



NEW CREATION NEWS

May ~ Jun. 2026

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

1475 Orchard Park Rd., West Seneca, NY 14224

(716) 674-1233 • stpetersws@gmail.com • www.st-petersucc.org

PASTORAL PONDERINGS

I hope you had a nice Easter. It was a busy day that included a pot luck breakfast, an Easter egg hunt and then worship. There were some visitors, some that were members at Trinity UCC on the East side of Buffalo where I pastored for eleven years prior to being called to St. John's UCC in Pennsylvania. Two people who attended also came the first Sunday after Easter. One of our children even read the Easter story from John and did very well with the support of the other reader. After worship, we put our "bringing the cross to life" cross outside, and had people who didn't even worship with us stop to see it. (Thanks Dan for putting it out in front of the church). I think the deer had a special Easter meal from it, too. It turned into a delightful service.

We will be honoring our veterans again on Memorial Day Weekend with a wonderful collection of special music from Strike the Rock and a pot luck meal afterwards. Please come and join us for this. If we have visitors, please reach out and welcome them.

Pastor Paula



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: *Please call ahead.
The church office hours are Monday - Thursday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. The office is closed on Fridays.

PASTOR OFFICE HOURS: *Please call ahead.
Rev. Paula will be in the office on Tuesdays from 10:00 am - 12:30 pm and Thursdays from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm.

PASTORAL CARE
Rev. Paula Gustafson is available to provide pastoral care for members of St. Peter's congregation. Rev. Paula can be reached by phone at 716-476-9261 or by email at pastorpaula2021@gmail.com.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

We will continue to have Fellowship Hour once a month after worship service; on the third Sunday of each month. Coffee and tea will be served.



ALL are WELCOME and we hope you will join us!

If you would like to help with a future Fellowship Hour, please check the sign-up sheet for open dates.



SUNDAY MORNING GREETERS

We are looking for people to be Sunday morning greeters. It is an easy way to help and a great way to meet fellow members of the congregation. If you are interested, please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the sanctuary entrance. Questions can be directed to any one of the more experienced greeters.



Sunday, May 10



ENCIRCLING IN OUR PRAYERS...**FOR GOD'S HEALING**

Esther Woltz; John Sworen; Chuck and Irene Brooks; Tim and Sue Schrader; Milton and Elenore Keim; Janet Hunt; Audrey Seaman; Dorothy Probst; Esther Heppner; Mike Rogers; Karen Homonai; Paul Dimmig; Charlie Bushen. Prayers for those lost, injured and traumatized by the mass shootings across the U.S.; Continued prayers for the people of Ukraine, Sudan, and the Middle East.

FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

For **those in the hospital and with medical problems** known only to God and their loved ones.

For **all victims of violence.**

For all **Gold Star parents** – those who have lost sons or daughters in the military—may God be with them and comfort them in their time of loss.

FOR THOSE IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY:

Earle C. Heusinger III ★★ ★ Army

Justin Hurlburt ★★ ★ Army National Guard

Jacob Kruwel ★★ ★ Army

Caleb Tolley ★★ ★ Air Force

Holly Tolley ★★ ★ Air Force

Jack Welsh ★★ ★ Marine Corps

*And for all firefighters, EMTs, law enforcement
& border officers.*

**MEMORIAL DAY...**

...IS THE DAY THAT'S SET ASIDE TO REMEMBER WITH GRATITUDE AND PRIDE ALL THOSE WHO SERVED AND DIED FOR OUR COUNTRY AND OUR FREEDOM.

MAY YOUR DAY BE FILLED WITH MEMORIES AND PEACE.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

GodVine.com

PRAYER REQUESTS

You may have noticed a new feature on our website (or on Facebook posts) – we now have a Prayer Requests form on our 'Contact Us' page at <https://www.st-petersucc.org/contact>. Prayer is a vital part of our Christian and church life, and we would like to pray for your needs - physical, emotional, or spiritual. You do not need to be a member of St. Peter's to ask us to pray for you. Please fill out the form to have your request added to our prayer time. All forms submitted go directly to Pastor Paula, and will remain completely confidential if requested. If you would like to have your request included in the Sunday morning "Prayers of the People" during our 10:00 am worship service, please submit the form **no later than Saturday morning by 10:00 am.**

St. Peter's UCC....

