



**ST. PETER'S**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**January 12, 2025 | First Sunday after Epiphany**

# 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 Susan Conkle

ONE: Come all God's people and listen to the voice of God.

**ALL: God's voice is in the murmur of the waters.**

ONE: The water is cleansing and refreshing.

**ALL: Water reminds us of our vows to follow Christ.**

ONE: Baptism clears a way for new life.

**ALL: Our baptism reminds us that we are God's people,  
that we join together in love and service.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE: #166 *"We Three Kings"*

\***MORNING PRAYER/INVOCATION** *(Unison)* Susan Conkle

ONE: From the formless waters God created life  
and called them good.

**ALL: In the waters of the river Jordan,  
John baptized Jesus, the source of living water.**

ONE: Christ invites all who thirst to come and drink.

**ALL: Our baptism with water is a symbol of  
our covenant with Christ.**

ONE: It reminds us that we too shall welcome all to  
the living water.

**ALL: Come all, prepare your hearts and minds to drink  
the living water.**

ONE: We are beloved, but it is so hard to be love itself!

**ALL: We try and try, but we sometimes fail.**

ONE: We repent, and ask for forgiveness.

**ALL: You give us the gift of water, to remind us that we can begin anew.**

ONE: Even if we have strayed, we know that you can set us again on the path to you.

**ALL: God, you know us and love us, and we are honored to be your beloved.**

Choral Response: *"Gloria Patri"* #623

*(Please be seated)*

HYMN OF MEDITATION: #167 *"O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"*

**PRAYERS & CONCERNS 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 Voice Choir)

**TIME OF LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD** Susan Conkle

EPISTLE LESSON: Acts 8:14-17 #892

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 #834

CHOIR ANTHEM: *"Adoration"*

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION: *"Named, Claimed and Loved"*

**A TIME OF GIVING**

PASTOR: OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

\*Doxology #625 unison prayer of dedication

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 #138 "Go Tell it On the Mountain"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

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*God is eager to restore us to right  
relationships. The Creator is waiting  
to claim us now as God's own.*



*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!

## **WORSHIP TEAM**

Guest Minister	Rev. Gary Halstead
Organist	
Zoom Director	Mary K. Kirsch
Zoom Assistant	Tom Hollstein
Worship Producer	Brian Schieferstein
Handbell Choir Director	Shelley Harmych
Scripture Reader	Susan Conkle
Ushers	Fred Helyes, Lynda Helyes, Gary Thompson, Don Ramsey

# Church News

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## **Year-End Offering Statements**

Becky Woods has sent out emails of your year-end offering statement. For those who don't use email, check the tables at the back of the pews and make sure to pick them up. We're trying to save money wherever possible! Thank you.

## **Circle Six Meeting**

Circle Six will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, February 4 at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. At 7:00 pm John Kowalski will be providing live music in the Sanctuary. The congregation is invited to attend as well as friends and family. Members are asked to bring finger foods to share in Fellowship Hall following the program. *Sincerely, Sally Readinger, President*

# 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

There's still a great need for the following items for the Pantry:

- 1. Peanut Butter**
- 2. Spaghetti Sauce**
- 3. Canned Tuna or Chicken**

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 for all you do in helping others!

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## Ponderings About St. Peter's

We have been looking at the Symbols of the Twelve Apostles. So far, we have learned about St. Peter and St. John. This Sunday we will look at St. Thomas. All most of us know about him was that he was the apostle who "doubted" and needed to touch Jesus' wounds to confirm that Christ had been resurrected. Scholars think he might have been a twin. They also point out that Thomas asked questions when the other apostles just wondered (John 14:5). Thomas also showed that he was ready to die with Christ (John 11:16). Thomas as a missionary spread the Gospel outside the Roman Empire and was the first to bring it to the Far East. Because of his work in India, he is their Patron Saint. There is no concrete proof of how he died but one account says he was stoned, shot down with arrows and then stabbed with a spear. This shield shows these symbols plus a carpenter's square because he built a church in India.

*“Look at the birds of the air...”*

WORRY DOES NOT EMPTY TOMORROW OF ITS' SORROWS;  
IT EMPTIES TODAY OF ITS' STRENGTH.

## **St. Elizabeth Homeless Shelter**

2726 Caroline Ave., Lorain

Wednesday, Jan. 15th, we need volunteers to serve starting at 4:30 PM, or to bake cookies or cupcakes. If you want to help or have questions, please contact Betty Pekare.

## **YOGA with Mary-K**

Wednesday Mornings | 8:30-9:45 AM

Thursday Evenings | 6:00-7:15 PM

Cost is \$10 per class.

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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.

For safety reasons the front steps to the sanctuary will be closed for the months of January and February. The elevator and west Walker lobby doors will be open. 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**

# What's Happening

## This Week's Events

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Mon., Jan. 13	Spiritual Life visitations throughout the week
Tues., Jan. 14	Bible Study 7 PM
Wed., Jan. 15	YOGA with Mary-K 8:30-9:45 AM Coffee Chats, Sandstone 9-11 AM St. Elizabeth Shelter meal, 4:30 PM
Thurs., Jan. 16	YOGA with Mary-K, 6-7:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 7 PM
Sun., Jan. 19	Worship Service 10 AM

## How To Reach Us

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**Office Hours:** Monday–Thursday 8:30-2:30 PM

**Address:** 582 Church St. Amherst OH 44001

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

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Kaye Oswald, Church Office Administrator  
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*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**  
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*Please remember St. Peter's UCC in your estate planning.*