

St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

November 23, 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 comfortable and able. The Congregation reads text in bold print.**

*In our liturgy, A: is All our voices. L: is the Liturgist's voice. LL: is the Lay Leader's voice.*

Bringing Christ's Light into Worship

*Youth Acolyte and  
Matthew Westermeyer, Senior Acolyte*

Sharing of Joys and Concerns for Prayer

*Joel Westermeyer, Lay Leader*

*Live Stream Begins*

Prelude

*Garrett Woods, Music Director*

Welcome and Announcements

*Joel Westermeyer, Lay Leader*  
*God is good (**all the time!**) – And all the time (**God is good!**)*

**\*Call to Worship** *(based on Psalm 100)*

*Michelle Daniels, Liturgist*

L: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

**A: We worship the Lord with gladness! We come before Him with joyful songs!**

L: Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His.

**A: We are His people, the sheep of His pasture.**

L: Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.

**A: We give thanks to Him and bless His name.**

L: For the Lord is good, and His steadfast love endures forever.

**A: His faithfulness to all generations never ends.**

**\*Invocation**

**A: God, we’re here today because You’ve been good to us. You’ve carried us through challenges, filled our lives with blessings, and surrounded us with grace we don’t deserve – so we pause now to say thank you. As we gather in this space, we invite You to move among us. Speak to our hearts, stir our spirits, and help us see You more clearly. Let this time of worship be more than tradition—make it real, make it personal, and make it powerful. We want to hear from You, to be changed by You, and to leave this place more grateful, more joyful, and more committed to walking in Your ways. We give You this moment. We give You our praise. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.**

**\*Call to Confession**

**L: As we gather in gratitude, we also come in humility. God calls us not only to give thanks, but to walk wisely, to live by the Spirit, and to honor Christ in all we do. Let us now confess the ways we have fallen short – trusting in God’s mercy and grace.**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**A: Merciful God, we confess that we have not always lived as people filled with Your Spirit. We have wasted time, spoken carelessly, and failed to give thanks in all circumstances. We have ignored Your will and resisted Your wisdom. We have not always submitted to one another out of reverence for Christ. Forgive us, Lord. Renew our hearts, reshape our minds, and restore our joy. Help us to walk wisely, speak truthfully, and live gratefully – so that our lives may reflect Your goodness and bring You glory. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.**

**\*Words of Assurance**

**LL: Hear the good news: God’s mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and set free to live in grace. So let us rejoice and give thanks – for in Christ, we are made new. Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.**

**A: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

\*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.**

*Please be seated.*

LL: Pastoral Prayer & Silent Prayer

**The Lord's Prayer**

**A: 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

*"Into My Heart"*

No. 304

**Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus;  
Come in today, come in to stay, come into my heart, Lord Jesus.**

*Children dismissed for Sunday School*

*Miss Tammi*

**Anthem**

***"I Thank You, Lord"* (by Joseph M. Martin)**

**Chancel Choir**

**Epistle – 1 Thessalonians 5:12–22**

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers and sisters, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

**Bell Choir**

***"For the Fruit of all Creation"***

**Hymn 714**

**Old Testament – Psalm 107:1–9**

*Thanksgiving for Deliverance from Many Troubles*

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.  
Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble  
and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town; hungry and thirsty,  
their soul fainted within them.

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress; he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town.  
Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.  
For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.

Gospel – Luke 17:11-19

*Jesus Cleanses Ten Men with a Skin Disease*

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus’s feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

**Message: “A Heart of Thanksgiving: Finding Gratitude in All Circumstances”**

*Joel Westermeyer, Lay Leader*

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

***A Thanksgiving Statement of Faith***

***(Inspired by the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith)***

**We thank You, O God, Creator of life and Giver of all good gifts.**

**You call the worlds into being, create humankind in Your image, and set before us the ways of life and death.**

**With grateful hearts, we thank You for the beauty of the earth, for daily bread, for shelter and love, and for Your steadfast faithfulness that never fails.**