Faith, Fellowship and Service

Faith in Christ,

Welcoming **Fellowship**

and Loving **Service**

St. Peter's Council 2026

<u>DEACONS:</u>	Linda Richards, President Kathy Reandeau, Treasurer Marina Stohr, Financial Secretary
<u>ELDERS:</u>	Paul Gannon, Vice President Christel Kasprzak, Secretary Sandy Fiegl
<u>TRUSTEE:</u>	Brian Welsh

Stay up to date with all of the St. Peter's UCC events by visiting our Website or Facebook page.

Check back often so that you don't miss anything!

Website: www.st-petersucc.org
Facebook: [St. Peter's United Church of Christ—West Seneca](#)



MISSION MUSINGS

Submitted by
Kathy Reandeau

Sharing Christ's love and peace with all!

As seen in other parts of this newsletter, the UCC is joining in the effort to embark on 250 days of kindness in honor of our country's 250th anniversary. St. Peter's is already one of the kindest churches I know, as evidenced by your continued response to mission projects, especially our Lenten collection for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. I was overwhelmed by your generosity, and I'm



sure the kids who get to sleep in new bedding will be equally thrilled!

We were also able to provide a full dinner for the guys at Plymouth Crossroads, and one additional family, so

THANK YOU for your support of those efforts! We hope to have another project coming up for the summer and look forward to providing additional details soon.

SIERRA LEONE/JERICO ROAD GLOBAL OUTREACH:

From Jericho Road: In 2025, Jericho Road's Adama Martha Memorial Community Health Center (AMMCHC) in Kono District, Sierra Leone, delivered 17,592 patient visits, expanding access to essential care across the community. From immunizing children and treating malnutrition to providing prenatal care, safe deliveries, surgeries, inpatient services, mobile clinics, and community-based maternal and agriculture support, this work reflects our commitment to whole-person care. Because of your support, Jericho Road continues its global mission to bring high-quality, compassionate healthcare to communities most impacted by inequity, meeting people where they are and walking alongside them toward healthier futures. It's easy to wonder why, with so much need right here in Buffalo, Jericho Road continues to do global work? It is so challenging, harder to get people invested in it, and harder to fund. We think there are millions of reasons why, so let us answer the question, "Why do we help?"



Jericho Road has clinics in Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Nepal. Our Sierra Leone clinic in Kono became a reality when one woman had a vision, and Dr. Glick said, "Yes". Phebian Abdulai is that woman! Phebian was born in Sierra Leone, where her mother

brought babies into the world as a midwife, often with

almost nothing. Phebian knows firsthand what it means to survive on the edge. She fled a civil war, resettled in Buffalo as a refugee, and walked through our doors as a patient. What she found here changed her.

She experienced care like never before. We saw her as a whole person, not just a chart, not just a case. And something was born in her that day, too: a vision. What if the women back home could have this? In 2009, she approached Dr. Glick with her dream: to bring that same standard of care to the women in the Kono District. Jericho provided the opportunity for her to return back home, to work, and give back to her community, where families survive on the equivalent of just one or two dollars a day. Today, this clinic has expanded to teach farming to help families sustain themselves, has fed thousands of children through our malnutrition clinic by providing food and education, and has empowered girls and women to not only survive but thrive. The entire staff is made up of locals and has provided hundreds of jobs.

Phebian is a bit of a "celebrity" in Sierra Leone and has achieved a "first" in global surgical access. Because of Phebian, our clinic performed the first-ever C-section in a district of 500,000 people, a milestone that even larger organizations had not achieved in the community before her. St. Peter's can support Phebian's work by donating money through the bi-monthly envelopes and gently-used clothing to the clothing shed. Learn more at <https://www.jrchc.org> under the global work tab.

