



ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Joy

Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 21, 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: For unto us a child is born. How great is our joy?

People: Our joy knows no bounds.

Leader: Our joy cannot be contained. If we kept silent
the trees and rocks would sing.

**People: Hosanna in the highest. Peace on earth
has come to humanity. Praise God eternally.**

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

***HYMN #125** *"Joy to the World"*

Sharing Joys and Concerns:

Pastoral Prayer

+Lord's Prayer (debts & debtors)

CHORAL ANTHEM: *"Good News"*, by Natalie Sleeth

HYMN #157 *"Away in a Manger"*

Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle: The Candle of Joy
by Church Council

The Voice Choir will respond with "A Thousand Candles"

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Kody Beiswenger

Luke 2:8-14 #832

Matthew 2:1-2 #784

* + Gloria Patri #623

HYMN #132 *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

SERMON: "A Heavenly Visitor"

OFFERING

Offertory

* + Doxology #625

*Prayer of Dedication

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

*HYMN #1 *"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"*

*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
Organist
Zoom Director
Zoom Assistant
Worship Producer
Director of Music
Scripture Reader
Ushers

Pastor Mike Boehm
Daesean Lawson
Mary K. Kirsch
Tom Hollstein
Brian Schieferstein
Jennifer Wasilk
Kody Beiswenger
Susan Cherry, Linda Gatz,
Geoff Gatz, Fred Helyes

Church News

Christmas Fund Offering

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!

Ponderings about St. Peter's

What colors do you associate with Christmas? Are they the traditional red and green, or the more modern pink and lime green? Do you realize that there is religious meaning behind some of our traditional colors?

RED – pagans believed this color would ward off evil spirits and bring good luck – as Christians we think it symbolizes the Blood of Christ and his Passion & Love

GREEN – the color of holly, mistletoe and the Christmas tree – we see the eternal spirit of Jesus and the color of life

GOLD - this color reminds us of the baby Jesus' gift from the Three Wise Men

SILVER – the silver star that led the Wise Men; it offers direction to all our loved ones

PURPLE – the season of Advent; royalty & magic

BLUE – the color of Hanukkah and the color usually associated with Mary the mother of Jesus

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 to everyone who consistently helps support the food pantry and backpack program for the schools!



The Visit of the Magi

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage."

Coffee Chats Hey All! Please come join us any Wednesday from 9-11 AM. We will meet from 9-11 AM at Panera Bread (Oak Point Road). This is not a committee meeting—it is purely a social group. Bring a friend! Contact Judy McCurdy or Christine Burman for the current meeting place.

Jesus frequently met with his disciples at the table for meals, which were central to his ministry for building community, showing hospitality, and teaching. These meals were not just about eating but about fellowship. Join us!

YOGA with Mary-K

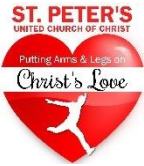
Stretch 'n Flex, at your own pace

Wednesday Mornings | 8:30-9:45 AM

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

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



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

Mon., Dec. 22	No preschool, resumes Tuesday, Jan. 6
Tues., Dec. 23	Bible Study CANCELLED
Wed., Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service, 7 PM Office closed
Thurs., Dec. 25	Christmas Day, Office closed
Sun., Dec. 28	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

Mike Boehm, Pastor

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

pastor@stpetersamherst.org 440-988-4965 | 216-316-3482

Judy McCurdy, Church Council President

president@stpetersamherst.org 440-988-4965

Kaye Oswald, Church Office Administrator

admin.ofc@stpetersamherst.org 440-988-4965

Heidi Chambers, Preschool Administrator/Teacher

preschool@stpetersamherst.org

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.