

February  
2021



**St. Peter's Reformed Church**

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A PUBLICATION OF ST. PETER'S REFORMED CHURCH

# The Joyful Noiseletter



## Just Do It!

*"Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."  
1 John 4:11*

Happy "Love" Month St. Peter's!

Some people love February and others loathe the month. The whole idea of Valentine's Day with price-gouging flowers and cards, heart-shaped candy boxes, and candlelit dinners is over-rated in the eyes of many, especially those that are skeptical about love. But to those who happen to be hopeless romantics, it's a wonderful way to express your love for that special someone in your life.

In God's eyes, Valentines Day should be celebrated every day, not just on February 14th! Having just come off the Christmas season and receiving the most perfect gift of love from God, His Son, Jesus Christ (John 3:16) we are commanded to follow in His footsteps and love one another (1 John 4:11) because love comes from God. His love is unconditional and he expects our love for others to be unconditional too. God's love doesn't have strings attached and neither should our love.

The Apostle John speaks directly to the heart of love as he writes, "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God." Loving is not an abstract, optional concept. It originates with God and we must pass along God's love in our relationships with others.

Now listen, we live in a world that is filled with messy people who can be difficult to love (I can hear the collective 'Amen's!' ringing in my ear). We live with family, friends, and neighbors who often seem determined to test whether we can fulfill the command to love one another. But here is the kicker ... God doesn't command us to 'like' one another. Jesus, after stating that the greatest commandment is "Love the Lord your God ..." reminded everyone that the second is this, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39). Ouch! Jesus described it as a new command and gave the reason for us to obey it: "As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34.) It's NOT an optional command, so "Just Do It!"

Loving you all like Jesus,

Pastor Jim

From the president...

In their country song "Help Somebody," the duo Van Zant sang that "if you wanna hear God laugh, tell Him your plans." Given that line of thinking, it's refreshing to know that I have made Him laugh more than once and, in all the difficulties that 2020 presented, He must have laughed at everyone's plans more than once as well.

At the risk of future laughter, we've reached the point that we need to consider what plans we should be undertaking in 2021 to advance the kingdom at St. Peter's Church.

First and foremost, we're looking forward to the time when we can all worship together, along with Sunday School. How long we have to plan for that would be nothing more than a guess but we're planning just the same. Your input towards those plans would be appreciated but we have identified some issues as priorities.

One of the big successes we had in 2020 was the virtual following we developed on Facebook and we're looking to improve that in 2021. One means of doing that will be upgrading our technology to make the presentation better.

The Ministry and Worship Committee has worked hard and should be presenting a proposal to Consistory in the near future. Once approved by Consistory, we will schedule a Congregational meeting to vote on the project and its funding (the structure is already in place).

Another step we want to take in 2021 is to get more involvement from those who worship with us virtually. We're always looking for volunteers to serve on standing committees as well as special project committees and we really want to include everyone who worships with us. If you are interested in serving in any capacity, please let us know, either by contacting the office or letting me know ([ballmann46@hotmail.com](mailto:ballmann46@hotmail.com) or 724-601-8921).

We were able to survive and thrive in 2020 despite the pandemic – we finished with a budget surplus – because of the efforts of our dedicated staff and volunteers (including a Consistory that met more often than any before it). The year 2021 will be a challenging year for us again and we will be counting on that same combination of staff and volunteers to face down the challenges we encounter. We appreciate any help we can get and, as always, your prayers are appreciated.

Thanks to all,  
Bill

### CONSISTORY UPDATE

- February 21, 2021 Communion Offering – Greg Boros Memorial & Family Expenses Fund
- Identified Two (2) Vendors for the Audio/Visual Improvement Project
- Need Volunteers to Help the Tech Team (Training will be Provided)
- Need Volunteers for Sunday Service "Special Music" Performances
- Need Interim Volunteers for the TNT and Youth Group Meetings and Events

If you have any questions, please contact me at 724-316-0676 or via email at [wgrubbs@p-r-i.org](mailto:wgrubbs@p-r-i.org).

Thank you,  
Wendy Grubbs  
Deacon/Consistory Secretary

## Director of Volunteer Ministries and Pastoral Intern Updates

Greetings Church Family,

We have officially made a month into 2021 and can officially put 2020 behind us! As we begin this new year with many of the same challenges and uncertainty that 2020 brought, I am excited to start this new year. I would also like to continue to encourage all of you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to serve his church in 2021. We have so many different opportunities and different ministries available and if you are being called to start something new, I would love to chat with you about that. The many different ministries are doing their best to operate within the current CDC guidelines.

