

**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.

# Signs & Wonders

DECEMBER 2023

THE KEY



ADVENT IS FROM AN OLD LATIN PHRASE –  
AD VENIO, LOOSELY TRANSLATED  
“UNTIL THE COMING.” IT IS A TIME FOR  
REFLECTION DURING WHICH WE PREPARE  
FOR CHRIST'S COMING.

“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

DECEMBER 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



## WHAT'S ON YOUR LIST?

"Do you remember me?

I sat upon your knee.

I wrote to you with childhood fantasies.

Well, I'm all grown up now,

But still need help somehow.

I'm not a child but my heart still can dream."

*(Lyrics by Amy Grant)*

**T**hese lyrics by contemporary Christian artist, Amy Grant, entitled—"Grown Up Christmas List", were on my mind as I thought about this message for the Advent season. We are all dealing with so many troublesome things—family issues, health concerns, economic worries, and the global and political climate crisis, as well as the reality of where we are as a church community of faith

going through a period of transition, that creating our own Christmas Wish List, seems like a good spiritual exercise.

I used to love coming up with my Christmas Wish List as a child. In the old days, (before Amazon!) my family and I would go through the JC Penny, and the Montgomery Ward catalogues to come up with ideas for Christmas. We would make up a list of the top things we most wanted and place them in order of preference. Then, we would mail our list to Santa in the North Pole. I don't know how it all worked but it always did! I never got everything on my list, but I got what I most wanted. I assume that it was similar for Amy Grant when she was a child, which inspired her to write as an adult:



So here's my lifelong wish,  
My grown-up Christmas list,  
Not for myself, but for a world in need:

No more lives torn apart,  
Then wars would never start,  
And time would heal all hearts.  
And everyone would have a friend,  
And right would always win,  
And love would never end  
This is my grown-up Christmas list.

I think you might agree that this is a pretty good list—but what things would make your list?

I'm asking for St. Peter's UCC to continue to fully rely on God. I'm asking for St. Peter's to realize how blessed and fortunate we are to have each other, however long in this life we travel together. I'm asking for St. Peter's to have a Pastor called that will love you and guide you down the road ahead. **I'm asking for St. Peter's UCC to remain faithful to the "Why," of doing what we do as a congregation—to Make disciples for Jesus Christ in order to transform the world.** And finally, I'm asking that we truly demonstrate that We will love the Lord our God with all of our hearts, lives and minds, and that we will love our neighbors as we love ourselves. (We need to think about who our neighbors are?)

Those are the things I most want for us this Christmas. I truly believe that if we open these gifts under the tree this year, that we will make a difference in the world and that the light of Christ will shine through the darkness.

May this Advent and Christmas season be a time for us to dream of how we want the world to be! What is your dream for us? May we have the courage to be the change that is needed for our dreams to come true!

**Remember, you are loved!**

*Rev. Chris Lucken-Taylor*

**Pastor Chris**



**O**n Sunday, October 29th, Lev Kobiakov reported to the congregation about the trip we made possible for him. From October 18th to the 20th the Eighth Grade Class from Amherst Junior High School traveled to Washington, D.C. to experience first hand our Nation's capital. Lev told us a little about what he saw and what he liked best about the trip. He explained that the sweatshirt he had on was purchased with the spending money you gave him. I hope you were impressed by his command of our language and as a shy teen in front of adults, the poise he displayed standing before us. The Kobiakov Family and I are truly grateful to those of you that donated to this trip.

**Thank you! Linda Gatz**



# DECEMBER SERMON SCRIPTURE READINGS

## 12/3 Mark 13:24-37

"But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

## 12/10 Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

## 12/17 John 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are

you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

## 12/24 Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

## 12/24 Luke 2:1-7, 8-20 (Christmas Eve)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Continued on the bottom of page 5...*

# Art Glass in St. Peter's United Church of Christ

*The following article is added to this month's Key as a request from Geoff Gatz*

The art glass in St. Peter's Church is a combination of the original concept of the utility of pictures in glass and a 19th and 20th century modification of the real art of stained glass. They are of the type known as Tiffany with large pieces of glass in comparatively uniform geometric patterns, in fine taste for that type of art glass.

