



PEACE NOTES



March

Peace United Church of Christ, 37 East Swartzville Road, Denver, PA 17517

PASTOR'S PAGE

Jim Barrie was returning home to the United States after a visit to his native Scotland. He had purchased a Celtic cross as a gift for his church. Rather than entrusting it to the care of the baggage handlers, he decided to carry it with him onto the plane. It was carefully wrapped in layers of paper and padding.

As he approached the security check point the security agents were eyeing him with suspicion. What was this man carrying? It appeared to be the size and roughly the shape of an automatic weapon. As it traveled through the x-ray machine they saw the shape of the two foot tall Celtic cross and all breathed a sigh of relief.

Back home in the United States he had to pass through customs. He was asked, "Do you have anything to declare?"

"Only this cross," he replied.

The customs agent looked down and scribbled something on an official looking form – "Item of sentimental value of little or no worth."

It is interesting how different people look at and react to the exact same object. For one person it is a sign and symbol of faith, a reminder of the depth of God's love and God's willingness to forgive each one of us no matter how great our sin.

For another person it is a symbol of peace. In its presence we can rest, relax and breathe deeply and know that God's abundant love surrounds us.

For these two people it is an item of great value – worth more than silver or gold (and that is saying something today).

To a third person it is something to fear – an executioner's tool and a symbol of judgment.

And to yet another it is nothing more than sentimental drivel.

The question to ask as we continue our way through this Lenten journey is, "What do the lives we live and the faith we proclaim say about the cross that we cherish?"

May our lives and our faith proclaim a Risen Lord of abundant grace, mercy and peace in whom our souls find solace and rest!

A Reminder – the names that appear at the bottom of each date box on the calendar are there as an opportunity to be in prayer for one another. Please remember to pray for each other whether there is a known need or not. Thank You!

► Check it out!

To e-mail the pastor, use

pastor@peaceunitedchurch.org

To e-mail items to the secretary, use

secretary@peaceunitedchurch.org

Church Council Officers

2013

John Haldeman, *Council President*
 Bobbi Porter-Kunkel, *Council Vice-President*
 Bev Madara, *Council Secretary*
 Margaret Harting, *Financial Secretary*
 Mike Madara, *Treasurer*
 Jack Bernsel, *Administrator*

ELDERS

John Haldeman484-2510
 Bobbi Porter-Kunkel.....610-678-0543
 Jill Kegerise.....336-2421
 Pat Hall.....484-4658
 Bev Madara.....484-0895
 Vicki Garner-Sweigart.....336-2307

DEACONS

Jay Burkey.....336-0142
 Fred Romich.....484-4420
 Fran Hollen.....725-0751
 Jim Moser.....484-2284
 Vaye Freeman.....445-7601
 Janice Kohl.....391-2890
 Nancy Reese.....484-4659
 Vicky Schweitzer.....808-9823

ACOLYTES

TBA

HEAD USHER

Jill Kegerise

ALTAR GUILD

Edie Graff

Dixie Schweitzer

GREETERS

March 3 Girl Scout Sunday
March 10 Deb Hedrick
March 17 Bruce & Kathy Palsgrove
March 24 Charles & Edith Graff
March 28 Vicki Garner-Sweigart & Jane Trostle
March 31 TBD (Easter)

ALTAR FLOWERS

March 3 Mrs. Richard L. Fisher
March 10 Robert & Beverly Martin
March 17 Betty Leisey
March 24 Robert & Hazel Fichthorn
March 31 Mildred Krick



The deadline for submitting articles for the April issue of Peace Notes is March 20th. Please put your information in the hanging folder labeled "Peace Notes" located on the Secretary's desk or email it to: secretary@peaceunitedchurch.org

Thank you!

Note: this email address can also be used for information to be printed in the Sunday Bulletin.

March Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| March 1 | Lois Haldeman |
| March 4 | Heidi Sunday |
| March 5 | Allen Garner Evelyn Hurst Susan McIlmoyle Bryan Schweitzer |
| March 6 | Stephanie Shahade Olivia Moyer Alicia Getz |
| March 8 | Karen Sweigart |
| March 10 | Kathy Strunk |
| March 11 | Gerald Tobias Joshua Tobias |
| March 12 | Ann Englert Cindy Anderson |
| March 13 | Patricia Hall |
| March 14 | Bertha Adair Ralph Good Betty Schweitzer** |
| March 15 | Melissa Burky Allyson Butz |
| March 17 | Daniel Wolf |
| March 18 | Karen Pannebecker Jonathan Lightcap |
| March 19 | Tracy Althouse Cassandra Heil |
| March 20 | Benjamin Schweitzer Arlene Becker Maxine Burky Jean Good |
| March 22 | Alex Plaisance |
| March 26 | Stacy Burkey |
| March 28 | Arlene Styer Virginia Tobias Lindsay Lightcap |
| March 30 | Gene Huston Ella Mae Shupp |
| March 31 | Daniel Hall |