There are many good things happening here at church and it is not all doom and gloom. Marla and the Women's Ministry team are still meeting, we still have a small groups meeting, as well as continuing with our Facebook page. Speaking of the Facebook page, I have felt God leading me towards creating an opportunity to showcase our amazing members here at St. Peter's. So, I am looking for volunteers who would be interested/willing to sit down and share their testimony with me. God works in many different and amazing ways, I think it would be an awesome opportunity to show the rest of the world how powerful, how merciful, and how loving God can be in our lives. If you are interested, please let me know or do not be surprised when I reach out to you! Stay strong, stay praying, and stay healthy!

In Christ,

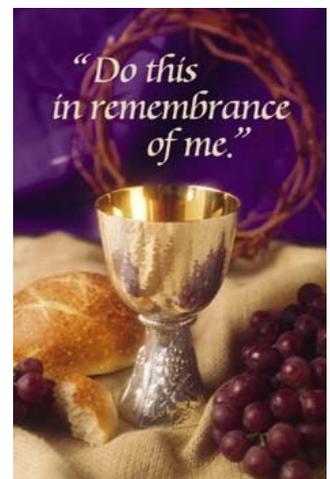
Pastor Andrew

### 1st Sunday in Lent ~ Communion

The communion offering on **February 21st** will be designated to Elise Boros and her son, Paul. St. Peter's has supported Greg & Elise Boros and their ministry with Cru as a yearly benevolence for the past several years. Greg and Elise have been serving with Cru on college campuses since 2008. Unfortunately, Greg passed away on December 19th of last year. Greg's brothers established a "Greg Boros Memorial & Family Expenses Fund through a go-fund-me site

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/greg-boros-memorial-fund-for-elise-and-paul>

This site details the medical struggles Greg battled up to his death. The site was "created with the hope of partially alleviating the very serious and long-lasting financial realities that Greg's passing has brought about for the family." Since the go-fund-me account takes 10-15% of every donation, our communion collection will be directly mailed to Elise Boros.

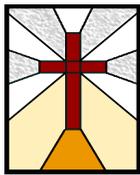


# UGANDA MISSION TEAM NEWS

Hello St Peter's,

I am pleased to report that even amid all the Covid chaos, our friends in Uganda are doing well. We have been sending different amounts of money to assist in the ongoing projects we started last year. The well we drilled has the concrete base around it finished and is producing clean fresh water to the many families in the area. The people of the surrounding areas have put their own time and money into making this well a success. The church now has a new metal roof and structural construction is almost complete. Again the villagers will be providing the funds for the completion of the interior. Money for medical treatments will be sent as soon as the Ugandan medical team is assembled. Most of these projects were made possible through St. Peter's CPR fund. The mission trip team has sent funds to Joseph to help him with being the administrator of our projects. We are hoping, if Covid can be controlled, to bring Joseph and his wife Annette here in June. I think it would be a great opportunity for all to have the chance to meet such a great, Christian man. If you would like more information, please contact any one of the Uganda Mission team and I am sure they would be happy to answer any questions. We still are not scheduling any monthly dinners until we are sure of the safety of all.

Thanks,  
Uganda Mission team



## SOUTHWEST BUTLER FOOD CUPBOARD

557 Perry Highway

Harmony, PA 16037

Phone: 724.453.4184

Website: [www.swbfoodcupboard.org](http://www.swbfoodcupboard.org)

Below you will find the Southwest Butler Food Cupboard's food needs for February:

Pasta	dessert Mix
Spaghetti sauce	cereal
canned vegetables	rice and pasta sides
canned fruit	potato mix
egg noodles	toiletries
tuna fish	mac and cheese
canned chicken	pancake mix
soup (condensed and ready-to-eat)	syrup
Canned beans	oatmeal
canned chicken	peanut butter
sloppy joe mix	jelly
dessert mix	

**If you would like to volunteer to help the Southwest Butler Food Cupboard, below are the details:**

**On the 2nd Tuesday of every month from (9:00-11:00 a.m.) we need help with (checking dates, sorting, stocking).**

Blessings, Erin Makowski, Director  
Southwest Butler Food Cupboard

## Women's Ministry News

Women's Ministry will meet on **Saturday, February 13th** at 10 am - 12 noon in the Fellowship room for the Secret Sis Reveal and selection of new Secret Sisters followed by a Bible Video Study on Priscilla - Living a Life of Blessed Ordinary. We will also have a short business meeting to discuss how we should deal with our service projects (especially VOICe) due to COVID-19 Virus restricting many organizations from accepting donated items. VOICe notified me that they are not accepting any donated items until April 29th but will accept financial contributions.

