

**ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**582 Church Street Amherst, Ohio 44001**

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**St. Peter's UCC Preschool**

Wendy Kosakowski, Administrator & Teacher	985-1972	preschl@stpetersamherst.org
Heather Nail, Teacher		
Jessica Widener, Teacher		
Kerri Kobylka, Teacher's Aide		

**Web and Contact Addresses**

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

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10-11 AM**

**ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**582 Church Street  
Amherst, Ohio 44001**

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.  
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 21

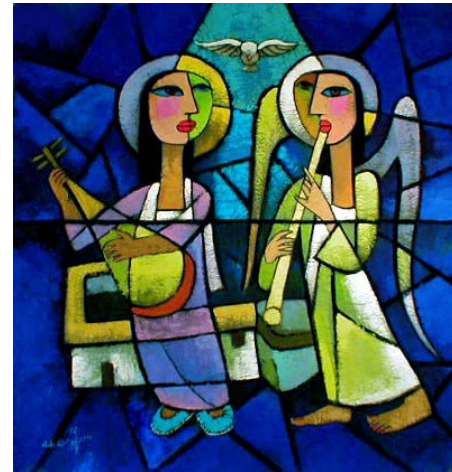
December 2018

# THE KEY



ST. PETER'S U.C.C.  
582 CHURCH STREET  
AMHERST, OH 44001





It's Almost Christmas St. Peter's!

Frederick Buechner writes in *Beyond Words*: "The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment." (page 8)

Advent. It's not an every-day word. It means arrival; it means the coming of someone or something. For Christians, advent means the coming of Jesus (again) into heart, mind, strength and (the) spirit of persons and congregation. These 23 days (includes 4 Sundays and Christmas Eve) before Christmas introduce the life of Jesus and begin to tell the stories about Jesus, including his birth.

To help you prepare (over and over again) for Jesus' arrival, here are a few suggestions – family and solo living friendly all...

**Decorate** with touches of purple, violet, blue and rose. These are the colors of the season and signal prayer, preparation, hope (blue) and joy (rose). Look for these colors in worship throughout December.

**Prepare** an Advent Wreath: a circle of evergreens with places for 5 candles, four around the circle (3 blue or purple or violet and 1 rose) and one in the middle (white), the Christ or Jesus candle. Each week and the days of that week light one candle, reserving the white candle for Christmas Eve evening and Christmas Day and the 12 days that follow.

Week one: read Isaiah 60:2 every day light the first candle and concentrate on "Hope" – let hope fill you up.

Week 2: Isaiah 9:6-7, light the second candle and concentrate on "Peace" – let peace fill you up. (Light the Hope candle too)

Week 3: I John 4:9-11, light the third candle and concentrate on "Love" – let love fill you up. (Light Hope and Peace too)

Week 4: John 15:9-11, light the fourth candle and concentrate on "Joy" – let joy fill you up. (Light Hope, Peace, and Love too.)

Christmas Eve, before bed, read Isaiah 9.6, Luke 2:10, 14 and Romans 5:5; light all four candles and the fifth candle and welcome Christ Jesus (hope, peace, love, joy, Savior) into your whole being, again.

And change out your blue or purple or violet placemats and napkins for White on Christmas Eve night or Christmas Day and for the 12 days of Christmas through Epiphany Sunday (January 6th) that follow. White – new life – abundant life.

