

**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

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'  
This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor  
as yourself.' —Matthew 22:37-39

FEBRUARY 2024

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

FEBRUARY 2024

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

# LENT

FAST + PRAY + GIVE

## OUR JOURNEY BEGINS

**T**he season of Lent is the preparation for Easter. The word "Lent" comes from the Old English word "lengthen," which simply means "spring"—when the days lengthen and new life springs forth. It is a time in which we anticipate the victory of the light and life of Christ over the darkness of sin and death.

Borrowing a phrase from C.S. Lewis, a season of a kind of "*happiness and wonder that makes you serious.*" As you journey with us from Ash Wednesday to Easter, be reminded of the reality of our broken humanity, but as days grow brighter, experience with greater abundance the reality of God's redeeming grace. And so, just as we carefully prepare for

big events in our personal lives, such as a wedding or commencement, Lent invites us to make our hearts ready for remembering Jesus' death and resurrection.

This year the season begins on **Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14**, and lasts for 40 days (recalling the Israelites wandering for 40 years in the desert and the 40 days of Jesus' temptation) plus six Sundays. The seventh Sunday is Easter, this year **March 31**.

Ashes are ceremonially placed on the heads of Christians on Ash Wednesday, either by being sprinkled over their heads or, in English-speaking countries, more often by

being marked on their foreheads as a visible cross. The words (based on Genesis 3:19) used traditionally to accompany this gesture are, "Memento, homo, quia pulvis es, et in pulverem reverteris." (**Remember, man, that thou art dust, and to dust thou shalt return.**) This custom is credited to Pope Gregory I the Great (c. 540–604), although this is probably incorrect since Ash Wednesday was not part of Lent in his time.



**Dear members of St. Peter's UCC,  
Let us trust God as we enter this  
solemn season of Lent.**

*(The following was provided from UCC Resources Lenten materials.)*

**We are in the presence of God.**

Leave the places you have known and walk with God.  
Leave behind thoughts of limitation and imagine.

**But we are secure where we are.**

Ahh, but New ways of being in this  
world is possible for each of us.

**Can't God bless us where we are, and as we are?**

If you trust enough to move from the places  
you have known, and question the systems around us,  
you will be blessed. God is our light and our salvation.

**Lord, we open ourselves to you. Direct our  
paths and open our hearts and minds.**

In this place, in every place,  
for this time, for all time.

**Let us worship our God**

*Remember, you are loved!*

## **Pulpit Supply Ministers**

In case you missed reading their biographies in the bulletins, here they are:

### **Rev. Jim Cunningham**

Jim is retired from full-time ministry having served for 23 years as a Board Certified Health Care Chaplain and 15 years as a Parish Pastor in the United Church of Christ. He was Director of Pastoral Care at Fairview Hospital in Cleveland for 10 years. Jim has a B.A. degree from Heidelberg University, Tiffin OH, an M.Div. degree from Lancaster theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA and completed a one year health care residency program at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, IL. In retirement, Jim is guest preaching, and hosts 2 monthly on-line chat rooms for retired clergy. Jim and his spouse, Charlie, live in Westlake, Ohio with two cats.

### **Chaplain Amanda Nagy**



She was ordained UCC minister and serves as the Chief of Chaplain Service at VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. She received her undergraduate degree from Elmhurst University and a

Masters of Science in community counseling from Oklahoma State University, before completing her Masters of Divinity from Chicago Theological Seminary. Chaplain Nagy relocated to Ohio to complete a Clinical Pastoral Education Fellowship at VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System. Once hired on as a Staff Chaplain, Chaplain Nagy has served in a variety of clinical chaplain settings including the residential setting for substance abuse and trauma, marriage and family, and suicide prevention and post-vention. She is a Board Certified Chaplain through the National Association of VA Chaplains. When not working Amanda enjoys watching hockey, reading, and exploring new areas with her wife, Kim, and 2 year old son.

Jan. 15  
2024

# 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*

**Note:** This is a summary of the Council Meeting of January 15, 2024.  
The official approved minutes are on file and available for viewing in the Church Office.