You may bring a simple snack to share with the group if you would like. We will be practicing measures to maintain safety due to the COVID-19 virus. I pray that everyone is doing well and looking forward to seeing you again.

Blessings,  
Marla Clouse



*Happy February Birthday to:*

*Joanne Majors ~ February 2 ~ 82 years young*  
*Esther Robertson ~ February 7 ~ 91 years young*  
*Archie Purvis ~ February 12 ~ 95 years young*  
*Charles Davey ~ February 24 ~ 89 years young*



## St. Peter's Youth ~ Coming up in February

Youth Group:

Meetings – Sunday 2/7 and 2/21, 6-8pm @ church

TNT:

Meetings – Thursday 2/4 and 2/18, 6:30-8pm @ church

**\*\*TNT is selling St. Peter's facemasks!** They have adjustable straps, adjustable nose piece, and a pocket for a filter. One filter is provided with each mask. The masks are \$12 apiece and proceeds will go towards TNT's Free Little Library.\*\*



**\*\*Just a few left!!** TNT is selling 2021 Pocket Planners to raise money for a St. Peter's "Little Free Library". They are \$2 a piece or 2 for \$3. They will be available Sundays after worship service in the Gathering Area, please see Sheri if you still need one.\*\*

## THANK YOU'S

Dear St. Peter's Family,

Thank you so much for all the cards we received from our friends at St. Peter's for our birthdays in November and December. It was very nice to be remembered, especially in such an unusual year. We also loved the flowers Al received from the church for his 90th birthday. They were so beautiful!

God Bless, Betty and Al Lighthiser

Dear St. Peter's Family,

Thank you all for the beautiful anniversary cards, they have meant so much! To the Kerr and Leseman families, you are wonderful and giving! Thank You! Pastor Jim, you are so appreciated for your remembrances and prayers! You are the Best! We are grateful to our God for all of you!

Love and Hugs, Ken and Judy Williams

Dear St. Peter's Family,

Once again you have blown us away with your generous spirit and abundant love. When we count the many blessings in our life, we certainly count you, the faithful, loving people of St. Peter's, among them. Thank you for your love, encouragement and support. We love and appreciate you!

Blessings and Love, Pastor Jim & Kendra

Dear St. Peter's,

The family of Jane Gilchrist extends our most sincere and heartfelt thanks for your kind expressions of sympathy on the passing of our beloved mother. The outpouring of love, care and (virtual) hugs helped ease the pain. Your words of comfort, your many prayers, delicious meals provided that we could share with extended family and the Psalm 23 afghan are all genuinely appreciated. In my quiet times, I have read and reread the many lovely cards and sentiments which provide some solace. Thank you Pastor for your visit to mom in the hospital and for the lovely memorial service, and thank you Sharyn for the beautiful, soothing music. Our mother is now at peace, cradled in our Heavenly Father's arms, and I believe she is rejoicing with loved ones who have gone on before her.

Our deepest gratitude,

Scott, Todd, Joan & Ann

Dear Sweet Blessings,

Your contribution of cookies from your Sweet Blessings outreach during this special time of the year meant that our boys and girls from MHY Family Services felt cared for and loved this holiday season! We hope you will continue to support MHY throughout the new year, and make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Warmest regards,

Amy Smith, Director

Mars Home for Youth

Dear St. Peter's,

Many thanks to St. Peter's Church members who made Dan and Millie feel so welcome. Thanks also to the ladies who took the time to visit him at the home, that was special, but certainly not expected. His suffering is over now, so he can now be at peace.

Many Thanks,

Joanne & Buck Majors

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS



## **Attention Teachers and Christian Ed Board members!**

You are invited to a luncheon on 2/7/21 right after church in the fellowship room.

This will be a great time to have fellowship and learn together just how we can *catch the excitement* of returning to in class Sunday School soon. See Heather with any questions.

