

**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 9:00 AM ~ 1:00 PM**

**Friday ~ OFF; Saturday ~ SABBATH DAY**

**(Contact for emergencies only, please. If you have a prayer request, please email)**

**Contact our TLC Committee for Your Special Needs:**

**Please call Pastor Heimer OR the Church Office**

**Director of Music: Carol Steigerwalt**

**Sexton: Lou Ann Algard**

**Financial Secretary: Jacqueline McCandless**

**Church Office: Elaine Koons**

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

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

**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)**

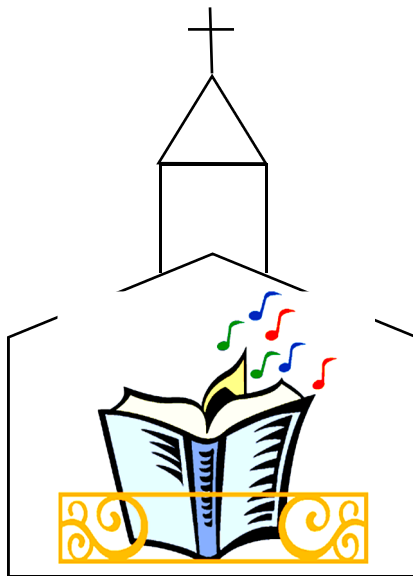
**Web Site Address: <https://www.stpeterschurchwestpenn.com>**

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

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

*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.*

# 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."*



We are going into our third year of the Covid19 pandemic, and we are experiencing so many mixed emotions: frustration, anxiety, fear, uncertainty, doubt, anger, sadness, indifference...name your own feelings. The big question is:  
*Where does our faith stand in all of this?*

Is our faith just about petitioning God to get us out of it? Or is God challenging us to make meaning of a world gone mad? Questions, doubt, fear, uncertainty...all our confusing emotions are very uncomfortable and even sometimes painful, yet these feelings are a huge part of our faith, belief, and relationship with God.

Our faith does not guarantee life to be smooth and without problems. Faith is not just about relying on God to rescue us from our troubles, it is about the transformation God offers in the thick of those troubles. This is difficult and even agonizing to accept but it is the means to draw us closer to God. If we don't take our difficulties, challenges and pain and try to do something with them, they will surely defeat us. But if we allow God to use all that comes our way to transform us, it can become something good we can share with others. Our transformation and healing can be used to help others in their healing process.

God never said: "IF you pass through raging waters, I will rescue you." God said: "WHEN you pass through raging waters, I will be WITH you!" God is with us in our joy, God is with us in our sorrow, God has been with us these past two chaotic years and God is with us now. Once we realize how much God is with us, everything begins to look different—good and bad alike.

What will this year bring? No one can answer that question but if we have faith and believe that God is still calling the shots...it can be a year of joy, hope, change, growth and transformation for each of us, for our communities, churches and for our world. Just remember one thing—no matter what happens—even if you don't like it...GOD IS WITH US!

*Happy New Year and may it be filled with God's blessings for us all!*  
*Pastor Ginny*

## **GPC: A Call Within A Call**

In Mother Teresa's autobiography, she describes her call from God to minister to the "poorest of the poor" in the slums of Calcutta, India as "a call within a call." Since her first call was to become a nun, this second call took her deeper into herself and inspired her to do the work she did as she founded the "Missionaries of Charity" in 1950—an organization that has grown and continues to minister to those in need all over the world.

I can relate to this concept of a "call within a call." I felt called to be a pastor in 2009 and then 10 years later in the Fall of 2019, I felt called to something else, but I wasn't sure exactly what it was. All throughout seminary and through my subsequent work in ministry I had been active in deep inner-work. I believe that we cannot lead others to where we have not gone ourselves. My growth and healing process is ongoing...we never truly arrive because God continues to unfold the path before us by peeling off more and more layers. We all need healing in some way, shape or form and it can be physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual. All healing leads to growth and a fulfilling life.

In my own process, I have always had a spiritual director—a person who accompanies others on their spiritual journey, helps to guide and direct them and to help them see things they might miss when travelling alone. In seminary, I was also trained as a spiritual director and was required to be directed as I directed others. My spiritual director became a trusted and valuable companion and she introduced me to GPC: Gestalt Pastoral Care...my call within a call. I completed the first phase of my GPC training last year and in a few years, I hope to be certified as a Gestalt Pastoral Care Minister.

