

**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.

**MOTHER'S DAY: MAY 14 | MENTAL HEALTH SUNDAY: MAY 21 | PENTECOST SUNDAY: MAY 28**

THANK YOU  
GOD FOR  
MOTHERS!

MAY 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





# THE KEY

May 2023

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"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



**T**he season of "May," which is named for the roman goddess Maia, who was responsible for the growth of plants, is rightly filled with life moments. In addition to celebrating our "Mothers" (as we were planted in the nurturing soil of their wombs,) we celebrate other life growing moments, like: Confirmation, Graduations, and many Weddings. May is a time to celebrate life itself!

Celebrating life is an important reminder for us all as we move through the Easter season and then enter the next chapter of our spiritual lives with Pentecost, on May 28th. This year, Pentecost is celebrated on the same weekend as Memorial Day. **Let that sink in? Pentecost and Memorial Day.**

In the Jewish tradition, Pentecost or Shavuot (in Hebrew) occurs 50 days after the Passover, and it is a time for Jewish families to gather and celebrate the time when Moses went up the mountain to receive the Ten Commandments. This

was the reason why the disciples of Jesus were gathered in Jerusalem 50 days after his death and resurrection—to celebrate Shavuot. **On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit descended on the followers of Jesus like tongues of fire. The**

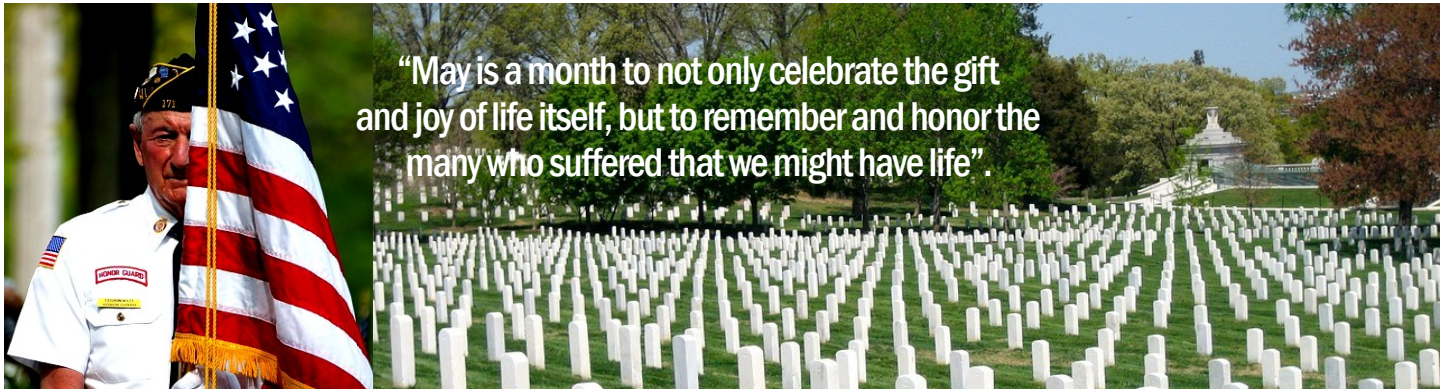
**Spirit gave them the power to speak the gospel in all languages** so that all may know the blessing of eternal life in Christ.

Pentecost and Memorial Day are reminders of the power of the Spirit to transform our lives for service to God, and to remember the cost of freedom. People died that we might live in freedom. Jesus died so that we could have eternal life, and our brother's and sister's died on battlefields so that

we would have the freedom to gather to either praise God or not.

Just as it was for the followers of Christ, who were gifted with the power of the Spirit, we are also gifted with the power of freedom because of the sacrifices made in the cause of liberty. I

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“May is a month to not only celebrate the gift and joy of life itself, but to remember and honor the many who suffered that we might have life”.

know that many of my colleagues struggle to sing patriotic hymns on Sundays, and especially on Pentecost. I respect their views and beliefs, but I can't help but to see a connection between Jesus' followers, who gathered to celebrate the freedom that the Ten Commandments offered them, and were then given the Holy Spirit which enabled them to spread the freedom of the gospel of Christ throughout the world, compared with our men and women who served our nation by paying the ultimate cost, that allows us to live with freedom of religion. In both instances, people died that we might live.

