



St. Peter's Press

St. Peter's Presbyterian Church - Spencertown, NY

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October 2021

Dear Beloved St. Peter's Church Family,

It has been a difficult time for all as we prepare for this transition at St. Peter's. My heartfelt prayers go out to each and every one of you as you process the news of my resignation.

As I expressed in my letter to the congregation, the reason for my resignation is to offer stability for the congregation, myself and my family, following certain challenges over the past year and half.

The details surrounding my decision have been shared with the appropriate individuals and will be shared with the larger congregation in the near future. For many of you who are yearning for further explanation, I acknowledge your pain and frustration and I offer my deepest care for what you all are feeling.

I want to thank you all for the incredible love, kindness and support you have shown me since receiving this news. The thoughtful notes, gifts and prayers have lifted my spirit in ways that I cannot express. I regret that I will not be able to say good-bye personally to each of you, but know that you have impacted my life and faith in incredibly positive ways and I am forever grateful.

A few days ago, I chatted with Marie Fischer as she was walking home and I was unloading groceries from the car. She had gone flower picking and had a bouquet that she planned to place on her table at home. Before we parted, she offered me the beautiful wildflowers, pictured above, saying "a gift of Spencertown flowers for you to remember us."

This simple gesture of sharing and blessing continues to move me as I think of the symbolism of these late summer blooms. As the season shifts to fall and we say goodbye to this incredible summer we've had celebrating our 250th anniversary, I am aware that the sweetness and joy of our time together will continue to linger.

The past 4 ½ years have shaped and formed us in important ways. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve this community of faith amid this beautiful landscape. Vince and I will also cherish having had the chance to raise our young girls among such caring people.

May each of us, in our own time, find the remaining blessings of this season together, place them before us on an altar of gratitude and preserve them in our hearts like the flowers of Spencertown.

With much love and gratitude,

Pastor Lynn



St. Peter's Transition

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.”

~ **Jeremiah 29:11** ~



As we prepare for Rev. Lynn Horan's last day with us on Sunday, October 3rd, please note the following details with regard to St. Peter's transition:

Congregational Meeting **Sunday, October 3rd, after worship** **(In-person and on Zoom)**

St. Peter's Council has called for a congregational meeting led by Rev. Kathi Jones on behalf of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministers and Congregations (COMAC) for the purpose of ending the pastoral relationship and preparing for St. Peter's next chapter.

St. Peter's Transition Team

Following Rev. Horan's last Sunday on Oct. 3rd, St. Peter's will continue to be supported and guided by Rev. Kathi Jones, representing the Presbytery's Committee on Ministers and Congregations, as well as other members of Presbytery. In addition, St. Peter's will be led by a transition team, including members of each of our ministry boards.

Below are ministry areas and their corresponding team members:

- ❖ **Clerk of Council/Pulpit Supply Arrangements:** Nancy Ordman
- ❖ **Building/Property:** Randy Ezinga, Kurt Barenfeld, David Pearce
- ❖ **Deacons/Congregational Care:** Jennifer Thompson, Kathy Geddie, Joel Dyslin
- ❖ **Administrative Ministry:** Wendy Diskin, David Pearce, Jere Wrightsman

Words of Gratitude & Farwell for Shelley Robinson

Our faithful office administrator Shelley Robinson has resigned from St. Peter's, effective September 30th. Shelley has journeyed with our congregation for the past 4 1/2 years, bringing increased organization and thoughtful communication to our church administration, in particular through the pandemic as we transitioned to remote worship. We are incredibly grateful for Shelley's faithful service to our church family, and we wish her well in her next chapter!

*It has been a pleasure working for St. Peter's and Pastor Lynn the past 4 1/2 years and I am grateful for my time spent at St. Peter's. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!
Peace, Shelley Robinson*



Office Volunteers NEEDED:

As we fill in important administrative areas we are need in of volunteers:

Weekly Email:

Send weekly church email to the congregation with updates and worship info

Zoom Administrator:

Oversee Zoom account for worship and church gatherings

If interested in volunteering, please email Nancy Ordman at nancy.ordman@gmail.com





WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY & SUNDAY SCHOOL “ KICK OFF!”

OCTOBER 3rd , 10am

Join us for a special World Communion Sunday celebration as we offer blessings to our Sunday school youth and families!

NOTE FOR FAMILIES:

On World Communion Sunday, October 3rd, each child will receive a notebook for the 2021-22 Sunday School session. The notebook will “live” at the church, and will be filled each Sunday with the following:

- Reading and writing of the Scripture passage for each Sunday
- A drawing or craft related to the passage
- Each notebook will have a copy of a Sunday School prayer that we can say each time.

