



PEACE NOTES

January



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

PASTOR'S PAGE

A New Year is upon us and I have been wondering – Am I getting old? Obviously, I am getting older. But am I getting old?

Let me explain the question. It was always people a generation or two older than me who asked, “What is this world coming to?” Or they said, “Why I remember when... the church was always full... we had to set out extra chairs for Christmas and Easter...” Or you heard the query, “Why can’t we go back to the way things used to be?”

I now find myself asking the very same questions. Mass shootings are so common that they no longer shock us the way they used to. Terrorism or the threat or worry about terrorism is a part of every day. What has this world come to? Am I getting old or is this just the way our world is? Or as they said just a few years ago – Is this the new normal?

I do remember when the church was full. I do remember when it was easier to attract new people. I do remember getting out the extra chairs. Why can’t we just go back to the way things used to be?

Then there are the economic issues. I remember when I could buy a Milky Way bar for ten cents. I remember when a savings account paid significantly more than today’s certificates of deposit and a certificate of deposit might pay anywhere from 8 or 9% all the way to 15 or 17%.

Then the finger point starts. It’s this party or that party. It’s this racial or ethnic group or the members of that religion. And slowly, fear, anger, distrust begins to grow.

I AM getting older. But I don’t want my life marked by anger, fear and mistrust. I don’t want to point my finger and play the blame game.

So this year I want to hold onto these words of the Apostle Paul: **God did not give us a spirit of fear, but rather a Spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.**

Let us not fall into the trap of those people and politicians who would point the finger and play on our fears. Rather, let us trust God and grow in the Spirit that has the power to fill us with peace, love and kindness for others.

I am getting older. But rather than holding on desperately to what was and may never be again, I am going to hold onto my faith and live in grace rather than fear!

How about you?

Pastor Bill

► 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 2016

Chris Fitterling, *Council President*
Cindy Anthony, *Council Vice-President*
Jim Anthony, *Council Secretary*
Margaret Harting, *Financial Secretary*
Mike Madara, *Treasurer*
John Haldeman, *Administrator*

ELDERS

Chris Fitterling.....717-336-3038
Cindy Anthony.....717-335-2643
Pat Acebo.....717-575-1155
Mary Getz.....717-484-2216
Dan Hall.....717-484-4658
John McDonough.....717-569-5835

DEACONS

Jim Anthony.....717-314-2208
Vaye Freeman.....717-445-7601
Mark Kline.....717-989-4381
Amy Miller.....717-484-1948
Jeff Moyer.....717-484-4737
Art Pannebecker717-336-6983
Vickie Schweitzer.....717-808-9823
Vicki Wissinger.....717-823-3446

HEAD USHER

Vaye Freeman

ALTAR GUILD

Erla Hartranft
Deb Hedrick

GREETERS

January 3 Susie Strouse
January 10 Tiffany Strouse
January 17 Art and Karen Pannebecker
January 24 Barry and Pat Harting
January 31 Vicki Garner-Sweigart

ALTAR FLOWERS

January 3 Mary Getz
January 10 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Graff
January 17 Mr. and Mrs. Richard
Palsgrove and family
January 24 The Jon Kegerise family
January 31 Mildred Krick

The deadline for submitting articles for the February issue of Peace Notes is January 20th. Please put your information in the hanging folder labeled "Peace Notes" located on the office 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.

January Birthdays

January 1 Jane Schweitzer**
 Shirley Endy**
 David Bixler
January 3 Jim Moser
 Audrey Youndt
 Pat Harting
January 4 Kathi Good
January 6 Bradyn Shahade
January 8 Alicia Good
January 10 Donna Reinhart
 Julie LaSalle
January 13 Margaret Harting
 Cliff Youndt
 Shawn Burky
January 14 **Stewart Mohn****
January 16 Randy Stauffer
January 18 Janet Mattis
 Charles Graff
 Margaret Gress
January 21 Erla Hartranft
January 22 Donald Sunday
January 24 **Pierce Lesher****
 Karen Dorsey
January 27 Harvey Schlouch
January 28 Staci Tobias
January 29 Vicki Garner-Sweigart
January 30 **Alverta Kilhefner****
January 31 Jerry Lee Englert

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

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

January Anniversaries

January 2 Scott and Lise Lausch
January 5 Claude and Bertha Adair
January 10 Clair and Mardel Lausch

thank you

CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

Janis and I thank everyone for their love and support during this past year as we walked side by side in faith. Our prayer is that as we enter this new year we will continue to grow in faith and in service to our God.

Pastor Bill and Janis Hoch

Thank you to all the congregational members who purchased Christmas Poinsettias. The church sanctuary looked beautiful

The Altar Guild

PEACE PANTRY



There will be no Peace Pantry collection in January

HEALTH AND WELFARE

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

SPECIAL CARE AND CONCERN CORRECTION

Anna Hopkins' birthday was left off of the special care and concern birthday list. Her birthday is October 18th. Please remember her when filling out cards for our special care and concern members.

PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX



At our annual meeting last year, I shared some facts and figures and expressed what I thought our major concerns and challenges were for 2015. They dealt with numerous issues but the biggest concern

was our financial status. I am happy to say my message did not fall on deaf ears. Your generosity and dedication to the church remained steadfast throughout the year. Your contributions along with some unexpected generous gifts, allowed us to lower our carryover deficit dramatically. Last year our carryover deficit was \$24,000. This year we have lowered that to the low teens and maybe even lower by years end. Unfortunately we have a \$31,000 deficit in our new budget compared to \$30,000 last year. That means we are being realistic in our budgeting and trying our best to maintain our expenses.

We were successful this year in lowering some of our operating expenses by modifying some of our service contracts mainly relating to grounds keeping and trash removal and we now deal with a different vendor for our kitchen paper supplies and janitorial needs. These moves saved a good amount of money with minimal effect to the amenities we are accustomed to.

The work crew does an excellent job of maintaining our building and grounds and often works above and beyond the call of duty to keep our property in

excellent condition. This effort and dedication saves us a tremendous amount of money that would otherwise be spent on contracting for services. There are times however where we just do not have enough man power, the proper equipment or the necessary skills to perform a task and need to contract outside firms. We would be more than happy to welcome additional helping hands and are particularly in need of someone with electrical background.

This year we moved our contemporary service from the fellowship hall to the sanctuary to offer a more welcoming and comfortable service. and attendance has been growing. We also started a new program within our children's ministries and though it is slow in growing we have great hope for its success. The addition of Gabby Kennedy as a student pastor has been of great value to our morning worship services as well as our youth ministry and fellowship activities. We have seen increased use of our facility by the community which offers us good exposure and possible interest from potential new members.

In my opinion we are doing a good combination of the right things to help grow and strengthen our church. But we are not out of the woods yet. We need to continue our efforts to be a welcoming church that others want to be a part of. We need to focus on securing our future. Your continued generosity is important and certainly appreciated. We need to also remember that the giving of our time and talents lend to a stronger church. I feel we made some important and very successful strides this year and there is no doubt in my mind that we will continue in a positive direction to secure the future of our church. We may be small in number at times but we are strong in heart, our faith and our dedication to Peace Church.

In closing, I would like to offer my heartfelt thank you to church council, and the congregation of this church for their support and dedication. You certainly helped make my tenure as church council president a welcome and rewarding experience. And to Pastor Bill, a big thank you for your support,

guidance and at times your patience. You helped me grow not only at a personal level but also in the strength of my faith. I can only look at the past few years as an experience of a lifetime that I hope has made me a better person. Although I do not foresee myself serving in this capacity in the future, my heart, soul, faith and dedication will always be with Peace United Church of Christ. It has been my pleasure to serve. Thank you.

John Haldeman

YOU'RE INVITED...



to the 9th annual spaghetti dinner in memory of Abigail Kristine Butz, on Saturday, January 9th, 2016, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm, at the Peace UCC Fellowship Hall.

The dinner is "free" for the entire community. We welcome dessert donations!

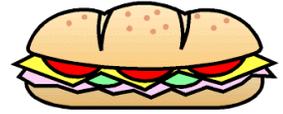
We will also be accepting donations for the Histo Society which organizes research for rare blood diseases like HLH, Al duPont Hospital for Children, and the Ronald McDonald House of DE. You may write a check directly to the organization for your 2016 tax deduction. No sign-up required!

Last year, we had a great turnout. We look forward to spending time with you at the spaghetti dinner as we support those in need and honor Abigail's life. Thank-you so much for your support.

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

YOUTH SUB AND CHILI SALE

Super Bowl Sunday (February 7) is approaching quickly. Order your subs and chili now. The Youth will once again be selling homemade chili and sandwiches from R&K Subs. Sign up sheets will be



on the office window or email orders to youth@peaceunited-church.org Chili is \$6.25 per quart. 12" subs are \$6.00 each and pretzel sandwiches are \$4.50 each. We will be collecting orders until January 31st.



YOUTH LUNCHEON

Our next lunch gathering after the traditional service will be on January 24th. Stop by the fellowship hall for a hot meal and good conversation.

ATTENTION YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES



There will be a meeting on January 10th at 12:15 pm for anyone that is interested in attending the National Youth Event in July. Registration opens soon and we need to make our reservations and travel arrangements. For more information on the NYE, go to their website at <http://www.uccpages.org/nye/>

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](#)

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!



**PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COUNCIL MEETING -
December 08, 2015**

Attendees: Pastor Bill Hoch, John Haldeman, Bobbie Porter-Kunkel, Pat Hall, Chris Fitterling, Pat Acebo, Mary Getz, Art Pannebecker, Vickie Schweitzer.

