



NEW CREATION NEWS

July ~ Aug. 2024

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

Many people think about July and August as a time for taking a vacation. Growing up my family spent time camping. As I was raising my son, we often would go somewhere for day trips and often would end up going somewhere we had not been before. I remember we went to northern Canada with a friend and her son for a few days at her cabin and then spent a few days camping on our own. We did some mountain biking, which I found terrifying. We also kayaked out to an island and stayed a night there before going back to our campsite for another couple of nights. Now, at least half of my time is spent with him and his family, including Dunkirk's Family Camp 2. I take the Sunday off before camp so that we can do some things around the area prior to camp. We've done most of the Niagara Falls attractions and were thinking about Darien Lake but one granddaughter is too big for the kiddie rides and too scared to go on the adult rides. His children start school a couple of days after Camp is over so if we want to do something special together, it needs to happen before Camp. We always have to eat all the Buffalo foods that my son doesn't get in Atlanta - Buffalo pizza, fish fry, Andersons roast beef sandwiches, Sahlen's hot dogs, pizza rolls and a pizza sub usually round out the menu. If the weather is good, we plan on catching a Bison's game and fireworks after.

During summer months, it seems like church attendance shows people are on vacation, too. We do continue to worship. We will be trying something new on July 28. We will be having a joy filled hymn sing. When you are in church on July 7, 14 and 21st, please write down two hymns you really enjoy singing and place the paper in the offering plates. I have designed the bulletin so we can have a chance to sing about 8 or 9 hymns in the context of the worship service. I will remind you each Sunday to do this before worship begins. They absolutely have to be in by the 21st because Terri needs to assign the hymn numbers for the bulletin. We won't sing all the verses of each hymn but hopefully will enjoy singing at least one.

I'm looking forward to having some time off and I hope you find yourself blessed when you might be out of town or doing something different during these summer months.

In Christ,
Pastor Paula

COUNCIL CORNER

Your Church Council meets regularly to manage the overall spiritual and business matters of the church. We have been quite busy lately, and would like to acknowledge everyone who helps keep our church running smoothly. Thank you to: all our talented musicians; everyone who participated in the Spring Work Day and the Spring Cleaning Sale; those who helped plant the beautiful welcoming gardens in front of the church and by the church sign (and keep them looking great); everyone who participated in the Memorial Day service; and those who support our worship services and fellowship hours. We also appreciate all the great photographers who have been providing pictures of our events to use on Facebook and in our newsletter. Please ask how you can help with the Craft Show and Church Picnic in August!

We want to continue having Altar Flowers every week. Please sign up on the sheets in the church entrance, then purchase the flowers and bring them in on the designated date. You can use your own vase or one of those available in church. Pam Rost is making four seasonal arrangements of silk flowers for those weeks when there are no volunteers. You may have noticed that we are participating in some marketing opportunities through the West Seneca Chamber, and also trying to highlight Mission opportunities by discussing UCC offerings and inviting guest speakers to our worship service. Council will continue to meet during the summer because there is so much business to manage. Upcoming Council meetings are scheduled for July 22, 7:00 p.m. (open forum until 7:15) at church and August 19, 6:00 p.m. at Karen's home. The deacons and elders also meet individually to discuss more specific items. The elders are asking for additional people to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings, and increased participation in hosting the monthly fellowship gatherings after worship. During the summer, this can just be light refreshments in the glass vestibule. Please sign up on the sheets in the church entrance if you are interested in any of these activities, or see a Council member if you have any questions.



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

Renae Johnson and family; Marge Applebach; Esther Woltz; John Sworen; Chuck and Irene Brooks; Tim and Sue Schrader; Milton and Elenore Keim; Janet Hunt; Audrey Seaman; Dorothy Probst; Esther Heppner; Rod Tolley; 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

Kristin McDermott ★★★★★ Navy

Caleb Tolley ★★★★★ Air Force

Holly Tolley ★★★★★ Air Force

Jack Welsh ★★★★★ Marine Corps

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

**St. Peter's Council 2024**

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| President/Deacon | Marina Heppner |
| Vice President/Elder | Sandy Fiegl |
| Treasurer/Deacon | Donna Albert |
| Financial Secretary/Elder | Sue Beier |
| Secretary/Deacon | Christel Kasprzak |
| Elder | Karen Buranich |
| Elder | Paul Gannon |
| Deacon | Kathy Reandeau |
| Trustees | Linda Richards |
| | Brian Welsh |

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.

St. Peter's UCC....

