



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

The Baptism of Jesus

January 12, 2025

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

Youth Acolyte &  
*Matthew Westermeyer, Senior Acolyte*

Prayer Requests, Joys and Concerns

*Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse*

*Live stream begins*

Prelude

*Garrett Woods, Music Director*

Welcome and Announcements

*Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse*

*Please rise as you are able and comfortable.*

**\*Call to Worship**

*Bob Hedspeth, Liturgist*

L: Tear open the heavens, with angelic voices, and bring forth your presence. "The reign of God is coming toward us from the future. God's epiphany will result in the twin phenomena of judgment and new life."

**A: Lead us to hope, and bring us from the old age to the new. Most importantly, lead us in the justice and righteousness that characterizes God's reign."**

L: We gather with hope, as we walk toward our God, remembering that we are your handiwork.

**A: Make us, mold us; shine from above and make us to shine like the Son of God.**

*[from Christian T. Collins Winn, Jesus, Jubilee,...]*

\*Hymn

***"Many Are the Lightbeams"***

**No. 492**

**\*Invocation**

**A: O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; may we join in his brightness, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**\* Call to Confession**

L: Ever-Present God, darkness gives way to light in our lives when we turn away from idols and turn to Jesus, the Christ, our Savior. May we confess our shadows and darkneses, that you may change us and make us shine for you, O God.

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**A: Holy God, all things came into being through you. You enlighten our lives. Yet, we are drawn to shadows and veils. We distance ourselves from the conditions of oppression and despair of our neighbors, and we hide from your displeasure and disappointment at our limited allegiance to the churches rather than to Christ, our Savior. Ignite a hunger and thirst for righteousness, justice, and truth in us and turn us to follow Christ. Light us with Your Spirit's Light and spark compassion in our hearts.**

**\*Words of Assurance**

P: Beloved, trust that the grace of God has appeared, and is shining in the world. This Light brings new life to all. Help us to release our shame, guilt, fear, and hopelessness. As we follow Jesus, the Christ, our Savior, may we become more and more full of His Light and His Life, leading our way to serve Him every day that we live. 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.**

**Installation of Church Leaders & Covenant of Service (See Insert)**

Time for 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.**

**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*

**The First Lesson – Luke 3:7-16****Matthew Westermeyer, Reader**

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, “What, then, should we do?” <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup> He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

**Choir Anthem:****“World Peace Canon”****arranged by Moore****The Gospel Lesson – Matthew 3:13-17**

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

**Message*****“Wading in the Water”******Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse***

**\*Invitation to the Offering**

L: Epiphany season means more than observation; it brings us new knowledge. What is revealed to us in the season that follows it, is what is possible for the mission of God. As God created the world, we also with our hands, hearts, voices and treasure, reflect God’s Light.

**\*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: Ever-Loving God, we testify to the possibility of a new world of abundance, mutuality, and love where basic needs are easily met, where all share rather than hoard their resources, and the oppressed are released from imposed burden. “Let there be light” when illumination is needed, and have “peace in the blessed rest” that the night offers, as we recognize and declare both good. Amen.**

**\*The Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the one holy universal Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

**Service of Holy Communion****\*Communion Prayer**

P: The Lord be with you.

**A: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**A: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all...

### **Words of Institution**

...Pour out your Holy Spirit, send your Word, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore, we exalt you, we bless you, we praise your Holy Name, singing:

### **\*Seraphic Hymn**

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;  
Heaven and Earth are full,  
Are full of the majesty of Thy glory,  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord,  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!**

*Please be seated.*

### **Invitation to Communion**

P: We are made one through the Word and through these simple elements, every time we come to the Table to share them. May we become closer in our faith and broader in our serving, as we share in our faith in the way that Jesus taught us. Amen.

**Communion Anthem:       “Come Find Forgiveness and Love”                   by Besig**

### **Distribution of Communion**

P: Come. All things are ready. The gifts of God, for the people of God.  
*All may come forward for the bread (Gluten Free is available) and wine (outer ring of cups) or grape juice (center of tray). If you are not able to come forward, raise your hand and we will bring Communion to you.*

### **Prayer of Gratitude**

**A: Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his body and blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*Hymn

*“The First Noel”*

No. 151

**\*Benediction by Bernadette Farrell**

P: Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow’r to save us. Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

**\*Benediction Response ~ “Many Are the Lightbeams,” verse 1**

No. 492

**Many are the lightbeams from the one light.**

**Our one light is Jesus.**

**Many are the lightbeams from the one light;  
we are one in Christ.**

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

spspuccoffice@gmail.com + www.spspucc.org All Hymns copied from Chalice Hymnal - Red Pew  
Edition © 1995 / Chalice Press Eleventh Printing, 2001. Used by Permission. / CCLI # 11439836 / CSPLI  
# CSPL1650 / One License M-401820



# Announcements



- ❖ Thank you for a church beautifully decorated for Christmas
- ❖ Thank you for our beautiful music and voices raised celebrating the incarnation of Jesus in our world so long ago, and the incarnation in our hearts of Jesus in our world today
- ❖ Thank you for all the items collected for the hurricane relief project
- ❖ Thank you for the wise guidance of our Steering Committee as it helps to guide us to the future, and Search Committee as they completed the profile
- ❖ Thank you to all who offer their food, service, and friendship to the lonely, the hungry, those in trouble from health, homelessness, hunger, and those who we have served with our developing mission increase.
- ❖ Thank you for gifts to this pastor as a sign of love and friendship
- ❖ Most of all, thank you for your time, talent, treasure and prayers as we continue to work together for the best future we can have!

