



ST. PETER'S CHURCH, WEST PENN

"...where worship and service don't stop with the final hymn."

Rev. Cliffert Herring, Interim Pastor
Carol Steigerwalt, Director of Music

April 28, 2024 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter
Worship Service ~ 9:00 AM Sunday School ~ 10:15 AM

(Please turn off your cell phone.)

We Gather to Seek God's Presence

Prayer of Preparation

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our lives in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy. Amen.

Prelude

Greeting/Announcements/Joys, Concerns & Prayer Updates

(All who are able, please stand.)

Call to Worship

P: As we come into the house of the LORD today, let us do so with reverence. Let us recognize the greatness and glory of the one we worship. Let us celebrate that we can come just as we are, and yet, let us come before him with humility. It is no small thing to worship the LORD our God. Let us worship in gratitude and awe. "Come, let us bow down in worship. Let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker." By singing, "*Let us Come Into His House*", let us prepare to worship.

Centering Hymn

"We Have Come Into His House"

#224

Opening Prayer *(in unison)*

As the world continues to clutter our minds and spirits, O God send Your Spirit to help us focus on Your Presence as we worship You this day. Fill us with Grace and Peace as we lift up our voices in praise to You, in the Name of Jesus. Amen.

We Acknowledge Our Brokenness and Seek God's Forgiveness

Call to Confession

P: In humility and in a spirit of repentance, let us confess our sins unto Our Loving God, relying on the Grace of Christ.

ALL: We confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

P: God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people, who will always be made new in the name of Jesus Christ.

(silence for reflection)

Song of Praise *(sung)*

*Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life; I'm so glad you came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth to show the way;
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord I lift your name on high.*

The Passing of the Peace

P. The peace of Christ be with you all.

C. And also with you.

P. Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

(The congregation may be seated.)

Children's Time

We Listen for God's Word to Us

The Reading of Scripture

The First Reading

Acts 8: 26-40

The Second Reading

1 John 4: 7-21

The Gospel Reading

John 15: 1-8

(The First and Second Reading and The Gospel are printed on the back of the bulletin.)

(After the Gospel is announced, all who are able stand and sing:)



Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

(After the Gospel is read, sing:)



Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

(The congregation may be seated.)

Special Music *"Fishers Of Men"* by Harry D. Clarke

"He's Got The Whole World" by Jack Waller & Ralph Reader

~ offered by the Cherub Choir

The Sermon ~ *Ask the Pastor*

(All who are able, please stand.)

Affirmation of Faith

P: Together let us affirm our common faith:

C: **We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God who has created and is creating; who has come to us in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new; who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church, to celebrate God's presence; to live with respect in creation; to love and serve others; to seek justice and resist evil; to proclaim Jesus' message of hope, inclusion and grace. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

(The congregation may be seated.)

The Offering of Our Gifts

The Offertory

“I Asked the Lord To Comfort Me”

by Johnny Large & Jimmy Duncan

(All who are able, please stand.)

The Offertory Response

“The Doxology”

(Hymnal, #815)

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

Prayer of Dedication *(in unison)*

Generous God, receive our gifts of thanksgiving and praise. We offer them to you in recognition of all that you have shared with us. Bless them to the needs of the church, both local and worldwide, in the Name and Spirit of Christ. Amen

(The congregation may be seated.)

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer *(in unison)*

***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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.***

Prayer for Call Committee *(in unison)*

Almighty God, giver of every good gift; look upon this congregation with grace. Guide the minds of our Search Committee members, *Pauline, Jill, Samantha, Susan, Travis, Frank and Mike* as they discern which of your servants will be our next pastor. Please grant that we might receive a faithful shepherd who will care for us and continue to equip us for ministry in this place. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

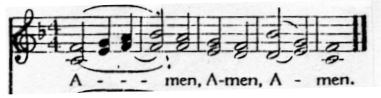
(All who are able, please stand.)

Closing Hymn

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

#11

The Benediction with Three-fold “Amen”



Extinguishing of Candles/Silent Meditation

Choral Blessing *(sung)*

“Go Now in Peace”

***Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know he will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.***

Postlude

“His Name is Life”

by Carman, Gloria & William J. Gaither



ASK THE PASTOR

A few weeks ago, the Pastor challenged the Confirmation class to come up with a question that they would like to ask him. Today, the class will ask the questions. Pastor Cliff has not heard these questions in advance.

AFTER WORSHIP TODAY

Jen Steigerwalt will be explaining the symbolism of our sanctuary’s stained glass windows to the Confirmation Class after worship today. Members of the church are invited to join the class in learning more about the silent message found in these windows.



“Never forget the three powerful resources you always have available to you: love, forgiveness, and prayer.”

~H. Jackson Brown, Jr.



THE ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the glory of God.

LECTORS: Michael Kistler and Mikayah Steigerwalt.

ACOLYTES: TJ Hartman and Cadence Krimendahl.

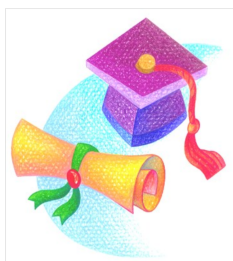
SOUND SYSTEM: Anthony Thomas.

LAST WEEK'S BIRTHDAY OFFERING received from Charlene Miller.

MAY VISITATION LIST BIRTHDAYS: Robert Coombe (5/1) and Velma Schaeffer (5/17).

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

On **Sunday, May 19th** during our morning worship, Troy (TJ) Hartman, Jr., Cadence Krimendahl, Colby Moyer, Jayden Rex, Madison Schaffer, and Mikayah Steigerwalt will celebrate their rite of confirmation into our church family. Please plan on attending to welcome them.



