

St. Peter's Press

St. Peter's Presbyterian Church
Spencertown, NY
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September 2017

THE ART OF TRANSITIONAL MINISTRY

Greetings St. Peter's!

During the past month, I've been observing from my kitchen window at the manse, the remarkable transformation of the old Methodist church across the street. As many of you know, the building is in the process of becoming the new Town Hall for Austerlitz and Spencertown.

But what has been most fascinating is witnessing the steady flow of passersby who stop their cars, walk out onto Route 203 with cell phone cameras in hand, and stand in awe before this oddly floating church building.

And that's exactly what it looks like—a floating church, suspended above the ground without any foundation. But is there more to consider in this strange and perhaps uncomfortable image?

What does it look like to lift the church up off the ground and search below the surface?

How does one go about digging through the earth below, yet at the same time continuing to support what happens above ground?

What does it feel like to participate in a kind of excavation of self and community, not unlike a physical construction site?

I will be taking this image with me as I travel to Montreat, North Carolina, for a weeklong conference on the *Art of Transitional Ministry*

(August 27–September 3). This image is a reminder that all churches are in transition, not just those who are bridging between pastors!

To be in transitional ministry means that we are always in a state of becoming, continually discerning who we are as God's people amid the world's ever-changing realities.

Rather than reserve the important work of church identity building for those moments when a church is looking for a pastor, the life of the church in today's world calls upon us to be asking ourselves with each day, each worship gathering, each encounter, "Who are we as the body of Christ?"

As we witness the transformation taking place across the street, let us also commit ourselves to the creative, surprising and Spirit-filled work of transitional ministry here at St. Peter's!

I look forward to worshipping with you on Sunday, September 10, where I will be sharing my experience at Montreat and reflecting further with you all!

Peace and blessings, Lynn



SEPTEMBER WORSHIP



Sunday, August 27
Guest Preacher: Rev. Tim Coombs
Co-Pastor Trinity Presbyterian Church of Scotia

Sunday, September 3
Special Lay Led Worship Service

Sunday, September 10
Communion with Lynn Horan Preaching

Sundays September 17 and 24
Lynn Horan Preaching



Lectionary Readings
September

- 9/3/17 Ex 3:1-15; PS 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b;
Rom 12:9-21; Matt 16:21-28
- 9/10/17 Ex 12:1-14; Ps 149; Rom 13:8-14;
Matt 18:15-20
- 9/17/17 Ex 14:19-31; Ps 114 or Ex 15:1b-11,
20-21; Rom 14:1-12; Matt 18:21-35
- 9/24/17 Ex 16:2-15; Ps 105:1-6, 37-45; Phil
1:21-3; Matt 20:1-16



Trash and Treasure, September 2



Our annual St. Peter's Trash and Treasure sale is once again on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend (Sept. 2, 8:30 am–2:30 pm) to coincide with the popular Spencertown Academy Festival of Books.

Hot dogs and bottled water will be available for sale between 11 and 1:30 this year.

Happy Birthday
September

- Leslie Newton 9/2
- Elaine Fairall 9/3
- Sandy Gaylord 9/3
- Roby Harrington 9/3
- Timothy Davis 9/4
- Jeff Braley 9/6
- Willard Ulmer 9/10
- Luke Young 9/11
- Marilee Lobdell 9/22
- Lawrence Massimo 9/22
- Amanda Roberts 9/22
- David Harrison, Jr. 9/28



PASTOR'S WEEKLY
OFFICE HOURS



Lynn's weekly office hours are Monday–Wednesday, 9 am–1 pm (Church or manse office, also by appointment).

Lynn is also available whenever needed for pastoral care emergencies.

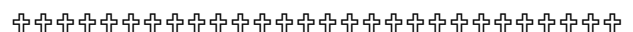
CONTACT INFORMATION:

Office/Cell Phone: 518-847-9115
 Email: Lynnmhoran@gmail.com



Prayer List

*Comfort and strength for
 Randy Ezinga and family
 Speedy recovery from surgery for
 Sandy Fischer*



From the Council

This is an exciting time for St. Peter's! We have welcomed our interim (now called transitional) pastor, Rev. Lynn Horan, last month. I believe all of us at St. Peter's are enjoying getting to know Lynn and her family!

The Council thought it would be a good idea to include in this issue of the *St. Peter's Press* some information about the details of Lynn's contract with us, office hours, and so forth.

Worship Leadership

Lynn's contract includes 6 Sundays off (4 vacation weeks and 2 weeks of study leave). Lynn will arrange pulpit supply/guest preachers for the Sundays when she is away on vacation or study leave. In addition, as a 3/4 time pastor, Lynn will not be preaching one Sunday a month, based on Albany Presbytery policy. On those Sundays, worship will be lay-led by our own St. Peter's Worship Team.

Office Hours and Availability

Lynn will hold regular office hours Monday through Wednesday 9 am-1 pm, either at the manse or church office, also by appointment. Lynn is also available at any time for pastoral care emergencies.

Out of Office Hours

Lynn will also be working out of the office attending to pastoral care, weekend church and community events, fellowship activities, evening meetings including Council, Presbytery meetings and relationship building with other local clergy, additional sermon/worship preparation, seasonal and future worship planning, and monthly spiritual direction.

Off Days

Thursday, Friday, Saturday (but available for pastoral care emergencies and special church events).

Contact Information:

Cell: [518-847-9115](tel:518-847-9115)

Email: lynnmhoran@gmail.com



ST. PETER'S WORSHIP TEAM!

