



ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

— JAMES 1:26-27

TRUE
RELIGION



If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, **their religion is worthless.** Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to **care for orphans and widows** in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

September 1, 2024

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ORDER OF WORSHIP

**(Stand as you are able.)*

GATHERING MUSIC

Greeting Announcements Birthdays Anniversaries

PASTOR: *“This is the day the lord has made. let us rejoice
and be glad in it.”*

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** **(Stand as you are able.)* Penny Knepper

Leader: Welcome, Beloved of God! For truly, you are deeply,
wonderfully, completely loved by the God of all creation!

**People: Let’s come together to worship God who loves and
tends to us.**

Leader: In a world that pulls us this way and that, God’s love is
our True North, guiding us with uncommon wisdom
through all that life brings us.

**People: Let’s come together to worship God who loves and
teaches us to love.**

Leader: Beloved, the time for song and prayer has come,
because God’s love, care, and wisdom sustain
and guide us wherever we go.

**People: Let’s be together and sing to God who loves us and
gives us new life, who guides and sustains us. AMEN.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE: #4** (vs. 1-4) *“How Great Thou Art”*

***MORNING PRAYER/INVOCATION** *(Unison)* Penny Knepper

Creating God,
you are the source of nature’s splendor—
the beauty and fragrance of delicate flowers,
and sweet sound of birdsong.

We come to you this morning
with delight and gladness,

grateful for all of your wonders.
As the fields produce their harvest,
may your love grow within us,
May your Spirit be with us here and fill us with peace
as we set our worries aside this morning,
that we too may produce a harvest of love, hope, and joy. Amen.

(Please be seated)

HYMN OF MEDITATION: #2 *“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”*

A TIME OF LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD Penny Knepper

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: SONG OF SOLOMON 2:8-13 #544

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: JAMES 1:17-27 #980

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION: “WHEN WE DECIDE TO BE LOVE”

PASTORAL PRAYER LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

A TIME OF GIVING

PASTOR: OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Doxology **(Stand as you are able.)* #625 unison prayer of dedication
praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God all creatures here below;
praise God above ye Heavenly host; **
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen. *(Please be seated.)*

*(**alternate: Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen)*

PASTOR: OFFERTORY PRAYER

A TIME TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

The Holy One be with you.

And also with you.

Open your hearts to the One who is Love

We open our hearts to you, O God

Let us give thanks to God, our life-breath

To the One who sustains us, we rejoice in your presence!

+++

A TIME OF GOING OUT

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

(We offer one another the peace of Christ for the week ahead.)

*HYMN SENDING FORTH: #284 *"They'll know we are Christians
by our love"*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

(Please remain seated "quietly" during the postlude.)

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Everyone is Welcome!

**Feel at home, for Christ Jesus is our host. If you are visiting
for the first time, we are delighted to have you here!**

The Psalmist sings: *"Worship the Lord with gladness; come
into God's presence with singing... thanksgiving... and praise."*
We pray peace and joy to you, dear friend.

WORSHIP TEAM

Guest Minister

Organist

Zoom Director

Worship Producer

Handbell Choir Director

Rev. Alana Kelley

Allen Cadwallader

Mary K. Kirsch

Brian Schieferstein

Shelley Harmych

Choir Director
Scripture Reader
Ushers

Jennifer Wasilk
Patricia Knepper
Linda Gatz, Geoff Gatz
Lynn Hollstein, Betty Pekare

Church News



Rev. Alana Kelley

Guest Minister | Sept. 1

Rev. Alana Kelley has been a High School Art Teacher in Massachusetts, a chef and owner of Foxgrape Cafe and Catering in Oberlin, Ohio, and Pastor of several churches. A graduate of Kutztown State College in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts College of Art, and The Methodist Theological School in Ohio, she was ordained at the First Church in Oberlin UCC on August 29, 2004. She served as Youth Director, then Associate Minister for Youth and Families at Avon Lake UCC. She pastored Magyar UCC and Lake Avenue UCC, both in Elyria, assisting those two churches and St. Paul UCC in their consolidation in 2015. Before retiring in Dec. 2022, she served for seven years as pastor of St. Clair UCC in St. Clair, Michigan. She resides in Oberlin with her family.

Bible Passage- *God has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God? -NRSV revised*

(Rev. Alana will be returning to lead worship on Oct. 6, 13 and 27.)

