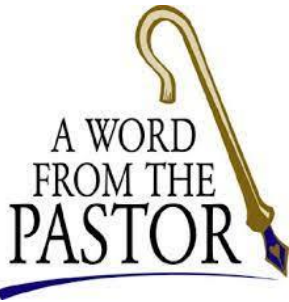




# THE BEACON

March 2024

*“Let your light shine before others”*



It's Lent, and a good time to return to our faith; to draw a little closer to God – and – to pick up the Bible that I hope isn't too out of reach at home.

The most interesting place to start reading the Bible is the table of contents; yes, that place at the front of the Bible with the listing of the all the books of the Bible. Let me explain.....

People who understand the layout of the Bible can hear words from any place in the Bible, and go, “Oh yes, I know what that's about.” That's a much better response than wondering where in the world the scripture reading is coming from. For this article, I'll give a brief description of the layout of the New Testament.

The New Testament starts with the four Gospels, all of which tell us what Jesus said and did while on earth. Then comes the book of the Acts of the Apostles, which answers the question, “What happens after Jesus ascends to heaven?” Then we have letters Paul wrote to his new Christian communities around the Mediterranean, followed by some other letters from that time. These letters are a window into the first generation of Christians. Of course, the last book is the book of Revelation; a vision by John. The final two chapters give us a beautiful vision of the completed work of our Redeemer God.

I hope that your Bible will be with you a little more this Lent. Its words truly offer Good News. God bless you this Lent, as we journey to the cross and to the joy of Easter morning.

## Holy Week and Easter Services



*Come Worship With Us!*

**Palm Sunday:** March 24th, Fisherman's Breakfast, Worship, Children's Egg Hunt.

**Midweek Service:** Thursday, March 28th, 7:30 pm

**Easter:** March 31st, 8:00 am Communion Service, 10:00 am Family Service

## FISHERMAN'S BREAKFAST

Bring your appetites for the **Fisherman's Breakfast on Palm Sunday**. As in years past, we will be serving pancakes, applewood smoked bacon, breakfast sausages and fresh cut fruit.

Leftovers will be available until supplies run out.

**We will be serving from 7:45AM until 9:45 AM.**

Please contact Fred or Maureen at 610-304-1098 if you would like to help out.



This year Heifer Sunday is April 21, 2024.

**HEIFER**® Contributions to support Heifer can be made through INTERNATIONAL offerings or at the Living Gift Market table in Fellowship Hall on April 21st.

See page 2 for all the information you need to know for our upcoming Heifer Sunday!

# Heifer Project Gift Fair

Its Heifer Project time! Each spring, St Peter's Pikeland United Church of Christ holds a fair in support of Heifer Project International. This year Heifer Sunday is April 21, 2024.

Solving the problem of world hunger is a heartfelt vision of many people but the sheer magnitude of the problem has overwhelmed agencies.

Heifer Project International (HPI), is the outgrowth of one man with a vision and a practical method of implementation that did not require inordinate financial underwriting. After serving as a relief worker in the Spanish Civil War in 1936 Dan West observed that there was no way to bring enough food to the children of Spain fast enough to address the depravation that surrounded him daily. Mr West's concept was to bring cows to Spain to produce milk and to give a cow to a family with the stipulation that its offspring must be given to another family who would in turn give a calf to yet another family! And so on and so on!

HPI started in 1942 with the first shipment of heifers delivered to Puerto Rico in 1944.

Animals are delivered to communities all around the globe. The species are selected to serve the environment and the needs of the community. In Honduras beekeeping has brought multiple benefits to a community. The bees pollinate crops and other flowering plants. They produce honey which is sold to the local population. In addition sub industries have emerged that include a wax producing factory, hive manufacturing and honey processing factories all from one gift of a beehive.

These farmers build human bridges between communities by passing knowledge, courage and dignity. It is a success story from our local generosity and kindness. You can participate by supporting the Heifer Project at St Peter's Pikeland United Church of Christ April 21, 2024. Your contributions fight hunger and poverty around the world and changes peoples lives.