We look forward to embarking on this new year of learning together!

SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS & TEACHERS NEEDED!

If you would like to participate in this year’s Sunday School program as a parent, teacher or volunteer please email Jennifer Thompson at: jennifer@papress.com



MATTHEW 25

Let us continue building a Matthew 25 Church!

**Our lay-led worship team will continue to lead
worship once-a-month focusing on the
Matthew 25 Initiative.**

**Please email Jere Wrightsman at
jerewrightsman@gmail.com
if you would like to join our worship team!**

What is a Matthew 25 church?

Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to **actively engage in the world** around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to **new possibilities**. Convicted by this passage, both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted the PC(USA) to **act boldly and compassionately** to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor. Help us join with other churches nationwide in this **vitaly important ministry!**

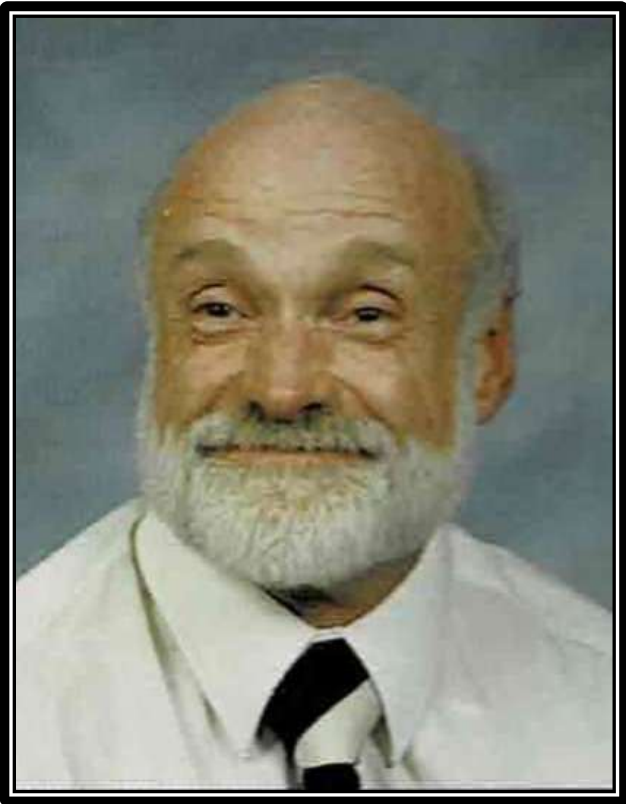
Building Congregational Vitality

Dismantling Structural Racism

Eradicating Systemic Poverty

Celebration of the Life of Daniel Gott

April 6th 1942 – September 6th 2021



We hold in prayer the Gott family and together grieve the passing of our beloved Daniel Gott. A memorial service was held at St. Peter's on Friday, September 24th at 2pm.

Words of comfort and condolences may be sent to:

*Jonathan and Lynn Gott
108 Wing Foot Circle
Daytona Beach, FL 32114*

Daniel Gott of Copake Lake NY, passed away on September 6, 2021.

Mr. Gott, born April 6, 1942 in Albany NY, is the son of Welcome and Elsie (Hess) Gott.

Daniel was employed by Firestone National Bank, Akron OH and Chatham Fitness Center. He was an active member of St Peters Presbyterian Church in Spencertown.

He is survived by his brother, Jonathan (Lynn) Gott, along with several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brothers David and Geoffrey Gott.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the church. For on-line condolences visit wenkfuneralhome.com

~ Psalm 121 ~

I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where will my help come?

Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

God will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

The Lord is our keeper; the Lord is our shade at our right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

St. Peter's @ 250 ART SHOW! Thank You!

OPEN Weekends through OCTOBER! Austerlitz History Center, Rt. 203



Thank you to all who helped celebrate the official opening of our St. Peter's @ 250 Art Show on Sunday, September 5th! We had a wonderful turn-out from the surrounding community! The Art Show has moved across the street to the Town of Austerlitz History Center and is open for visits Saturdays and Sundays through October. New and previously created artwork will be displayed, featuring the church building and surrounding community.

