



## ST. PETER'S CHURCH, WEST PENN

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

**Pastor Joshua Nemeth**

**January 18, 2026 ~ Second Sunday after Epiphany**  
**Worship – 9:00 a.m. 10:15 ~ Adult Sunday School**  
**Sunday School after Children's Time**

*(Please turn off your cell phone.)*

### **Prayer of Preparation**

*Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

### **Greeting/Announcements, Joys and Concerns**

**Prelude**     *"I Asked the Lord To Comfort Me When Things  
Weren't Going My Way. . ."*     by Johnny Lange & Jimmy Duncan

### **Lighting of the Candles**

**Centering Hymn**     *"Let's Worship and Adore Him"*     #247

*(All who are able, please stand.)*

### **Call to Worship**

**P:** Come, people of God, when life feels heavy and faith is tested.

**C:** **We come, trusting God is at work in every trial.**

**P:** The testing of our faith produces perseverance.

**C:** **Let perseverance finish its work in us, so we may be mature, complete, and lacking nothing.**

**P:** Come, not to escape hardship, but to worship the God who forms us through it.

**C:** **With joy, we lift our hearts to the Lord. Praise the Lord.**

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

*We Acknowledge Our Brokenness and Seek God's Forgiveness*

### **Call to Confession and Confession of Sin**

**P** When trials come, we often resist the work God is doing within us. God calls us to perseverance, to trust Him in every test. Let us confess our sins, trusting the God who forms us through grace.

*(A Time for Silent Reflection)*

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

**All: Faithful God, we confess that when trials come, we do not count them as joy. We grumble instead of trusting, we rush for relief instead of perseverance, and we resist the work You are doing in us. Forgive us for doubting Your purpose, for giving up too quickly, and for forgetting that You are shaping us into maturity through every test. Renew our faith, strengthen our endurance, and teach us to trust You fully until Your work in us is complete. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

P: As we gather to as one body and one people before God, we worship Christ Jesus our Lord and savior. He is the only Son of God who humbly stepped from heaven, coming to earth to bring forgiveness to us all. He paid the debt for our sin once and for all on the cross and victoriously rose again from the grave, giving us the certainty of our forgiveness and pardon of sin, from our first day faith in Him until we one day He calls us home.

### **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**

*\*\*Children dismissed for Sunday School*

## **The Reading of Scripture**

The First Reading

*Isaiah 49: 1-7*

The Gospel Reading

*John 1: 29-42*

*(The First 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**

*“We Have Come This Far By Faith”*

by J. Paul Williams, Joseph M. Martin & Larry Mayfield

*~ offered by The Senior Choir*

**The Sermon** *Faith Under Pressure: Faith Tested (James 1:2-4)*

**Affirmation of Faith** *(in unison)*

**We believe that God is faithful in every season of life. We trust that the testing of our faith produces perseverance, and that perseverance is shaping us toward maturity and wholeness. We believe God is at work even in our trials, forming us into people who lack nothing in Christ. With joy and hope, we place our lives in God’s hands. Amen.**

## **The Offering of Our Gifts**

**The Offertory** *“When I Am Weary, Filled With Despair, Who Gives Me  
Courage To Go From There, and Who Gives Me Faith That Will  
Never Die? SOMEBODY BIGGER THAN YOU AND I”*

by Johnny Lange, Hy Heath & Sonny Burke

*(All who are able, please stand.)*

**The Offertory Response** *(sung)*

*We give Thee but Thine own,  
Whate’er the gift may be.  
All that we have is Thine alone –  
A trust, O Lord, from Thee. Amen.*

### **Prayer of Dedication** *(in unison)*

**We thank You for the blessings of this time of worship, loving God. We praise you for the blessings you have given unto us. Take and use these gifts we offer to further Your purpose in the world and to fulfill the promise of the world to come. Amen.**

*(The congregation may be seated.)*

### **Pastoral Prayer**

#### **The Lord's Prayer** *(in unison)*

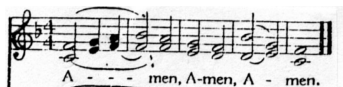
***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.***

*(All who are able, please stand.)*

**Closing Hymn**      *"My Faith Has Found a Resting Place"*

#528

### **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**

*"Have Faith In God; He Sees and Knows All the  
Way You Have Trod"*

by B. B. McKinney



**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are presented to the Glory of God. “And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.”

Matthew 21:22

**LECTOR:** *TBD.*

**SOUND SYSTEM:** *Blaine Seip.*

**JANUARY VISITATION LIST BIRTHDAYS:** *Barbara Kershner (1/7), Hazel Arner (1/16) and Olga Faust (1/29).*

### LECTOR SIGNUPS

We are in need of the congregation to signup to be lectors each Sunday. We are asking that those willing to serve signup on the sheet 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!



### ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS DUE



All Committee and Organizational Reports are due in the office by **TODAY Sunday, January 18th**. Please have your reports in the office, or by email as soon as possible in order to have them in time for the Annual Report to be completed. Thank you.

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 1st** following worship for the purpose of accepting the 2025 Annual Report and adopting the 2026 budget. Please plan on staying for this important meeting.



## Offering Envelopes



**2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available in the church parlor. And, if you can, while you're getting yours maybe you could deliver envelopes to those who might not be able to pick them up themselves ~ this helps us to keep down mailing costs. Thank you!

## 2026 FLOWER/BULLETIN CHART

Please note that the 2026 chart is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex in December. Make sure you have the Sundays you want by filling in the date(s) now. Altar flower Sponsors: \$30.00 per altar arrangement, Piano Bowl: \$30.00 and \$30.00 for an extra arrangement placed on the organ. Contact Laverne Hunsicker or the Church Office to reserve your Sunday date. Bulletins can also be sponsored for \$15.00.



## W. A. S. P. News



The next meeting of WASP is scheduled on ***Tuesday, January 20th*** at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall. Nancy Neff will be in charge of refreshments.

WASP usually meets in the fellowship hall the third Tuesday of every month unless a special event is planned. All women are invited to join them.

## **2026-2027 PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION**

If you have a child that is eligible for preschool and wish to enroll them for the 2026-2027 school year, please contact Barbara Nametko as soon as possible at 570-202-0686. The classes are reaching enrollment numbers quickly.

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



**Deployed to:**  
**USS Harry Truman**  
**Austin Resch**

**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**  
**Antonio Lorenzo**  
**Dominic Lorenzo**  
**Amanda Miller**

**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: Hazel Arner, Gary Steigerwalt**

**The Laurel Center, Orwigsburg: Barbara Kershner**

**Scenic View: Olga Faust**

**Hometown Nursing Home: Wendy Kunkel**

**Mahoning Valley Nursing Home: 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***

*Dale Peterson  
Daniel Smith  
Edna Moyer  
ElFreide  
Grace Fogel  
Hope Gramlich  
Jessica Hill  
John Tracy  
Kim Acierno  
Liam Melicharek  
Lisa Moyer  
Margaret Kern  
Ron Hinderliter  
Scott Middlecamp  
Sherry Goerner*

### ***Ongoing***

*Austin Klein  
Barry Reinert  
Beth Pravozino  
Betty Breiner*

*Bonnie Miller  
Bruce Miller  
Carolyn Lantz  
Clyde  
Cody Wolfgang  
Darlene Kunkel  
Darryl Moyer  
Debbie Mooney  
Dennis Oriel  
DeRue Kistler  
Donald Hank Williams  
Erin Coombe  
Erlin Moyer  
Gregory Slivka  
Judy Gerber  
Kay Faust  
Kenneth Breiner  
Leon Kunkel  
Linda Garber  
Loretta Beers  
Maggie Wehr  
Mark Wolfe  
Marsha Rodgers*

*Mary Lou McGowan  
Nadine  
Parker Brode  
Paul David  
Renee Troutman  
Ricky Everett  
Rita Yarmell  
Sandy Clemson  
Sharon Horning  
Sue Hower  
Teresa Fowler  
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.**

***Search not for me in the Scriptures, instead, search within yourself.  
When you are lost I will come to you, for I'm the Shepherd who guides the  
lost.***

*~ adapted from a poem by John Paul*

***“God hears what is not spoken and understands what is not  
explained, for His love doesn't work in the lips or in the mind, but in the  
heart.***      *~ Author Unknown*



## **THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S**

### **Today, Sunday, January 18:**

9:00 AM Worship Service

\*\*Children dismissed after the Children's Time

10:15 AM Adult Sunday School

\*\*ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS DUE IN THE OFFICE\*\*

### **Tuesday, January 20:**

7:00 PM WASP

### **Thursday, January 22:**

6:00 PM Cherub Choir

NO Senior Choir

### **Next Sunday, January 25:**

9:00 AM Worship Service

\*\*Children dismissed after the Children's Time

10:15 AM Adult Sunday School

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

*In case of inclement weather, please listen to WMGH/WLSH Radio Station, watch TV Channel 13 or Channel 69 for any change in the time or cancellation of St. Peter's Church worship schedule.*



## **GIRL SCOUTS COLLECTING PLASTIC**

Please make sure the plastic and bags are clean and dry and free from food residue. There is a collection box in the church parlor.

## **FUNDRAISER FOR PEDIATRIC DIABETES**

Gage Bishop is collecting recyclables (plastic drink bottles and aluminum cans). Anyone with a large amount of cans, can call Marsha Estep to arrange a pick up at 570-778-8082

**PLEASE NOTE:** It seems a breach in our database had occurred this week. We believe this occurred at the company's site. Pastor's correct email is listed on the next page ([pastor@stpwp.com](mailto:pastor@stpwp.com)). Do not reply to any other emails.

**January 11, 2026**

**Attendance: 81**

**Plate Offering: \$ 120.00**

**Total Current Offering: \$ 2,440.50**

**Building Maintenance Fund: \$ 154.00**

**Year-to-date Fuel: \$ 0**

**Year-to-date Elevator: \$ 0**

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**Benevolence:**

**Total YTD: \$ \$2 422.50**

**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 Joshua Nemeth 570-449-5993**

**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**