

September
2020



St. Peter's Reformed Church

320 E. Grandview Avenue

Zelienople, PA 16063

(724) 452-8120

stpzelie.org

A PUBLICATION OF ST. PETER'S REFORMED CHURCH

The Joyful Noiseletter



We Are Stronger TOGETHER!

*"...so in Christ we who are many form one body,
and each member belongs to all the others."*

Romans 12:5

Good 'Day' Church!

I love when Keith Stauffer leads off our worship time on Sunday mornings and he begins with "Good Morning Church!" His salutation always puts a smile on peoples faces and makes for a welcoming environment. Over the course of the past few months, the staff and volunteers have been doing their best to keep our church connected. We have used social media, Facebook Live, mailings, prayers in the yards, and phone calls to let people know that we love them, that we are committed to their spiritual health, and that staying connected is the most important thing in times such as this.

On September 20th, we will be celebrating our annual 'Back to Church' Sunday. This year's theme is "***We are Stronger Together!***" Together we will be looking at what the Bible has to say to us about the bond that we have as Christ-followers. As we search the scriptures, we will be able to determine:

1. We are stronger in Christ—Referring you to Philippians 4:13 and how we derive our strength from Jesus as well as John 15, 'The Parable of the Vine', that when we stay attached to Jesus we will thrive!

2. We are stronger in our weaknesses—This text found in 2 Corinthians 12:9-11 reminds us that we all face struggles and have 'thorns in our flesh' but staying close to Jesus helps us maneuver through those tough times.

3. We are stronger when together— Paul, a persecutor of the Christian Church, encountered Jesus and goes on to remind the Church at Rome in Romans 12:4-6 that we all have a part to play in being united and stronger.

I certainly understand the precautions that many of you are taking to keep yourself safe from this impending pandemic and support your decisions to do so. However, I pray that you will use this date, and the inspiring message, as a springboard to get back to church and be where all the action is. We are trying our very best to follow the guidelines that have been given to us by the CDC of social distancing, mask wearing, and sanitary measures to insure that your safety is maximized! We look forward to worshipping with you whether in person or virtually as we strive to remain 'stronger together!'

Missing and loving you all ...

Pastor Jim



Pastor Jim's
Couples Small Group
Sunday, September 20th
6:30—8:00 p.m.

Ready to speak each other's language like never before? Then you're ready for "Love Talk" - the breakthrough discovery in communication that will transform your relationship. Two foremost relationship experts, Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott, forge a new path to the heart of loving conversation.

This study offers an adventure for couples that will draw the two of you closer, and closer, and closer ... consistently, in a way that creates the depth and connection you long for in your relationship.

If interested in going deeper in your relationship, please sign up in the breezeway so PJ can order your materials. Let's get talking about love!

Small Group Ministries

If you are interested in leading or joining a small group at St. Peter's please talk to Pastor Andrew. The best way for the church to stay connected, especially in times like we have been experiencing, is through small group relationships. Consider how you can participate and grow in your faith!



A Friendly Reminder:



We are collecting a 'love offering' for a family of St. Peter's that has come upon some hard times financially. They have medical expenses that are due and if not taken care of, will inhibit further treatment opportunities. On September 6th, we will be accepting an additional offering to assist this family. You can use the envelope that was mailed to you, or you can make a donation on-line (just go to the church website). Thank you for your love and generosity!

From the president...

I'm not sure everyone has had the same reaction yet, but I've already reached the point that I grab the remote control every time a commercial comes on television. There must be some data somewhere that says negative ads work... but they don't work on me – so my fingers will be tired by Election Day.

There is one ad, though, that I try not to miss because it brings a smile to my face and strengthens my faith. It's the Pennzoil ad that touts the value of making motor oil from natural gas.

As background, 2020 is not the first time that our church has failed to have services on a Sunday because of an outside mandate. It happened before, in the late 1970s, because we heated with natural gas and there was a natural gas shortage that forced us to shut down for a short while. I remember the phone calls at home since my dad worked for the gas company and was on consistory at the time - he may have even been president but I'm not sure. It has been a while, but it did make an impression.

At that time, there was a parade of experts on mass media suggesting consumers make alternate plans because there wouldn't be any natural gas by the year 2000. At the same time, I was attending conferences and hearing that technology was going to change consumer habits to the point that by the year 2000, no one would use cash, and within a few years after that, the government would stop printing it.

Now in 2020, we're using natural gas to replace oil and we're having shortages of cash. But, the same Bible I read in 1970, is the same in 2020. The worship service is, in most ways, the same as it was in the 1970s, although PJ doesn't always use the same thee's and thou's as Rev. Booth did then.

