

**St. Peter's Church, West Penn**  
184 St. Peter's Road Tamaqua PA 18252 570-386-4388

**Rev. Virginia M. Heimer, Pastor**

**For Pastoral Care or Emergency:**

**Pastor Heimer's Cell: 610-762-3840**

**Pastor Heimer will be in her office on:**

**Tuesdays and Wednesday from 10:00 AM ~ 4:00 PM**

**Thursdays from 8:00 AM ~ 12:00 PM**

**Contact our "Called to Care" for Your Special Needs:**

**Jan Altenburg: 570-386-4631**

**Or TLC: Olga Faust: 570-386-5275**

**Church Office Phone: (570) 386-4388**

**Financial Secretary: Jacqueline McCandless**

**Church Office: Elaine Koons**

**Church Office Hours: Tuesday ~ Friday from 10:00 AM~2:00 PM**

**Sexton: Lori Hoppes**

**Director of Music: Carol Steigerwalt**

**E-mail addresses: Pastor Heimer: [pastor@stpwp.com](mailto:pastor@stpwp.com)**

**Church Office: [info@stpwp.com](mailto:info@stpwp.com)**

**Financial Secretary: [financials@stpwp.com](mailto:financials@stpwp.com)**

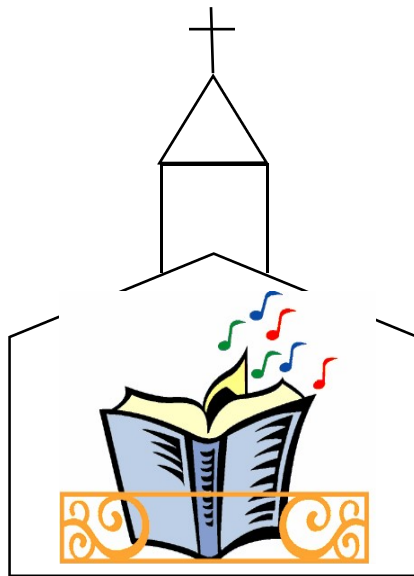
**Sunday School: [spwpsundayschool@gmail.com](mailto:spwpsundayschool@gmail.com)**

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

**Web Master email: [info@stpwp.com](mailto:info@stpwp.com)**

**Facebook: St Peter's Church of West Penn**

# St. Peter's Church West Penn

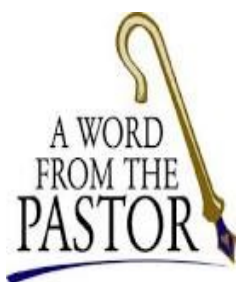


where worship and service don't stop with the final hymn.

## **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."*



*A group of tourists were visiting the Vatican. Their tour guide had told them about the famous Sistine Chapel: the place where the College of Cardinals meets to choose a new Pope, the room whose ornate painted ceiling is Michelangelo's masterpiece. One aspect of the Sistine Chapel comes as a surprise to most first-time visitors: its size. It's a rather small room. One young man was so eager to see Michelangelo's painted ceiling, he dashed in one end of the Sistine Chapel and out the other. He mistook the Chapel for some type of foyer. The tour guide had to chase after him, saying: "Come back, you missed it, and this time, remember to look up!"*

*We make this same mistake with Advent. We take it for some type of waiting room that we dash through for four weeks, our arms filled with packages, our mind racing with our to-do list at hand and our eyes cast downward. This year, more than any other year, we desperately need to slow down and to look up.*

*Advent is a time to prepare to open our hearts to our Savior, Jesus. We don't want to be like the innkeeper, who had no room for Jesus. Our world needs saving and not just from a virus running rampant in our midst. Our world is full of chaos, conflict and people filled with animosity, anxiety, and despair; there are people in need of help, people in need of comfort and people who need to be saved.*

*We need a Savior to bring us hope and healing and there is only One who is perfect for the job and that is Jesus. Jesus is the only answer to our cares and concerns. Jesus is the only answer to the problems of the world. Advent is a time to open ourselves up, to get ready for a house guest that will bring all the best gifts to our homes and to our world: healing, hope, light and life. Let's celebrate Advent and get prepared to receive these gifts.*

*Let's not miss out and let's especially remember to look up!*

*Advent and Christmas Blessings!  
Pastor Ginny*

**NOTE:** Pastor Ginny will be on vacation from Sunday, December 27th through Saturday, January 2nd. If you need pastoral care during that time, please contact Kim Kistler at 570-778-2988.

## INDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE GUIDELINES

Sunday worship services will be streamed live via Facebook at 9:00 a.m. for those who do not feel comfortable worshipping in person.