New works are available for purchase online at www.friendsofsaintpeters.org



St. Peter's @ 250 Oral History Book

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a story or testimony to share in our commemorative history book! If you would like to contribute please email info411@friendsofsaintpeters.org

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SUSTAINING ST. PETER'S

Thanks to the Tassinari family, we have 60 copies of the beautiful poem that was shared at our 250th Anniversary worship service on May 23rd. The poem, titled "Myrtle Creek," was written by Abby Dwight Woodbridge in celebration of the independence jubilee in Spencertown, July 4th, 1846. She was the niece of Rev. Timothy Woodbridge who served as pastor of St. Peter's Presbyterian Church from 1843-1852. The poem shares beautiful images of the surrounding landscape, with reference to a "graceful spire" that is St. Peter's!

\$250 for 250th Anniversary!

We'd like to offer a beautiful, embossed copy of the poem, in a protective sleeve, to each individual who offers \$250 and beyond in celebration of our 250th Anniversary season!





ST. PETER'S CHURCH SPENCERTOWN, NEW YORK • A SHORT HISTORY

- 1756 Seventy-five individuals, including 12 named Spencer, purchase by deed from representatives of the *Muhhekunneuw* (Mohican) Nation 20,725.5 acres of their ancestral hunting grounds. The area includes most of today's Town of Austerlitz.
- 1757 Establishment of Spencers Town Proprietorship under laws of Massachusetts Bay colony. [New York jurisdiction not recognized until 1770s.]
- 1760 Burying ground created on land donated by proprietor John Dean.
- 1761 Rev. Jesse Clark, Yale College class of 1756, settled as first Gospel Minister.
- 1761 Town discusses but does not proceed with constructing a meeting house. Religious services are held for next 10 years in private homes, including John Spencer's home on South Street.
- 1771 Meeting house (later St. Peter's) constructed on village green by builder William Babcock.
- 1780 Jesse Clark succeeded as pastor by his Yale classmate Ebenezer Martin.
- 1785 Society becomes Congregational.
- 1790 David Porter becomes pastor. Serves until 1803, with the church strengthening over that period and the vice of hard cider abuse largely mitigated.
- 1792 Rev. Porter helps create the Green River (later Austerlitz) Congregational church.
- 1803 Society incorporated as St. Peter's Church.
- 1820 Town of Austerlitz, created 1818, reaches all-time population peak of 2,355 in era of rural prosperity. St. Peter's congregation flourishes.
- 1826 Lilla Van Buren becomes first African American member of St. Peter's.
- 1826 Church moved from village green to its present location in the graveyard, now facing east rather than north. Vestibule, balcony and steeple added to original structure, which is "fitted up in modern stile." Cost is \$2,500.
- 1827 St. Peter's switches its denomination from Congregational to Presbyterian at urging of new pastor, Joel Osborn.
- 1834 St. Peter's now has local competition as Spencertown Methodist church is formed.
- 1838 Charles Edwards Lester, minister since 1836, leaves St. Peter's due to controversy over his strong abolitionist views. In his farewell sermon on May 6, Lester blasts those who have opposed "a minister of Jesus Christ for reiterating in man's ear what Jehovah has commanded — *Break every yoke; let the oppressed go free.*"
- 1839 Lester has published *Chains and Freedom*, the autobiography of Peter Wheeler, an escaped slave who had settled in Spencertown in 1824 and regularly attended St. Peter's. Wheeler is deeply affected by the spirituality of the pulpit and the choir but also describes the pain of being denied the sacrament of communion because of his race.
- 1842 Rev. Timothy Woodbridge, blind since college, moves to St. Peter's after 26 years at the Green River church. He serves until 1853, later viewing those years as the "hey-day of the society's prosperity."
- 1863 Church repaired at a cost of \$2,500.
- 1869 St. Peter's unites with the Albany Presbytery.
- 1870 Town and St. Peter's endure a long period of decline as farms dwindle, commerce follows the railroads to Chatham and population withers. By 1880 membership is about 60, down from 100 in 1855.
- 1885 During these years the pastor (or 1912 supply minister) of St. Peter's also serves the Austerlitz Presbyterian church.
- 1905 St. Peter's transfers its rights in the cemetery to the Spencertown Cemetery Association.
- 1911 St. Peter's has no pastor this year, and only supply ministers for the next 38 years. But the Methodist church prospers from 1911 to 1940 under two long-serving pastors.
- 1926 St. Peter's at point of crisis as the Albany Presbytery doubts its survival; all church organizations suspend activities this year except for Sunday school. Large and stalwart Kuhn family credited with keeping church open in the summer.
- 1929 Young women of congregation form the Tower Club to support church, raising money and morale. They put on an annual circus from 1930 to 1933.
- 1929 Church basement dug out to provide space for social gatherings. Bones unearthed in the process are collected and re-buried.
- 1940 Town reaches all-time population low of 626. Absence of servicemen during World War II further reduces congregation, but women hold the church together. Tower Club paints the interior in 1940.
- 1941 First history of St. Peter's compiled by Rev. Arthur C. McMillan.
- 1949 Earl Christman becomes first St. Peter's pastor since 1910.
- 1950 Methodist church, without pastor since 1940, closes; St. Peter's now only Spencertown church.
- 1950 Town's population begins to grow, to St. Peter's benefit. By 2000 the population reaches 1,450, double the 1940 total.
- 1956 Major renovation effort restores interior of the church to its 1826 form, replacing the later Victorian alterations.
- 1957 Tower Club and Spencertown Fire Co. open restaurant at county fair. It continues for many decades.
- 1960 Celebration of 200 years since 1760 start of services features a dinner for 200 on the village green.
- 1985 Elder Louis F. Wambach authors new history of St. Peter's for its 225th celebration.
- 2002 Friends of Historic St. Peter's Church formed by Mary Zander to raise funds for maintenance and restoration of church building.
- 2002 St. Peter's placed on National Register of Historic Places.
- 2004 New steeple placed on church through funds raised by the Friends and the congregation.
- 2020 Rev. Lynn Horan installed as St. Peter's pastor, the first woman to hold that position.
- 2021 St. Peter's becomes a Matthew 25 Church through the Presbyterian Church (USA), formally establishing its longtime commitment to social justice.
- 2021 St. Peter's celebrates its 250th year, with express acknowledgement of *Muhhekunneuw* (Mohican) lands and a community celebration at the former Methodist church, which now serves as the Austerlitz Town Hall.

