February 2024

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St. Peter's Reformed Church

320 E. Grandview Avenue Zelienople, PA 16063 (724) 452-8120 stpzelie.org

A Love Worth Confessing

Many people in my generation grew up listening to 90's R&B music. Much of that genre was known for being smooth and even romantic. One of the most popular artists in that genre was Usher, who will highlight the Super Bowl Halftime Show this month. One of the best known albums by this skilled singer and dancer was called "Confessions", with the hit song "Confessions Part II". Later expansions of that album included "Confessions Part I". Apparently, Usher had a lot to confess, even as he lyrically tried to get his girl to stay with him, in spite of all he had done. Usher wasn't the only one to write on this topic, though. Take, for example, singer and Broadway star Josh Groban. One of this golden-throated baritone's popular early hits was a song called "My Confession". Just a few of the "confession" songs out there.

What is it about *loving* someone that makes us willing enough (vulnerable enough) to confess our flaws... our shortcomings... our sins to them? Perhaps its our desire for them to know our *true* selves. Perhaps its the security (or, at the very least, the hope) that they will love us no matter what they discover about us, even the negative. I remember asking one of my best friends if I should ask Susan to marry me. "David", he said, "You found a woman who knows all your flaws and loves you *anyway*. I'd marry her *tomorrow*". Similarly, I don't think it's out of the question to see *God's* love for us in that way.

What makes God different, though, is that God already knows everything about us, especially anything we could confess to Him (Ps. 69:5, Ps. 139:3-4). So if God already knows everything we've ever done, then confession must be for our benefit, not His. The NT Greek word "confess" literally translates "Same word/mind". The idea is that you no longer silently conceal the action you've done, but now state that the action you've done and your words declaring it agree. This is not a comfortable thing to do, but it greatly strengthens a loving relationship between two parties. No wonder "confession is good for the soul". So, with a month often associated with love here before us, it is my hope that we might shift our thinking about confession... from "airing my dirty laundry" to "becoming vulnerable enough to not let concealed misdeeds become a hurdle to my relationship with the one I love". The one who loves us most guarantees forgiveness of the sins we confess (1 Jn. 1:9). In light of that, I'm issuing a "Repentance Challenge" for the month of February, which will mark the beginning of Lent. "Repent" (the first word Jesus ever taught) is just a fancy word for a U-turn from the sins we confess. His love makes repentance worth it ~Pastor David



Repentance Challenge February 2024

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	"I repent of"			Not loving God with all my heart, soul, mind & strength	Not loving my neighbor as myself	Not waiting upon the Lord
Anything not done for the glory of God	Not being thankful	Placing anyone or anything before God at any time.	Any thoughts not focused on obeying Christ	Any careless word I have ever spoken	9 Not loving my enemies	Forgetting the gifts and benefits of God
Not remembering the Sabbath day & keeping it holy ["set apart"]	Some specific action I knew I shouldn't have done & DID.	Some specific action I knew I should have done & DIDN'T.	Ash Wed. Repent of ALL sin	Any time I doubted God or His Son	Not loving others as [to the extent that] Christ loved me	Not honoring & obeying my parentsand/or not disciplining & instructing my children in Jesus
Not loving God's word, especially His law	19 Hearing God's word but not obeying it in my life	ZO Times I sought to argue with God and His ways	Things I did which quenched the Holy Spirit	Any ungodly, unwholesome or unedifying word I spoke	Seeing my brother/ sister in sin & keeping silent	That sin I keep going back to (doing again), the "habit" sins
Putting the un- containable God into my "box"	Z6 Times I "took the wheel" back from God (not giving Him full control)	Seeing my sin as "getting caught", rather than as defying God	Apathy for the lost (non- believers)	Not making prayer a defining part of the rhythm of my life		

