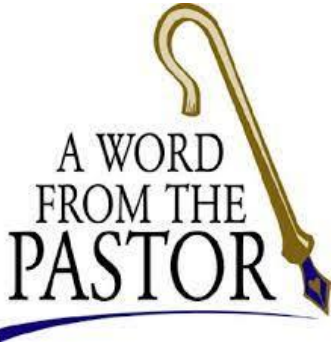




THE BEACON

December 2024

“Let your light shine before others”



Pennsylvania Southeast Conference UCC Fall Meeting:

On Saturday, November 9th, all four Conferences of the UCC in Pennsylvania held their individual fall meetings: Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, Penn Northeast,

Penn Central, and Penn West.

The major item on the agenda was for all four Conferences to vote on merging into one Conference that spans the entire commonwealth. At 12:00 Noon, all four Conference Ministers joined a zoom meeting that was shown to the attendees. Each one individually announced the results of their conference’s vote. By an overwhelming margin, all four conferences voted to merge.

At the July 2025 General Synod meeting of the entire UCC in Kansas City, they will undoubtedly approve the merger. The fall 2025 meeting of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference will be its last, as the merger takes effect January 1, 2026.

Although tremendous work has been done, there are still details that are being worked on, but not finalized, such as the location of a central office, and staffing.

The UCC was formed in 1957 as part of a 20th century movement to join together various denominations. The new UCC denomination was then broken down to Conferences throughout the nation. In the fall of 2022, conversations began about merging the conferences of Pennsylvania.

Currently, our conference has 165 churches in it. After the merger of all four conferences, there will be over 550 churches in the new statewide conference.



Hanging of the Greens Sunday, December 1st at 7:00 pm

Come join us for this festive service as we prepare the sanctuary for the Christmas Season.

Please see page 4 for Bethany Children’s Home Christmas Wish List, as we collect items for Bethany the night of the Hanging of the Greens.

CAROLING

This year, we will be spreading love and Christmas joy once again, as we go around to various members of our congregation to sing carols. If you would like to join us, please plan to meet in the church parking lot no later than 6:45pm, and we will caravan to a few locations before heading back to the church by 8:30.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Tuesday, December 24th

5:00pm Family Service

9:00pm Candlelight Service of
Lessons and Carols

Annual Meeting Recap

The fall annual meeting of our church was held immediately after worship on November 24th.

Pastor Doug asked members to stay after worship, then invited Mark Myers, Congregational President, to come forward.

Mark said that, between attendance and the many absentee ballots, there was a quorum, and so he called the meeting to order, starting with a prayer by Pastor Doug.

Mark explained that the primary reasons for the meeting were to vote on nominees for Consistory and congregational officers, and to hear comments from the Treasurer about the budget draft for 2025.

Paper copies of the 2024 Annual Report were passed out. Following that, a vote was taken to approve the nominees.

Mark then invited Dan Gorge, Treasurer, forward. Dan walked us through our financial situation and how it relates to the proposed budget. Questions were answered.

Mark then read off the names of the various reports in the Annual Report for a vote. The Annual Report was approved.

There was no old or new business, and the meeting was adjourned.

DONATE TO CHARITY and SAVE TAXES



For those who have RMD withdrawals from their IRA's, this is what occurs when you use Qualified Charitable Distribution or QCD. You get the itemized deduction, and save taxes since your QCD reduces your taxable income.

Contact your IRA custodian to arrange it, and avoid any pitfalls. You can often do it online or by phone. I use it for our gift to St Peters. Must be done by year end to count for 2024.

Also, at Fidelity, Vanguard and Schwab, you can get a IRA checkbook, to get same benefits all year long, for any charity.

-Wayne Freese

Trustee's Corner

Leaf Mania

Because of the poor weather, the November 23rd date for Leaf Mania this year was postponed.

Another scheduled time hasn't yet been determined, but we'll be sure to get that date out soon



ONLINE giving

We are excited to tell you we have a new online giving platform for St. Peter's Pikeland UCC. Hold your phone's camera over this QR code, press the yellow button that says "myamplify.io" and you can give online, anytime, with your cellphone.