Faith, Fellowship and Service

Faith in Christ,

Welcoming Fellowship

and Loving Service

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

We will continue to have Fellowship Hour once a month after worship service; on the third Sunday of each month. Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate will be served during winter months while iced tea, lemonade, and cold drinks will be served during the warmer months.



All are welcome and we hope you will join us!



Mark Your Calendars

EVENTS



Craft & Vendor Show – August 3

Church Picnic Potluck – August 18

Food & Wine Pairing – September 22

Meat Raffle – October 18

Christmas Concert – December 8



MISSION MUSINGS

Submitted by
Kathy Reandeau

Sharing Christ's love and peace with all!

Summer is finally here. This season is traditionally a time for vacation and leisure, but please remember to continue supporting Mission projects whenever possible.

MISSION MOMENTS: We began inviting non-profit organizations from our community to St. Peter's, so we can learn more about what they are doing. Our first experience was in April, when Andrea Walh of Kevin Guest House joined us. Our second speaker, Barry Scott of Lions Club International, was scheduled to be with us June 23. We look forward to hearing from other worthwhile organizations in the future.

SIERRA LEONE/JERICO ROAD GLOBAL OUTREACH: Phebian Abdulai continues her medical mission at the Adama Martha Memorial Community Health Center in Sierra Leone. Thank you for supporting this life-transforming work by donating money through the bi-monthly envelopes and gently-used clothing to the clothing shed. Learn more at <https://www.jrchc.org> and visit the global work tab.

PLYMOUTH CROSSROADS: St. Peter's supported Plymouth fundraising Rummage Sale, which raised over \$2,000 for its capital campaign fund for a new, permanent home.



Plymouth was also designated as "Charity of the Year" by the Western New York Federal Credit Union. Their June gift card raffle raised \$2,600 for Plymouth, with more events planned for the upcoming year. In between fundraisers, Plymouth also celebrated the accomplishments of its resident graduates, and helped make sure one was able to attend his prom! Alum Luke,

who helped at some St. Peter's events, reported that he is currently living in Clarence with a job as Jr. Site Advisor for a local construction company. Great job! Visit www.plymouthcrossroads.org for more info.

CLOTHING SHED: The clothing shed collects and redistributes gently-used clothing to organizations and people all over the world, and it continues to receive a great deal of donations every week. We use funds raised to support Phebian Abdulai's work in Sierra Leone. **DO NOT** put any household items, pillows, electronics, toy or books in the shed!

FOOD PANTRY: Our food pantry helps address emergency food insecurity issues in our church or community. It needs to be restocked after our Easter distribution. Please put donations in the barrel in the glass vestibule during church office hours, or contact Kathy Reandeau for a pick-up. Please contact me if you know of anyone in need of food.

NY/HELP HONDURAS: A trip to Honduras is planned the second week of August for possibly eight days. They will work on several projects while there: latrine, stoves, etc. Speaking Spanish is not required, though it is helpful. The people of La Laguna are so appreciative of these visits and are grateful for God's presence, aside from any projects that are completed. For information, contact Ginger Comstock [gkcomstock@gmail.com], David Makepeace [dmake8@yahoo.com], or Judy Toner [jactoner45@twcny.rr.com]. Donations gratefully accepted at: NY/HELP, c/o Arcade UCC, PO Box 95, Arcade NY 14009. Make checks payable to NY/HELP.

FRIENDS OF NIGHT PEOPLE: Last year FONP's culinary team provided nearly 97,000 meals, and its caseworkers helped 175 people search for housing, obtain identification, and maintain dignity by providing direct support. The impact of these programs helps people today so they can help themselves tomorrow. Learn more at <https://friendsofnightpeople.com>.

CHURCHES IN ACTION (CIA): CIA is a Southtowns organization that was started to help local churches of different denominations work together to serve our neighbors in need. One project is providing water filtration systems to families and communities in Haiti.



GUEST SPEAKER NEWS

THANK YOU Barry and Debbie Scott for coming to St. Peter's on Sunday, June 23 as a speaker during our worship service to teach us all about Lions International! It was a wonderful Sunday full of information, music, scripture and community. We appreciate your taking the time to visit us, especially after your busy weekend with Lions in action at West Seneca Community Days and the Ride for Roswell. Thanks for the lesson on service, and reminding us to go out to love and serve!



Display cases by Christel Kasprzak



Sanctuary billboard
by Karen Buranich

2024
Graduate



Congratulations to
Tenley Mae Voit
who just graduated
from Kindergarten!