The Disciples served as soldiers of the cross of Jesus, and lost their lives in the process, so that we would have the knowledge of eternal life in

Christ. Like the women and men who served our nation and died in the process, we must honor them by doing our part to plant the seeds of liberty and freedom in Christ.

May is a month to not only celebrate the gift and joy of life itself, but to remember and honor the many who suffered that we might have life.

**Happy Mother's Day! Happy Pentecost!** And may we all remember with gratitude *the cost paid* for our freedom.

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

**Pastor Chris**

## An Update from the Spiritual Life Team

We look forward to and are anxiously ready for our Communion visits every Monday afternoon at 1:00 PM. We visit members who are at home, nursing homes, and hospitals. They are so grateful we bring church to them by sharing Communion, scripture, offering prayers, and sometimes singing hymns. Most importantly, we take time to listen. We are all so blessed with God's loving presence and grace.

If anyone would like a Communion visit, please call the church office (440) 988-4965. We are the hands and feet of Jesus ready to serve with His love.

Also, we would like to thank everyone who answers the call to be worship leader by sharing God's holy word, reading scripture for Sunday Worship.

In so many ways we are called to serve. May God continue to guide, using us to be a blessing as we care for others with loving, compassionate hearts and souls. God showed us how through Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior.

***Love, Blessings & Peace!***

Pastor Chris Buckingham-Taylor,  
Judy McCurdy, Don Ramsey and Pam Miskov

**May Sermon Scriptures:** 5/7—John 14:1-14 5/14—John 14:15-21 5/21—John 17:1-11 5/28—Acts 2:1-21



5/7 John 14:1-14

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling

places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

*Continued on page 4*





# MAY SERMON SCRIPTURE READINGS

...continued from page 3

And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

## 5/14 John 14:15-21

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

## 5/21 John 17:1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to

me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

## 5/28 Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’



# Get to Know Your NEIGHBOR



BRIAN SCHIEFERSTEIN

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.

## ***Hello, my name is Brian Schieferstein,***

The Church records list my great great grandparents as members around the time of the founding of St. Peter's Evangelical Church. I have been coming to St. Peter's regularly since I was a small child and became a member when confirmed in 1973. I was baptized and confirmed at St. Peter's.

What teenager enjoys memorizing information or reading texts that were not interesting at the time? It was a treat when Rev. Happel allowed the class to explore through the old attic up into the belfry to see one of the oldest items in the church: the bell (it is *\_big\_*). The ladders were tall, hand-made wooden ones which did not seem very stable.

To me the people are the church and at St. Peter's we are friendly, welcoming and willing to help. It is a joy serving together in praising God, helping those in the church and helping others.

*My best memory*—my wife, Karel, and I met at St. Peter's. Our friendship grew and we were married in the sanctuary on a beautiful June day with many church members present.

We come to St. Peter's to learn more from the Bible and allow our faith to grow. My wife and I had taught Sunday School for many years, and helped our students learn about faith and lessons from the Bible. It is important to be a servant for Christ, helping others by using our talents and other things we have been blessed with. What will people know about us when they watch how we live and serve? Will they come to believe in the Grace that Jesus gives?

*Was there anything that happened in your life that may have inspired you to become more involved in church?* Around confirmation age I would sit in the back pew with my parents. The services were not interesting to this teenager so they seemed to last a very long time. One Sunday, Mr. Kurth needed another person to help collect the offering. Being in the back pew, it was easy for him to tap me on the shoulder and ask if I would help with the collection. At first nervous, it later became easy and provided a sense that I was doing something that helped the church. My involvement with the church continued to grow. That memory causes me to watch for opportunities to involve others in serving the church. Perhaps they will benefit as I did and the church also will be enriched.

In the 1980s Pastor Foster was involved in regularly meeting together with many of the other pastors in Amherst, even from St. Joseph's. That group started an annual Service of Thanksgiving and Praise held the Sunday before Thanksgiving. The first one was held at St. Peter's and with more than six church choirs present, the massed choir selections at the end were amazing. The singers filled our balcony and their voices the sanctuary. Much more recently, it is an important thing we have done in

offering our parsonage and other services to the Ukrainian family. Linda Gatz led the way and it was quite a commitment as we were not sure what we were embarking on.

