



ST. PETER'S CHURCH, WEST PENN

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

Pastor Josh Nemeth
Carol Steigerwalt, Supply Organist

Sunday, August 9, 2026
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Worship ~ 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School ~ 10:15 a.m.

(Please turn off your cell phone.)

Prayer of Preparation

O God, you are our defender. Storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue us from despair, deliver us from fear and preserve us in the faith of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Greeting/Announcements, Joys and Concerns

Prelude *"Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place"*
by Lanny Wolfe

Lighting of the Candles

Centering Hymn *"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"* #340 (Verse 1)
(All who are able, please stand.)

Call to Worship

P: In seasons of fullness and in seasons of loss,
C: God remains faithful.
P: When the road is uncertain and the future unclear,
C: God walks with us.
P: When grief lingers and hope feels distant,
C: God is still at work.
P: Come, let us worship the God who redeems every story.
C: We come to worship with trust and hope.

Opening Hymn *"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"* #377

We Acknowledge Our Brokenness and Seek God's Forgiveness

Call to Confession and Confession of Sin

P: Scripture shows us that even in loss, God invites us to remain faithful. Yet too often, we turn inward, grow bitter, or lose sight of His presence. Let us come honestly before God, confessing our sin and trusting in His mercy

(A Time for Silent Confession)

P: Trusting in God's grace and mercy, let us confess our sin together.

All: Gracious God, we confess that in seasons of loss we do not always trust You. We cling to what was instead of trusting You for what will be. We allow grief to harden our hearts, fear to guide our decisions, and doubt to cloud our faith. Forgive us for the times we have turned away from You, for the moments we have chosen comfort over obedience, and for the ways we have failed to love faithfully. Restore our hope, renew our faith, and remind us that You are always working for redemption. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

P: Even in our wandering, even in our grief, God has not abandoned us. He is at work within our story, bringing His redemption, His grace, His provision. What may seem empty is being filled by God's faithful hand. And in Jesus Christ, that redemption is made complete. Our past does not define us, our loss does not defeat us, and our sin does not hold us. Christ has redeemed us.

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

Joyous Noise Offering

The Reading of Scripture

The First Reading

Ruth 1:10-18

The Gospel Reading

Mark 12:28-34

(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.

Hymn

“Victory in Jesus”

#353

(The congregation may be seated.)

The Message *Ordinary People, Extraordinary God*
(Ruth – The Faithful in Loss)

Affirmation of Faith *(in unison)*

We believe in God, who is present in both joy and sorrow, working through ordinary lives to accomplish extraordinary purposes. We believe in Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who enters into our brokenness and brings restoration through His grace. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who sustains us in seasons of loss, guides us in faithfulness, and leads us toward hope. We trust that no loss is beyond God's redemption, and no story is beyond His saving work. Thanks be to God. Amen.

The Offering of Our Gifts

The Offertory

“Bind Us Together”

by Bob Gillman

The Offertory Response (*sung*)

Prayer of Dedication *(in unison)*

(The congregation may be seated.)

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer *(in unison)*

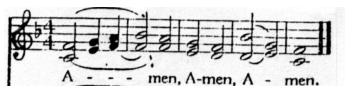
(All who are able, please stand.)

Closing Hymn

“Here I Am, Lord”

#589

The Benediction with Three-fold “Amen”



Extinguishing of Candles/Silent Meditation

Choral Blessing *(sung)*

(Tune: "Morning Has Broken")

**New life has bloomed here, God's love has warmed us;
Now the world calls us to spread that love.
God's peace go with you, may it sustain you,
And bring us together to praise God again.**

Postlude

"Majesty"

by Jack W. Hayford & Eugene Thomas



THE ALTAR FLOWERS *are dedicated in praise and glory to our God.*

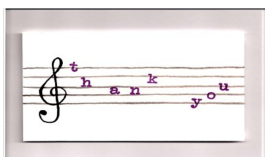
"Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!

