



NEW CREATION NEWS

Jan. ~ Feb. 2024

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

1475 Orchard Park Rd., West Seneca, NY 14224

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PASTORAL PONDERINGS

I sit on the Western Association Church and Ministry Committee. One of our tasks is to keep up to speed on our licensed ministers or those members who are in discernment (wanting to be ordained and are going through a process of classes and psychological assessment). One of our licensed ministers from a small congregation, even smaller than St. Peter's, was at our meeting this past week. We chatted with her and as she was putting her coat on, she turned to me and said: "My musician recently moved to West Seneca and received the letter from your church, welcoming her and inviting them to your church. She showed it to me and asked if I could do that?"

Do you know that we have someone that does that for us? He keeps up with who is moving into West Seneca and then sends them a letter. I don't know how many people have come and visited with us through this approach. I do think it is a witness to help people know we are here. It also helps us to take notice that there are people who work behind the scenes to keep St. Peter's alive and well. We have someone who is our handy man and plumber, a treasurer who had been treasurer for six years and now a new person, who has taken over that task. Council members who have made difficult decisions and make recommendations. Those who usually usher on Sunday morning or ring the bells, or prepare communion and then take home the dirty glasses to return them clean the next time she is at church. We have teams that count the offering following worship. A person who keeps track of who gives and sends us a report at the end of the year and orders envelopes for those who want them. We pretty much have two couples that provide for the fellowship time each month.

Now that we have doors locked, we need people to come around 9:30 to let people in. If you're willing to sign up to help with this, sign up on the clip board. I really don't want to miss anyone who helps, my hope is that we all take part in the life of this church, now. Invite a friend, speak to a visitor and show your love through Jesus Christ.

In Christ,
Pastor Paula



Sunday, February 4, 2024

The St. Peter's Annual Meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 4, immediately following worship. The Church Council members will provide a soup-salad-dessert luncheon for attendees of the meeting.

Please plan to attend this important meeting.



St. Peter's Council 2023

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	Linda Richards
Trustee	Brian Welsh

There will be an open seat on the Church Council for 2024. If anyone is interested in joining the Church Council, or would like more information, please contact Marina Heppner or any one of the other Council members before the Annual Meeting.



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

Renae Johnson; Marge Applebach; Esther Woltz; John Sworen; Chuck and Irene Brooks; Hank and Esther Heppner; Tim and Sue Schrader; Milton and Elenore Keim; Janet Hunt; Judy Pahnos; Audrey Seaman; Dorothy Probst; 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.*

**IN MEMORIUM**

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our dear friend Vernon "Butch" Probst on December 11, 2023. A Funeral Service was held December 15 at Hoy Funeral Home and burial at St. Matthew's Cemetery.



Please keep the Probst family in your prayers.

St. Peter's UCC....

Faith, Fellowship and Service

Faith in Christ,

Welcoming **Fellowship**

and Loving **Service**

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: *Please call ahead.

The church office hours are Tuesday – Friday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. The office is closed on Mondays.

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, 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!



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! We're excited to share with you the impact your clothing shed made over the last year...

- 50,819 pounds of clothing were donated to your shed in 2023
- This was enough to clothe an estimated 9,362 people all over the world
- Based on this volume of clothing, your organization received \$2,033

Thank you so much for everything you, your volunteers, and your communities do to support the clothing shed program!

Sincerely,

The Team at St. Pauly Textile, Inc.



MISSION MUSINGS

Submitted by
Kathy Reandeau

Sharing Christ's love and peace with all!

Another busy year is ending, and my head is reeling with all our "little church" has accomplished. The Thanksgiving food distribution was impressive, and I am now finalizing work on the Christmas Giving Tree. For Thanksgiving, we provided food for at least one meal for about 40 people, with much more available in leftovers due to the bountiful nature of all we supplied. Thanks to all who supported these efforts, and especially to Sue Schrader in providing a cooked meal for Plymouth Crossroads.

