



NEW CREATION NEWS

Mar. ~ Apr. 2024

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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PASTORAL PONDERINGS

I know some of you will agree with me when I say: "We need to pray for St. Peter's United Church of Christ." I suspect that many of you do pray for this church. I pray for this church. Council looks at the treasurers report each month and wonder what is next for us. I believe prayers have been answered with baby Grayson who makes us smile when he giggles. We have little Solomia, beautiful and energetic, inviting us to put up a small children's table in the back of the sanctuary, so she can draw or play. Their parents are delightful and joy is in abundance during the Passing of the Peace, watching those two little ones getting loved by members.

The next conversation is about how nice it would be if we could possibly find a church that might want to merge with us. Prayers were lifted up for this. On February 1, some Council members and I gave a tour of our building to another small church that worships near us. We returned to the sanctuary where Kathy Reandeau gave a thorough history of the church. We invited them to come and worship with us on March 17, 2024. After talking with their congregation, they accepted our invitation.

Strike the Rock will play and there will be a fellowship time following. This is our opportunity to shine. This is a church who had worshipped in South Buffalo and has sold their building. They now worship at a Methodist church building not far from St. Peter's. They are a United Church of Christ and Baptist church, so some things will be different and stir us a bit. I look forward to our time together in worship. Come and worship with us on the 17th.

In Christ,
Pastor Paula



The Church Office will be closed
on Good Friday, March 29, 2024.

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



2024 COUNCIL MEMBERS

(not pictured – Linda Richards)



Game Night – March 15

Maundy Thursday Service – March 28

Easter Sunday Service – March 31

Game Night – April 19

Food & Wine Pairing – April 21

ENCIRCLING IN OUR PRAYERS...

FOR GOD'S HEALING

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

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our dear friend Henry "Hank" Heppner, Sr. on January 22, 2024, while in Hospice care. There will be a private interment at the family's choosing.



Please keep the Heppner family in your prayers.



Sunday, March 10, at 2:00 a.m.

Turn your clocks ahead one hour.

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.

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!



Display case by Christel Kasprzak



MISSION MUSINGS

Submitted by
Kathy Reandeau

Sharing Christ's love and peace with all!

Spring is soon upon us, and with it brings hopes of rebirth, growth, and revitalization. Let us all pray for God's blessings for our church and our mission works in the weeks and months ahead.

The Lenten season has already begun, which means Easter is not far behind. We will provide Easter dinner items to families in our congregation and the community. Let me know if you are aware of anyone who could use a little help. I will put out more information soon, but am probably looking at March 24 for a collection date, so keep that in mind as you do your regular grocery shopping in March. Please continue to support Mission projects whenever possible.

MISSION MOMENTS: In the past we enjoyed hearing from Plymouth Crossroads and Phebian Abdulai during worship services as part of our mission ministry. At Council's February meeting we discussed doing something like this on a quarterly basis with other non-profit organizations in our community, so we can learn more about what they are doing. More information will follow, as we nail down details on this opportunity.

SIERRA LEONE/JERICHO 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.irchc.org> and visit the global work tab.

PLYMOUTH CROSSROADS: Executive Director Jennifer McAndrew was recently honored as West Seneca's Citizen of the Year at the Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner for her work with Plymouth Crossroads, and her dedication to the West Seneca community. She spoke eloquently about Plymouth and the impact it has on the young people it serves.



Plymouth works in many ways to provide a home atmosphere, teach necessary skills, and help young people get a strong start on their path in life. There is no better life skill to learn than how to make your own

yummy dinner. Residents recently learned to cook like champs! Special thanks to Kevin McCarthy for spending the afternoon and teaching the art of cooking!



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, toys, 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 in preparation for our Easter collection. 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 more information, contact:

Ginger Comstock [gkcomstock@gmail.com]

David Makepeace [dmake8@yahoo.com]

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

MARCH	7	Rod Tolley
	25	Karen Buranich
APRIL	3	Noreen Fruchtel
	19	Paul Gannon
	21	Marjorie Beers
	22	Donna Albert

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

MARCH	none
APRIL	none

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

JOINT WORSHIP – MARCH 17

Please make an effort to worship in-person on March 17 and welcome a sister congregation that is looking for a UCC church to merge with. (See Pastor's Pondering)

MAUNDY THURSDAY – MARCH 28

Maundy Thursday is a time to reflect on the Last Supper, that time when Jesus served his disciples with feet washing and a meal. We prepare our hearts and minds for the Good Friday story, finding the sadness of Jesus on the cross. The service starts at 7:00 pm and we will be serving altar communion at this service.

EASTER SUNDAY – MARCH 31

We will be celebrating the gift of the resurrection with special music, reading the Easter story and a meditation. Remember to bring a live flower and place it on the empty cross on the chancel. With all the sadness and defeat, Jesus rose from the dead to proclaim God's love for each of us. If ever there was a time to be reminded that Christ rose from the dead to bring us salvation and new life, it would be now. This is a good service to bring a family member or a friend to.



Lent

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

Wed., March 6: 6:30 pm at Agape United Methodist
Wed., March 13: 6:30 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church

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.

March 15 | April 19