President: Christine Burman	Congregational Rep: Susan Conkle
Vice President: Judy McCurdy	Congregational Rep: Stacy Gleason
Past President: Mary-K Kirsch	Congregational Rep: Don Ramsey
Secretary: Tom Hollstein	Congregational Rep: Joan Whitman
Treasurer: Karel Schieferstein	Preschool Admin: Wendy Kosakowski
Trustee Rep: Geoff Gatz	Visitors: Sally Readinger, Fred & Lynda Helyes



**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Christine Burman, and began with a prayer from Vice President Judy McCurdy.

### **Secretary's Report: (Tom Hollstein)**

- The following corrections were noted to the minutes of the December 2023 meeting.
- Preschool Report: Cleaning supplies will be ordered with the new grant money.
- Trustee Report: The snow blower was donated by the McCurdy family and it was repaired and adjusted by Walter Beale.
- Trustee Report: The Circle Six donation was made to cover the cost of repairs to the doors at the elevator entry and chapel, as well as some plumbing repairs.

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2023 COUNCIL MEETING, WITH CORRECTIONS AS NOTED. MOTION MADE BY TOM HOLLSTEIN AND SECONDED BY MARY-K KIRSCH. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

- In-house registration for the new year has begun; the 3-day class is already full, and other classes are partially filled.
- Registration will be open to the public on January 24, from 12:30-1:30, and then open from then on.
- Vision screening by the Lions will be held on January 22nd and 23rd.
- The roller skating field trip will be held at the end of January.
- Everything is going well thus far.
- Trustees will place the "preschool enrollment" sign outside towards Elyria Avenue.
- Bill Hart, custodian, is doing well for the preschool.
- Thank you to President Burman for attending the preschool meeting.

### **Financial Secretary Report: (Christine Burman for Becky Woods)**

- Report has been submitted, and will be filed for the record.

**MOTION: TO PAY THE PASS-THROUGHS. MOTION MADE BY STACY GLEASON AND SECONDED BY JUDY MCCURDY. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

- Don and Marsha Ramsey have joined the Spiritual Life Group, bringing the membership total to four.
- They will probably rotate visitations, 2 members each week.
- The Communion supplies have been blessed by Pastor Chris, so the members of Spiritual Life may serve Communion as required.

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

- Did not have a meeting in January; next one will be in February.
- Will coordinate with Spiritual Life to make sure visitations are not duplicated or missed.

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

- Thank you to everyone who helped with removing the Christmas decorations last Sunday. We had many hands and the process went quickly.

*Continued on page 5 ...*

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

- The new LED lights have really brightened up the sanctuary, and the response has been very favorable. Special thanks to Brian for doing the research, and to the installation team of Brian, Geoff and Linda Gatz, and Mary-K.
- We have been reviewing our contracts with outside vendors. Where possible we will negotiate them down or perhaps replace them. For example, we have drastically reduced the cost of renting floor mats by purchasing our own.
- The parsonage roof and the portico roof are now complete. New gutters have been installed on the parsonage. Still to be completed by Kaminski the contractor: the chapel gutters, missing fascia from the end of the preschool, caulking of the chimney, and coating of the flat roof between the parsonage and the preschool.
- The outside elevator door and the chapel door repairs will be done by Lakeland Glass. They are waiting on delivery of the new thresholds.
- All of these repairs, including the new sanctuary lights, have been funded by donations from various donors, the angel donor, Circle Six, and the parsonage roof insurance.
- **No money was taken from any of the church's funds.**

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

- Next meeting will be February 6 in Fellowship Hall.
- It will feature a presentation on "Kitchen Yoga" by Mary-K. Members of Circle Six will provide healthy snacks. This presentation will be open to the congregation.

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

- Continuing to refine online videos.
- Goal is for the church to have its own Facebook page, rather than being tied to Mary-K. Possibly do the same with YouTube.
- The new sanctuary lights have made a big improvement in broadcast quality since the camera is no longer struggling to maintain focus in the dim light. Also, the wood tones now look much more natural rather than yellow.