All online giving will still be confirmed in your offering statement. This is a very easy way to give to St. Peter's.

This QR code will be in the Sunday bulletin each week as well.

Sewing Circle News

Every year on the second Tuesday in November, the Sewing Circle host the Pickering Valley Guild Ingathering. The other members of the Guild along with the local agencies we serve come together to share a delicious luncheon and fellowship with each other. We then have a blessing of the clothes that have been sewn, knit, crocheted and bought to help newborns up to people in nursing homes. Someone from each agency gives a little talk about what they provide to their clients and how our donations are needed and appreciated by everyone. At the very end we help get everything packed in bags and into their cars. As they drive away we can't help but be so very grateful to be a part of making someone's life a little better.



Thank you to the Sewing Circle and everyone who made this Ingathering a special event once again!

JOLLY QUIZZES

- 1-WHAT DOES THE Red Knot feed on in Cape May NJ
- 2-Who made "Rock around the Clock" famous
- 3-Who made "My Prayer" famous
- 4-The only planet to rotate clockwise is _____
- 5-Coldest temperature of -138F was where
- 6-Lowest depth in the world is _____
- 7-The only four words that end in "ous"
- 8-why are airplane runways in Denver longer than Phila
- 9-What % of people are left handed
- 10-what caused the War of 1812
- 11-what words did Capt Lawrence say as he was dying on his ship in 1813, on Lake Erie



Quizzes submitted by Wayne Freese
Answers on Page 6

Hanging of the Greens

Once again, we will be celebrating our traditional Hanging of the Greens service. On Sunday, December 1st at 7 pm, we will gather in the sanctuary to decorate the church for Christmas and prepare ourselves for the spirit of the season.

As in the past, we will be supporting Bethany Children's Home with gifts on this special evening. Please see below for the list of needed and wanted items.

All are welcome to bring a gift for Bethany.

Bethany Wish List

Cottage Needs

- small bins with handles for toiletries
- bed pillows
- twin sheets
- twin zippered waterproof mattress pads
- bath & pool towels
- shower curtain liners and rings
- kitchen dish cloths/towels
- twin comforters
- 4-slice toasters
- flashlights & nightlights
- sketch books
- MP3 players

Teen Boys' Clothing

mens' sizes please

- sweatpants for men-sizes small-2XL
- underwear-boxer briefs
- socks-all types
- pajama pants-Sizes Small-2XL
- white t-shirts – all sizes
- gym shorts
- rubber-soled slippers or slides
- robes
- snow boots

Teen Girls' Clothing

Juniors and misses sizes please

- sweatpants– small-2X
- panties – size 5,6,7 & 8
- sports bras/bralettes- Small-2XL
- socks-all types
- pajamas – all sizes
- bath robes
- tank tops
- slippers
- gym shorts
- snow boots

Recreation

- agility ladder
- basketballs (29.5-inch)
- kickballs & playground balls
- pickleball paddles & balls
- TRX Workout Band (Brand)
- 1.5-inch yoga mats
- meditation pillows
- black ¾-inch buckles for paracord bracelets
- Lego sets
- Pony Beads
- Rexlace plastic lacing
- embroidery thread
- Sculpey clay & Accessories/Tools – <https://www.sculpey.com/products/tools>
- Nalgene water bottles
- storage bins
- ***large Bluetooth speaker for outside use***
- larger easy-up tent
- Mechanic tool sets
- 2-stage locking carabiners
- 3-stage auto-locking carabiners
- teambuilding sports
- bookcases

Activity Items

- art & craft kits
- adult coloring books
- paint-by-number
- tie-dye kits (with white shirts and pillowcases)
- card stock
- paint brushes
- hand-held games
- board games
- scrapbook paper
- canvas boards
- yarn
- crochet & knitting needles
- colored pencils
- hardbound journals

Accessories

- umbrellas
- digital alarm clock with no radio
- washbaskets
- rain ponchos & boots
- wrapping paper
- gift bags
- tissue paper
- large storage containers

