



PEACENOTES



December

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

PASTOR'S PAGE

In Matthew's Gospel there is no journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. There is no mention of taxes or any enrollment. Likewise there is no journey back to Nazareth. When the Magi arrive on the scene about 2 years later, Mary, Joseph and the baby are still in Bethlehem. There is no mention of "no room at the inn" and no baby Jesus being born in a stable because they didn't need a room, they didn't need a stable, they were already there. There are no shepherds or stars, but the Holy Family is forced to flee to Egypt to escape the wrath of Herod.

Luke's is the preferred narrative. In Luke's Gospel there are no Magi, no gift, no threat and no hiding out in Egypt. Luke tells us about the journey and the in hospitality they discover in their own hometown. They are forced to hunker down in a stable where Jesus is born and laid in a manger. Luke's is the story of shepherds and angels and the discovery of he who is born to redeem his people.

We don't know which of the stories is more accurate, and in our minds we have blended these two versions into one because it is easier that way, we don't have to deal with the discrepancies.

Mark was smart he didn't deal with the birth; he chose not to take sides. And for John it just wasn't important. The importance of Jesus' birth only became significant in later years.

What was important and what IS important is that God's Messiah had come!

In this season we look forward to celebrating, once again, this eternal truth – Christ has come. And, we celebrate this truth with the knowledge that Christ will come again.

May the acknowledgment of this truth make our Advent Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love shine brighter in our lives and in our world.

May Peace on Earth and Good Will to all be our goal this year and always.

Pastor Bill



Peace United Church of Christ

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

Chris Fitterling

ALTAR GUILD

Edie Graff
Dixie Schweitzer

GREETERS

December 4 Jody and Barb Becker
December 11 Linda Coventry
December 18 Rosie Johnston and Tyler Hertzog
December 24 The Butz Family
December 25 Jim Gress

ALTAR FLOWERS

December 4 Art and Karen Pannebecker
December 11 Claude and Bertha Adair
December 18 Ron and Carol Parker
December 25 Jay and Stacy Burkey

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 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.

December Birthdays

- 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 Steffey
Samuel Steffey
- December 15** Art Pannebecker
Tim Heil
- December 17** Heather Burky
- December 18** Duane Good
- December 19** Georgean Bixler
- 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.

December Anniversaries

- December 3** Wesley and Hazel Sweigart
- December 13** Allen and Cheryl Schlouch
- December 14** Bill and Martha Young
- December 23** Harold and Ann Kohl

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.

thank you

Many thanks to the members of Peace Church for the lovely retirement dinner on October 30. Thank you for the cards, gifts and fellowship. It truly was a wonderful evening

Virginia Tobias

I would like to thank the Health and Welfare Committee for the nice fruit basket and Pastor Bill for his visit. I pray everyone had a nice Thanksgiving. We all have much to be thankful for this season of the year.

I'd also like to thank all the members who sent me birthday cards for my 97th birthday. I appreciated Pastor Bill's visit and delivering the cards. Thank you very much.

Anna Hopkins

Thank you to all of the congregation for the prayers and cards during George's hospital and rehab stay. Also a very special thank you to Pastor Bill for his visits and his words of encouragement and all the prayers. Please continue to keep George in your thoughts it would be most appreciated!

George and Eleanor Bailey

Thank you for the cards and prayers I received when my sister passed away. They were comforting and greatly appreciated.

Lillian Messner

Peace UCC,

Thank you to everyone who supported the blood drive this year as well as those who prepared a wonderful breakfast for all to enjoy.

*Sincerely,
The Butz Family*

Thank you to everyone that came out to support the pancake breakfast the youth provided during the Abigail Butz Memorial Blood Drive.

Peace Youth

Dear Pastor Bill and Peace Church,
It is difficult to put into words the gratitude I have felt for all of the expressions of thankfulness I received at the dinner in Virginia's and my honor. The food and decorations were absolutely beautiful. I'm sure many hours were spent by many people in planning this event.

Also, thanks for the exquisite pendant I received. I will wear it with pride! Thanks to all who made this such a lovely event.

Lois Haldeman



There will be no Peace Pantry during the month of December.

WINTER AND CHURCH CLOSING



As you know I am always hesitant to close the church. Even when the snow flies, if I can be at the church – I will! And if someone shows up – we will worship.

