



**ST. PETER'S**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



READING  
THE  
TEA LEAVES

*Signs & Wonders*

**First Sunday in Advent**

**December 3, 2023**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

*\*(Stand as you are able.)*

## GATHERING MUSIC

*Greeting    Announcements    Birthdays    Anniversaries*

PRELUDE: "Come, Thou Savior of the Nations"

\*CALL TO WORSHIP: *\*(Stand as you are able.)*

Leader: Awake, people of God, and stay alert for Christ's coming.  
Grace to you and peace from God who sent Jesus to us.

**People: Make your ways known to us, O God.  
Show us once more your awesome presence.**

Leader: We are all God's people; no one is excluded.  
Come together as God's family for worship and prayer.

**People: Let the mountains quake before you, mighty God.  
Let the nations tremble in awe and reverence.**

Leader: Praise the One who grants us the gift of life.  
Give thanks for God's continuing faithfulness.

**People: Heaven and earth will pass away,  
But the Word of God is true for all times and places.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE: #123 *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY: *(By the Rev. Sara Speed)*

Leader: How does a weary world hope?

**People: By telling stories of hope, by lighting candles in  
the night, and planting seeds in the winter that  
will bloom in the spring.**

Leader: By praying for children as they grow and picking up  
trash on the sidewalk.

**People: By insisting that small acts can make a difference.**

Leader: There are a million ways to practice hope. So today we  
light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

**All: With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world. Amen.**

Choral Response: *"A Thousand Candles" #159 verse 1 (sung by choir)*

**\*THE MORNING PRAYER/INVOCATION** *(Unison)*

Amid threatening clouds of anger and selfish strife, come, O God, to bring light. Into our days of worry and anxiety, send a confident hope. Enrich us with spiritual gifts that transcend disappointments and spill out in generous compassion for all your suffering children. Meet us today where we are so we may be equipped for trials yet to come and for joys yet to be revealed. In Jesus' name. Amen. *(Please be seated)*

*Gloria Patri #623*

\*HYMN OF MEDITATION: #128 *"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"*

**PASTORAL PRAYER THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Choral Response: *"A Nativity Prayer" #126*

**A TIME OF LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: MARK 13:24-37 #826

HANDBELL CHOIR: *"What Child is This?"* Arr. by Douglas E. Wagner

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION: "READING THE TEA LEAVES"

**A TIME OF GIVING**

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Doxology *\*(Stand as you are able.) #625 unison prayer of dedication*

praise God from whom all blessings flow;

praise God all creatures here below;

praise God above ye Heavenly host; \*\*

praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen. *(Please be seated.)*

*(\*\*alternate: Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen)*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

## A TIME TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

SHARING THE MEAL

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

## A TIME OF GOING OUT

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*(We offer one another the peace of Christ for the week ahead.)*

\*HYMN SENDING FORTH: #131 *“Angels from the Realms of Glory”*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: “Allegro”, Handel

*(Please remain seated “quietly” during the postlude.)*

---

The Hymnal For Worship and Celebration ©1986 Word Music. Used by/with permission  
CCLI No. 2411660 / 20182679. Used by/with permission One License # A-724594.



*Everyone is Welcome!*

---

**Feel at home, for Christ Jesus is our host. If you are visiting for the first time, we are delighted to have you here!**

The Psalmist sings: *“Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God’s presence with singing... thanksgiving... and praise.”* We pray peace and joy to you, dear friend.

## WORSHIP TEAM

Senior Pastor

Organist

Zoom Director

Worship Producer

Handbell Choir Director

Choir Director

Scripture Reader

Ushers

Pastor Chris Buckingham-Taylor

Allen Cadwallader

Mary K. Kirsch

Brian Schieferstein

Shelley Harmych

Jennifer Wasilk

Don Krueck

Karen Geduldig, Earl Wiegand

Betty Pekare

# Church News

---



## Circle Six December Music Event

Circle Six is proud to welcome the Amherst Madrigal Singers who will be performing in the Sanctuary on Tuesday, December 5 at 7:00 PM. The congregation is invited to attend and there will be a reception in Fellowship Hall following the program. I hope you will be able to join us for this special performance.

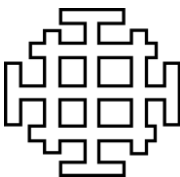


## Circle Six Annual Cookie Sale

Circle Six will hold its annual Christmas Cookie Sale on Sunday, December 10 in Fellowship Hall. One pound of cookies will be available to purchase for \$7.00.

*Thank you, Sally Readinger, President*

\*\*\*\*\*



The Jerusalem Cross was worn by the crusaders going to Jerusalem, in the middle ages. It can symbolize the Four Gospels in the Bible, the spread of the Gospel to the four corners of the earth or the five wounds of

Jesus when he died on the cross.

