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.

SEPTEMBER 2023

"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another

with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

ROMANS 12:9 in showing

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

SEPTEMBER 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

Pastoral Ponderings

From the desk of PASTOR CHRIS

TIME IS A COMMODITY

ell, it happened! Summer came and went. I know, I know what you're thinking, summer isn't over until September 21st. But, for all intents and purposes—it's fall! Our kids are back in the full swing of school. Football is being played on fields across our country with a little bit of learning mixed in. As far as church is concerned, fall is the time for us to regather and to get busy being the church. It feels a little different to me at St. Peter's UCC. It doesn't feel to me that we took the summer off—in fact this past summer was one of our busiest in years. Time is a precious commodity and we all only get so much of it in this life until we pass on to the next. That awareness either causes us to just take a break and live life, or it spurs us to get busy getting things done.

Johnny Appleseed was a real-life figure who in mythology was a man who couldn't get enough things done in this life. Maybe you remember the Disney song for Johnny Appleseed?

The Lord is good to me
And so I thank the Lord
For giving me the things I need
The sun and rain and an apple seed
Yes, He's been good to me

I owe the Lord so much
For everything I see
I'm certain if it weren't for Him
There'd be no apples on this limb
He's been good to me

Oh, here am I 'neath the blue, blue sky A-doin' as I please Singin' with my feathered friends Hummin' with the bees

I wake up every day As happy as can be Because I know that with His care My apple trees, they will still be there Oh, the Lord is good to me

Lyrics transcribed by Disneyclips.com

Written by Kim Gannon and Walter Kent Performed by Dennis Day

That's a song sung at summer camps across America before meals, and it's a song with a very important life lesson. While Johnny Appleseed worked hard to plant trees for pioneers heading west, he did it because he felt God's call for him to that work. However, Johnny always did the work with joy and felt gratitude for each day.

That is our challenge this fall—to do the work that God calls us to do, and to do it with joy and gratitude or not at all.

I do a lot of stuff I hate, like cleaning and organizing, paying taxes and so on. I need to be more aware that even though each day brings challenges and—if we're being honest—things we don't like, we need to focus on the joy that each breath from God offers us. Every day is a gift! Every breath is an opportunity to feel God's love and grace. Every day of our life is placed in God's heavenly family scrapbook.

Oh, the Lord is good to me—and, you too! So, let fall be upon us as we continue to cherish our time. It's good to be the church!

Remember, you are loved!

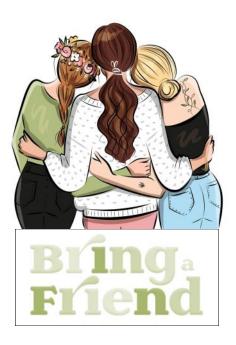
Rev. Chei & webster Saylor

Pastor Chris

Circle Six 'Picnic' Meeting!

Tuesday, Sept. 5 | 6 PM

BEAVER CREEK RESERVATION



Circle Six will hold it's next meeting on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 6:00 PM at Beaver Creek Reservation. This is our picnic meeting so please bring a covered dish to share. Also bring your own beverage and place setting.

Please feel free to bring a guest as well. Looking forward to seeing everyone and beginning our next year of Circle Six!

Thank you, Sally Readinger President



SEPTEMBER SERMON SCRIPTURE READINGS

9/3 Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God: for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

9/10 Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

9/17 Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has

welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

9/24 Philippians 1:21-30

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Get to Know Your NEIGHBOR



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 Sally Readinger and I've been a member of St. Peter's approximately 13 years.

I was baptized and confirmed at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Conneaut, Ohio, and to be perfectly honest, I don't remember if there was anything especially that stands out in confirmation class.

What I like best about St. Peter's are my fellow parishioners.

I have several wonderful memories at St. Peter's. Probably the best memory is my daughter's wedding. It's because of her wedding that I started attending services here and eventually joined as a member.

