



PEACENOTES

March



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

PASTOR'S PAGE

The following article was written by UCC minister Bill Green. Bill is a colleague and was my predecessor at my previous church.

Our forebears sometimes reacted against the complexities of theology, the wordiness of worship, and emotion that passed for devotion. Among them, members of the Society of Friends (“Quakers”) stand out. None had a greater impact on the rest of the church than John Greenleaf Whittier. This 19th century poet and journalist authored almost 100 hymns, including today’s.

The words are from a long narrative poem, “The Brewing of Soma.” This first appeared in a prominent periodical still published today: *The Atlantic* (1872). As the magazine put it, “Whittier describes ‘pagan’ priests going into the forest and drinking themselves into a stupor with a concoction called soma. They try to have a religious experience and contact the spirit world. It is after setting that scene that Whittier draws his lesson: ‘Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways...’”

In these strong terms Whittier compares the frenzied ecstasies of “soma” to the comparable foolishness of Christians in the sometimes excessive emotionalism of our own faith—as in what he considered “noisy” worship. This obscures God’s “still, small voice.” He particularly deplored revivals but also any confusion of intensity of feeling with quality of faith.

Although Whittier lived well over a century ago his concern rings true in our own times. Many are

looking for an “experience” to prove the reality of God, some kind of spiritual high. They—sometimes

we ourselves—question faith and God’s presence if we can’t feel it to be true. But as with the actual circumstances of our lives, what we feel to be true is not necessarily what is true. I may feel slighted or disliked; I may feel unworthy or helpless. Conversely, I may believe I don’t care that much about what others think or need their support. Our feelings easily distort facts. And so with faith. The reality of God’s presence does not depend on the strength or verification of our feelings.

Of course emotions are important. Surely they can be helpful. But while natural companions they are poor guides. Feelings can be like static that interferes with quieter truth. When we’re facing hard times, they can be, as the hymn puts it, like “earthquake, wind, and fire.”

Listen to “the sound of silence,” as Simon and Garfunkel sang. “Be still,” says the Psalmist, then “know that I am God.” (46:10)

God is with us all the time, regardless of what we are facing, thinking...or feeling. The silence of this simple faith can work wonders for us. As during Lent we prepare for the wonderful alleluias of Easter may we also remember to keep room for the powerful quiet of God’s peace.

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

Jeff Moyer

ALTAR GUILD

Edit Graff
Dixie Schweitzer

GREETERS

March 6 Ray and Bobbie Kunkel
March 13 Mardel Lausch
March 20 Brad Wolf Family
March 27 Pat Wolf and Lori, Cole and Taylor Patterson

ALTAR FLOWERS

March 6 Mrs. Richard L. Fisher
March 13 Robert and Beverly Martin
March 20 Betty Leisey
March 27 Mike and Bev Madara

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 office desk or email it to:

secretary@peaceunitedchurch.org

Thank you! This email address can also be used for information to be printed in the Sunday bulletin.

March Birthdays

March 1	Lois Haldeman
March 2	Jimmy Dorsey
March 4	Heidi Sunday
March 5	Allen Garner Susan McIlmoyle
March 6	Olivia Moyer Stephanie Shahade
March 8	Karen Sweigart
March 10	Kathy Strunk
March 12	Ann Englert Cindy Anderson
March 13	Carolyn Wolverton Pat Hall
March 14	Betty Schweitzer** Bertha Adair Ralph Good
March 15	Melissa Burky Allyson Butz
March 17	Daniel Wolf
March 18	Karen Pannebecker
March 20	Maxine Burky
March 26	Stacy Burkey
March 28	Arlene Styer** Virginia Tobias
March 30	Gene Huston** Ella Mae Shupp
March 31	Dan Hall

** 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.

March Anniversaries

March 4	Harvey and Esther Schlouch Brian and Susie Strouse
March 8	Jay and Stacy Burkey
March 17	Don and Sue Calhoon
March 19	Andrew and Stephanie Shahade

thank you

Thank you to everyone for all the cards, prayers and concerns while I am going through chemotherapy and other treatments. All the acts of kindness are greatly appreciated.