**Can you find this ornament on our Chrismon Tree?  
If you find it see Linda for a treat!**

## For Your Safety

To prevent falls in the winter months, the front door to the church (stairs entrance) will be closed starting next Sunday, Dec. 10th. Please use the elevator entrance. Thank you.



Meet the Pastor | Sandstone Coffee House, Amherst  
Wednesday from 9-11:00 a.m.

**Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Thursday, Dec. 7, 7 PM**  
**Choir Rehearsal | Sunday, Dec. 10, 9 AM**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Help Feed our Children!



Needed items for **CHILDREN'S WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM**

- . Single Serving PB & Jelly
- . Peanut Butter Crackers
- . Canned Soup (Pop top lids)
- . Spaghetti-Os (Pop top lids)
- . Mac & Cheese (Microwavable)
- . Individual Cereals
- . Granola Bars
- . Fruit Cups & Jello Cups
- . Oatmeal Packages
- . Small Bag Pretzels
- . Small Bag Chips

Your donations continue to help children as we partner with the Good Shepard Baptist Church. Remember, we also collect 'regular food items' for families that have food insecurities.

Please leave your donations in the drop off boxes at the church. Pam Miskov will make sure donations are delivered. *Thanks to Pam and everyone who donates.*

**There will be a short Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> after worship.**

### YOGA with Mary-K

St. Peter's UCC, enter Chapel door to the lower level | Cost: \$10  
Wednesday Mornings | 8:30-9:45 AM (arrive by 8:25 AM)  
Thursday Evenings | 6:00-7:15 PM (arrive by 5:55 PM)



## Next Sunday is the Second Sunday in Advent

Pastor Chris' Spiritual Reflection for Dec. 10 is,  
*"Preparing the Way".*

Hey Everyone, my church choir will be performing a Christmas cantata, ***"A New and Glorious Morn!"*** by Lloyd Larson on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM. We have approximately 30 members including me. I know you don't want to miss a Sunday with Pastor Chris, but I'd love for you to attend! Our church is located at 9715 East River Road in Elyria. *Thank you, Kaye*

Please fill out the Participation cards and drop into the offering plate. *Cards should be filled out weekly.* Thank you!

\*\*\*\*\*



At St. Peter's we work together in love to build strong foundations for our lives in Christ. This firm foundation allows us to put **"Arms and Legs on Christ's love in the world"** We believe that God is calling you to be embraced by God's radical love and to be a part of this foundation of faith.

Join us LIVE on **Facebook: St. Peter's UCC Amherst, OH**

**Zoom: Meeting ID: 524 411 3917 | Passcode: 379205**  
(or call in with phone: 1 929 205 6099)

The service will be posted at a later date to view on our  
**YouTube channel: St Peters UCC Amherst**

**NEW!** Be sure to check out ***"A minute with Pastor Chris"***  
on YouTube! Also, please Subscribe, Like and Share



## This Week's Events

---

Mon., Dec. 4	Communion Visits, 1-4 PM
Tues., Dec. 5	Circle Six Music Event, in the Sanctuary at 7 PM Bible Study, Zoom, 7 PM
Wed., Dec. 6	YOGA with Mary-K, 8:30-9:45 AM Coffee Chats, Sandstone, 9-11 AM Breeze Chapel, Wednesday, 7 PM
Thurs., Dec. 7	Compassionate Care Meeting, 10:30 AM YOGA with Mary-K, 6:00-7:15 PM
Sun., Dec. 10	Worship Service, 10 AM, Circle Six' Cookie Sale Congregational Meeting after worship

## How To Reach Us

---

**Office Hours:** Mon.–Fri. 8:30-12:30 PM *and* 1-2:30 PM  
Afternoons available by appointment with Pastor Chris

**Address:** 582 Church St. Amherst OH 44001

**Website:** [www.stpetersamherst.org](http://www.stpetersamherst.org)

**Phone:** 440-988-4965

Chris Buckingham-Taylor, Pastor  
[pastor@stpetersamherst.org](mailto:pastor@stpetersamherst.org) 920-650-0761

Christine Burman, Church Council President  
[president@stpetersamherst.org](mailto:president@stpetersamherst.org) 440-522-8035

Kaye Oswald, Church Office Administrator  
[admin.ofc@stpetersamherst.org](mailto:admin.ofc@stpetersamherst.org) 440-988-4965

Please visit our website, **[www.stpetersamherst.org](http://www.stpetersamherst.org)**  
*to make your donation electronically* via Breeze or Paypal.  
**Also, we now have the ability to accept donations by TEXT!**  
For more detailed information, contact the church office.



**ST. PETER'S**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST