



ST. PETER'S CHURCH, WEST PENN

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

Pastor Josh Nemeth

March 1, 2026 ~ Second Sunday in Lent

Worship Service ~ 9:00 AM 10:15 AM ~ Adult Sunday School

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Children dismissed after the Blessing

(Please turn off your cell phone.)

We Gather Again and Seek God's Presence

O God, our leader and guide, strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may show the world our Savior, Jesus Christ, and the freedom and salvation his life, death and resurrection has brought us. Amen.

Greeting/Announcements/Joys, Concerns & Prayer Updates

Prelude

"The Old Rugged Cross"

by George Bennard

Lighting of the Candles

Centering Hymn

"Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" #2 (first verse)

(All who are able, please stand.)

Call to Worship

P: We gather today in a world that tells us to grasp, achieve, and control.

C: **Yet Jesus calls us to release, trust, and follow.**

P: Jesus says, "If anyone would come after me, let them deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow."

C: **We come not to cling to control, but to cling to Christ.**

P: Lay down your striving. Release your fear. Open your heart to the way of the cross.

All: **We worship the One who lost His life so we could truly live.**

Opening Hymn

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

#328

Call to Confession and Confession of Sin

P: Christ does not call us to confession to shame us, but to free us.

So let us come honestly before God, trusting that mercy meets us where surrender begins.

(A Time for Silent Confession)

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

All: Gracious Savior, we confess that we prefer control to trust. We want the crown without the cross, comfort without sacrifice, and security without surrender. Forgive us for the ways we try to save our lives apart from You.

Forgive our pride, our self-protection, and our quiet resistance. Teach us the courage to deny ourselves, the faith to take up our cross, and the love to follow wherever You lead. In Your mercy, reshape our hearts. In Your grace, teach us surrender. In Your presence, help us find true life. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

P: Hear the good news: The One who calls us to take up the cross is the very One who carried it first. Jesus did not cling to power. He did not protect Himself from sacrifice He gave Himself in love for you. And because of His surrender, your sins are forgiven, your striving is released, and your life is held securely in grace. In Christ, we are forgiven. In Christ, we are free to surrender. Thanks be to God.

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.)

The Reading of Scripture

The First Reading

The Gospel Lesson

Genesis 12:1-4a

John 3:1-17

*(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

“You Are My All in All, Fairest Lord Jesus”

by Dennis Jernigan & Larry Shackley

~ offered by The Senior Choir

The Message *Holding On: The Cross, Not Control (Luke 9:21-26)*

The Affirmation of Faith *(in unison)*

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into Hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; The Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

P: With our recommitment to serve God, one another, and the members of the larger community, let us approach the Table of Christ sharing in this sacred meal.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

P: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week, Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, and on that same day sat at table with two of the disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

C: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, young and old, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south to gather around Christ's table.

P: This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

Communion Prayer

P: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: Therefore with the entire company of saints in heaven and on earth, we worship and glorify you, O God, Most High.

Seraphic Hymn *(Sung)*

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of Thy Glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!*

The Remembrance

P: We remember that on the night of betrayal, Jesus took bread and after giving thanks to God, broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat: This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to the disciples saying: Drink this all of you; This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Prayer of Consecration

P: Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in his Resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We spread your table with these gifts of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service in behalf of all people.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine and grape juice, on our gifts and on us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

C: Be present with us as we share this meal, that we may know you as the Holy One who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. For we pray in the Name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

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.

The Breaking and Sharing of the Bread

The Pouring and Sharing of the Cup

Gluten-free bread cubes and grape juice can be found in the center of the trays. Children are invited to come forward for a blessing during the distribution of the elements; children on the lectern side may come forward during the distribution of the bread. Children on the pulpit side may come forward during the distribution of the wine.)

The Prayer of Thanksgiving *(in unison)*

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith.

Increase our love. Send us forth into the world in courage and peace rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Offering of Our Gifts

The Offertory

“Grace Medley”

by Julia H. Johnston & Daniel B. Towner

(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.



THE ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the glory of God in thankfulness and praise.

THE BOWL ON THE PIANO is in honor of Carol Steigerwalt for her years of music, with love from Delroy, Melissa, Brad, Amanda and Dan.

THE BULLETIN is sponsored to honor and sincerely thank Carol Steigerwalt for sharing her spiritual gift of music with her St. Peter's Church family. She led with grace and the love of the Lord in her heart. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:16-17

LECTOR: Bonnie Myers.

SOUND SYSTEM: Mark Eberts.

LECTOR SIGN-UPS

We are in need of the congregation to sign up to be lectors each Sunday. We are asking that those willing to serve sign-up 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 sign up for one Sunday, or multiple Sundays (which is encouraged). Thank you!



DON'T FORGET TO SPRING AHEAD!

Daylight Savings Time begins on **March 8th** at 2:00 AM.
Remember to set your clocks ahead 1 hour.

The first day of Spring is March 20th.



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

Say a Prayer for:

Recent

*Loved Ones of
Phyllis Ann Pruett
Daniel Smith
Jessica Hill
John Tracy
Judy Gerber
Kim Acierno
Karen Nelson
Larry Chesla
Liam Melicharek
Margaret Kern
Russel Miller
Scott Middlecamp
Tracie & Scott Clews*

Ongoing

*Austin Klein
Barry Reinert
Beth Pravozino
Betty Breiner
Bonnie Miller*

*Bruce Miller
Carolyn Lantz
Clyde
Cody Wolfgang
Dale Peterson
Darlene Kunkel
Darryl Moyer
Debbie Mooney
Dennis Oriel
DeRue Kistler
Donald Hank Williams
Edna Moyer
Erin Coombe
Erlin Moyer
Gregory Slivka
Harry & Janie Conner
Hope Gramlich
Kenneth Breiner
Leon Kunkel
Linda Garber
Lisa Moyer
Lynn Long
Maggie Wehr
Margarita Santnadelon*

*Mark Wolfe
Marsha Rodgers
Mary Lou McGowan
Nadine
Parker Brode
Paul David
Renee Troutman
Ricky Everett
Rita Yarmell
Ron Hinderliter
Russell Snyder
Sandy Clemson
Sharon Horning
Sherry Goerner
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, March 1:

9:00 AM Worship Service ~ Sacrament of Holy Communion
**Children dismissed after the Blessing
10:15 AM Adult Sunday School

Wednesday, March 4:

7:00 PM Mid-Week Lenten Service at Ben Salem

Thursday, March 5:

6:00 PM Cherub Choir

Friday, March 6:

World Day of Prayer

Saturday, March 7:

Spring Ahead ~ Set your clocks tonight

Next Sunday, March 8:

9:00 AM Worship Service
Joyous Noise Offering
**Children dismissed after the Joyous Noise Offering
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.

- The *Kitchen Krew* will be making Filling. Orders are due March 22. Pick up will be Thursday April 2 at the South Entrance 11:00-1:00. \$8/quart. Anyone willing to help please leave Charlene Miller know. Charlene 570-386-4267. Orders are being taken by Karen Diehl 570-386-5472 or karend@ptd.net or cell 610-554-1296.

February 22, 2026

Attendance: 74

Plate Offering: \$ 84.00

Total Current Offering: \$ 1,805.00

Building Maintenance Fund: \$ 181.00

Year-to-date Fuel: \$ 390.00

Year-to-date Elevator: \$ 0

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**Benevolence:**

**Total YTD: \$ 839.50**

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

**Ash Wednesday Service Attendance: 87**

**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**