OH THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!
-DR. SEUSS



Hallway billboard
by Marina Heppner

Dear St. Peter's Church,

Thank you so much for allowing us to borrow seven tables for our May 31 & June 1st yard sale. Having the tables allowed us to spread out the enormous amount of items to sell!

Friends of Plymouth

Thinking of You... If I planted a seed whenever I thought of you...a happy garden would bloom.

Hoping all is well with the church. May God bless all of you!

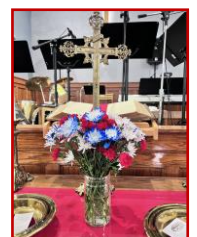
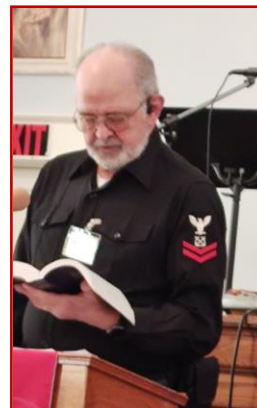
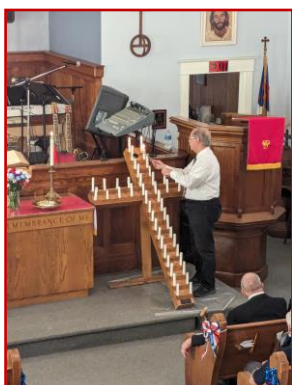
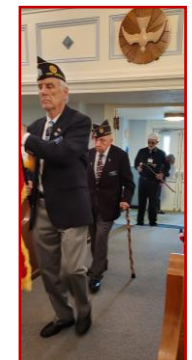
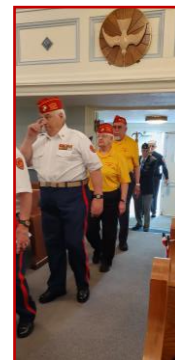
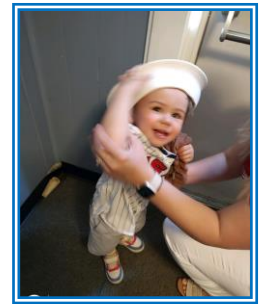
Joyce McIntyre

MEMORIAL DAY CANDLE CROSS SERVICE

It was an honor and a privilege for St. Peter's to host the West Seneca Joint Veterans Committee for a moving worship service in observance of Memorial Day. The service featured the presentation of colors by the Veterans Committee, music from "Strike The Rock" – the church's contemporary Christian music group – including "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" and "God Bless the USA," and an American flag dedication in memory of Charlie Hunt, proud veteran and good and faithful servant. Jim Manley proudly carried the new flag into the sanctuary. Pastor Paula reminded us of the words of King David to his son, "Be strong. Be courageous. Be faithful." There was also a lighting of the church's Memorial Candle Cross in honor of members of the armed forces and first responders who have given their lives in defense of our nation and in service of others, in memory of members of the St. Peter's church family, and in honor of special family bonds. The service was followed by a potluck luncheon in the church's fellowship hall.



Family of Charlie Hunt with the flag dedicated in his memory.





Memorial Day is one of America's long-standing holidays, and has been in place since the end of the Civil War as a day of remembrance and gratitude for those who died in service to their country. Today we remember

fallen heroes and pray that no heroes will ever have to die for us again.

One group represented in the Veterans Committee is the Seabees. Although they had major contributions in all theaters, a documentary which ran on PBS online, narrated by CBS Sports' Jim Nantz, "The Seabees on Iwo Jima," focuses on the United States Naval Construction Battalions in World War II. The Seabees were construction workers by trade but had to fight at times, following their motto, "We Build, We Fight."

Between the World Wars, the idea of a naval construction battalion was just an idea, but in mid-December of 1941, it became essential to winning World War II. Millions of America's laborers applied. Men, some 30, 40, 50, and even 60 years old, answered the call. They would eventually build the runways, bases, Quonset huts, hospitals, docks, ports, and infrastructure needed in Europe and the Pacific. Just weeks after Pearl Harbor, the first official military trained Naval Construction Battalion, or Seabees, shipped out for overseas duty.

With rifles slung over their shoulders and riding bulldozers, Seabees first began coming ashore at Guadalcanal, arriving one month after the August 7, 1942, landings by the 1st Marine Division. After Guadalcanal, there would be many more Pacific islands for the Seabees such as Guam, Saipan, and Tinian. By war's end, the Seabees had built an amazing 111 major airstrips across the Pacific, where before only jungle and coral had existed. On the morning of February 19, 1945, United States Navy Seabees, along with Marines of the 4th and 5th Marine Divisions, found themselves heading toward an island roughly 760 miles from the Japanese mainland, Iwo Jima. On that same historic day, a section of the 23rd Special Seabees, an all-African-American stevedore outfit attached to the 5th Marine Amphibious Corps, also hit the beach at Iwo Jima. The 23rd would support the Marines for the rest of the fight on Iwo Jima.