What is GPC and what can a GPC trained pastor bring to her church? It is a form of pastoral counseling that involves walking with a spiritual companion, the use of Gestalt techniques and Christian healing prayer. Gestalt is a type of practice used in counseling that is centered on the present moment and a person's awareness of what is going on inside. We all have past lives and experiences that we bring into the present and when the past haunts us, it can be harmful to our present relationships and present lives. The founder of GPC, Rev. Tilda Norberg, studied Gestalt techniques in the early 1970's and then she intertwined a spiritual aspect to create an opening for healing to take place. GPC has recently undergone a three-year rigorous research study that has produced positive results in people that have suffered from depression, anxiety, trauma, spiritual and emotional issues.

I have experienced this healing and growth firsthand and am now part of a Community of Practice. We meet monthly to practice what we have learned and to continue with our own spiritual and emotional growth as well. If you are interested in learning more, you can explore the GPC website: [www.gestaltpastoralcare.org](http://www.gestaltpastoralcare.org) or you can contact me. If you think you might benefit from this type of pastoral care or if you know someone who would, please let me know. I am happy to share what I am learning and to walk with you on your spiritual journey.

## ST. PETER'S | FUNDRAISING FOR BUILDING EXPENSES

The current account balance is \$84,600

Our Kitchen Krew coordinated apple dumpling fund raisers in both Oct and Nov 2021 as well as the Thanksgiving filling sale. The profit from these fund raisers increased the Building Fund account by \$13,629. Thank you to our amazing kitchen helpers and everyone who supports these food fund raisers.

2021 Year in Review:

<b>2021 Profit Summary:</b>	
Kitchen Krew Fund Raisers [apple dumplings & filling]	\$14,230
Old Fashion Picnic	\$2,850
Lunch Fund Raiser @ West Penn Park	\$1,240
Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars	\$476

2021 allowed for resuming fund raisers to benefit the Building Fund account. 4,231 apple dumplings were made; 603 quarts of filling were prepared; the picnic was a success; and the lunch at West Penn Park was enjoyed by all. We are thankful to all of you who continue to support these fund raising efforts. We appreciate the generosity of the members who direct their Thrivent Choice Dollars throughout the year to the Building Fund account. Happy New Year to all!

The *Kitchen Krew* will be holding a fundraiser for Zehner (Lizzie) unbaked pizza kits, and also for Pieracini's hot bologna. The cost is \$12 each. The order by date is **March 6, 2022** and pick up will be at the South entrance on **March 24th** from 2:00-5:00. We will also be selling spice packets for \$2.50 each. A signup sheet will be on the table by the main entrance or you can call Karen Diehl 570-386-5472 to place your orders.



### **ANNIVERSARY BANQUET POSTPONED**

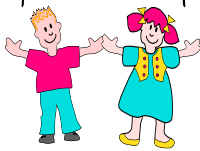
The 175th Anniversary Banquet that was to be held in Spring has been cancelled. We will look forward to celebrating our 180th Anniversary in 2025.

### **BELLS! BELLS! BELLS!**



Hopefully you enjoyed hearing our Bell Choir ~ BUT, we could sure use some more ringers! We have lots of extra bells that, if played, would make the sound even better. If you'd like to come to a practice and see if you might enjoy playing, please contact Carol Steigerwalt at 570-768-5165, or just come to a practice ~ **Thursdays at 6:30 PM beginning in February.** and, we have lots of fun!

St. Peter's  
preschool



## Love Bugs!

By: Barbara Nametko



February will be full of groundhogs, hearts, and valentines. We will start our month learning about Groundhog's Day and hopefully an early spring. We will be making some cute groundhog crafts, to hang outside our room. Make sure to stroll by and check out our crafts! Preschool will be inviting community helpers into our class, to talk about different jobs and how they are all important.

We will also be talking about dental hygiene. We will learn about how important our teeth are and we will be painting with toothbrushes. We will also be reviewing the letters P, Q and R. We will be focusing on the colors pink and grey and reviewing the number 7 and hearts.

During this busy month, we will also be celebrating Valentine's Day. We will be making lots of heart decorations in preparation for our Valentine's Day Party. Our party will include a special snack and craft to go along with our special valentine card exchange.

We will be starting enrollment for next year already. If you know of anyone looking to enroll at our Preschool, please let me know or stop by preschool.

Thank you for all your kindness and support!

### Sunday School, 10:15 a.m., Every Sunday

- ⇒ 3/8 ~ Sunday School Teachers & Officers meeting at 7:00pm.
- ⇒ Thank you to Marsha Thomas and the teenagers of St. Peter's Sunday School for preparing and presenting the Christmas Program. Thank you to Michelle Bates, Carol Steigerwalt, and the Cherub Choir members for sharing beautiful music during the Christmas Program. All of you are wonderful and appreciated.

