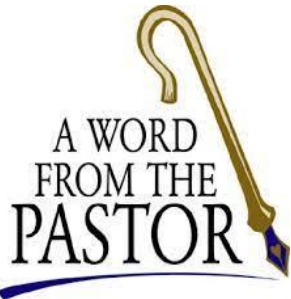




# THE BEACON

July 2024

*“Let your light shine before others”*



## CHURCH IN THE ATTIC



After our outdoor service on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, I was talking to Herman and Rebecca Nieuwenhuizen, and I asked them about a naval battle in 1639 that I heard mentioned recently. I asked if this was when the Netherlands received their independence.

Well, as it turns out, that naval battle was part of the 80 Years War that ended in 1648, with the defeat of the Spanish, and the independence of the Netherlands.

However, our conversation quickly shifted from the war itself, and instead led to a mention of a church in an attic. I know that the Nieuwenhuizens have seen many beautiful and majestic churches in Europe, so I was curious why they would bring up something about a church in an attic.

In an email, Herman explained the peculiar reason for the 17th century attic church in a land filled with huge churches. He said that the “Church in the Attic in Amsterdam” was where Catholics could worship without the Protestant northern region of the Netherlands knowing it. Of course, Spain was Catholic, and Protestants and Catholics were at odds like the 80 Years War itself. Only Calvinist worship was allowed in the northern part of the country.

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## Pastor on Vacation

PASTOR'S  
VACATION  
DATES



Pastor Doug will be on vacation from Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>.

Substituting for him in worship on July 14<sup>th</sup> will be the Rev. Dr. Martha Kriebel, who was pastor of Trinity Reformed UCC in Collegetown for decades, and who has served the United Church of Christ in many capacities.

On Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, the Rev. Homer Royer will preach. Rev. Royer has served churches in both Penn Northeast Conference and Pennsylvania Southeast Conference.

For pastoral emergencies, please call or text Pastor Doug on his cell phone: 610-597-2245. If he is not available at that moment, he will get back to you later that day.

## FEAST POT LUCK

All are invited to bring a dish for an outside FEAST gathering on Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm to enjoy food and fellowship. The meal will be enjoyed in Fellowship Hall if it's raining.



## SEWING CIRCLE NEWS

Our picnic was held at the home of Wendy and Dick Sherman on June 12<sup>th</sup>. It was a beautiful day spent with our friends from church and sewing circle. Dick grilled the chicken to perfection and Wendy served her special recipe for grilling pineapple. It was a delicious treat. As we travel through our lives we are very fortunate to have each other to walk along beside sharing the good and the bad.

Mark your calendars for August 14<sup>th</sup>. That is the day we will be going to Chadwick's for our luncheon. If anyone needs a ride please call Kathleen 610-804-6411 or Kathy 610-469-6759 to make arrangements. We would love to be your Uber!!



## Thank You Trustees

Thank you to Fred Wookey III and Bob McClimon for filling in the bank of the parking lot across the street, in order to stem the erosion.

An arrangement was made with a demolition crew in Spring City to, for free, bring the broken cement and concrete blocks to our parking lot (5 dump truck loads!), where it could be scooped up by a backhoe's bucket and dumped over the side.

By chance, the work of dumping the concrete over the side happened on one of the hottest days of the year, but the job got done.

A big thank you!

## Passings

Jean Neiman passed away on May 27<sup>th</sup>. A memorial service was held for Jean here at St. Peter's on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Jean was the Organist and Music Director for St. Peter's for many years.

Thank you to the Neiman family for donating the many boxes of organ music compiled by Jean over the years.

All of the music will be a blessing to the church for years to come. St. Peter's will be forever grateful for Jean's service to the church.

Clarice Bowman passed away on June, 22<sup>nd</sup>. A memorial service was held for Clarice at St. Peter's on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Clarice's burial took place at Great Valley Presbyterian.

## July Birthdays

Charlotte Wookey	7/1
Adam Gingrich	7/3
Catie D'Aleo (Zaro)	7/3
Emily Hackman	7/5
Bette Miller	7/5
Tate Yeakle	7/5
David Cagliola	7/6
Peter Warner	7/7
Lauren Carnevale	7/7
McKendred Nance	7/8
Kyle Cheney	7/8
Deborah Wetty	7/13
Matt Smiley	7/14
Greg Wheelan	7/15
Tom Raichle Jr.	7/15
Beth Smiley	7/16
Albert Wachsmuth	7/17
Maureen Wookey	7/17
Barbara Shivers	7/20
Janene Osborne	7/21
Micki Menkins	7/23
Timothy Mansmann	7/23
Michael Dick	7/24
Alyssa Menkins	7/25
Kourtney Kelly	7/27
Julia Barry	7/27
Cashel McCarthy	7/30
Rich Romano	7/30
Cindy Maguire	7/31



## Wedding Anniversaries

Andrew and Laura Dick	7/5
Paul and Lee Ann Michener	7/11
Fred and Maureen Wookey	7/11
Gus and Jan Orr	7/13
Tom and Lisa Wilson	7/22
Edward and Renae Bierer	7/22

## ....CHURCH IN THE ATTIC CONTINUED

Clandestine Catholic house churches could be found throughout Amsterdam, including one called "Our Lord in the Attic," located in a 1630 built canal house. The house had several exits onto different streets, as well as the roof. From the outside, the church that could contain several hundred people was completely integrated into what looked a regular albeit large corner house built along a canal. Also, in case of a police raid, the interior of the church could be instantly changed from a catholic to a protestant appearance. Finally freedom of religion was put into law towards the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century,

The "Church in the Attic" continued to provide religious services into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1887, religious services were finally discontinued and moved to a newly built church nearby. In 1888, the "Church in the Attic" turned into a museum that is open to the public daily.

It's no wonder that countless religious refugees fled to the American colonies and to Penn's Woods. And it's no wonder that our founders saw the complications in history when political and religious power were combined, thus leading to their constitutional separation of church and state.

However, it's also no wonder, in looking back throughout history, that the call of faith has led Christians, from the very beginning, to defy political persecution, even death, in order to live out that faith. May God continue to bless St. Peter's in this time of religious apathy, until God so ordains a new era in the church.



## A NOTE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

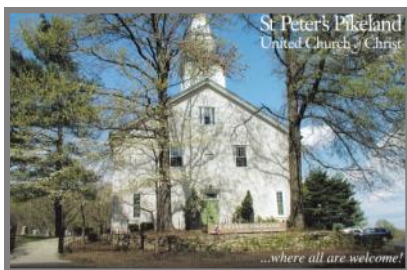
### July Beacon - Thank Yous from the Concert Series

Thank you to all who attended the concert featuring Veronika Roemer on June 8th. This was the thirteenth afternoon concert in our St. Peter's Pikeland Concert Series! The series began when we acquired our Cunningham baby grand piano in the sanctuary in 2015. Since then, our sanctuary has hosted a number of talented performers, from flautists to singers to accordionists and beyond! Kat is particularly grateful to the congregation for its help in supporting and making our concert series happen year after year. If you have ever donated your time, wine, or money to make our concert series possible, then thank you! Thanks to a number of amazing local musicians, our concert series continues to impress our audiences and keep them coming back for more. Stay tuned this fall and winter for our next two concerts, which are already in the works!

Stay in touch with us

**[www.StPetersPikeland.org](http://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  
Earl Harvey, friend of Mackenzie Wookey  
Friends and family of Clarice Bowman  
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  
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