



# PEACE NOTES



## February

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

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### PASTOR'S PAGE

Valentine's Day is quickly approaching. A ton of money is going to be spent. The price of roses will double, at the very least. Chocolates will be placed in heart shaped boxes with frills and lace and the price will soar. And Teddy Bears with little red hearts are already on store shelves. Restaurants will be filled to capacity and if you have not made reservations or done call ahead seating, you will find yourselves waiting in line for hours.

But is this what Valentine's Day is really about? It is a day to celebrate the love you share with that one person in your life who means more to you than anyone else. Valentine's Day is a day to rejoice in and give thanks for that one person who you cannot imagine living your life without. And so we strive to find some way to tell that one person how much they mean to us. We try to communicate how empty our lives would be if that one person was not a central part of our being.

The problem is that candy and roses and dinners only say so much. We need to speak our love and we need to demonstrate our love in not just on that one day, but every day.

I cannot live my life without you. We have said these words to loved ones and we have said these words to God. I have heard countless people, over the years; say I cannot imagine living my life without God, without the church, without worship or without faith. At the same time I have heard people say, "I cannot imagine my life without the people of the church who have been there for me, encouraged me or challenge me to be a better person.

And yet in our world today we have so many people who have set the church, and perhaps faith, off to the side.

Let me suggest that Valentine's Day would be a great day to speak our love for God, give thanks for the love that God has shown to us in sending Christ to live among us. Valentine's Day would be a great time to reconnect with our church so that we might really live out the love for and of God! In the church, Valentine's Day could be and should be a day of new beginning.

At Peace Church, on February 9<sup>th</sup>, we set out on a new venture or adventure to express our love by adding a new service that will run simultaneously with our current service. It will be held, at 10:30, in the Fellowship Hall. It will be a Contemporary style service and we hope that you will join us in either service that together we might say to our God – we love you and we cannot live our lives without you.

Pastor Bill

#### ► Check it out!

To e-mail the pastor, use

[pastor@peaceunitedchurch.org](mailto:pastor@peaceunitedchurch.org)

To e-mail items to the secretary, use

[secretary@peaceunitedchurch.org](mailto:secretary@peaceunitedchurch.org)

# Church Council Officers

## 2014

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

### DEACONS

Cindy Anthony.....335-2643  
Vaye Freeman.....445-7601  
Fran Hollen.....725-0751  
Janice Kohl.....391-2890  
Amy Miller.....484-1948  
Nancy Reese.....484-4659  
Vicky Schweitzer.....808-9823  
Pat Wolf.....336-2272

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### HEAD USHER

**Bev Madara**

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### ALTAR GUILD

**Lillian Messner**  
**Nancy Reese**

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### GREETERS

**February 2** Art & Karen Pannebecker  
**February 9** Dale & Donna Reinhart  
**February 16** Mel & Marian Gerhart  
**February 23** TBD

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### ALTAR FLOWERS

**February 2** Ray and Carolyn Wolverton  
**February 9** Clara Roland  
**February 16** Ann Englert  
**February 23** Linda Coventry, Alice Binns

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**The deadline for submitting articles for the March issue of Peace Notes is February 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](mailto:secretary@peaceunitedchurch.org)

Thank you!

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

## February Birthdays

- February 2** Frederick Stauffer
- February 5** Mary Bernstel
- February 7** Carole Good
- February 8** Robinette Palsgrove  
Grace Hoffert
- February 9** Janet Mawhinney  
Courtney Hall
- February 11** Jack Long  
Beverly Fisher  
George Bailey
- February 14** Joanne Hassler
- February 15** C. Richard Beam  
Frances Hollen
- February 16** Pauline Whitehead  
Kathy Garner-Wilson
- February 17** Patricia Wolf
- February 22** Martha Young
- February 25** **Stella Weaver\*\***

**\*\* Special Care and Concern Member**  
Please remember these members with a card that can be placed in the birthday box in the Narthex

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## February Anniversaries

- February 15** Richard and Robinette Palsgrove  
David and Jane Walmsley
- February 20** Jody and Barbara Becker
- February 23** Leonore and Richard Fitterling
- February 24** Ronald and Carol Parker

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# Thank You's

Our church family gave comfort to Bill during his days of struggles, and especially so after his death to me, with all the many acts of kindness and caring. I and my family are so very grateful. Thank-you!!