Women Unabridged Book Group

We welcome any woman in the church and friends. *We are currently meeting via Zoom.*

The October meeting is Tuesday, October 19th at 7pm,

For questions, please contact:

Denise Davis, 518-392-9690, or
Teresa Barendfeld, 518-755-3273.



CLARA GOTT FUND APPLICATION DEADLINES

The Clara Gott Fund application deadlines: Mar. 15th, Jun. 15th, Sept. 15th, and Dec. 15th
Applications for assistance from the Fund are available at all times on the church bulletin board in the front hall and on our website at saintpeterspc.org. Church members are urged to call this to the attention of those who might want to apply.
Our next application deadline Dec. 15th

October Birthdays

Richard Iverson	10/1
Lisa Vahradian	10/4
Lee Coalter	10/8
Barbara Conkling	10/9
Irene Young	10/13
Patricia McKeon	10/15
Marcy L. Coalter	10/16
Caitrianna Coalter	10/16
Thomas Lareau	10/19
Eliza Alice Braley	10/23
John Tillotson	10/26
Sarah Braley	10/28



*Did we forget your birthday?
If you would like to be added to our birthday list, please contact one of our deacons to be added to the birthday list.*

Are you following us on Facebook?



The link is

<http://www.facebook.com/saintpeterspc>

Instructions for Life

Submitted by Mary Wambach

1. Take into account that great love and great achievements involve great risk.
2. When you lose, don't lose the lesson.
3. Follow the three Rs:
Respect for self.
Respect for others.
Responsibility for all your actions.
4. Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck.
5. Approach love and cooking with reckless abandon.
6. Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.
7. When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.
8. Spend some time alone.
9. Open your arms to change, but don't let go of your values.
10. Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
11. Live a good, honorable life. then when you get older and think back, you'll be able to enjoy it a second time.
12. A loving atmosphere in your home is the foundation for your life. Do all you can to create a tranquil, harmonious home.
13. In disagreements with loved ones, deal only with the current situation. Don't bring up the past.
14. Share your knowledge. It's a way to achieve immortality.
15. Be gentle with the earth.
16. Once a year, go someplace you've never been before.
17. Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.
18. Remember that the best relationship is one in which your love for each other exceeds your need for each other.





As of August 31st, our main operating accounts have a balance of \$ 27,669.64, but because of contingent liabilities (money allotted to combined sub-accounts within the church), the current funds available to the church are \$15,359. In August we had deposits totaling \$7,409, while expenditures were \$11,440.53. We anticipate having a few more big items to pay for such as our final insurance payment for the year, workers comp insurance, manse drainage work which is completed successfully, but haven't received a bill yet (this will come out of the contingent liabilities) as well as higher costs for fuel oil in the coming months. We have been in contact with the fuel company to determine best rates. With the manse going to be vacant for the winter, overall costs may be lower. Time will tell. In addition, our Parnassus investments rebounded a bit ; our reserve fund has \$55,386.84 and the Clara Gott main account has \$168,815.92.