**We thank You, O Christ, Word made flesh. You came to dwell among us, to proclaim good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed. We give thanks that through Your life, death, and resurrection, we are reconciled to God and to one another. In You, we find forgiveness, healing, and new life.**

**We thank You, O Holy Spirit, who moves among us as breath, fire, and living water. You comfort us in sorrow, challenge us toward justice, and unite us in one covenant of love and service. We give thanks that You continue to renew the Church, empower our witness, and stir our hearts toward generosity and gratitude.**

**We thank You, O God, for the Church universal, for the communion of saints past and present, and for this community of faith — called to be Your servants in the world. We give thanks for the courage to love, the grace to forgive, and the joy of giving thanks in all things. Grateful for Your eternal promises, we live in hope for the day when all creation will be made new, and every tear will be wiped away. Until that day, we offer our lives as instruments of Your peace, giving thanks always, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and our Friend. Amen.**

\*Hymn

*“Now Thank We All Our God”*

No. 715

**\*Invitation to the Offering**

L: As we continue in worship, we come to a moment of response – a time to offer back to God a portion of what He has so graciously given to us. Scripture reminds us to walk wisely, to live with gratitude, and to be filled with the Spirit. One way we do this is through our giving. Giving is not just a financial transaction – it is an act of worship, a declaration of trust, and a reflection of thanksgiving. Whether we give much or little, we give in faith, knowing that God multiplies what is offered with a joyful heart. Let us now present our tithes and offerings, not out of obligation, but out of reverence for Christ and gratitude for His abundant grace.

\*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: Generous and Faithful God, we bring these gifts to You as a response to Your goodness. You have blessed us beyond measure, and we give not to earn Your favor, but to express our gratitude and participate in Your work. Use these offerings to bring light where there is darkness, hope where there is despair, and wisdom where there is confusion. May they serve Your purposes and reflect our reverence for Christ. Bless both the gift and the giver, and guide us to walk wisely, live gratefully, and serve joyfully. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.**

\*Hymn

*“Let All Things Now Living”*

No. 717

**\*Benediction**

LL: Go forth into the world in peace, renewed by the power of God’s Word, reformed by the grace of Jesus Christ, and sustained by the presence of the Holy Spirit. May the God of our ancestors inspire you, the Christ who calls us reform you, and the Spirit who leads us empower you – to love boldly, serve faithfully, and live hopefully. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**A: Amen.**

**\*A: Benediction Response**

*“Blessed Be the Tie That Binds” (No. 433)*

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

**When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;  
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.**

Postlude  
Director

*Garrett Woods, Music*

**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: W, Th, & Fri. 10am – 2pm (W & Th remotely) ~ Sat 9-12pm + 513-661-3745

In the event of a pastoral care emergency, please call the office or Deb Boland.

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# Free Food Distribution

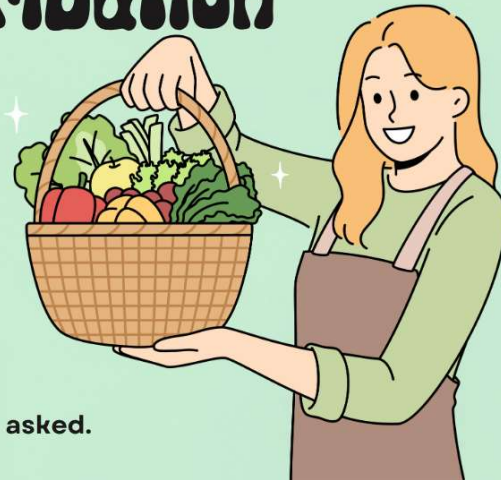
**DECEMBER 2ND**

**12:00PM - 2:00PM**

(1st Tuesday of every month)

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

**Our free food pick-up is open to all.  
No documentation needed, no questions asked.**



We need your help!  
The breakfast with Santa event is coming on December 13, 9-11 am  
There will be a basket in the narthex for monetary donations  
and those are greatly appreciated.  
But your time is just, if not more, valuable.  
We need elves!  
Craft elves, game elves, kitchen elves, and cleaning elves.  
Please see Tammi Hart if you are able to help.

### 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