



St. Peter's Church, West Penn

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

Rev. Cliffert Herring, Interim Pastor ~ 484-553-9175

Denise Moyer, Board President ~ 484-695-1887

Lori Hoppes, Vice President ~ 610-393-0901

For pastoral care, visitations, please call Pastor Herring at 484-553-9175.

Contact Denise Moyer, Board President for general concerns at 484-695-1887.

Contact for our TLC Committee for Your Special Needs:

Please call Sue Conner at (570) 778-5367, or text her at jrotc@ptd.net.

Sexton: Lou Ann Algard

**Financial Secretary: Jacqueline McCandless Church Office: Elaine Koons
Substitute: Anne Scott**

Church Office Phone: (570) 386-4388

**Church Office Hours: Beginning February 4th, Tuesday, Wednesday and
Thursday 10:00am—1:00pm, and Friday from 10:00am-2:00pm**

**E-mail addresses: Rev. Herring ~ reched@rcn.com
Church Office: info@stpwp.com
Financial Secretary: financials@stpwp.com
Sunday School: spwpsundayschool@gmail.com**

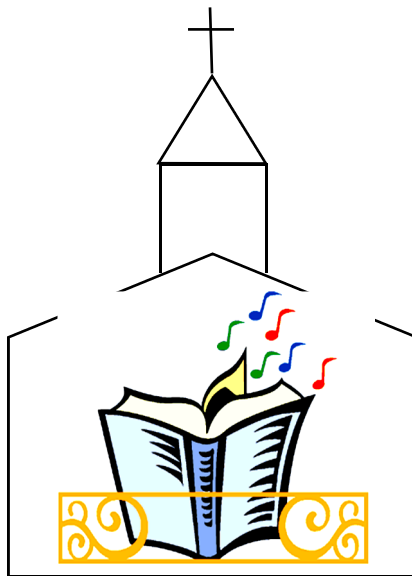
Web Site Address: <https://www.stpeterschurchwestpenn.com>

Web Master email: info@stpwp.com

Facebook: St Peter's Church of West Penn

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.

St. Peter's Church West Penn



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

St. Peter's Church Mission Statement

"St. Peter's Church is committed to providing a family atmosphere for people of all ages. We are a people who sincerely care about each other and the community. We strive to be one people, bonded by Christ's love.

We look to the future for the continued vitality that we share today. Through worship, preaching, fellowship, and servanthood, may we reach out to all people as a witness to the living God."

Cliff's Notes

“Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow” Psalm 51: 7b

As I write this on January 16, it is snowing. The forecast is only an inch or two, but as I gaze out the window, there is a quiet beauty to this white blanket that is covering the ground. The snow covers up the dirt and makes the area look clean and refreshed. Unless you have to work or drive in it, it is a pleasure to look at it. That is until tomorrow when much of it is supposed to melt and much of that beauty goes away.

It reminded me of that passage in Psalm 51:7 which says “Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.” That is --- until tomorrow.

It seems to be human nature that we draw near to the Lord in faith, when we know the forgiving Grace of Jesus Christ which feels refreshing and renewing. We set our hopes high, pledging to live life with the best of intentions, showing love to everyone ... at least until tomorrow.

Then the realities of the world set back in, We encounter other's anger or stubbornness. Even the technology that is supposed to make our life easier seems to deliberately not work correctly which only tests our patience. Frustration set in. The beauty and refreshment of Christ's forgiveness melts away to remind us of some of our basest thoughts and feelings.

As an idealistic Pastor, I should just dwell on the whiteness of snow. But as a realist, I am aware that this renewal feeling only lasts so long. That is why we need to be constantly reminded of the Grace of Jesus that we find when we worship, read Scripture, pray or show kindness and love to another person. For me, that is the constant battle within each of us between the cleansing Grace of God and the challenge of living in an imperfect world.

Yet I cling to the knowledge that God knows and understands my imperfect nature, and the imperfect nature of this world. It is also trusting in God's Divine Mercy that I know that whenever I fall short, I look to Jesus to find some spiritual snow falling on my soul, giving it peace and forgiveness only found in Our Savior.

