



THE BEACON :

St. Peter's on the Hill

"Let your light shine before others"



MAY 2020

Easter Rejoicing



Because of the virus, we were unable to worship together in person, but thanks to Pastor Doug, Kat Bowman, Peter Warner and St. Peter's Lutheran, we were able to worship together virtually. The locations may have changed, but the message did not.

Jesus Has Risen!

Heifer Fair

Each spring St Peter's Pikeland United Church of Christ holds a fair in support of Heifer Project International. But what an extraordinary time we are in. *For 2020 our Heifer Project Fair has been postponed due to the Virus.*

*See page 3 for the full article .



Vacation Bible School

June 15-19



Come Travel God's World virtually with us as we "visit" a different country each day, learning about God's people and lands across the globe!

This year, we will be "traveling" to El Salvador, Tanzania, Spain, Czechia and Fiji.

Because of the virus, we are unable to gather together in person for VBS, so we will be e-mailing short videos each day to anyone registered to receive the VBS emails.

If you wish to take part in this special virtual trip, please contact the church office.

Amazon Smile

1/2% of all of your Amazon.com purchases can be donated directly to the church, at no cost to you! We have enrolled St. Peter's in Amazon Smile. Here is how it works:

Whenever you make a purchase through Amazon, type "Amazon Smile" or "smile.amazon.com" in your browser and enter the Amazon site through that link. Select *St Peters Pikeland United Church of Christ* from the drop down menu that lists charities

(Or use this link to go directly to our page)
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-1608263>

You can then shop exactly as you would through the regular Amazon.com site, with no hidden fees or costs. Amazon will send the church a quarterly check. It's that simple!

Mid-Week Thought

-Pastor Doug

On Sunday morning, April 26th, I was sitting in the pew at St. Vincent UCC where Pastor Susan livestreams their service. I go along to help with this and that, but mostly, to be the sound of an "average Joe" in the pews, helping with the hymns.

While waiting for the service to start, I was flipping through the pages of a pew Bible, when something caught my eye in Genesis 4:24. In that verse are the words, "If Cain is avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy-sevenfold." Don't worry about the background of its meaning. What is interesting is its contrast to something Jesus says many centuries later, in Matthew 18:22: "Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven." The difference is that the first quote spoke of vengeance, but if you were to read the quote of Jesus in more detail, you would see that he was talking about forgiveness.

Here we are in the coronavirus pandemic, and you perhaps are wondering why forgiveness should be my theme for this May newsletter. Well, in my mind recently, I've been thinking about the stages of grief, and what we all are feeling, and what we will be feeling as we come out of this time. The five stages of grief is a model from a 1969 book by Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, who was a Swiss-American psychiatrist.

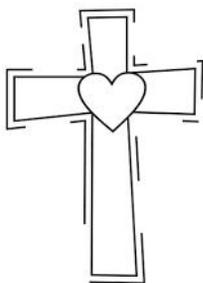
Kubler-Ross never intended for this model to be seen as exact. In fact, the various stages can be felt in different ways and different times, and also don't cover the full range of what it is to grieve. However, it can, at times, be a helpful model. Her stages are denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance.

This pandemic has felt unreal at times, and at times for some, denial has been a response. There also has been a good amount of depression. For some, in desperation, it's heartbreaking to know that many in the world have bargained with God in their prayers. Acceptance and response has helped mitigate some of the suffering, although acceptance can only do so much in this time of great struggle.

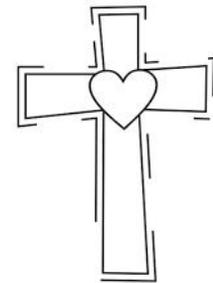
However, the stage I expect to see more of in the coming weeks is anger. When we begin to come out of this, when we begin to see light at the end of the tunnel, when we begin to see a chance for a little bit of normalcy to return, I think that a lot of pent up feelings are going to want to come out as anger, and the anger will need a destination or destinations.

Anger is healthy, is sometimes necessary, and often times is at least understandable. However, we all need to not let anger stall or wound our road to recovery, just when sticking together, pulling together, will be what we need for solutions and a successful recovery across our country. When Jesus says, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven," it's a call to not let anger and vengeance own us, denying us new days and new hope.

As we come out of this nightmare, with some light appearing soon at the end of the tunnel, let's hold fast to the ways and Spirit of Christ, and be the voice of hope and new days. Where anger appears, we can understand it, but we can also be a help to move through it and beyond it. As always, Christ is watching, and grace is at the ready to guide us into the post-pandemic world. May God bless and help our world in the weeks and months to come. Amen.



THE VOICE OF
HOPE



Heifer Project Gift Fair 2020, Not Quite Yet!