**Another** suggestion: sing or listen to a different Advent hymn – Advent hymn!? - before bed every night. (Just type the hymn title into your Google and someone playing or singing it will often pop up!) I will listen to and sing Christmas carols and songs all December too. Yet advent hymns help keep me on the edge of my seat, waiting again for that "extraordinary thing that is about to happen." Here is a sampling:

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn;  
Comfort Ye My People;  
Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear;  
Joy to the World!;  
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence;  
My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise;  
Now Bless the God of Israel;  
O Christ, How Shall I Meet You;  
O Loving Founder of the Stars;  
Of Eternal (the Father's) Love Begotten;  
Take Heart, the Journey's Ended;  
The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came;  
Tomorrow Christ is Coming;  
Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night;  
With Joy Draw Water;

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus;  
Creator of the Stars of Night;  
Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old;  
Keep Awake, Be Always Ready;  
Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates;  
Mary, Woman of the Promise;  
O Come, or Come, Emmanuel;  
O How Shall I Receive You;  
O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful;  
People, Look East;  
The Advent of Our God;  
The Word Made Flesh;  
Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying;  
We Hail You God's Anointed;  
Young Mary Was to Be My Wife;

**One more idea.** For adults. You are invited to join others and me every other Sunday around Noon, beginning January 6th or 13th, for a bite to eat and study. Our purpose? We will journey to discover and rediscover "the extraordinary thing" that has happened: God with us, always and in all ways. Confirmation material will guide us. Plan to meet December 2nd after refreshment time to organize. If you know that you are not in worship or cannot stay afterwards that day? Email me.

**St Peter's,** I look forward to greeting you in worship and Adventing with you this December! It's almost Christmas, friends! I wish you Blessings and ...

Peace,



### Advent Workshop

December 2 the children are making crafts in our advent workshop. Each child will make 6 crafts of their own choosing by turning in one of the six tickets they will receive. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Dinner will be prepared by Soul on Fire and consist of hot dogs and Mac and Cheese. There will be entertainment by MovementWorks dancers during the event.

### Christmas Eve Service

Please join us on Christmas Eve for worship services which will take place at 5PM and 10PM.

### Bell Ringers

The Salvation Army are looking for volunteers to ring the bell December 22 from 12-7PM. If interested please contact Toni at 440-308-0187.

### Christmas Fund

For the month of December, St. Peter's will be accepting offering towards the Christmas Fund. This will help the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund. Each bulletin will have an offering envelope for the Christmas Fund each Sunday morning for service. Please join us for one of the advent services during December and consider donating to the Christmas Fund.

## From Pastor Arlen

Here follows a Gospel Christmas-time “quiz.” Are you up for a challenge? The ground-rules are: no Bibles or reference helps of any kind, written, electronic or Google. Work alone. Bring your answered quiz with you to worship on December 9th. Ready?

The New Testament (Christian) Gospels of Matthew and Luke tell of Jesus’ birth and infancy. Match the items below with the Gospel.

“L” for Luke. “M” for Matthew. “B” for Both. “N” for None.

___ Gabriel	___ Star	___ Angel	___ King Herod
___ Elizabeth	___ Simeon	___ Manger	___ Divorce
___ Gloria	___ Nazareth	___ Emperor Augustus	___ Magi
___ Murder	___ Galilee	___ John the Baptist	___ Shepherds
___ Egypt	___ Anna	___ Quirinius	___ Bethlehem
___ Magnificat	___ Zechariah	___ Emmanuel	___ House
___ Gold, Frankincense, Myrrh	___ Benedictus		

Who names Jesus after he is born?

How many Magi visit Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus?

What are their names?

What do they use to carry their gifts?

What gifts do they offer?

Bring your answers to Worship on Dec 9th.

## General Updates and News

### Church Office Will be Closed

As the holiday season approaches we will be closing the church office December 24 to January 2. St. Peter’s wishes everyone’s holiday is filled with love and laughter.

### A Letter from Council

Hi Everyone,

Just trying to keep you up to date on the happenings at St. Peter’s Church. Looking around at the outside of the church you will see scaffolding. They are working on the windows and are trying to have this finished by the end of the year.

The council voted and approved the 2019 budget at their council meeting on November 26. It will be presented at the congregational meeting. Also at this meeting, you will be asked to vote for the council officers, congregants at large, and for trustees. Your attendance at the meeting will be greatly appreciated.

Wishing you many blessings in the new year.

### Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting will take place on December 16. The 2019 budget will be presented and the congregation will vote for council.