** Special Care and Concern Member

Please remember these members with a card that can be placed in the birthday box in the Narthex

March Anniversaries

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| March 4 | Brian and Sue Strouse |
| March 8 | Jay and Stacy Burkey |
| March 16 | Paul and Elizabeth M. Freeman |
| March 17 | Don and Sue Calhoon |
| March 27 | Robert S. and Hazel Fichtorn |

PEACE PANTRY

The month of March the **PEACE PANTRY** will be collecting Jelly, Pancake Syrup and Canned or Boxed Potatoes

Thank You's

Thanks to everyone who sent cards, flowers, prayers, emails, food and phone calls about my mom's death. Mom was 93 and always liked coming to this church when I brought her up from the Philly suburbs. Six years ago, God blessed her a new heart valve. We are very grateful that she lived a full and active life.

Heartfelt thanks to Pastor Bill for serving communion to Mom in the hospital and then seeing her at the nursing home at her final moments. And thanks for coming to my house many times.

Sue & Terry Fasnacht

Peace UCC Family,
Thank you so much for the abundance of prayers, phone calls and cards. It means so much to me, as well as my family. By God's Grace and the power of prayer I am on the road to recovery.

God bless,

Pamela Getz and family

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My dear friends,
Your thoughtfulness was appreciated.
Please let me thank you for thinking of me.
I thank God for everybody.

Betty Seicio

I am so grateful for your generosity. Thank you very, very much.

Mary Jean Stoltz

Thank you to all who remembered me with cards of get well wishes after my gall and breaking several bones.

Also thank you Pastor Bill for your visitations

Sincerely,

Shirley Kring

Thank you for the prayers and cards for the recent passing of my mother.

Warmly,

Beverly Lightcap and family

HEALTH AND WELFARE

The Health and Welfare Committee is planning to start a prayer shawl ministry. A prayer shawl is knit with love and prayers for comfort and healing for whomever will receive that gift. The person receiving that shawl will know that they are cared for and that prayers have been lifted on their behalf. What we need is people who would be will to share in this ministry by knitting or crocheting the shawls.

If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact Erla Hartranft. Our next meeting will be March 5th at 6:30.

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ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild will be taking orders for Easter Lilies on Sunday March 10, 17 and 24th before and after worship. The cost is \$7.50 for a 5-6 bloom plant. The Easter Lilies will be in the church sanctuary for Easter Sunday March 31 and should be taken home after the service.

The Altar Guild will be placing the Easter Lilies in the church after the March 29th Friday evening service

The Altar Guild will be preparing the palms for Palm Sunday on March 24, at 8:00am

SUNDAY SCHOOL LENTEN PROJECT

This year the Sunday School Lenten Project is "**BLANKETS+**" This is a mission opportunity to provide blankets for people around the world through Church World Service.

These blankets are received by people in refugee camps, people who are fleeing their homes because of flood, famine or war and closer to home these blankets are received by people who have experienced the devastation of nature's wrath. People who have lost their homes to destructive storms such as Hurricane Katrina and Sandy are comforted and warmed by the blankets from Church World Service.

Each \$5.00 will purchase one blanket. The children in Sunday School will bring in there money and place a fabric heart on the blanket in the church narthex. Reminding them and the congregation the help and hope **Blankets+** brings to the people in need and what it is to be a true neighbor. The project goal is to raise \$395.00 - \$500.00 to provide 75-100 blankets. There is a basket with the fabric hearts and pins by the blanket where the congregation can put in their contribution for this project and put a heart on the blanket. **HELP US BLANKET THE WORLD IN LOVE**

HOLY WEEK

There are several opportunities for worship, prayer and reflect during the week between Palm Sunday (March 24th) and Easter Sunday (March 31st). We invite you to gather, to remember, to give thanks and to draw nearer to God.

- **Maundy Thursday – March 28th** – a worship service that helps us to focus in on the night that our Lord was betrayed. We will celebrate the Lord’s Supper.
- **Good Friday – March 29th** – is a quiet, reflective time of worship where we will hear once again the reading of scripture that focus’ on the passion, from the time when Jesus was arrested to the time he was crucified.
- **Holy Saturday – March 30th** – we begin our Easter Vigil. You are invited to take 30 minutes out of your day to pray and to remember the sacrifice of our Lord. Please sign-up for a half hour time slot on the secretary’s window.
- **On Easter Morning – March 31st** – we will offer two services and early morning worship at 7:00 am and our regular worship at 10:30 am.

Please join us for any and all of these times that we may truly rejoice in the grace and the life that we have in Christ – our Risen Lord.