Our 2020 Heifer Project Fair has been postponed due to the Virus.

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.

Clearly the Noah Family is rethinking the Ark Cruise Business! Time to dry dock the Ark and open up Chez Noah a wonderful eatery for animals of biped and quadruped varieties. Sometime down the road we will figure out how to gather together in fellowship and the support of Noah and Heifer Project.

Our contributions fight hunger and poverty around the world and changes people's lives. 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.



Book Club-Virtual

-Diane Dunn



I hope you've all been ok as we shelter in place. I know many of us can't wait until things get 'back to normal'. I'm focusing on a new normal for right now. Still, that doesn't mean we have to give up everything. Your fellowship is certainly something I can't do without!

So, the St Peter's Book Club will keep our May meeting and meet online via Zoom. Each person has to furnish her own nibbles and drinks, but it will be nice to get many of you 'together'.

Our next meeting is [Wednesday, May 13](#) at 7:30 (note we are meeting a little later). We will discuss the book [An Invisible Thread](#) by Alex Tresniowski and Laura Schroff. It sounds like a heartwarming story. It was the book we chose to read for March, so you may already have it or have read it. If not, you have time!

I will send out the Zoom information before the call, so if you haven't already received an email about this - or have questions about how to download Zoom, please contact me at Highmeadow00@gmail.com to get on the list.

-Diane Dunn

Savings on Trash Collection

-Wayne Freese

If you subscribe to Next Door Neighbors, you saw many comments on trash costs. If you pay more than \$100 for one trash and one recycle container you can save! And who doesn't want to now! As example Advanced Disposal is ~ \$150/quarter.

A.J.Blosenski is max \$99,--call 610-942-2707. Diamond Waste (if they collect where you live) is \$70--call 484-985-8088. Both companies have very good reputation. I have one and our church has the other.

-Wayne Freese



A Note

Dear Church Family,

We can't thank you enough for the mailed-in contributions you have been continuing to send during these unprecedented times. As I'm sure you are aware, our expenses continue even as attendance has dropped to zero, and your continued support is crucial to our continuing operations.

With our weekly video services, Pastor Doug's mid-week message and our many other outreach efforts I hope you agree that our church community is still very much alive, well and vibrant. And, by the way, we have a surprise in store for you this coming week, so be on the lookout for it!

Please continue to send your generous contributions if you can, and if you need any assistance whatsoever please feel free to let us know. We have teams ready and willing to help.

We are in this together and we are there to help those in need. As I like to say, we're still together...apart!
Sincerely,

Pete Warner
Consistory President

A Need for Masks

-Kathy Krasley

It has come to my attention that Vincent Heights in Spring City and Parkhouse in Royersford are both in need of masks. Vincent Heights provides section 8 housing for the elderly and people with disabilities. Parkhouse is a nursing home with 300 staff members and many have only 1 mask. If you wish to participate please give me a call or text on my cell 484-716-8965. Kathy Krasley

Calling For All Grad Names

It's that time of year again and we are gathering the names of graduates.

We would like to recognize the accomplishment of all high school, vocational school, and college graduates.





May Birthdays

Dylan Smiley	5/1
Debbie Sproule	5/5
Susan Hanson	5/7
Julia Beatty	5/9
Jacqui Cornog	5/9
Chett Breiling	5/11
Kristen Wookey	5/15
Reagan Basile	5/15
Meg Zaro	5/16
Ashlee Bradbard	5/16
Allen Barry	5/16
Haley Smith	5/19
Tekie Wise	5/20
Shawn Nordhoff	5/20
Trevor Johnson	5/22
Thomas Page	5/23
Doug Yeakle	5/24
Jenny Osborne	5/25
Christy Bullard	5/25
Dave Wise Jr.	5/25
Bennett Nordhoff	5/25
Scott Barry	5/27
Pam Booraem	5/28
Courtney Sproule	5/28
Blake Boden	5/28
Lena Duffield	5/29
Rebecca Nieuwenhuizen	5/30
Debbie Spranger	5/30
Justin Mest	5/30
Andrew Wookey	5/30

Wedding Anniversaries

Bill and Alice Bierer celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in April! Congratulations Bierers

Scott and Kathy Barry
 David and Victoria Cagliola
 Ben and Diane Campbell
 TJ and Diane Dunn
 Charles and Virginia Garber
 Scott and Cindy Maguire
 Rob and Judith Werner
 Ken and Dawna DeRosa Whitlatch
 Frank and Deborah C. Wetty
 Tom and Sandy Raichle

Confirmation Sunday



This year's Confirmation class will continue its studies from home.

Pastor Doug is sending weekly study sheets to the confirmands, to finish the subjects to be studied for the year. Some of the study sheets later on will be for review. Then, when it's safe to hold worship again, a date for Confirmation Sunday will be scheduled.