And let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the Lord! Psalm 106:48

LECTOR: *Jill Imbody.*

SOUND SYSTEM: *Eric Schock.*

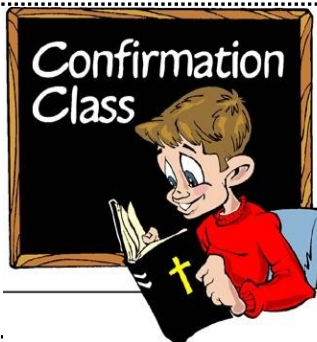
LAST WEEK'S BIRTHDAY OFFERINGS *received from Barry Miller.*



*We are very grateful to Carol Steigerwalt for sharing
the gift of music with us as we gather together this
morning for our worship time.*

DON'T FORGET LECTOR SIGNUPS

Thank you to those willing to serve ~ **a new signup sheet** is provided on the table in the church parlor. The reading will be provided each week through email and/or in the bin on pastor's door. You may signup for one Sunday, or multiple Sundays (which is encouraged). Thank you!



CONFIRMATION CLASS WILL BEGIN

All youth eligible for Confirmation (age 12 and above) and their parents are invited to meet on **Sunday, September 14th** following the worship service to begin the confirmation process. If you are interested but cannot attend, or if you have any questions, please contact Pastor Josh before the 14th.

FALL FESTIVAL

Fall Fest is back for 2026!

Friday, September 18th from 4:00~ 8:00 PM
and **September 19th** from 12:00 ~ 6:00 PM

Accepting baskets, gift cards until August 31st.

Contact Lori Hoppes at 610-393-0901



Note: Although the *Kitchen Krew* is still on a break we are looking for help in the kitchen for the Fall Fest. Please contact Charlene Miller @ 570-386-4267. We are also looking for bake sale donations for the Festival.

ACTORS NEEDED



Looking for character (actors) for the dinner theater in April 2027. Let Christine Miller know if your interested by **September 1, 2026** for details. You can text or call her at (272) 208-6800.

PLEASE HELP!

Our children's treats are dwindling down. Your help is needed to replenish the supply. We do not fill our treat bags with small hard candies because of the little ones nor do we deem it appropriate for the children to have gum in church. We need lollipops, fruit snacks, gold fish or snack crackers, or anything that can keep our children content. Thank you!



Hope in the Middle

In the middle of busy days, real struggles, and everything in between, God is still at work. No matter what your week has held, there's still space for hope.

Join Pastor Josh each week for a short, encouraging Facebook Live centered on real life, real faith, and lasting hope. **Thursdays @ 11:00 AM:** Live on Facebook

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



Deployed to Japan:

John McGuire

Deployed to Germany:

Joyce Steigerwalt

Deployed to Saudi Arabia:

Ryan Snyder

**Active Duty,
Not Deployed:**

Mark Habel

Dustin Hoppes

LeRoy E. Kromer II

Timothy Kromer

Ezekiel Kuneck

Sean Kurtz

Amanda Miller

Austin Resch

Tyler Resch

Alexis Scott

Trevor Schilling

Andy Snyder

Ryan Snyder

Alexander Thomas

Chad Wehr

Mark West

Scott West

Michael Zeigenfuss



PRAYERS FOR THSE ON OUR VISITATION LIST

Maple Shade Meadows: Gary Steigerwalt

Scenic View: Olga Faust

Hometown Nursing Home: Wendy Kunkel

**Mahoning Post Acute Nursing & Rehabilitation: Hazel Arner,
Edith Coombe**

At Home:

Buddy Arner

Larry Miller

Robert Coombe

Doris Wolfe

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:

Recent

Crystal Unger
Denise Angstadt
Grace Fogel
Grayson Christman
Holly Fox
Irene Dennis
Liz Johns
Steve Miller
Ralph Fisher
Susan Brockel
Virginia Allesch
Wendy Kunkel

Ongoing

Audrey
Austin Klein
Barry Reinert
Beth Pravozino
Bonnie Miller
Bruce Miller
Carolyn Lantz
Carissa Nelson
Cassie Wolfe
Clyde
Cody Wolfgang