Excused: Jim Anthony, Mike Madara, Cindy Anthony, Vaye Freeman, Amy Miller

Unexcused: Fran Hollen

President John Haldeman brought the council meeting of Peace United Church of Christ to order on Tuesday, December 08, 2015. Pastor Bill started the meeting off with devotions and prayer.

Review of last month's minutes – Chris Fitterling made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Pat Acebo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – No report

Administrator's Report - The new sign is in place. The camel is missing from the Nativity scene outside.

Pastor's Report - In September, Fran fell and we received her hospital bill. The bill was given to the insurance company. Pat Hall made a motion to serve as the Chartered organization for the Boy Scout troop if asked as discussed last month and Vicki Schweitzer seconded. Motion carried. Pastor Bill said he feels that Gabby is going a good job. Lifeline screening has asked to use the Church on March 30. Pat Acebo made a motion to allow that and Art Pannebecker seconded. Motion carried. There is no new information on the senior center. Eric and Gerry Ann Flicker will be transferring to Peace.

Children and Youth Ministry Report - The Christmas program will be held on December 13.

Spiritual Council Report, Budget and Finance Report, Health and Welfare Report, Outreach Report, Youth Report - No report

Benevolence Committee Report - Request to give \$750 to Lancaster Council of Churches to go towards the YWCA women's winter shelter. Art Pannebecker made a motion to accept these donations and Pat Hall seconded. Motion carried.

Stewardship Committee Report - January 17 is the next meeting.

Adult Ministry Report - 42 people helped with Hanging of the Greens.

Altar Guild Report - There is no Peace Pantry at this time

Old Business - No report

New Business - Officers for 2016: President – Chris Fitterling, Vice President – Cindy Anthony, Secretary – Jim Anthony, Treasurer – Mike Madara, Administrator – John Haldeman. Pat Acebo made a motion to accept the new slate of officers for 2016 as presented and Vicki Schweitzer seconded. Motion carried.

Make sure all doors are secure before you leave building. Children will hand out candles to people on Christmas Eve. Ushers were named for Christmas Eve service. John Haldeman thanked council for their support over the years.

The next council meeting will be Tuesday, January 12, 2016. Being no further business, Pat Hall motioned to adjourn and Bobbie Porter-Kunkel seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Getz - Secretary Pro Temp



Merry Little Christmas



ANGEL
BELLS
BLESSED
CAROLS
CHILDREN
COMFORT
DING DONG
FAMILY

FESTIVE
GLAD
GREETINGS
HOPE
JINGLE
JOLLY
JOYFUL
LIGHTS

MIRACLE
MUSIC
PEACE
REJOICE
SHINING
SINGING
THANKFUL



January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Audrey Priga	2 Ben Priga
3 8:30 am Contemporary Service 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Traditional Worship Sarah Priga	4 Steven & Rebecca Priga	5 1 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Health and Welfare Meeting Nancy Reese	7 pm Choir Rehearsal Dale & Donna Reinhart	7 Margaret Robinson	8 Clara Roland	9 4:30 pm Abigail Butz Memorial Spaghetti Dinner Fred & Sally Romich
10 8:30 am Contemporary Service 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Traditional Worship and Christmas program 12:15 Youth Meeting Carol Sanders	11 Allen & Cheryl Schlouch	12 1 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Spiritual Council 7 pm Church Council Harvey & Esther Schlouch	13 7 pm Choir Rehearsal Betty Schweitzer	14 Dan Schweitzer	15 Dixie Schweitzer	16 Eric Schweitzer
17 8:30 am Contemporary Service 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Traditional Worship Jane Schweitzer	18 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal Richard & Vickie Schweitzer	19 1 pm Bible Study Andrew & Stephanie Shalhade	20 7 pm Choir Rehearsal Mary Shober	21 Hans Shollenberger	22 Keith & Linda Shollenberger	23 Myles Shollenberger
24 8:30 am Contemporary Service 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Traditional Worship 11:45 am Youth Luncheon Ella Mae Shupp	25 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal Fred Stauffer	26 Randy Stauffer	27 7 pm Choir Rehearsal Mary Jane Steely	28 Mike & Bobbie Jo Steffey	29 Emily Steffey	30 Ed Stork
31 8:30 am Contemporary Service 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Traditional Worship Brian & Susie Strouse						

PEACE NOTES

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

Return Service Requested

January Events

January 9th - Abigail Butz Memorial Spaghetti Dinner – 4:30 pm

January 24th - Youth Luncheon – 11:45 am

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.

Rev. William E. Hoch, Pastor
pastor@peaceunitedchurch.org
(717) 335-0387

Beverly Madara, Editor
secretary@peaceunitedchurch.org
(717) 484-0895

January 2016