



# PEACE NOTES

## December



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

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### PASTOR'S PAGE

Way back when, however long ago that was, when God said, "Let there be light" and began the process of creation, did God know that there would be a day when Jesus would be sent into the world? Or, when, along that long trail of history, did God decide that there needed to be a course correction and Jesus would need to take on human flesh? Was Jesus' coming planned from the beginning or was it added on at some later time?

And why was His coming needed? Did God know that we would become so "depraved" that we would need a Savior? Or, did God see what was happening and say something like, "Whoa, I gotta do something?"

I am sure that there is someone out there who believes they have the answer to those questions. I don't have the answers. In the light of everything else, those questions are mere philosophical and theological ponderings.

However, Edmund Steimle talks of the incarnation, God taking on human flesh, and likens it to the eye of a hurricane. As a hurricane approaches we come face to face with massive winds and rains. The destructive energy of a hurricane has the power to uproot trees, destroy houses and cause massive floods. In the eye of the hurricane we have relative calm and peace. And then, the trailing edge of the hurricane brings the same destructive power that uproots our lives and everything else in its path.

If we look at the broad perspective of history we see that God's people have stood in the midst of many storms. Their lives were uprooted many times over. Then one night there was a moment of calm. One

night there came a child and for a moment the world stood still. Shepherds and wise men worshipped. The powers of Rome and of Herod stood in silent and fearful awe.

And then the second part of the storm hit. The world went on its way, but for a very brief moment we had the calm and peace of the incarnation.

Advent begins on Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> and we have an opportunity to enter the eye of the storm. The winds and the rain may rage around us. The chaos is always present. But we have been given a moment to see God at work around us and within us. We have an opportunity to experience the peace that only God can give. It is an inner peace that leads to hope and to love and to joy. The storm will rage around us, but here in the eye there is the peace of God's coming incarnation! And there is for us, once again, a rebirth of that child.

As we begin the Advent Season, try to view it as that eye of the storm, the moment of calm and peace in the midst of all your chaos and busyness. Know that God has come, that God is with us always, and that the storms may rock, but can never take the peace that God has given us in Christ.

May your Advent journey be filled with grace-filled beauty as you prepare for the celebration of Christ's coming and God's love.

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 2015

John Haldeman, *Council President*  
Bobbi Porter-Kunkel, *Council Vice-President*  
Jim Anthony, *Council Secretary*  
Margaret Harting, *Financial Secretary*  
Mike Madara, *Treasurer*  
John Haldeman, *Administrator*

## ELDERS

John Haldeman .....484-2510  
Bobbie Porter-Kunkel.....610-678-0543  
Pat Acebo.....575-1155  
Chris Fitterling.....336-3038  
Mary Getz.....484-2216  
Pat Hall.....484-4658

## DEACONS

Cindy Anthony.....335-2643  
Jim Anthony.....314-2208  
Vaye Freeman.....445-7601  
Fran Hollen.....725-0751  
Amy Miller.....484-1948  
Art Pannebecker .....336-6983  
Vickie Schweitzer.....808-9823

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## HEAD USHER

Chris Fitterling

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## ALTAR GUILD

Edie Graff  
Dixie Schweitzer

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## GREETERS

**December 6** Pat Acebo  
**December 13** Janet Mattis  
**December 20** The Miller Family  
**December 24** The Butz Family  
**December 27** Rosie Johnston and Tyler  
Hertzog

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## ALTAR FLOWERS

**December 6** Art and Karen Pannebecker  
**December 13** Claude and Bertha Adair  
**December 20** Jay and Stacy Burkey  
**December 27** Ron and Carol Parker

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**The deadline for submitting articles for the January issue of Peace Notes is December 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.

## December Birthdays

December 1	Jean DeHart**
December 2	Judy High Bev Martin
December 5	Scott Lausch Jason Getz Becky Moyer
December 7	Bruce Palsgrove
December 10	Carol Parker
December 12	Nancy Leshner
December 13	Ethan Steffy Samuel Steffy
December 15	Art Pannebecker Tim Heil
December 17	Heather Burky
December 18	Duane Good
December 19	Georgean Bixler
December 24	Bob Martin
December 25	Paul Freeman**
December 26	Ann Kohl
December 30	Sam Leshner
December 31	Betty Leisey**

### \*\* 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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## December Anniversaries

December 3	Wes and Hazel Sweigart
December 14	Bill and Martha Young
December 23	Harold and Ann Kohl

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Did we miss your birthday or anniversary this month? Was your information incorrect? If so, please send the correct information to [secretary@peaceunitedchurch.org](mailto:secretary@peaceunitedchurch.org) or place a note in the Peace Notes envelope on the desk in the office.