So for now, I will enjoy the snow, knowing that it comes from Our Creator. It gives me peace and hope for today and for everyday. May your time at worship and in prayer find that cleansing snow whitening your sins, restoring your soul and giving you peace.

Pastor Cliff



Lenten Series
of
Shared Worship

The Lenten Season Services for this year will again be shared with our sister churches as the pastors will be collaborating in the leadership of the worship services. Even though Lent does not begin until March 5 this year, you may want to plan ahead to attend as many of these community mid-week services as possible. Preaching Themes will be Jesus 'I AM' statements. The schedule is as follows:

Ash Wednesday, March 5 Communion and Imposition of Ashes
7:00 PM at Dinkey Memorial Church
Pastor Randy Lentz, Preaching

Midweek Lenten Worship at 7:00 PM on the following dates:

Wednesday, March 12

St. John's Lutheran Church, 826 Mahoning Drive West, Lehighton
Pastor Cliff Herring, Preaching

Wednesday, March 19

St. Peter's Church, 184 St. Peter's Road, Tamaqua, PA 18252
Pastor Tony Pagotto, Preaching

Wednesday, March 26

Zion Stone Church, 45 Cemetery Road, New Ringgold, PA 17960
Pastor Randy Lentz, Preaching

Wednesday, April 2

Ben Salem UCC, 1965 Church Hill Road, Lehighton, PA 18235
Pastor Russ Campbell, Preaching

Wednesday, April 9

Dinkey Memorial Lutheran Church, 1825 Dinkey Road, Lehighton
Pastor Cliff Herring, Preaching

*Refreshments and fellowship to follow at each church after the mid-week Lenten services .
All offerings will be given to the Cold Weather Warming Station Ministry*

Maundy Thursday, April 17 ~ Sacrament of Holy Communion

St. Peter's Church, 184 St. Peter's Road, Tamaqua, PA 18252
Pastor Tony Pagotto, Preaching

Good Friday, April 18

Ben Salem UCC, 1965 Church Hill Road, Lehighton, PA 18235
Pastor Cliff Herring, Preaching

CHANGES IN THE PENN NORTHEAST CONFERENCE

On Saturday, November 9, the four Pennsylvania Conferences of the United Church of Christ voted at their individual Conference meetings (all held at the same time) to begin a merger to become one Conference in the entire state to be known as the Keystone Conference.

This idea has taken several years of hard work, prayer, and planning. Thus, 2025 will be a year of transition for all four conferences including Penn Northeast. If all goes as planned, there will be one Conference headquarters at a place to be determined. All four of the current Conference Ministers will resign their posts.

For Penn Northeast, the current staff, including Dr. Bonnie Bates will be retiring to make way for new staff. The promise is that it will provide some efficiencies by uniting all of the Conferences and enable us to be more effective as Pastors and churches.

What does this mean for St. Peter's Church? Initially you will not sense any changes locally, but gradually you will hear of new staff that will resource our ministry and new locations where our larger ministry will be performed. Much remains to be decided, but we walk into the future feeling God's guidance. Please keep the Conferences of the United Church of Christ in Pennsylvania in your prayers as we make this bold new step.



Retirees

Retirees will meet on **February 12th** in Fellowship Hall. There will be food, fun, fellowship, and games. Please contact Sharon Herring if you are interested in participating so she can plan for the meals. If you would like to assist in any way, please let Sharon know. She can be reached at (570) 386-3202. The Retirees are open to anyone, age is not a factor.

They meet the second Wednesday of every month and always welcome new members.

CONGREGATIONAL SOUP SALE



We will be holding a Congregational Soup Sale on **Sunday, February 16th** from 10:00am-2:00pm (or sold out). We are asking the members of the congregation to make their favorite soups for the sale. All soups should be delivered to the church on **Saturday, February 15th** between 10:00am and Noon so that they can be packaged in quarts and pints for sale. Soups will then be sold (quarts for \$10.00 and pints for \$6.00). A sign-up sheet is posted in the church parlor, or call the church office to sign-up (570-386-4388).