*Margaret Harting and family*

Thank-you for supporting the 7<sup>th</sup> annual spaghetti dinner in memory of Abigail Kristine Butz, on Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. We had a wonderful turnout as we raised money for the Histio Society which organizes research for rare blood diseases like HLH, AI duPont Hospital for Children, and the Ronald McDonald House of DE. Thank-you so much for your support and allowing us to use the fellowship hall.

*Sincerely,  
Abigail's Family  
Matthew, Michael, Allyson,  
Kristine, and Timothy*

The youth would like to send out a HUGE thank you to the congregation for the continued support. The Super Bowl sub and chili sale was a great success. Be on the lookout for more opportunities to help the youth spread their services to those less fortunate in New York City.

*Peace UCC Youth Group*

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## Peace United Church of Christ Council Meeting - January 13, 2014

Attendees: Pastor Bill Hoch, John Haldeman, Bobbi Porter-Kunkle, Mike Madara, Bev Madara, Cindy Anthony, Vicki Garner-Sweigart, Pat Hall, Vaye Freeman, Jill Kegerise, Jack Bernstel, Fran Hollen, and Amy Miller.

Excused: Pat Wolf, Janice Kohl, Nancy Reese, Ben Kegerise

Unexcused: Vickie Schweitzer

President John Haldeman brought the council meeting of Peace United Church of Christ to order on Monday, January 13, 2014. Pastor Bill started the meeting off with devotions and prayer.

**Review of last month's minutes** – Jill Kegerise made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Pat Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** – Mike Madara made the following Capital Campaign disbursements: \$1,000 to the Benevolence Fund, \$1,000 to the Capital Improvement Fund, and \$4,360.21 to the General Fund. We ended 2013 with a \$26,200 budget deficit. On top of the \$14,100 deficit that was built into the budget, we received \$18,600 less donations than budgeted and our expenses were \$6,500 less than expected. Bobbi Porter-Kunkle made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented and Vaye Freeman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ACCOUNT BALANCES as of 12/31/2013	DECEMBER
FUNDS SUMMARY	ENDING BALANCE
CHECKING ACCOUNT	(\$3,391.95)
MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT	\$11,061.13
<b>GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT (COMBINED)</b>	<b>\$7,669.18</b>
GENERAL FUND INVESTMENT (12 MONTH CD)	\$5,034.29
MEMORIAL FUND (MMA)	\$5,627.85
YOUTH FUND (MMA)	\$927.25
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN (MMA) \$76,195.96	\$6,360.21
PETTY CASH	\$75.00
<b>ACCOUNT BALANCES</b>	<b>\$25,693.78</b>
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT CHECKING	\$2,190.63
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT LIQUID CD	\$15,018.48
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,209.11</b>
ENDOWMENT CHECKING (RESTRICTED USE)	\$9,835.51
ENDOWMENT LIQUID CD (RESTRICTED USE)	\$25,041.54
ENDOWMENT CDS (RESTRICTED USE)	\$101,963.28
ENDOWMENT MS MONEY MARKET (RESTRICTED USE)	\$130,946.19

ENDOWMENT MS STOCKS (RESTRICTED USE)	\$8,350.40
ENDOWMENT MS MUTUAL FUNDS (RESTRICTED USE)	\$28,464.22
<b>ENDOWMENT FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$304,601.14</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE</b>	<b>\$347,504.03</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND LOAN BALANCE</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>

**Administrator's Report** – East Cocalico Township called to tell us that our water usage is up again. Jack Bernstel and Bob Freeman will check all the plumbing in the church for potential issues.

The newest vacuum cleaner isn't working properly. Jack is going to try and fix it himself.

**Pastor's Report** – The first contemporary service will be held on February 9<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall.

February 27<sup>th</sup> is the Community Dinner at Trinity United Methodist Church in Denver. We should expect to serve approximately 100 people.