This isn't to say, in any way, that we should ignore the Corona virus and wait for it to pass into history. As a consistory, we are working very hard to do as much as we can to keep worship an option while respecting all that the virus means. We have met twice a month when needed and as long as it takes with plenty of discussion so that we consider all viewpoints.

We will continue to do that and welcome any input as we continue on in this journey. As we go, though, we can draw strength from our faith – that continues no matter how history moves on.

Thanks,
Bill

Donations
are GREATLY
appreciated!

**CONTINUE TO COLLECT CEREAL
BOXES AND PLACE UNDER THE
TABLE BY ELEVATOR. THESE WILL
BE USED FOR OUR FALL KIDS
SUNDAY SCHOOL.**



ATTENTION ST. PETER'S KIDS – WE MISS YOU!

Pick up your box of cereal the week of September 13th for our fall 12 week Sunday School Virtual Curriculum. The kids will receive a box of cereal each Sunday with a lesson and craft inside the box. Each Sunday morning they will enjoy a bowl of cereal for breakfast and participate in the lesson, craft from home.

Two nights a week we will offer SS virtually through ZOOM meetings.

The ZOOM meetings will simply review the lesson and have fellowship with the kids. We miss the kids smiling faces and want to spend 15-20 minutes a week with them.

We will post codes for ZOOM meetings closer to the week of 9/20.

Heather will lead MONDAY NIGHTS grades 1 – 4th at 7:00

Judy Caldwell will lead THURSDAY NIGHTS pre-school – K at 7:00

Boxes can be picked up most weekdays from 10-3 in the stairwell just like VBS pizza boxes.

ADULT SS CLASSES

Some adult classes have already resumed classes at 9:00 am each Sunday. See Heather for details if you would like to participate in a class.

Consistory Update

- Adult Sunday School Classes can Resume with Social Distancing and Wearing Masks
- September 20th thru December 6th - Children Sunday School to be Conducted Virtually – “Cereal Boxes for Sunday School”
- Small Groups can Resume at the Church with Social Distancing and Wearing Masks
- Group Leaders to Contact Sheri to Ensure Meeting Space Availability
- “Love Offering” to be Collected to Help a Family with Extensive Medical Bills
- Starting the Consistory Member Nomination Search Process - if interested, please contact Scott Fisher

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

Thank you,
Wendy Grubbs
Deacon/Consistory Secretary

AFRICA MISSION TEAM UPDATE

Hello St. Peter's,

With the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, we will continue to suspend our monthly dinners. We do not feel it is safe to have these dinners until the State Health Department gives the all clear. We will however, be holding another yard sale. The last one was a huge success, but, some people were not able to get their items to the church for the first one. With everyone's help and donations we were able to raise \$1,300. So we thank you very much!! \$500 of the yard sale money collected has been sent to Joseph Aliguma for him to continue to help the village of Kalyango where St. Peter's Uganda is located. We are still working out a plan for Joseph and his wife to come to the USA so you can hear firsthand about how we are helping the church and village to grow and prosper. The other funds we are collecting will be used for our trip next year.

The next yard sale will be **Saturday, September 5th** with drop off on **Friday, September 4th**. Items can also be brought on Saturday morning. Again, we thank you for all the support and we are truly helping the least, the lost, and the lonely of Uganda.

God Bless You All,
The Uganda Mission Trip Team



A Small Group Bible study will begin on **Wednesday, September 9th** at 7:00pm in the Basics Classroom of our Educational Building. Continuing the study of Ephesians by John MacArthur. Please contact Cath Rape at (724) 452-4936 if you plan on attending, there are limited seats available.

Women's Ministry News

Please note date and time change for our September meeting. We will meet on **Saturday, September 26th at 1 pm** in the fellowship room/kitchen to prepare Taco Meals for 30 women at Bethlehem Haven Shelter in Pittsburgh. We are not permitted due to social restrictions to serve the meal or visit with the women. Marla Clouse, Tonya Reynolds, and Catherine Thornberry will deliver the meal to the shelter. Please continue to keep these women in your prayers due to increased depression they are experiencing due to social restrictions along with other situations they are facing in their lives.

We will meet on **Saturday, October 10th at 10 am** for a Baby Shower Event in the Fellowship Room to support Women's Choice Network. You may make a monetary donation or donate a NEW baby item. More information to come.

Thank You Note received:

Thank you all for the thoughtful gifts for our new baby girl, Isla Vittoria Strosnider. Homemade gifts are always a special treat. She loves getting a bath with the teal dish clothe. I've been using it to keep her warm! Thanks again for your kindness and thoughtfulness.