Catch the excitement and join a Sunday School class today. **We have classes for all ages that are Covid19 safe.** Teachers and helpers are also always welcome. Anyone willing to be part of this great educational experience should see Curt Hartung. Just remember, you can't ask "What would Jesus do?" until you know "What Jesus did and said!"



Pastor Ginny and the Confirmation Class will watch *“The Shack”* on Sunday, February 6th in the Social Hall at 10:30 a.m.

*“The Shack”* is based on the New York Times best-selling novel about a father's life-transforming journey that shows him the truth about love, loss, and forgiveness. In the aftermath of a devastating personal tragedy, Mackenzie Allen Philips receives a mysterious note in his mailbox inviting him to *“The Shack”*. Mack responds and finds himself in the presence of God and ultimately on a path to acceptance.

You are welcome to join us. There will be refreshments and discussion questions to take home for your own reflection about the movie.

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING POSTPONED**

Congregational  
Meeting



Our Annual Congregational Meeting has been postponed to ***Sunday, March 13th*** following worship services for the purpose of accepting the 2021 Annual Report and adopting the 2022 budget. Please plan on attending this important meeting.

***PLEASE NOTE: If you have not turned in your organization's 2021 report, please do so by Sunday, February 20th.***

### **Bible Study**

We are resuming Bible Study THIS ***Tuesday, January 25th from 6:00-7:00 PM***. We will be using a book *“Psalms: Prayers of the Heart”* by Eugene Peterson. We will meet in person as well as on Zoom for those who are unable to meet or do not feel comfortable meeting in person. We will meet the ***first and fourth Tuesday of the month***. Please contact Pastor Ginny if you are interested in participating so she can make sure that you get a book.

**The year-end financial information will be available for the annual congregational meeting on March 13th. If anyone is interested in reviewing the financial reports before the meeting, you may contact the church office.**

***The February Cornerstone Newsletter is sponsored in honor of the birthday of Dave Hontz who will be 91 years young on February 22nd.***

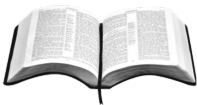
***Happy Birthday Dave!***



**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS THE SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH  
March Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, February 8th.**

## Daily Lectionary Readings for February 2022

**Tuesday, February 1, 2022:** Psalm 56; 2 Kings 5:1-14; 1 Corinthians 14:13-25  
**Wednesday, February 2, 2022:** Psalm 84; Malachi 3:1-4 ; Luke 2:22-40  
**Wednesday, February 2, 2022:** Psalm 56; Jeremiah 1:11-19; Luke 19:41-44  
**Thursday, February 3, 2022:** Psalm 138; Numbers 20:22-29; Acts 9:19b-25  
**Friday, February 4, 2022:** Psalm 138; Numbers 27:12-23; Acts 9:26-31  
**Saturday, February 5, 2022:** Psalm 138; Judges 3:7-11; Luke 4:42-44  
**Sunday, February 6, 2022:** Psalm 138; Isaiah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
**Monday, February 7, 2022:** Psalm 115; Judges 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 14:26-40  
**Tuesday, February 8, 2022:** Psalm 115; 1 Samuel 9:15-10:1b; 1 Timothy 3:1-9  
**Wednesday, February 9, 2022:** Psalm 115; Isaiah 8:1-15; Luke 5:27-32  
**Thursday, February 10, 2022:** Psalm 1; Jeremiah 13:12-19; Acts 13:26-34  
**Friday, February 11, 2022:** Psalm 1; Jeremiah 13:20-27; 1 Peter 1:17-2:1  
**Saturday, February 12, 2022:** Psalm 1; Jeremiah 17:1-4; Luke 11:24-28  
**Sunday, February 13, 2022:** Psalm 1; Luke 6:17-26; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20  
**Monday, February 14, 2022:** Psalm 120; 2 Kings 24:18-25:21; 1 Corinthians 15:20-34  
**Tuesday, February 15, 2022:** Psalm 120; Ezra 1:1-11; 2 Corinthians 1:12-19  
**Wednesday, February 16, 2022:** Psalm 120; Jeremiah 22:11-17; Luke 11:37-52  
**Thursday, February 17, 2022:** Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 43:16-34; Romans 8:1-11  
**Friday, February 18, 2022:** Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 44:1-17; 1 John 2:12-17  
**Saturday, February 19, 2022:** Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 44:18-34; Luke 12:57-59  
**Sunday, February 20, 2022:** Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 45:3-11, 15;  
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50  
**Monday, February 21, 2022:** Psalm 38; Genesis 33:1-17; 1 Corinthians 11:2-16  
**Tuesday, February 22, 2022:** Psalm 38; 1 Samuel 24:1-22;  
1 Corinthians 11:17-22, 27-33  
**Wednesday, February 23, 2022:** Psalm 38; Leviticus 5:1-13; Luke 17:1-4  
**Thursday, February 24, 2022:** Psalm 99; Deuteronomy 9:1-5; Acts 3:11-16  
**Friday, February 25, 2022:** Psalm 99; Deuteronomy 9:6-14; Acts 10:1-8  
**Saturday, February 26, 2022:** Psalm 99; Deuteronomy 9:15-24; Luke 10:21-24  
**Sunday, February 27, 2022:** Psalm 99; Exodus 34:29-35; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2  
**Monday, February 28, 2022:** Psalm 35:11-28; Exodus 35:1-29; Acts 10:9-23a