In an effort to continue to keep everyone healthy and safe, social distancing will be practiced in the sanctuary. Seating will be available in every other pew. As was the practice outdoors, family members are encouraged to sit together and allow six feet between other members/families. Ushers will be available to assist with seating. Overflow seating will be available in the social hall, if needed.

Additionally, masks will be required at all times while in the church building. We will continue to have special music, but there will not be congregational singing at this time. Members may place their offering in the plates at the entrances to the sanctuary rather than passing the offering plates. Holy Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday of the month following the same practice as was utilized during the outdoor worship services. Members are asked to bring their own bread (individually packaged wafers are available, if needed) and wine/juice will be distributed by the ushers.

Following the service, the ushers will dismiss the congregation. While we understand and appreciate that everyone wants to fellowship with their church family and friends, we are asking that members not gather in the building following worship. Social distancing following the service was a specific area of concern listed in several of the survey responses. Hopefully, this practice will help everyone feel more comfortable attending indoor worship.

Attendance will be taken in the event that someone tests positive for Covid19 at which time members will be notified and in-door worship will be suspended for two weeks. These procedures are in place to protect everyone, especially those considered more vulnerable to contract the virus.

The Church Board appreciates your prayers, support and patience as we resume indoor worship. We will continue to review the procedures and make adjustments as needed. As always, if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions regarding the guidelines, please do not hesitate to contact the Pastor or a Board member.

### W. A. S. P. News



WASP 's Annual Family Christmas Party that was scheduled for ***Sunday, December 6th*** has been **CANCELLED**.

The first meeting of the new year will be held TENTIVELY on ***Tuesday, January 19th*** at 7:00 PM.

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.

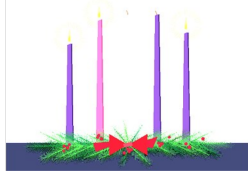


# Joyous Noise Offering

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE TO MAKE CHRIST'S LOVE KNOWN

**December's Joyous Noise Offering will be for the 2020 Help The Hungry Campaign sponsored by TAFFN (Tamaqua Area Faith Fellowship Network). The pandemic has caused the organization to change the timing of this event, but their mission remains the same ~ to end hunger in the Tamaqua Area. Your donation will be equally distributed to our local food pantries.**

**If you know of an organization or individual that could benefit from St. Peter's Joyous Noise Offering, please contact Megan Frantz or Susie Hartung.**



## Observing Advent

Advent – the first season of the liturgical year and includes the four Sundays and weeks prior to December 25. Advent dates from the fourth century, when it lasted 40 days and included fasting and solemnity, much like Lent.

Advent is from *Adventus*, Latin for “coming,” referring to Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem and also his second coming. The traditional colors of Advent are purple for penitence or blue for hope.

Observing Advent is a meaningful, adventurous way to prepare for Christmas. Buy or make an Advent wreath and use candles of your choice: four blue, four purple, or three blue or purple and one pink. If you have a fifth spot, add one white Christ candle. During meals or devotions, light only one candle the first week. Add another for each new week (the pink candle traditionally marks the third week), concluding with the white candle (if you have one) on Christmas. The increasing light reminds us we’re getting closer to celebrating Christ’s light coming into the world.

*“Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect.”*

-- Oren Arnold

## ST. PETER'S BUILDING FUND / FUND RAISING ACCOUNT

Current account balance: **\$64,500.00**

### **Recognitions:**

⇒ **Thank you, Kitchen Krew!** - The pizza and hot bologna fund raisers were a nice mix to our fund raising. Your efforts during the pandemic are greatly appreciated.

⇒ From the SUNDAY SCHOOL:

We express our sincere gratitude to Lori Hoppes for her efforts put forth to organize the annual Pork and Sauerkraut Supper. This fund raiser for the Sunday School was postponed and after further evaluation, cancelled until next year. The Sunday School appreciates everyone who donated food, drinks, time, etc. We also appreciate the local vendors working with us as many orders were already in place. We look forward to your support next year.

### **Current Church Fundraiser:**

#### **Gift Cards:**

The church is holding a fundraising event by selling gift cards. The church will receive a percentage of each card sold.

**(PLEASE NOTE:** There are 2 separate sides (front & back pages).

Order forms are available at both entrances to the sanctuary, on the table in the church parlor, on our Facebook page (St Peters of West Penn), and also on our website at (stpeterschurchwestpenn.com).

Order forms are due on **November 29th** and payment is due with your order. Orders can be mailed or brought to the church. These gift cards are perfect for gift giving or for your personal use.