Love,

Carter, Rachel & Strosnider Kids

Thank you for your continued support with our ministry projects as we follow St. Peter's Mission Statement: "To know love and follow Jesus Christ as devoted disciples by doing together what we cannot do alone, in reaching the least, the lost and the lonely by reaching up, reaching out and reaching in.

Blessings,
Marla Clouse
724-622-2264





Dear St. Peter's,

I want to thank my church family for all the prayers, cards and phone calls during my cancer diagnosis. It meant a lot to me. I am happy to say I am cancer free. God is good. I am blessed to belong to a loving, caring church family.

Blessings,
GeorgAnn Fogel

Dear St. Peter's,

Thank you to my St. Peter's church family for supporting me with your many prayers. My health is finally getting stronger after fighting several different ailments since March. I thank God for you!

Sincerely,
Margaret McClymonds

Dear St. Peter's,

Thank you for my pizza VBS. I made a church, crosses for our ministers. I want to visit your church again after Covid!

Love,
Logan

Dear St. Peter's,

Thank you so much for your recent gift to the ministries of World Help. Your generosity is helping provide essentials such as food, clothing, clean water and medical supplies to those in need. All in the name of Jesus! Thank you for being a blessing!

In Him,
Kayla (WorldHelp)



Thank you to all that participated in PARK/PETERS PIZZA SHOP VBS.
We had a total of 75 kids participate in VBS this year.
While it was an unusual way of doing VBS, I'm sure it was pleasing to GOD.
Thank you for the monetary donations, and a special thanks to Amy George for making the playdoh.

St.P Youth

Wow, September already! I am feeling anxious as our youth prepare to return to school in ways they never have before (virtually, part time, masked up, socially distanced, etc.). I am certain that their anxiety is high as well as they enter another uncertain season of life that is continuing to be affected by COVID. I am hopeful that we can retain some normalcy here at church for our youth and pray that we are able to continue meeting and gathering throughout the fall.

I ask that you add the youth ministries to your prayer lists and ask God that we are able to safely meet in the coming months. I also ask that you pray for our student's safety and sanity as they return to school with constantly changing rules and regulations. Your prayers are felt and appreciated by us all!

Youth Fundraisers:

AmazonSmile – when placing an order on Amazon, be sure to go through this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-6050542>. A portion of your purchase is returned to the Youth Group and applied to their mission trip costs.

Willing Worker – Our youth are ready to assist our elderly members with home projects such as mulching, cleaning, planting, weeding, etc. This is FREE to all St.P members. Please submit any WW requests to Sheri or Aubrey.

Coming up in September:

Youth Group:

Meetings September 13th and 27th 6-8pm (at church)

Coffee Talk September 13th 9am (Spring and Main)

Family Dinner September 16th 6:30-8pm (location TBD)

Paintball September 19th 2pm (Three Rivers Paintball)

TNT:

Meetings September 3rd and 17th, 6:30-8pm (at church)

Drive in Movies September 11th 7:30pm (Starlight Drive-In)

By His Grace,

Aubrey Rader, Director of Youth Ministries



LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS FOR SEPTEMBER— READ ALL ABOUT IT!

As we step into September, try to find some time to step into the wonderful world of our church library and find something to read so that this beautiful first month of autumn will be even nicer to enjoy!

The first couple of books are non-fiction and have been donated to the church library:

Heaven: Better By Far ~ Answers to Questions About the Believer's Final Hope, by J. Oswald Sanders: 'This book is a rare digest of biblical insights into the timeless topic of heaven, and the finale of one who prepared himself for nearly a century for that day when he would experience how heaven is better by far. If your idea of heaven is having a "mansion just over the hilltop," J. Oswald Sanders has important news for you. While heaven will provide a final home for those who love God, the author of ***Heaven: Better By Far*** explains that "so incredibly glorious is heaven that we are compelled to express it in negations and symbols of grandeur and majesty." He says the popular view—that heaven is like the most luxurious places we know, only better—falls far short of reality. Recognizing that he was near heaven's gates, Sanders approached the subject with more than a scholarly interest. His honesty caused him to challenge some popular notions, and his personal curiosity prompted him to address many relevant questions, such as: What Is Death Anyway? How Do We Gain Entrance to Heaven? Is Heaven a Place or a State of Mind? Will We Know One Another in Heaven? What Will Our Resurrection Bodies Be Like? What Will We Do in Heaven? What Will Heaven Be Like? Will Mansions Be Awaiting Us? Who Will Receive Rewards? J. Oswald Sanders wrote more than 40 books before his death in 1992 at the age of 90. ***Heaven: Better By Far*** was his final book.'