The pictures depicted in the windows, however, are again very well done for that type of glass. The coloring is good, the artistry is fair, but all in all the combined effect is more than just pleasing and does what the windows were intended to do—to lead people to meditate and worship.

The windows might be noted for the fact that they do tell stories, both individually and in series. Starting with the medallions on the North side of the church, you have the life of Christ spelled out in the following scenes:

1. The birth of Christ
2. The growth of Christ—Jesus in the Temple
3. His healing ministry—The Widow of Naaman's Son

Then moving around to the South side and again moving East to West, the continuation of his life:

1. His teaching ministry—  
Jesus and the woman at the well
2. The Last Supper
3. The Crucifixion

The windows, however, that attract your attention immediately, are the four large windows on one side depicting two phases in the life of Jesus—

Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, and  
The Resurrection, where Mary meets the  
resurrected Jesus

And the other two windows refer to the character and mission of Jesus—

Jesus is standing at the door knocking, waiting for  
entrance Jesus as the Good Shepherd

In addition to these windows the four windows across the East side of the church, high up at the balcony level are of simple medallions, with

The Cross and the Crown  
The Ten Commandments, represented by scrolls  
The Lamp of Learning

And finally Jesus and His salvation, represented by a cross on a rock.

In the front on both sides of the Choir, are two windows with the medallions depicting the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, with the sheaf of wheat on one side and the clusters of grapes on the other.

Even the front doors have an ordinary stained art glass cross on each door so that the church itself can be said to be filled with the story of salvation and of Jesus in art glass, which comes very close to the original idea of the use of pictures in glass, to teach people of Christ and His Kingdom.

...continued from page 4

12/31 Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which

you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

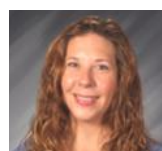




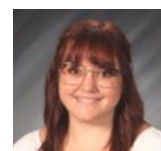
Wendy Kosakowski



Heather Nail



Kerri Kobylka



Ms. Stempowski

# DECEMBER

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



Ho Ho Ho!! It's hard to believe that December is here. We will continue working on beginning sounds, numbers, shapes, colors, and the letters of the alphabet. For our mission project, the preschool is decorating Christmas cards for shut-ins.

The children are busy getting ready for the Christmas program.

They will be singing many wonderful songs to their guests. The programs will be held on **Thursday, December 14 at 9:00 a.m./12:45 p.m., and Friday, December 15 at 9:00 a.m.**

As we all prepare for this wonderful holiday, may we all sit back and enjoy all the little things that go by so quickly.

Our children are growing so fast that we sometimes forget to enjoy the simple sound of their laughter or the look of their sweet smile. May God bless you with a safe and wonderful Holiday.

Preschool registration for the 2024-2025 school year will start in January.

*The preschool staff would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*



## Operation Christmas Child 2023

2023 was the third year that St. Peter's participated in Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. We set a goal of packing 75 shoeboxes this year. Members of the Congregation and children from our preschool participated. We delivered **63 shoeboxes** to the local collection site and were told we were the second largest amount delivered there which was a nice surprise. I want to thank all of you who participated and encourage everyone to pray that these shoeboxes bless children around the world. You are all invited to join us again next year in this outreach.

*Blessings to All, Linda Gatz*



## 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.



Darlene & Theodore Mudrich



Audrey Montgomery



Lois Barnes & Doggy



June Nau



## Spiritual Life Team (*Love*) in Action

*Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this,*

*To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.*

—James 1:27, King James Version

We look forward to our Communion visits every Monday afternoon with our church family members who are at home, in nursing homes and hospitals. It is received with grateful hearts as we witness God's love and grace. If anyone would like a visit, please call the church office at (440) 988-4965.

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. Colossians 3:17 - *"Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him"*.