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



# *Advent and Christmas Eve Service Schedule*

## *Advent Services*

*We begin the season of Advent and the beginning of the new liturgical year on Sunday, November 29th and continue through the next three Sundays in December (6th, 13th and 20th).*

## *Christmas Eve Services*

*2:00, 7:00 and 10:30 PM*

*Holy Communion will be celebrated at each service.*

*Please bring your own bread, wear a mask*

*and be prepared to*

*observe the social-distancing guidelines.*



*The 7:00 service will be broadcast live to our Facebook page at St Peters of West Penn.*

*You can also access our Facebook page on our website at [stpeterschurchwestpenn.com](http://stpeterschurchwestpenn.com)*

*Please refer to our website and FB page for any Covid19 updates that might interfere with our planned services.*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Sunday, December 13th:**

⇒ Congregational Meeting to elect both Church and Cemetery Board members and to approve the 2021 benevolence goal.

**Sunday, January 31st:**

⇒ The Annual Congregational Meeting to accept the 2020 Annual Report and 2021 budget will take place following worship. **All reports due in the church office by Sunday, January 17th.**

## THE CHRISTMAS CHIMES

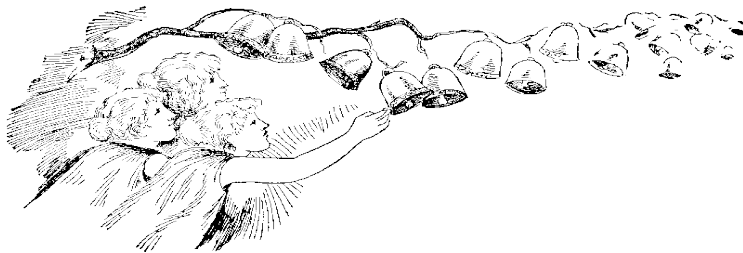
By Agnes Taylor Ketchum & Ida M. Jorgensen

*Sweetly through the night, comes the distant chime of bells,  
Hark, and hear the story that their joyous pealing tells;  
Like the song of angels, to us mortals given,  
Comes the silver music, sounding through the star-crowned Heav'n.*

*List! The happy music makes all nature sound,  
Hear the answering hill-tops in echo sweet resound;  
'Tis of One they sing, One of lowly birth,  
Who left a crown of glory, and came to sinful earth.*

*Now they tell the tale of shepherds from afar,  
Watching through the dark night to see the glittering star;  
Now they tell the story, of the wondrous love  
Of Him, who lived and suffered, the Great King above.*

*Chime, ye bells of Heav'n, o'er the sleeping earth,  
Let your tongues sing out the story of the heavenly birth;  
Chime throughout the long night, nor cease your joyful lay,  
Chime until the awaking of the glorious day.*





**Congregational Meeting**



**CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS**

There will be a Congregational Meeting on ***Sunday, December 13th*** to elect both Church and Cemetery Board members, and also approval of the 2021 benevolence goals.

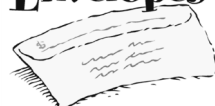
Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on ***Sunday, January 31st*** following worship services for the purpose of accepting the 2020 Annual Report and adopting the 2021 budget. Please plan on attending these important meetings.

**2021 FLOWER/BULLETIN CHART**

Please note that the 2021 chart is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Make sure you have the Sundays you want by filling in the date(s) now. Altar flower Sponsors: \$25.00 per altar arrangement, Piano Bowl: \$15.00 and \$20.00 for an extra arrangement placed on the organ. Contact Becky Zehner or the Church Office to reserve your Sunday date. Bulletins can also be sponsored for \$15.00.



**Offering Envelopes**



**2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES** will be available in the church parlor in December. 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!

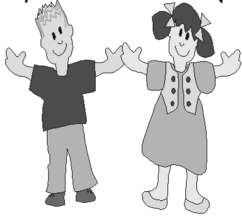
On December 27th, the children of St. Peter's Sunday School will present their Christmas Program. Please plan to attend and support the youth of our Church.

Looking forward to seeing you!



The article/information deadline is always the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Since we only had a December issue last month, the deadline for the January issue of the "Cornerstone" is Tuesday, December 8, 2020.