Dale Peterson
Daniel Smith
Darlene Kunkel
Darryl Moyer
Debbie Mooney
DeRue Kistler
Donald Hank Williams
Edna Moyer
Eileen Moyer
Elsie Kiddell
Erin Coombe
Erlin Moyer
Gregory Slivka
Harry & Janie Conner
Hope Gramlich
Jackson Farrow
Janet Altenburg
John Tracy
Karen Nelson
Kenneth Breiner
Larry Chelsa
Leon Kunkel
Linda Garber
Lisa Moyer
Liz Johns
Lynn Long
Maggie Wehr

Margarita Santnadelon
Margaret Kern
Mark Wolfe
Marsha Rodgers
Mary Lou McGowan
Nadine
Nancy Domanski
Nicolas Thomas
Parker Brode
Paul David
Renee Troutman
Ricky Everett
Rita Yarmell
Russel Miller
Russell Snyder
Sharon Horning
Sue Hower
Teresa Fowler
Tracie & Scott Clews
Wayne Lazarus



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

FUNDRAISER FOR PEDIATRIC DIABETES

Gage Estep is collecting recyclables (plastic drink bottles and aluminum cans). **No milk jugs or 1/2 gallon containers please.** Anyone with a large amount of cans, can call Marsha Estep to arrange a pick up at 570-778-8082

GIRL SCOUTS ARE NO LONGER COLLECTING PLASTIC. IF SOMEONE OR A GROUP WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE WITH THIS PROJECT, AMY ZEIGENFUSS WILL HELP TO SET UP A NEW ACCOUNT.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S

Today, Sunday, August 9:

9:00 AM Worship Service
Joyous Noise Offering
10:15 AM Adult Sunday School

Tuesday, August 11:

September Newsletter Deadline
7:00 PM Prayer Group

Wednesday, August 12:

9:30 AM Retirees

Next Sunday, August 16:

9:00 AM Worship Service
Blessing of the Backpacks and teacher "work bags"
10:15 AM Adult Sunday School

**For complete details on these events, please consult your newsletter.*

Giving is one way we worship together. Scan the QR code to give quickly and securely, helping us continue the work God is doing here. Thank you for supporting the ministry and mission of our church.



July 26, 2026

Attendance: 48

Plate Offering: \$ 74.00

Total Current Offering: \$ 1,1174.50

Building Maintenance Fund: \$ 47.00

Year-to-date Fuel: \$ 390.00

Year-to-date Elevator: \$ 220.00

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**Benevolence:**

**Total YTD: \$ 2,470.00**

**2026 combined benevolence goal is \$10,000.00**

**August 2, 2026**

**Attendance: 64**

**Plate Offering: \$ 139.00**

**Total Current Offering: \$ 4,284.50**

**Building Maintenance Fund: \$ 412.00**

**Year-to-date Fuel: \$ 390.00**

**Year-to-date Elevator: \$ 420.00**

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Benevolence:

Total YTD: \$ 2,626.50

2026 combined benevolence goal is \$10,000.00

St. Peter's Church, West Penn

184 St. Peter's Road Tamaqua PA 18252 570-386-4388

Pastor Josh Nemeth 570-449-5993

**Pastor's Office Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays
from 10:00AM ~ 3:00 PM**

Other times available by Appointment

Michael Hunsicker, Board President ~ 570-778-1972

Lori Hoppes, Vice President ~ 610-393-0901

Contact for our TLC Committee for Your Special Needs:

Please call Nancy Knadler at (570) 956-6851 , or email at Lukie@ptd.net

Sexton: Lou Ann Algard 570-778-4063

Financial Secretary: Sharon Main

Church Office: Elaine Koons

Church Office Phone: (570) 386-4388

**Church Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00am—1:00pm,
Friday from 10:00am-2:00pm (Hours subject to change)**

E-mail addresses: Pastor Josh: pastor@stpwp.com

Church Office: info@stpwp.com

Financial Secretary: financials@stpwp.com

Sunday School: spwpsundayschool@gmail.com

Web Site Address: <https://www.stpeterschurchwestpenn.com>

Web Master email: info@stpwp.com

Facebook: St Peter's Church of West Penn