



ST. PETER'S CHURCH, WEST PENN

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

Pastor Josh Nemeth
Pastor Cliff Herring, Supply Pastor

Sunday, October 25, 2026
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
Worship ~ 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School ~ 10:15 a.m.

(Please turn off your cell phone.)

Prayer of Preparation

Gracious Lord, thank you for pouring out your Holy Spirit to renew your church in every age. Keep us faithful, we pray, keep us steadfast in your Word and bestow upon us your peace. We pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Greeting/Announcements, Joys and Concerns

Prelude

"Have Thine Own Way, Lord"

by Adelaide A. Pollard & George C. Stabbins

Lighting of the Candles

Centering Hymn

"We Have Come Into His House"

#224

(All who are able, please stand.)

Call to Worship

P: We gather in the Name of God: The Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: As begin our worship, let us leave our fear, our prejudice, our self-centered thoughts behind.

C: **We begin worship in a Spirit of Love: Love for God and Love for others.**

P: Let us leave behind our expectations of what we want to hear,

C: **So we might be open to hear the words of the Lord which may challenge us and force us to rethink our beliefs.**

P: Let us leave behind that which holds us back

C: **Let us express our love for God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength and let us love our neighbor as we love ourselves.**

P: Let us pray:

All: Almighty God, open our eyes, our minds, and our hearts to the endless possibilities that you have for us. Let us be grateful for all that we have received that we might share those gifts with others. Free us to be filled with your Spirit and worship You fully, in the Spirit of Jesus. Amen.

Opening Hymn

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

#151

We Acknowledge Our Brokenness and Seek God’s Forgiveness

Call to Confession and Confession of Sin

P: Part of our human nature is that we are not perfect and cannot measure up to what God expects of us or even what we desire for ourselves. In a spirit of contrition, let us confess our sine before the Almighty, trusting in His Grace and Understanding.

(A Time for Silent Confession and Reflection)

All: Almighty God, too often we forget your promises. We live in ways that bring glory only to ourselves. We have become self-righteous and are too quick to judge others who are different than we. We have been kind to ourselves but not with others. Forgive us, Gracious One. Help us to live out the love that you have shown to us in our words and actions with others. Empower us to embody the Spirit of Jesus in our words and in our deeds for we ask this in His Holy Name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

P: How we love to remember the grudges that we have against others. But God does not keep an account of our sins. Through Christ we are forgiven and renewed with a refreshed spirit to love and serve others as God loves us. Be at Peace.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 22: 34-46

(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

"Love Divine , All Loves Excelling"

#648

(The congregation may be seated.)

The Message *The Hard Part about Loving God*

Affirmation of Faith *(in unison)*

We believe in God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, whose purposes cannot be defeated and whose love endures forever. We believe in Jesus Christ, God's Son and our Lord, who entered our world, proclaimed the kingdom of God, died for our sins, was buried, and was raised on the third day. We believe that the resurrection is the heart of the Christian faith: Jesus Christ is alive, death has been defeated, and God's saving work continues. We believe that the Holy Spirit calls us to faith, strengthens us in our doubts and guides us into truth. Because Christ lives, forgiveness is real, hope is alive, and the promise of eternal life is secure in Him.

The Offering of Our Gifts

The Offertory

“Change My Heart O God”

by Eddie Espinosa

(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 bless you, Giving Creator, for enriching our lives both in material and in spiritual gifts. Bless our offerings that they may enrich the lives of others, filling them with Your Spirit of Love and generosity. 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.*

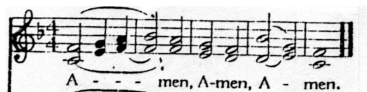
(All who are able, please stand.)

Closing Hymn

“In Christ, There is No East or West”

#428

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

"Once to Every Man and Nation"

by James Russell Lowell & Thomas J. Williams



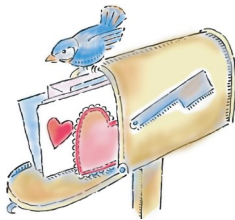
THE ALTAR FLOWERS are dedicated to the Glory of God. *"Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."* Psalm 119:105

LECTOR: *Jill Imbody.*

SOUND SYSTEM: *Anthony Thomas.*

LAST WEEK'S BIRTHDAY OFFERING *received from Eric Schock.*

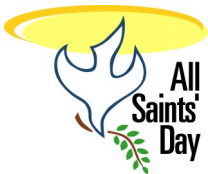
NOVEMBER VISITATION LIST BIRTHDAY: *Wendy Kunkel (11/14).*



CARD SHOWER

Ralph Fisher will be celebrating his 89th birthday on Friday, November 6th. A card shower has been requested from his friends. Ralph has recently moved ~ his new address is:

Getz Personal Care Home
1026 PA 534
Kunkletown PA 18058



All Saints Sunday

On Sunday, November 1st, during our morning worship, St. Peter's will honor all our Saints who have passed into eternal rest since last November. There will be a special observance within the liturgy to remember these loved ones and friends.

If you have a family member or loved one who you would like to be remembered, please contact Pastor Josh or the office. If you have a loved one you would like remembered that passed away prior to last November, please bring a picture to set on the windowsills of the sanctuary so we can be surrounded by a "cloud of witnesses" as we honor those who have passed into eternal rest and peace with God.

