



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

If you are visiting us for the first time, welcome!
Thank you for joining us, we're happy you are here.

Please make sure to sign-in in the Narthex and include your name and email so we can keep you updated on upcoming events and special worship services.

*Please stand if you are able and comfortable

Congregation reads text in bold print

In our liturgy, A: is all our voices. L: is the liturgist's voice P: is the Pastor's voice

Pre-Service Music ~ 9:55 a.m.

Please enter the sanctuary to prepare for worship

Bringing Christ's light into Worship

Matthew Westermeyer, Acolyte

Prayer Requests, Joys and Concerns

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

Live stream begins

Prelude

Garrett Woods, Music Director

“Whate'er My God Ordains Is Right”

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

Mission Moment

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

Advent Candle Lighting – Two Candles

Readers & Lighters – Church and Ministry Committee

Reading: Isaiah 11:1-9

Response

Reader: Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ. (Light 2 Candles). Today we light the second candle of Advent, the candle of Peace.

God has a peaceful dream for the world, and we dream it too. We dream of peaceful world full of wolves and leopards and lions eating and sleeping and dancing with lambs, kids, and calves. We dream of a peaceful world where nations come together, where war is a memory, and we eat at one table. We light this candle in Peace.

A: On this day, we remember the Lord of All who brings peace surpassing all understanding.

Advent Hymn

“One Candle Is Lit”

No. 128 (verse 2)

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare for a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease. One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

Please rise as you are able and comfortable.

***Call to Worship**

Wendy Bauer, Liturgist

L: A voice cries out declaring God's presence. Comfort, O Comfort my people, says God.

A: We come preparing the way of the Lord.

Together, we actively wait for God's peace.

L: A voice cries out declaring God's equity. Valleys shall be lifted and hills be made low.

A: We come to make straight in the desert a highway.

Together, we're actively working toward God's peace.

L: A voice cries out declaring steadfastness. Grass withers, flowers fade, but God's word stands forever.

A: We lift up our voices with strength and good tidings.

Together, we carry out God's peace.

*Hymn

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

No. 517

***Invocation**

A: Spirit of God, who dwells within our hearts,

Wean it from that which aims to separate us from you.

In this moment of collective worship, take the dimness of our souls away.

Let us seek you. Let us find you.

Teach us to feel that you are always present

As we lift up our voices with strength to worship you. Amen.

***Call to Confession**

L: As we continue our Advent journey, may our hearts be gladdened with the good news of God's love. Let us confess our sins to God and once again receive the assurance of God's ever-present, gracious love.

***Prayer of Confession**

A: God of love and kindness, you have promised to renew our lives, to be with us in a new heaven and new earth—a realm where steadfast love and faithfulness embrace forever. We

are afraid of your promised coming. We cling to rules we understand: the rules of privilege and power.

We are afraid of a world of true justice and peace, afraid that you will change the way things have always been.

As we wait for you to live among us, we confess our unwillingness to see that you have always been here. Help us to see further and to receive the renewal of our lives.

***Words of Assurance**

P: In God's love and mercy, we are given each new day for the healing of the world. May your sight be broadened as you pour your Holy Spirit into each of us, and our congregation. In the name of Christ, you are forgiven. May you find peace and become a beacon of peace for others. Amen.

*Gloria Patri (Glory be to the Father)

No. 35

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Silent Prayer ~ Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Through Song

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

No. 306

**Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord;
incline thine ear to us, and grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

Young People's Message!

All young people are invited to come forward for their own special time with the Pastor.

Young people may go to Sunday School

Tammi Hart

First Lesson: Philippians 1:3-11

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am

confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Choir Anthem: **“Go Tell It on the Mountain”** **Arr. by Harry Simeone**

Gospel Lesson: Luke 3:1-6

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

Sermon: **“Make Preparations”** *Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse*

*Hymn **“Gather Us In”** **No. 284**

***Affirmation of Faith Advent Credo – by Daniel Berrigan, S.J.**

It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss—

This is true:

**For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life;**

**It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty,
death and destruction—**

This is true:

I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly.

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever—

This is true:

**Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given,
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
his name shall be called wonderful counselor, mighty God,
the Everlasting, the Prince of peace.**

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world—

This is true:

**To me is given authority in heaven and on earth,
and lo, I am with you, even until the end of the world.**

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the Church, before we can be peacemakers—

This is true:

**I will pour out my spirit on all flesh
and your sons and daughters shall prophesy,
your young men shall see visions
and your old men shall have dreams.**

**It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind,
of justice, of human dignity, of peace
are not meant for this earth and for this history—**

This is true:

**The hour comes, and it is now,
that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.**

So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope.

Let us see visions of love and peace and justice.

Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage:

Jesus Christ—the life of the world.

***Invitation to the Offering**

L: In gratitude for all that God has given us, we receive this morning offering, pledging these gifts and our lives in God's service.

*Doxology (Praise)

No. 46

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

A: Lord, we bring these gifts to you, thankful for all the ways you have healed and enriched our lives. May these gifts be used in service to others, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

*Hymn

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

No. 149

***Benediction**

P: God is bringing light to our darkness. We are called to go into the world, confident in God's loving presence, to serve others in need. Go, bringing hope and peace to this darkened world. Go in God's love. Amen.

***Benediction Response**

“He Came Down,” verse 2

He Came Down



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional
Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

*Postlude

Thank you for worshipping with us at St. Peter and St. Paul United Church of Christ!