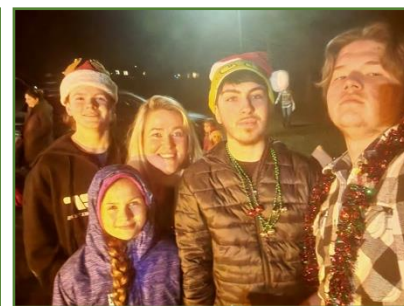
The Giving Tree had at least 100 tags for items ranging from about-to-be born babies to parents in need and Plymouth Crossroads. Thanks to those who put up the tree, and those who helped decorate it. Thanks also to Karen Homonai for her continued dedication in buying tags, carefully writing requests on them, and adding festive ribbons. Most tags were taken by members of St. Peter's and parents from Page 1. I also received a few special contributions, and will use mission funds to fill any remaining needs. Please continue to support Mission projects whenever possible.

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: Executive Director Jenn McAndrew spoke at a church service about the work Plymouth Crossroads does, and the impact it has on the young people it serves. Conditions were especially difficult during the COVID years and when they were forced to close the residential program, but have improved again with a new house on Clinton Street and the resumption of residential services. Plymouth works in many ways to provide a home atmosphere, teach necessary skills, and help these young people get a strong start on their path in life. But they also try to instill values and an understanding that being part of a larger community is important. For the holidays they were invited to help give out gifts to deserving individuals and families throughout the community. The Connor J Long Foundation had a trolley that they traveled from house to house in, sang carols, and felt the

Christmas spirit. They all had a blast and the boys were also blessed with some amazing gifts!



THANK YOU to everyone who supports the dream of being a Plymouth Crossroads family. Volunteers who can provide tutoring in geometry and calculus are asked to contact Donell at Dgibson@plymouthcrossroads.org. 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 is low after the Thanksgiving distribution, and we also had an emergency food request after a refrigerator stopped working and all the food inside was lost. 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: NY/HELP hopes to sponsor a group travel to Honduras soon, and is looking for people who would like to join this trip. Speaking Spanish is not required, though it is helpful. Many participants have found that these trips can be a life-changing experience. For information, contact Ginger Comstock [gkcomstock@gmail.com], David Makepeace [dmake8@yahoo.com] or Judy Toner [jactoner45@twcnny.rr.com]. Donations gratefully accepted at: NY/HELP, c/o Arcade UCC, PO Box 95, Arcade NY 14009. Make checks payable to NY/HELP.

THANK YOU

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**JANUARY**

10	David Imiola
12	Pam Hurlburt
14	Mark Kasprzak
20	Kara DeAngelis
	Renae Johnson
23	Ruth Gaul
	Rod Nash
24	Elenore Keim
26	Susan Beier
29	Terri Sledz

FEBRUARY

2	Chuck Brooks
8	Daniel Richards
9	Phebian Abdulai
15	Diane Welsh
16	Andy Tredo
23	Marina Heppner
28	Christine O'Melia
29	Sandy Fiegl

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**JANUARY**

14	Andrew & Kathy Tredo
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FEBRUARY

none

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

Game Night is Back!!

Looking for something fun to do on a Friday night? Once a month we get together to share a night of friendly fun and games. Grab your family and friends, then come join us for **GAME NIGHT!** The fun begins at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. **All are welcome!**

Bring your favorite games, snacks, & beverages to share.

January 19 | February 16



Annual Congregational Meeting – February 4

Food & Wine Pairing – Date to be Announced

Easter Worship Service – March 31

**NEW MEMBER RECEPTION**

Five new members joined St. Peter's UCC during the Reception of New Members on November 19, 2023. We are happy to welcome Marjorie Beers, Carole Bingert, Audrey Seaman, Jacob Vail, and Sarah Vail as the newest members of our congregation!



OUR YOUNGEST ATTENDEES

The youngest and most adorable littles who attend our Sunday services.



*Church narthex
bulletin board
~Karen Buranich*



Display cases ~ Christel Kasprzak



**CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT
WORSHIP
SERVICE**



Dear St. Peter's UCC Members,

Thank you so much for your generous food donation towards Plymouth Crossroads Thanksgiving Dinners.

Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated!

Friends of Plymouth