Doris Fultz

Thanks to all the members of the congregation who contributed food for the Ash Wednesday service. We always have a bountiful table and this year was no exception.

Pat Acebo

PEACE PANTRY



will be collecting new **white** men's socks for the homeless veterans throughout Pennsylvania. These socks will be distributed by John and Mary Getz to the homeless veterans' shelters.

LENTEN SERIES
The Stations of the Cross
All services begin at 7:30

- March 2 – Swamp Christian Fellowship,
Swamp Church Road, Reinholds -
Bill Hoch – preaching
- March 9 – St. John’s United Church of Christ,
South 4th Street Denver,
Phil Horning – preaching
- March 16 – Emmanuel Evang. Cong. Church,
Main Street Adamstown,
Mike Roney – preaching



HOLY WEEK
WORSHIP
SCHEDULE

- Maunder Thursday**, March 24th – 7:30 – a service remembering the night on which Jesus offered the first communion. We will gather in groups of 12 around the table for communion.
- Good Friday**, March 25th – 7:30 – a reading of the passion story from the various Gospels. The Sanctuary will be in darkness for that we might focus on the words.
- Holy Saturday**, March 26th – Easter Vigil – we invite you to spend time on the Sanctuary, about a half hour, reflecting on God’s grace in preparation for the Resurrection Morning. A sign up sheet is posted on the office window

EASTER EGG HUNT

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, March 19 beginning at 10 am. As always this is an open event so please invite your



friends, neighbors and extended family – grandchildren, great-grandchildren, cousins and friends. Refreshments will follow in our Fellowship Hall. There is a basket in the Narthex if you would like to donate packages of individually wrapped pieces of candy.



Life Line Screening will be here at Peace United Church of Christ on Wednesday, March 30, 2016 offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health and to live longer for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these potentially life-saving tests today. To register for your screening and to receive a \$10 discount, please call – 1-888-653-6450 or visit www.LifeLineScreening.com/community-partners.

YOUTH NEWS



You maybe asking yourself “what can I do?” There are several ways that everyone can help. First, everyone is invited to come out to the fellowship hall on March 12th to help make peanut butter eggs. We need help in all stages of the process, whether it’s mixing the ingredients, forming the eggs, dipping the eggs in the chocolate, trimming the eggs, or boxing the eggs. We are making 25 batches of eggs. That equals approximately 2500 eggs.

The second way to help in the fundraiser is to donate some of the needed ingredients needed to make the eggs. There is a list on the office window. All ingredients need to be at the church no later than March 6th.

The last way to help with this fundraiser is to purchase some peanut butter eggs. For \$7, you will receive 16 homemade chocolate covered peanut butter eggs. There is a sign-up sheet on the office window or email youth@peaceunitedchurch.org to place your order. The eggs will be available for pick up on March 13 after both services.

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild will be taking orders for Easter Lilies on Sunday March 6th, 13th, and 20th before and after worship. The cost is \$8.00 for a 5-6 bloom plant. The Easter Lilies will be in the church sanctuary for Easter Sunday, March 27th and should be taken home after the service.



 The Altar Guild will be preparing the palms for Palm Sunday on Saturday March 20th at 8:30 am and will be placing the Easter Lilies in the church sanctuary on Friday March 25th after the Good Friday evening services.



PEACE UCC COUNCIL MEETING

February 16, 2016

(Rescheduled from February 09 due to snow)

Attendees: Pastor Bill Hoch, Chris Fitterling, Dan Hall, Cindy Anthony, Vaye Freeman, Jeff Moyer, Vicki Wissinger, Mark Kline, Jim Anthony, John Haldeman, Mike Madara.