Contributions to support Heifer can be made through offerings or at the Living Gift Market table in Fellowship Hall on April 21, 2024. No Fair this year but we will have the Living Gift Market table at Fellowship Hall after services.

The Living Gift Market is a chance to change the lives of people. The gifts you can purchase include food and income producing animals like goats, bees, chicks and heifers. The animals go to hungry, rural families around the world including the USA who are working to improve their lives. Heifer Project also provides the training in care of the animals and in enhancing the environment. The gifts are matched to each local environment.

Each Market gift gives over and over. Your gift of an animal and training to an impoverished family impacts the entire rural community. That family shares its knowledge and the animal's first offspring with another family. And that family shares. And the next and the next! In all this you find the gift of peace, the gift of time and the gift of gratitude.

So help a great cause, helping people to help themselves!

Find a gift animal for that special someone!

See you Sunday April 21, 2024



## Souper Bowl Sunday

The worship service on Sunday, February 11th reflected the Super Bowl theme of the day. Pastor Doug and some in attendance wore favorite team apparel.

Maureen Wookey and Pastor Doug presented a dialogue sermon, with the pastor covering the theme of football, and Maureen connecting it to our faith.

Thank you to all who brought in a can of soup for the Super/Souper Bowl Sunday.



## Sewing Circle News

### PACS Food Drive Ends

Thank you to our congregation for their generosity to PACS. The table in fellowship hall was overflowing with items as well as the Garber's car for the delivery to PACS!



### Hoagie Sale

Please stop by on Sunday, March 3rd, to purchase hoagies or contribute to the Sewing Circle's Bake-less Bake Sale. The Sewing Circle will be at Coffee Hour taking orders for delicious hoagies from Foresta's. Pickup is March 10th after church. All proceeds go to Bethany Children's Home. The price is \$7 each.



## Trustee's Corner

Your Trustees will be working on several projects over the course of the next year. One project we will be working on is the replacement of fluorescent lights. As bulbs burn out, we will be replacing/converting the fixtures to LED. The first conversions took place in the Sunday School during February.

The Trustees will also be updating the "Trustees Handbook". If you have any specific memory of former projects, contractors involved, and any other details please see Fred Wookey III. We would like the book to be as complete as possible for the current facility and have historical build information.

Bob McClimon is re-forming the Friday Boys. He is looking for anyone interested in tackling the never-ending small jobs needing attention up at Church. See Bob for more details.

# Travel Back in Time; A Trip with St. Peter's

- by Fred Wookey Jr.

## Part One

Introduction – we think there is confusion about our current cemetery property – read the history below!

*The Great Land Scandal – who really owned the land our church was built upon?*

In 1682, William Penn petitioned King Charles II to make payment in land for a debt owed by the Crown to his father, an Admiral in the British Navy. The land was called West New Jersey, which included the land west of the Delaware River that was to later become Pennsylvania. Penn was granted a royal charter appointing Penn and his heirs “true and absolute Proprietors of a tract of land, called Pennsylvania, lying north of Maryland, south of New York”. He saw the land west of the Delaware as an opportunity for his “Holy Experiment” – a Quaker colony, first called the Society of Friends of West New Jersey.

William Penn formed the three original counties: Chester, Bucks and Philadelphia. The original Quaker homesteading settlements, the Cheshire or Chester Meeting Tract, and the Welsh or Radnor Meeting Tract, were laid out between the Delaware and the Schuylkill, covering parts of present-day Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties.

The Quaker settlements soon went far beyond to land farther up the Schuylkill, including The Pikelands.

However, some of these properties became the tools of speculators. Dr. Daniel Coxe, Court Physician to King Charles II and friendly with William Penn, was able to obtain a land patent, together with investors Sir Matthias Vincent and Major Robert Thompson, each having 10,000 of the 30,000 acres that make up what are today four townships – East and West Pikeland, and East and West Vincent. This was one of many pieces of land involved in a grand scheme that intended to control the fur trade in beaver skins, all the way out to Lake Erie. Together with other investors they formed the “New Mediterranean Sea Company” to pursue their elaborate trading plan.