PLYMOUTH CROSSROADS: Plymouth's mission is to provide a safe, supportive, home-like environment for at-risk youth. They recently presented Plymouth to the WNY insurance Association, Amherst Rotary, St. Paul's Lutheran, and Kenmore Senior Citizens Group. They were also at West Seneca East as their charity of choice for a Staff vs. Student volleyball game. Joe Chile interviewed executive director, Jenn McAndrew, in a segment that aired on several radio stations. The pottery painting event was a success, and a meat raffle is scheduled for May. Visit www.plymouthcrossroads.org for more info.





COUNCIL CORNER

Winter is certainly giving spring a run for its money as days of warmth and sunshine are interspersed with reminders of snow and cold. But these dreary days can't dampen our spirits as we look forward to warmer days together and a bright future here at St. Peter's.

Our ability to come together and provide a warm and welcoming environment was once again demonstrated in full force as we welcomed the community to St. Peter's for the West Seneca Lenten Journey and again to comfort the family of Brian Wettlaufer at a celebration of life service. THANK YOU to all who helped make sure each activity represented the very best St. Peter's has to offer.

One attribute we are definitely known for is our kindness, as evidenced by your extravagant support of our Lenten mission project for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. That's why we were so happy to learn that the United Church of Christ has accepted the USofKindness (USK) Call to Action for 2026. As we approach America's 250th anniversary, we look forward to sharing acts of kindness, large and small, within our church community and wider community. We have an idea in the works for a summer kindness project, and hope to have more details to follow soon.

Recognizing the smaller size of our congregation, we are recommending reducing the number of council members to six (three deacons and three elders), who meet regularly with the Pastor. We requested your approval of this change at the congregational meeting on May 3.

We are happy to continue to see our children in church and Sunday School and were thrilled to have one even step up as a reader on Easter Sunday. We hope to continue to welcome new visitors, and invite them to join in to become a continuing part of the St. Peter's family. Continuing our reputation as St. Peter's Eaters, we look forward to the progressive dinner on May 3 and send thanks to all who host and participate.

Council continues to tend to the business matters of the church, and we recently decided to update the church office to include a new computer and chairs, as well as bringing in an updated copier as the lease ran out on the old one. We also organized the music/storage room and plan to review and catalogue the historical documents.

We encourage everyone to participate in the activities of the church, and are always happy to see new readers or greeters. Thank you to Sue and Jeff Mikula for updating one of our display cases in the hall, and to those who helped organize and coordinate the Easter morning activities. Please see the sign-up sheets in the sanctuary

entrance to become involved in the ongoing activities of the church, or talk to one of the council members about ways you can help.

We look forward to welcoming the West Seneca Veterans Committee back for our Memorial Weekend service and Candle Cross ceremony. Please be sure to sign up for our luncheon, so we can present a warm welcome to our nation's veterans. We will be gathering on Saturday, May 23 at 9:00 to spruce up the outdoor entranceways to our church, and prepare the fellowship hall for the luncheon. All are invited to join.

Our Visioning committee continues to meet to envision ways of how we can evolve our worship service, raise funds, have a fun get-together, or reach out into our community to invite others into our congregation. All are invited to contribute ideas and participate in these activities.

The next Council meetings are scheduled for May 18 and June 15, beginning at 6:30 p.m., with an open forum available for the first fifteen minutes. May God's peace and blessings be with you throughout the changing seasons, and may we always celebrate the resurrection of Christ in our Church and in our lives together!



BOOK BITS

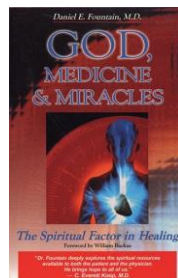
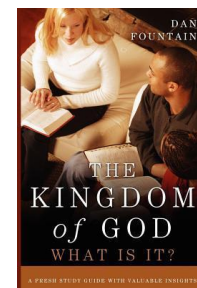
from Author Dan Fountain

The Kingdom of God: What Is It?