HOWEVER, just because that is my choice it does not have to be your choice. If the roads are questionable for you, I do not expect you to be here!! If you feel that the parking lot conditions will be risky for you, please stay at home. I don't expect anyone to take unnecessary risks!!

But in the event that the weather and road conditions are so bad and we have no choice, church and other activities will be canceled. Cancellations will be posted in the following ways:

· **WGAL** – depending on how many cancellation they are dealing with they may or may not post church cancellations – this is their policy. If they are not posted on TV, they will be posted on the WGAL website under cancellations.

· **CHURCH WEBSITE** and **CHURCH FACEBOOK** will be used to post closings.

· **EMAIL** mass email will be sent out to all members for whom we have current email addresses. If we do not have your email or a current email, please provide those to the church office and you will be included on any mass emails. Because these will be mass emails, on Sundays where the weather is questionable, please check your inbox and your junk or spam boxes just to be sure they have not been detoured.

ADVENT and CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Sunday, November 27th – 1st Sunday of Advent – Communion

Sunday, December 4 – Hanging of the Greens following worship

Sunday, December 11 – Children and Youth will participate in Worship

Sunday, December 18 – Faith and Fellowship Sunday. We invite those who attend the early service to stay a little longer and those who attend the later service to arrive a little early for fellowship and conversation.

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 7:30

Sunday, December 25 – There will be one service at 10:30 and no Sunday School

An evening of Caroling is being planned; date and time will be announced.

HEALTH AND WELFARE



On Sunday, December 4th 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 Wednesday, December 7th 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.

ALTAR GUILD



Christmas poinsettias can be ordered before and after the 10:30 worship service on Sunday November 27th, December 4th and December 11th. The poinsettias will be placed in the

church for worship services on December 18th and will be there for Christmas Eve. You may take your poinsettias home after the Christmas Eve service or following the Christmas morning service. The poinsettias are red, 1 branch, 5 bloom and cost \$7.00 and can be taken home after the Christmas Eve service.

SPECIAL CARE AND CONCERN

We always remember our SCC Members on their birthdays. Birthday cards for each SCC Member can be placed in the birthday card 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 4th to share with our SCC members when the Health and Welfare Committee packs their Christmas bags.

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
Maxine Burky	March 20
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
Lori Hartranft	September 12
Ethel Leshner	September 20
Warren "Slats" Trostle	September 27
Leonore Fitterling	October 14
Anna Hopkins	October 18
Kathryn Fitterling	October 20
Richard Palsgrove	November 3
Sally Fasnacht	November 18
Dianne Tothoro	November 19
Judy High	December 2
Betty Leisey	December 31

MUSINGS

by Lois Haldeman

You have just begun to read what will, hopefully, be my monthly offering to Peace Notes. I have always enjoyed writing and ruminating on various subjects so this opportunity is a kind of outlet for me. As always, your thoughts and feedback will be more than appreciated.

"Wow!!" Haven't the last few weeks been a "roller coaster" of emotions? I'm specifically thinking of the World Series, the presidential election, and the Thanksgiving holiday.

Even if you are not much of a baseball fan, you had to be aware that the Chicago Cubs had not won a World Series since 1908. Both the Cubs and the Cleveland Indians entered the matchup with the longest World Series title droughts. So, needless to say, emotions of both players and fans ran high. Anticipation, disappointment, frustration, joy, disbelief, pride and happiness reigned, just to name a few feelings.

After that, we experienced an Election Day like no other in American history. It didn't matter what political party you were aligned with, what

your race, creed or color...emotions again ran amok. Although certainly more important in scope than the World Series, the campaign process and election elicited many, many feelings in all of us. Anger, happiness, disbelief, hopefulness, fear, joy, frustration are but a few of the emotions that were running high.

Lastly, we experienced the Thanksgiving holiday. By tradition, it should be a time for family, sharing and caring. And for many it is just that; but for those who are struggling and alone it is a time of need and hopelessness. Frustration and despair can easily overcome positive feelings.