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



To My St. Peter's Family,  
Thank you for the bag of goodies I received for Thanksgiving.

May God Bless You All,  
Doris Wolfe

*Thank  
You*

*Dear People of St. Peter's Church,*

*We want to thank you for the food and monetary donation. My sister, Barbara Frey, also wants to thank you for the food and monetary donation. It really came in handy since she has six people in the house.*

*Thank  
You!*

*You are all angels and the best!  
Beverly & Alan Exner  
Barbara Frey & Family*

*Dear Members of St. Peter's Church, West Penn,*

*Thank you very much for the very useful, handmade adult bibs and also the delicious snacks.*

*Your kindness and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.*

*From The Neighborhood Correspondence Committee at Heritage Hills.*

*Thank You*

*Denise Kulsa  
Activities Aid*

**Thank You!**

*Thank you for all the Christmas and Birthday cards, gifts, cookies, and well wishes that Paul and I received over the holidays. We truly appreciate your love, care, and support. Thank you so much, church family and God bless you!*

*Pastor Ginny*

*"Thank you" to Josh and Nicole Hunsicker for donating the Christmas trees that decorated our sanctuary and made it so beautiful at Christmas.*

*Dear St. Peter's Family,*

*Justin and I would like to express our gratitude to our church family for the prayers, well-wishes, and congratulations on the birth of our son, Mason. We appreciate everyone's thoughtfulness.*

*Thank you to those who have sent us cards, gifts, and heartfelt messages. We are so blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church family!*

*~ Justin, Jill, and Mason Imbody*



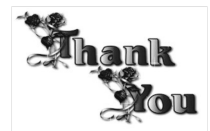
Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous donation of socks to the 6th Street Shelter. We sincerely appreciate your in-kind donation which was received in November, 2021.

The shelter has been serving families with children who are experiencing homelessness for over 30 years. These families actively work toward long-term housing, employment and educational goals during their stay.

Thank you again for your support. You are an important part of our work, and we are truly grateful for your involvement and support.

Julie Huber  
Development Officer



### **Helping Hands Nursing Home Ministry**

A Worship/Communion service is offered to The Palmerton Assisted Living Facility the *third Friday of each month at 10:30 AM*. If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Ginny. Please prayerfully consider joining us in taking church to the people who are unable to make it to church—a population that is often forgotten. Singers and readers are needed; also those interested in bringing joy to others.

**Say a Prayer for:**

Loved Ones of  
Richard Steigerwalt  
Loved Ones of  
Ambrose Rex  
Loved Ones of  
Stephen Behun  
Loved Ones of  
Sally Mateyak  
Loved Ones of  
Constance Ramsy  
Dave Warner  
Nancy Domanski  
Rosanne Abrachinsky  
Dan Algard  
Matt Brickler  
Matthew J. Wentz  
Melinda Frey  
Linda Agosti  
Tom Campbell  
Terry Abrachinsky  
Shannon Moyer  
Jeffrey Kistler, Sr.  
Walter Szymanski  
Rev. Christian Creyer  
Cindy Shipwash  
Logan Pribila  
Bruce Wolfe  
Dan Myers  
Paul Myers  
Mike Leggett  
Lori Fairchild  
Betty Clark  
Franklin Mackes  
Slayton Altenburg  
Lamar Gerber  
Melissa Haydt  
Neal Shipwash  
Lorraine Fritz  
Thomas Miller  
Carol Barron  
Keith Bitler  
Helen Christman  
Olga Faust  
MaryAnne Mitrising

