



ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

...LOVE YOUR ENEMIES?
It's radical!

“IF YOU LOVE THOSE WHO LOVE YOU, WHAT CREDIT IS THAT TO YOU? FOR EVEN SINNERS LOVE THOSE WHO LOVE THEM... BUT LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, DO GOOD, AND LEND, EXPECTING NOTHING IN RETURN. YOUR REWARD WILL BE GREAT, AND YOU WILL BE CHILDREN OF THE MOST HIGH”



LOVE IS THE ONLY
FORCE CAPABLE OF
TRANSFORMING AN
ENEMY INTO A
FRIEND.

Feb. 23, 2025 | Seventh 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: *"Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier", BWV 731*
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (based on Psalm 92) Sally Readinger

Leader: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to God's holy name, to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,

People: to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. O Lord, you have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands, I sing for joy.

Leader: The righteous flourish and grow. They flourish in the house of God. How great are your works, O God!
Your thoughts are profound!

People: In community, we seek your holiness. We follow you in worship, with love, generosity, and joy.

Leader: Let's Worship God together. AMEN

*HYMN OF PRAISE: #335 *"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"*

***MORNING PRAYER/INVOCATION** (*Unison*) Sally Readinger

Steadfast Lover of Humanity, we seek to base our lives on the love of Jesus. We come to you as those who search for ways to love more wisely, more genuinely, more steadily. From day to day, may we be passionate, patient, faithful and accepting, forgiving in loving one another and this world of many people. Through your Spirit, build your church into a living temple, a

sign of your presence on earth, through Jesus Christ,
our foundation. Amen.

Choral Response: "*Gloria Patri*" #623

(Please be seated.)

HYMN OF MEDITATION: #183 "*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*"

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 Sally Readinger

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 45:3-11, 15 #37

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 6:27-38 #838

CHOIR ANTHEM: "*Jesus Leads Me*"

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION: "Will You Ever Forgive Me?"

A TIME OF GIVING

OFFERING INVITATION: As followers of Jesus, we seek to minister to one another, our community, and the world. To this ministry we bring our time, talents, and other resources as we are able, asking God's blessing as we go out to love and serve. Let's give and receive this morning's offering.

OFFERTORIUM: "*III. Offertoire sur les Grands Jeux*", François Couperin (1668-1733), Messe propre pour les Convents de Religieux et Religieuses

*Doxology #625 unison prayer of dedication

PASTOR: OFFERTORY PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

A TIME OF GOING OUT

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

Choral Response: #602 "God Be With You" vs. 1 (sung by choir)

*HYMN SENDING FORTH #601 "Lord Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing"

BENEDICTION

Leader: God is always with us. Even when times get difficult and the way is not clear,

People: God is truly by our side.

Leader: We go to serve God with joy.

People: We go in peace. Amen.

Leader: May God bless you and keep you well. God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. God asks us to accept the joys and costs of discipleship. Therefore, go out into the world carrying with you the peace of Christ, the Love of the Creator and the encouragement of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

POSTLUDE: "6. Final[e]. Moderato, Symphonie IV, Op.13 No. 4
Charles- Marie Widor(1844-1937)

(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 Minister	Rev. Alana Kelley
Organist	Daesean Lawson
Zoom Director	Mary K. Kirsch
Zoom Assistant	Tom Hollstein
Worship Producer	Brian Schieferstein
Handbell Choir Director	Shelley Harmych
Scripture Reader	Sally Readinger
Ushers	Betty Pekare, Gary Thompson, Fred Helyes

Church News

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*

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 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!

Ponderings About St. Peter's

I remember as a child in Sunday School filling a "Mite Box" during Lent that would be presented in church on Easter Sunday. Perhaps you did something similar, and I know you have heard the lesson about the Widow's Mite. The following is from an Elder at St. Peter's, Mr. Ernest McChesney.

THE DOLLAR AND THE CENT

A big silver dollar and a little brown cent
Rolling along, together they went;
Rolling along the smooth sidewalk,
When the dollar remarked, for the dollar can talk,
"You poor little cent, you cheap little mite!
I'm bigger and more than twice as bright.
I'm worth more than you, a hundredfold,
And written on me in letters bold
Is the motto drawn from the pious creed
'In God We Trust', which all can read."
"Yes, I know," said the cent, "I'm a cheap little mite,
And I know I'm not big, nor good or bright."
"And yet", said the cent, with a meek little sigh,
"You don't go to church as often as I."

Circle Six Meeting

Circle Six's next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4 at 6:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. At 7:00 PM Matt Nahorn will be doing a presentation in Fellowship Hall on the "Lost Houses of Lorain County". The congregation is invited to attend and please also invite your family and friends to join you. Matt has done several presentations on various local landmarks and places of interest. I'm sure this one will not disappoint. Refreshments will be served following the presentation and Circle Six members are to bring finger snacks to share.

Blessings, Sally Readinger, President

Ash Wednesday Service, March 5 at 7 PM

The Pastor Mike Boehm will be leading the worship service. Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent.

Lent’s three pillars are prayer, fasting and almsgiving—meaning that we’re called to do more than just abstain from a particular food or activity. It involves not only what we’re willing to give up, but what we’re willing to take on. When we think about what to give up for Lent, we ought to also think about what sort of commitment to prayer, and the ability to be charitable, that we can hold ourselves to.

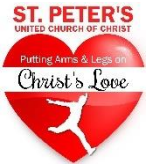
YOGA with Mary-K

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

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.



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., Feb. 24 Spiritual Life visitations throughout the week
- Tues., Feb. 25 Bible Study 7 PM
- Wed., Feb. 26 YOGA with Mary-K 8:30-9:45 AM
Coffee Chats, Sandstone 9-11 AM
- Thurs., Feb. 27 YOGA with Mary-K, 6-7:15 PM
Handbell Rehearsal, 7 PM
- Sun., Mar. 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

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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 estate planning.