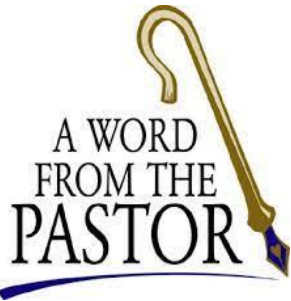




THE BEACON

August 2024

“Let your light shine before others”



I just got a new pair of glasses so that I can see distance more clearly. It's great, because I don't have to squint as hard to read street signs.

After getting them, I started thinking about lenses in general. With a little trip to

Wikipedia, I found the following:

The use of lenses for magnification and possibly for starting fires was widespread in the Mediterranean and Middle East, indicating an advanced understanding of optics in antiquity. The first written evidence of a magnifying device came in 424 BC. Magnifying lenses to ignite tinder were sold in a pharmacy. A glass globe that was filled with water was used to cauterize wounds, and also used for reading small letters. Roger Bacon described the properties of a magnifying glass in 13th-century England. This was followed by the development of eyeglasses in 13th-century Italy. Building on this foundation, in the late 1500s, two Dutch spectacle makers crafted the compound microscope by assembling several magnifying lenses in a tube. Not long after, the telescope was invented in 1608. Galileo improved on the device in 1609.

The use of lenses helps us see beyond human sight, either into the distance or into the microscopic world. Our faith also provides “lenses” to help us see beyond human sight. Through our Bible and theological studies, through the witness of others, and many other ways, we are able to know God beyond the horizon of human vision, and we can travel to the deep recesses of the heart and spirit.

For those who take advantage of the lenses of our faith, the riches of God await. May the remaining weeks of summer afford you some time to pause, and to peer beyond the borders of worldly understandings.

Room to Read Booksale

Room to Read is coming! September 29th, October 6th and 13th. Mark you calendars! More details to come!

Please bring your book donations on a Sunday or leave them at front door of Fellowship Hall at other times. Thanks for helping again!



Please stay tuned for more details about this mission that is near and dear to St. Peters' hearts!

Pastor on Vacation

After worship on August 4th, Pastor Doug and family will be shuffling off to Buffalo. They will be back on August 12th.

Worship on Sunday, August 11th, will be led by the Rev. Kevin McLemore, Associate Conference Minister of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the UCC. Because Kat Bowman will also be on vacation, we are blessed to have Charlotte Wookey playing the organ.

FEAST POT LUCK

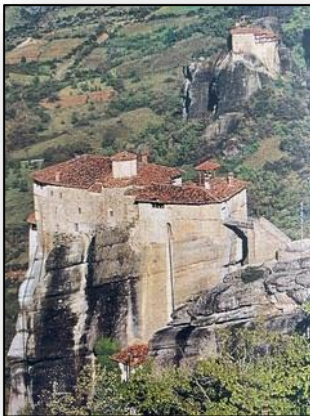
All are invited to bring a dish for an outside FEAST gathering on Saturday, August 24th, at 6pm to enjoy food and fellowship. The meal will be enjoyed in Fellowship Hall if it's raining.



Church on the Attic Continued

By: Herman Nieuwenhuizen

In one of the earlier Beacons, you may have read a story about an unusual place of religion. The article, I wrote about was in connection with the “Church on the Attic” in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Of course, all over the world there are many more places where one could find a House of God built in an incredible remarkable location. One such location is in the vicinity of Meteora, in the Northern part of Greece located about 225 miles north of Greece’s capital Athens. Meteora is a mountainous area with a significant number of caves. Many of the caves in the Meteora area have been continuously inhabited for over 50.000 years. The first people documented to inhabit Meteora were monks in the 9th century. They largely lived in hollows and fissures in the rock towers, some as high as 1800 ft above the plain. This great height combined with the sheerness of the cliff walls kept away all but the most determined visitors and guaranteed a life in solitude. In the 14th century, the Byzantine Empire’s reign over northern Greece was being increasingly threatened by Turkish raiders who were seeking control over parts of northern Greece. At the time, the monks in the Meteora seeking a save retreat from the expanding Turkish occupation, found the inaccessible rock formations of Meteora to be an ideal refuge and started building monasteries at extremely difficult to reach places. In the 14th century some 24 monasteries were built of which 6 remain today. Access to the monasteries was originally and most deliberately very difficult and required long ladders and ropes. Also, goods and people were hoisted up vertically alongside some 1400 ft high cliffs in a basket. At the time, accessing a monastery required a significant leap of faith. The latter in particular, because at the time the story went that “ropes were replaced only when the Lord did let them break”. Nowadays access, although still far from simple is less cumbersome. In the 1920’s steps were carved out in the many rock formations also platforms and bridges were built to ease access.



