



ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



PREPARING
THE
WAY

Signs & Wonders

Second Sunday in Advent
December 10, 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

**(Stand as you are able.)*

GATHERING MUSIC

Greeting Announcements Birthdays Anniversaries

PRELUDE: *"Jesus Calls Us"*, Gotsch

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

Leader: The day of God is coming; lift up your voices.
Cry out with the strength God provides.

**People: We await God's coming day with anticipation.
We seek the peace and patience God provides.**

Leader: Comfort, comfort my people, says our God.
Speak tenderly to my suffering people.

**People: We will prepare the way for One who is coming.
We look forward to baptism in the Spirit.**

Leader: God will feed us like a shepherd.
God will gather us in gentle, caring arms.

**People: God's hand is upon us in blessing;
We are welcomed by God's steadfast love.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE: #124 *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY:

Leader: How does a weary world find peace?

**People: We find peace when we train our ears, and eyes to
listen for-and see God's word and will for our lives.**

Leader: We promise to spend time in silence and prayer so that we
may discover the gift of God' blessed peace in our lives.

**People: We find peace through our willingness to offer
forgiveness to ourselves and others without**

expectations. We find peace by acknowledging the full worth and value of all of God's people.

Leader: Today we light the candle of Peace so that God's light can shine through the darkness of hate and the tragedy of indifference.

People: **May the light of this candle of peace inspire us to attune our hearts and minds to the power that comes from loving all of God's people, and to the blessedness of receiving Christ's message of peace: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid." (John 14:27) Amen.**

Choral Response: *"A Thousand Candles" #159 vs. 1&2 (sung by choir)*

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

Righteous and holy God, your glory is revealed to us day by day as valleys of despair are lifted up and mountainous problems are leveled. In your presence, we see more than our immediate situation. We catch a glimpse of your eternal purposes. So, come among us now and speak your word of peace. Feed us with your truth, and equip us to welcome Christ's coming. Amen.

(Please be seated)

Gloria Patri #623

*HYMN OF MEDITATION: #141 *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

PASTORAL PRAYER THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

A TIME OF LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: MARK 1:1-8 #812

Choral Response: *"Let the Words of My Mouth" #618*

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION: "PREPARING THE WAY"

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 OF GOING OUT

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

*HYMN SENDING FORTH: #133 *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *“How Brightly Shines the Morning Star”*, Bach
(Please remain seated “quietly” during the postlude.)

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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	Pastor Chris Buckingham-Taylor
Organist	Allen Cadwallader
Zoom Director	Mary K. Kirsch
Worship Producer	Brian Schieferstein
Handbell Choir Director	Shelley Harmych
Choir Director	Jennifer Wasilk
Scripture Reader	Karen Geduldig
Ushers	Fred Helyes, Susan Cherry Linda Gatz, Geoff Gatz

Church News

The Amherst Salvation Army would like to thank St. Peter's UCC for ringing the bells on Dec. 2 at Giant Eagle. We are so appreciative that members volunteer to ring at both doors. This year we want to thank the following members: Ken and Cindy Bring, Jeff Pietch, Alan Murphy, Judy McCurdy, Eleanor Traster, Fred Helyes, Geoff Gatz, Linda Gatz, Becky Woods and Don Ramsey. We'd also like to thank Vicki and Lewis Zeller for helping count the \$930 of bills and coins that was collected. Thanks again to St. Peter's UCC for helping Amherst Salvation Army assist so many Amherst families.

**There will be a short Congregational Meeting
immediately after worship.**

Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Thursday, Dec. 14, 7 PM

Choir Rehearsal | Sunday, Dec. 17, 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.*



Next Sunday is the Third Sunday in Advent

Pastor Chris' Spiritual Reflection for Dec. 17 is,
"A Crying Voice".

Christmas Fund Offering

Next Sunday, Dec. 17th will be the Christmas Fund Offering (formerly Veterans of the Cross). This helps retired and active UCC pastors and families facing financial hardships. Please give generously as gifts make an immediate impact on those who have so faithfully served.

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)



Stop down to the Fellowship Hall for 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

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

Help us continue to move forward in faith by submitting your pledge card, if you have not already done so. Thank you.

“When leaving the church, please make sure to push the door closed. There have been times it’s left unlocked.” *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.11	Communion Visits, 1-4 PM
Tues., Dec. 12	Bible Study, Zoom, 7 PM
Wed., Dec. 13	YOGA with Mary-K, 8:30-9:45 AM Coffee Chats, Sandstone, 9-11 AM The LAST Breeze Service, 7 PM
Thurs., Dec. 14	Preschool Christmas Program YOGA with Mary-K, 6:00-7:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 7 PM
Fri., Dec. 15	Preschool Christmas Program
Sun., Dec. 17	Worship Service, 10 AM Christmas Fund Offering

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

Phone: 440-988-4965

Chris Buckingham-Taylor, Pastor
pastor@stpetersamherst.org 920-650-0761

Christine Burman, Church Council President
president@stpetersamherst.org 440-522-8035

Kaye Oswald, Church Office Administrator
admin.ofc@stpetersamherst.org 440-988-4965

Please visit our website, **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.



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