As a young woman I had pulled away from the church, much to the dismay of my parents. Even after my daughter was born, I never had her baptized. It wasn't until she was planning her wedding that we went in search of a church for the ceremony.

There were very few options in the area where we lived that she was interested in. Since she had cousins that lived in Amherst we decided to start looking there. I called a few churches and left messages with the reason for my call. Being the not so patient person I am, when I didn't get an immediate response, we decided to just attend church services and St. Peter's was the first. At that time the minister was Reverend Mark Pemberton and at the end of the service he

would stand at the front doors and greet each

member as they left. As we were walking out, we introduced ourselves and explained why we were there. He immediately took us to his office and talked to us. My daughter and I were very impressed with him and it turned out he was also raised in the Episcopal church. We both fell in love with the beauty of the church itself. I felt very at home there because the service was so reminiscent of what I had grown up with. I started attending service every week. When I went down to Fellowship Hall for coffee hour, I had the pleasure of meeting one of the most wonderful women I had ever met, Marge Marshall. She made me feel so welcome and she reminded me of my own mother whom I missed very much. Then other women befriended me and before I knew it, I was becoming a member of the church and Circle Six. My daughter had the most wonderful

wedding and eventually was baptized by Reverend Mark. **The rest is history!**

I can't pick just one time I've been proud of members of my

congregation as there have been so many. This congregation is filled with members that go above and beyond to ensure this church's future and I couldn't be prouder to call them my friends.

I have only 1 child, my daughter Ashley. But I'm also blessed to have 3 wonderful grandchildren, Damien 15, Savannah 14 and Arrianna 13. As many of you know, our lives revolve around baseball/softball because of these kids and I couldn't be prouder of all three.

I grew up in Conneaut, Ohio.

"My vision for

St. Peter's

is to see the

church flourish

and grow."

I am retired from an insurance company in Cleveland called AIG where I was a Senior Casualty Underwriter.

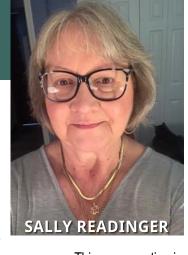
My hobbies consist of scrapbooking, cardmaking, various other crafts, bowling and attending baseball & softball games.

My vision for St. Peter's is to see the church flourish and grow.

The missions I feel are important for St. Peter's are the food collection, the compassionate care committee and especially Circle Six. Circle Six is a small group of women but we work hard to give back to the church, support various charities in our area and, provide assistance with our mission blankets and supporting family members when a loved one passes on.

God is calling this congregation to be stewards of his word and teachings.

—Sally Readinger



The Bible describes the church as the body of Christ, and Christians as members of that body. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.











akowski Heat

Heather Nail

Kerri Kobylka

Ms. Stempowsk

SEPTEMBER

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

To foster, encourage, and instill in children a joy of learning, the wonder of discovery, a love of God and his creation.

I t is hard to believe that September is already here! The preschool staff is excited and ready to start the new school year in the freshly updated preschool wing! Thank you to all who helped make it beautiful.

We have so many fun and exciting activities and fieldtrips planned for

the school year. Our first field trip will be to Miller's Apple Hill to pick some apples. We look forward to the hayride and learning fun facts about apples. This month the children will be learning about friendship and sharing. We will also learn the letters Aa, Cc, addresses and the color red! Please say a quick prayer for the staff, students and parents as we start out the year. It is so nice to have the love and support of the church on our side.

Sincerely, Wendy Kosakowski/Director

Welcome Back Teachers! Thank you for your service!



TOTAL PROFIT: **\$2,267.68!**

There may be more \$ coming in as Luena Beale will be trying to sell items at her garage sale. We'll keep everyone updated.

Special thanks to Luena for taking on the task of the 50/50 Raffle to raise money to buy a lawn mower, a blower, and an edger. Only \$134 short of their goal, which Lu & Joan Whitman donated!

Also, we received an anonymous donation in the amount of \$2,300 to go towards our Organ Repair Fund. In my thank you letter to our donor(s), I stated that Pastor Chris and our congregation will rejoice at the kindness of strangers. On your behalf, I expressed our sincere thanks for such a generous gift. Trust your future to a LIVING GOD!

YOU ARE ALL AMAZING!



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.

St. Peter's believes in ending Hunger.

CROP HUNGER WALK - JOIN US! Sunday, October 8 | 2 PM | Meet at 5 point in Amherst

The prolonged war in Ukraine, on top of the pandemic and other disasters is causing a global food crisis. Millions are on the brink of famine. The CROP Hunger Walk and the funds we raise will feed the hungry through CWS. When you join this movement, donate and raise funds, you will provide life-saving support like emergency food along with the seeds, tools and programs that will help families feed themselves in the future.

Get your **pledge forms** from the church office, get sponsors/donations, and turn in to Tom Jewell the day of the walk. If you can't walk, that's not a problem. Walking just helps us relate to what people in developing nations do every day just for food and water. You can either sponsor/donate yourself, or you can try to get others to sponsor/donate to you.

Local Impact: 25% OF THE MONIES RAISED WILL GO DIRECTLY TO AMHERST FOOD PANTRY at GOOD SHEPHERD BAPTIST CHURCH!

Thank you for helping this community-led fundraising event to **END HUNGER** and by supporting U.S.-based hunger-fighting organizations.



CROP HUNGER BACKGROUND

The Crop Project began in 1947 when farmers were asked to donate food and seed crops to



Why We Walk



Partner with and support 1,600 local food banks and soup kitchens—Gather in solidarity with others in your own community to end hunger and poverty.

D Globa

walk miles every day in search of food and water. Support individuals impacted by poverty and disaster through CWS.

our hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia. The first CROP Hunger Walks took place in Bismarck, North Dakota (1969), and York,

The global impact of your gift:

\$17 - Chickens for a family

\$30 Water filter for a home

\$50 Two hundred mango seeds

\$60 Home gardening

\$75 Groceries

\$85 A goat

\$100 Household toilet

\$140 Five acres of sweet potato vines

\$470 A cow

\$1500 The whole farm

August 21 2 0 2 3 MEETING

ATTENDEES:

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

"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

Note: This is a summary of the council meeting. The official approved minutes of the meeting are on file in the church office and are available for viewing.

Pastor: Chris Buckingham-Taylor	Congregational Rep: Susan Conkle
Vice President: Judy McCurdy	Congregational Rep: Stacy Gleason
Past President: Mary-K Kirsch	Congregational Rep: Kaye Koler
Secretary: Tom Hollstein	Congregational Rep: Joan Whitman
Assistant Treasurer: Sally Readinger	Preschool Director: Wendy Kosakowski



<u>Call to Order</u>: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Vice President Judy McCurdy, and began with a prayer from Pastor Chris.

Secretary's Report

- The minutes for the July council meeting were emailed to council members on July 27.
- For the record, the minutes were approved again at this meeting.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE COUNCIL MEETING. MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Preschool Report

- Thanks to all for completing the remodeling work. The rooms are bright and cheery and everything looks great.
- The school staff are making final preparations for beginning of school.
- Enrollment is completely filled.

Pastor's Report

- We should have a checklist for the custodian position. Mary K will advise and oversee
- Breeze Chapel will resume in September.

Treasurer's Report

 Pass through amount of \$105.00 for OCWM needs to be approved.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE PASS-THROUGHS.
MOTION MADE AND SECONDED. MOTION PASSED
UNANIMOUSLY.