Don't ask what God can do for you. Ask God who he wants you to be. Don't ask Jesus how you can serve him. Listen as Jesus asks you, "Do you love me? If so, follow me." The Kingdom of God is the rule of God over every aspect of our lives - from our thoughts and desires to how we live. We enter the Kingdom when we invite Jesus to live in our spirit and make a commitment of trust in him and obedience to him. He can then transform us inwardly to help us become the persons God wants us to be. This series of 52 lessons begins with a study of the foundation and preparation for the Kingdom in the Old Testament. Following this comes the teaching of Jesus about the Kingdom and how he established it among us. It concludes with many practical applications to daily life of the principles of the Kingdom of God.

God, Medicine & Miracles: The Spiritual Factor in Healing

What is the spiritual factor in healing? Can miracles and medicine have any



relation to each other? Dr. Daniel Fountain helps readers rethink concepts about the underlying connection between faith, wholeness, and healing. Through balanced and detailed research on the nature of healing, illness, medical caregiving, and Scriptural faith, Dr. Fountain leads readers through a discussion of the relationship between medicine and miracles. In Dr. Daniel's forty years in the medical community, he has discovered an important truth: people find more *complete* healing when treated as integrated persons - with minds as well as bodies, emotions as well as muscles, spirits as well as skin. Through real-life stories and insightful studies, Fountain uses his experience to explore a *balanced* relationship between faith, medicine, and ultimate spiritual hope.

Share with us about the books you enjoy, and tell us how they lift up your spiritual life.



We Need YOUR Help!

We usually talk about the more visible help we need in terms of greeters and ushers, flowers, fellowship hour, Sunday School, and scripture readers. But there are also many smaller activities that go on behind the scenes. Here are just a few ways that you can be of service:



1. "Freshen Up" Day: Council has set time aside on Saturday, May 23 at 9:00 a.m. as a kind of "freshen up" day. We have invited the West Seneca Veterans Committee to our Memorial Cross service the next day and want to make sure we put our best foot forward! We need people to show up to help weed the flower gardens by the entrances, put bows on the pews, set up the candle cross, and set up and decorate the fellowship hall. Please let us know if you can help!
2. Luncheon for the Veterans: Council will provide hot dogs, rolls and condiments. Please be sure to sign up to bring in a dish or dessert for the luncheon. We also need someone to head up the event by getting there early on Sunday, May 24, preparing the coffee, making sure there is creamer, arranging the dishes, making sure there are serving utensils, pouring the coffee, helping with clean-up, wiping down the tables, making sure all church dishes are clean, and throwing out the garbage.
3. Display Cases: There are two display cases in the large hallway that we pass on the way to the fellowship hall. Sue Mikula has already decorated one of these – be sure to take a look – but we would

love to have someone volunteer to keep the second one current.

4. Ice Cream Social: This June 14 event is planned as a kind of end-of-Sunday-School/welcome to summer event. We need someone to head this up to be sure we have plenty of ice cream and fixings, something to drink, set it up, serve the ice cream, and clean up afterwards.
5. Mission Project: we are planning to hold another collection drive over the summer as a mission project, and would love to have someone help Kathy Reandeau with this event.
6. Greeting Cards: Every so often we ask you to sign a get well, sympathy or thinking of you card we can send to someone in our church family. This currently involves Pastor or a Council member thinking of the recipient, selecting a card, passing it around during worship or fellowship hour, and then mailing it or asking Terri in the church office to send it out. There are a number of cards in the small hallway between the church and the glass vestibule in a box or pleated folder that can be used. You would need to make sure there are plenty of cards available, and then manage the process of getting them signed and delivered. Again, not much time, but one less task for Council.

We are all an important part of this church, with different talents to offer! If you are interested in any of these tasks, or think of something else you would like to do, please contact a Council member and let us know how you can help.



