



ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Dec. 28, 2025 | First Sunday after Christmas

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: We have gathered to worship the baby in the manger.

People: We have gathered to remember the man of the cross.

Leader: The two are inseparable; By God's decree they are eternally intertwined.

People: Praise the baby! Praise the man! Praise the Lord of all times. Amen.

HYMN #141 *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

INVOCATION (unison) Kathi Macgregor

Heavenly Father hear our prayer and be with us this day. WE confess that if left to us we would hold Your Son Jesus as forever a baby in our hearts. We would rather look upon Him in His innocence and embrace Him with our souls. Help us remember that the Child of the manger was born with a destiny that lead to a cross. Remind us once again that He came to save us all at a terrible price to Himself. In the Christmas season keep us focused upon the important message of the gospel in total, not in part, so that we may appreciate the reality of Your Son's birth. In the Triune name we pray. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM

We are receiving by baptism Santino Michael Shperdheja, grandson of Pam and Glen Miskov.

*HYMN #137 *"What Child Is This?"*

CHORAL ANTHEM: *"I Was There to Hear Your Newborn Cry"*

Sharing Joys and Concerns:

Pastoral Prayer

+Lord's Prayer (debts & debtors)

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Kathi Macgregor

Luke 2:1-7 #832

Luke 23:18-25 #833

* + Gloria Patri #623

SERMON: *"Wooden Manger, Wooden Cross"*

OFFERING

Offertory

* + Doxology #625

*Prayer of Dedication

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

*HYMN #133 *"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"*

*BENEDICTION

*Choral Benediction: *"Auld Lang Syne"*

*Pastoral Benediction

POSTLUDE

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

The Hymnal For Worship and Celebration ©1986 Word Music. Used by/with permission
CCLI No. 2411660 / 20182679. Used by/with permission One License # A-724594.



**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
Kathi Macgregor
Sue Cherry, Fred & Lynda Gatz

Church News



**Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026 Office Closed
Happy New Year to all!**

Ponderings about St. Peter's

One of the songs we hear during the Christmas Season is "the Twelve Days of Christmas". The words were written by Catholic Clerics and the song itself dates to 18th C England. It was used as a memory game and teaching tool for children to help them learn about the Christian faith. The 12 days begin on December 25th with the birth of Jesus and continue until January 5th the 12th Night when the Magi appear.

A Partridge in a Pear Tree: Represents Jesus Christ, symbolizing God's love and sacrifice.

Two Turtle Doves: Symbolize the Old and New Testaments, reflecting the complete story of salvation.

Three French Hens: Represent the theological virtues of faith, hope, and love.

Four Calling Birds: Symbolize the Four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Five Gold Rings: Represent the first five books of the Bible, known as the Pentateuch.

Six Geese a-Laying: Symbolize the six days of creation.

Seven Swans a-Swimming: Represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Eight Maids a-Milking: Symbolize the Beatitudes.

Nine Ladies Dancing: Represent the nine fruits of the Spirit.

Ten Lords a-Leaping: Symbolize the Ten Commandments.

Eleven Pipers Piping: Represent the eleven faithful apostles.

Twelve Drummers Drumming: Reflect the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

A Thank You from the Altar Guild

The Altar Guild would like to thank Geoff Gatz for making the beautiful cutting board for the Communion bread on the Altar.



Help Feed our Children

Items needed for Children's Weekend Backpack Program

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

If able to share, we now need the following items for the Food Pantry:

1. Peanut Butter 2. Spaghetti Sauce 3. Canned Tuna/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!

Spiritual Life team

Spiritual Life team continues weekly Communion visits to stay connected with our church family members. We provide Sunday Worship bulletins, scripture, share Communion, pray together and at times sing a few hymns, and listen. We always bring a little extra blessing—warm soup or something baked—cookies or flowers to brighten their day!

If anyone would like a Communion visit, please call the church office at (440) 988-4965 or contact Pam Miskov.

Love, Blessings and Peace from Spiritual Life Ministry

Pam Miskov, Judy McCurdy, Don & Marcia Ramsey

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!

Request for Favorite Hymns

At the end of Epiphany, we will have gone through the list of requested songs that you all provided last spring. Now, I'm asking for more of your favorite hymns. Please either write your song on the back of your attendance card, or email them to me at wasilknj@linkup.us or let the office know. *Thank you, Jen Wasilk*

YOGA with Mary-K

No Yoga the weeks of Christmas and New Year's.
Yoga resumes Wednesday Jan 7th.

Please fill out the Participation cards and drop into the offering plate. *Cards should be filled out weekly.* 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. 29	No preschool
Tues., Dec. 30	Bible Study 2-3:00 PM, Fireside Room
Wed., Dec. 31	Yoga cancelled New Year's Eve
Thurs., Jan. 1	New Year's Day office closed Bible Study, 10:30-11:30 AM, Fireside Room Voice Choir Rehearsal, 1 PM, Sanctuary YOGA cancelled Handbell Rehearsal, 7PM, Sanctuary
Sun., Jan. 4	Worship Service 10 AM, Communion Sunday

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

Office Hours: Monday–Thursday 8:30-2:00 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.