### 2019/20 Confirmation Study with Pastor Arlen

For Young People – 7th to 12th grade. You are invited to join others and me every other Sunday, late-afternoon – early evening, beginning January 6th, for a bite to eat and study. Our purpose? We will journey to discover and re-discover “the extraordinary thing” that has happened: God with us, always and in all ways. Confirmation material will guide us. We will meet twice a month through June, then again Fall through the end of the year and into Spring, 2020, with confirmation between Palm Sunday and Pentecost. Parents/Care-givers and young people, plan to meet December 9th following worship and refreshment in the Pastor’s Office to organize. Questions?

## Food Bank

In November, a total of **108** items were taken to Good Shepherd Baptist Church Food Bank. Thank you for your generous donations.

### Church Council October Meeting Summary:

The General Fund is in the negative. The General Fund Balance as of October 31, 2018 is (\$68,931.54). Donations for the month of October totaled \$14,501.32. Total donations received from January 1, 2018 thru October 31, 2018 totaled \$141,744.67.

Preschool open enrollment for new students begins Monday, January 7. Returning students will be able to register the week before Christmas break. Preschool McDonalds night in October raised \$330.70. The next one is scheduled for January 15, 2019.

There will be a Congregational Meeting on **Sunday December 16th** following the church service.

Upcoming Church Election - Candidates are needed for the following positions:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- 2 Congregation Member at Large
- Trustees to fill 2 openings

If interested in running for the church council, please contact Judy McCurdy, Betty Pekare or Penny Knepper.

### December Preschool Update

Ho Ho Ho!! It is hard to believe that December is here. We will continue working on beginning sounds, numbers, shapes, colors, and the letters of the alphabet. The preschool would like to thank everyone who donated to our Troops. The packages are on their way. I am sure this will make their Holidays a little brighter!

The children are busy getting ready for the Christmas program. They will be singing 15 wonderful songs to their parents and guests. We are hoping that Santa can stop by for a quick visit. If you would like to hear the children sing, the programs will be held on Monday, December 17 at 9:00 a.m. and Tuesday, December 18 at 9:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.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 2019-2020 school year will start in January.

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

Wendy Kosakowski  
Heather Nail  
Jessica Widener  
Kerri Kobyłka

### RECIPES from the kitchens of St. Peter’s members:

#### EGGNOG CHEESECAKE

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs
- 2 tablespoons white sugar
- 3 tablespoons melted butter
- 3 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup white sugar
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup eggnog
- 2 eggs
- 2 tablespoons rum
- 1 pinch ground nutmeg

#### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C).
2. In a medium bowl combine graham cracker crumbs, 2 tablespoons sugar and butter. Press into the bottom of a 9 inch spring form pan.
3. Bake in preheated oven for 10 minutes. Place on a wire rack to cool.
4. Preheat oven to 425 degrees F (220 degrees C).
5. In a food processor combine cream cheese, 1 cup sugar, flour and eggnog; process until smooth. Blend in eggs, rum and nutmeg. Pour mixture into cooled crust.
6. Bake in preheated oven for 10 minutes.
7. Reduce heat to 250 and bake for 45 minutes, or until center of cake is barely firm to the touch. Remove from the oven and immediately loosen cake from rim. Let cake cool completely before removing the rim.





# PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Marge Spangler, George Small, Dick Berry, Carl Nau, Bob Spratt, Luena Beale, Dee Campbell, Joan Whitman, Ida Horvatic, Ruth Kossow, Tom Hollstein, Julia Damon, Gloria Versace and all others in our congregation with conflicts or concerns in their lives that go unspoken.

If you know of any member who wishes to be placed on the prayer list or to be removed from the list, please contact the church office at (440) 988-4965.



