRANT WORK, MOTION MADE AND SECONDED. MOTION PASSED.

New Business

Since our treasurer, Lauri Hubach, is resigning soon, we are interviewing a public accountant to fill the position. Michelle Pullin, CPA, has her own business and already works with two other churches. Because of a busy tax season, she is not available until May. Lauri has graciously agreed to stay on through June.

Cintas replaces our doorway rugs monthly, although many get little or no use. We intend to cut back, keeping only those that are necessary, depending on what is allowed under our current contract with Cintas.

Tom Hollstein proposed an "entertainment committee" be formed. This would create events for fellowship such as dinners, etc., to hopefully draw us together as a church. Christine Burman agreed to head the committee. Joan Whitman, Sue Conkle, and Tom Hollstein volunteered their help.

It was agreed that the Ash Wednesday service would be broadcast on Zoom. We do have a core group of members who prefer to attend via Zoom.

Don Ramsey commented that they are in Florida and have spent some time visiting with Pam and Bill Schuster. They are doing well, although they do miss Ohio. Pam passes on best wishes to their Ohio friends.

Mary K suggested we consider music-related fundraisers to capitalize on our church sanctuary. She also commented on the current problems of our Ukrainian family: they no longer have their 2nd car which is needed; Natasha's status in the U.S. is tenuous, as she is on a temporary permit and is in danger of being deported, along with her two younger children; Mary K is working to get her stay extended, but nothing is certain and they are extremely worried.

MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE AND SECONDED. MOTION PASSED.

Meeting ended at 8:02 PM with a prayer by Pastor Chris.

Respectfully submitted January 17, 2023,

Tom Hollstein, Council Secretary



Kobiakov Family Update

In the last month our family has celebrated two birthdays. Nataliaia, on January 25th and Kuzma on February 2nd. Kuzma is now 5 and this week he will be going to his first American birthday party. He is so excited that his classmate has included him. Nataliaia is studying hard. As a full time student she has quite an academic load. Kudos to Mary-K who has taken on watching Kuzma on Mondays to allow his mother uninter-

rupted study time. Lev is part of a traveling soccer team and will be playing in the Washington, D.C. area over his school's spring break. Anton now has a work permit and his job involves a great deal of travel. Hlib is taking some college classes and waiting for a work permit. They are all thankful for the people of St. Peter's and their continued support. I also want to thank you for your continued support.

Blessings & Peace,
Linda Gatz



MARCH EVENTS

- Mar. 1 Confirmation 6-7 PM
- Mar. 2 Compassionate Care 10:30 AM
- Mar. 5 Communion Sunday
- Mar. 7 Circle Six Meeting 6 PM
- Mar. 8 Confirmation 6-7 PM
- Mar. 9 Men's Breakfast at Quarry Café 9:30
- Mar. 15 Clergy Lunch Meeting 11:30 AM
Confirmation Class 6-7 PM
Shroud of Turin, Sanctuary 7 PM
- Mar. 20 Council Meeting Zoom 7 PM
- Mar. 22 Confirmation 6-7 PM
- Mar. 28 Craft Club 6:-8:30 PM Fireside
- Mar. 29 Confirmation 6-7 PM

Spiritual Life Team is taking a break in the winter months of Jan. & Feb.

- Bible Study: 7 PM, Tuesdays, Zoom
- Breeze Chapel: 7-7:30 PM, Wednesdays
- Handbell Choir: 7:15 PM, Thursdays

Coffee Chats with Pastor Chris
Sandstone Coffee House
Every Wednesday 9-11:00 a.m.

- YOGA with Mary-K, St. Peter's lower level
Wed. 8:30-9:45 AM & Thurs. 6:00-7:15 PM
- Handbell Choir Thursdays 7:15 PM



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Thurs., March 9, 9:30 AM
Quarry Café

All men are invited to join us for our Men's Fellowship Breakfast at Quarry Café in Amherst. This will include breakfast, prayer and a short devotional. We are looking forward to where this ministry will lead us in faith. *Contact Pastor Chris for more information.*

"Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation. It is better be alone than in bad company."

- George Washington



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

"Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift"!

- June Nau..... March 01
- Susan Cherry March 03
- Lloyd McGinnis March 09
- Audrey Huber March 10
- Heather Bring March 12
- Donald Ramsey March 13
- Earl Wiegand March 13
- Carol Faragher March 14
- Edgar Vargas March 21
- Robert Bruce March 22
- Kelly Dupaski March 24
- Carol Murphy March 25
- Russ Cambarare March 26
- Douglas Haney March 26
- Karen Bruce March 28
- Audrey Montgomery March 30



St. Peter's UCC
FOOD
pantry

In February,
we collected
106
food items!

We are still collecting for the Weekend Children's Backpack Program and below are some suggestions that would be helpful with this great need. Also, you can still donate 'regular food items' in addition to the Backpack Program. Many families are in need.

Please leave your donations in the drop off boxes at the church. This month Geoff and Linda Gatz came to count, load, and deliver the food to Good Shepherd Baptist Food Bank in Pam Miskov's absence. **THANK YOU Geoff and Linda!** They counted 106 food items.

We greatly appreciate your donations, along with Good Shepherd and those receiving food items. Thank you to everyone who donates!

Single Serving PB & Jelly

Canned Soup (Pop top lids)

Mac & Cheese (Microwavable)

Spaghetti-Os (Pop top lids)

Peanut Butter Crackers

Individual Cereals

Granola Bars

Oatmeal Packages

Small Bag Chips

Small Bag Pretzels

Fruit Cups

Jello Cups

Compassionate Care Meeting March 2 at 10:30 AM

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

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

Are you in need of Prayer?

Call Joan Whitman, contact person for the Prayer Team.

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

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Karin Andy

Judy Baker

Lois Barnes

Roger Becker

Richard Berry

Joyce Darakis

Tudy Diaz

Valentino Dziak

Don Flock

Jean Marsh

Tom McKinley

Bev Mischka

Glenn Miskov

Audrey Montgomery

Darlene Mudrich

Carol Murphy

Serita Reyes

Janet Siron

Sherry Spratt

Mary Ann Sterna

Don Swift

Jean Swift

Elaine Thompson

Edgar Vargas

Gloria Versace

Sue Smith

Sharon

Rich Orseno

June & Carl Nau





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



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

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

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

Please visit our website, www.stpetersamherst.org 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

Christine Burman, Council President	(440) 522-8035	president@stpetersamherst.org
Judy McCurdy, Council Vice President	(419) 366-2828	judymccurdy4@gmail.com
Tom Hollstein, Council Secretary	(440) 988-8066	tomholls06@gmail.com
Lauri Hubach, Treasurer	(440) 988-2459	treasurer@stpetersamherst.org
Mary-K Kirsch, Past President Moderator	(216) 559-6160	marykkirsch@gmail.com

St. Peter's Preschool

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

Website and Social Media 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