And so I come to the summary of the emotions of the last few weeks and again I say "Wow!!" Go back and summarize the emotions above (and you may add your own) and you will hopefully start to see why you feel so stressed, confused, maybe even lost. But....here's the rub: Look forward! Christmas is soon upon us with the promise of newness and hope. Rebirth is not only Christ's but it can be ours, too. May your holidays be blessed, joyous, and hopeful.

YOUTH LUNCHEON

The youth are hosting a luncheon after the traditional service on Sunday, December 11. Take some time out of the business of the Christmas season and join us for good food and fellowship. The meal does not cost anything. Donations will be accepted. We hope to see everyone

ADULT MINISTRY

The Christmas theme this year is "Make a Joyful Noise Unto The Lord."
The sanctuary tree will be decorated with instrument ornaments donated by Virginia Tobias.
The narthex tree will feature angels, "Hark the Heralded Angels Sing." We are

Asking that members bring in angel ornaments for the tree (You will receive them back after Christmas.)
We are also asking for members to bring in nativity sets for display during the Fellowship Hour between services on Sunday, December 18th.

YOU'RE INVITED...

to the 10th annual spaghetti dinner
in memory of
Abigail Kristine Butz,
on January 14th 2017
from 5:00 to 7:00
at the Peace UCC fellowship hall.

We are sponsoring this dinner to honor Abigail's life and help to raise money and awareness for three of the organizations that have helped us. The dinner is free. Donations will be accepted for the Ronald McDonald House of Delaware, A.I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Delaware and the Histiocytosis Association of America (researches cures for HLH). You may write a check directly to the organization of your choice.

We look forward to seeing many familiar faces at the dinner as we honor Abigail's life as well as the opportunity to pass forward all the support we received as well as bring awareness for research for HLH (and other rare blood diseases).
We look forward to spending time with you at the spaghetti dinner. Please feel free to share this invitation with others and bring some friends!!

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



PEACE UCC COUNCIL MEETING
November 08, 2016

Attendees: Pastor Bill Hoch, Chris Fitterling, John McDonough, Cindy Anthony, Pat Acebo, Mary Getz, Vaye Freeman, Art Pannebecker, Vicki Wissinger, Mark Kline, Jim Anthony, John Haldeman.

Excused: Amy Miller, Vickie Schweitzer, Dan Hall, Jeff Moyer, Mike Madara.

President Chris Fitterling brought the council meeting of Peace United Church of Christ to order on Tuesday, November 08, 2016. Pastor Bill started the meeting off with devotions and prayer.

Review of last month's minutes – There were 2 minor typos that were in the printed copy distributed at the meeting. Pat Acebo made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Cindy Anthony seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – No report

Administrator's Report - New Castle has completed their work as approved. John received confirmation that Guy Fultz is doing our snow removal again this year.

We need a new floor buffer. We purchased our current one used in 2004, and it overheats and trips the circuit breaker after using it for about 15 minutes. John received 2 bids on this, and recommends going with the cheaper of the two - Clear Image \$667.30. He recommended them because they were cheaper, and will deliver the unit and train us how to use it. John McDonough made a motion to purchase the floor buffer from

Clean Images as presented to Council and Mark Kline seconded. Motion carried.

The message sign along Rt. 897 needs to be painted. The work crew didn't get to it, and they have some concerns about it. The old paint came off too easily, and now bare aluminum is exposed on the sign. John recommended getting the aluminum professionally painted, because it is difficult to do. John presented an estimate from Horst Sign for a total of \$465. This includes materials and approx. 6 hours of labor. It was suggested that buckets be put out on a Sunday in January to offset some of the cost of this project. If the total collected is under the cost, it will be covered, and if it is over, the extra will go to the maintenance fund. Art Pannebecker made a motion to go forward with this work and to place the donation buckets out and Pat Acebo seconded. Motion carried.

The work crew will set up for the Congregational Dinner.

Pastor's Report - The copier was serviced. There is a chance that Conestoga Copiers are near the point where they will no longer renew our contract. Stratix has offered to take over, or provide a new contract if this happens. The copier is quite old, and there is no need to replace it at this point, but this is just a heads up that action may need to be taken at some point in the future if our contract is not renewed.

The Church has received a donation of a MacBook Pro to support the Contemporary Service. This goes a long way towards improving the experience in that service.