The Kitchen Krew fund raisers

November

Apple dumplings: Order TODAY **Sunday, October 25th** with pickup in the Social Hall on **Thursday, November 19th** from 11:00am-5:00pm.

Filling: Order by **Sunday, November 8th** with pickup on **Tuesday, November 24th** at the South Entrance from 11:00am-1:00pm (Drive thru)

To order please sign up on the sheets provided in the church parlor, or contact Karen Diehl 570-386-5472

Operation Shoe Box

On **Sunday, October 18th**, we “kick-offed” our Operation Shoe Box Mission Project. Operation Shoe Box is a project of Samaritan’s Purse which delivers Christmas presents to children around the world who may otherwise not receive any gifts at Christmas.

Boxes and information providing details of how and what to pack in your shoe box are available on a table in the church parlor. You will be able to choose a gender and an age group for the child that will receive your shoe box. The final collection date for filled boxes will be on **November 15th**.

Plan to pick up your boxes and share in the joy of spreading Jesus’ love to these children and their families.



FREE THANKSGIVING MEALS **Pre-registration required**

St. Peter’s is again joining with our sister churches in providing a free thanksgiving meal to anyone in need. These individually packed meals include turkey, gravy, filling, green beans, pudding, rolls and butter. You **MUST** reserve your meal in advance by calling Nancy Meiser at 570-205-9267 Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Reservations will be taken between November 2nd and 17th. Meals can be picked up on **Saturday, November 21st** at Ben Salem Church between 1:00 ~ 3:00 PM.

This ministry is provided by St. Peter’s Church, West Penn, Ben Salem, Dinkey Memorial, St. John’s Lutheran and Zion Stone. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Pastor Josh.

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



Deployed to Japan:

John McGuire

Deployed to Germany:

Joyce Steigerwalt



**Active Duty,
Not Deployed:**

**Mark Habel
Dustin Hoppes
Ezekiel Kuneck
Brennan Kunkel
Sean Kurtz
AJ Light
Amanda Miller
Austin Resch
Tyler Resch**

**Alexis Scott
Trevor Schilling
Andy Snyder
Ryan Snyder
Alexander Thomas
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**

Getz Personal Care Home: Ralph Fisher

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

*Loved Ones of
Sue Hower
Loved Ones of
Carol Beers
Adam & Theresa Gusick
Amber Ritter
Audrey Ansbach
Callum Sanchez
Carl Gerber
Cindy Shipwash
Crystal Unger
Denise Angstadt
Dorothy Davis
Erlin Moyer
Frank Riotta
Hope Gramlich
Lois Faust
Melissa Snyder
Steve Miller
Terri Belanchik
Teena Miller
Wendy Kunkel*

Ongoing

*Austin Klein
Bonnie Miller
Bruce Miller
Carolyn Lantz
Clyde
Cody Wolfgang
Dale Peterson
Darlene Kunkel
Darryl Moyer
DeRue Kistler
Donald Hank Williams
Edna Moyer
Elsie Kiddell
Erin Coombe
Gregory Slivka
Harry & Janie Conner
Holly Fox
John Tracy
Larry Chelsa
Linda Garber
Lisa Moyer
Liz Johns
Lynn Long
Maggie Wehr*

*Marsha Rodgers
Mary Lou McGowan
Nadine
Nancy Domanski
Parker Brode
Renee Troutman
Rita Yarmell
Russel Miller
Russell Snyder
Sharon Horning
Susan Brockel
Teresa Fowler
Tracie & Scott Clews
Virginia Allesch
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.**

***O Lord, look down from heaven, and visit and relieve those who are ill.
Look upon them with mercy; comfort them; give them a sure confidence in
you; defend them from the attacks of the evil one; and keep them in
perpetual peace and safety. Comfort and relieve your servants, and give
your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may
be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving
care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S

Today, Sunday, October 25:

9:00 AM Worship Service
Sunday School after Children's Time
10:15 AM Adult Sunday School
(November Apple Dumpling orders due)

Next Sunday, November 1:

9:00 AM Worship Service ~ *Sacrament of Holy Communion*
All Saint's Sunday
Sunday School after Children's Blessing
10:15 AM Adult Sunday School
(November Apple Dumpling orders due)



ST. PETER'S
PORK AND SAUERKRAUT
SUPPER, BAKE SALE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH
3:00 ~ 7:00 PM

EAT-IN OR TAKE-OUT

SPONSORED BY THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

ADULTS (13+): \$15.00; CHILDREN (6-12): \$6.00

CHILDREN (5 & YOUNGER): FREE

Looking for donations for the dinner, bake sale & desserts. Also help needed Saturday morning and evening. Contact Lori Hoppes 610-393-0901. For basket raffle donations contact Susan Hunsicker at 570-778-9872

Mission Giving



DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERINGS: focuses on the financial commitment to justice and compassion throughout the United States.

Envelopes are provided at both entrances to the sanctuary. *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."* Galatians 6:2

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.



October 18, 2026

Attendance: 79

Plate Offering: \$ 127.00

Total Current Offering: \$ 3,562.50

Building Maintenance Fund: \$ 203.00

Year-to-date Fuel: \$ 425.00

Year-to-date Elevator: \$ 1,095.00

Benevolence:

Total YTD: \$ 4,331.00

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