



ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



MY EYES
HAVE SEEN YOUR
SALVATION

“Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.”

December 31, 2023
First Sunday after Christmas

ORDER OF WORSHIP

**(Stand as you are able.)*

GATHERING MUSIC

Greeting Announcements Birthdays Anniversaries

PRELUDE

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

Leader: Rejoice in God, who is our life and salvation.
Christ has come to make us heirs of God's promises.

**People: God commanded, and we were created.
We are children of the Most High.**

Leader: Praise God from the heights of heaven.
Praise God, all people of the earth.

**People: God opens our eyes to see the light.
We will be called by a new name.**

Leader: Men and women, youth and aged,
Sing of God's glory; shout your praise.

**People: God has made us heirs of promise.
We will praise God's holy name.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE: #151** *"Good Christian Men, Rejoice"*

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

Faithful God, by whose Spirit all people and places become holy, lead us by that Spirit today. We have come to celebrate a birth that offers us rebirth. We have gathered that you might claim us as heirs, with Christ, of eternal life. Unite our hearts and minds in a chorus of praise, that the life of this church might be quickened, renewed, and refocused. May our faithful people become a crown of beauty in your hands. Amen.

***HYMN OF MEDITATION: #135** *“While Shepherds Watched
Their Flocks”*

(Please be seated)

PASTORAL PRAYER THE LORD’S PRAYER

A TIME OF LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: LUKE 2:22-40 #833

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION: “THE BLESSING”

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: #138** *“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

(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	Penny Knepper
Ushers	Earl Wiegand, Walter Beale, Lynn Hollstein

Church News

Coffee & Chats
with PASTOR CHRIS

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

Handbell Choir Rehearsal on Jan. 4, 7 PM

Choir Rehearsal | Sunday, Jan. 7, 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

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.

Circle Six Meeting, Jan. 2 at 6 PM

Our next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 2 at 6:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Bring your own dinner and your favorite game to play for Game Night. The extended weather forecast appears to be good, so I look forward to seeing everyone there. *-Sally Readinger, President*

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)

*Rejoice in God, who is our life and salvation.
 Christ has come to make us heirs of God's promises.*

Happy New Year



Millions of people make New Year's resolutions, hoping to spark positive change. The recurring themes each year include a more active approach to health and fitness. Following are suggestions for what God would have us do:

1. Read Your Bible 20 Minutes a Day, Every Day
2. Go to Church Every Week Without Fail
3. Set Aside 15 Minutes Each Day to Pray
4. Join our Bible Study Tues., 7 PM on Zoom
5. Try Fasting
6. Ask a Friend to Church
7. Begin Volunteering
8. Start Tithing
9. Read a Christian Based Book Each Month
10. Memorize Scripture



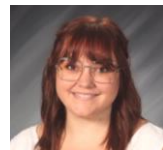
Wendy Kosakowski



Heather Nail



Kerri Kobyłka



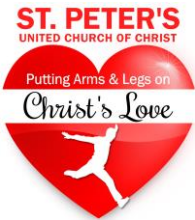
Ms. Stempowski

The Preschool will resume classes on Wednesday, Jan. 3rd. We offer the best possible introduction for children to the world of learning.

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., Jan. 1	New Year's Day Office Closed
Tues., Jan. 2	Circle Six Meeting 6 PM Bible Study, Zoom, 7 PM
Wed., Jan. 3	YOGA with Mary-K, 8:30-9:45 AM Coffee Chats, Sandstone, 9-11 AM
Thurs., Jan. 4	YOGA with Mary-K, 6:00-7:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 7 PM
Sun., Jan. 7	Worship Service, 10 AM, Communion

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.