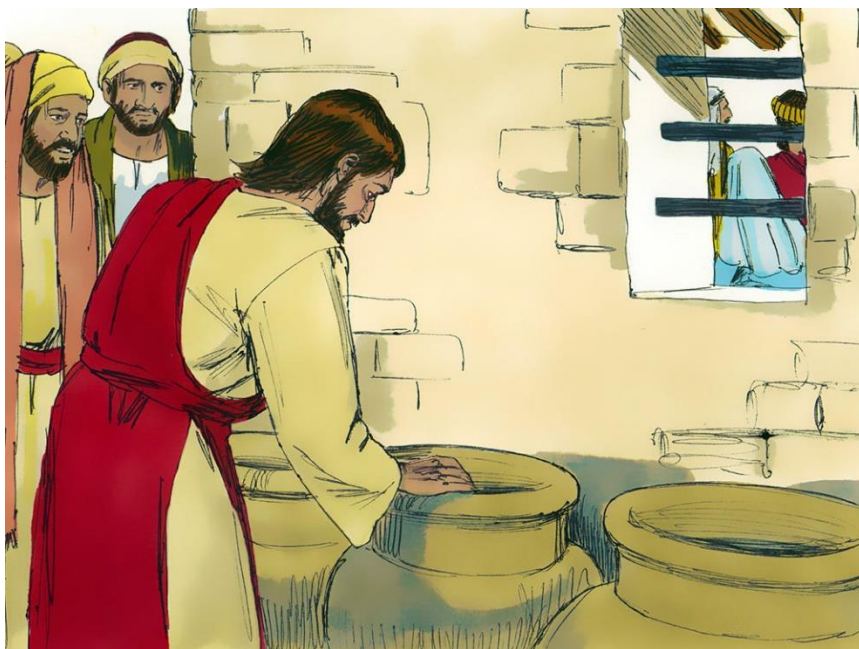




ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



FIRST MIRACLE

HIS MOTHER SAID TO THE SERVANTS,
"DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU."

Jan. 26, 2025 | Third 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**

Stacy Gleason

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

People: Amen.

Leader: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires
known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the
thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy
Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily
magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our 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.

People: Amen

*HYMN OF PRAISE: #201 *"Grace Greater than our Sin"*

***MORNING PRAYER/INVOCATION** (*Unison*) Stacy Gleason

Leader: Holy is the Lord, the Almighty.

People: He was, he is, and he is to come.

Leader: He is worthy of glory and honor and power.

People: He created all things. By his will they came to be.

Leader: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain.

People: Worthy to take the scroll and break its seals.

Leader: By his blood he purchased for God

People: People of every race and tongue, of every folk and nation.

Leader: Christ made of them a kingdom

People: And priests to serve our God.

Leader: And they shall reign on earth forever.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: Let us pray...

People: Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Choral Response: *"Gloria Patri"* #623

Please be seated.

HYMN OF MEDITATION: #204 *"Rock of Ages"*

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: *"Lord Listen to Your Children Praying"*

A TIME OF LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: ISAIAH 62:1-5 #604

GOSPEL LESSON: JOHN 2:1-11 #863

CHOIR ANTHEM: *"God's Holiness"*

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION: "THE BEST IS YET TO COME"

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.)

Choral Response: *"God Be With You"* verse 1

*HYMN SENDING FORTH #601 *"Lord Dismiss us with Thy Blessing"*

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

Guest Lay Minister	Chris Neumann
Organist	
Zoom Director	Mary K. Kirsch
Zoom Assistant	Tom Hollstein
Worship Producer	Brian Schieferstein
Handbell Choir Director	Shelley Harmych
Scripture Reader	Stacy Gleason
Ushers	Karen Geduldig, Betty Pekare, Judy McCurdy, Sue Cherry

Church News

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 a great need for the following items for the Food Pantry:

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

Please keep the family of June Nau in your prayers in the following weeks ahead as she went home to be with the Lord on Jan. 23rd.

Ponderings About St. Peter's



This week let's look at the front of our sanctuary. As you face the altar to the left is a pulpit with a Bible on it. From the diagram below you can see that the pulpit itself has changed over time and today it often reflects the architectural style of the church. The practice of speaking God's word from a raised platform dates back to the Old Testament. Examples are found in Nehemiah 8:4 and Exodus 30:1-3. The Biblical example we are all most familiar with would be Jesus using the mountainside as His pulpit for the "Sermon on the Mount". The Pulpit Bible is usually a special more ornate edition with a larger font to make it easier to read. The Bible is a symbol of divine communication and authority. Our present Pulpit Bible was presented by the Schieferstein Family on March 20, 1955 in memory of Mr. & Mrs. George Schieferstein (grandparents) and Mr. & Mrs. Henry Schieferstein (parents). These would be Brian Schieferstein's grandparents and great grandparents.

Benefits of Making a QCD

One of the advantages of making a donation through your IRA's, Qualified Charitable Distribution is tax savings to you when you are required to make a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), plus it can lower your Adjusted Gross Income. This can be a WIN WIN for you and your charity. You can find out the process by calling your financial advisor. Just another way you can help your church.

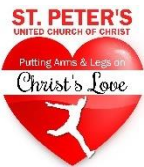
YOGA with Mary-K

Wednesday Mornings | 8:30-9:45 AM
Thursday Evenings | 6:00-7:15 PM
Cost is \$10 per class.

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.

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**

Do you have a favorite hymn?

Please write it down on the back of your *blue* Participation card and place in the offering plate. *Thank you, Jen Wasilk*



----- **This Week's Events** -----

Mon., Jan. 27	Spiritual Life visitations throughout the week
Tues., Jan. 28	Bible Study 7 PM, Zoom
Wed., Jan. 29	YOGA with Mary-K 8:30-9:45 AM Coffee Chats, Sandstone 9-11 AM
Thurs., Jan. 30	YOGA with Mary-K, 6-7:15 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 7 PM
Sun., Feb. 2	Worship Service 10 AM

----- **How To Reach Us** -----

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

Address: 582 Church St. Amherst OH 44001

Website: www.stpetersamherst.org

Phone: 440-988-4965

Judy McCurdy, 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.