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# thank you

Peace Youth would like to say thank you to everyone that helped with the mystery dinner. Whether it was cooking the meal, decorating the fellowship hall, serving the meal, eating the meal, cleaning up, or eating the left over chocolate peanut butter dessert, we are thankful for the support of our Church!!

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## PEACE PANTRY



There will be no Peace Pantry collection in December.

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## HEALTH AND WELFARE

The Health and Welfare Committee will be meeting Tuesday January 5, 2016 at 6:30 pm.

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### HEALTH AND WELFARE

On Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> after worship, in the fellowship hall, the Health and Welfare committee will be wrapping items for their Colonial Lodge visit and Christmas Party and putting them into Santa's bag. Bring your scissors and join the fun.

On Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 pm the Health and Welfare committee, and anyone else who would like to join us, will be going to



Colonial Lodge for a Christmas party. Christmas carols will be sung accompanied by rhythm instruments, a craft will be made, refreshments served and Santa will be handing out gifts.

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### ADVENT EVENTS



December 6<sup>th</sup> – Hanging of the Greens – please gather with family and friends as we prepare the church for the Christmas Season. Help decorate and then join in a pot luck dinner!

December 13<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Program

December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 7:30 pm

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### ALTAR GUILD

Christmas poinsettias can be ordered before and after the 10:30 worship service on Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup>, and December 13<sup>th</sup>.



The poinsettias will be placed in the church on Friday December 18<sup>th</sup> and will be there for Christmas Eve and Sunday the December 20<sup>th</sup>. The poinsettias are red, 1 branch, 5 bloom and cost \$7.00 and can be taken home after the Christmas Eve service.

There are some open dates for sponsors for Sunday Altar flowers. The cost is \$25.00 for the two Altar vases and the dates are in February, March and July.

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### SPECIAL CARE AND CONCERN

We always remember our SCC Members at Christmas and on their birthdays. Christmas cards for each SCC Member can be placed in the Christmas box in the Narthex. We also invite you to bring a plate of your favorite Christmas cookies to Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> to share with our SCC members when the Health and Welfare Committee packs their Christmas bags.

We also invite you to sign a birthday card for each SCC member and place it in the box in the Narthex so that their sponsor may deliver the cards in time for their birthdays. No postage or stamp is needed, place your cards in the box and the Health and Welfare Committee will separate and pack them.

### CHRISTMAS CARD LIST

- Jean Dehart
- Shirley Endy
- Sally Fasnacht
- Marvin & Kathryn Fitterling
- Leonore Fitterling
- Paul Freeman
- Betty Good
- Lori Hartranft
- Anna Hopkins
- Gene Huston
- Alverta Kilhefner
- Betty Leisey
- Pierce & Ethel Lesher
- Stewart Mohn
- Dorothy Nye
- Richard and Robinette Palsgrove
- Betty Schweitzer
- Jane Schweitzer
- Arlene Styer
- Mary Lou Sweigart
- Dianne Tothero
- Dolly Youndt

## BIRTHDAY CARD LIST

Shirley Endy	January 1
Jane Schweitzer	January 1
Stewart Mohn	January 13
Pierce Leshner	January 24
Alverta Kilhefner	January 30
Robinette Palsgrove	February 8
Betty Schweitzer	March 14
Arlene Styer	March 28
Gene Huston	March 30
Betty Good	April 7
Mary Lou Sweigart	June 6
Marvin Fitterling	June 22
Dolly Youndt	July 13
Dorothy Nye	September 6
Lori Hartranft	September 12
Ethel Leshner	September 20
Leonore Fitterling	October 14
Kathryn Fitterling	October 20
Richard Palsgrove	November 3
Sally Fasnacht	November 18
Dianne Tothero	November 19
Jean DeHart	December 1
Paul Freeman	December 25
Betty Leisey	December 31

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## DISASTER KITS



Even though the youth group is not doing a traditional mission trip this summer we still want to serve and help those less fortunate than us. We have decided to collect items to assemble disaster kits for the Church World Service. Our goal is to collect and assemble enough items to make 200 disaster kits. We were given a matching grant of \$250 to help in meeting our goal. We have decided to assemble Hygiene Kits, School Kits, and Baby Care Kits. Below is a list of items needed for each kit. Donations of these items are being accepted and can be placed in the box in front of the office window. Thank-you for your support of the youth of Peace Church!