As this is being written, we have just begun the process of budgeting for next year. Given that our minister has just resigned, it is hard to determine at this time how that will impact our overall budget. Hopefully by next month, it will be clearer to report.

We do feel we need to continue to move forward with another fundraising event and to be cognizant of our upcoming Stewardship campaign.

Thank you for your continued support of St. Peter's.

Wendy Diskin and Jeff Kiplinger, Co-Chairs



(Church donation button on website)

Deacons' 2021 Caring List

Please let a Deacon know if there is a concern to which we can offer prayers or support. This is an important part of our ministry as Deacons. Our first priority as Deacons is to you, our beloved community.

The alphabetical list is divided as follows:

Kathy Geddie: A-COU
(518-610-9002)

Donna Staron: COZZ-GOO
(518-392-3488)

Beth Cozzolino: GOT-LIG
(518-392-6946)

Joel Dyslin: LIP-ROG
(518-392-5723)

Jennifer Thompson: SAN-YOU
(518-392-0025)



2021 St. Peter's Officers Council



*Wendy Diskin, Larry Massimo,
Nancy Ordman, Teresa Barenfeld,
David Pearce, Sandy Fischer,
Barbara Conkling, Jeff Kiplinger*

Clerk of Council: Nancy Ordman

Board of Deacons

*Beth Cozzolino, Jennifer Thompson,
Kathy Geddie, Donna Staron, Joel Dyslin*

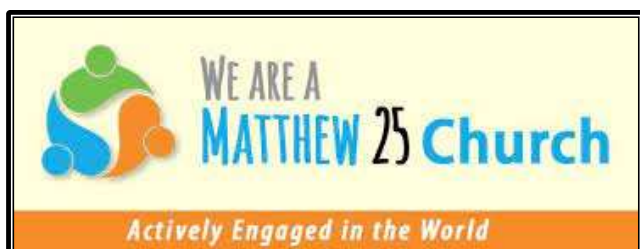
*Co-Chairs: Jennifer Thompson
and Beth Cozzolino*

Trustees

*Chris Cashen, Raeph Sanderson,
Randy Ezinga, Kurt Barenfeld*

*Co-Chairs: Kurt Barenfeld
and Randy Ezinga*

October Worship



*Worship will be held in-person
AND on Zoom.
Zoom log-in is the same for each
Sunday. Check your email each
Thursday for details!*

Sunday, October 3rd

*World Communion Sunday
Sunday School Blessing
Rev. Lynn Horan's last Sunday*

Sunday, October 10th

Rev. Kathi Jones Preaching

Sunday, October 17th

Guest Preacher

Sunday, October 24th

Guest Preacher

Sunday, October 31st

Lay-led Worship ~ Matthew 25

October Lectionary Readings

- 10/3/21 *Semicontinuous*
Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 26;
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12;
Mark 10:2-16
Complementary
Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 8;
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:45-12;
Mark 10:2-16
- 10/10/21 *Semicontinuous*
Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15;
Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31
Complementary
Amos 5:6-7, 10-15;
Psalm 90:12-17;
Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31
- 10/17/21 *Semicontinuous*
Job 38:1-7 (34-41)
Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c;
Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45
Complementary
Isaiah 53:4-12; Psalm 91:9-16;
Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45
- 10/24/21 *Semicontinuous*
Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8
(19-22) Hebrews 7:23-28;
Mark 10:46-52
Complementary
Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 126;
Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52
- 10/31/21 *Semicontinuous*
Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146;
Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34
Complementary
Deuteronomy 6:1-9;
Psalm 119:1-8; Hebrews 9:11-14;
Mark 12:28-34





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Deacons Meeting 9:00am	2
3 Worship 10am Congregational Meeting after Worship	4	5	6 Council Meeting 7pm	7	8	9
10 Worship 10am	11	12 Trustees Meeting 7pm	13	14	15	16
17 Worship 10am	18	19 Women Unabridged Book Group 7pm	20	21	22	23
24 Worship 10am	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Worship 10am						

ST. PETER'S PRESS DEADLINE

To submit an article for the newsletter just email it to St. Peter's Council Clerk, Nancy Ordman at nancy.ordman@gmail.com *by the 20th of each month*. The submission deadline for the November issue is **Wednesday, October 20th**.