

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 5, 2025

2nd Sunday after Christmas

10:00 AM

www.youtube.com/stpetersuccwashmo

** - Please rise in body or spirit.*

CENTERING OURSELVES IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE

Andrew Jackson, Principal Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Jesus said: I am the light of the world.

Many: Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but have the light of life.

One: We have seen the light of Christ like a star shining in the sky!

Many: And like the Magi, we have come to worship.

One: Glory be to God, and to Jesus Christ, the Word of Light!

**Many: In Jesus, God is made known in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

*HYMN

"As with Gladness 'Those of Old"

159

**As with gladness those of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, true Morning Star, may we evermore your splendor see.**

**As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before One whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet ever seek your mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at the manger plain and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.**

**Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
And when mortal things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glory hide.**

***UNISON PRAYER**

We thank you, God, that you have spoken through people of faith at many times and in various ways, and that in Jesus, your living Word, you have revealed yourself among us. We come longing once more to know your presence and to hear your word. We come eager to follow Jesus. We rejoice that you are with us always when we gather in Christ's name. Amen.

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 60:1-6

SPECIAL MUSIC Patti Flee, soloist

THE SECOND LESSON Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON

**WE GIVE WHAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO US
INVITATION TO GIVE**

***RESPONSE** "Arise, Your Light Is Come" 164

**Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!**

**Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive's liberty, Good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the broken hearted ones And comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God, you have given us everything. We seek to return all that is yours. Bless our offerings and our lives that we might reflect your love and light to the world. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Loving God, you have come to us in Jesus; yet we confess that we often refuse to receive you. We live in the world as if we did not know you. Showing your love for all people, you guided sages from distant lands to worship Jesus, your child. Although we know of this love, we limit our love with safe boundaries, building walls rather than bridges, denying our connection with all those you love. Forgive us, God, and give us new hearts to love and serve you. Write your Word within us. Make yourself known to us as we live today. For we pray in the name of Jesus the Christ in whom you most fully have revealed yourself. Amen.

Words of Grace

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: Let us pray. (Communion Prayer)

Remembrance

Prayer of Consecration and the Prayer of Our Savior

Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*HYMN

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

154

Refrain ***Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!***

**While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain***

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth. *Refrain***

**Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain***

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Today’s printed liturgy is from the UCC Book of Worship.

☞ Thank You for Worshipping Here Today ☞

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The Rev. Kurt Schaller Blaufuss, Pastor & Teacher
Ken Tucker, Director of Music
Andrew Jackson, Principal Organist
Carol H. Hackmann, Office Manager
Gary Edler, Cemetery Sexton
Nathaniel Pfitzinger, Building & Grounds Custodian
The Rev. Dr. William H. Schwab, Pastor Emeritus

St. Peter's United Church of Christ welcomes you to today's worship. If you are visiting us today for the first time, please fill out the "Welcome Card" in the pews and place it in the offering plate. We also welcome those who are attending worship online.

The worship bulletins are placed in memory of Beulah Bauer, whose birthday was January 4, by the Bauer Family.

"These Days" devotional booklets and the January Newsletter are available in the atrium and the church office.

We received the following Christmas donation:

Given in memory of Russel Sherman by Marilyn Sherman

Please pray . . . With David P., Maurice Mittler, Justus Joseph Dieckhaus, Clayton, Matt Ashley, Greg Berry, Jon Sanfilippo, Charlie Sincox, Todd Ford, Laurie Pinnell, Blake Georgie; For the family and friends of Harold Lindauer who passed away Jan. 2, 2025.

Taking Down of The Greens Please help in Taking Down of the Greens or the 'undecorating' of the sanctuary and the atrium after worship today. Thank you.

Worship Attendance – December 28 & 29, 2024

Saturday In-Person: 22 Sunday In-Person: 77 YouTube Views: 46

Important Notice: to ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file your 2024 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. Please contact the church if you need your information before Jan. 31.

The 2025 All-Boards and Committees Meeting will be Sun. **Jan. 19** after worship. If you are serving on Church Council, a board or a committee please plan to attend.

2025 Altar Flowers If you would like to place altar flowers in honor or in memory of someone, or a special occasion, please contact the church office by phone 636-239-6176 or email office@stpeters-ucc.org and we will make a note on the 2025 Altar Flower Chart, letting you know whether or not that particular date is already spoken for. The chart is posted at the back of the sanctuary if you would like to sign up. Information we need from you: date you wish to provide the two arrangements; the information you wish to have printed in the worship bulletin; whether or not you will come by church the Monday after worship to pick up the bouquets. After a date has been secured, please contact a florist and make arrangements to have them deliver your selection on Friday before noon. Thank you

2025 Worship Bulletins The worship bulletin is an integral part of our worship service each week. If you would like to purchase the bulletins for a service in honor or in memory of someone, please mark the Bulletin Chart (2025 chart is posted at the back of the sanctuary) accordingly and contact the church office to inform us at to what you wish to have printed in the bulletin. Thank you

This Week at St. Peter's United Church of Christ:

Sunday, January 5, 2025 Taking Down of the Greens

10:00 a.m. – Worship/Holy Communion

10:15 a.m. – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Confirmation

Monday, January 6, 2025

12:00-3:00 pm. – Quilting

5:00 p.m. – Harvest Table Board

6:30 p.m. – AA

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

2:30-3:00 pm. – Coffee with the Pastor

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

8:45 a.m. – Men's Breakfast at Bob Evans

9:00 a.m. – Quilting

10:00 a.m. – Prayer Meeting

11:30 a.m. – Bible Study

6:30 p.m. – Bell Choir

7:15 p.m. – Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 9, 2025

6:30 p.m. – AA

Saturday, January 11, 2025

2:30 – 4:30 p.m. – Salam Clinic

5:00 p.m. – Worship

5:00 p.m. – Harvest Table (Dining Room)

Sunday, January 12, 2025

10:00 a.m. – Worship

10:15 a.m. – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Confirmation