- Legal note: Since we will be having a series of visiting ministers, they should be advised that we are recording and broadcasting them as part of the service.

### **Website: (President Chris Burman)**

- Special thanks to Brian who has the new website almost complete. He has spent countless hours of his own time on this project.
- The new website will be of no cost to us.
- The new website will be administered by Mary-K and Kaye Oswald.

**MOTION: TO USE THE NEW WEBSITE CREATED BY BRIAN WHEN IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. MOTION MADE BY TOM HOLLSTEIN AND SECONDED BY DON RAMSEY. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Search Team: (President Chris Burman)**

- We have removed the proposed salary range from our advertised profile to improve our ability to negotiate with prospective candidates without locking us into a specific salary.
- The exact amount of compensation including benefits, if any, will be determined on the basis of the individual candidate, with consideration given to guidelines from Living Waters Association.

### **Financial Team: (Mary K Kirsch)**

- The Finance Team is considering possibilities to cut business expenses and perhaps increase interest on our cash accounts.
- Our accountant Michelle will meet with Lauri Hubach to better understand the restricted funds and perhaps be able to utilize them.
- Bob Bove, Financial Advisor, will be consulted for additional investment possibilities.
- To eliminate direct deposit fees, we will return to paper checks for employees.
- Funds will be examined to determine which ones need to be active.
- The Finance Team will review non-standard expenses.
- We will examine the origin and basis for our regular payments to Living Waters Association.

The amount was probably set in an earlier time when we were a larger, more prosperous congregation. It may be possible to have it reduced.

### **New Business: (President Christine Burman)**

- The rummage sale will be held in June.
- The church bylaws will be examined in detail later in the year for correctness and relevance.
- St. Peter's will be represented at the four "Walking on Wednesdays" events with a table in June, July, August, and September. Actual dates will be announced.
  - ◊ Volunteers are needed, 4 for each event, to include members from council and preschool. There will be a signup sheet.
  - ◊ At the table we will promote our church and preschool, with brochures and verbal information, plus face painting by Christine.
  - ◊ Christine is making large stadium blankets to sell, with profits donated to our church.
  - ◊ Christine has personally donated the \$50 guaranteed attendance fee (refundable).
- The potluck dinner will be held Sunday January 21, following the church service.
- The Leek Pipe Organ Company is offering an annual checkup/tuneup program. This would keep our organ in good operating condition and hopefully prevent minor problems from becoming major ones. Costs and details will be investigated.
- Pastor Chris's contract specified a certain number of paid vacation days to which he is entitled. Since he left midway through the contract year, the exact amount of unused vacation will be determined and prorated.
- The starting time for our Sunday service is listed as 10:00 which is when the Facebook broadcast begins for the general public. The Zoom broadcast actually begins a few minutes earlier, around 9:50. This 10 minute segment is purposely NOT shown to the general public on Facebook since it may contain personal, private, or confidential information such as births, deaths, hospital visits,

absence from home, etc. It has been suggested that this 10 minute discrepancy may cause confusion as to the actual starting time, especially to new viewers. There are a number of possibilities, to name a few: 1) Keep same procedure i.e. announcements at 9:50 and Facebook broadcast service begins at 10:00; 2) Announcements at 10:00 and Facebook service begins 5-10 minutes later; 3) Post announcement on Facebook such as "Service will start in 10 minutes". Discussion on this topic will be tabled until next month.

- Why does the TV screen in the sanctuary show mostly black squares? This is either because those viewers have chosen to NOT show their picture, or because they have signed in by telephone without the means to show their picture. This policy was actually begun due to covid, and the intent was to allow members in the sanctuary to see and feel "connected" to those at home. Discussion on this topic will be tabled until next month.

### **Usher Report: (Tom Hollstein for Al Murphy)**

- With the departure of Pastor Chris, it will be necessary for the ushers to unlock the church before each service.
- It was pointed out that both the choir and the bell choir are usually there before 9:00 AM. Jennifer Wasilk usually unlocks the door at the Walker lobby. Geoff Gatz said he will ask Fred Helyes to unlock the elevator door. We will try this method and see if it works well.