Chris Conway  
Thomas Highland  
Donna Laub  
Mark Abrachinsky  
Greg Blackall  
Lana Kuehner  
Amanda Donohue  
Lucas Milot  
Dawn Laedas  
Eldora Rex  
Travis Flannigan  
Mrs. Demage  
Herman Snyder  
Lucas Nelson  
Paul David  
Zayden Mabey  
Betty Breiner  
Gary Zehner  
John Kowlewski  
Tammy Kemery  
Doris Wolfe  
Matthew Fox  
Jessica Nehm  
Allison Steigerwalt  
Aiden Kreimendahl  
Rose Pitts  
Mike & Bernice Delp  
Carol Tynan  
Kim Cope  
Lisa Serfass  
Robert Coombe  
Danika Tworkowsky  
Ben Fink  
Diane Middlecamp  
Gino Lorady  
Bernie Matyascik  
Jamie Phelan  
Kim & Dave Carson  
Marion Kupres  
Louise Billman  
Tony Masor  
Sherry Walz  
Shari Yediny  
Richard Kistler  
Darlene Kunkel

Erla Biasi  
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  
JoAnn Pagonis  
Jo Kunkle  
Jackson Delebar  
Vicki Pratt  
Austin Klein  
Melissa Drake  
Lorna Hart  
Carson Barron  
Caroline Lantz  
Nancy Barkus  
Howard Morana

**Those on Our  
Visitation List:**

Buddy Arner  
Arlene Breiner  
Edith Coombe  
Olga Faust  
Lynn Gerber  
Rev. David Knoebel  
Beverly Knoebel  
Dorothy Miller  
Larry Miller  
Eldora Rex  
Velma Schaeffer  
Warren Steigerwalt  
June Williams  
Doris Wolfe

**Our Missionaries:**

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

**Our Military Overseas:**

*Deployed to Japan: John McGuire  
Deployed to Africa: Jonathan & Michelle Liggitt*

**Our Military ~ Active Not Deployed:**

*Jacob Coombe  
Amber Gulick  
Patrick Donohue, II  
Mark Habel  
Dustin Hoppes  
LeRoy E. Kromer II  
Timothy Kromer  
Ezekiel Kuneck  
Sean Kurtz  
Antonio Lorenzo  
Dominic Lorenzo*

*Amanda Miller  
Lisa Miller  
Austin Resch  
Tyler Resch  
Trevor Schilling  
Andy Snyder  
Chad Wehr  
Mark West  
Scott West  
Michael Zeigenfuss*

Our sympathies go to the family and friends of

**Sally L. Mateyak**

who passed into eternal life on  
December 27, 2021

**Ambrose A. Rex**

who passed into eternal life on  
January 5, 2022

**Stephen Behun**

who passed into eternal life on  
January 8, 2022

Please remember these families in your prayers.



## *February Serving Schedule*

**Head Usher** - Mike Hunsicker  
**Ushers** - Laurie Seip, Dan Algard, Denise Moyer  
**Alternate** - Michael Kistler

**Feb 6-**  
(green)

**Lector:** Mike Hunsicker  
**Psalm Reader:** Morgan Myers  
**Bell Ringer:** Chase Moyer  
**Assisting Minister:** Abbey Rex  
**Acolytes:** Kailee Thomas and Tyler MacMillan  
**Sound System:** Mark Eberts  
**Videographer:** Justin Imbody

**Feb 13-**  
(green)

**Lector:** Nancy Knadler  
**Psalm Reader:** Abbey Rex  
**Bell Ringer:** Makenna O'Brien  
**Assisting Minister:** Kailee Thomas  
**Acolytes:** Morgan Myers and Tyler MacMillan  
**Angel Ushers:** TBD  
**Sound System:** Eric Schock  
**Videographer:** Justin Imbody

**Feb 20-**  
(green)

**Lector:** Taylor Miller  
**Psalm Reader:** Tyler MacMillan  
**Bell Ringer:** TJ Hartman  
**Assisting Minister:** Morgan Myers  
**Acolytes:** Abbey Rex and Kailee Thomas  
**Sound System:** Blaine Seip  
**Videographer:** Justin Imbody

**Feb 27-**  
(white)

**Lector:** Alex Thomas  
**Psalm Reader:** Kailee Thomas  
**Bell Ringer:** Brynley Kistler  
**Assisting Minister:** Tyler MacMillan  
**Acolytes:** Abbey Rex and Morgan Myers  
**Sound System:** Anthony Thomas  
**Videographer:** Justin Imbody

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

**Dated Material Enclosed**

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