



ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



THE
GOOD OLD
DAYS

Signs & Wonders

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

**(Stand as you are able.)*

GATHERING MUSIC

HANDBELL CHOIR: *"What Child is this?"*

PRELUDE: *"Come, Savior of the Nations"*, Bach

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

Leader: God reigns; let the earth rejoice.
God saves; may all human kind respond with joy.

**People: We are the people of God, rescued and redeemed.
God sends light to guide us on our way.**

Leader: Give thanks to God's holy name.
Praise God's goodness and loving kindness.

**People: We are called to prepare the way for others;
We have good news to share with the world.**

Leader: A child comes as God's sign of peace.
Glory to God in the highest.

**People: We have come to see what God is doing.
Let us glorify and praise God in our worship.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE: #145 *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

CHRIST CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY: *(The Woods Family)*

Reader 1: Rejoice, people of God! The light has come into the world.
O God, now we light the candle of your nativity!

Reader 2: With the company of heaven and with sounds of great
joy, you come to us. This is the time of light and
resplendent joy.

God has been born among us. We remember...

Reader 1: The prophet Isaiah proclaimed a time when those who
walked in the shadows would see a great light. A light

would shine and a child would be born to us. The evangelist Luke painted the nativity sky and repeated the heavenly song of the angels, "Glory, peace on earth and goodwill!" John declared that this great light is Christ, the Word made flesh. This great light lives among us. By it we behold God's glory—full of grace and truth. At Christ's nativity, we now rejoice.

People: God, our Life and Light, thank you for coming this night to us. Thanks for touching all heaven and earth with your splendor. In every corner of the world, shine this night with your peace. In every corner of our hearts, shine this night with your grace. Amen.

Choral Response: *"A Thousand Candles" #159 vs. 1-4 (sung by choir)*

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

Come, righteous God, to the forsaken corners of our cities, to the ghettos of self-protection we erect around us, to troubled lives focused on things that do not satisfy. We cling to the story that you have acted in human history to bring light and hope and joy, even in the midst of fear, oppression, and suffering. You have offered to humankind the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. May this gathering awaken hope and open us to the gifts you are even now waiting to give us. Amen

*HYMN OF MEDITATION: #132 *"Angels We have Heard on High"*
(Please be seated)

PASTORAL PRAYER THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

A TIME OF LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: LUKE 2:1-20 #832

CHOIR ANTHEM: #140 *"Communion Hymn for Christmas"*

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION: "THE GOOD OLD DAYS"

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 #147 *“Silent Night! Holy Night!”*
Sing Verses 1, 2, & 3

Accompanied by the Handbell Choir. *The Hymnal for Worship & Celebration.*

Bells play one time through before the congregation sings.

Then the **congregation sings vs. 1, 2, 3** accompanied by the bells.

Then after singing vs. 3, the bells will play one last time alone.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *“From Heaven Above to Earth I come”*, Walther
(Please remain seated “quietly” during the postlude.)

The Hymnal For Worship and Celebration ©1986 Word Music. Used by/with permission
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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 | Neil Wasilk |
| Ushers | Louis Zeller, Susan Cherry,
Fred Helyes, Al Murphy |

Church News

Help Feed our Children!



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

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

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.



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

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)

If you are visiting for the first time, we would *love* to have you **join us each Sunday at 10AM**. The avowed purpose of this church shall be to worship God, to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to celebrate the Sacraments: to realize Christian fellowship and unity within this church and the Church Universal; to render loving service toward mankind; and to strive for righteousness, justice and peace.

Watch for St. Peter's to offer unique activities like outdoor services during the summer months (pets welcomed!), a Pet Blessing in October, and Pumpkin Rolls in November, and more!

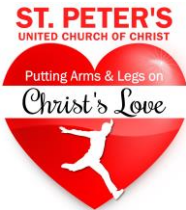
We have a **Preschool** dedicated to providing the best introduction for children to the world of learning in a bright, cheerful place where children can come together to develop their skills, make friends, and learn by having fun with a variety of activities. Our teachers are friendly and highly skilled in meeting the needs of preschool children. For more information contact our Director, Wendy Kosakowski at 440-985-1972.

*“From his fullness
we have all received,
grace upon grace.”*

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.25	Christmas Day office closed
Tues., Dec. 26	Christmas holiday office closed
Wed., Dec. 27	YOGA with Mary-K, 8:30-9:45 AM Coffee Chats, Sandstone, 9-11 AM
Thurs., Dec. 28	YOGA with Mary-K, 6:00-7:15 PM No Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Sun., Dec. 31	Worship Service, 10 AM, Choir Rehearsal, 9 AM

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.

ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Please remember St. Peter's UCC in your will.