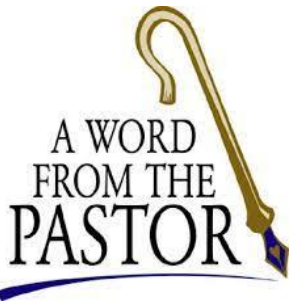




THE BEACON

April 2025

"Let your light shine before others"



Our Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the UCC sends out Conference information via email each week. Included each week is an article from one of the Conference ministers. Last week's article was written by Rev. Kevin McLemore, the Associate Conference Minister for Search & Call, and as most of you know, a member of our church.

Below is his article:



When I'm not preaching on Sundays at different churches, I try to attend my home church in Chester Springs, St. Peter's Pikeland (Rev. Doug Hanson, pastor). I always tend to sit in the same place, right next to one of the large clear windows that provides a view of the cemetery, with its rows and rows of headstones. I've never served a church with a cemetery, so it's been a gift to me to worship in a place that does, and to be able to look out upon the saints that once worshipped in the very space where I now worship God. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust, we are told at the beginning of Lent, every year, for thousands of years; words that those saints in that graveyard surely heard and hopefully took to heart.

I have every hope that there is more to the story after my death, and that I will greet and be greeted by the living God. But Lent says to me every year that this life matters as well, and I am asked to take it as seriously, if not more seriously, than the life to come, simply because I am not there but here, in this moment, in this world. What shall I do with the rest of my days, in the time left to me? How shall I love, how shall I speak up for justice, how shall I be faithful to God, in the here and now? Surely the saints in St. Peter's graveyard asked those same questions as well, in their own tumultuous times. But now is my time to answer them, now is your time to answer them, now is our time to answer them.



HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, April 13

Fisherman's Breakfast

Children's Easter Egg Hunt

****See page 2 for more information on these events**

Easter Morning Services, April 20

**Easter Communion Service:
8:00 a.m. at St. Peter's UCC**

**Easter Service:
10:00 a.m. at St. Peter's UCC**

THANK YOU

Thank you to the Gorge Family and everyone who helped to make our 2025 Heifer Fair Project such a success! See page 2 for more!



2025 Heifer Project Gift Fair



Heifer Fair raises an ARK+ for 2025 !

The Heifer Fair held March 30,2025 has raised \$9,406 so far for Heifer Project International, fighting to stop world hunger.

We are very close to raising two ARKS for 2025.

Each \$5,000 gift is deemed an "Ark" because it ensures animals and training for an entire community!

This is the 27th year that the congregation will have contributed at least one ark. Really an amazing record of support and success!

Cumulative gifts from St Peter's to Heifer project since 1984 total more than \$232,,000!

Congratulations to the congregation for your generosity.

Creating Change!

For 78+ years Heifer's cornerstones have empowered people to change their lives.

Working in 125 countries to attain sustainable livelihood through community owned interventions.

Heifer has helped 30 million families lift themselves out of hunger and poverty.

Still more to do, 1 Billion people still live in extreme poverty.

The St Peter's Heifer Mission team consists of many members, who perform wonderful and vital work out of the lime-light but with so many congregation members involved we are thankful the continued support of the Mission. Special thanks to Sewing Circle Members who hosted the Fellowship time on Heifer Sunday and to Kat Bowman for all her musical support.

If you still want to donate to Heifer it is not too late, please make your check payable to St Peter's and be sure your check has Heifer on the memo line so it can be properly credited.

Thank you for your wonderful support of Heifer Project International and all the mission teams at St Peter's.

Palm Sunday Events

Bring your appetites for the **Fisherman's Breakfast on Palm Sunday April 13th.**

As in years past we will be serving pancakes, applewood smoked bacon, breakfast sausages and fresh cut fruit.

Leftovers will be available until supplies run out. Bacon and sausages go fast.

We will be serving from 7:45AM until 9:45 AM.

Please contact Fred or Maureen at 610-304-1098 if you would like to help out. We need help cutting fruit and setting up on Sat, April 12th at 10 AM.

Helpers Sunday morning should report at 7:30 AM. Will also need help cleaning up if possible. See you then.

EGG HUNT

Invite all your friends, family and neighbors with kids! This annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt is always a big hit! The hunt will take place immediately after worship service on Palm Sunday, April 13.



SEWING CIRCLE NEWS



A Heartwarming Story from PACS.....

I would like to share an event that happened this past week to encourage you that you are doing work that matters. A young woman with her small child came to receive her shopping cart food pickup. She presented her order number and I went to get her cart of food. When I put the cart on the ramp and brought it to her she cried tears of joy about the amount of food that PACS was giving her. It was very moving for me to see how it impacted her day/ life.

During the months of January and February, St. Peter's collected a total of 362 pounds of nonperishable food, personal care products and other essentials. Thank you all for your contributions.

Together, we are making a difference.



HOAGIE SALE WRAP UP



Oh...how we love to eat. Due to our hearty St. Peter's appetites (77 hoagies=\$577.50) and your generosity (Bakeless Bake Sale=\$122.), we will be sending a check to Bethany for \$1,000.

Thank you for always supporting the Sewing Circle.



Trustee's Corner

A large and hard working group of volunteers showed up at the church on Saturday morning, March 29th, for the spring clean-up.

They had to do double duty this year, because the fall clean-up had to be cancelled, due to poor weather. But they took it all on and did a great job. They even added a project behind the parsonage, cleaning out some fallen limbs and brush.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who showed up to help!



Thank You Trustees

Thank you to Albert Wachsmuth for moving the piles in the parking lot across the street down onto the slope. The Trustees found ways to save the church money and, at the same time, resolve the erosion of the slope in that far corner. Albert pushed the last of the fill over the edge, including dirt that will encourage plant growth to solidify the slope.

Thank you to Bob McClimon for a project to stabilize the railing on the outside stairs of the Christian Ed. Building. Bob used a system to make sure the railing will never give way, keeping all safe. He also stabilized a railing by the front door of the church.

Thank you both!

JOLLY QUIZZES

For 5 months I have done these Jolly Quizzes for the Beacon. It's time to assess if there is enough interest to continue them. If you like to have them in the future, please call or email the Church, or tell me before Easter. The interest will determine the Quizzes future.

Thank you,
Wayne Freese



Room to Read

Room to Read (RTR) was established in 2000 by John Wood, who at the time, was a Microsoft VP for China, with the goal of championing and supporting children's literacy and girls' education particularly in Africa and Asia. He wrote a most intriguing book about the thesis that "World Change Starts with Educated Children". Now, 25 years later the situation has improved, however, it is estimated that approx. 775 million people on this planet can't read because they still do not have an opportunity to get educated in doing so. About two thirds are women and children. On a positive note, over the last 25 years, RTR has improved the lives of more than 45 million children in 28 countries around the world through the provision of quality education reading materials, community engagement, teacher support, and advocacy for change.

St. Peter's Pikeland UCC began supporting RTR in 2008. In 2024, thanks to tremendous congregation support and matching gifts, our small church on the hill, has been able to support over 550 women and children through RTR. Also, in 2009, thanks to the help of our church, RTR was able to fund a new library in rural Nepal that was built with local labor and still plays a very important role in the lives of so many children and adults. One example in particular, is a woman who eventually was able to study law and became a Supreme Court justice in her country of origin.

It takes approx. \$365 to provide education to one student for an entire year. We have our RTR campaign in the month of September. We will continue doing so in 2025. As part of the RTR, we collect used books for the church's book sale in September. These annual book sales are greatly supporting RTR.

Of course, should you, for example during Spring Cleaning and/or other circumstances, come across books that no longer serve your needs, kindly consider donating these books to the church. Also, you don't have to wait until September but instead have them dropped off at the church, at any time. Should you require help in getting your books to the church, please feel free to contact any of the 3 RTR coordinators in St. Peter's Pikeland UCC. We would be more than happy to take care of your book donations.

We thank everyone for their tremendous support to RTR!
 Richard Sherman richard@amorekai.com
 Wayne Freese wdfreese@msn.com
 Herman Nieuwenhuizen hxniezn@comcast.net



April Birthdays

Renaë Bierer	4/1
Mason Stein	4/1
Dave Wise Sr.	4/2
Ben Mansmann	4/2
Sam McCabe	4/3
Alex Page	4/3
Fred Krisch	4/4
Fred Wookey	4/6
Jessica Nieuwenhuizen	4/6
Dawn Meyer	4/7
Katerina Dick	4/9
Isabella Basile	4/9
Ella Yeakle	4/9
Brynn Montieth	4/13
Kimberly Zeller	4/14
John Martin	4/18
Carole Frederick	4/19
Carol Meyer	4/20
Dawna DeRosa	4/23
Shelby Poston	4/23
Diane Dunn	4/25
Denise Harlow	4/30

Wedding Anniversaries

Bill and Alice Bierer
 John and Tammy Gingrich
 Eric and Linda Johnson
 John and Mary Jo Pandjak

 Mark and Jessica Rochon
 Tilo and Debbie Spranger
 C.J. and Beth Stein
 Joann and Joe Thomson
 Meg and Chris Zaro Sr.