## Hygiene Kit

### Items needed:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Six standard size Band-Aids®

Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure, remove excess air from bag, and seal. Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Cartons of toothpaste that have an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment.

## School Kit

### Items needed:

- One pair of blunt metal scissors (rounded tip)
- Three 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (no loose-leaf or filler paper)
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- One large eraser
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)
- One 12" x 14" to 14" x 17" finished size cotton or lightweight canvas bag with cloth handles. (Please, no reusable shopping bags or backpacks.)

[School bag pattern](#)

Pack all items inside the cloth bag.

## Baby Care Kit

### Items needed:

- Six cloth diapers
- Two T-shirts or undershirts (no onesies)
- Two washcloths
- Two gowns or sleepers

- Two diaper pins
- One sweater or sweatshirt (Can be hand knitted or crocheted)
- Two receiving blankets (one can be a hand-knitted or crocheted baby blanket)

Items must be new and under 12 months in size. Wrap items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with both diaper pins.

[Download a Baby Gown pattern](#) | [Download a Baby Sweater pattern](#)

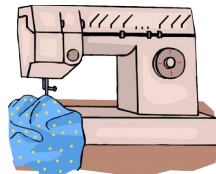
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**ATTENTION ALL KNITTERS AND SEWERS**



We need your help with the disaster kits. The school kits require a bag to pack the supplies in. We would like to be able to pack each kit in a hand sewn bag rather than purchasing a

canvas bag. The baby care kit needs a baby gown and a baby sweater. Links for the patterns are in the above article and hard copies will be available at the church. Thank you!



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**PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
COUNCIL MEETING -  
November 10, 2015**

Attendees: Pastor Bill Hoch, John Haldeman, Bobbie Porter-Kunkel, Pat Hall, Chris Fitterling, Pat Acebo, Mary Getz, Vaye Freeman, Cindy Anthony, Art Pannebecker, Amy Miller, Fran Hollen, Vickie Schweitzer, Jim Anthony, Mike Madara.

Excused:

Unexcused:

President John Haldeman brought the council meeting of Peace United Church of Christ to order on Tuesday, November 10, 2015. Pastor Bill started the meeting off with devotions and prayer.

**Review of last month’s minutes –** Art Pannebecker made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Pat Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report –** October’s report was presented. There is a positive balance in all general accounts. Susquehanna Bank is now BB&T bank. Mike is currently working with BB&T to ensure a smooth transition process. We will need to update our checks and deposit slips sometime next year. We started the payroll for the Seminary student. Mike contacted the accountant to switch custodian Brian Ruffner to a salaried position instead of hourly. Mike filed an application for the Church credit card with BB&T. Pat Hall made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report as presented and Vickie Schweitzer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ACCOUNT BALANCES as of 10/31/2015	OCTOBER
<b>FUNDS SUMMARY</b>	<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>
CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$2799.07
MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT	\$6381.94
<b>GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT (COMBINED)</b>	<b>\$9181.01</b>
CAPITAL HOLDING ACCOUNT (LIQUID CD)	\$25106.87
MEMORIAL FUND (MMA)	\$13102.29
YOUTH FUND (MMA)	\$3686.67
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN (MMA) \$104132.72	\$0
PETTY CASH	\$75.00
<b>ACCOUNT BALANCES</b>	<b>\$51151.84</b>
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT CHECKING	\$3193.39
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT LIQUID CD	\$16077.13
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$19270.52</b>
ENDOWMENT CHECKING (RESTRICTED USE)	\$5008.70
ENDOWMENT LIQUID CD (RESTRICTED USE)	\$36668.94
ENDOWMENT CDS (RESTRICTED USE)	\$104213.96
MONEY FUNDS (CETERA)	\$5513.38
MUTUAL FUNDS (CETERA)	\$156891.19
<b>ENDOWMENT FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$308296.17</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE</b>	<b>\$378718.53</b>

**Administrator's Report** - The new sign will be installed on November 18, weather permitting. The Church could use someone with some electrical knowledge to help out with a few projects. The work crew will get the Christmas decorations out of storage this week. The work crew could use a little help setting up the Nativity scene. Pat Hall volunteered to assemble the candles that will be used for the Christmas Eve Worship Service.

**Pastor's Report** - Pastor Bill presented a thank you note from the Church Tour. Approximately 30 people visited the Church that day. Megan Malick will be filling the pulpit on Pastor Bill's vacation days in January. There is not much new information yet from the Senior Center. Pastor Bill will present more information when it becomes available.