SONG NOTES

Is there a song more beautiful, sacred, and haunting than "Morning Has Broken?" This wonder at the dawning of a new day was arranged and sung by Cat Stevens (Yusuf Islam), but it was written by Eleanor Farjeon in 1931. Percy Dearmer, a priest compiling a new hymnal, had found an old Scottish Gaelic melody called Bunessan. The tune was beautiful but demanding, with an unusual rhythm and no English words. Dearmer needed someone who could listen to its shape and give it language without breaking its spell. Eleanor thought about morning:



- About the village of Alfriston in East Sussex, where she had spent time near an old church by the river.
- About creation beginning not with thunder, but with birdsong.

- About light arriving softly, without announcement.

And she wrote. Morning breaking like the first morning. Blackbirds speaking like the first bird. Rain falling on grass as if the world were being made new again. She called it a hymn of thanksgiving for each new day. When Cat Stevens found it, he called in Rick Wakeman, then a young session pianist. Wakeman brought in a piano piece he had been working on. Stevens asked him to adapt it, to let it open and carry the hymn. What emerged was something neither of them could have predicted. Piano lines that sounded like dawn itself. Notes that felt like birds lifting into light.

Key Themes:

- **Renewal and Hope:** The lyrics portray dawn as a fresh start, a "new day" that offers a fresh chance for life.
- **Gratitude for Creation:** It praises the beauty of nature—birds, grass, and sun—as gifts from God, emphasizing that God continues to create the world every morning.
- **Divine Presence:** The lyrics suggest God's Word sustains nature ("springing fresh from the Word") and that the sunshine is a reflection of divine light.
- **Resilience and Peace:** The song offers a sense of peace, renewal, and comfort after darkness.

Eleanor Farjeon never heard any of it. She died believing she had written a small, beautiful hymn for schools and churches. She never knew her words would be sung by millions, translated, recorded again and again, woven into lives far beyond anything she could imagine. But perhaps that is the quiet grace of her story. She wrote about mornings beginning again. About the world renewing itself without asking for recognition. And long after she was gone, her words did exactly that.

*"Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's re-creation of the new day"*

Tell us what a song means to you, or you might even go online to learn about its history or find the exact words that touch you the most. Let's sing out our praises of St. Peter's music!



FAITH IN ACTION
250 Days of Kindness!

Beginning April 25, the United Church of Christ joined with the **USofKindness** (USK) and accepted the USK 250

Acts of Kindness Call to Action for 2026.

As we approach America's 250th anniversary, churches, congregations, and individuals are invited to join in elevating the kindness already happening and inspiring even more across our communities. Whether you're a faith leader, a member of a congregation, or someone seeking to make a difference, your acts of kindness matter.

One act of kindness can change a life; 250 million acts of kindness shared could change a nation.

Learn more and discover ways you personally can get involved at: www.USofKindness.org

<p>Enjoy a game night with friends or family</p>	<p>Write a thank you note to a police officer or fire fighter</p>	<p>Start a gratitude jar (write down what you are grateful for each day)</p>	<p>Give an extra BIG thanks to your server at the end of your meal</p>	<p>Go on a walk with a friend or co-worker</p>
<p>Pay for the person behind you in the drive-thru line</p>	<p>An opportunity for our Nation as we celebrate 250 years!</p> <p>Kindness is our universal language. It is the value that America was built on and the value that continues to guide our nation every day.</p> <p>2026 marks the 250th birthday of the United States of America. Help us celebrate by completing the acts of kindness on this challenge board and spread kindness far and wide.</p> <p>Together, America is a Kind-land. Learn more and print additional challenge boards at USofKindness.com. Share your kindness journey at #BeKindland #USofKindness</p>			<p>Thank a local teacher</p>
<p>Donate to a Food Bank</p>	<p>Say something kind to someone you've never spoken to before</p>			<p>Make something for someone who is sick or recovering</p>
<p>Write a thank you note to a Healthcare Hero</p>				<p>Lend a helping hand to an elderly neighbor or family member</p>
<p>Invite a friend or co-worker to lunch</p>	<p>Leave a kind note for the mail carrier</p>	<p>Give someone flowers</p>	<p>Visit a family-owned business or restaurant</p>	<p>Support your local animal shelter</p>



SERMON THOUGHTS
for the Resurrection

Reliance on scripture allows us to put on the armor of God to defend ourselves from temptation and resist our enemy's attack. Trusting in God gives us peace in our heart and soul. With God as our protector, whom shall we fear?