The three confirmands are Katie Cook, Kyra Dick, and Joey Newell.

May Communion

Pastor Doug will have "Holy Communion" on Sunday, May 3rd. Make sure you have wine, water or juice as well as bread in your home if you'd like to "commune" together.

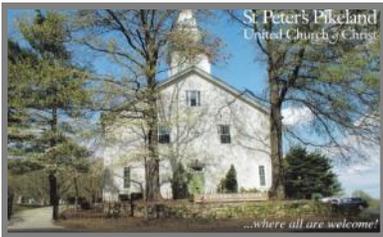


Happy Mothers Day to the mothers in our lives. We wish you the best day and year ahead. As we journey through this trying time, we acknowledge and appreciate all that you do with great respect.



Memorial Day commemorates the men and women who **died** while in the military service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. In other words, the purpose of Memorial Day is to memorialize the veterans who made the **ultimate sacrifice** for their country.

"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself." - Joseph Campbell



Please keep the following members and friends in your prayers:

Church Staff

Rev. Douglas Hanson,

Pastor

Annamae Moore,

Worship Coordinator

Kat Bowman,

Director of Music and Organist

Jill Cook,

Church Secretary

Deborah Wetty,

Nursery Attendant

Debbie Wolk,

Bookkeeper

Wayne Freese

Cemetery Manager

Church Officers 2020

President of Congregation –
Jim Phillips

Secretary of Congregation –
Kathleen Wachsmuth

President of Consistory –
Peter Warner

Secretary of Consistory –
Michelle Case

Treasurer – Ken Whitlatch

Elders

Michelle Case- Chair

Ben Campbell, Wayne Freese,

Judy Shupe, Deb Wetty, Dave Zinn

Deacons

Bill Latta, Alexis McCarthy,

Pete Warner, Doug Yeakle, Chris

Zaro

Trustees

Fred Wookey III-Chair

Mark Myers, John Pandjak

Scott Raichle, Peter Wilson,

Drew Zummo

Andrea Lafleur
 Andy Phillips, friend of the Steins
 Anthony Didesidero, friend of Anne Breiling
 Barbara Broyles, friend of the Wachsmuths
 Bob Dewilde
 Brandy Rhodes, Gail Phillips' nephew
 Caitie Blazic and baby Nicholas, friend of Judy Smythe
 Carol Meyer
 Charlie Sproule, Jr.
 Christopher Saunders, friend of Micki Menkins
 Chris Webb, son of a friend of Lynn Mailey
 Clarice Bowman
 Claude Grubbs, friend of Doug Fink
 Doris Ingham, Joyce Rosen's mother
 Donna Rhodes, Gail Phillips' sister
 Friends and family of Aryl Whitlatch, Ken Whitlatch's brother
 Friends and family of Charles Paul Michener, Paul Michener's father
 Friends and family of Diane DeForrest, Kathleen Wachsmuth's niece
 Friends and family of Donald DeRosa, brother of Dawna DeRosa
 Greg Francis, Lee Ann Michener's brother
 Hunter Firment, Nancy Smith's Grandson
 Ian Charles Harmon, the Booraem's newborn grandson
 Jashown Banner, former student of Jackie Warner
 Jean Pool
 Jennifer Newell, Beth Newell's Sister-in-law
 Jennifer Osborne
 Joan Fink
 John Edwards, friend of Linda Johnson
 Justin, friend of Judy Smythe
 Katie MacPherson, Nancy Smith's Granddaughter
 Kerri Haseman, Jane and Bob Breisch's niece
 Kevin Snyder, CEO of Bethany Children's Home
 Linda Halpern, Joyce Rosen's Sister in Law
 Margaret Breiling
 Mary Andersen, friend of the McCarthys
 Mike Melnich
 Mike Solerno, friend of the Micheners
 Nora Frank, friend of Nancy Smith
 Pamela (Miller) Murphy
 Pat Cline, Cindy Warner's mother
 Peter Lenichek, Anne Breiling's cousin
 Peter Mahler, friend of Smythes
 Reagan Basile
 Rick Cassidy, friend of the Davidsons
 Sally Kramer, Cherri Romano's sister
 Sally Mehrens, sister of Lynn Mailey
 Scott Shivers, Diane Dunn's brother
 Sharon Divis, daughter of Judy Smythe
 Stephanie Tyree, friend of Nancy Smith
 Sue McVay, friend of Mary Jo Pandjak
 Sydney Cagle
 Sylvia Houff, Kathleen Wachsmuth's sister
 Sylvia Lawson
 Tom B., friend of Nancy Smith
 Vicki Johnson, friend of the Micheners

Our Prayer List