Excused: Mary Getz, Art Pannebecker, Vickie Schweitzer, John McDonough, Pat Acebo

Unexcused: Amy Miller

Guests: Mike Marti and members and parents of prospective Boy Scout Troop 4318

President Chris Fitterling brought the council meeting of Peace United Church of Christ to order on Tuesday, February 16, 2016. President Fitterling introduced Mike Marti of prospective Boy Scout Troop 4318. Mike Marti presented the following information to Council:

Prospective Boy Scout Troop 4218 is looking for a home and is asking Peace United Church of Christ to serve as that home. The Church has already been hosting the Troop on a temporary basis and they are requesting to become officially affiliated with us. The Troop would be chartered to the Church via a written agreement. The Troop would be a part of the Church and use our Tax ID number. Even though the Troop would be a part of the Church, they would run autonomously. The Church would have control over the selection of the Adult leadership of the Troop. Mike wishes to turn over a new leaf with the troop after some issues and instability in the past.

If the Church chooses to Charter the Boy Scout Troop, the Troop would need 3 things from the Church:

1. A place to meet
2. A place to display things (awards, etc.)
3. A place to store camping gear

The Scouts already meet at the Church. They would need a portion of a wall in the Fellowship Hall to display awards and other various things. The Troop would also need some space to store their camping gear. They would be willing to build another shed on the property for storage. They do not have much gear to store at this point in time.

The Boy Scout Troop would participate in 2 work days a year to help the Church. They would do whatever the Church needed on those 2 days a year to help maintain the Church. They would also participate in Scout Sunday. Scout Sunday is a day where the Scouts worship with us and participate in the Service. This would help introduce the Scouts

to the Church and support the Boy Scouts faith journey.

Mike Marti thanked President Fitterling and the Council for their time and for considering the proposal.

Pastor Bill started the meeting off with devotions and prayer.

Review of last month's minutes – Vaye Freeman made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Cindy Anthony seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Mike Madara presented the financial report for the month of January. All of the expenses for the projector and installation are paid for and reflect in the January report. The sub and chili sale profit is not in January's report. Actual income was above our actual expenses this month. The salary for the Worship Leader officially began in January and is being taken care of. Mike needs to speak to the manager at the bank, then we will be receiving the Church credit cards. He has an appointment this week. The electric bill for January was lower than anticipated. Mark Kline made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented and Dan Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ACCOUNT BALANCES as of 01/31/2016	JANUARY
FUNDS SUMMARY	ENDING BALANCE
CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$742.69
MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT	\$10814.18
GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT (COMBINED)	\$11556.87
CAPITAL HOLDING ACCOUNT (LIQUID CD)	\$25123.25
MEMORIAL FUND (MMA)	\$6560.74
YOUTH FUND (MMA)	\$5370.69
PETTY CASH	\$75.00
ACCOUNT BALANCES	\$48686.55
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT CHECKING	\$3193.75

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT LIQUID CD	\$16086.11
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND TOTAL	\$19279.86
ENDOWMENT CHECKING (RESTRICTED USE)	\$8260.36
ENDOWMENT LIQUID CD (RESTRICTED USE)	\$31688.27
ENDOWMENT CDS (RESTRICTED USE)	\$104554.10
MONEY FUNDS (CETERA)	\$10988.89
MUTUAL FUNDS (CETERA)	\$146185.91
ENDOWMENT FUND TOTAL	\$301677.53
TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE	\$369643.94

Administrator's Report - John reminded everyone to lock the doors behind them during meetings at the Church. John stressed that this is not a safety issue, but it is a good idea to protect the Church. John installed a wireless doorbell on the front door to let the pastor know when people come to the church during the week. John is installing signs to let people know about the doorbell.

Paul Flickinger contacted John about his art class. He runs 3 10 week semesters in the Church. Paul requested to switch his class to Saturdays from 10am until 1pm. Saturday would work better for his students. He is willing to move class to a Sunday School room if there are events planned in the Fellowship Hall or to cancel if there are events in the whole Church. Council provided a list of dates to John that the hall will be in use so he can communicate those dates to Paul.

There is a leak in the overflow section of the Sanctuary. When the new Air Conditioning system was installed in the Sanctuary, all the old duct work was stored above the ceiling. This was necessary as it was impossible to practically remove. The blizzard brought some snow in through the intakes for the old system. One of the 2 intakes still has duct work attached to it and poses no issues. The other intake had a grill placed over it to seal the opening and it must have blown open somehow.

The work crew will work to seal that opening by either closing the grill, or placing bricks over the opening.