Finding and Following God's Will, by Jane A.G. Kise: 'Have you ever asked... What if I'm not sure what to do? What can the Bible tell me today? If the going gets tough, did I make a wrong turn? What if I missed God's plan? Jane Kise asks—and answers—12 key questions about discovering God's will. Through dozens of powerful true stories, you'll be inspired and learn how people have found God's will in the large and small issues of life. ***Finding and Following God's Will*** is that rarest of books: a how-to manual that's also a delight to read. Read it straight through or open it to your own most pressing questions about guidance—I started with 'How do I know if something is a sign from God?' Wherever you begin you'll immediately be caught up in engrossing real-life stories: A couple seeks to adopt, a divorced woman looks for a new home, a sheriff learns the power of prayer. As you share the struggles of these everyday people (and dozen more), you'll learn with them the principles of walking daily in God's perfect will.' **Includes Bible study and reflection questions for individual and group use.**

The next few books are fiction and have recently been added as new books to our library:

Forget Me Not: Love Blossoms in Oregon, by Miralee Ferrell: 'Seven years ago, Julia McKenzie rejected the man she loved, wanting to experience more of life. Now, at the age of twenty-four, she regrets that decision. What will Seth think of her, when they encounter one another hundreds of miles from home? Will the man she cared for understand the direction her life has taken and love her in spite her choices? Pastor Seth Russell has never completely forgotten the girl he once courted. When she shows up in his new home of Baker City, all those feelings return. But why is she sneaking around town late at night? Even more important, will she reject him and break his heart again, or can God heal the breach between them?'



LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS continued...

These next two books are both by author Mary Connealy under a new series called *Brides of Hope Mountain*:

Aiming for Love, by Mary Connealy: 'Josephine Nordegren is one of three sisters who grew up nearly wild in southwestern Colorado. She has the archery skills of Robin Hood and the curiosity of the Little Mermaid, fascinated by but locked away from the forbidden outside world—a world she's been raised to believe killed her parents. When David Warden, a rancher, brings in a herd much too close to the girls' secret home, her older sister is especially frightened, but Jo is too interested to stay away. David's parents follow soon on his heels, escaping bandits at their ranch. But his father is wounded and needs shelter. Josephine and her sisters have the only cabin on the mountain. Do they risk stepping into the world to help those in need? Or do they remain separated but safe in the peaks of Hope Mountain?'

Woman of Sunlight, by Mary Connealy: 'After years of isolation on top of Hope Mountain, Ilsa Nordegren may finally be ready to leave. Raised to fear the world, Ilsa and her sisters never planned on coming down, but when the Warden family arrived in need, they had to help. But with the arrival of added danger, it may cost them the only life they've ever known. Having made his fortune, Mitch Warden returned home and found the family homestead abandoned. In a land grab, a ruthless cattle baron had forced his family to escape up the mountain, when Mitch follows, the last thing he expects is to fall smitten with a strong-willed, dark-haired woman who dresses like Robin Hood and defends herself better than most men. Mitch is intent on helping his family reclaim their land but doesn't realize the risks his past has brought. Hired killers are tracking him, and he's determined to draw them away before anyone else gets hurt. But that means a journey to the city—and when Ilsa insists on joining him, the mismatched pair suddenly find themselves on an adventure they'll never forget.'

As you can see, this month's previews offer a lot to read, so why don't you stop in the library and 'check things out'? Happy September to all you bookworms!!

Happy September Birthday to:

Evelyn Lutz ~ September 4 ~ 88 years young

Shirley McWithey ~ September 4 ~ 94 years young

Darla Herr ~ September 14 ~ 82 years young

Ronald Rice ~ September 14 ~ 81 years young

Dorothy Knauf ~ September 30 ~ 97 years young



Happy September Anniversary to:

Gene & Sandy Lee ~ September 1 ~ 58 years

Bob & Sandy Nolte ~ September 9 ~ 59 years

Charles & Annabelle Davey ~ September 21 ~ 71 years



Director of Volunteer Ministries and Pastoral Intern Updates

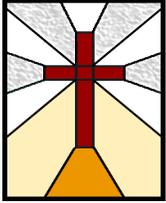
Greetings Church Family,

We have all made it through another summer! I pray you all had opportunities to enjoy the summer in your own unique ways. I for one had an amazing summer, I got to travel and see the Pacific coast for the first time and most importantly, I got engaged! Summer is always a busy time for most people and despite COVID-19, I think a lot of people were able to enjoy their summers. However, now as summer draws to a close we move into September, we move into my favorite time of the year...fall. Fall is my favorite time of the year for many reasons; pretty colors, cooler weather, apple season, and lastly it means the return of Church!