Lent begins on March 5<sup>th</sup> with the Ash Wednesday service at Peace. The theme for the Lenten series will be, "Affirming the Ash Heap". The egg hunt will be held on April 12<sup>th</sup>. The Maundy Thursday service is April 17<sup>th</sup>. Good Friday is April 18<sup>th</sup>. The Prayer Vigil is April 19<sup>th</sup>. Easter is April 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Friends of the Adamstown Library will be holding their book sale in the Fellowship Hall from Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> to Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. The Youth will be selling chicken barbeque on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

United Church Homes is having an annual Helping Hands dinner and auction on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Holiday Inn in Harrisburg. The cost is \$75 per person with \$40 going to charity.

We will no longer be sending the newsletters via bulk mail. We hope to be able to send the majority of the newsletters digitally. Those that don't have a computer with internet access can either pick them up at church or they will be mailed first class.

**Children and Youth Ministry Report** – On February 1<sup>st</sup>, Pastor Bill and Fran Hollen will be going to pick out the curriculum for Bible School.

Children and Youth will meet on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8 am.

**Spiritual Council Report, Budget and Finance, Outreach** – No report.

**Benevolence Committee Report** – Did not meet. The Benevolence Fund loan balance is now \$4,000 because of the \$1,000 payment this quarter.

**Stewardship Committee Report** – As of the Church Council meeting, the Joint Planning meeting was scheduled for January 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm but had to be postponed due to snow. It is now scheduled for January 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

**Adult Ministry Report** – Did not meet. Adult Ministry will provide refreshments on March 5<sup>th</sup> after the Ash Wednesday service.

**Health and Welfare Report** – Did not meet. Health and Welfare will meet after worship on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Altar Guild Report** – The items for the Peace Pantry for January were white socks for the homeless veterans. The Memorial Fund has received donations in memory of Ron Burky and Bill Harting and also in honor of Gene and Mary Ellen Huston.

**Youth Report** – The Youth will be holding several fundraisers to raise money for their Mission trip to NYC this summer: selling sandwiches and chili for Super Bowl Sunday, making peanut butter eggs for Easter, and having a chicken barbeque sale on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Youth will be meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup> at 9 am to make chili and separate the sandwich order.

The Youth would like to go back to NYC and work with YSOP this summer. They are trying to find a week that works for everybody.

The Youth will be volunteering at the Community Dinner on February 27<sup>th</sup> and are talking about hosting another Mystery Dinner at the church.

**Old Business** – Vaye Freeman asked to revisit the idea of serving Communion at the Easter Dawn

service. It was decided that Communion will be served by intinction at this service.

**New Business** – A church member is interested in buying the piano that is not being used in the children's Sunday school room. It needs to be tuned and there are a few stuck keys. Vicki Garner-Sweigart made a motion to sell the piano to the church member for a donation and Jill Kegerise seconded the motion.

The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, February 11, 2014. Being no further business, Vicki Garner-Sweigart motioned to adjourn and Pat Hall seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully submitted, Bev Madara  
Council Secretary

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### LENTEN SCHEDULE

Wednesday evening Lenten Services begin on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Our theme this year is **Affirming the Ash Heap**. We will look at the struggles and suffering we encounter in life and discover God's presence in the midst of it. This will be done as we explore and compare the lives of Job and Jesus. Our schedule this year is as follows:

March 5<sup>th</sup> – Peace United Church of Christ  
Craig Snow – Ash Wednesday  
March 12<sup>th</sup> – Trinity United Methodist  
David Brumbaugh  
March 19<sup>th</sup> – St. John's United Church of Christ  
Phil Horning  
March 26<sup>th</sup> – Swamp Christian Fellowship  
Bill Hoch  
April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Gehman's Mennonite Church  
Mike Roney

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### MIRROR MIRROR ON THE WALL

Submitted by John Haldeman

Now that's an expression we are all familiar with. Each morning we get out of bed and one of the first things we do is take a peek at ourselves in the mirror, and I do mean a peek. OMG, my hair is a wreck; I'll never be able to do a thing with it. Is that a stray eyebrow that needs to be plucked? Where in

the world did those bags under my eyes come from? OMG, is that a pimple on my nose or OMG when did that gobbler neck start to form? As we head to the shower or the breakfast table for that first cup of coffee our minds are going a mile a minute reviewing all the things ahead of us for the day or maybe even the week. OMG!!!! How am I ever going to manage?

