



**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 29, 2024  
First Sunday after Christmas

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# 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.)* Karen Geduldig

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Leader: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Leader: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*(Brief silence for reflection and self-examination)*

Leader: Gracious God,

**People: Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Leader: God who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead to sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE: #151 *“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”*

\***MORNING PRAYER/INVOCATION** (*Unison*) Karen Geduldig

Leader: The Word was made flesh and we beheld his glory.

**People: Oh come, let us worship him.**

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**People: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Leader: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**People: We have beheld Christ’s glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

Leader: For unto us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**People: In him was life, and the life was the light of man.**

Leader: Let us pray...

**People: Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

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

**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.

Choral Response: #126 "A Nativity Prayer" (sung by Congregation)

**TIME OF LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD** Karen Geduldig

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: COLOSSIANS 3:12-17 #958

GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 2:41-52 #833

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION: "THE ORIGINAL HOME ALONE"

## **A TIME OF GIVING**

PASTOR: 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)*

PASTOR: OFFERTORY PRAYER

## **A TIME OF GOING OUT**

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*(We offer one another the peace of Christ for the week ahead.)*

Congregation sings "We Wish You a Merry Christmas"

*We wish you a Merry Christmas,*

*We wish you a Merry Christmas,*

*We wish you a Merry Christmas,*

*And a Happy New Year!*

*Good tidings to you wherever you are.*

*Good tidings for Christmas and a Happy New Year!  
We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
And a Happy New Year!*

\*HYMN SENDING FORTH: #148 "O Holy Night"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*(Please remain seated "quietly" during the postlude.)*

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*Everyone is Welcome!*

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**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**

Guest Lay Minister	Chris Neumann
Organist	Allen Cadwallader
Zoom Director	Mary K. Kirsch
Zoom Assistant	Tom Hollstein
Worship Producer	Brian Schieferstein
Handbell Choir Director	Shelley Harmych
Choir Director	Jennifer Wasilk
Scripture Reader	Karen Geduldig
Ushers	Fred Helyes, Lynda Helyes, Judy McCurdy, Sue Cherry

# Church News

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## *Help Feed our Children!*



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

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- . 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.*

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

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

# 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)

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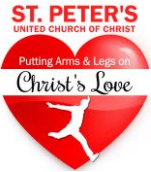
## Office Hours for 2025

The office will be open Monday-Thursday, 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM.  
If you need anything on Friday, please leave me a message  
and I will return your call Monday morning. Or contact council  
president, Judy McCurdy if it's urgent. Thank you!

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Please fill out the Participation cards and drop into the  
offering plate. *Cards should be filled out weekly.* Thank you!

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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

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Mon., Dec. 30	Spiritual Life visits during the week
Tues., Dec. 31	New Year's Eve
Wed., Jan. 1	New Year's Day Office Closed YOGA with Mary-K, 8:30-9:45 AM
Thurs., Jan. 2	YOGA with Mary-K, 6:00-7:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 7 PM
<b>Fri., Jan. 3</b>	<b>Coffee Chats, Sandstone, 9-11 AM</b>
Sun., Jan. 5	Worship Service, 10 AM, Communion

## How To Reach Us

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**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](http://www.stpetersamherst.org)

**Phone:** 440-988-4965

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Kaye Oswald, Church Office Administrator  
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Please visit our website, **[www.stpetersamherst.org](http://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.*