So, as we move into the fall, I wanted to take the time to remind and encourage all of you to consider participating in a small group. Small groups are an amazing opportunity to have a time of fellowship, a time of learning, and time for growth all in one. I encourage you all to prayerfully consider participating in a small group. That also includes any of our existing ministries going on. I am so proud of everyone's hard work and dedication through this whole pandemic. A huge thank you to Sally Hamilton and Pam North who have been doing their best to check in on some of our shut-ins through this whole thing. My greatest sadness from this pandemic is that we as pastors are not able to go into nursing facilities, hospitals, or any other medical facility to visit folks. That was one of my favorite parts of being a pastor. So, please know if you are one of those people who has been wondering why the pastor has not come to see you, please know that we are still praying for you, we still care deeply, we miss you so much.

Lastly, I wanted to share with you all how moved and how proud I am of this church and this community. Once the pandemic went into full swing, I genuinely did not know what to expect or what to think. This congregation has risen to the challenge and I truly believe that we are stronger because of what we have endured. We are truly stronger when we all come together and work towards carrying the gospel message wherever we go. So, continue to seek God in all that you do and continue to seek his word every day!

Hang Tough and Blessings,
Pastor Andrew



SOUTHWEST BUTLER FOOD CUPBOARD

557 Perry Highway

Harmony, PA 16037

Phone: 724.453.4184

Website: www.swbfoodcupboard.org

The kids are starting back to school and pretty soon the weather will begin to get cooler. The Southwest Butler Food Cupboard is sensitive to the needs of our community during the Fall and Winter months.

Below is a list of **MOST NEEDED** items for September...

Jelly	Peanut Butter
Oatmeal Packets	Sloppy Joe
Chicken Broth	Ready to eat pastas (ex. Spaghetti O's)
Canned Tomatoes	Canned Tuna
Rice/Pasta Sides	

Other needs:

Any kind of noodles	Mac N' Cheese
Instant Potatoes	Rice
Spaghetti sauce	Canned Veggies and Beans
Soup	

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



SEPTEMBER 2020

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am	Head Usher for September Morreen Galletta	1 6:30pm Elder's Mtg. ~ Zoom	2 9am Prayer Group 7pm The Journey	3 6pm Mission/ Outreach Mtg. ~ Ed. Bldg. 6:30-8pm TNT Mtg. ~ Youth Room	4 Africa Mission Fundraiser Yard Sale (Drop Off Day) at the Church	5 8-3pm Africa Mission Fundraiser Yard Sale at the church
6	7 Labor Day ~ Church Office Closed 5:30pm AA Mtg. ~ Fellowship Room	8 6pm Nat. Ladies Homestead Mtg. ~ Ed. Bldg. 7pm Consistory Mtg. ~ F. Rm.	9 9am Prayer Group 5pm Feed My Sheep prep work 7pm The Journey 7pm Small Group Bible Study ~ Basics Classroom	10	11 5pm Kerr/Trugan Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary 7:30pm TNT Movie Event @ Starlight	12 12-3:30pm Wedding prep ~ Church 3:30pm Kerr/Trugan Wedding ~ Sanctuary
13 9am YG Coffee Talk @ Spring and Main 6-8pm YG Mtg. ~ Youth Room	14 5:30pm AA Mtg. ~ Fellowship Room	15	16 9am Prayer Group 5pm Feed My Sheep prep work 6:30-8pm YG Family Dinner 7pm The Journey 7pm Small Group Bible Study ~ Basics Classroom 7pm AFSP Support Group ~ Ed. Bldg.	17 6:30-8pm TNT Mtg. ~ Youth Room	18	19 2pm YG Paintball @ Three Rivers Paintball
20 Back to Church Sunday "We Are Stronger Together"	21 5:30pm AA Mtg. ~ Fellowship Room	22	23 9am Prayer Group 5pm Feed My Sheep prep work 7pm The Journey 7pm Small Group Bible Study ~ Basics Classroom	24	25	26 1-3pm Women's Ministry preparing a meal for Bethlehem Haven ~ Kitchen 4pm Bieber/Milcic Wedding ~ Sanctuary
27 6-8pm YG Mtg. ~ Youth Room	28 5:30pm AA Mtg. ~ Fellowship Room	29	30 9am Prayer Group 5pm Feed My Sheep prep work 7pm The Journey 7pm Small Group Bible Study ~ Basics Classroom			