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EASTER EGG HUNT

Our Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 23 beginning at 10:00 am. This is an event for children of all ages, with plenty of eggs for all who come. Please invite your neighbors, grandchildren, great-grand children for a morning of fun and fellowship. A variety of foods and snacks will be served following the hunt! This will take place – rain or shine – so come on out and join us for the fun!

PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COUNCIL MEETING

February 12, 2013

Attendees: Pastor Bill Hoch, John Haldeman, Bobbi Porter-Kunkle, Mike Madara, Bev Madara, Fred Romich, Jay Burkey, Jim Moser, Fran Hollen, Jill Kegerise, Ben Kegerise, Pat Hall, Vaye Freeman, Janice Kohl, Nancy Reese, Vickie Schweitzer

Excused: Jack Bernstel, Vicki Garner-Sweigart.

President John Haldeman brought the council meeting of Peace United Church of Christ to order on Tuesday, February 12, 2013. Pastor Bill started the meeting off with devotions and prayer.

Review of last month’s minutes – Pat Hall made a motion to accept the minutes and Fran Hollen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report - Mike updated the funds summary report to include a breakdown of the Capital Improvement Fund and the Endowment Fund. Mike is looking into moving some of the investments to Weinhold, Nickel and Company, or Ephrata National Bank so we don’t have everything tied up in cds.

Capital Campaign donations will be moved to the following accounts: \$5,000 to unre-

| ACCOUNT BALANCES as of 01/31/2013 | JANUARY |
|---|---------------------|
| FUNDS SUMMARY | ENDING BALANCE |
| CHECKING ACCOUNT | \$1,650.80 |
| MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT | \$8,659.03 |
| GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT (COMBINED) | \$10,309.83 |
| GENERAL FUND INVESTMENT (12 MONTH CD) | \$5,025.09 |
| MEMORIAL FUND (MMA) | \$3,880.85 |
| YOUTH FUND (MMA) | \$1,973.93 |
| CAPITAL CAMPAIGN (MMA) \$56,470.00 | \$25,680.00 |
| PETTY CASH | \$75.00 |
| ACCOUNT BALANCES | \$5,640.81 |
| CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT CHECKING (LIMITED USE) | \$0.00 |
| CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT MONEY MARKET (RESTRICTED USE) | \$0.00 |
| CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT MS MONEY MARKET (LIMITED USE) | \$5,640.81 |
| CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND TOTAL | \$5,640.81 |
| ENDOWMNET CHECKING (RESTRICTED USE) | \$33,570.13 |
| ENDOWMENT MONEY MARKET (RESTRICTED USE) | \$0.00 |
| ENDOWMENT CDS (RESTRICTED USE) | \$101,007.17 |
| ENDOWMENT MS MONEY MARKET (RESTRICTED USE) | \$89,363.54 |
| ENDOWMENT MS STOCKS (RESTRICTED USE) | \$8,519.25 |
| ENDOWMENT MS CDS (RESTRICTED USE) | \$40,004.00 |
| ENDOWMENT MS MUTUAL FUNDS (RESTRICTED USE) | \$27,015.88 |
| ENDOWMENT FUND TOTAL | \$299,479.97 |
| TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE | \$352,065.48 |
| GENERAL FUND LOAN BALANCE | \$10,500.00 |

stricted Capital Improvements, \$10,000 to restricted Capital Improvements, \$6,860 to General and \$3,000 paid back on the Benevolence loan which leaves a balance of \$7,500.

We finally got the \$1,143.89 refund from US Foods and it was placed in the youth account.

Jim Moser made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and Jill Kegerise seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Administrator's Report

– We received the 2013 contract for fertilization, which includes a spring and fall application for everything but the baseball field. The contract price is \$1,948. Fran Hollen made a motion to accept the fertilizer contract and Bobbi Porter-Kunkle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's report – Pastor Bill asked council to encourage graciousness, understanding, and forgiveness when situations arise in the congregation due to complaints that can lead to hurt feelings.

On February 25th we will receive a new flag from the VFW. The Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and some VFW members will be there for the ceremony.

There will also be a reporter from the Ephrata Review covering the ceremony. March 3rd is Girl Scout Sunday and there will be a coffee hour afterwards, hosted by the Girl Scouts. There will be a baptism on March 10th.

Pastor Bill handed out a revised copy of the child safety policy for council members to review for the March meeting.

Children and Youth Ministry Report –

The youth made almost \$400 on the sub and chili sale. The new Sunday school curriculum is going well and receiving lots of great feedback. The youth are having a family night on February 23rd and April 6th is the secret dinner. April 27th is the chicken BBQ and the youth are discussing selling tables for the community yard sale that day as well. Youth are also discussing this year's mission trip to New York City. There will be an Easter egg hunt. Bible school will be held at Muddy Creek this year and is being planned.

Spiritual Council - No report.

Budget and Finance – Did not meet.

Benevolence Committee – Did not meet. Next meeting will be March 11th.

