



## Brief Church Profile

---

St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
592 Church Street, Amherst, Ohio 44001  
website: [www.stpetersamherst.org](http://www.stpetersamherst.org)

### 1. WHO ARE WE ARE TODAY –

*Today we are a church of mostly senior citizens and a sprinkling of members from younger age groups. Regardless of age, many of our members contribute to the maintenance and growth of the church by actively participating in our various ministries, often serving on multiple committees.*

*Founded by German immigrants in the 1800's, our current sanctuary was built in 1891 and today our property boasts a well maintained sanctuary, as well as a 3 level building, originally built in 1950, for Sunday School. Presently it serves as the home of St. Peter's Preschool. An attached chapel is used for smaller services and the attached parsonage currently houses a Ukrainian refugee family, that we support.*

### 2. WE LIVE OUT OUR VISION AND MISSION THROUGH THE FOLLOWING –

*The weekly worship in our beautiful sanctuary is regularly attended by friendly members, with handicap parking and an elevator making our services accessible to everyone. Our steeple bell calls the neighborhood to Sunday worship, and a weekly Wednesday "Breeze" (less formal) service is held in our chapel.*

*We are blessed to have a 200 capacity sanctuary illuminated with stained glass windows that have been impeccably maintained. The sounds of a pipe organ, completely rebuilt in 2000, resonates within the perfect acoustical environment.*

*Visitors are welcomed with an invitation on our new digital sign, and are gifted a goodie bag upon their first visit. Our ushers are exceptionally friendly and helpful and easily identified by their name tags.*

*For those who cannot attend in person, we provide a live Zoom service that also streams to our Facebook page and edited videos are posted on our YouTube channel*

*Active ministries include: Circle 6 - a ladies group that serves the church and the community, Altar Guild, weekly Bible Study, Compassionate Care and Spiritual Visitations to the ill and infirmed, Bell and Sanctuary Choirs, on-site Preschool for 102 children. We support our local Catholic Charities monthly dinners with volunteers.*

### 3. STATISTICAL DATA

- Active Membership: 125
- Total Reported Membership: 326
- Sunday Worship average attendance: 75
- Average Church School Attendance 0
- Members serving on Boards and Committees (DO NOT include small groups):  
11(Council)- 25 (Circle6)- 6 (Altar Guild)\_ total of 42\_
- Mission outreach giving, annual: 2.5 % of the budget
- Our church's annual plan for resourcing the ministry (budget): Constantly reviewing the budget and revising our needs to meet our inflow of finances.
- Number of staff persons serving the church: 12

List staff positions: Pastor, Admin Assist, Preschool Admin, 2 Preschool Teachers, 1 teacher assist for Preschool, Treasurer, Financial Treasurer, Janitor, CPA, Organist, Bell choir Director.

### 4. WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME TRENDS IN THE CHURCH FOR THE LAST 5 YEARS?

*Because of the aging population and the overall decline in church attendance nationwide, we have seen a reduction in the numbers of people who regularly attend. There is no greater commitment that from those members who continue to support the church with their contributions whether physical or financial.*

*Nevertheless, we are faced with the challenge of a finite amount of income and we have effectively balanced the budget by significantly reducing expenses and increasing the number of volunteer hours by those who love the church. Many who are incapable of physically participating step up with the blessing of additional monetary contributions.*

*Over the past several years we have weathered pastoral changes for many reasons, including the sudden death of a pastor. Despite this, we remain steadfast and sure of our need to continue discipleship in the name of Christ.*

### 5. WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME TRENDS in the larger community/town in which the church is located?

*Although manufacturing was an economic force in Lorain County during the post WWII boom, we, like other areas in the "rust belt" have experienced a decline in jobs and income, and a resulting exodus of people to other places. However, like our neighbor to the north west, Cleveland, we have seen a steady resurgence of our town with restaurants, bars, new schools and a burgeoning and charming downtown "Main Street". As local farms dwindled and were sold off, new housing developments have arisen, occupied by younger families and well as boomers.*

**6. THE SPECIFIC MINISTRIES/ISSUES YOU EXPECT YOUR NEXT PASTOR to address during their tenure - including the gifts, talents, and skills and leadership style you are looking for in your next pastor**

*We realize that we currently do not have the means to employ a fulltime pastor, but still do need the following services: Sunday worship, visitations to the sick at home or hospital, Funerals, Weddings, Baptisms, etc. Weekly office hours for congregant needs/consultations. A written contribution to our monthly "Key" newsletter and attendance at monthly Council Meeting.*

**7. PROVIDE AN ESTIMATED COMPENSATION RANGE you are offering in dollar amounts. If less than full-time, specify the hours of work.**

*Conference guidelines, negotiable and based on "units." We believe that seven (7) units should suffice.*

Christine Burman

Council/Search Committee Chairperson

Date 11/25/2023

**8. COMMENTS FROM THE ASSOCIATION**



Signature of Association Staff

Date Nov. 17, 2023

Association Staff member assisting:

Rev. Nayiri Karjian, General Minister  
960 Portage Trail, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221  
330.940.2220 x102 | [wnayiri.agm@livingwaterone.org](mailto:wnayiri.agm@livingwaterone.org)