W.A.S.P. News



The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 18th** at 7:00 PM. Worship will be led by Jen Miller. Charlene Miller and Karen Diehl 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.

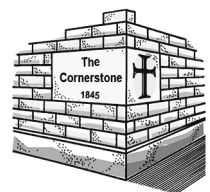
Snowflakes are one of God's most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together!"

adapted from Vesta Kelly

"Nature is full of genius, full of divinity; so that not a snowflake escapes His fashioning hand."

Henry David Thoreau

The February Cornerstone Newsletter is sponsored in honor of the birthday of Dave Hontz on February 22nd, and in loving memory of his wife, Minna.



Happy Birthday Dave!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS THE SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
March Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, February 11th.

**Congregational
Meeting**



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on ***Sunday, March 2nd*** following worship services for the purpose of accepting the 2024 Annual Report and adopting the 2025 budget. All committee and organizational reports are due in the office ***NO LATER than Sunday, February 9th.*** Please plan on attending this important meeting.

ST. PETER'S | FUNDRAISING FOR BUILDING EXPENSES

The current account balance is \$61,900

- The Building Fund transferred 5% of the 2024 fund raising profits to the St. Peter's Discretionary Fund. The amount was \$2,001.13.
- We appreciate the generosity of the members who direct their Thrivent Choice Dollars throughout the year to the Building Fund account. The 2024 total dollars received was \$1,193.
- The next fundraiser the *Kitchen Krew* is having will be Easter Filling. ..orders due by April 6 with pickup at the South Entrance. Pickup date to be announced.

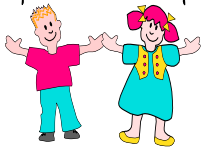
We appreciate all of you who continue to support the fund raising efforts at St. Peter's. Happy New Year!



The Joyous Noise Offering for January totaled \$248.78 and was designated for the Schuylkill Hope Center for Victims of Domestic Violence (formerly known as Schuylkill Women in Crisis) is a private non-profit organization founded in 1983 to provide services to victims of domestic and sexual violence in Schuylkill County. The mission of Schuylkill Hope Center is to offer help, hope, and healing for those impacted by intimate partner violence or sexual abuse through crisis intervention, shelter, education, and advocacy for social change. From 2022 - 2023, the Hope Center provided free and confidential services to 1,359 victims.

Checks should be made payable to St. Peter's Sunday School and may be mailed to the church office. If you know of an organization or individual that could benefit from St. Peter's Joyous Noise Offering, please contact Samantha Kistler or Nicole Hunsicker. Thank you for your support!

St. Peter's
preschool



7

Hearts & Groundhogs!

By: Barbara Nametko

Q



February will bring lots of hearts, fun and crafts for preschool! We will start our month off talking about that silly Groundhog and if we will have early spring or six more weeks of winter. We will have fun making some cute groundhog crafts and enjoying a delicious groundhog snack.

Preschool will be inviting community helpers into our class this month, to talk about different jobs and how they are all important. We absolutely love our visits from our community helper friends! Our focus letters will be Q, R, & S along with the colors pink and grey and the number 7 and the heart shape.

Valentine's day will also be on our minds this month! We will be learning some new Valentine's Day songs and making some cute heart crafts. Our Valentine's party will include a delicious snack and our special Valentine card exchange.

Preschool will be fundraising with Gertrude Hawk Chocolate during the month of February and the beginning of March with delivery in April just in time for Easter. Preschool will have brochures available after church or see any of our preschoolers to order.

***Happy Valentine's Day and thank you for your
continued support!***



S

R

FLOWER FUND UPDATE

Laverne Hunsicker is in charge of the Flower Fund. Please make sure you select your date(s) on the Flower Chart on the bulletin board in the narthex, and see Laverne, or contact her at (570) 386-5337 to give her your order. Altar flower Sponsors: \$30.00 per altar arrangement, Piano Bowl: \$30.00 and \$30.00 for an extra arrangement placed on the organ.