Meteora, Monastery of the Holy Trinity

August Birthdays

John Pandjak	8/1
Bobby McClimon	8/4
Shirley Detwiler	8/5
Rob Whitlatch	8/6
Jan Mest	8/7
Dan McClimon	8/7
Elizabeth Cavan	8/7
Lexi Smith	8/9
Jill Kelly	8/9
Joann Thomson	8/10
Garrett Harlow	8/12
Cindy Gorge	8/14
Samantha McCabe	8/14
James Wachsmuth	8/14
Carol Hughes	8/15
Avery Blue	8/16
Sandy Raichle	8/21
Grace Merryman	8/22
Logan Cheney	8/23
Virginia Lawrence	8/28
Benjamin Neiman	8/28
Julie Myers	8/29
Matt Zaro	8/30
Judy Shupe	8/31



Wedding Anniversaries

- Don and Gwen Davidson
- Jim and Jill Kelly
- Carol and Fred Krisch
- Norman and Nancy Norris
- Albert and Kathleen Wachsmuth
- Fred and Charlotte Wookey
- Charlie and Judy Shupe


Passing

Judy Smythe passed away on July 16th. A service was held for Judy here at St. Peter's on Saturday, July 27th.

Thank You

Thank you to Fred and Andrew Wookey, and Dave Wise Jr. for cutting up the large part of the tree that fell down by the parsonage during a recent storm.

Also, thank you to Bob McClimon for cutting down the small trees and weeds on the slope by the parsonage, and under the pine tree by the lower driveway.



Hymn-sing August 25th

The worship service on Sunday, August 25th, will be a hymn-sing. The morning's service will be fondly dedicated to the memory of Jean Neiman.

Jean passed away at the end of May, and was remembered for her many years of leading our music program here at St. Peter's.

September Highlights

6-8: Pastor at high school reunion

15: Outdoor worship service behind Fellowship Hall

22: Begin collecting food for Harvest Home service in October

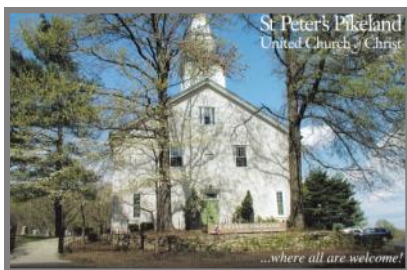
29: Begin Room to Read book sale

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Stay in touch with us

Www.StPetersPikeland.org

On FaceBook as St. Peter's Pikeland United Church of Christ



Our Prayer List

Please keep the following members and friends in your prayers:

Church Staff

Rev. Douglas Hanson,

Pastor

Kat Bowman,

Director of Music and Organist

Jill Cook,

Church Secretary

Deborah Wetty,

Nursery Attendant

Debbie Wolk,

Bookkeeper

Wayne Freese

Cemetery Manager

Church Officers 2024

President of Congregation –
Mark Myers

Secretary of Congregation –
Kathleen Wachsmuth

President of Consistory –
Pete Warner

Secretary of Consistory –
Kathleen Wachsmuth

Elders

Kathleen Wachsmuth-Chair
Deb Wetty, Peter Wilson

Deacons

Herman Nieuwenhuizen,
Sarah Hackman
Pete Warner

Trustees

Fred Wookey III- Chair
Bob McClimon, Dave Wise Jr.

Allison Lockhart, sister of Rev. McLemore

Andrea Lafleur

Angie Schlessman

Ann Kieffer, cousin of Eric Johnson

Barbara Broyles, friend of the Wachsmuths

Barbara Shivers

Bill Cochran, friend of Fred and Maureen Wookey

Carol Meyer

Connie Hershey, friend of Micki and Alyssa Menkins

Charlie Fishman, Pete Warner's Nephew and Godson

Debbie Rittenhouse, mother-in-law of Mitchell Warner

Diane, friend of Dee McClimon

Earl Harvey, friend of Mackenzie Wookey

Friends and family of Clarice Bowman

Friends and family of Judy Smythe

Gail Grealey, cousin of the Wise family

Gwen Davidson

Grady Dendunnen, grandson of Ted and Helen Morgan

Heidi Kieffer, daughter of Eric Johnson's cousin

Hugh Lawson

Jamie Glennon, friend of Eric Hanson

Jeff Johnson, Co-worker of Eric Johnson

Jennifer Osborne

Jim Smith, Denise Harlow's brother

John Pandjak

John Pittock, friend of Grace Merryman

Laura Dick

Lia Sawyer, friend of Cherri Romano

Lisa, cousin of Eric Johnson

Mary Andersen, friend of the McCarthys

Michelle Ralston, friend of Maureen Wookey

Melinda Greenwood, cousin of Joe Thomson

Mike Brown

Nancy Pittock, friend of Grace Merryman

Pattie and Charlie Freeman, friends of the Bowman's

Patrick, friend of Dee McClimon

Richard, friend of Dee McClimon

Sally Kramer, Cherri Romano's sister

Sammi, great daughter of a friend of Dee McClimon

Sandy Pereni, Joyce Rosen's sister

Sharon Basile, Jennifer Basile's mother-in-law

Sylvia Houff, Kathleen Wachsmuth's sister

Tara Cantello, friend of Denise Harlow