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- |       |                    |       |                  |
|-------|--------------------|-------|------------------|
| 12/1  | Julia Damon        | 12/18 | Ruth Haff        |
| 12/1  | Stanley Lutz       | 12/18 | Jeffery Stump    |
| 12/4  | Michaela Jeffers   | 12/20 | Kenneth Bring    |
| 12/4  | Laurie Parham      | 12/20 | Jessie Kubuske   |
| 12/5  | Carol Battenhouse  | 12/20 | Thomas Walters   |
| 12/6  | Kimberly Haney     | 12/21 | Patrica Standen  |
| 12/10 | Benjamin Kildow    | 12/22 | Lois Barankovich |
| 12/11 | Alyssa Chow        | 12/23 | Elaine Thompson  |
| 12/11 | Michael Polansky   | 12/24 | Jennifer Novak   |
| 12/13 | Lori Goodwin-Pyers | 12/25 | Bradley Kissling |
| 12/13 | Natalie Swift      | 12/26 | Jean Swift       |
| 12/14 | Barbara Fricke     | 12/27 | Arthur Diaz      |
| 12/15 | Richard Orseno     | 12/29 | Terry Deliman    |
| 12/15 | Jane Strauss       | 12/29 | Kevin Morron     |
| 12/16 | Dave Walter        | 12/29 | Elizabeth Newman |
| 12/17 | Tracey Raesler     | 12/29 | Benjamin Noster  |
| 12/18 | Amanda Cotton      | 12/29 | Vicki Timple     |



If we missed your birthday, please let us know. Call Katie at 440-988-4965.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Communion-Family Worship 10 AM Fellowship 11 AM /FH Advent Begins Advent Workshop 3-5PM	3 Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 1:30-3:15PM Boy Scouts Meeting 7-8:30PM Fellowship Hall	4 Bible Study 10AM Fireside Room MovementWorks 4:30-8:30PM Bible Study 7PM Penny K's Home	5 Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 4:30-7:30PM Mission Meeting 7PM	6 Compassionate Care 9:30 AM MovementWorks 4:30-7PM Girl Scouts Meeting 6-7PM Fellowship Hall Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 8PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 8PM	7	8 MovementWorks 9AM-12:15PM
9 Worship 10 AM Sunday School 10-11 AM Fellowship 11 AM/FH	10 Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 1:30-3:15PM Executive Committee 6:30 PM Boy Scouts Meeting 7-8:30PM Fellowship Hall	11 Bible Study 10AM Fireside Room MovementWorks 4:30-8:30PM Trustees Meeting 7PM/FR Bible Study 7PM Penny K's Home	12 Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 4:30-7:30PM	13 MovementWorks 4:30-7PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 7PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 8PM	14	15 MovementWorks 9AM-12:15PM
16 Cantata Worship 10 AM Sunday School 10-11 AM Fellowship 11AM /FH Congregational Meeting After service	17 Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 1:30-3:15PM Boy Scouts Meeting 7-8:30PM Fellowship Hall Council Meeting 7 PM/FR	18 Bible Study 10AM Fireside Room MovementWorks 4:30-8:30PM Bible Study 7PM Penny K's Home	19 Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 4:30-7:30PM	20 MovementWorks 4:30-7PM Girl Scouts Meeting 6-7PM Fellowship Hall Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 7PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 8PM	21	22 MovementWorks 9AM-12:15PM
23 Children's Christmas Worship 10 AM Noisy Collection Fellowship 11 AM/FH Advent Ends	24 Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 1:30-3:15PM Candle Light Service with acappella choir 5PM Candlelight Service with bells and choir 10PM	25 Christmas Day Office will be closed MovementWorks 4:30-8:30PM	26 Church Office will be closed Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 4:30-7:30PM	27 Church Office will be closed MovementWorks 4:30-7PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 7PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 8PM	28	29 MovementWorks 9AM-12:15PM
30 Hymn sing Worship 10 AM Sunday School 10-11 AM Fellowship 11AM /FH	31 Church Office will be closed Yoga 9:30-10:45 AM MovementWorks 1:30-3:15PM Boy Scouts Meeting 7-8:30PM Fellowship Hall					