In the Fellowship Hall and all Sunday School rooms, the fluorescent lights are setup to use T12 bulbs, which are no longer being manufactured due to energy efficiency regulations. We will need to replace the bulbs and ballast in these fixtures as we will no longer be able to purchase new bulbs for them. The lights in the Fellowship Hall will all be updated first, and the spare bulbs and ballasts that come out of the Fellowship Hall will be used in the Sunday School rooms until we run out of them. There are 46 lights that we are currently looking to upgrade. The work crew is able to convert the T12 fixtures to use the T8 ballasts and bulbs, and will do so when they get the chance. The cost would be approximately \$13-\$15 per ballast, and approximately \$160-\$200 per case of 100 bulbs. The new ballasts are forward compatible with the T8 LED bulbs which will eventually replace the T8 fluorescent bulbs. John requested approval to purchase 48 ballasts and 100 bulbs. Jeff Moyer made a motion to approve the purchase of materials and Dan Hall seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Bill is still waiting to hear more information about the Senior Center proposal. He now has a contact person he is working with. There is a Faith Exploration event on Sunday February 21st. Courtney Hall will be speaking.

The Cub Scouts requested the use of the Fellowship Hall on February 26th and 27th for their Pinewood Derby. They would setup on Friday and have the event on Saturday. There will be no conflict with the dinner the Youth are holding on Sunday the 28th. Cindy Anthony made a motion to approve the use of the Fellowship Hall by the Cub Scouts and Jeff Moyer seconded. Motion carried.

On March 24th we will have our Maundy Thursday service and on March 25th we will have our Good Friday service. On Easter Sunday we will be having our Dawn Service, the Contemporary Service, and

our Traditional Service. Gabby will be preaching at the Easter Dawn service, and Pastor Bill will be preaching at both the Contemporary Service and the Traditional Service.

Gabby is taking a preaching course this semester and is requesting to preach on Palm Sunday (March 20th) and on May 8th. Gabby will also be speaking on February 28th about her cross cultural experience.

Pastor Bill distributed copies of the Church's Safe Church policy. Pastor Bill presented and explained the policy. Chris Fitterling asked Council members to read and review the policy and the policy will be discussed during the March meeting.

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

Benevolence Committee Report -There will be a meeting on March 7th.

Stewardship Committee Report -There will be a Faith Exploration event held this Sunday, February 21st. Courtney Hall will be speaking about her trip.

Adult Ministry Report -Adult Ministry served the refreshments after the Ash Wednesday service. They are planing to hold an event in May with Bluegrass music as the theme.

Altar Guild Report - For the months of February and March the Peace Pantry will be collecting new white socks for homeless veterans throughout Pennsylvania.

The Altar Guild will be taking orders for Easter Lilies on Sunday, March 6th, 13th, and 20th. The orders will be taken both before and after our Traditional worship service. The cost is \$8.00 for a 5-6 bloom plant. The Easter Lilies will be placed in the church sanctuary on Friday, March 25th after our Good Friday service. The lilies will be in the Sanctuary for the Easter Prayer Vigil and our Easter Sunday services. The lilies should be taken home after the 10:30am Traditional service on Easter Sunday.

The Altar Guild will be preparing the palms for Palm Sunday on Saturday, March 19th at 8:30am.

Youth Report - During their January luncheon the youth served approximately 70 people. The youth brought in \$404.04, and the expenses for the meal was \$129.65. The youth made a total profit of \$274.39 from the luncheon. The youth would like to thank the congregation for their generous support.

The youth also had their annual sub and chili sale. They sold 94 12" subs, 46 pretzel sandwiches, and 103 quarts of chili. The youth made a total profit of \$709.49 on the sandwiches and chili and received another 63.75 in donations for a total profit of \$773.24.

The next fundraiser for the youth is the peanut butter egg sale. The youth will make the eggs on March 12. There is a sign-up sheet on the office window. A one pound box of eggs will cost \$7.00. There is also a sign-up sheet for donations of the materials we need to make the eggs.