**MOTION: TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION WAS MADE BY JUDY MCCURDY, AND SECONDED BY JOAN WHITMAN. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting ended at 8:12 PM with a prayer by President Christine Burman.

Respectfully submitted, January 17, 2024  
Tom Hollstein, Council Secretary

# 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.

## Don & Marcia Ramsey



Hi St. Peter's,

Marcia & I met as first year teachers in Mt. Orab, Ohio, east of Cincinnati, in 1968. Marcia had graduated from Ohio U and Don from Ohio State. We married in 1969 and Don accepted a Marketing Education Coop teaching job at Lorain High School and Marcia became a Speech Pathologist also for the Lorain City Schools in 1969.

Don grew up in Columbus, a member of the Overbrook United Presbyterian Church in Beechwood. Marcia grew up in Huron, Ohio and was a member of the Huron United Presbyterian Church in which we were married. In Lorain we attended the Lorain First United Methodist Church where we served as the youth fellowship advisors for a few years. In 1973 we bought a duplex in Lorain and our son Todd was born. He is married to Laura (DeMarco) and they have a son Evan (9) and Laura's son Brendan (19). Todd is in IT Security with American Greetings; Laura is a 4th grade teacher in the Buckeye School System in Medina and they live in North Ridgeville. In 1974 we bought our home in Amherst on Sunrise Drive. Soon after, we began attending St. Peter's UCC and joined in 1976. Our daughter Nicole was born in 1977 and was baptized by Rev. Happel. She lives in Avon Lake and has been a school counselor and now a communications administrator for the North Ridgeville Schools. Her husband Joe is a police officer in North Ridgeville. They have 3 children Addie-15, Declan-13 and Sylas-12.

We have enjoyed many church activities. Marcia, taught 3rd grade Sunday School several years with Vicki Zeller, served on the Board of Christian Education and has been a long time member of the Handbell Choir. In the 1970's our church had two couples social/service organizations One was United Fellowship and the other was Cairo with both groups meeting monthly. We had so many younger couples joining the church, that we needed another group. We had 15-20 couples in their 30's and 40's so we began to meet for various activities once a month, BUT we didn't have a name. We decided to meet the Second Sunday at seven. SO Marcia suggested the name—Tri-S, and it

stuck. Don has been a Deacon and Congregational Rep on Church Council, served 2 terms as President, sung in the choir, has been an organizer of Men's Fellowship, and hosted 2 overnight spiritual retreats at our Lakeside home, and helped recruit men to attend Promise Keeper conferences. Both have enjoyed assisting as liturgists for worship services.

We have many good memories from so many good sermons from several different ministers. **We have witnessed testimonials from the lives of so many of our St. Peter's Christian role model members, that helped encourage our Christian walks.** We try to attend church either at St. Peter's or Lakeside every Sunday. We want to hear the word, so we can better apply it daily to our lives.

**Our vision for St. Peter's is to continue to worship together and support local missions of ringing the Salvation Army Bells, plastic bag recycling, assisting in food drives, visiting our shut-ins, and reaching out to those in need.**

Marcia enjoys various crafts, baking, daily 3 mile walks, and reading. Don enjoys golfing, walking, following Ohio State football and basketball. Both Don and Marcia together, consider their Lakeside home built in 1900 a hobby with many projects and also enjoying many Lakeside activities.

We enjoy walking together, travel, attending various group lunches and dinners, and being blessed to be 20 minutes from all 4 grandchildren and able to attend every choir and orchestra concert, soccer game, basketball, softball, baseball and lacrosse game, WHEN possible.

**We have been truly blessed to be surrounded for almost 50 years by so many caring, faithful and loving church members. We are both looking forward to many more years with the members of St. Peter's.**



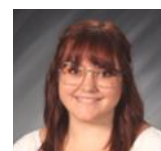
Wendy Kosakowski



Heather Nail



Kerri Kobylka



Ms. Stempowski

# FEBRUARY

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

It's hard to believe that we are in the month of February. The children will continue to learn the letters Qq Hh, and Yy. They will also work on the numbers 7, 8, the colors purple, blue, yellow, and the heart shape for Valentine's Day. This month, the children will also continue learning about the five senses.