Ushers Report

- Several regular ushers are either out for surgery or recovering from surgery, which has created a temporary shortage.
- Ushers are needed for the rest of the month

Tech Report

 We have a design plan that we had hoped to follow to upgrade our church's audio/visual system. After careful consideration, we have decided that it is too ambitious and costly for us at this time. We still plan to upgrade, but will try to develop a more modest plan. Views are increasing online for "A Minute with Pastor Chris". CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING, AUGUST 21, 2023 continued

Garden Team

 Due to the increased workload at her job, Sue Conkle is leaving the Garden Team for the time being. Her gardening responsibilities will be handled by Lynda Helyes.

New Business

- Lynda Helyes has requested to cultivate and maintain a garden in the empty area on the east side of the education building. The garden will be professionally designed and planted. Approval was given by church council.
- Fellowship Hall needs to be repaired at the rear corners, where the wall has deteriorated and is actually open to the outside.
 Mary-K will seek advice and obtain bids for the job.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.
MOTION MADE AND SECONDED. MOTION
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment: Meeting ended at 8:20 PM after prayer by Pastor Chris.

Respectfully submitted August 24, 2023, Tom Hollstein, Council Secretary





SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Sept. 3 Communion Sunday

Sept. 4 Labor Day Office Closed

Sept. 5 Kids are back in Preschool! Circle Six Picnic Mtg., 6 PM Beaver Creek Reservation

Sept. 7 Compassionate Care Mtg., 10:30 AM

Sept. 14 Men's Breakfast, Quarry Café, 9:30 AM Preschool Board Mtg., 6:30 PM

Sept. 24 Margo Porter's Baptism during worship

Communion Visits: 1-4PM

Bible Study: 7 PM, Tuesdays, Zoom YOGA with Mary-K, St. Peter's lower level Wed. 8:30-9:45 AM & Thurs. 6:00-7:15 PM



Join us!

Coffee Chats with Pastor Chris continue to be enjoyable and fun. Food is available as well as coffee. Everyone is welcome!



Altar Guild Needs Help!

The Altar Guild desperately needs help and are looking for new members, <u>including couples</u>. We help with tasks in the Sanctuary and also prepare Communion. Please call the church office at **(440) 988-4965** or email admin.ofc@stpetersamherst.org if interested.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Psalms 91:11 - For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

Tom Janas	September	05
Libby Adkins	September	06
Fred Helyes	September	06
Janet McGinnis	September	06
Chuck Woods	September	07
Carolyn Haney	September	80
Angela Cheng	September	09
Stacy Gleason	September	10



Susan Pete	.September 11
Kelly Bosworth	.September 15
Jim Kubuske	.September 16
Lauri Hubach	.September 20
Judy Whitman	.September 20
Nicole Miskov	.September 21
Leanna Traster	.September 22
Harry Parham	.September 24



TUESDAY | SEPT. 26 | 6:30 PM



Craft Club will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 26, 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!



FOOD pantry

In August we collected

144

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 is Sept. 7 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?

The Lord Hears our Prayers!

Call <u>Joan Whitman</u>, contact person for the Prayer Team at 440-320-8923

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 to the list 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
Jim Koler
Jean Marsh
Richard McCurdy
Tom McKinley
Bev Mischka
Glenn Miskov

Audrey Montgomery Darlene Mudrich Carol Murphy Rich Orseno Serita Reyes Sharon Janet Siron Sue Smith Sherry Spratt Mary Ann Sterna Jean Swift & family Elaine Thompson Edgar Vargas Gloria Versace

June Nau & Family Family of Jean Snyder Kaye Oswald & Family





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. Join us in the Chapel every Wednesday

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

St. Peter's Website and Social Media Addresses

Website: www.stpetersamherst.org **Facebook:** https://www.facebook.com/

stpetersuccamherstoh

Twitter: https://www.twitter.com/StPetersUCCOh

YouTube Channel: St Peters UCC Amherst



At St. Peter's we work together in love to build strong foundations for our lives in Christ. This firm foundation allows us to put

"Arms and Legs on Christ's love in the world."

We believe that God is calling you to be embraced by God's radical love and to be a part of this foundation of faith.