## **LOOKING AHEAD...**



**2021 VBS WEEK ~**  
**Week to be determined**  
**@ 6:00-8:00PM**  
**ALL ABOARD**

## **LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS FOR FEBRUARY - READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!!**

*As we move into the second month of 2021, I pray that you all are withstanding the constant changes and staying safe and healthy! While we still have some time on our hands, why don't you cozy up in a warm blanket read a good book or two from our church library. Below are a couple of new fiction books recently added:*

**“Two Reasons to Run”** by Colleen Coble: ‘Police Chief Jane Hardy is still reeling from the scandal that rocked her small-town department just as she took over for her retired father—the man who wrecked her life with one little lie. Now she’s finally been reunited with her presumed-dead fifteen-year-old son, Will, and his father, documentarian Reid Dixon. When a murder aboard the oil platform Zeus exposes an environmental terrorist’s plot to flood Mobile Bay with crude oil, Jane and Reid must put their feelings for each other behind them and work together to prevent the rig from being sabotaged. Then the terrorist puts her son Will’s life on the line. Protecting him could be the common ground they need... but then ghosts from the past threaten to ruin Jane and Reid for good.’

**“Airborne”** by Diann Mills: ‘Houston FBI Agent Heather Lawrence’s vacation to Salzburg wasn’t supposed to go like this. Hours into her flight, she awakens when passengers begin exhibiting horrific symptoms of an unknown infection. As the virus quickly spreads and dozens of passengers fall ill, Heather fears she’s witnessing an epidemic similar to ones her estranged husband studies for a living—but this airborne contagion may have been deliberately released. Quarantined with other survivors, Heather works with her FBI colleagues to identify the person behind the attack. The prime suspect? Dr. Chad Lawrence, an expert in his field... and Heather’s husband. The Lawrences’ marriage has been on the rocks since Chad announced his career took precedence over his wife and future family and moved out. As more victims fall prey days after the initial outbreak, time’s running out to hunt down the killer, who may be closer to the victims than anyone ever expected.’

*I hope you will take advantage of all the good books we have to offer in the church library.*





# February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Sunday School</b> <b>9:00 am</b>  <b>Worship</b> <b>10:15 am</b>	<b>Head Usher</b> <b>for</b> <b>February</b> <b>Perry Eller</b>					
	<b>1</b> 5:30pm AA Mtg. ~ Fellowship Rm. 6:30pm Elder's Mtg. ~ Ed. Bldg.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9am Prayer Group 7pm Small Group Bible Study ~ Ed. Bldg. 7pm Choir pract. ~ Sanctuary 7pm The Journey	<b>4</b> 11:30am Ministerium 6:30pm TNT Mtg. ~ Youth Rm/F. Rm.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9am Confirmation Class ~ Ed. Bldg. 11:30am SS Teachers/Board Luncheon Mtg. ~ Fellowship Rm. 6-8pm YG Mtg. ~ Youth Rm/F. Rm.	<b>8</b> 5:30pm AA Mtg. ~ Fellowship Rm.	<b>9</b> 6-9pm MOMS Group Mtg. ~ Basics Room 7pm Consistory Mtg. ~ Fellowship Room (All Welcome)	<b>10</b> 9am Prayer Group 5pm Feed My Sheep 7pm Small Group Bible Study ~ Ed. Bldg. 7pm Choir pract. ~ Sanctuary 7pm The Journey	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10-12pm Women's Ministry Mtg. ~ Fellowship Room
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 5:30pm AA Mtg. ~ Fellowship Rm.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9am Prayer Group 7pm Small Group Bible Study ~ Ed. Bldg. 7pm Choir pract. ~ Sanctuary 7pm The Journey 7pm AFSP Support Group ~ Ed. Bldg.	<b>18</b> 6:30pm TNT Mtg. ~ Youth Rm/F. Rm.	<b>19</b> 9-4pm Herr Family setting up Fellowship Room	<b>20</b> 9-6pm Kayli Herr's Bridal Shower ~ Fellowship Room
<b>21</b> Communion 9am Confirmation Class ~ Ed. Bldg. 6-8pm YG Mtg. ~ Youth Rm/F. Rm.	<b>22</b> 5:30pm AA Mtg. ~ Fellowship Rm.	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9am Prayer Group 7pm Small Group Bible Study ~ Ed. Bldg. 7pm Choir pract. ~ Sanctuary 7pm The Journey	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9am Confirmation Class ~ Ed. Bldg.						