



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



**Third Sunday in Advent**  
**December 14, 2025**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

*\*(Stand as you are able.) + (if needed, use green insert in hymnal rack)*

## GATHERING MUSIC

Words of Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive) Pastor Mike Boehm

Leader: Gather together to revel in the love that abounds within these walls.

**People: We are a family founded on the love of God.**

Leader: We are grounded upon God's love for us and our love for Him.

**People: Let us surround ourselves with that Christmas love on this day of worship and love.**

HYMN #123 *"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" The Voice Choir will sing the verse. The Congregation will please sing the refrain.*

Lighting the Third Candle of Advent: The Candle of Love  
Circle Six

*The Voice Choir will respond with "A Thousand Candles"*

\*HYMN #137 *"What Child is This?"*

CHORAL ANTHEM *"Only A Baby Came"* by Natalie Sleeth

Hymn # 151 *"Good Christian Men (and women!) Rejoice"*

Sharing Joys and Concerns:

Pastoral Prayer

+Lord's Prayer (debts & debtors)

HYMN # 136 *"The First Noel"*

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Marcia Ramsey

Psalm 121 #498

John 3:16 #864

\* + Gloria Patri #623

SERMON: "Love Came Down"

## OFFERING

Offertory

\* + Doxology #625

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Sharing the Peace of Christ

\*HYMN #128 *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

## \*BENEDICTION

\*Choral Benediction: *"We Wish You a Merry Christmas"*

\*Pastoral 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

Minister	Pastor Mike Boehm
Organist	Daesean Lawson
Zoom Director	Mary K. Kirsch
Zoom Assistant	Tom Hollstein
Worship Producer	Brian Schieferstein
Director of Music	Jennifer Wasilk
Scripture Reader	Marcia Ramsey
Ushers	Gary Thompson, Fred Helyes, Lewis Zeller, Vicki Zeller

# Church News

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**Next Sunday is the Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**JOY**

Pastor Mike's Sermon for Dec. 21st is, "A Heavenly Visitor".

*Please join us as we journey to the Manger.*

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**Christmas Party Today! All are Welcome!**

Come share a potluck lunch (the basic meat will be ham) followed by carols and games today down in the Fellowship Hall. And, the famous "White Elephant".

*I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?  
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.*

## **Circle Six Cookie Sale**

Circle Six is holding its annual Christmas Cookie sale today in Fellowship Hall. They are \$8.00 per one pound container. Blessings, Sally Readinger, President

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## **Ponderings about St. Peter's**

The following is from our church Key from several decades ago. See what you think of its message.

### **The Silent Sermon**

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, suddenly stopped coming to church.

After a few weeks, the Pastor decided to visit him. The Pastor found the man at home alone, who had been sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his Pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The Pastor made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the Pastor got up, took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat in his chair, still silent. The host watched all of this in quiet contemplation.

As the one lone ember's flame flickered and the fire diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was just a cold lifeless piece of charred wood....

The Pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave; he slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the Pastor reached the door to leave, his host touched his arm, and with a tear running down his cheek, he said, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday."

## **Blue Christmas Service**

First Congregational Church in North Ridgeville is having a Blue Christmas Service on **Saturday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m.** This service is for those who are struggling, grieving, or lonely during the holiday season. Please share with any of your friends who may be interested or in need of such a service this holiday season. Pastor Mike highly recommends this for his GriefShare Group. Thank you.

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## **YOGA with Mary-K**

**Stretch 'n Flex, at your own pace**

Wednesday Mornings | 8:30-9:45 AM

Thursday Evenings | 5:30-6:45 PM Cost is \$10 per class.

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## **Christmas Fund Offering Next Sunday**

For over one hundred years, The Christmas Fund has provided direct financial assistance to the healers in all our lives: retired and active UCC ministers, church workers, and their families. You are part of the community of The Christmas Fund, whether you donate at Christmastime, benefit directly from our grant or leadership programs, or simply believe in our mission to help secure the financial foundation of those engaged in the life of the church. Please consider donating today to ensure more healers receive the loving support of the Church in their moment of deepest need. Thank you for your generosity!

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## **St. Elizabeth Homeless Shelter**

Located at 2726 Caroline Ave., Lorain. We need volunteers to serve Wednesday, Dec. 17 starting at 4:30 PM, or to bake cookies or cupcakes. If you want to help or have questions, please contact Betty Pekare. Thank you!

# Help Feed our Children!



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

Single Serving PB & Jelly, Canned Soup (pop top lids), Mac & Cheese (microwavable)  
Spaghetti-Os (pop top lids), Peanut Butter Crackers, Individual Cereals Granola Bars  
Oatmeal Packages, Small Bag Chips, Small Bag Pretzels, Fruit Cups, Jello Cups

We're collecting the following for the months of Nov. & Dec.

Stuffing, Gravy, Yams, Cranberry Sauce, Soups, Cereal,  
Pancake Syrup

Please leave your donations in the drop off boxes at the church  
and Pam Miskov will make sure they're delivered. Thank you!

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**There will not be a council meeting for December 2025.  
January council meeting will be on the 19th of Jan. 2026.**

-Christine D Burman

## **The Amherst Salvation Army St. Peter's Ringers**

We would like to extend a sincere and HUGE thank you to St. Peter's UCC members who braved the wind and cold to ring the bells at Giant Eagle on Sat. Dec 13. Thanks again to the following members for supporting this mission. Dave Rice, Christine Burman, Karen Geduldig, Fred Helyes, Lynda Helyes, Water Beale, Luena Beale, Geoff Gatz, Linda Gatz, Lewis Zeller, Vicki Zeller, Terry Deliman, Terry Traster, Don Ramsey, Marcia Ramsey, and Sue Conkle. Your efforts will be a blessing to MANY, we know YOUR HEARTS were warmed as well.

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. 15 Church Council Meeting CANCELLED  
Tues., Dec. 16 Bible Study 2-3:00 PM, Fireside Room  
Wed., Dec. 17 YOGA with Mary-K 8:30-9:45 AM  
Coffee Chats, Panera Bread, 9-11 AM  
St. Elizabeth Meal, 4:30 PM  
Thurs., Dec. 18 Bible Study, 10:30-11:30 AM, Fireside Room  
Voice Choir Rehearsal, 1 PM, Sanctuary  
YOGA with Mary-K, 5:30-6:45 PM  
Handbell Rehearsal, 7PM, Sanctuary  
Sun., Dec. 21 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)

**Phone:** 440-988-4965

Mike Boehm, Pastor

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 9-1 PM & Thursday 1-5 PM

[pastor@stpetersamherst.org](mailto:pastor@stpetersamherst.org) 440-988-4965 | 216-316-3482

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Kaye Oswald, Church Office Administrator  
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Heidi Chambers, Preschool Administrator/Teacher  
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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**  
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*Please remember St. Peter's UCC in your estate planning.*