EPIPHANY

Epiphany is commonly known as Three Kings' Day or the Feast of the Epiphany. It means "manifestation" or "showing forth". Epiphany refers not only to the day itself but to the church season that follows it – a season that ends when Lent begins.

It commemorates the first two occasions on which Jesus' divinity, according to Christian belief, was manifested: when the three kings (also known as wise men or Magi) visited infant Jesus in Bethlehem, and when John the Baptist baptized Him in the River Jordan. The Roman Catholic and Protestant churches emphasize the visit of the Magi when they celebrate the Epiphany.

Epiphany is one of the oldest Christian feasts. It was celebrated since the end of the second century, before the Christmas holiday was established.

Peace for today

May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be confident knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us.

~ St. Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897)



Epiphany

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



BABY, BALTHAZAR, BAPTISM, BETHLEHEM, CASPAR, CHRISTIAN, EPIPHANY, FEAST, FIRST MIRACLE,
FRANKINCENSE, GOLD, HEROD, HOLIDAY, HOPE, JANUARY, JESUS, MAGI, MELCHIOR, MYRRH,
REVELATION, SIXTH, STAR, SUNDAY, THREE KINGS, TWELFTH DAY, WISE MEN

Say a Prayer for:*California Fire**Communities & Victims**Paulette Rex**Beverley Knoebel**Danny Oswald**Greg Simon**Tim Phillips**Michael Marasco**Tim Kistler**Jeff Steigerwalt**Frank Riotto**Doris Wolfe**Linda Garber**Judy Gerber**Wendy Kunkel**Lucas Milto**Wayne Lazarus**Josiah Roth**Debbie Mooney**Terry Abrachinsky**Nadine**Jeff Fogel**Bonnie Myers**Kay Faust**Mary Lou & Jim Walk**Jean Balliet Duncan**Kadie Foster**Marsha Rodgers**Michelle Boyer**David Barron**Cody Wolfgang**Brian Abrachinsky**JoAnn Pagonis**Kathy Yuricheck**Pat Conner**Susie Brickler**Lo Ann Algard**Caroline Lantz**Kent Miller**Brad Steigerwalt**Rose Hinkle**Theresa Derher**Hollie Fox**Ann Mimm**Robbie Trainer**Sonia Finnegan**Donald Moyer**Bruce Miller**Sharon Horning**Mike Canty**Bonnie Miller**Kenneth Breiner**Paul David**Dan Myers**Rita Yarmell**Dr. Harry Berger**Cassie Wolfe**Erlin Moyer**Teresa Fowler**Gregory Slivka**Mary Lou McGowan**Rev. James Seifert**Mark Wolfe**Connie Heckman**Patrick Pulanco**Bob Goerner**Dan McMullen**Loretta Beers**David Schoch**Erin Coombe**Billy James**Laurie Black**Darryl Moyer**Betty Breiner**Sherry Seip**Nancy Domanski**Melinda Frey**Logan Pribila**Bruce Wolf**Lori Fairchild**Franklin Mackes**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**Donna Roderick**Justin Klotz**Gene McCormik**William Shirar**Amy Meixsall**Jackson Delebar**Austin Klein**Melissa Drake**Lorna Hart****Those on
Our Visitation List:****Buddy Arner, Jr.**Hazel Arner**Edith Coombe**Robert Coombe**Olga Faust**Lynn Gerber**Barbara Kershner**Dorothy Miller**Larry Miller**Velma Schaeffer**Doris Wolfe**Althea Zehner*

Our Missionaries:

*Michael, Kay, Mikayla, Leilani, & Michael Killar
Maude, Valera, Zarina, Alexander, & Nicolas Motovilov*

Our Military Overseas:

*Deployed to USS Harry Truman: Austin Resch
Deployed to Japan: John McGuire
Deployed to Africa: Jonathan Liggitt and Michelle Liggitt*

Our Military ~ Active 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*



Recently Baptized

Landon Earl Nelson

Born on Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Baptized on Sunday, December 22, 2024

Landon is the son of Thomas Nelson and Hannah Miller

Godson of Sarah Wommer, Emily Vadimsky, Jeremy McCormick and Tom Frock, Jr.