1 - Deut. 6:5, 2- Lev. 19:18, 3 - Ps. 27:14, Is. 40:31, 4 - 1 Cor. 10:31, 5 - Rom. 1:21, 6 - Ex. 20:3, 7 - 2 Cor. 10:5, 8 - Matt. 12:36, 9 - Matt. 5:44, 10 - Ps. 103:2, 11 - Ex. 20:8, 12 - Gen. 3:6, 13 - Jm. 4:17, Lk. 10:30-32, 14 - Job 42:6, 1 Jn. 1:9, 15 - Matt. 28:17, 16 - Jn. 15:12, 17 - Eph. 6:1-3, 18 - Ps. 119, Jer. 15:16, 19 - Jm. 1:22, 20 - Is. 45:9, Rom. 9:20, 21 - 1 Thess. 5:19-22, 22 - Eph. 4:29, 23 - Prov. 27:5-6, 24 - Heb. 12:1, 25 - Ps. 50:21, 26 - Ac. 17:24-25, 27 - Ps. 51:4, 28 - Rom. 10:14, 29 - 1 Thess. 5:17

UGANDA MISSION TPL NEWS

Greetings St. Peter's,

Well, we are back. It was a long 66 hour trip to get home. All was fine until we got into the USA. Had an unforeseen lay-over in LaGuardia airport for 24 hours due to weather, but we are glad to be home. It was a wonderful trip this year and we accomplished so many things. Our friends in Kalyango are doing great. The village is jigger free and wounds are all healing. The well and the latrine that we built were a big part of that. The church has a paid full-time pastor, thanks to CPR funding, and now the village is building her a house next to the church. The village is now selfsustaining, which is what our goal has been. We are now moving onto another village where a new church building and a latrine is needed. While we were there, the drilling rig from Ceed drilled a new well. So they will have fresh water already there to start their rebuilding. We renamed our group to Uganda Mission TPL which stands for 'treat, preach and love'. Our mission has slightly shifted from trying to build and maintain churches and villages to helping churches and villages to build for themselves and become self-sustaining like Kalyango. We also were able to provide a pastor's salary to Pastor Andrew who is currently the pastor of Open Door Church. He is one of the people who help us in our medical work every year. Again, thanks for CPR supporting this endeavor. There is so much I can get into, but this is long enough already. Come to the stuffed chicken breast dinner Friday. Feb 9th and ask about our trip. We are taking orders for 6" Italian hoagies for pick up that night also. Let Jim Schulz know how many you need by Feb 6th or give Randy a call at 724-766 -1029. Hope to see you all at the dinner.

Kali-kali bye, Uganda Mission TPL





Uganda Mission TPL Dinner

Jesus didn't come to be served, HE came to SERVE.

THE GREATEST AMONG YOU MUST BE A SERVANT.

MATTHEW 23:11 NLT

Dinner is **Friday**, **February 9th** from 5-6:30pm in the Fellowship Room.

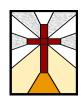
February's menu includes: Stuffed Chicken Breast, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans or Salad, Desserts and Beverages.

2024 Men's Venison Dinner

St. Peter's Annual Men's Venison Dinner will be taking place on **Saturday, February 24, 2024** and it is open to men of the community. We encourage boys as young as five to come. Our guest speaker will be former Pittsburgh Steeler and Super Bowl winner, Justin Hartwig. Proceeds from the event will be donated to "It's About The Warrior Foundation", whose mission is to enrich the lives of our post 9/11 veterans. To secure your attendance reservation, make a donation (raffle prizes/monetary), or if you have any questions, please email Jeff Fyock at jeff_fyock@yahoo.com.







sloppy joe mix

dessert mix

SOUTHWEST BUTLER FOOD CUPBOARD

557 Perry Highway Harmony, PA 16037

Phone: 724.453.4184

Website: www.swbfoodcupboard.org

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

Pasta
Spaghetti sauce
canned vegetables
canned fruit
egg noodles
tuna fish
canned chicken
soup (condensed and ready-to-eat)
Canned beans
canned chicken

dessert Mix
cereal
rice and pasta sides
potato mix
toiletries
mac and cheese
pancake mix
syrup
oatmeal
peanut butter
jelly

Blessings, Erin Makowski, Director Southwest Butler Food Cupboard

CONSISTORY UPDATE

- Confirmation Class to start in February with three (3) students
- 2024 Communion Schedule—Maundy Thursday, March 28; Easter Sunday, March 31; Pentecost Sunday, May 19; Worldwide Communion, October 6; and First Sunday in Advent, December 1

If you have any questions, please contact me at 724-316-0676.