CHILI COOK OFF



On Saturday, March 22nd, we had approximately 40 people attend the St. Peter's Chili Cook-Off.

The top 3 chili winners were The Warners, Sam Wachsmuth, and Dave Wise.

The Warners picked Bethany Children's Home, Sam picked Habitat for Humanity and Dave picked St. Mary's.

Each of these missions will split the money raised just over \$540.

Thank you to everyone who came out! And a special thank you to Maureen Wookey for organizing this event!

Baby News

Cole and Skylar Nordhoff welcomed their daughter, Holland Everly Nordhoff into the world on Monday March 3rd at 1:17pm. Holland was 4.5 weeks early but weighed 5lb 6oz and was 19in long. Congratulations Nordhoff family!



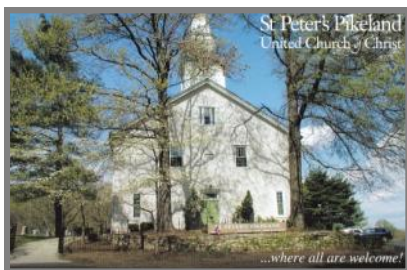
UPCOMING MAY HIGHLIGHTS

May 17: FEAST Potluck Outside at 6pm
 May 25: Memorial Day Recognition

Stay in touch with us

www.StPetersPikeland.org

On FaceBook as St. Peter's Pikeland United Church of Christ



Our Prayer List

Please keep the following members and friends in your prayers:

Church Staff

Rev. Douglas Hanson,

Pastor

Kat Bowman,

Director of Music and Organist

Jill Cook,

Church Secretary

Deborah Wetty,

Nursery Attendant

Debbie Wolk,

Bookkeeper

Herman Nieuwenhuizen

Cemetery Manager

Church Officers 2025

President of Congregation –

Mark Myers

Secretary of Congregation –

Kathleen Wachsmuth

President of Consistory –

Pete Warner

Secretary of Consistory –

Kathleen Wachsmuth

Elders

Deb Wetty- Chair

Kathleen Wachsmuth, Peter Wilson

Deacons

Herman Nieuwenhuizen– Chair

Sarah Hackman

Pete Warner

Trustees

Dave Wise Jr.- Chair

Bob McClimon

Albert Wachsmuth

Andrea Lafleur

Angie Schlessm

Ann Kieffer, cousin of Eric Johnson

Barbara Broyles, friend of the Wachsmuths

Barbara Shivers

Bill Cochran, friend of Fred and Maureen Wookey

Carol Meyer

Cole Davenport

Connie Hershey, friend of Micki and Alyssa Menkins

Charlie Fishman, Pete Warner's Nephew and Godson

Charles and Virginia Garber

Danielle Smith, friend of Sara Hackman

David Richman, friend of Grace Merryman

Debbie Rittenhouse, mother-in-law of Mitchell Warner

Diane, friend of Dee McClimon

Dr. Michael J. Ward

Ernie Gross, cousin of Fred Wookey

Gwen Davidson

Heather Murphy, cousin of Steve Krasley

Heidi Kieffer, daughter of Eric Johnson's cousin

Hugh Lawson

Jamie Glennon, friend of Eric Hanson

Jeff Johnson, Co-worker of Eric Johnson

Jennifer Osborne

Jessica G., friend of Grace Merryman

Jim Smith, Denise Harlow's brother

John Pandjak

John Pittock, friend of Grace Merryman

Laura Dick

Laura S., friend of Grace Merryman

Lisa, cousin of Eric Johnson

Mary Andersen, friend of the McCarthys

Melinda Greenwood, cousin of Joe Thomson

Patrick, friend of Dee McClimon

Richard, friend of Dee McClimon

Sally Kramer, Cherri Romano's sister

Sandy Pereni, Joyce Rosen's sister

Sharon Basile, Jennifer Basile's mother-in-law

Sylvia Houff, Kathleen Wachsmuth's sister

Tara Cantello, friend of Denise Harlow

Tina Frick, friend of Sarah Hackman

Tracey Knox, cousin of Kathy Krasley