Regarding children, our daughter, Mary, is almost finished working on a Master of Divinity degree at a seminary near St. Louis. She is a web developer and continues to design, build and maintain Internet websites. An only child, she thought it would be a good if we could have foster children in our house. Karel and I became licensed and were foster parents for eight children. The last three we adopted. The oldest is living out of state and we still communicate occasionally. Nicole plays in our bell choir and is in her fourth year of college. Richard is finishing up his first year of college in Vermont.

I grew up in Amherst near Nordson. I am a computer network engineer, working for a friend for over 20 years. We install new computers, networks and associated equipment and also maintain existing ones. My degree is in electronic engineering and I have designed circuit boards that have been used inside IBM PC compatible computers.

I have been blessed that computers are both a hobby and a vocation. I enjoy many types of music and, with electronics, attempt to assemble a sound system and quality recordings that create the sense that the performers are in the room before the listeners. I enjoy singing and have sung with a choir called Choral Spectrum for over 30 years. Karel and I enjoy traveling. I used to enjoy riding bicycle longer distances but almost never ride on the road these days because it seems more dangerous.

*My vision for our church*—I hope we at St. Peter's can continue to grow in the areas we claimed as important to us: Praising God, caring for ourselves and caring for others. We can watch for ways to engage those already among us as well as people we will meet. Lives will be enriched and many can benefit.

The Compassionate Care group serves an important role at St. Peter's and many are helped by what they do. The collection of items for the Amherst Food Pantry as well as donations through the schools are other areas we have helped with and the need may be increasing as the effects of inflation continue.

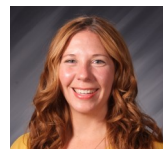
*Complete this sentence: "God is calling this congregation to be..."* As our world is changing, people have more opportunities to wonder what the future holds. They might be frightened about what could happen. This congregation can be involved in helping people strengthen their faith, easing their fears, and also working toward making things better where we are able. We are blessed with the leadership we have in Pastor Chris and those that serve on our council, committees and Circle Six.



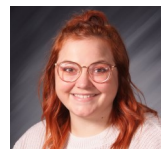
Wendy Kosakowski



Heather Nail



Kerri Kobyłka



Ms. Stempowski

# MAY

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

## APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS!

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

This month the children will learn the letters Mm, Ff and Uu. To celebrate Mother's Day, we will have a small party where the children will "Share Mother's Day With Someone

Special". The children will sing songs and share a cookie that they decorated with their special guest. Dads will not be left out because the children will also be making something special for Father's Day.

The preschool staff would like to thank everyone for showing your support of the school throughout the year. Thank You!

The children will end the school year with a picnic on the Church Lawn. They will sing a few of their favorite songs and receive their Preschool Diploma.

***Have a safe and wonderful summer!***

The Preschool Staff

**Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Preschool's fundraiser for Edgar. It was a great success and he truly appreciated it.**



Mother's Day is  
**SUNDAY,  
MAY 8**

### Proverbs 31:25-28

She is clothed with strength and dignity;  
she can laugh at the days to come.  
She speaks with wisdom, and faithful  
instruction is on her tongue.  
She watches over the affairs of her household  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.  
Her children arise and call her blessed;  
her husband also, and he praises her.

***Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers out there!***

Thank you God for our Mothers with us, or in Heaven,  
for their unconditional love, self-sacrifice, and wisdom.



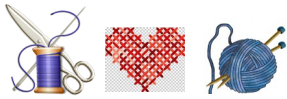
## YOUR JUNK *is* Somebody's TREASURE!

**Fellow Church Members**, as you are tackling your spring cleaning, please keep St. Peter's in mind, as the church will be having a Rummage Sale this summer, probably late July.

Please, no clothing. Donations will be accepted a week before the sale. More information coming next month.

If interested in helping, please contact Sue Conkle, (440) 537-1749, or Mary-K Kirsch, (216) 559-6160.