**Hope, Peace, Joy, Love**—Pastor Chris Buckingham-Taylor, Judy McCurdy, Don Ramsey and Pam Miskov



## Circle Six Music Program Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary

Circle Six is proud to welcome the **Amherst Madrigal Singers** who will be performing in the Sanctuary on Tuesday, December 5 at 7:00 PM. The congregation is invited to attend and there will be a reception in Fellowship Hall following the program. I hope you will be able to join us for this special performance. **Blessings, Sally Readinger, President**

*Circle Six gals sure know how to have fun baking their famous pumpkin rolls!*



Judy McCurdy, Betty Pekare, Christine Burman, Lynda Helyes, Linda Gatz, Luena Beale, Dot Wilford, Sally Readinger, Jan Orseno, Pam Miskov, Sue Cherry, Carol Faragher, Judy Whitman, Shirley Michalski, Joan Whitman

Nov. 20  
2023

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.*

<u>Pastor: Chris Buckingham-Taylor</u>	<u>Congregational Rep: Susan Conkle</u>
<u>President: Christine Burman</u>	<u>Congregational Rep: Stacy Gleason</u>
<u>Vice President: Judy McCurdy</u>	<u>Congregational Rep: Kaye Koler</u>
<u>Past President: Mary-K Kirsch</u>	<u>Congregational Rep: Don Ramsey</u>
<u>Secretary: Tom Hollstein</u>	<u>Congregational Rep: Joan Whitman</u>
<u>Treasurer: Karel Schieferstein</u>	<u>Preschool Admin: Wendy Kosakowski</u>
<u>Ass't. Treasurer: Sally Readinger</u>	<u>Preschool Admin: Heather Nail</u>
<u>Trustee Rep: Geoff Gatz</u>	<u>Visitors: Sharon &amp; Gary Thompson</u>



**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: (Tom Hollstein)**

- The minutes for the October council meeting have been emailed to council members.
- CORRECTION to the October Minutes: Altar Guild report, the Hanging of the Greens will take place on Sunday November 26, not November 29.

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING. MOTION MADE BY TOM HOLLSTEIN AND SECONDED BY JUDY MCCURDY. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **Preschool Report: (Wendy Kosakowski)**

- Preschool budget has been accepted by Church Council.
- Santa's Workshop is December 3rd and 7th in Fellowship Hall.
- Christmas program is 14th and 15th in the church sanctuary. Front doors will remain locked. Elevator entry will be locked during the program. Everyone is invited to attend.
- Return after Christmas break will be January 3rd.
- Enrollment will begin in-house January 3rd. Enrollment for the public will begin January 23rd. Tuition will be raised \$5. Special activities will be raised \$10 due to rising expenses.

## **Pastor's Report: (Pastor Chris)**

- Plans for the church choir are progressing. Special events are being planned.
- Choir director Jennifer Wasilk is very enthusiastic about starting up the church choir.
- Special plans are in the works for Advent services.
- Members have been added to choir.
- Christmas Day Sunday will have special "Blue Candle" service.

- Christmas services will have choir and bell choir.

## **Spiritual Life Report: (Judy McCurdy)**

- Recent visitations include Gloria Versace, Judy Baker, Sherry Spratt, and Karen Andy.
- Have examined membership and arrived at approximately 80 active members.

## **Compassionate Care: (Joan Whitman)**

- Have filled 32 bags for our homebound and nursing home members
- Also have beautiful lap blankets made by Chris Burman.
- Next meeting will be December 7.

## **Altar Guild: (Lynn Hollstein)**

- Hanging of the Greens will take place after church service November 26, the last Sunday in November.

## **Trustee Report: (Geoff Gatz)**

- Fellowship Hall has been decorated for Christmas by Luena Beale, Linda Gatz, and Lynda Helyes.
- Fred and Geoff have moved all leaves to the curb for pickup.
- Roof repair for parsonage and elevator portico will be accomplished by Kaminski Roofing. Cost will be paid by an "Angel Donor". Work will start next week pending weather.
- Entry floor mats have been purchased as opposed to renting from Cintas. This will result in long term cost saving. Our custodian will clean them.
- Bill Hart is doing a great job as custodian.
- Advising to close front steps in winter because of slippery and unsafe conditions.



- The volunteer work force is working well.
- A dead mouse was removed from the elevator well.