Backtrack a moment. We said OMG-Oh My God – four times without a second thought. It’s just a way we have learned to express ourselves. I guess there are worse things we could say. So let’s look in that mirror again. Look beyond the frazzled hair, the annoying eyebrow and that big pimple. Look beyond and through those baggy eyes. Look within to the heart and soul of our being. Now say OMG again and think about the influence God has on our lives, the strength, the courage, the peace of mind that our faith in him affords us. Think--- because of our beliefs in that very same God we are better able to deal with the challenges and stumbling blocks life throws our way.

Come Sunday morning some of us will plan on attending church. It’s something we do most Sundays. It’s something that we **need** in our lives; it **strengthens** us and helps us to keep **connected** to God. It’s an opportunity to **reinforce our faith** and **give thanks** for the many blessing that are bestowed upon us. It helps us to learn the **importance of our faith** in our lives and how that **faith guides us** through the days ahead. It **maintains Gods presence** in our life which provides comfort to our soul. Unfortunately, some of us will decide it’s a good morning to sleep in or cut the grass or maybe attend little Johnnie’s soccer game. There are many excuses we can come up with to forget about attending church. Some are very legitimate. We have very busy lives, we need to support our children’s activities, we need some time just to relax. It’s been a very hectic week but we survived. **How in the world did we manage to do that?**

I would like to believe, and personally I definitely do, that God is the driving force in my life. I would like to believe, and again I personally do, that he was with me, holding my hand guiding me every moment. He provides courage, patience, kindness, compassion just to name a few, all the while protecting from harm. What can I possibly give in return?

God expects very little in return. He would simply like us to first, have faith in him. Take some time out of our busy lives to live and feel that faith by reaching out to others and living our lives as good Christians. To live our lives to be worthy of his continued grace and praise.

I won’t be in church every Sunday. I have a busy life too. I have a good life, full of God’s blessings, full of a faith that makes my life so much easier to deal with. I won’t be in church every Sunday, but I plan to be there as often as possible. I hope to see you there as together we grow in faith and in service to our God.

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### COMMUNITY DINNER

Peace Church will be serving the Community Dinner at Trinity UMC, Denver on Thurs, Feb 27 at 6:00. We will be serving baked chicken legs, mashed potatoes veggies and dessert. I you would like to help in some way, please look for a sign-up sheet that will be posted on the Secretary’s Window.

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### NEW CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Begins on February 9<sup>th</sup>!!!!

Gathering for fellowship and coffee will be at 10:30 am with the worship service beginning at 10:45 am.

Please see the insert for more information!

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### GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY

On Sunday, March 9th, Cadette/Senior Troop [70244/70980](#) will be participating in the church worship service by serving as readers, greeters and ushers for offering as well as sharing some special music. The girls will also be hosting a fellowship hour after church. Thank-you for supporting Girl Scouts by providing a place for the girls to meet.

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### PEACE PANTRY

Peace Pantry will be collecting boxed potatoes, canned pasta and saltine crackers in February.

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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

**February Events**

February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Children’s Ministry Meeting – 8 am.  
February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Health and Welfare Meeting – 11:30 am  
February 9<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Contemporary Service – gather at 10:30 am, worship at 10:45 am  
February 16<sup>th</sup> – Faith Exploration – Spirituality for the Caregiver’s Heart – 6 pm  
February 27<sup>th</sup> – Community Dinner at Trinity UMC – 6 pm

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

[pastor@peaceunitedchurch.org](mailto:pastor@peaceunitedchurch.org)  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Rev. William E. Hoch, Pastor  
(717-335-0387)

Beverly Madara, Editor  
[secretary@peaceunitedchurch.org](mailto:secretary@peaceunitedchurch.org)  
(717-484-0895)

**February 2014**