.....To be continued in the April Beacon

## Beacon Refresh

As you may have noticed this month, the Beacon is going through a slight face lift or metamorphosis so to say, and content additions. In addition to the Trustee's Corner, A Note From the Pastor and St. Peter's History, you will be seeing a special music section, brought to us by our Music Director, Kat Bowman as well as other special monthly surprises!





# March Birthdays

Vicki Goodman	3/1
Tom Raichle	3/2
Patrick McCarthy	3/2
Joe Thomson	3/3
Paul McCarthy	3/4
Mackenzie Blue	3/4
Scott Raichle	3/5
Charles Garber	3/5
Conner Harlow	3/6
Andrew Dick	3/6
Chad Sproule	3/9
Austin Myers	3/9
Matthew Detwiler	3/12
Ryan Nicholson	3/12
Laurel Wilson	3/14
Claire Wilson	3/14
Virginia Garber	3/15
Trish Cottone	3/16
Charlie Shupe	3/16
Madison Wachsmuth	3/20
James Carnevale	3/21
Dave Zinn	3/23
Ted Bierer	3/25
Dana Montieth	3/26
Barbara Borzillo	3/28
Ken Emery	3/30
Jane Breisch	3/30



## CHILI COOK OFF

Calling all chili cookers and desert bakers. On March 16 at St Peter's UCC at 6 pm we will be gathering and competing to see who has the best chili and desert. All You Can Eat for \$10 benefits our missions. Kids under 5 \$3. Includes 2 voting tickets.

1 ticket = \$1. 3 tickets = \$2. 8 tickets for \$5. Put a ticket in your favorite chili container and desert container. The containers with the most tickets win. Great fun for the whole family. Email Maureen Wookey if you would like to sign up at [mwookey17@hotmail.com](mailto:mwookey17@hotmail.com)



## Spring Forward!



Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 10h, so be sure, before going to bed on Saturday, March 9th to *move your clocks FORWARD one hour.*

Pastor Doug feels bad when someone comes into church for worship each year, just as everyone is leaving!

## Spring Clean Up/Mulch Madness

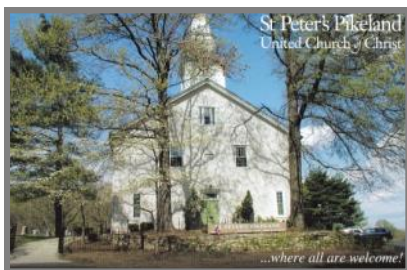
Mark your calendars and set your alarms to be at the church on Saturday, April 6th at 8:00 am. The more hands we have, the easier the tasks will be! Please bring rakes, garden rakes, shovels and blowers. Donuts and coffee will be served!



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,

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

Carol Meyer

Cathy Moffa, friend of Don and Gwen Davidson

Connie Hershey, friend of Micki and Alyssa Menkins

Charlie Fishman, Pete Warner's Nephew and Godson

Chris Webb, son of a friend of Lynn Mailey

Debbie Rittenhouse, mother-in-law of Mitchell Warner

Friends and family of Donna Rhodes, Gail Phillips' sister

Friends and family of Charles Booraem

Guinevere, granddaughter of friend of Dee McClimon

Gwen Davidson

Heidi Kieffer, daughter of Eric Johnson's cousin

Ian Charles Harmon, the Booraem's grandson

Jashown Banner, former student of Jackie Warner

Jean Neiman

Jeff Johnson, Co-worker of Eric Johnson

Jennifer Osborne

Jessica G., friend of Grace Merryman

John Pittock, friend of Grace Merryman

Laura Dick

Laura S., friend of Grace Merryman

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 Harris

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

Sally Mehrens, sister of Lynn Mailey

Sharon Divis, daughter of Judy Smythe

Sue McVay, friend of Mary Jo Pandjak

Sylvia Houff, Kathleen Wachsmuth's sister

Tara Cantello, friend of Denise Harlow