St. Peter's



# Craft Club

TUESDAY | MAY 30 | 6:30 PM

*Join us!*

Craft Club will meet on Tuesday, May 30th, 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. We had look forward to more joining us. *Can't wait to see you!*

## Circle Six Meeting

TUESDAY | MAY 2 | 6:00 PM

### *History of Amherst Quarries*

Circle Six will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, May 2 in Fellowship Hall. The program will be "History of Amherst Quarries", presented by Bob Pallante. Members may invite guests and the program is open to the congregation. Members will hold a brief meeting at 6:00 (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.

*Thank you, Sally Readinger, President*

## April Kobiakov Family Update

I would like to thank those of you who have generously donated to Lev's 8th Grade trip to D.C. in October. We set a goal of \$500.00 to cover the trip plus \$100 for spending money. Your response has been fantastic and is much appreciated.

Also we learned this week that Nataliia has had her TPS status extended for one more year. This takes a great deal of pressure off, not only Nataliia, but the whole family!

*Blessings & Peace to All of You, Linda*

## YOGA with Mary-K

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

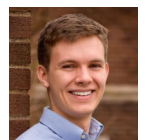


Our Wednesday morning, and Thursday evening class will meet in the lower level of St. Peter's Church. Please arrive by 8:25 a.m. for the morning class, and by 5:55 p.m. for the evening class. Enter through the door by the Chapel.

"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.

## An Update from Daniel Jacky



This Fall I will be attending the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University to get my Master's degree. I feel quite lucky to have had a lot of wonderful, supporting people around me in my life, and the people at St. Peter's are no exception to that. Many thanks to Pastor Chris, the choir, and congregation for all the wonderful experience I had while I was at Oberlin. I'll carry that with me wherever I go. St. Peter's, I want you to know I'm still thinking of all of you!

*All the best, Daniel*



April 17  
2023  
MEETING

# 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	A	Congregational Rep: Don Ramsey	A
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

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by President Christine Burman, and began with a prayer from Pastor Chris. The meeting's late start was due to problems initiating Zoom. **Visitors:** Fred & Lynda Helyes

### Secretary's Report

The March meeting minutes were sent out a few days after the March meeting, and were approved online by council members. For the record, the minutes were approved again at this meeting.

The importance of reading and acknowledging the minutes as soon as possible after they are sent out was emphasized. This is to allow inclusion in the monthly Key newsletter.

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH COUNCIL MEETING. MOTION MADE AND SECONDED. MOTION PASSED.**

### Preschool Report:

Current registration is good, with a few spots still available which is typical for this time of year.

Conferences are next week. The Mother's Day event is coming up in 3 weeks.

A discussion ensued regarding carry-over of sick time for the preschool teachers. They wish to allow carry-over up to a maximum of 28 days. This would provide enough time in the event of extreme emergencies or family situations. It was decided that "PTO time" is the more appropriate wording and the contract will be revised as such.

The cotton candy machine has been received and will be available for use by the whole church.

Water from the recent storm has penetrated one of the class rooms. This may be due to deterioration of the outer sandstone wall, and if so, might be eligible for repair using funds from the grant. It is also possible that leaking window seals are the problem. The matter will be investigated to determine the actual cause.

### Treasurer's Report: (Laurie Hubach)

The reports for February and March are combined this month.

A server problem has caused the loss of some yearend data. Most of the data has been manually restored.

Compared to 1st Quarter last year: Giving is up almost \$2,000; Building and Property expenses are down almost \$6,000; Ministry in Music is down due to lack of choir director's salary; Office and Support expenses are up slightly. Overall, our financial position is improved over last year for this time period.

Pass-Through expenses are \$210 for One Great Hour of Sharing, and \$125 for OCWM, totalling \$335.