### **Circle Six: (Sally Readinger)**

- The pumpkin roll sale went very well. 102 pumpkin rolls were made, and two are left.
- Amherst Madrigal Singers will perform Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 7:00 in the church sanctuary, with reception following in Fellowship Hall. The Amherst Congregational Church will also be invited.
- We might be able to invite the public, but this would require significant additional help. TBD.
- The Christmas cookie sale will be Sunday December 10.

### **Usher Report: (Chris Burman)**

- Everything is going well. No problems.

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

- Our Facebook page is still hooked to the Facebook page of former Pastor Bev. Bammel. This could be a real problem since we don't know the passwords. If we ever got locked out, we have no way to get back in. We will investigate creating our own Facebook account.
- M-K is beginning to include more into the posted Facebook message rather than just the message. This includes the scripture readings, and also the organ postlude.

### **Garden Team: (Sue Conkle)**

- Things are pretty well set for winter.
- Leaves need to be picked up. Sue will contact Amherst City to make sure they will come.

### **Transition Team: (Chris Burman)**

- Five council members have created our church profile which will be published in search of pastoral help. It is available for viewing in the church office.
- When profiles are received, a seven-person search team will be formed made up of five council members, and two congregational members.
- Does our Mission Statement imply that God is placed after ourselves instead of first? It will be revised to prevent misunderstanding.

### **Budget Report: (Karel Schieferstein)**

- Question: Should Office Administrator Kaye Oswald be considered for a higher raise than 2%? Answer: this is a budget, not the final decision. It is only an estimate of future expenses.
- Question: Should our CPA Michele be listed as Treasurer or as Accounting? Actually either label is correct since her work falls under both categories.

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE BUDGET AS PRESENTED. MOTION MADE BY STACY GLEASON, AND SECONDED BY JOAN WHITMAN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Garage Sale: (Sue Conkle)**

- Requests have been made for another sale.
- Sue Conkle is willing to oversee it again.
- Potential date is after end of preschool probably mid-July, same as previous sale.

### **Old Business: (Chris Burman)**

- Suggestion has been made that church council officers and members be retained in their respective positions for the coming year. This would contribute needed stability as we go through the transition period of pastor search.
- Request and search for new council members will not be undertaken.
- General consensus was to follow this procedure.

**MOTION: TO RETAIN COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP IN ITS CURRENT STATE FOR THE COMING YEAR. MOTION MADE BY JOAN WHITMAN, AND SECONDED BY JUDY MCCURDY. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- We need to review and update our bylaws as necessary. This will be done by Joan Whitman, Judy McCurdy, Don Ramsey, and Chris Burman.
- We need to approve the pass-throughs: OCNW for \$105 and Neighbors in Need for \$225.

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE PASS-THROUGHS OF \$105 AND \$225. MOTION MADE BY JOAN WHITMAN AND SECONDED BY JUDY MCCURDY. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- The Congregational meeting will be held December 10. It must be announced twice. President Chris Burman will announce at Sunday service on November 26 and December 3.
- Consider holding council meetings after church service on Sunday. TBD.
- Don Ramsey thanked all who have signed up to ring the Salvation Army bell on December 2 and those who will sign up in the near future.

**MOTION: TO ADJOURN. MOTION MADE BY DON RAMSEY, AND SECONDED BY KAYE KOLER. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Meeting ended at 8:05 with a prayer by Pastor Chris.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Hollstein, Council Secretary



## DECEMBER EVENTS

- Dec. 3 Communion Sunday 10 AM
- Dec. 5 Circle Six Meeting 6 PM and the Amherst Madrigal Singers 7 PM
- Dec. 7 Compassionate Care 10:30 AM
- Dec. 13 The last Breeze service, 7 PM**
- Dec. 14 9 AM & 12:45 PM Christmas Program
- Dec. 15 9AM Christmas Program
- Dec. 24 Blue Christmas will be part of the morning worship service**
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service 7 PM**
- Office Closed Dec. 25-26**
- Preschool Holiday Dec. 18-Jan. 1
- Spiritual Life: 1-4 PM, Mondays
- Bible Study: 7 PM, Tuesdays, Zoom
- Breeze Chapel: 7-7:30 PM, Wednesdays
- Choir: Sundays, 9 AM
- Handbell Choir: Thursdays, 7 PM
- Coffee Chats with Pastor Chris  
Sandstone Coffee House  
Wednesdays 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



