



# NEW CREATION NEWS

Jan. ~ Feb. 2023

## St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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### PASTORAL PONDERINGS

If you were at the Congregational meeting on Dec. 11, you know that a vote was taken to allow a realtor and friend, to purchase the property owned by St. Peter's with a ten year lease for us to use the church rent free. That means all of the property, including the building will be maintained, repaired, utilities paid and upkeep provided by the new owners. Their benefit is that they will hopefully receive permission to put up apartments in the back lot of our property, which has not been used in many, many years. A lot rides on them getting approval by the town for this but they are hopeful this will happen. It will not happen in a week. This was not an easy decision by Council to suggest this to the congregation but it was viewed as an opportunity and blessing to keep us afloat for at least another ten years and provide us with some income that we can use to move forward as well. Our income has been very low and we could blame this on many things, not the least on COVID and the decrease in attendance and giving or on the aging congregation who are mostly on fixed incomes or even on the lack of commitment that people today have to the local mainline churches or the loss of rental use of the building or the increase in utilities (if your utilities went up, you can imagine how much the church utilities went up-my electric doubled from last December). There were many considerations for this before Council came up with this decision. I am only ¾ time and a thought was to make me ½ time or to go to just having a pastor work per diem opposed to "called." We have cut back on the amount of time for custodial care, changed our insurance, use of supplies and every other way we could save money and still we are in a significant deficit monthly. Many churches in Western NY have sold their buildings for much less than what we have been offered. Much thought and prayer have been put into this and the voting members voted unanimously to approve this. Council members can answer your questions about further details. My hope is that this will be approved by the town and we will move forward with great excitement and energy and my prayer is that we will continue to be St. Peter's for many more than ten years. Please consider continuing or returning with your commitment to the church that we may be able to continue glorifying God in our ministry together.

In Christ,  
Rev. Paula

# 2023



**Sunday, February 5, 2023**

The Annual Meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 5, immediately following Worship service. Please plan to attend this important meeting.



### YOU ARE INVITED!

There is a small group that continues to gather at Denny's in Orchard Park, for sharing in our faith, food, and fun every other Thursday.

Pastor Paula announces each Sunday before that gathering that we are meeting and can be contacted if you have questions about which week.

Please know that anyone is invited and that there is always good conversation, sharing, and laughter. We order off the menu and everyone pays for their own items.



### 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!

**ENCIRCLING IN OUR PRAYERS...**

**FOR GOD'S HEALING**

Renae Johnson; Marge Applebach; Barb Rodgers; Esther Woltz; John Sworen; Chuck and Irene Brooks; Milton Keim; Al Plant; Prayers for those lost, injured and traumatized by the mass shootings across the U.S.; Continued prayers for the people of Ukraine.

**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.*



**A SIMPLE WAY TO HELP!**

Over the past year, there have been many people donating money to help others in need to purchase groceries. The Mission Committee has distributed these donations to families in need throughout our church and community using Tops Gift Cards. You may continue to donate gift cards for this purpose by simply listing 'Tops Cards' on your donation envelope. We appreciate the money provided to help those with food insecurities purchase the basic necessities. Our Office Secretary will coordinate with the Mission Committee, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer to monitor the donations and card purchases.

You will still be able to purchase Tops gift cards to hand out to family and friends by going to the Church Office after service to make your purchase. For every \$500 in cards purchased, we receive \$25 to increase the amount we distribute!

Thank you for your support of this fundraising project.

**St. Peter's Council 2022**

President/Deacon	Marina Heppner
Vice President/Elder	Donna Albert
Treasurer/Deacon	Linda Richards
Financial Secretary/Elder	Sue Beier
Secretary/Deacon	Christel Kasprzak
Deacon	Dan Richards
Elders	Karen Buranich
	Sandy Fiegl
Trustee	Brian Welsh

St. Peter's UCC....

***Faith, Fellowship and Service***

**Faith** in Christ,

Welcoming **Fellowship**

and Loving **Service**

May Peace and Love warm your heart this holiday season.

We Love & Thank you for Everything!  
Shirley Favors & Family!

It's been very trying year. With phone hacking, and neighbor been nasty to me after helping her. Now the landlord be an pain in a butt. Well looking for new place for sure. All ready have information after holiday start file applications. Wish you Merry Xmas and Happy New Year.

To Friends,  
Celebrate the season with hope, happiness and peace.

Virginia  
Ruby, Piper, Sweet Peet, Princess, Bear  
Cats meow, meow



**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.



## MISSION MUSINGS

Submitted by  
Kathy Reandeau

*Sharing Christ's love and peace with all!*

We don't let a little snow stop us from sharing the love of St. Peter's! We got hit by two snowstorms, just in time for the Thanksgiving and Christmas collection due dates. But, that didn't stop St. Peter's, no siree! People trudged through snow, made special arrangements, and went out of their way to make sure their donations were received, even if they could not get to church on Sunday. So, a big **THANK YOU** to all the intrepid people who worked so hard to make sure everyone had a happy Thanksgiving and a blessed Christmas.

At Thanksgiving, we fulfilled five requests from the church family and community for food assistance, and were able to help Plymouth Crossroads as they were once again able to offer Thanksgiving at their new home. All in all, we probably feed about 40 people at least once, and probably several more servings of leftovers, given the huge quantities we received!