Graduating Senior Recognition

We are planning our annual tradition at St. Peter's by recognizing the achievements of our graduating seniors on **Sunday, June 2nd**.

During morning worship on that day, there will be a time to honor our graduating seniors from high schools, colleges, our preschool, and technical schools. We would like to include highlights of the lives of our graduates and include their accomplishments as well as plans for the future. If you, or someone you know, will be graduating, please notify the church office ASAP (by mail or email). Information to include: Name, Parent(s)/Guardian(s), School, Degree, Recognitions, Clubs/Activities/Hobbies & future plans and a photo. All information is due on May 22nd. We are also seeking graduates to participate in the worship service. Let us know of your interest.

And, we hope the entire congregation will join in our worship celebration of these incredible young people with whom God has gifted us.

**PRAYERS FOR OUR ARMED FORCES
AT HOME AND ABROAD**



Deployed to Israel:

Tyler Resch

Deployed to Japan:

John McGuire

Deployed to Africa:

Jonathan Liggitt

Michelle Liggitt



**Active Duty,
Not Deployed:**

Patrick Donohue, II

Mark Habel

Dustin Hoppes

LeRoy E. Kromer II

Timothy Kromer

Ezekiel Kuneck

Sean Kurtz

Antonio Lorenzo

Dominic Lorenzo

Amanda Miller

Austin Resch

Trevor Schilling

Andy Snyder

Ryan Snyder

Chad Wehr

Mark West

Scott West

Michael Zeigenfuss

PRAYERS FOR THOSE ON OUR VISITATION LIST

Gracedale Nursing Home: Lynn Gerber

Heritage Hill Senior Community: Warren Steigerwalt

Mahoning Convalescent Home: Dorothy Miller, Leonard Miller

Maple Shade Meadows: Edith Coombe, Hazel Arner

Scenic View: Olga Faust

The Palmerton: Barbara Kershner

St. Luke's Miner's Coaldale ~ 5th Floor: Althea Zehner

At Home:

Buddy Arner

Velma Schaeffer

Robert Coombe

Doris Wolfe

Larry Miller

PRAYERS FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

Michael, Kay, Mikayla, Leilani, & Michael Killar in Thailand

Maude, Valera, Zarina, Alexander, & Nicolas Motovilov in the

Czech Republic

Say a Prayer for:

*Richard Knadler
Olga Faust
Sonia Finnegan
Donald Moyer
Holly Fox
Charlotte Miller
Bruce Miller
Gary Steigerwalt
Sharon Horning
Charlotte Solt
Paulette Rex
Ruth Miller
Mike Canty
Jeff Fogel
Marge Hallman
Pat Conner
Hazel Arner
Anne Scott
Bonnie Miller
Kenneth Breiner
Ralph Fisher
Paul David
Dan Myers
Rita Yarmell
Dr. Harry Berger
Rose Marek
Tim Phillips
Diane Serfass
Cassie Wolfe
Evor "Butch" Williams
Erlin Moyer
Teresa Fowler
Gregory Slivka*

*Mary Lou McGowan
Rev. James Seifert
Rev. Russell & Corrine
Heintzelman
Kathy Hoppel
Mark Wolfe
Shawn Phillips
Leonard Miller
Connie Heckman
Gail Thon
Patrick Pulanco
Bob Goerner
Rev. Russ Campbell
Chester Jones
Dan McMullen
Loretta Beers
David Schoch
Erin Coombe
Karen Lenhart
Billy James
Laurie Black
Darryl Moyer
Betty Breiner
Sherry Seip
Maggie Wehr
Nancy Domanski
Melinda Frey
Linda Agosti
Logan Pribila
Bruce Wolf
Lori Fairchild
Franklin Mackes
Mark Abrachinsky
Greg Blackall*

*Lana Kuehner
Zayden Mabey
John Kowlewski
Aiden Kreimendahl
Mike & Bernice Delp
Gino Lorady
Kim & Dave Carson
Louise Billman
Tony Masor
Sherry Walz
Darlene Kunkel
Erla Biasi
Carolyn Kunkle
Jillian Datchko
Russel Stull, Jr.
Donna Roderick
Jaden Leiby
Justin Klotz
Gene McCormik
William Shirar
Amy Meixsall
Jackson Delebar
Austin Klein
Melissa Drake
Lorna Hart
Carson Barron
Caroline Lantz
Nancy Barkus*



**If you know of someone to be added or removed from the Prayer List, please contact
Rev. Herring, Chris Miller or the church office.**

THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S

Today, Sunday, April 28:

- 9:00 AM Worship Service
- 10:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Confirmation Class
- 6:00 PM Girl Scouts

Monday, April 29:

- 7:15 PM Play Practice

Thursday, May 2:

- 6:00 PM Cherub Choir
- 7:00 PM Senior Choir

Friday, May 3:

- 6:00 PM St. Peter's Dinner Theatre

Next Sunday, May 5:

- 9:00 AM Worship Service ~ Sacrament of Holy Communion
- 10:15 AM Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Confirmation Class
- 1:00 PM St. Peter's Dinner Theatre
- 6:00 PM Girl Scouts

(Zook's Meat Pie orders due)



New Members

If you are interested in becoming a member at St. Peter's (or you know someone who is), Please let Pastor Herring or a Board Member know, or call the church office.



WASP NEWS

The Mother/Daughter/Aunt/Sister/Cousin Tea on Tuesday, May 21st @ 6.30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a signup sheet on the parlor table for refreshments. All church women and young ladies are invited to join them.

*WASP will be having a Zook's meat pie sale. Selling chicken or beef pies..\$7 for small pies (6") and \$10 for large pies (8"). Order by **Sunday, May 5th** for pickup **Saturday, May 18th @ the South Entrance from 11:00 am ~ 1:00 pm.***

