

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ
Tatamy, Pennsylvania**

Worship Leaders: Pastor Dan Schroeder and Jeff Heald

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Pastor Emeritus: The Rev. Ernest G. Shaffer

Ministers: Every member of the Congregation

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Fourth in Advent

WELCOME

PRELUDE, TOLLING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP, ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

Let us begin with tenderness. Let us begin with our hearts on our sleeve. Let us begin from a place of vulnerability and hope. Let us begin with love.

Yes, let us start with love. Today we light the candles of hope, peace, and love.

May the warmth of these lights be our cornerstone.

May the truth in these lights help us begin again.

May it be so!

Amen.

HYMN #181 Of the Father's Love Begotten

CONFESSION:

God of mercy, grant us your presence and your forgiveness for the sins that we have committed by thought, word, and deed. We have forgotten your call to righteousness and have instead done what is evil in your sight. Free us from the sins that bind us and lead us, ever again, in paths made straight by your love. In Christ we ask it; Amen.

ASSURANCE:

Fear not my friends! God is not vengeful, but is instead gracious and forgiving. The scriptures assure us that we

are not left to the powers of sin and death, but have the hope of everlasting life in God's realm of light and life. In Christ we are set free. Thanks be to God!

MUSICAL RESPONSE

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
To Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise
Our joyful words of thankful praise.**

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 148

Matthew 1:18-25

MEDITATION

HYMN #492 Spirit of the Living God

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 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.**

OFFERING

OFFERING RESPONSE:

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow:
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above the heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

God of all good blessings, receive now these gifts that we offer for the work of this congregation and your greater church. Fill them and us with the power of your Holy Spirit to effect good and bring light to the dark places of this world. In Christ's name we pray; Amen.

HYMN #196 In the Bleak Midwinter

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION:

**Come now, O Prince of Peace, make us one body;
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
Come now, Hope of unity, make us one body;
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers this morning are presented by Bryan and Ellyn Scott in memory of Leona Remel.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON will be held next Sunday immediately following the church service. The Guild will provide the lunch and drinks. Please bring your favorite cookies or dessert to share. Hope to see you there!

NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK.

LIBRARY HOURS—Every Saturday from 10 am until noon, first Wednesday of the month 9 am till 10:30 am and the third Wednesday of the month from 5:30 pm till 7 pm.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

24 Karen Lugg, Frances Stoudt

12/7/25 GIVING--\$1,404.00 GIVING THUS FAR--\$65,951.75