## NO MORE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

*Thanks to those that attended the men's fellowship breakfast!*

*Please remember that Pastor Chris' last day with us will be Sunday, January 14th.*

*If you wish to meet with him, call the church office at 440-988-4965 to set up a time, or reach out to him on Sundays or at the Wednesday Coffee Chats.*



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

- DeLayne Hart ..... December 01
- Geoff Gatz ..... December 02
- Laurie Parham..... December 04
- Thomas McKinley ..... December 09
- Jeffrey Stumpp ..... December 18
- Kenneth Bring ..... December 20
- Jessie Kubuske ..... December 20
- Elaine Thompson ..... December 23
- Jean Swift ..... December 26
- Arthur Diaz ..... December 27
- Terry Deliman..... December 29



### *Signs & Wonders*

- First Sunday in Advent - Dec. 3**  
READING THE TEA LEAVES
- Second Sunday in Advent - Dec. 10**  
PREPARING THE WAY
- Third Sunday in Advent - Dec. 17**  
A CRYING VOICE
- Fourth Sunday in Advent - Dec. 24**  
WONDER
- Christmas Eve, 7 PM - Dec. 24**  
THE GOOD OLD DAYS

### *"Blue Christmas"*

**This will be included as part of the Sunday Morning Service on DEC. 24**

Each one of us comes bearing the loss of loved ones, or may be struggling to mend our own broken places. Join us in the Sanctuary. There will be a time to light a candle in memory of loved ones.

# Compassionate Care Meeting Dec. 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 at 440-320-8923

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



### **Please keep the following people in your prayers:**

Karin Andy	Jim Koler	Sharon
Judy Baker	Jean Marsh	Janet Siron
Lois Barnes	Bev Mischka	Sue Smith
Roger Becker	Glenn Miskov	Family of Jean Snyder
Fred Beiswenger	Audrey Montgomery	Sherry Spratt
Richard Berry	Darlene Mudrich	Mary Ann Sterna
Shane Brown, son of Linda Brown	Carol Murphy	Jean Swift & Family
Family of Joyce Darakis	June Nau & Family	Elaine Thompson
Tudy Diaz	Rich Orseno	Edgar Vargas
Valentino Dziak	Kaye Oswald & Family	Gloria Versace
Don Flock	Serita Reyes	
	Robert, cousin of Joan Whitman	

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



In November  
we collected  
**182**  
food items!

Your monthly commitment to support the Weekend Children's Backpack Program helps feed the children in our community. You can still donate 'regular food items' in addition to the Backpack Program, as many families are still in need.

Please leave your donations in the drop off boxes at the church. We greatly appreciate your donations, along with Good Shepherd and those receiving food items. Thank you Pam for delivering each month.

## Putting Arms & Legs on Christ's Love

### Suggestions for the Weekend Children's Backpack Program:

Single Serving PB & Jelly	Peanut Butter Crackers	Small Bag Chips
Canned Soup (Pop top lids)	Individual Cereals	Small Bag Pretzels
Mac & Cheese (Microwavable)	Granola Bars	Fruit Cups
Spaghetti-Os (Pop top lids)	Oatmeal Packages	Jello Cups



# 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. Join us in the Chapel every Wednesday

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
Karel Schieferstein, 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 Kobylka, Teacher		
Taylor Stempowski, Teacher's Aide		

## St. Peter's Website and Social Media Addresses

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<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.stpetersamherst.org">www.stpetersamherst.org</a>	<b>Twitter:</b> <a href="https://www.twitter.com/StPetersUCCOH">https://www.twitter.com/StPetersUCCOH</a>
<b>Facebook:</b> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/stpetersuccamherstoh">https://www.facebook.com/stpetersuccamherstoh</a>	<b>YouTube Channel:</b> 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.