**MOTION: TO APPROVE PASS-THROUGH EXPENSES OF \$335. MOTION MADE AND SECONDED. MOTION PASSED.**

### Financial Secretary's Report: (Becky Woods)

Major Incoming Funds Rounded to dollar	March 2023	YTD TOTAL
Offerings	\$11,770	\$36,473
Maundy Thursday	120	120
Refugee Fund	1,770	1,770
TOTAL	\$14,578	\$41,770

### Pastor's Report: (Pastor Chris Buckingham-Taylor)

Met with rep. for office copier in order to reduce cost. Rep will return with proposal. Thanks to all who have participated in improving our financial position – giving is up and expenses are being reduced. Thank you to Geoff Gatz for the addition of the much needed hand rail leading up to the altar. Thank you to Joyce Darakis for the donation of a beautiful wall clock, hand made by her late husband, Arthur. An appropriate location will be determined.

Liam Gleason's Confirmation will tentatively be held on Pentecost Sunday, May 28, which is traditionally the time for Confirmation, and also the birthday of our church.

Looking forward to a summer of good things, more to be announced at a later date.

### Compassionate Care: (Joan Whitman)

For Easter nineteen "goodie bags" were filled, and each shut-in received two bags. One bag had edible goodies, and the other had entertainment items. Easter lilies were also given to shut-ins. All were very appreciative of the visits and the gifts.

**Altar Guild:** (Lynn Hollstein)

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Easter service and the lilies. It all went very well.

**Spiritual Life:** (Judy McCurdy)

Had good visits today with Audrey Montgomery, and with Don and Jean Swift. All three were in good spirits and appreciative of the visits, and seem to be getting the help and support they need.

**Circle Six:** (Sally Readinger)

Thank you to Pastor Chris for the entertainment at their anniversary meal. Next meeting is May 2. The program will be "The History of Amherst Quarries" presented by Bob Pallante of the Amherst Historical Society. The program is open to members of St. Peter's and begins at 7 pm.

**Ushers:** (Al Murphy, Christine Burman)

All is going well. Thank you to our great crew of ushers. The supply of envelopes for the pew pockets is getting low. Becky will include with her order to save on postage. Christine made 5 Visitor packets and has handed out 4, indicating that new people are attending.

**Tech Report:** (Mary-K Kirsch)

March Tracking report for Zoom: 31 participants viewed the YouTube Minute with Pastor Chris, and 19 participated in the Zoom Sunday service, in addition to those viewing the Sunday service on Facebook.

We would like to replace our Zoom camera. The current one is beginning to show abnormalities in picture quality and focus. In addition, it is a camera best suited for close-up meetings, and was never intended for the longer distances we are using it for.

We recommend investigating whether some of our endowed funds could be used for this purpose, and possibly for other needs. The Library Fund would seem to be a good candidate. Might need an attorney to get a legal opinion on this subject.

The Executive Committee will explore the feasibility of using these endowed funds. Pastor Chris will inquire with some of his colleagues for their opinions.

**Garden Team:** (Sue Conkle)

Fred and Lynda Helyes applied weed and feed where necessary. Geoff and Linda Gatz mowed the grass using the push mower since the rider currently has a problem. They also did a general cleanup of leaves, dead branches, etc.

Question: Should geraniums be solicited for Pentecost as in past years? Also, please advise on an unsightly tree or overgrown bush along the west side of our parking lot. Not sure whether it belongs to us or to Old Stone Church.

**President's Report:** (Christine Burman)

The organ has been temporarily repaired.

We are using a borrowed CPU. Our original CPU is being examined to see whether it can be repaired, or whether it will

have to be replaced. After the final repairs are done, the organ will need to be tuned, and several broken keys replaced. Christine is looking for spare keys which we had at one time, and has contacted Pam Schuster who may know their whereabouts. Final costs will not be known until all work has been completed.

There will be a pot luck luncheon April 30, with freewill offering going to the Building Fund. Planning on a movie night sometime close to Mother's Day.

**Old Business:** (Various)

Discussion of sandstone repair under the north side windows. Out of 7 bids solicited, only 2 have been answered: QPS Chimney Contractors at \$8,400 and Lorain Chimney at \$9,000. The danger of further structural damage forces us to make the decision now.

**MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE BID OF \$8,900 FROM QPS CHIMNEY CONTRACTORS. MOTION MADE AND SECONDED. MOTION PASSED.**

The walls in Fellowship Hall are in need of repair. The wood has been rotting for quite some time. In some cases, there is direct opening to outside. Shinsky Contractors will examine the damage and give their appraisal and estimate to repair.