Dear St. Peter's Church Family,

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the cards, phone calls, meals, prayers and visits during my recent surgery and recuperation, and Dan's repeat care and return home. It meant a lot to both of us to know there are so many wonderful people who care about us.

*In Christian love,
Dan & Bonnie Myers*

*Thank
you*

PS Thank you also to Pastor Herring

Daily Lectionary Readings for February 2025

Saturday, February 01, 2025: Psalm 71:1-6; 2 Chronicles 36:11-21; John 1:43-51;
Sunday, February 02, 2025: Psalm 24:7-10; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40
Monday, February 03, 2025: Psalm 56; 1 Kings 17:8-16; 1 Corinthians 2:6-16;
Tuesday, February 04, 2025: Psalm 56; 2 Kings 5:1-14; 1 Corinthians 14:13-25;
Wednesday, February 05, 2025: Psalm 56; Jeremiah 1:11-19; Luke 19:41-44;
Thursday, February 06, 2025: Psalm 138; Numbers 20:22-29; Acts 9:19b-25;
Friday, February 07, 2025: Psalm 138; Numbers 27:12-23; Acts 9:26-31;
Saturday, February 08, 2025: Psalm 138; Judges 3:7-11; Luke 4:42-44;
Sunday, February 09, 2025: Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11
Monday, February 10, 2025: Psalm 115; Judges 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 14:26-40;
Tuesday, February 11, 2025: Psalm 115; 1 Samuel 9:15-10:1b; 1 Timothy 3:1-9;
Wednesday, February 12, 2025: Psalm 115; Isaiah 8:1-15; Luke 5:27-32;
Thursday, February 13, 2025: Psalm 1; Jeremiah 13:12-19; Acts 13:26-34;
Friday, February 14, 2025: Psalm 1; Jeremiah 13:20-27; 1 Peter 1:17-2:1;
Saturday, February 15, 2025: Psalm 1; Jeremiah 17:1-4; Luke 11:24-28;
Sunday, February 16, 2025: Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26
Monday, February 17, 2025: Psalm 120; 2 Kings 24:18-25:21; 1 Corinthians 15:20-34;
Tuesday, February 18, 2025: Psalm 120; Ezra 1:1-11; 2 Corinthians 1:12-19;
Wednesday, February 19, 2025: Psalm 120; Jeremiah 22:11-17; Luke 11:37-52;
Thursday, February 20, 2025: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 43:16-34; Romans 8:1-11;
Friday, February 21, 2025: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 44:1-17; 1 John 2:12-17;
Saturday, February 22, 2025: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 44:18-34; Luke 12:57-59;
Sunday, February 23, 2025: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50;
Luke 6:27-38
Monday, February 24, 2025: Psalm 38; Genesis 33:1-17; 1 Corinthians 11:2-16;
Tuesday, February 25, 2025: Psalm 38; 1 Samuel 24:1-22; 1 Corinthians 11:17-22, 27-33;
Wednesday, February 26, 2025: Psalm 38; Leviticus 5:1-13; Luke 17:1-4;
Thursday, February 27, 2025: Psalm 99; Deuteronomy 9:1-5; Acts 3:11-16;
Friday, February 28, 2025: Psalm 99; Deuteronomy 9:6-14; Acts 10:1-8;



Blessed are those who read and hear the Word of God and keep it.

Tomorrow is never promised. . . .

Today, love a little deeper, kiss a little longer, laugh a little louder and hold the ones you love a little tighter.

~unknown

No problem is too great to place in God's hands.

**St Peter's Church, West Penn
184 St Peters Rd
Tamaqua PA 18252**

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