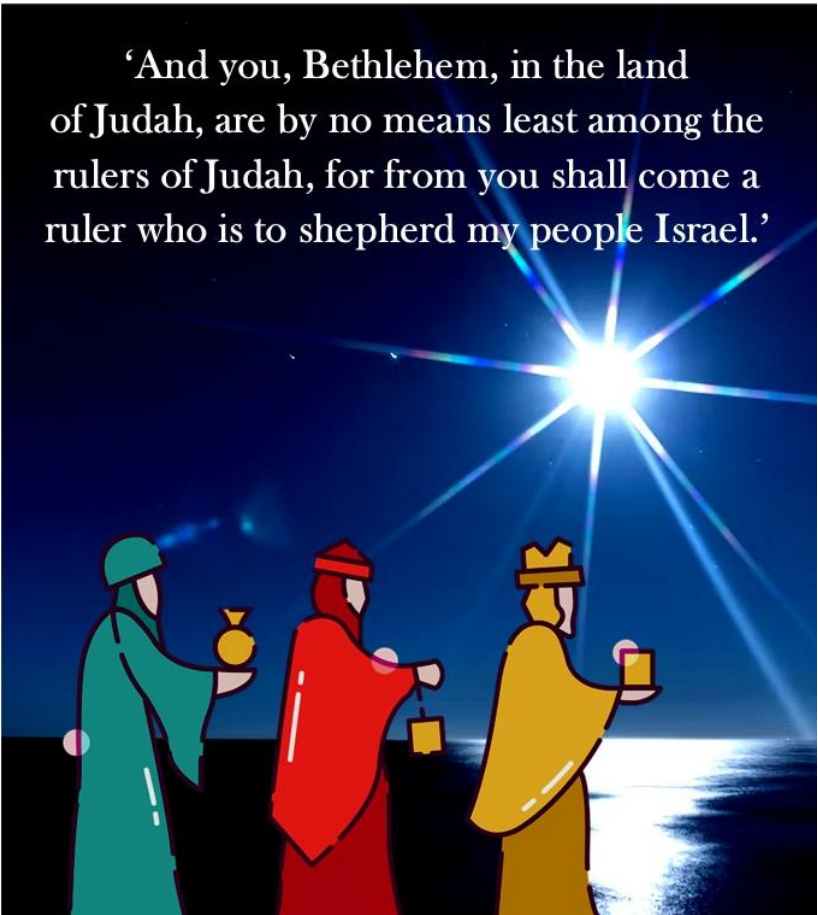




ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’



Jan. 11, 2026 | The Road Not Taken

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 together today as God's people,
not as God's puppets.

**People: We are free and independent people, able to
determine our own actions.**

Leader: Yet as God's people, we are under His direction.
In Jesus Christ He has shown us the way. We must
choose the right path.

**People: We have gathered together today to hear the Word,
which is our road map to eternity. Praise be to God
the director of our lives.**

CHORAL INTROIT: *"Adoration"*

*HYMN #166 *"We Three Kings"*

INVOCATION (*unison*) Susan Cherry

**Holy God, our Heavenly Father, You have shown us the way
that leads to You, yet You do not force us to walk in that way.
We are given free will to investigate other paths that lead
away from You. The power of self-destruction remains in
our hand, and frequently we use that power. But deep
within even as we stray, we long for the security and
comfort of Your embrace. We look for peace in the wrong
places, but we long for peace. Help us by setting our feet
upon the right paths. Lead us upon the road not taken, and
bring us to Thy heavenly home. In Jesus' name we pray.
AMEN.**

HYMN #163 *"As With Gladness Men of Old"*

CHORAL ANTHEM: *"One Small Child"*

Sharing Joys and Concerns:

Pastoral Prayer

+Lord's Prayer (debts & debtors)

Honor Quilt Presentation for Gerry Rush

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Susan Cherry

Psalm 29 #438

Matthew 2:1-12 #783

* + Gloria Patri #623

SERMON: *"The Road Not Taken"*

OFFERING

Offertory

* + Doxology #625

*Prayer of Dedication

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

*HYMN #167 *"O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"*

*BENEDICTION

*Choral Benediction: *"A Nativity Prayer"*

*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
Susan Cherry
Walter Beale, Luena Beale,
Joan Whitman, Fred Helyes

Church News

Ponderings about St. Peter's



Rev. John
Henry Hopkins

One of the hymns we are singing this morning is "We Three Kings of Orient Are". This hymn was written around 1857 by John Henry Hopkins, Jr. who was an American minister and composer. He is especially known for his music contributions to the Episcopal Church. Rev. Hopkins was born in 1820 in Pittsburgh, PA and had 12 siblings. He graduated from the University of Vermont in 1839. In 1863 he published his collection of "Carols, Hymns, and Songs" which had four editions. Hopkins served as the rector of Trinity Church in Plattsburgh, PA and later as rector of Christ Church in Williamsport, PA. He died on January 9, 1868, at age 75.



Help Feed our Children

Items needed 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/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!



SOUP POTLUCK | ALL ARE WELCOME

There will be a SOUP potluck following the service on January 18th. Everyone can bring a crock pot or other container of their favorite soup. We will be having a *friendly* competition with a little prize for the most popular soup. If you do not have soup to bring, desserts are welcome, too. Rolls, butter, crackers will be provided. Following the luncheon, we will be having Evensong in the Sanctuary provided by our organist, Daesean Lawson.

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*

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!

Offering Envelopes

There are still some offering envelope boxes with names on them at the back of the church on the table behind the pews. Please remember to pick them up. Thank you, Rebecca Woods

*The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.
May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!*

GriefShare starts Feb. 12, 2026, 2-4 PM

Please contact Pastor Mike or the church office to register for our next GriefShare class. This will be a 13 week session. Cost is \$20 for materials, unless you have a book from our last session.

**GriefShare is the registered trademark of Church Initiative.*

Can You Help Take Down Christmas Decorations?

Anyone who would like to stay after church today to put away Christmas decorations would be greatly appreciated.

YOGA with Mary-K

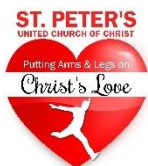
Stretch 'n Flex, at your own pace

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** -----

- Tues., Jan. 13 Bible Study 2-3:00 PM, Fireside Room
Wed., Jan. 14 YOGA with Mary-K, 8:30-9:45 AM
 Coffee Chats, Panera Bread, 9-11 AM
Thurs., Jan. 15 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., Jan. 18 Worship Service 10 AM | Soup Potluck & Evensong

----- **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

Susan Conkle, 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.