



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



“For God so loved the world that he gave his  
only Son, so that everyone who believes in  
him may not perish but may have eternal life.

JOHN 3:16

**Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**December 18, 2022**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

*\*(Stand as you are able.)*

## GATHERING MUSIC

*Greeting*

*Announcements*

*Birthdays*

*Anniversaries*

PRELUDE: "In Dulci Jubilo", Zachau

ADVENT LIGHTING – "LOVE" Sue Conkle

**Candle Lighting Ritual** John 3:16-19 #864

\*HYMN OF PRAISE: #157 "Away in a Manger"

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader:** Come away from times of weariness.  
Dare to accept the energy God offers you.

**People:** **Restore our energy, O Source of all power.**  
**Let your goodness flow through us.**

**Leader:** Come away from all your insignificant distractions.  
Dare to let God show you a larger picture.

**People:** **Help us to examine the flow of our lives.**  
**Reveal to us what is really important.**

**Leader:** Come away from the scorn of enemies.  
Dare to laugh with those who have laughed at you.

**People:** **Lead us to think of others in new ways.**  
**Let us find grace and peace in Emmanuel.**

### \*THE MORNING PRAYER/INVOCATION *(Unison)*

Shepherding God, whose signs are everywhere, restore in us your light that we may discern what you are about. Shine upon this assembly to give life to our tired routines. Fill our longing hearts with quiet confidence. Awaken the child in us to experience your revelation. By your presence with us, deepen the prayers we utter, and turn our fears to eager anticipation.

*Caring for Us*

*Caring for Others*

*Praising God*

Touch us to lend strength and confidence as we reach out to one another for help and healing. Amen.

HYMN OF PREPARATION: #141 *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

**PASTORAL PRAYER    THE LORD'S PRAYER**

## **A TIME OF LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25   #783

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION: "LOVE"

## **A TIME OF GIVING**

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

\*Doxology   #625 unison prayer of dedication

praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God all creatures here below;  
praise God above ye Heavenly host; \*\*  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*(\*\*alternate: Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen)*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

## **A TIME OF GOING OUT**

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*(We offer one another the peace of Christ for the week ahead.)*

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "Now Come, Savior of the Nations", Bach



**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**

Senior Pastor

Organist

Zoom Director

Worship Producer

Handbell Choir Director

Scripture Reader

Ushers

Pastor Chris Buckingham-Taylor

Allen Cadwallader

Mary K. Kirsch

Brian Schieferstein

Shelley Harmych

Sue Conkle

Fred Helyes, Earl Wiegand,

Karen Geduldig

### **Interesting Facts about Ukraine!**

Wedding Bands are worn on their right hand. Ukrainians deemed that it was “unclean” to use the left hand, hence it wasn’t appropriate to wear a representation of unending love. The right hand, on the other hand, was revered by the ancestors as a sign of strength, wisdom and good change. During the wedding ceremony, the wedding band was placed on it. In Ukraine, the wedding band on the left hand frequently deceives people. If one of the spouses has passed away, it is typically placed here on the other hand.

LEAD US TO THINK OF OTHERS  
IN NEW WAYS.



# Church News

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“THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD SO HUNGRY,  
THAT GOD CANNOT APPEAR TO THEM EXCEPT IN THE  
FORM OF BREAD.”

## FOOD PANTRY

Good Shepherd Baptist Food Pantry has started the Weekend Children's Backpack Program (with #s doubling last year). We cannot let any child go hungry if it is in our power. Following are some suggestions that would be very helpful with this great need:

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

We will also still collect 'regular food items' for families in addition to the Backpack Program. Please leave your donations in the drop off boxes at the church. Pam Miskov will ensure that all items are transported to Good Shepherd Baptist Food Bank.

Thank you to everyone who continually donates on behalf of St. Peter's! You are all ROCKSTARS of generosity!

  
*Coffee Chats*  
with PASTOR CHRIS

Meet the Pastor | Sandstone Coffee House, Amherst  
**Wednesday from 9-11:00 a.m.**

# The Advent Season 2022

The Fourth Sunday of Advent is Love. All four candles will be lit on our Advent wreath and we will have a full circle of light. The Lord brings the light of love to his people by sending His only Son to earth for our salvation.

**HOPE PEACE JOY LOVE**

"Let us be silent, that we may hear the whisper of God."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson



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## "Blue Christmas Service"

Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 PM

Each one of us comes bearing the loss of loved ones, or may be struggling to mend our own broken places. Please join us for our Blue Christmas Service held in the Sanctuary. There will be a time to light a candle in memory of loved ones.

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## Christmas Fund Offering

The Christmas Fund provides Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks for retirees and those facing unforeseen financial hardship. Join with others to help those who have who have given so much to our church.

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## YOGA with Mary-K

Wednesday Mornings | 8:30-9:45 AM

Thursday Evenings | 6:00-7:15 PM

Our Wednesday morning, and Thursday evening class will meet in the lower level of St. Peter's Church. Please arrive by 8:25 a.m. for the morning class, and by 5:55 p.m. for the evening class. Enter through the door by the Chapel. Cost is \$10.

Please take a moment to fill out the yellow Participation cards and drop into the offering plate. *Participation cards should be filled out weekly.* Thank you!

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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. 19   | Spiritual Life visitations 1-4 PM  |
| Tues., Dec. 20  | Bible Study  |
| Wed., Dec. 21   | YOGA with Mary-K 8:30-9:45 AM<br>Coffee Chats, Sandstone Coffee House 9-11 AM<br>NO Confirmation Class 6-7 PM<br>Blue Christmas Service 7 PM |
| Thurs., Dec. 22 | YOGA with Mary-K 6-7:15 PM<br>No Handbell Choir Practice   |
| Sat., Dec. 24   | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7 PM   |
| Sun., Dec. 25   | Christmas Day Service 10 AM <i>Come as you are!</i>  |

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

**Office Hours:** Mon.-Fri. 8:30-12:30 PM *and* 1-2:30 PM  
Afternoons available by appointment with Pastor Chris

**Address:** 582 Church St. Amherst OH 44001

**Website:** [www.stpetersamherst.org](http://www.stpetersamherst.org)

**Phone:** 440-988-4965

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Mary-K Kirsch, Church Council President  
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Kaye Oswald, Church Office Administrator  
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