We currently have 6 people committed to going to the National Youth Event in Florida this summer. Bethany UCC is organizing a bus with Elite Coach. There are 4-5 churches in the area that are going to be going down together and sharing a bus. This is a big cost saving measure. The Elite coach is reserved, there are approximately 45 people going on the bus. Bethany UCC has 19 committed, Church of the Apostles has 10 committed, St Johns UCC has 9 committed, and Peace has 6 committed to going. There is another church that is still undecided on transportation, and they may go with us as well.

There may be a possibility that we are only leaving to come home Saturday night so we may get an extra day at the park. There may be an extra expense for an extra day's ticket to Disney. We will be driving through the night on Saturday and sleeping on the bus. The youth will return that Sunday.

If we continue to have the support of the congregation as we have so far, we will have enough funds to pay for the Florida trip in full. We

have not needed additional support from Benevolence last year or this year as we have needed on past mission trips. This is due to the generosity of the congregation and the cost saving measures we've been working on to increase the profit margins of our fundraisers without sacrificing quality. An example of our cost savings is that we made 103 quarts of chili for \$2.63 per quart. We made a profit of \$3.62 per quart of chili that we sold. Cindy Anthony thanked the council and the congregation for their continued support.

Old Business - President Fitterling asked if there were any comments as a follow up to the thoughts Pat Wolf shared at the January meeting. It was suggested that we communicate to other churches that are out of our area to gather ideas. It was also suggested that members of the congregation "share" our Social Media posts with their friends. We should also reach out to some of the new developments that are going in and have brochures to place in the model homes in these developments.

New Business - A sign up will be posted this week for the Easter Prayer Vigil. Please sign up to participate in this experience.

The topic of potentially chartering Boy Scout Troop 4318 was discussed. It was suggested that we work with the Scouts to have some events together. Vaye Freeman made a motion to approve the Chartering agreement with the Boy Scouts and Cindy Anthony seconded. Motion carried. Council appointed John McDonough to serve as the Chartered Organization representative to Boy Scout Troop 4318. He will serve as a liaison between the Church and the Troop.

The next council meeting will be Tuesday, March 08, 2016. Being no further business, Cindy Anthony motioned to adjourn and Jim Anthony seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Anthony
Council Secretary

March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 No Bible Study 6:30 pm Health & Welfare meetings Cliff & Audrey Youndt	2 7:30 pm Lenten Service Connie Youndt	3 7 pm Choir Rehearsal Dolly Youndt	4 Kenneth & Helen Youndt	5 Kerry Youndt
6 8:30 am Contemporary Service 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Traditional Worship Bill & Martha Young	7 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Benevolence meeting Michael & Theresa Youtz	8 1 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Spiritual Council 7 pm Church Council Joe & Pat Acebo	9 7:30 pm Lenten Service Claude & Bertha Adair	10 7 pm Choir Rehearsal Michael & Cindy Anderson	11 Jim Anthony	12 9 am Youth making PB eggs Mark Anthony
13 8:30 am Contemporary Service 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Traditional Matt & Cindy Anthony	14 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal Danelle Bailey	15 1 pm Bible Study George & Eleanor Bailey	16 7:30 pm Lenten Service Jody & Barb Becker	17 7 pm Choir Rehearsal Jack & Mary Bernstel	18 Alice Binns	19 Craig Bixler
20 Palm Sunday 8:30 am Contemporary Service 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Traditional Worship Georgan Bixler	21 Jay & Stacy Burkey	22 No Bible Study Nichole Burkey	23 7 pm Choir Rehearsal Tiffany Burkey	24 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service Glenn Burky	25 7:30 pm Good Friday Service Maxine Burky	26 Easter Vigil Melissa Burky
27 Easter Sunday 7:00 am Easter Dawn Service 8:30 am Contemporary Service 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Traditional Worship Robert Burky	28 Allyson Butz	29 1 pm Bible Study George & Lila Butz	30 7 pm Choir Rehearsal Tim & Kristine Butz	31 Don & Sue Calhoon		

PEACE NOTES

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

Return Service Requested

March Events

March 24th - Maundy Thursday Service – 7:30 pm

March 25th - Good Friday Service – 7:30 pm

March 26th - Easter Vigil

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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March 2016