

ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Jan. 25, 2026 | Third Sunday after Epiphany

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

GATHERING MUSIC

Words of Welcome and Announcements

OPENING VOLUNTARY: "Shenandoah", American Folk Song

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

Leader: The call from God is an immediate call; it does not wait for time or tide.

People: We are here because we have answered the call and are ready to serve.

Leader: We are here, Lord. Mold us and make us into Your servant people.

People: Fill us with Your glory so that we may shine for You. Amen.

CHORAL INTROIT

*HYMN #304 "Lift High the Cross"

INVOCATION (*unison*) Les Kreeger

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, you have called us to be Your people, and we stand ready to fulfill that call. Help us understand what our part in Your mission is, no matter how large or small it may be. We know that everything that serves Your kingdom is important, and that even the least bit of service is glorified in the heavenly realm. Keep us focused on the job at hand. We pray this in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN #279 "Faith of Our Fathers (and Mothers!)"

CHORAL ANTHEM: "Clap Your Hands"

Caring for Us

*Caring for Others
God*

Praising

Sharing Joys and Concerns:

Pastoral Prayer

+Lord's Prayer (debts & debtors)

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Les Kreeger

Psalm 27:1, 4-9 #437

Matthew 4:18-23 #785

* + Gloria Patri #623

SERMON: "Do Not Pass Go"

OFFERING

Offertory: "Piece No. 12 in B-flat", François Benoist 1794-1878

* + Doxology #625

*Prayer of Dedication

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

*HYMN #284 "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"

***BENEDICTION**

*Choral Benediction

*Pastoral Benediction

CLOSING VOLUNTARY: "Trumpet Voluntary", Thomas Sanders Dupuis 1733-1796

(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	Les Kreeger
Ushers	Fred Helyes, Lynda Helyes, Lewis Zeller, Vicki Zeller

Church News

Ponderings about St. Peter's

How many of you remember a time when you did not worry about locking your doors? You basically had an “Open Door Policy”. Churches were open so that people could enter the sanctuary and pray at any time. These things began to change from the 1950s to the 1970s. In my home church at that time the minister would find the altar candles lit and pushed back toward the hangings, and there was a concern about fire. For this reason, and others, churches began locking their doors. Today we are concerned about the safety of the congregations and the possibility of someone entering the church to do harm during a service.

In trying to research the history of church security, it is recorded that in the early days of the “modern” church, the Swiss Guard, founded in 1506, was tasked with the protection of the Pope and the church. For St. Peter’s UCC our Council Minutes from February 1946 reveal a discussion about locking the doors of the church each night. By June 1946, they began locking the church building. In June 1950, the church Council discussed the need for locking internal doors to protect against theft. “Kitchen valuables” among other things had been stolen. Today your church council is developing a plan so that we are prepared in case there is an attempt to do harm. “The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty.” May we pray that there is never a time when we must put our plan into action.

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!

Preschool Open House Request!

The preschool is requesting snack items for their Open House which will be on Sat., Feb 14 from 10-11:30 AM. Donations of small water bottles, small bags of pretzels, clementines, teddy graham and other “to go” type of snacks would be welcomed. **Please label donations “For Preschool” and drop off in the kitchen by Feb. 12. Thank you!**

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.

Circle Six Meeting

Circle Six is pleased to announce **The Bobby Jones Family** will be live in concert at St. Peter's UCC on **Tuesday, March 3rd at 7:00 PM** in the Sanctuary. The congregation is invited to attend and is also open to the public. There will be refreshments served in the Fellowship Hall afterwards. The Bobby Jones Family are residents of Amherst. If you have never heard them perform, you can check them out at WWW.THEBOBBYJONESFAMILYMUSIC.COM.

Please pass this along to your family and friends.

Thank you! Sally Readinger, President

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*

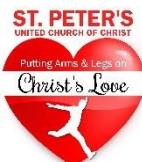


Will the groundhog see his shadow?

Punxsutawney, 1886 marked the first time that Groundhog Day appeared in the local newspaper. The Groundhog Day ceremony which is held at Punxsutawney in western Pennsylvania, centers on a semi-mythical groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil. It

has become the most frequently attended ceremony. It is a tradition observed regionally in the United States and Canada on February 2. It derives from the Pennsylvania Dutch superstition that if a groundhog emerges from its burrow on this day and sees its shadow, it will retreat to its den and winter will go on for six more weeks; if it does not see its shadow, spring will arrive early. The earliest mention of Groundhog Day is an entry on February 2, 1840, in the diary of James L. Morris of Morgantown, in Pennsylvania Dutch Country, according to the book on the subject by Don Yoder.

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

Tues., Jan. 27 Voice Choir Rehearsal, 12:30 AM, Santuary
 Bible Study 2-3:00 PM, Fireside Room

Wed., Jan. 28 Preschool field trip
 YOGA with Mary-K, 8:30-9:45 AM
 Coffee Chats, Panera Bread, 9-11 AM

Thurs., Jan. 29 Preschool field trip
 Bible Study, 10:30-11:30 AM, Fireside Room
 YOGA with Mary-K, 5:30-6:45 PM
 Handbell Rehearsal, 7PM, Sanctuary

Sun., Feb. 1 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

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.