Thank you, Wendy Grubbs Consistory Secretary

The We Care Group's next visitation days will take place on **Mon, Tues & Weds, February 12, 13 & 14**. We will be delivering valentine candy, and since they love cards, I would like to give each one a valentine. This is for anyone in the congregation, who would like to be a part of this, to buy or make one. You may sign your name, or not, but please no name on the front, so I can equally distribute them. Also, they need to be to me by **Sunday, Feb. 11**. If you want, you can drop them off at the church office, or in Sheri's mailbox. She will see that I get them. If anyone has any questions, or would like to join us this time, please see/call me at 724-452-9745 or 412-952-6933. And again, if you know someone who would like to be visited, please contact me, Pastor David or Pam North at the church office.

Together in Christ, Sharyn McMaster

Happy February Birthday to:

Joanne Majors ~ February 2 ~ 85 years young Gary Knauff ~ February 6 ~ 80 years young Esther Robertson ~ February 7 ~ 94 years young



REACHING OUT THROUGH OUTREACH MINISTRIES

by Pam North



HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF PLAYING HANDBELLS?

So many people love to hear the sound of any kind of bells because they always seem to sound so joyful and melodious. The members of St. Peter's Handbell Choir not only enjoy the sounds of our handbells, but they also have the pleasure of working and fellowshipping together to produce the wonderful sounds of so many songs that they have played throughout the years here at St. Peter's. Our handbell choir ministry is celebrating its 19th anniversary this year, having had its beginning in 2005 when Kendra Bertoti had the vision of our church using handbells to praise the Lord in worship and offered to direct the group if Consistory would allow the purchase of a three-octave set of bells.



Consistory did approve, and Kendra ended up directing the bell choir through 2021 and when we needed a new director, Melissa graciously accepted the position in early 2022 (and she has been doing a wonderful job these past two years!) At some point in time, a set of handchimes was added (they are fun to play as well) and the choir has learned many different techniques of playing that showcase the various sounds the bells can produce.

Our current handbell choir consists of a few people who have been members since 2005 right up to people who have joined in just the past year or two. Even though there is a fixed number of people who are in the choir due to only having the three octaves of bells, Melissa is always looking for people who would be interested in joining if there would be an opening or even just to substitute if that need would arise. New members don't need to have prior experience in handbell playing, nor do people have to be trained in reading music. Lots of things can be taught in rehearsals, and as well as being a very skilled director, Melissa is also a very patient one! Men are always welcome to join the choir, as are teenagers who are really interested and are able to consistently attend rehearsals.

In the midst of so much joy and fun getting to learn new techniques and skills as the handbell choir prepares songs to be played in our worship services several times each year, the hearts of Melissa and the ringers remain focused on serving the Lord, bringing Him the honor and glory He is due, with every note they play. Just as they were when they began almost 20 years ago, our handbell choir is a ministry that truly "makes a joyful noise unto the Lord!" (Psalm 100:1) Please see Melissa at church or contact her at (724-316-3674) or call me at the church office (724-452-8120) if you have any questions or if you would like to be a part of the group so that you, too, can 'ring' your praise to God!

SOME HEARTFELT THANKS TO PASS ALONG!

A few weeks ago under the auspices of our board of Trustees, our Fellowship Room kitchen was given a very complete cleaning and reorganization. Thanks to Lynn Meyers, Judy Double, Cathy Powell, Geri Young, and Darrin Kaelin for the hours they took to thoroughly clean the ovens and stovetops, the sinks, the refrigerators, and all the cupboards and drawers. They left a beautifully cleaned kitchen that even included wet mopping the floor once they were finished.



Please remember that it is now everyone else's job who uses the kitchen to keep it this way!!

We also want to that Nancy Korczynski for her generous offer to make our communion bread for all of our communion services in 2023. Nancy very graciously volunteered to do this and we truly appreciate her efforts – and she is willing to help us out again if the need arises. Thank you, Nancy!

