



ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“The people walking in
darkness have seen a great
light; on those living in
the land of deep darkness a
light has dawned.”

ISAIAH 9:2



HOPE

First Sunday in Advent
December 1, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

**(Stand as you are able.)*

GATHERING MUSIC

Greeting Announcements Birthdays Anniversaries

PASTOR: *"This is the day the lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."*

PRELUDE

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

Leader: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

People: Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful Songs.

Leader: Know that the Lord is God.

People: It is he who made us and we are His; we are his people, the Sheep of His pasture.

Leader: Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.

People: Give thanks to Him and praise His name to all.

Leader: For the Lord is good and His love endures forever.

People: His faithfulness continues through all generations.

*HYMN OF PRAISE: #119 *"O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful"*

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY: *(By the Rev. Sara Speed)* Vicki Zeller

Leader: How does a weary world hope?

People: By telling stories of hope, by lighting candles in the night, and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring.

Leader: By praying for children as they grow and picking up trash on the sidewalk.

People: By insisting that small acts can make a difference.

Leader: There are a million ways to practice hope. So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

All: With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world. Amen.

Choral Response: **(All sing)** "A Thousand Candles" #159 verse 1

*** MORNING PRAYER/INVOCATION** (*Unison*) Vicki Zeller

Let us give thanks to our Lord for we know He is good. We ask our Lord to help those who have pain, illness within and challenges each day at work, home or at play. Guide us to be with those in need when prayer is necessary and they are alone, and afraid of what tomorrow may bring. Let us pray for those at war - countries and nations who have the anger, the jealousy, and their hate so out of control that they may realize that love and kindness is the way to live today and with our brothers and sisters. For we are all children of God and he loves each of us. His love endures forever and we need to turn back to him and be His servants at this time of fear, hate and anger against our neighbors. Amen.

Choral Response (All Sing): *Gloria Patri* #623

(Please be seated)

HYMN OF MEDITATION: #147 "Silent Night"

PASTORAL PRAYER LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

A TIME OF LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD Vicki Zeller

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: ROMANS 5: 1-5 #917

HANDBELL CHOIR: "Westminster Chimes", Douglas E. Wagner
O Lord, our God, be thou our guide; That by thy help, no foot shall slide.

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION: "THE SEASON OF JESUS' COMING"

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

As we join in taking communion this morning,
let us share in a moment of silence.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

People: It is right to give our Thanks and Praise.

PASTOR: 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

(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!

WORSHIP TEAM

Guest Lay Minister

Organist

Zoom Director

Worship Producer

Handbell Choir Director

Choir Director

Scripture Reader

Ushers

Carol Struck

Allen Cadwallader

Mary K. Kirsch

Brian Schieferstein

Shelley Harmych

Jennifer Wasilk

Vicki Zeller

Fred Helyes, Lynda Helyes

Christine Burman, Don Ramsey

Church News

Circle Six December Events

Circle Six will hold its next **meeting on Tuesday, December 3 at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. At 7:00 pm the Amherst Madrigal Singers** will be performing in the Sanctuary and the congregation is invited to attend. Refreshments will be served afterward in Fellowship Hall.

On **Tuesday, December 10 at 7:00 pm**, we are very fortunate to have **violinist Mary Beth Ions** returning to entertain us in the Sanctuary. Mary Beth has performed with the Cleveland Pops Orchestra and in the orchestra pit for Broadway shows at Playhouse Square as well as other notable venues. She plays anything from Beethoven, to Beatles, Broadway, country fiddle, classical concertos and beyond. This wonderful event is open to the congregation and the public so please pass this information along to your neighbors and friends. **Tickets are free and are available from any Circle Six member or in the church**

office. Donations will be accepted and refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall following the program.

Circle Six will be holding our **annual Christmas cookie sale** in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, **December 15**. Be sure to mark your calendar!

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 help children as we partner with the Good Shepherd Baptist Church. 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.*

They will also be making up **Christmas Care Packages** that will include food, plus a gift card. They're asking for donations of stuffing, instant potatoes, gravy (bottled or canned), and canned pumpkin pie mix or puree. Thank you for your help!

Ring the Bell!

On Sat. Dec. 14, St. Peter's UCC will be ringing the bell for the **Amherst Salvation Army** at the Amherst Giant Eagle store. Proceeds are used to assist needy families in Amherst. St. Peter's has had a long tradition of assisting the Salvation Army's Red Kettles at Christmas. Volunteers may sign up starting at 9 AM for **1 hour time blocks**, and we need 2 ringers each hour. Please see Don Ramsey if you have any questions.

The envelopes today are for **“Our Church's Wider Mission” (OCWM)** which supports disaster ministry efforts across the globe and supports churches as they strive for a more just, peaceful, and compassionate world. And, makes our church a “5 for 5” congregation meaning we support all five UCC denominational offerings throughout the year. Thank you!

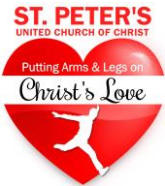
YOGA with Mary-K

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)

Please join us each Sunday in Advent as we journey closer to the manger, and for our Christmas Eve Candlelight service on Dec. 24th starting at 7 PM.

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.



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**



This Week's Events

Mon., Dec. 2	Communion Visits, 1-4 PM
Tues., Dec. 3	Circle Six Meeting at 6 PM followed by the Amherst Madrigal Singers, 7 PM in the Sanctuary Bible Study, Zoom, 7 PM
Wed., Dec. 4	YOGA with Mary-K, 8:30-9:45 AM Coffee Chats, Sandstone, 9-11 AM
Thurs., Dec. 5	Compassionate Care Meeting, 10:30 AM YOGA with Mary-K, 6:00-7:15 PM
Sun., Dec. 8	Worship Service, 10 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

We are currently searching for a new pastor. If you need help, please contact either Christine or Kaye at the phone numbers below.

Christine Burman, Church Council President
president@stpetersamherst.org 440-988-4965

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 estate planning.