Much of the recent grant work (light replacement, ceiling tile, and wiring) has been performed with a major assist in labor from Geoff and Linda Gatz, and Mary K Kirsch. Their efforts have resulted in substantial savings in cost and time for the project. Please take a look at what they have accomplished and please give them your thanks when you see them!

**New Business:** (Various)

Lev Kobiakova from our Ukranian family would like to accompany his classmates on a field trip to Washington D.C. Discussions centered around various ways to help him financially. It was decided that this trip falls within the requirements of the Happel Endowment Fund, and money will be drawn from there.

**MOTION: TO AWARD LEV KOBIAKOVA AN AMOUNT OF \$500 FROM THE HAPPEL ENDOWMENT FUND TO BE USED FOR HIS FIELD TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C. MOTION MADE AND SECONDED. MOTION PASSED.**

Question was raised about the possible garage sale, yes or no. Targeted for a date near the end of July.

Question was raised as to whether the Oberlin Music Students Fund could be rescinded by its originators and reappropriated elsewhere since we no longer have Oberlin students in the choir. Answer is yes if the originators would submit a letter stating their wishes.

**Adjournment: Meeting ended at 8:38 after prayer by Pastor Chris.**

***Respectfully submitted, April 19, 2023***

Tom Hollstein, Council Secretary



# Garden Club SEEKS HELP

The Garden Club is seeking volunteers to help with Spring Cleanup around the church. Sessions are short, about 1-1½ hr(s). We send out a One Call the day or two before a session, depending on weather.

You can sign up by writing "Yes! I can help with Spring Cleanup" on the back of the yellow attendance card during worship, or call the church office at **(440) 988-4965**.

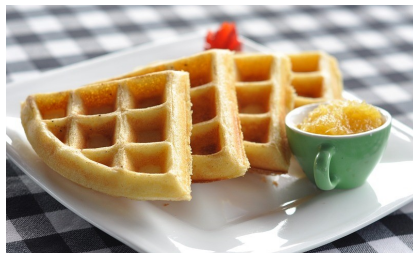
***Thank you for help!***



## MAY EVENTS

- May 2 Circle Six 6 PM (FH)
- May 4 ~~Compassionate Care Cancelled~~**
- May 7 Communion Sunday
- May 11 Men's Breakfast, Quarry Café 9:30  
Preschool Tea Party 10:30am, 1:45pm  
Preschool Board Meeting 6:30pm (FH)
- May 12 Preschool Tea Party 10:30 am
- May 15 Council Meeting Zoom 7 PM
- May 17 Clergy Mtg., Fireside 11:30 AM
- May 26 Preschool Picnic 9:30am & 12:45pm
- May 25 Preschool Picnic 9:30am
- May 29 Memorial Day office closed
- May 30 Teachers here, no children  
Craft Club 6:-8:30 PM Fireside

- Communion Visits: Mondays 1-4 PM
- Bible Study: 7 PM, Tuesdays, Zoom
- Breeze Chapel: 7 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



## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

**Thurs., May 11, 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



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

*"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."*

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





St. Peter's UCC  
**FOOD**  
pantry

In February,  
we collected  
**119**  
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. Pam is back and came to count, load, and deliver the food to Good Shepherd Baptist Food Pantry. Thank you Pam for serving with a grateful heart!

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 May 4 Cancelled!

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

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 Orsenso

June & Carl Nau

Family of

Jean Snyder



PSALMS 30:2



# 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](http://www.stpetersamherst.org) to make your donation electronically via Breeze or PayPal. **Also, we now have the ability to accept donations by TEXT!** If you would like more detailed information, please contact the church office.

## Executive Council

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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

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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

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St. Peter's Website	<a href="http://www.stpetersamherst.org">www.stpetersamherst.org</a>
St. Peter's Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/stpetersuccamherstoh">https://www.facebook.com/stpetersuccamherstoh</a>
St. Peter's Twitter	<a href="https://www.twitter.com/StPetersUCCOh">https://www.twitter.com/StPetersUCCOh</a>
St. Peter's YouTube Channel	St Peters UCC Amherst