Circle Six Meeting - Potluck Picnic!

Circle Six will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, September 3 at 6:00 in Fellowship Hall. We'll be having a Potluck Picnic so members should bring a dish to share, their own beverage and place setting. Members are encouraged to bring a guest.

God Bless, Sally Readinger, President

CROP HUNGER WALK - JOIN US!

Sunday, Oct. 6 | 2 PM - meet at 5 point in Amherst

Get your pledge form from the church office, get sponsors / donations, and turn in money to Tom Jewell the day of the walk. If you can't walk, you can sponsor someone. **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.

Ponderings about St. Peter's

Do you ever wish you could go back in time to ask our ancestors questions or wish you had asked significant people in your life questions while you were still together?

In a previous article I wrote about our church bell being added to the steeple of our first building in 1860. However, I have since discovered that our present bell is not that one. The present bell was a community project. 75 members of the Amherst community donated funds for the St. John's bell for the steeple at St. Peter's Church in Amherst. Freewill donations varied between \$.50 and \$5.00. They raised \$239.50. **Our current bell dates back to 1865;** the end of the Civil War.

This has led to other questions: Why is it called the St. John's bell? What happened to our first bell? The only thing I can find is a note saying that our church bell was confiscated for the war. Research doesn't mention much of this happening during the War Between the States, but it did occur during World War I and during World War II the Nazi's seized 175,000 church bells from towers throughout Europe.

YOGA with Mary-K

After an August hiatus, Thursday yoga resumes in September:
Wednesday 8:30 am - 9:45 am and Thursday 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm.

For September, we will begin some light weight training to build muscle and burn fat. And we will continue doing our favorite core yoga poses.

Help the Children's Weekend Backpack Program.

Food items are listed in your Sept. KEY and last week's bulletin.

There is now a GREAT NEED for the following items::

- 1. Peanut Butter 2. Spaghetti Sauce 3. Canned Tuna or Chicken**

Please leave your donations in the drop off boxes at the church. Pam Miskov will make sure donations are delivered. Thanks to Pam and everyone for all you do in helping others!

LEV KOBIAKOV 2024 ST. ED'S VARSITY SOCCER SCHEDULE

Sept. 3 / 5pm	Mayfield	Away
Sept. 6 / 6pm	Erie Prep	Home at Magnificat High School
Sept. 7 / 7pm	Padua	Away

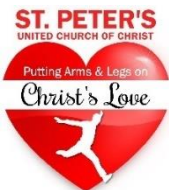
More details at: <https://www.stedwardeagles.com/sports/soccer/varsity/>



To check out the preschool wish list on Amazon, you can turn the camera on for your smart phone and focus on the QR code for it to bring up the wish list in Amazon.

It's also available at:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/l/3JJACUT4CQHYG?ref =wl_share



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.

Join us LIVE on Facebook: **St. Peter's UCC Amherst, OH**

Zoom: Meeting ID: 524 411 3917 | Passcode: 379205
(or call in with phone: 1 929 205 6099)

YouTube channel: St Peters UCC Amherst



This Week's Events

- Mon., Sept. 2 Communion Visits, 1-4 PM
 Labor Day Office Closed
- Tues., Sept. 3 Bible Study, Zoom, 7 PM
- Wed., Sept. 4 YOGA with Mary-K, 8:30-9:45 AM
 Coffee Chats, Sandstone, 9-11 AM
- Thurs., Sept. 5 Compassionate Care Meeting, 10:30 AM, Fireside
 Preschool Orientation, 12:45-2:15 PM
 YOGA with Mary-K, 6:00-7:15 PM
- Fri., Sept. 6 Preschool Orientation, 9-10:30 AM
- Sun., Sept. 8 Worship Service, 10 AM, Rev. Jim Cunningham

We are currently searching for a new pastor. If you need help, please contact either Christine or Kaye at the phone numbers below.

How To Reach Us

Office Hours: Mon.–Fri. 8:30-12:30 PM and 1-2:30 PM

Address: 582 Church St. Amherst OH 44001

Website: www.stpetersamherst.org

Phone: 440-988-4965

We are currently searching for a new pastor. If you need help, please contact either Christine or Kaye at the phone numbers below.

Christine Burman, Church Council President
president@stpetersamherst.org 440-522-8035

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

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!
For more detailed information, contact the church office.

ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Please remember St. Peter's UCC in your estate planning.