JONI AND FRIENDS - 'WHEELS FOR THE WORLD'

We are continuing our collection of items that will be given to people in a third world country who have severe mobility issues. Throughout February, if you can donate any of the following items, that would be much appreciated: wheelchairs, walkers and rollators, crutches, and canes (all must be in good condition). Anything that is donated will be picked up around March 1st and will be taken to Indiana where the items will be refurbished by prisoners before being sent somewhere overseas by Joni and Friends. If you can help this campaign, your donation will be a blessing to someone who at this point doesn't have the ability to move independently. Donated items will be stored in the prayer room, located on the second floor of the education building on the right at the top of the steps. If you have any questions, please contact Sheri or Pam in the office (724) 452-8120.



May all of you enjoy a February filled with blessing the Lord in big and small ways – and gee, we even have an extra day this month, so what will you do to work on building God's Kingdom in an extra-special way on February 29th???



A Prayer's Place

Let's Talk About Prayer

Yes. Prayer. We need to talk about it. Prayer used to be something that we looked at as a necessity of following Jesus. Prayer was ingrained in the Christian church as a standard of faith. The bible does say to pray persistently and continually (Luke 18:1 & 1 Thessalonians 5:16). So why don't we pray like we used to?

The busy lives we lead consume us and we look at prayer as another "task" to do rather than a time to repent, refresh and rejoice with our Lord. We also don't understand the value of prayer. It is our lifeline to God! We can go directly to him with all of our thoughts, feelings and desires. Anytime and anywhere! But another main reason for lack of prayer in our lives is because the enemy knows how vital prayer is to the believer in Christ. He will distract us in any way to keep us from prayer. Through busy schedules, weariness, telling us we are inadequate at prayer or making us think we are doing just fine without it.

If prayer was important enough for Jesus to teach us how to do it then it isn't a maybe. It is a must! Whether it's long or short, start this New Year off by making prayer a priority each day and you will begin to draw closer to the God that delights in hearing your voice.

Prayerfully yours in Christ, Sarah Andrews, Prayer Team Chair

In addition, if you have any interest and/or feel called by the Holy Spirit to join St. Peter's Prayer Team, or would like to discuss how you can serve God in prayer or have questions about prayer life, please feel free to contact me at andrewssarah83@gmail.com.

THANK YOU'S

Dear St. Peter's,

A special thank you to Sarah and Juanita for putting together the treat bags for us college students. They arrived before finals and were a nice reminder that the church is thinking about me.

Thanks,

thanky

Líz LaRocca

Dear St. Peter's Family,

I would like to thank all the members of St. Peter's for their prayers, cards and caring words following my recent back surgery. It is truly a blessing to have such a caring church family. Thank you again,

Wendy Grubbs

Dear St. Peter's,

Thank you for all your hard work making and packaging the homemade cookies you sent to us at the Grove at Harmony. There were so many different kinds and they were very delicious and enjoyed by all.

Thank you again, The Grove at Harmony

Dear St. Peter's Church Family,

We want to thank the ladies on the funeral committee for putting together a beautiful luncheon for us after our mother, Mary Lou's funeral. They did a wonderful job and there efforts are greatly appreciated and helped lighten the load.

Sincerely,

The Mary Lou Pietrusinski Family

Dear Friends,

On behalf of everyone at Glade Run Lutheran Services, we thank you for your generous in-kind contribution of five Christmas Cookie Trays for the residents of the Family Wellness Program and the large tray for the Warming Center at Grace Wellness Center in Butler.

Sincerely,

Steven Green, President/CEO

(continued...) THANK YOU'S

Dear St. Peter's,

It is with a full heart that we thank you for your generous gift of a cookie tray for Mars Home for Youth children. Your thoughtfulness and generosity have brought joy and excitement to countless children and families this holiday season.



With deepest gratitude, Amy Smith, Director Development & Program Advancement

Dear St. Peter's,

My husband and I recently moved to Zelienople and our favorite amenity of this small town atmosphere is your chimes and bell hymns each day at 12pm and 6pm respectfully. We enjoy these ethereal sounds so much that we have set alarms on our phones so we don't miss them. It gives me pause from daily activities to pray and thank the Lord for all of His blessings. Many thanks for this highlight of our day.