Pastor Teri Lynn

## **New Year, New Things...**

We have added a yellow “Office” folder in front of the family folders for anything that needs to be sent into Carrie in the office...sign-up forms, flower request, messages, etc. Also, if you are placing something in the office for Carrie, please put it in her mail tray up on the shelf, rather than on the desk. This will ensure she receives all new things designated for her.





## Christmas Poinsettias

Donor	In Memory Of
Dorothy Coore	Don & Rita Schmidt
Deb Boland	Loved Ones
Lynn Sparks	Our Parents Ken & Marlene Tarvin & Tom & Phyllis Sparks
Lynn Sparks	Uncle Roger Miller & brother Thomas Sparks
Bobbie Morgan	David N. Morgan
Bobbie Morgan	Loved Ones
Barbara & Paul Staley	Adam Staley
Jan Williams	Arnie Williams
Lee, Karen, & Angela Williams	Lee Andrew Williams
Julie Ress	Jack Kohlmeyer, Claramae Earle, Betty Westermeyer
Julie Ress	Judy Crow, Betty Wesley, Dorothy Garrett, Bonnie Diehl
Tony & Julie Ress	Judy Graham & Jack Wessel
Donor	In Honor Of
Deb Boland	Our Families
Barbara & Paul Staley	Deb Boland
Steve & Gene Bozich	Alica Mae Cinquina
Steve & Gene Bozich	Henry Steven Cinquina
Steve & Gene Bozich	Marlowe Jeann Bozich
Steve & Gene Bozich	Hagen Oxley Bozich
Julie Ress	My amazing husband Tony



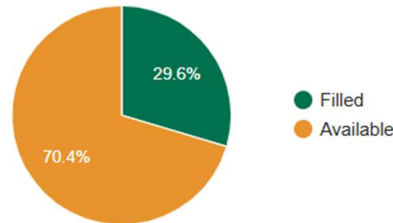
# Hurricanes 2024 Relief Efforts – Putting together Day

## Sign Up Activity

We

**Total Slots:** 480  
**Filled Slots:** 142  
**Available Slots:** 338  
**% Filled:** 29.58%

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



have completed the collection of items for the clean up buckets, reaching almost 30% of our goal. Thank you to all who donated. We are working on scheduling a day to assemble to buckets, so please stay tuned if you would like to help with assembly.

**THE TWELVE DISCIPLES**  
*Bible Study*

**LADIES BIBLE STUDY**

This informative introduction to the twelve disciples shows how Jesus called the Twelve individually—and uniquely—for intimacy with him and ministry for him; all their mishaps and failures and Jesus' grace for them; how these men's lives were radically changed via Christ's life, death, and resurrection; and the global effect of these lives lived for Christ.

Starting January 15th  
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

The advertisement features a yellow background with a green and blue gradient at the bottom. On the left, there is a book cover for 'THE TWELVE DISCIPLES Bible Study' with an image of bread and fish. On the right, there is a stack of three books. The text is in various colors (blue, green, black) and fonts.

## Knitting/Crochet Group

If you enjoy knitting or crocheting come join us every Friday, from 10 to 12 here at church. Don't know how, come and we can teach you. Any questions ask Cindy Seery.



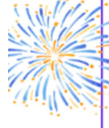
## MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEAL

January 18th  
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.



# JANUARY 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Knitting/Crocheting Group - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	<b>4</b> Calendar Meeting - 11:00 am
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Food Pick-up - 12-2 pm.	<b>8</b> Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Knitting/Crocheting Group - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Property - 7pm - Par.	<b>15</b> Ladies Bible Study - 3-5 pm F.H. Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Knitting/Crocheting Group - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	<b>18</b> Community Meal 10:30 - 12 - F.H.
Communion	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Ladies Bible Study - 3-5 pm F.H. Book Club 5:30 - 7PM F.H. Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary	<b>22</b> Ladies Bible Study - 3-5 pm F.H. Book Club 5:30 - 7PM F.H. Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Knitting/Crocheting Group - 10 am - 12 pm - Library
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Council - 7 pm - Rm. 107	<b>29</b> Ladies Bible Study - 3-5 pm F.H. Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Knitting/Crocheting Group - 10 am - 12 pm - Library Valentine Making - 6:00 - 8:00 - F.H.	<b>25</b> Youth Group - 4:00 - 6:00 - F.H.