We will be **celebrating Valentine's Day with a fun party and movie.** They will also be passing out Valentines to all their friends in school.

Now is the time to register your child if you are thinking about preschool for the 2024-2025 school year. Classes are filling up quickly, so don't delay.

To schedule a tour or to ask questions, please call the preschool at **440-985-1972.** You can also email the school **preschl@stpetersamherst.org.**

Wendy Kosakowski  
Preschool Director



## 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.

## Spiritual Life Ministry

With God's love and blessing we look forward to our Monday afternoon visits with members. Most are unable to watch Sunday Worship on Zoom or Facebook. They are grateful we bring church to them by providing Sunday worship bulletins, scripture, Communion, and offering prayers.

We always share with them how much their St. Peter's church family misses them and remembers them with much love and prayers.

**If anyone would like a Communion visit, please call the church office (440) 988-4965.**

Also, we are so grateful to everyone who answers the call to be **worship leader** by sharing God's holy word, reading scripture for Sunday Worship.

And, we're so thankful for **Marcia Ramsey** who joined our ministry. We are blessed to have you!

*Love, Blessings & Peace from*  
Spiritual Life Ministry

Judy McCurdy, Don & Marcia Ramsey  
and Pam Miskov



# Circle Six Meeting

Tuesday, February 6 at 6:00 PM  
in the Fellowship Hall



## *Join us for* **Kitchen Yoga**

*Presented by Mary-K Kirsch*



Circle Six's next meeting is Tuesday, February 6 at 6:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Our program is Kitchen Yoga presented by Mary-K Kirsch and the **congregation is invited to join us.** Circle Six members to bring healthy snacks to share.

"Kitchen" yoga adapts stretches and poses (asanas) from the kitchen counter, table and chairs to incorporate a simple practice into daily routines. Wear comfortable clothes, no mat or previous experience needed!

On behalf of Circle Six I would like to thank everyone for their continued support in 2023 whether it be as a member or as a contributor. Without all of you we wouldn't be able to continue our mission to help other organizations with our annual financial donations. Over the years we have donated to various charities such as Valor Home, Good Knights, Lucy Idol, Blessing House, Good Shephard Food Bank, Salvation Army and so many others. This past year it was decided we should help ourselves,

meaning St. Peter's UCC. Therefore, Circle Six donated \$2,000 to cover the cost of repairs to the entry doors by the elevator and chapel as well as some plumbing repairs. None of this would be possible without all of you so thank you again and we look forward to another prosperous year in 2024. Blessings and peace.

*Sincerely,*  
Sally Readinger  
President

## Healthy Habits to Start Daily for a Healthier Lifestyle



### **1. Get some exercise**

Being physically active can improve your brain health, help manage weight, reduce the risk of disease, strengthen bones and muscles.

*-Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

### **2. Eat a balanced diet**

Fruits and vegetables can help maintain healthy cholesterol/blood pressure levels, reduce the risk of chronic conditions, and provide essential nutrients.

### **3. Get sufficient sleep**

Quality sleep is as important to our health as diet and exercise. Aim for 7-9 hours of quality sleep.

### **4. Stay hydrated**

Drink at least 8 cups (64 ounces) of water daily. If you don't like the taste of plain water, infuse it with natural flavors like cucumber or lemon.

### **5. Limit screen time**

Taking regular breaks from screens and engaging in other activities, like reading or spending time outdoors, is essential.

### **6. Socialize with friends and family**

Building and maintaining positive relationships can provide a sense of belonging and boost mental health and longevity.

### **7. Adopt a growth mindset**

Keeping the brain active enhances its functionality and can delay cognitive decline. Reading stimulates our minds, and reduces stress levels.

### **8. Spend time in nature**

Nature has a remarkable ability to nurture our minds and bodies.

### **10. Meditate**

Daily meditation (prayer!) helps reduce stress, improve focus, and promote emotional wellbeing.

### **12. Practice gratitude**

This simple act can lower stress levels, improve sleep quality, and even boost your immune system.