God Bless, Jeanne & Míke Flood

Dear St. Peter's Family,

A big thanks to our church family and friends for our birthday and Christmas cards. They are appreciated more as you age. Also, big thanks for praying for us, we will always need your prayers!

God Bless all of you, Gary & Shirley Knauff

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

JR. CHURCH SIGN-UPS

Feb. 4th	Becky Bichler	Mar. 3rd	Aubrey Rader
Feb. 11th	Judy Caldwell	Mar. 10th	Amy George
Feb. 18th	Melissa Layton	Mar. 17th	Judy Caldwell
Feb. 25th	Amber Cogliano	Mar. 24th	Abby Statzer
		Mar 31st	Susan Bordy



PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Friday, February 16th

6:00-8:00pm

Fellowship Room



Sunday School Bowling

Sunday, March 10th12:30-3:30pm Sherwood Lanes 11 Lyn-Mar Plaza Lyndora, Pa 16045

Please see sign up sheet in the greeting area

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

GLOW IN THE DARK EASTER EGG HUNT!!

Saturday March 23, 2024

Time: 3:00pm



Sign up sheet located in the greeting area! We are in need of candy or little trinkets to fill the eggs. Donation container will be in the greeting area.

Helpers are also needed to fill and hide the eggs.



Easter Morning Breakfast and Fellowship Sunday March 31st 9:00AM

Come and enjoy (Bring a dish to share).

Please let Judy Caldwell know if you will be attending. 724-421-3809

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

Since the weather is still a little iffy, why don't you cozy up in a warm blanket and read a good book or two from our church library. Below are a couple books donated and also a couple new books recently added.



the Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi ~ My Journey into the Heart of Scriptural Faith and the Land Where It All Began by Kathie Lee Gifford with Rabbi Jason Sobel: 'As a lifelong student of Scripture, Kathie Lee Gifford has always desired a deeper understanding of God's Word and a deeper knowledge of God Himself. But it wasn't until she began studying the biblical texts in their original Hebrew and Greek—along with actually hiking the ancient paths of Israel—that she found the fulfillment of those desires. Now you can walk with Kathie Lee on a journey through the spiritual foundations of her faith: The Rock (Jesus Christ) - Hear directly from Kathie Lee about her life-changing and ever-deepening connection with Jesus, the Lover of her soul. The Road (Israel) - Explore dozens of ancient landmarks and historical sites from Israel, the promised land of God's covenant. The Rabbi (God's Word) - Go beyond a "Sunday school" approach to the Bible by digging into the original languages and deeper meanings of the Holy Scriptures. As you journey through the Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi, you'll also find additional content from Messianic Rabbi Jason Sobel. Jason's insight into the Hebrew language, culture, and heritage will open your eyes to the Bible like never before.'

Life After Death ~ Rediscovering life after the loss of a loved one by Tony Cooke: 'Grieving individuals can experience a wide range of emotions—feeling disoriented, confused, and uncertain. In this helpful and life-changing book, Tony Cooke shares insights from God's Word that bring peace, comfort and stability to hurting people.'

The Josiah Manifesto ~ The Ancient Mystery & Guide for the End Times by Jonathan Cahn: 'ls it possible that there exits an answer, a quide, a blueprint that reveals what you need to know to survive, to stand, and to prevail in view of what's coming in the days ahead? And has it been revealed to us in the appearing of a sign from an ancient mystery playing out in modern times before our eyes? The Josiah Manifesto opens up the stunning mysteries that lie behind the events unfolding before our eyes. These keys unlock the answer, the guide, the manifesto—so you can stand and prevail in this hour and in light of what is yet to come. They are even now affecting your life! As mind-blowing as all of Jonathan Cahn's other New York Times best sellers, The Josiah Manifesto contains something different—the answer! Could a threethousand year old calendar of appointed days provide the secret to the most dramatic year of our lives—even ordaining a plague, a national lockdown, days of fire, and the changing of the Supreme Court? Could an ancient pagan temple, an ominous prayer, and a mysterious template lie behind the event that overtook Capitol Hill and shook the nation? Could one of the most critical changes of our times go back to an ancient river, a princess, and a baby? Could a mysterious ancient king reveal the secret of a modern American president? Could an ordinance given on a desert mountain three thousand years ago have determined the rise and fall of a Latin American dictator? Could an array of mysteries from the Middle East have converged on Washington, DC, in a single hour to change American history? Is there hope? Have we been given a last chance? And is it possible to change history? And could these mysteries contain an ancient key, a blueprint, an answer, and a guide to reveal what we need to know and do to stand and prevail in the days to comeevent a guide for the end times?'

