



ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



January 7, 2024 | Baptism of Jesus

ORDER OF WORSHIP

**(Stand as you are able.)*

GATHERING MUSIC

Greeting Announcements Birthdays Anniversaries

PRELUDE: *“Prelude in E minor”*, Bach

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

Leader: The powerful voice of God created all worlds.
That same voice calls us to worship.

**People: Ascribe to our God glory and strength.
Come before God’s glorious majesty.**

Leader: God’s strength shakes the wilderness.
That same strength is offered to people of faith.

**People: The flames of God penetrate our cold hearts.
May God bless all people with true peace.**

Leader: Come together to remember your baptism.
Gather to celebrate the Spirit’s gifts.

**People: The heavens open to us at the Word of God.
Surely God forgives and makes us whole.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE: #163 *“As With Gladness Men of Old”*

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

In the beginning, O God, you fashioned a universe. Each star and planet had its beginning in you. Out of the void, you brought light and life. Through acts of creativity, you have acted, and today we are here, inheritors of an amazing process, tiny specks in the limitless reaches of time and space. And you are here, waiting to greet us. As you acted in our baptism, you are acting still to make all things new within us and among us. Let your light awaken us and your Spirit empower us for faithful living. Amen.

*HYMN OF MEDITATION: #164 *“One Small Child”*

(Please be seated)

PASTORAL PRAYER THE LORD’S PRAYER

A TIME OF LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: MARK 1:4-11 #812

HANDBELL CHOIR: *“He Leadeth Me”*, William B. Bradbury
Arr. by Nancy Tipton

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION: *“A PARENT’S LOVE”*

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *"Jesus! Oh, How Could It Be True"*, Gieseke
(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	Judy McCurdy
Ushers	Earl Wiegand, Dave Rice, Karen Geduldig, Fred Helyes

Church News

Handbell Choir Rehearsal | Thursday | Jan. 11, 7 PM

Choir Rehearsal | Sunday, Jan. 14 , 9 AM



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

We hope everyone can join us this week, as this will be the last Coffee Chat with Pastor Chris. All are welcome!

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.

Crop Hunger Walk 2023 Update

The total for the Crop Hunger Walk for 2023 is \$970.00. This will be doubled by Nordson Corporation, and 25% will go to the Amherst Food Pantry at Good Shepherd Baptist Church. Thank you again to those who walked and contributed!

*The powerful voice of God
created all worlds.*

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)

“For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ Jesus have clothed yourself with Christ. **There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.**” —Galatians 3:26-28

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Through baptism a person is joined with the universal church, the body of Christ. In baptism, God works in us the power of forgiveness, the renewal of the spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be God's people always.

Baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the sign and seal of our common discipleship. Since baptism is God's gift, the Holy Spirit is called to be upon the water and those being baptized. The act of baptism also marks the beginning of new life of discipleship with Christ, the human response to that gift.

Praise be to God for the gift of baptism!

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!*

We hope everyone can make it to worship with us next Sunday, as this will be Pastor Chris' last service. An excerpt from his letter in January's KEY:

"As we begin a new year, I only have one thought—Thank You! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your pastor. I know this isn't what you wanted, nor is it what I wanted when I accepted your call over two years ago. Even though my last Sunday with you is the 14th of January, I am thankful for all that we have been through together and for the valuable lessons I have learned from you. St. Peter's UCC will forever be a part of my heart and ministry. I also truly believe that when I accepted your call to serve as pastor, that this call was from God. It was God who brought us together in ministry and it is God who is providing our mutual paths forward in faith...I'm sad that it has come to an end so soon, but we all must listen to God's call and then respond in faith, no matter how challenging or difficult it may be. I know this isn't going to be an easy time for you and for the leaders who are faithfully working to find a new pastor for St. Peter's UCC. However, I also know that God is good! All the time, God is good! And God will see you through!" -Pastor Chris



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. 8	Communion Visits, 1-4 PM
Tues., Jan. 9	Bible Study, Zoom, 7 PM
Wed., Jan. 10	YOGA with Mary-K, 8:30-9:45 AM Coffee Chats, Sandstone, 9-11 AM
Thurs., Jan. 11	YOGA with Mary-K, 6:00-7:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 7 PM
Sun., Jan. 14	Worship Service, 10 AM Choir Rehearsal 9 AM Pastor Chris last Sunday

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
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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.