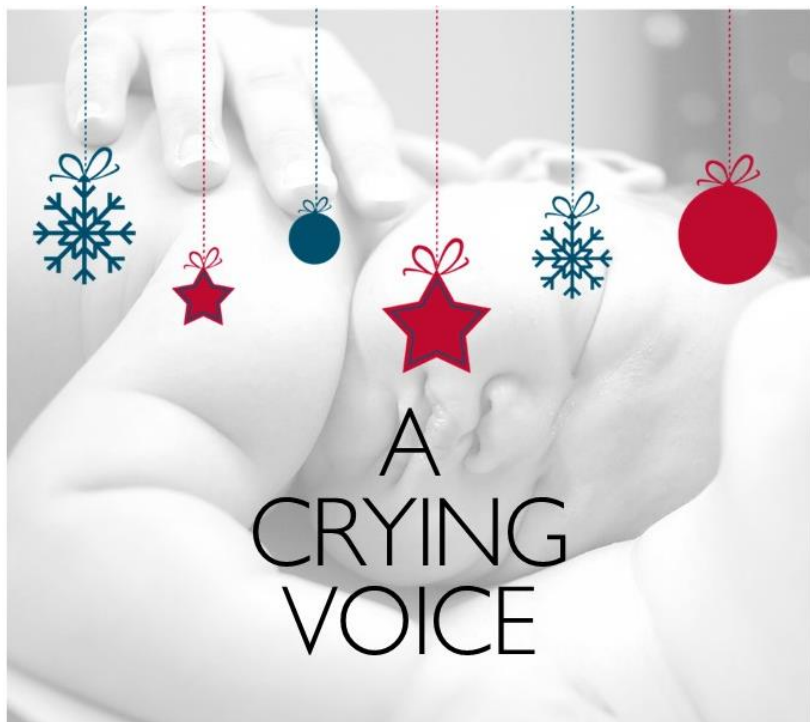




ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



A
CRYING
VOICE

Signs & Wonders

Third Sunday in Advent

December 17, 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

**(Stand as you are able.)*

GATHERING MUSIC

Greeting Announcements Birthdays Anniversaries

PRELUDE: *"Unto Us is Born a Son"*, Traditional

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

Leader: God is in our midst; do not fear.
God rejoices to renew our lives in steadfast love.

**People: God gathers us for this time of worship.
God claims us and promises us a home.**

Leader: Trust in God who is our strength and life.
Give thanks to God, the source of our salvation.

**People: We will sing praises and exalt God's name. With
joyous shouts, we will tell of God's glorious deeds.**

Leader: Rejoice in God, whatever your circumstances.
Remember the good fortune God has shared with you.

**People: We will not worry as we seek God's peace.
We open our hearts and minds to God's leading.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE: #125 *"Joy to the World!"*

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY:

Leader: How do we find "Joy" in a weary world?

**People: We find joy in our hearts and minds as we
celebrate Christ's presence in our lives.**

Leader: Are there times when "Joy" is not present with us?

**People: NO! Joy is always present when we choose to
follow Christ.**

Leader: So, our "Joy" isn't dependent on our moods?

People: No! Our “Joy” comes from a deep well of gratitude within us.

Leader: Today we light the candle of Joy to let the world know how grateful we are to have Christ in our lives.

People: May this light of Joy burn within in all people so that the world may know God is with us! Amen.

Choral Response: *“A Thousand Candles” #159 vs. 1-3 (sung by choir)*

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

Loving God, we rejoice in this season of anticipation as we remember your promises and look forward to ways that you reveal yourself to us. May your presence be real to us in this hour. Strengthen us for victories over temptation, for renewal of our love for you and one another, for leadership and service in your church. We give thanks that you have called us into community and commissioned us to make a difference in the world. Equip us here for the tasks you set before us. Amen.

(Please be seated)

Gloria Patri #623

*HYMN OF MEDITATION: #137 *“What Child is This?”*

PASTORAL PRAYER THE LORD’S PRAYER

Choral Response: #126 *“A Nativity Prayer”*

A TIME OF LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28 #862

CHOIR ANTHEM: *“O Come Emmanuel”* #123

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

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION: *“A CRYING VOICE”*

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: #144 *"How Great Our Joy!"*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *"The Linden Tree Carol"*, Old German

(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
Organist

Pastor Chris Buckingham-Taylor
Allen Cadwallader

Zoom Director
Worship Producer
Handbell Choir Director
Choir Director
Scripture Reader
Ushers

Mary K. Kirsch
Brian Schieferstein
Shelley Harmych
Jennifer Wasilk
Neil Wasilk
Fred Helyes, Earl Wiegand
Shelley Harmych, Walter Beale

Church News



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

Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Thursday, Dec. 21, 7 PM
(There will be no rehearsal on Dec. 28th)

Choir Rehearsal | Sunday, Dec. 24, 9 AM & 6:30 PM

St. Elizabeth Homeless Shelter 2726 Caroline Ave., Lorain

Every 3rd Wednesday of the month volunteers help feed the hungry. This week on **Wednesday, Dec. 20** we need volunteer(s) to serve starting at 4:30 PM, or to bake cookies or cupcakes. If you want to help or have questions, please call **Betty Pekare at 440-245-1231**. Thank you for your help!

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

We are also collecting 'regular food items' for families with 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 Fourth Sunday in Advent

Pastor Chris' Spiritual Reflection for Dec. 24, 10 AM is "Wonder".

The Christmas Eve service will start at 7 PM.

The Spiritual Reflection will be "The Good Old Days".



The Butterfly is a symbol for transformation and the immortal soul. **Can you find this ornament on our Chrismon Tree? If you find it see Linda for a treat!**

Christmas Fund Offering

Today we will receive our 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)

**Thank You to Compassionate Care, Circle Six,
and Christine Burman** *from Ralph Zilch* for the beautiful
blanket that was delivered to him by Pastor Chris. Ralph made
the effort to stop by the office to convey his thanks to all.

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.18 Communion Visits, 1-4 PM
 Church Council Meeting, 7 PM Zoom
 Preschool starts Christmas vacation
- Tues., Dec. 19 Bible Study, Zoom, 7 PM
- Wed., Dec. 20 YOGA with Mary-K, 8:30-9:45 AM
 Coffee Chats, Sandstone, 9-11 AM
- Thurs., Dec. 21 YOGA with Mary-K, 6:00-7:15 PM
 Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 7 PM
- Sun., Dec. 24 Worship Service, 10 AM, Choir Rehearsal 9 AM
 Christmas Eve Service, 7 PM with Communion
 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM

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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