Join us for our next meeting on Sunday, October 8 after worship Are you excited about this new chapter at St. Peter's? Do you have ideas for creative and meaningful worship? Do you have gifts of music, reading, writing, speaking, story-telling?

Join us for a fun planning meeting as we prepare for our next lay led worship service, to be held on October 29.



School Supplies Needed

When you bring for the food pantry collection, consider adding some school supplies during the month of September. These are donated to the local schools for children in need.





PC(USA) Leaders Condemn White Supremacy, Racism

CHARLOTTESVILLE RELIGIOUS LEADERS PRAISED;
MISUSE OF SCRIPTURE DECRIED

August 14, 2017

Office of the General Assembly Communications

Louisville

In the wake of a weekend of violence in Charlottesville, Virginia fomented by the “alt-right,” four top leaders of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) today issued a statement condemning white supremacy and racism.

The leaders – General Assembly co-moderators Jan Edmiston and T. Denise Anderson, Presbyterian Mission Agency Interim Executive Director Tony De La Rosa, and General Assembly Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson, II -- praised the “faithful witness” of church leaders, especially those in Charlottesville, and acknowledged that “Scripture has been misused to justify white supremacy and racism.”

The statement further declares that “White supremacy and racism stand in stark, irreconcilable contradiction to God’s intention for humanity” and acknowledges the church’s historic complicity in systemic racism in the U.S. And the leaders commit the church to “stand against, speak against and work against racism and white supremacy, this day and every day.”

The full text of the statement, issued August 14:

In the aftermath of the events of August 11 and 12 in Charlottesville, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) reaffirms its condemnation of white supremacy and racism, names them as sin, and renews its commitment to disrupting them and working for justice and equity.

We give thanks for the presence and faithful witness of church members who stand against white supremacy and racism. Individually and collectively the church, including Presbyterians, stood against hate in Charlottesville. Individually and collectively the church, including Presbyterians, works to disrupt racism and to build racial equity in places across the country. We grieve for Heather Heyer, who was killed while standing witness; we grieve for state police officers H. Jay Cullen and Berke Bates, who died in a helicopter crash while monitoring events in Charlottesville; we pray for the recovery of all who were injured.

We acknowledge that Scripture has been misused to justify white supremacy and racism. However, we proclaim that the Bible’s message presents a far more consistent and insistent witness to God’s love for diversity and justice. This may be observed in God’s delight in the varied creation; heard in the words of prophets who reject oppression and commend justice as true worship; seen in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, who values all persons regardless of any aspect of their identity; and experienced through the work of the Holy Spirit, who consistently blows through all the divisions we create, to reveal God’s love for all humanity.

White supremacy and racism stand in stark, irreconcilable contradiction to God’s intention for humanity. They reject part of the human family and are utterly contrary to God’s Word made incarnate in Jesus. They are idolatries that elevate human-created

hierarchies over God's freely given grace and love. They are lies about the human family, for they seek to say that some people are less than other people. They are lies about God because they falsely claim that God favors some people over the entirety of creation.

But as we give thanks, we acknowledge the church's complicity in the creation of white supremacy and racism. We confess the church's failure in challenging and disrupting white supremacy and racism. Too often we have accepted the status quo. Too often we have stood silent in the face of injustice and oppression.

By God's grace may we remember the events in Charlottesville; repent of our acquiescence and failures; and renew our commitment to proclaim and live the good news of Jesus Christ. May that commitment lead us to stand against, speak against and work against racism and white supremacy, this day and every day.

May it be so. Amen.

Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

Tony De La Rosa
Interim Executive Director, Presbyterian Mission Agency

Rev. T. Denise Anderson & Rev. Dr. Jan Edmiston
Co-Moderators of the 222nd General Assembly (2016)





“Tilling the Soil” Digging Deep to Grow in Faith



During worship on August 13, we reflected on the following questions as we explore our ministry landscape.

If you haven't yet, please take some time to prayerfully answer the questions as we TILL THE SOIL together!

You may leave the responses in the offering plate during worship or you can email them to Lynn at lynnmhoran@gmail.com.

What do you feel are the strengths of this community of faith? What energizes you about life at St. Peter's?

Where would you like to see change in our congregational life and ministry? Where are you seeking God's guidance in our shared ministry?

As we gather in worship, fellowship and service, what special gifts or callings do you have? Join us after worship on Sunday August 20 if you'd like to join our Worship Planning Team!

What is your greatest hope and prayer for our community of faith?

What prayers do you have for your own personal walk of faith?

You are encouraged to include your name and contact information below, understanding that Lynn will protect the confidentiality of your responses. Or you may also offer your responses anonymously.

NAME: _____ **CONTACT INFO:** _____

September 2017						
◀ April						June ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Trash & Treasure 8:30 am – 2:30 pm
3 10 am Worship followed by Coffee Hour	4	5 6:30 pm Women Unabridged	6 7pm Choir	7	8	9 9 am Deacons
10 10 am Worship & Sunday School followed by coffee hour Nominating Committee	11	12 7 pm Trustees Meeting	13 7 pm Choir 7 pm Council	14	15	16 Walk to Fight Suicide Columbia/Greene Out of the Darkness Community Walk Register at afsp.org/columbiagreene
17 10 am Worship & Sunday School followed by coffee hour	18	19	20 7 pm Choir	21	22	23
24 10 am Worship & Sunday School followed by coffee hour	25	26	27 7 pm Choir	28	29	30