3001 Queen City Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45238

Current Office Hours: T, W, Th, & Fri. 10:00am – 2:00pm + 513-661-3745

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Announcements



👏👏 We completed 31 weeks of our Prayer Challenge. 🙌🙌
Please join us December 8th after service in Fellowship Hall for hot chocolate and cookies to celebrate our completion of the challenge.

An Unlikely Advent - Advent Bible Study - Hosted by Bob Hedspeth

12/8 – 5:00 – 7:00

12/15 – 5:00 – 7:00

12/22 – 5:00 – 7:00

Our December 15th service will include our Christmas choir program.

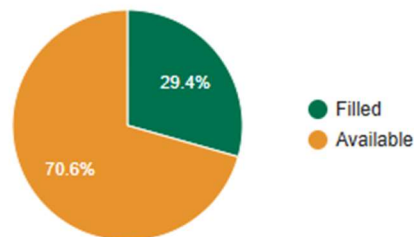
Our December 22nd service will include our Children's Christmas program.

Hurricanes 2024 Relief Efforts – Deadline EXTENDED through 12/31/24

Sign Up Activity

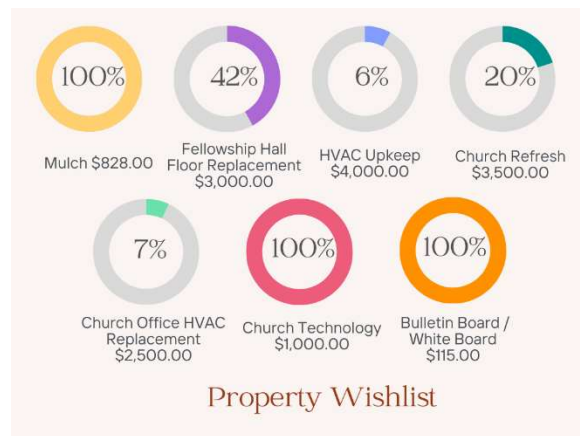
Total Slots: 480
Filled Slots: 141
Available Slots: 339
% Filled: 29.38%

Note: Items with unlimited quantity are not included in this graph.



Property Wish List

The Property Department is asking for donations to help with the cost of maintaining areas of the church. If you are able to help, please fill out the form located in the Narthex and return it with your donation. We will update the graph each week so you can see the progress of our goal.



in



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



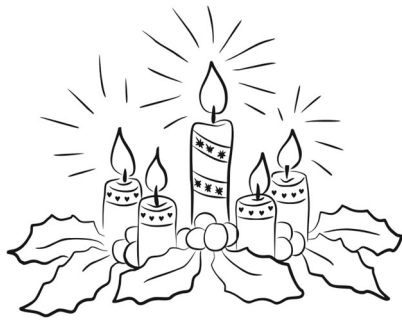
St. Peter & St. Paul UCC
3001 Queen City Ave.

December 14th
9:00 - 11:00 am

Free meal & hot chocolate
Stories with Mrs. Claus
Family Photo Booth



Pictures with Santa
Reindeer Games



CHRISTMAS EVE - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24.
WE WILL OFFER TWO CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICES AT
2:00 PM AND 10:00 PM.
ALL ARE INVITED!

MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEAL

December 21st 2024
10:30am - 12:00pm
(3rd Saturday every month)

Join us for a free meal, food bag to take home as well the opportunity to go through all clothing and houseware donations that you may need. All are welcome, no documentation required.



Mission Statement

St. Peter and St. Paul United Church of Christ

Be the lighthouse of the community, letting Christ's life flow through us as a beacon of hope and strength to others.

To enlighten the entire church family on the values of participation and commitment

Offer to all the hand of fellowship, allowing the Holy Spirit to work through us

Light the way for the community, as we serve God and reach out to minister

Offer support and care for one another, with grace

Visit and minister to all in need, as Jesus did

Encourage one another to walk in the faith, actively in love

PRODUCE POP UP WITH FREESTORE FOODBANK

2nd Thursdays || 2-4pm
Back of Rear Parking Lot

According to the USDA, half of every meal should be made up of fruits and vegetables. Freestore Foodbank & Anthem are working together to deliver Produce Pop Ups to your neighborhood with our community partners, food pantries, and organizations.

The Covedale Branch has partnered in this collaborative effort to distribute FREE food to families in need on a first-come, first-served basis.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Cincinnati & Hamilton County
Public Library: Covedale Branch
4980 Glenway Ave
513-369-4460
COV@chpl.org
CHPL.org

DECEMBER 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Advent Luncheon & Bible Study - following service Communion	2 Church & Ministry - 11:30 am F.H.	3 Food Pick-up - 12-2 pm.	4 Book Club 5:30 - 7PM F.H.	5	6 Knitting/Crocheting Group - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	7 Bells - 11 am
8 Prayer Challenge Reward - 11:00am Blue Christmas Service - 3 pm Advent Bible study 5:00-7:00 pm	9	10 Property - 7pm - Par.	11 Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary	12 	13 Knitting/Crocheting Group - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	14 Breakfast with Santa - 9:00 - 11:00 am Bells - 11:30
15 Choir Christmas Program - 10 am Advent Bible study 5:00-7:00 pm	16 	17 Council - 7 pm - Rm. 107	18 Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary	19	20 Knitting/Crocheting Group - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	21 Community Meal 10:30 - 12 - F.H.
22 Children's Christmas Program - 10 am Advent Bible study 5:00-7:00 pm	23	24 Candlelight Service - 2 pm & 10 pm	25 	26	27 Knitting/Crocheting Group - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	28 Youth Group - 4:00 - 6:00 - F.H.
29	30	31 Clean-up bucket supplies deadline 				