Body of Evidence, Book 3 in the Triple Threat series by Irene Hannon: 'Forensic pathologist Grace Reilly has seen her share of unusual deaths in rural Missouri. But when she begins to notice a curious pattern in autopsies of older residents whose demises appear to be natural, she takes her concerns to Sheriff Nate Cox. Nate is skeptical about the link Grace is seeing between the death, as well as her suspicions of foul play. But her persistence is compelling. And once they join forces to investigate, danger follows. Because exposing the truth could destroy several lives—including Grace's. Queen of inspirational romantic suspense Irene Hannon closes out her bestselling Triple Threat series with this griping tale of secrets revealed and romance sparked.'

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



February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am	Head Usher for February Jim Kerr			1 11:30am Ministerium ~ Fellowship Room 6:30pm TNT Mtg. ~ Youth Room 7pm Men's Bible Study ~ F. Room	2	3 12pm Steve Frederick using Fellowship Room
4 6pm Spur Small Group Book Study Berean Classroom	5:30pm AA Mtg. ~ Fellowship Rm. 6pm St. Peter's Bell Choir ~ Bell Room	6 1pm 500 Card Club ~ F. Room 5-7pm COF Bells ~ Bell Room 7-9pm COF Choir ~ Fellowship Rm.	7 9am Prayer Group 7pm Choir pract. ~ Sanctuary 7pm The Journey	8 6:30pm TNT Mtg. ~ Youth Rm. 6:30pm Worship Committee Mtg. ~ Basics Classroom 7pm Men's Bible Study ~ F. Room	9 5-6:30pm Uganda Mission Dinner ~ Fellowship Rm.	10
11	12:30pm We Care Visitations 5:30pm AA Mtg. ~ Fellowship Rm. 6pm St. Peter's Bell Choir ~ Bell Room 6:30pm Elder's Mtg. ~ Basics Classroom	13 12:30pm We Care Visitations 1pm 500 Card Club ~ F. Room 5-7pm COF Bells ~ Bell Room 6:30pm Consistory Mtg. ~ Ed. Bldg. (All Welcome) 7-9pm COF Choir ~ Fellowship Rm.	14 9am Prayer Group 12:30pm We Care Visitations 7pm Choir pract. ~ Sanctuary 7pm The Journey	15 6:30pm TNT Mtg. ~ Youth Rm. 7pm Men's Bible Study ~ F. Room	16 6pm Parents' Night Out ~ Fellowship Rm.	17 9-1pm CPR/First Aid Training Class ~ F. Room
18 6pm Spur Small Group Book Study Berean Classroom	19 5:30pm AA Mtg. ~ Fellowship Rm. 6pm St. Peter's Bell Choir ~ Bell Room	20 1pm 500 Card Club ~ F. Room 5-7pm COF Bells ~ Bell Room 7-9pm COF Choir ~ Fellowship Rm.	21 9am Prayer Group 7pm Choir pract. ~ Sanctuary 7pm The Journey 7pm AFSP Support Group ~ Ed. Bldg.		23 7pm Venison Dinner Set-up ~ Fellowship Rm.	24 Men's Venison Dinner Doors Open: 5:30pm Dinner: 6:00pm Fellowship Rm.
25	26 5:30pm AA Mtg. ~ Fellowship Rm. 6pm St. Peter's Bell Choir ~ Bell Room	27 1pm 500 Card Club ~ F. Room 5-7pm COF Bells ~ Bell Room 7-9pm COF Choir ~ Fellowship Rm.	28 9am Prayer Group 7pm Choir pract. ~ Sanctuary 7pm The Journey	29 6:30pm TNT Mtg. ~ Youth Rm. 7pm Men's Bible Study ~ F. Room		