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Barb McCabe	12/1
Dorothy Wood	12/1
Tom Wilson	12/2
Darryl Zinn	12/3
Linda Johnson	12/5
Richard Benjamin	12/5
Bob Breisch	12/6
Jean Ann Barney	12/7
Chad Stein	12/7
Catherine Schay	12/8
Suzanna Derer	12/8
Tom Carnevale	12/9
Owen Yeakle	12/10
Jim Phillips	12/13
Killian Dunn	12/13
Sarah Schay	12/15
Mark Myers	12/18
Doug Fink	12/19
Sumiko Booraem	12/19
Dan Gorge	12/19
Jackie Nordhoff	12/19
Dee McClimon	12/20
Tammy Gingrich	12/20
Ryan Mest	12/21
Annamae Moore	12/23
Beth Newell	12/26
Cooper Dunn	12/29
Alexis McCarthy	12/30
Ryan Borzillo	12/30
Rose Borzillo	12/30

December Anniversaries

Bill and Suzanna Derer
 Jim and Gail Phillips (50th)
 Chett and Jeanie Breiling

Blessing of the Hounds



Thanksgiving morning this year was a little chilly and wet, but that did not deter 70+ dedicated people from attending this very special St. Peter's tradition.

Pastor Doug led the service and blessed about a dozen wet pups!



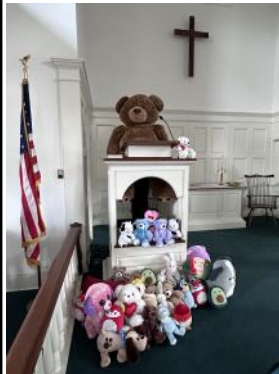
Santa Fred

Santa Fred will once again be greeting the congregation every Sunday morning during Advent. As in other years, all donations will go to help St. Mary's Shelter for Homeless Families in Phoenixville.

Santa Fred said to keep an eye out for some helper elves this year!



BEAR FAIR DEDICATION



On Sunday, November 24th, Pastor Doug blessed and dedicated the bears and stuffed animals that everyone so graciously donated for people who need a little extra cuddly love in their lives. Thank you to everyone who donated and thank you to Steve and Kathy Krasley, for once again organizing this special collection.

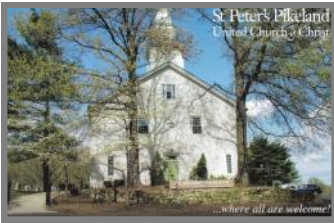
Answers to the Jolly Quiz:

- 1-Horseshoe Crab eggs
- 2-Bill Haley and The Comets
- 3- The Platters
- 4-Venus
- 5-East Antarctica
- 6-Mariana Trench in the Pacific
- 7-tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, hazardous
- 8-thinner air
- 9- 9-10 %
- 10-British impressment of American sailors
- 11-"don't give up the ship"



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

Wayne Freese
Cemetery Manager

Church Officers 2024

President of Congregation –
Mark Myers

Secretary of Congregation –
Kathleen Wachsmuth

President of Consistory –
Pete Warner

Secretary of Consistory –
Kathleen Wachsmuth

Elders

Kathleen Wachsmuth-Chair
Deb Wetty, Peter Wilson

Deacons

Herman Nieuwenhuizen,
Sarah Hackman
Pete Warner

Trustees

Fred Wookey III- Chair
Bob McClimon, Dave Wise Jr.

Andrea Lafleur

Angie Schlessm

Ann Kieffer, cousin of Eric Johnson

Barbara Broyles, friend of the Wachsmuths

Barbara Shivers

Bette Miller

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

Debbie Rittenhouse, mother-in-law of Mitchell Warner

Diane, friend of Dee McClimon

Ernie Gross, cousin of Fred Wookey

Gail Grealey, cousin of the Wise family

Gwen Davidson

Grady Dendunnen, grandson of Ted and Helen Morgan

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

Mike Brown

Pattie and Charlie Freeman, friends of the Bowman's

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