We enter into a time when we seek God's forgiveness as we accept responsibilities for our life.

The woman at the well mattered to Jesus, who believed that everyone is capable of being loved. Our hearts need the living water. Persevere and move on, even if it is

difficult. God's love is like a shepherd watching over a flock. Don't just count sheep - count on the shepherd!

In the story of Lazarus, many wondered if he was really alive. Jesus said, "You will see God's glory, if you only believe." This promise emphasizes that faith precedes witnessing God's power, miracles, and presence, particularly in seemingly-hopeless situations. Miracles still happen. "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."

Palm Sunday, when the cross is bare, tells the news of His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, before the events of the fateful week. Our hearts are full of hope, as we receive the strength we need to be followers of Christ. Hosannah, loud hosannah!

We gathered together on Maundy Thursday to share with Christ in the last supper, knowing that we are brought together in unity through Him. By Jesus' death, He became the final, complete sacrifice for our sins, and we can rest in the shadow of the cross. We may be seeking forgiveness. We may be in need of a renewed relationship with God. We may feel abandoned, even distressed by the silence when we beseech God to appear. Perhaps we seek reunion with the Spirit of Christ, or with ourselves.

The tomb is empty, the cross has been brought back to life! Becoming a disciple is open to everyone, but we must not be afraid to look into the tomb for ourselves and experience the crucified Christ. Talk to the gardener, the stranger, even in the darkest times, and receive the good news, then run and tell everyone the story - He is risen!

In the story of "Doubting Thomas," he was unwilling to believe in the Resurrection unless he saw the wounds himself. Blessed are those who have not seen, and believe. Let us celebrate how the Resurrection helps us interpret our world today, and accept the challenge of keeping His memory alive, even though we have not seen for ourselves.

When you are on the road to Emmaus, it's not the journey - it's the destination! Be curious about what happens next, and remember what matters most. The walk is what opens us to His grace. While I may not fully understand, I am still willing to go. Faith in action is knowing that we may encounter Jesus in our own lives today, even though we might not recognize Him!



WELLNESS AWARENESS

The Living Compass Model for Well-Being

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your

soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind."

(Luke 10:27, Deuteronomy 6:5)

The Living Compass Model for Well-Being offers us guidance in four dimensions of our being: heart, soul, strength, and mind. Just like a mobile or kinesthetic art, these dimensions are



interconnected. Whatever impacts one area of our lives (positively or negatively) will have an impact on the other areas. Each of the four compass points focuses on two areas of well-being, and each of the eight areas helps to guide and equip us as we commit to being more intentional about the way we live our lives. The purpose of this Compass is to provide a dynamic resource that will assist us in our search for balance and wellness. The invitation is to live an undivided life, where heart, soul, strength, and mind are integrated into both our being and our doing.

Areas of Wellness

Heart

- Relationships. The ability to create and maintain healthy connections with others.
- Emotions. The capacity to process, express, and receive emotions in a healthy manner.

Soul

- Spirituality. The development and practice of a strong personal faith and meaningful purpose.
- Rest and Play. The balance between work and renewal through rest and recreation.

Strength

- Care for the Body. Cultivating healthy habits and practices for our physical well-being.
- Resilience. The ability to deal positively with life's adversities.

Mind

- Organization. Effective management of belongings, finances, and time.
- Vocation. Making the most of employment, education, and volunteering opportunities.

Living Compass believes we all have many compasses that compete to guide our lives, often outside of our awareness. When we choose to make faith the compass that guides decisions in all areas of our lives, we are better able to experience wellness and wholeness. It is worth noting that health, healing, wholeness, and holy all come from the same root word *hal* or *haelen*.



Notes from Kathy Reandean's presentation for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) on Sunday, March 15.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports partners worldwide with ministries that fund health, education, and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response. This Lenten Offering is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ, which also include Neighbors in Need, Strengthen the Church, and The Christmas Fund, in addition to our Basic Support through Our Churches Wider Mission. Each year, OGHS is gathered by several denominations and Church World Service (CWS) under a single theme developed by the ecumenical OGHS Committee.