Christmas was just as overwhelming. Thank you to Dave Elersic for setting up the tree, Karen Homonai for preparing the tags, and to Terri Sledz in the church office for tracking donations and answering questions. Most tags were quickly taken and I also received gift cards and monetary donations that allowed us to fill in missing items. Again, people went out of their way to make sure their donations were received. I am sure we were able to provide many blessings to those on our list.

### SIERRA LEONE/JERICHO ROAD GLOBAL OUTREACH:

Phebian Abdulai continues to lead the Adama Martha Memorial Community Health Center in providing drastically needed health services in Sierra Leone. Along with medical services, a malnutrition clinic, and agricultural, spiritual, economic and educational programs, they meet the needs of this population in many uplifting ways. Please pray for Jericho Road, and pray for wisdom, courage and protection for Phebian. 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.

**CLOTHING SHED:** The clothing shed collects and redistributes gently-used clothing to organizations and people all over the world. **DO NOT** put any household items, electronics, toy or books in the shed!

### PLYMOUTH CROSSROADS:

Brandon, alumni of Plymouth 2011, welcomed Alissa Rose into the world on December 1<sup>st</sup>. She is absolutely perfect!



Here is another example of what can happen now that Plymouth has a residential facility available again. When Michael came to Plymouth Crossroads over the summer, he was 17 and determined to live a better life. He was going from foster care to his mother's home, but family dynamics can be complicated. For a moment, things were finally looking up. Then, as had been the case several times before, mom found herself in a cycle of abuse and the home was no longer safe. With the help of a caring teacher, Michael found the supports he needed, enrolling in Plymouth's summer program. That one decision led him directly to the Plymouth Crossroads home. Since moving in, he has stayed in school and is on track to graduate in January, obtained a job, maintained a savings account, and completed his driving lessons. He shared an emotion-filled birthday, where he felt cared for, safe and above all...hopeful for what is still to come. "Plymouth came along at the perfect time for me. Without Plymouth, I have no idea where I would be. It's not just a place to stay, it's my home." Please make a year-end gift so more boys like Michael can feel safe and empowered, and become the productive citizens we know they can be. Visit [www.plymouthcrossroads.org](http://www.plymouthcrossroads.org) for more information.

**FOOD PANTRY:** Our food pantry helps address emergency food insecurity issues in our church or community. Please contact me if you know of anyone in need of food. If you have donations please put them in the barrel in the glass vestibule during church office hours, or contact Kathy Reandeau for a pick-up.

**NY/HELP HONDURAS:** The work in Honduras continues. Please consider helping the mission in Honduras with a gift. Donations gratefully accepted at: NY/HELP, c/o Arcade UCC, PO Box 95, Arcade NY 14009. Make checks payable to NY/HELP.



### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

#### JANUARY

- 10 David Imiola
  - 12 Pam Hurlburt
  - 14 Mark Kasprzak
  - 20 Kara DeAngelis
  - Renaee Johnson
  - 23 Ruth Gaul
  - Rod Nash
  - 24 Elenore Keim
  - 26 Susan Beier
- #### FEBRUARY
- 1 Vern Probst
  - 2 Chuck Brooks
  - 8 Daniel Richards
  - 9 Phebian Abdulai
  - 15 Diane Welsh
  - 16 Andy Tredo
  - 19 Fred Roehling-Taylor
  - James Roehling-Taylor, Jr.
  - 23 Marina Heppner
  - 28 Christine O'Melia
  - 29 Sandy Fiegl

### ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

#### JANUARY

- 14 Andrew & Kathy Tredo

#### FEBRUARY

- none

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

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### GAME NIGHT

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 and snacks to share.

January 20 | February 16

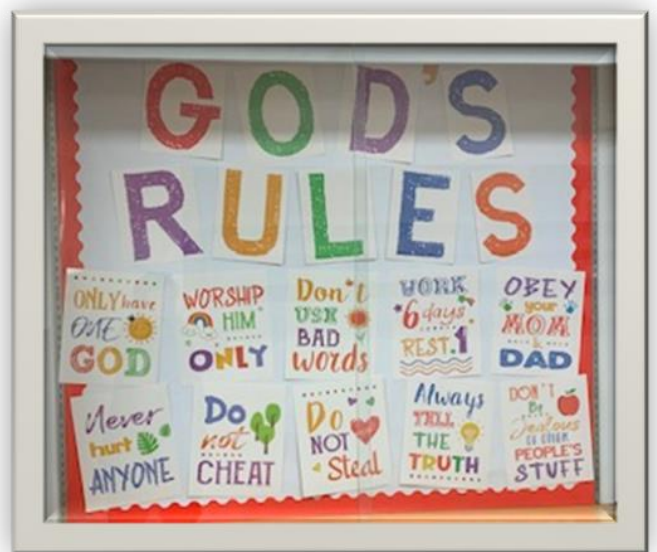


*To the generous and kind people  
of St. Peter's,*

*Thank you once again for providing a magnificent  
Thanksgiving Dinner for our residents and alumni. Your  
ongoing interest and support of our organization allows  
us to focus on so many other areas our clients need.*

*We are most appreciative of all our blessings which we  
have received to enable us to keep our doors open for  
the welfare of our homeless youth.*

*Blessings-  
Jerry Morrison  
Adm. Asst.*



Display by Christel Kasprzak