**Children and Youth Ministry Report** - The Christmas program will be December 13. The program is planned and they are working on the logistics currently. Gabby will deliver the message that Sunday.

**Spiritual Council Report, Stewardship Committee, Outreach, Altar Guild** - No Report

**Benevolence Committee Report** - There is a meeting scheduled for December 7

**Adult Ministry Report** - The Pumpkin Cookoff had 8 total entries, and the event raised \$90 for the Youth. December 6 is Hanging of the Greens. Bring a covered dish.

**Health and Welfare Report** - The Veterans Day themed program at Ephrata Manor had a food turnout. The residents enjoyed the program. December 10 is the Colonial Lodge Christmas Party.

**Youth Report** - The pancake breakfast was a success. We received \$57 in donations and are anticipating a donation from the blood bank. There were more people served than last year, and the youth are happy to support the blood drive. There are currently 25 people signed up for the mystery dinner, and we are hoping more people will come out and have some fun. The next youth lunch after worship is scheduled for December 13.

**Old Business** - We have selected a projector to purchase for the Contemporary Service and are working out the logistics of payment and delivery with the vendor.

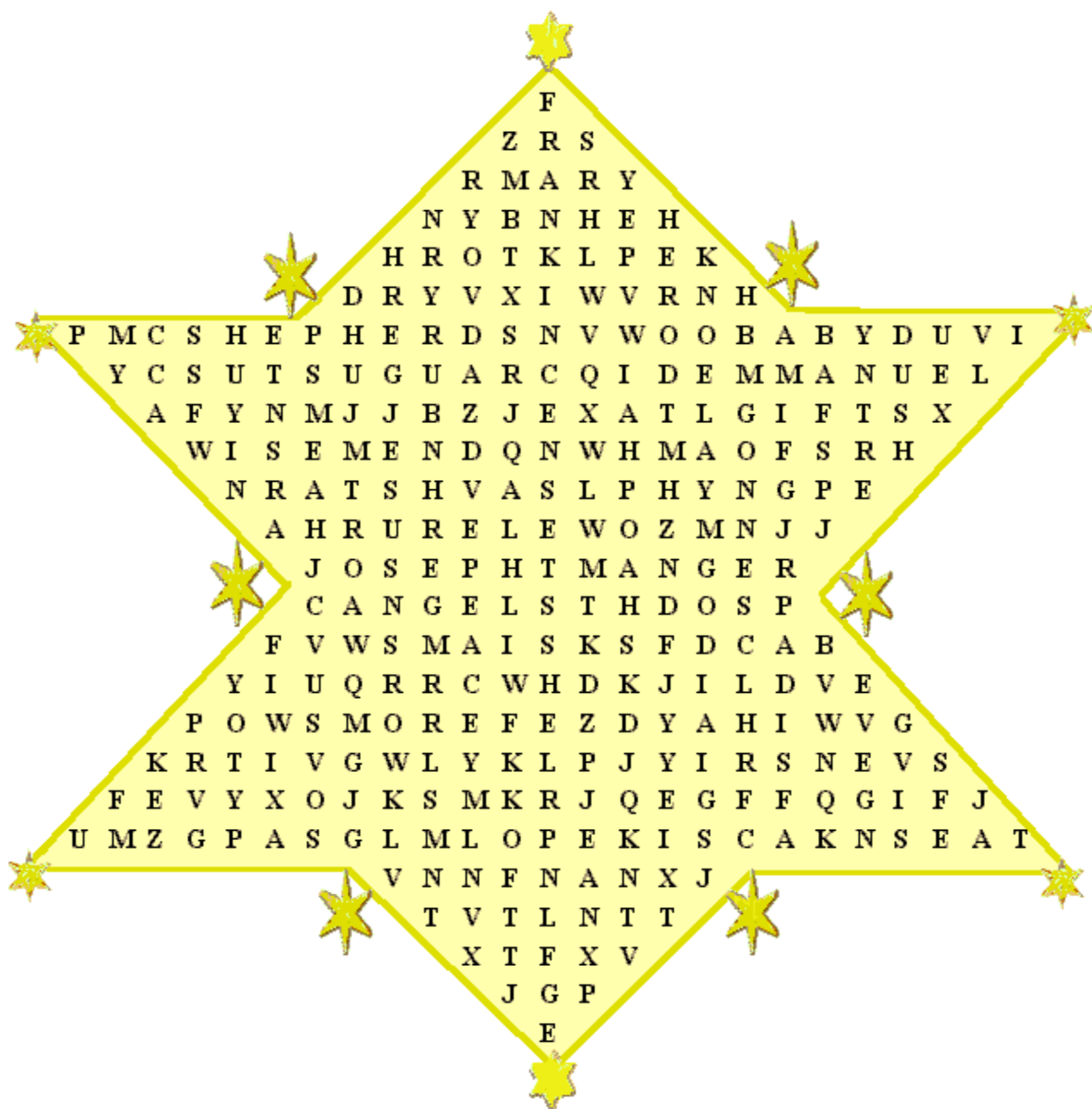
**New Business** - Vaye Freeman volunteered to be head usher for the month of January. Cindy Anthony and Vickie Schweitzer volunteered to assist.