This year's theme is, "Our Love Offering to the World." In 2 Corinthians 8-9, the Apostle Paul lays out his stewardship campaign to gather an offering to be sent to the Christian church in Jerusalem. Known as "the collection for the saints," the offering occupies a significant place in Paul's missionary work. Paul's stewardship campaign called for members to set aside money each week, above and beyond their regular tithes and offerings, to help Christians in Jerusalem. The offering was a gift, with no strings attached, no expectation of repayment or reward, and no ulterior motives. This collection was a love offering, exemplifying the commandment of Jesus to "love one another."

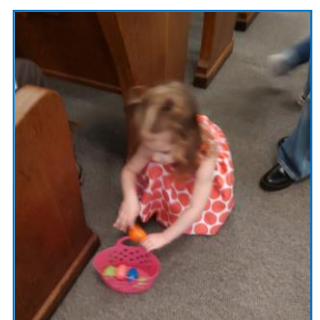
Through contributions to OGHS, our love offering is embodied in collaborations with local and international partners to help rebuild after disasters; to provide nourishment and shelter when people are displaced; to provide aid and expertise so the most vulnerable can dream for a better future. Your love offering provided eco-stoves to Esmerelda Robles and 58 families in rural Honduras so they can prepare meals without increasing environmental pollution. Esmerelda explained, "Now we don't need as much firewood to cook, unlike the stove we had before. And it is very helpful for our lungs that there is no smoke." Because of your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing, she and others use less firewood, cook faster, and save time preparing meals for their families. In addition, Esmerelda and her neighbors receive training on planting crops, producing fertilizers, and implementing irrigation techniques.

Paul reminds us that how we give is as important as what we give. We give cheerfully, gladly, unselfishly, and generously as God has given to us. We give because our

hearts are touched as we witness God at work in ourselves, in one another and throughout the world. Our response to God's love for us is to love others, near and far. We are agents of grace when we choose to give, trusting that God's Kingdom/Kindom is being built through us and among us. Our gifts will bless the world far beyond what we can imagine. God invites us to be a people of generosity, to remember our blessings, to build a legacy of love, and to give cheerfully. With your help, St. Peter's can share our love offering with the world!



Display by Sue Mikula



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

MAY	15	Dennis Fiegl
	27	Brian Welsh
JUNE	3	Robert Rodgers
	7	Sarah Vail
	8	Lori Cheatom
	12	Daniel Mikula Rev. Paula Gustafson
	16	Patty Hastreiter
	17	Carol Kaczynski
	21	Ken Kaczynski

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

MAY	1	Brian & Diane Welsh Robert & Paula Rodgers
	5	Milton & Elenore Keim
JUNE	5	Lori & Lorenzo Cheatom Ed & Marge Thomson
	27	Dennis & Sandy Fiegl
	29	Jeff & Susan Mikula

Join us every Sunday at 10:00 am
for in-person worship service.
All are welcome.

Our Sunday School will take a break over the summer. Sunday, June 14 will be the last Sunday School until fall.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL



Join us on June 14, after worship, for an ice cream social. Details to be announced.

Sunday,
June 21



MEMORIAL DAY CANDLE CROSS SERVICE

Sunday, May 24, 2026

Join us on Sunday, May 24, for a special Memorial Day service honoring our loved ones and members of the West Seneca Joint Veterans Committee. **We invite you to arrive early for a special processional which will take place before 10 am.**

Following the service, please join us for a potluck luncheon in our Fellowship Hall (there is a sign-up sheet for the potluck luncheon at the greeter's entry table in the sanctuary).

Donation forms for the Memorial Day Candle Cross service can be found on the tables in the sanctuary and the glass foyer. **Please return completed forms to the Church Office by Sunday, May 17.** Names will be placed on a memorial list and read during the service as the candles on the cross are being lit.