By mid-March of 1945, following a lot of building and fighting by the Seabees in support of the United States Marines, two airstrips had been secured on Iwo Jima and were being repaired. Soon after, American P-51 fighters and shattered B-29 bombers began to safely

arrive, even as fighting was still ongoing between the Marines, Seabees, and Japanese. The carnage on Iwo Jima cost the Navy Seabees dearly. Hundreds were dead and wounded, the Seabees' highest casualty rate of World War II.

Today we light candles to honor, recognize and remember the men and women who sacrificed all in service to their country, from the Civil War through Afghanistan and Iraq, and other spots around the world.

~Kathy Reandeau

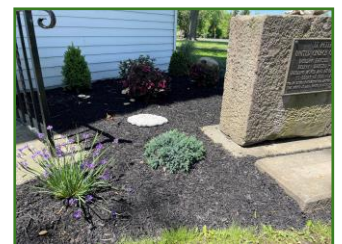


GARDEN CAMPAIGN COMPLETE!

If you've been to church in the last few weeks, I hope you've noticed the transformation of the gardens outside the sanctuary doors. All the old bushes were pulled out by Bob Rodgers and then, together with Paula Rodgers, they completed the task of beautifying this area. It's quite an improvement even if the deer have nibbled away at some of the plants. Thanks also to Marina and Sue and Val Beier for placing the soaker hose in this garden. I understand the task was worse than doing a 500 piece jigsaw puzzle. Making sure the hose is turned on and off is being done by Dave Elersic.

Many hands made light the work when the sign garden was done earlier this month. Helping me were Kathy Reandeau, Mark Kasprzak, Karen and Joe Buranich (Somehow Karen coerced Joe, perhaps with some of her delicious brownies, into helping.) The soil was tilled, weeded, new plantings were put into place and mulched. Also, the bed directly behind this garden was weeded as well. Thanks also to Marina for helping to place a soaker hose in this garden and to Bob who has been watering it daily. THANK YOU TO ALL!!

~Christel Kasprzak



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

| | | |
|---------------|----|--------------------|
| JULY | 12 | Stephen Kasprzak |
| | 13 | Dorothy Probst |
| | | Tim Schrader |
| | 14 | Jerre Thiel |
| | 22 | Gloria Elersic |
| | 23 | Milton Keim |
| AUGUST | 28 | Margaret Applebach |
| | | Paula Rodgers |
| | | |

| | | |
|---------------|----|-------------------|
| AUGUST | 7 | Linda Richards |
| | 19 | Max Heppner |
| | 22 | Nancy Jentsch |
| | 24 | Christel Kasprzak |
| | 30 | Joseph Hastreiter |
| | | |

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

| | | |
|-------------|----|-----------------------------|
| JULY | 20 | Dan & Linda Richards |
| | 23 | Jacob & Sarah Vail |
| | 30 | Patrick & Christine O'Melia |

| | | |
|---------------|----|--------------------------|
| AUGUST | 27 | Mark & Christel Kasprzak |
|---------------|----|--------------------------|

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

**CLOTHING SHED**

These two friendly guys are helping to watch over the donations to our clothing shed! Don't worry - they don't bite! They are just here to remind donors about some very important information-

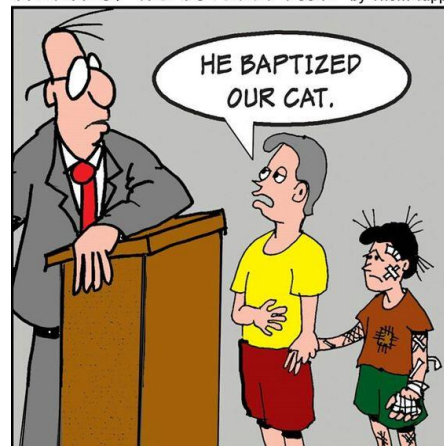
What You CAN Drop-off: used clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, linens, pillowcases, blankets, curtains, and stuffed animals.



What NOT to Drop-off:
Furniture, electronics, toys,
household items, books,
garbage, pillows, rags, and
fabric scraps.

THANK YOU for your
support and have an
arff-fully nice day!

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



Thank you to
everyone who
contributed
content, to this
issue of the
newsletter.