Thanksgiving Eve worship will be at Muddy Creek at 7:30pm. Pastor Bill will be preaching. The Girl Scouts will be having a breakfast in the Fellowship Hall on December 03. Hanging of the Greens will be December 04. We will be having a faith and fellowship event on December 18. We will have one service on Christmas Day at 10:30am.

Christmas Eve worship will follow our normal schedule.

As part of our CCLI License, we were selected to report the music that we use for our Contemporary Service. This is a normal part of the license. Pastor Bill and Courtney are working on this.

Children and Youth Ministry Report - The Fall Fest went very well. There were more than 60 people attending. A good time was had by all.

Spiritual Council Report - President Fitterling passed around the Communion Signup for November 27. The Congregational Dinner was organized. Chili will be served for the Hanging of the Greens.

Budget and Finance Report, Faith Exploration Report - No report

Benevolence Committee Report - There is a meeting scheduled for December 05.

Adult Ministry Report - The Choir is going to the Barnstormers again this year. The date is still to be determined. Adult Ministry will be organizing a trip for the Congregation to go with if they wish.

Health and Welfare Report - Health and Welfare is making Fruit and Food baskets for our SCC members, these will be distributed in November. There will be a presentation at Keystone Villa on November 09. December 07 is the Colonial Lodge Christmas Party.

Altar Guild Report - Christmas poinsettias can be ordered before and after the 10:30 worship service on Sunday November 27, December 04 and 11. The poinsettias will be placed in the church on Saturday December 17 and will be in place for December 18 and 24. The poinsettias are red, 1 branch, 5 bloom and cost \$7.00. They can be taken home after the Christmas Eve service.

In November the Peace Pantry will be collecting small gift items for the residents at Colonial Lodge.

These gifts will be wrapped and put into Santa's bag for when the Health and Welfare committee visits Colonial Lodge for a Christmas Party. There is no Peace Pantry for December

Youth Report - 18 people went on the trip to the corn maze. The youth are now meeting regularly. There will be a lunch after worship on December 11. The mystery dinner will be held on January 21.

Old Business - We are still waiting for more information about changes to the laws relating to payroll.

New Business -

The next council meeting will be Tuesday, December 13, 2016. Being no further business, John McDonough made a motion to adjourn and Art Pannebecker seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Anthony,
Council Secretary

December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7 pm Choir Rehearsal Jason & Pam Getz	2 6 pm Youth Group Meeting John & Mary Getz	3 Adam Good
4 8:30 am Contemporary Service 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Traditional 11:30 am Hanging of the Greens Alicia Good	5 6 pm Benevolence Meeting 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal Betty Good	6 1 pm Bible Study Duane & Yinell Good	7 7 pm Marketing Meeting Greg & Kathy Good	8 7 pm Choir Rehearsal Ralph & Carole good	9 Charlie & Edie Graff	10 10 am Prep for youth luncheon Gary Gress
11 8:30 am Contemporary Service 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Traditional 11:30 am Youth Luncheon Jim & Margaret Gress	12 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal Greg & Cindy Grill	13 1 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Spiritual Council 7:00 Church Council Mary Jane Grote	14 John & Lois Haldeman	15 7 pm Choir Rehearsal Chris & Gretchen Cosce	16 Courtney Hall	17 Dan & Pat Hall
18 8:30 am Contemporary Service 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Faith and Fellowship 10:30 am Traditional Barry & Pat Harting	19 7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal Emily Harting	20 1 pm Bible Study Margaret Harting	21 Erla Hartranft	22 7 pm Choir Rehearsal Lori Hartranft	23 Craig Hassler	24 7:30 Christmas Eve Service Joanne Hassler
25 8:30 am Contemporary Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 am Traditional Adam & Kristen Heaps	26 Deb Hedrick	27 1 pm Bible Study Tim & Val Heil	28 Gary & Diane Hertzog	29 7 pm Choir Rehearsal Ryan Hertzog	30 Tyler Hertzog	31 Dennis & Connie High



37 East Swartzville Road
Denver, PA 17517

Return Service Requested

December Events

December 4th – Hanging of the Greens – 11:30 am

December 11th – Youth Luncheon – 11:30 am

December 18th – Faith and Fellowship Sunday – 9:30 am

December 24th – 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 2016