Stewardship Committee – Next meeting will be February 28th.

Adult Ministry – Adult ministry will host the Fellowship Hour on Ash Wednesday and on April 21st. On April 27th they will help the youth with the chicken BBQ sale.

August 4th will be a beef stroganoff dinner and a peach dessert cook off afterwards. The congregation will supply the peach desserts.

September 8th is the Rally Day Picnic. The menu will include smoked chicken legs or thighs. Members with last names beginning with the letters A-L will bring side dishes and N-Z will bring desserts. December 8th will be the hanging of the greens. They are also looking into having a bus trip in September or October.

Health and Welfare – Spring gifts will be given to the Special Care and Concern members. They can be picked up on Sunday April 21st or Sunday April 28th and delivered. The date to go to Colonial Lodge is May 21st where they will make ceramic

flower pots as their craft and provide some entertainment. They are also looking into doing something for a local children's home.

May 5th is Health and Welfare Sunday. A representative from VOAD (Voluntary Organization Active in Disaster,) a disaster relief organization that works with Lutheran Disaster Relief, will be here to make a presentation. Their work begins when organizations such as FEMA pull out.

Erla Hartranft would like to start a prayer shawl ministry. If anybody wants to help knit or crochet shawls see Erla for details.

Outreach – No report.

Altar Guild – Altar Guild will be taking orders for Easter Lilies on March 10th, 17th and 24th. They are \$7.50 this year which is an increase of \$.50. The price increase is because Esbenshades now charges a \$25 delivery fee.

Peace Pantry will be collecting pancake syrup, jelly, and boxed or canned potatoes in March.

There will be a plaque placed on or near the soundboard for their contribution to the purchase of the equipment.

Youth Report – Youth are meeting on February 24th to discuss July dates for the mission trip to NY with YSOP. They are also planning a fun day where they will go miniature golfing and ride go karts.

Old Business – Pastor Bill thanked everyone for their prayers during Pam's stroke and hospitalization.

New Business – There was a practice communion run through after the council meeting for the new members. Ash Wednesday ushers will be John Haldeman and Jill Kegerise. It was discussed that head ushers should greet the supply pastors, make them

feel welcomed and ask if they need any assistance.

Jim Moser wants to thank the committee who did the social hour on Sunday. The Lions Club commented that it was very well done.

The next council meeting will be Tuesday, March 12, 2013. Being no further business, Jim Moser motioned to adjourn and Pat Hall seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Bev Madara
Council Secretary

March 2013

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| | | | | | 1 Larry & Sue Fasnacht | 2 S. Robert & Hazel Fichthorn |
| 3 9a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Grace Firestone | 4 Pauline Fire- stone | 5 6:30p Health & Welfare 7p Choir Rehearsal Betty Fisher | 6 7:30p Lenten Service Beverly Fisher | 7 Chris & Linda Fitterling | 8 Marvin & Kathryn Fitterling | 9 Richard & Leonore Fitterling |
| 10 9a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Ida Franks | 11 6p Benevo- lence Com- mittee Paul & M. Elizabeth Freeman | 12 6:30 Spiritu- al Council 7p Church Council 7p Choir Rehearsal Robert & Jodi Free- man | 13 7:30p Lenten Service Robert & Vaye Freeman | 14 Doris Fultz | 15 Allen & Ardel Garner | 16 Vicki & Carl Garner- Sweigart |
| 17 9a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Kathy Garner-Wilson | 18 Arthur & Dawn Gehman | 19 7p Choir Rehearsal Melvin & Marian Gerhart | 20 Jason & Pamela Getz | 21 Mary & John Getz | 22 Verna Glass | 23 10a Easter Egg Hunt Betty Good |
| 24 9a Sunday School 10:30a Worship 11:30a Youth Meeting Duane & Yinell Good | 25 Gregory & Kathi Good | 26 7p Choir Rehearsal Ralph & Carole Good | 27 Randy & Jean Good | 28 7:30p Maundy Worship Charles & Edith Graff | 29 7:30p Good Remembrance Service Gary Gress | 30 Easter Vigil James & Margaret Gress |
| 31 Easter 7a Early Morning Worship 9a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Madison Gress | | | | | | |

PEACE NOTES
Peace United Church of Christ
37 East Swartzville Road
Denver, PA 17517

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 370
Ephrata, PA 17522

March Events

March 23rd - Easter Egg Hunt
March 28th - Maundy Worship
March 29th - Good Remembrance Service
March 30th - Easter Vigil
March 31st - Easter

Peace United Church of Christ
37 East Swartzville Road
Denver, PA 17517
(717-484-4400)

pastor@peaceunitedchurch.org

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

Rev. William E. Hoch, Pastor

(717-335-0387)

Olivia Moyer, Editor

secretary@peaceunitedchurch.org

(717-484-4737)

March 2013