## FEBRUARY EVENTS

- Feb. 1 Compassionate Care Mtg., 10:30 AM
- Feb. 4 Pastor Amanda Nagy, Pulpit Supply Communion Sunday
- Feb. 6 Circle Six Meeting, 6 PM
- Feb. 11 Pastor Amanda Nagy, Pulpit Supply
- Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day
- Feb. 16 No Preschool
- Feb. 18 First Sunday in Lent  
Pastor Jim Cunningham, Pulpit Supply
- Feb. 19 No Preschool
- Feb. 21 St. Elizabeth Homeless meal, 4:30 PM

**Spiritual Life:** 1-4 PM, Mondays

**Choir Rehearsal:** Sundays, 9 AM

**Handbell Choir:** Thursdays, 7 PM  
(no bell practice Feb. 8 and Feb. 15)

**Coffee Chats:** Sandstone Coffee House  
Wednesdays 9-11:00 AM

**YOGA with Mary-K**

St. Peter's lower level, Wednesdays, 8:30-9:45 AM and Thursdays, 6:00-7:15 PM



## ST. ELIZABETH HOMELESS SHELTER

2726 Caroline Ave., Lorain

Every 3rd Wednesday of the month volunteers help feed the hungry. On Wednesday, **February 21st**, we will need volunteer(s) to serve starting at **4:30 PM**, or you can bake cookies or cupcakes. If you want to help or have questions, please call Betty Pekare at **440-245-1231**.

*"... for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me" Matthew 25:35*



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Patricia Stumpp	February 01
Sarah Fleeman	February 03
Jennifer Wasilk	February 05
Donald Krueck	February 09
Tamara James	February 13
Richard Berry	February 15
William Guild	February 15
Matthew Wasilk	February 15
Gloria Versace	February 18
Linda Brown	February 20
William Makay	February 20
Joanne Janas	February 21
Laura Hause	February 22
Nicole Schieferstein	February 22
Peggy Raesler	February 24
Beverly McGinnis	February 25
Lynn Hollstein	February 26
David Rice	February 27



## Search Update

Christine Burman  
Council President

Although we submitted our profile early in December, there has been no offers at this time. The Sunday Spiritual Reflections (sermons) will be given by various pastors from the Living Water Pulpit Supply until we have someone in place for our part-time minister position. We have to be patient. The team will be selective when the time comes. In the meantime, please enjoy the personalities of the various pastors and their messages.

The search team will become very active when we receive a pastor profile, looking it over and deciding if this person will be a candidate for St. Peter's pastor. And, your Church Council will continue to be diligent in our finances, our service, our future, and our love for each other.



## The history behind Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day is celebrated annually on February 14. It originated as a Christian feast day honoring one or two early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine and, through later folk traditions, has become a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and love in regions of the world.

The U.S. Greeting Card Association estimates that approximately 190 million valentines are sent each year in the US. When the valentine-exchange cards made in school activities are included the figure goes up to 1 billion, and teachers receive the most.

# Compassionate Care Meeting, Feb. 1 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 our team 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 440-320-8923

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

## A Thank you from the Good Shepherd Food Bank

Thank you so much for your generous donation of food for our Backpack Program and Food Pantry. Every month Pam brings the food, and I know I can count on you guys for a donation. We hand out **106 bags of food** for the kids each week for them to have on the weekend. Without your generous donations that wouldn't be possible. Thank you & God bless! –  
*Good Shepherd Food Bank*

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



In January  
we collected  
**64**  
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.

### 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

**THANK YOU *for* YOUR DONATIONS!**



# ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

582 Church Street, Amherst, OH 44001

**Office Phone:** (440) 988-4965  
**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday  
8:30 AM - 2:30 PM  
12:30 - 1 PM break

We are currently searching for a new pastor. If you need help, please contact Christine Burman, our Council President or me at the phone numbers or email below. Thank you.



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

**Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 AM | Sunday School: 10:00-11:00 AM**

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

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

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

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

<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.

*Please remember St. Peter's UCC in your estate planning. Thank you!*