The next council meeting will be Tuesday, December 08, 2015. Being no further business, Pat Hall motioned to adjourn and Cindy Anthony seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Anthony, Council Secretary

# His Birth



Angels  
Augustus  
Baby  
Bethlehem  
Elisabeth  
Emmanuel  
Frankincense  
Gifts

Gold  
Herod  
Inn  
Jesus  
Joseph  
Manger  
Mary  
Myrrh

Nativity  
Noel  
Peace  
Promise  
Savior  
Shepherds  
Star  
Swaddling

Taxes  
Virgin  
Wisemen



# December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 1 pm Bible Study  <b>Daniel &amp; Marianne Little</b>	<b>2</b> 7 pm Choir Rehearsal  <b>Jack &amp; Linda Long</b>	<b>3</b>  <b>Charlotte Macleod</b>	<b>4</b>  <b>Mike &amp; Bev Madara</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>Bob &amp; Bev Martin</b>
<b>6</b> 8:30 am Contemporary Service 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Traditional Worship 11:45 Hanging of the Greens 11:45 Health and Welfare Meeting  <b>Janet Mattis</b>	<b>7</b> 6 pm – Benevolence Meeting  <b>Janet Mawhinney</b>	<b>8</b> 1 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Spiritual Council 7 pm Church Council  <b>John &amp; Heidi McDonough</b>	<b>9</b> 7 pm Choir Rehearsal  <b>Ed &amp; Sue McIlmoyle</b>	<b>10</b> 6:15pm Christmas at Colonial Lodge  <b>Lillian Messner</b>	<b>11</b>  <b>Jeff Miller</b>	<b>12</b>  <b>Jeff &amp; Amy Miller</b>
<b>13</b> 8:30 am Contemporary Service 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Traditional Worship and Christmas program 11:45 am Youth Luncheon  <b>Lindsey Miller</b>	<b>14</b>  <b>Matt Miller</b>	<b>15</b> 1 pm Bible Study  <b>Stewart Mohn</b>	<b>16</b> 7 pm Choir Rehearsal  <b>Zach &amp; Madison Morgan</b>	<b>17</b>  <b>Jim &amp; Polly Moser</b>	<b>18</b>  <b>Becky Moyer</b>	<b>19</b>  <b>Jeff &amp; Sherry Moyer</b>
<b>20</b> 8:30 am Contemporary Service 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Traditional Worship  <b>Nate Moyer</b>	<b>21</b>  <b>Olivia Moyer</b>	<b>22</b> No Bible Study  <b>Ruth Mumma</b>	<b>23</b>  <b>Dorothy Nye</b>	<b>24</b> 7:30 pm – Christmas Eve Service  <b>Marvin &amp; Cindy Oxenreider</b>	<b>25</b> Christmas Day  <b>Bruce &amp; Kathy Palsgrove</b>	<b>26</b>  <b>Dick &amp; Robinette Palsgrove</b>
<b>27</b> 8:30 am Contemporary Service 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Traditional Worship <b>Art &amp; Karen Pannebecker</b>	<b>28</b>  <b>Ron &amp; Carol Parker</b>	<b>29</b> No Bible Study  <b>Lori Patterson</b>	<b>30</b>  <b>Brent Porter</b>	<b>31</b>  <b>Bobbie &amp; Ray Kunkel</b>		

PEACE NOTES

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

Return Service Requested

**December Events**

**December 10<sup>th</sup> - Christmas at Colonial Lodge – 6:15 pm**

**December 13<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Program – 10:30 am**

**December 13<sup>th</sup> - Youth Luncheon – 11:45 am**

**December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve Service – 7:30 pm**

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

Contemporary Service 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Traditional Worship 10:30 a.m.

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**December 2015**