St. Peter's  
preschool



**Christmas Cheer**  
by Barbara Nametko



*Christmas is almost here, and Preschool is extremely excited! We cannot wait for the cold weather, but most of all we cannot wait for Santa! We will be preparing for Santa by learning some new Christmas songs and creating some awesome Christmas crafts. We will be focusing on the letters J, K, and L, along with the numbers, 4 and 5. We will also be talking about stars.*

*We will not be holding our annual Christmas program this year; however, we hope to share some of our songs and crafts thru Facebook with everyone. Keep an eye on our Facebook page! Who knows, maybe we will get a call from Santa during Preschool!*

*Preschool would also like to give a great big THANK YOU to the parish, church board and Pastor Ginny for our new cubbies! Preschool is overjoyed to have them! We absolutely love how neat our coats and backpacks are while keeping separated and safe! Thank you to Mike Hunsicker for keeping preschool safe by bolting our cubbies to the wall!*

*Preschool wishes everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New year! Thank you always for your continued support!*



**Preschool wishes everyone a  
Very Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!**



## **Say a Prayer for:**

*Loved Ones of  
LaRue Williams  
Loved Ones of  
Maralyn Miller  
Wilbur Eberts  
Cathy Abrachinsky  
Dan Myers  
Jeffrey Kistler, Sr.  
Joe Mock  
Tony Barazuol  
Rose Pitts  
Suzie Brickler  
Debbie Mooney  
Pam Hunsicker  
Mary Fritz  
Willard Dunbar  
Mike & Bernice Delp  
Chester Snyder  
Jean Snyder  
Lori Ruch  
Jim Beers  
Kathy Keich  
Chris Filchner  
Barbara Margiotta  
Carol Tynan  
Kim Cope  
Lisa Serfass  
Robert Coombe  
Carl Yacovelli  
Danika Tworkowsky  
Mary Aaron  
Walter Szymanski  
Ben Fink  
Diane Middlecamp  
Dale Roth  
Gino Lorady  
Bernie Matyascik  
Slate Altenburg  
Jamie Phelan  
Michael Hinkle  
Kim & Dave Carson*

*Marion Kupres  
Ronald Ziegler  
Louise Billman  
Diane Urban  
Tony Masor  
Jeff Boyer  
Sherry Walz  
Damian Birchess  
Shari Yediny  
Richard Kistler  
Brian Abrachinsky  
Renee Troutman  
Darlene Kunkel  
Erla Biasi  
June Kalusky  
Carolyn Kunkle  
Aspen Murphy  
Jillian Datchko  
Pastor Nathan Kennedy  
Russel Stull, Jr.  
Veronica Steigerwalt  
Sharon Roth  
McCoy Rapa  
Donna Roderick  
Jaden Leiby  
Justin Klotz  
Gene McCormik  
Mike Rascho  
William Shirar  
Amy Meixsall  
Richard Frey  
Carol Faust  
JoAnn Pagonis  
Paul David  
Jo Kunkle  
Jackson Delebar  
Vicki Pratt  
Lucas Millot  
Austin Klein  
Melissa Drake  
Lorna Hart  
Matt Brickler  
Carson Barron*

*Caroline Lantz  
Gerri Steigerwalt  
Robert Miller  
Doris Wolfe  
Lenny Jones  
Nancy Barkus  
Howard Morana*

## **Those on Our Visitation List:**

*Buddy Arner  
Arlene Breiner  
Lynn Gerber  
Eldora Rex  
Velma Schaeffer  
June Williams  
Doris Wolfe*

## **Our Missionaries:**

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

## **Our Military Overseas:**

*Deployed to  
Afghanistan:  
Michael Zeigenfuss  
Deployed to Germany:  
Sean Steigerwalt  
Deployed to Japan:  
John McGuire  
Deployed to Kuwait:  
Issac Acuna*





# CHURCH BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

**From the meeting on November 15th ~~~**

Pastor Ginny will be offering visitations for those making requests. Safe protocols will be followed in all visits.

It was decided that separate issues of the newsletter be sent for December and January due to the uncertainty of gatherings for all events in the near future.

Worship times for November were noted: Sunday, November 22 ~ WASP Thankoffering, Blessing of the Thanksgiving Meals and Shoeboxes; Wednesday, November 25 ~ Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7:30 PM.

Christmas Eve Services are still scheduled on Thursday, December 24 for 2:00 PM, 7:00 PM, and 10:30 PM. Everyone is urged to complete their registration form as soon as possible.

A Congregational Meeting has been set for Sunday, December 13th following worship in order to elect both Church and Cemetery Board members, and also approval of the 2021 benevolence goal which was approved by the Board for \$15,000.00 (\$7,500.00 per denomination).

The Annual Congregational Meeting to accept the 2020 Annual Report and 2021 budget will take place following worship on Sunday, January 31st. All organizational reports are due in the church office by Sunday, January 17th.

The next meeting of the Church Board will take place on Sunday, December 20 at 10:30 AM.

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*All meetings are open for all to attend.  
(Complete copies of the minutes may be obtained from the church office.)*



**St Peter's Church, West Penn  
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**DECEMBER**