



St. Peter's Press

St. Peter's Presbyterian Church

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February 2022

Love is patient,
love is kind and is not jealous;
love does not brag and is not arrogant,
does not act unbecomingly; it does not
seek its own, is not provoked, does not
take into account a wrong suffered, does
not rejoice in unrighteousness, but
rejoices with the truth; bears all
things, believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all
things.

~ 1 Corinthians 13:4-7



Clerk of Council Report

Happy 2022!

Starting the year off the way I intend to continue, by including a report covering Council's activities and other news our congregation needs to know. First, a brief recap of the Sunday, January 16, Congregational Meeting. I gave a brief overview of Council's work since last October, which included ensuring worship in our sanctuary each Sunday; sending the weekly email blast and bulletin – and composing the bulletin – for which great thanks to Sandy Fischer; hiring a newsletter editor and searching for a church secretary; and much more, both mundane and significant.

We also approved the nominees for Council (Jere Wrightsman for a first term, Larry Massimo and Nancy Ordman for a second), and Deacons (Mary Anne Davis for a first term, Jennifer Thompson and Kathy Geddie for a second). We have no new members for Trustees; Council is considering restructuring the way Trustees' responsibilities are handled. And we discussed the Annual Report.

Council will begin working with Peg Smith, whom the Presbytery Committee on Ministers and Congregations (COMAC), has assigned to help our congregation discern our way forward as we consider filling our pulpit more permanently, rather than week-to-week as we are doing now. You will hear from Council regularly as we start this process.

Finally, let me encourage you to take Teresa Barenfeld's advice and subscribe to the Albany Presbytery newsletter. Our Presbytery and its churches are actively involved in our communities, working on issues and concerns we all share.

<https://albanypresbytery.org/>

If you have questions or comments for Council, please contact me at nancy.ordman@gmail.com (preferred) or leave a message at 518-781-4136.

Peace,
Nancy

Treasurer's Newsletter, Feb. 2022

Most of you should have received an annual report via an email or in person, in which you can find an end-of-year treasurer's report for 2021. Therefore we'll not include it here. If you didn't get access and would like one sent to you, please call or text Wendy at 518 929-2488, and she'll send you one.

Looking to the future:

Here are a few items that we be looking at in 2022 that can affect the finances of the church:

- Council has approved the possibility of a short-term rental for the manse to bring in additional income while a search begins for an interim pastor.
- Membership for the Annual Statistical Report has not been updated since 2020. A committee is working on updating membership numbers, as the church is assessed per member resulting in a nearly \$5,000 yearly payment. Statistics reported this year will impact the 2023 apportionment or what is now called Basic Witness payment.
- Insurance premiums rose considerably due to the cost of building supplies, etc. Jeff is in contact with our insurer who is looking for more local underwriters to provide cheaper insurance. Our insurer is based in an area where replacement costs are more substantial than in our area.
- We're very close to hiring someone to clean the church on a regular basis. This may start as soon as February.
- Building up the congregation: We are hopeful of restarting the Sunday School program in 2022 and looking for ways to attract more families to St. Peter's. Ideas and efforts to increase our outreach in the local community are very welcome.
- Last, we will be putting together a Terms of Call soon, as we begin the search for a new pastor. We will be using Presbytery guidelines that fit within our budgeted resources to develop that call and start the search process.

Wendy Diskin and Jeff Kiplinger, Co-Treasurers

**Meet your Newsletter
Person**



Hello! I am Mary Langley, a retired United Methodist minister, who moved from

Texas to New York 12 years ago. A lot of people ask why I would do that, and I just have one word in response: Grandchildren!

I have had many jobs and careers in my life: home ec teacher, UMC pastor, marriage and family therapist, spiritual director, high school counselor, writer, seamstress, etc., etc. And now - newsletter creator. Thanks to you for the warm welcome, and I look forward to working with all ya'll, we say in Texas!

Mary



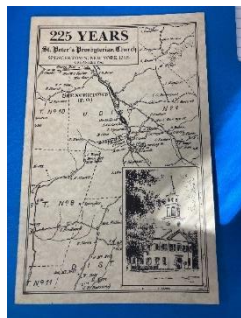
February Birthdays!

- | | |
|-----------------|------|
| Linda Bolluyt | 2/6 |
| Emily Gaylord | 2/6 |
| Donna Staron | 2/16 |
| Casen Waldorf | 2/19 |
| Owen Barenfeld | 2/23 |
| Peggy Antos | 2/24 |
| Margy Quinn | 2/25 |
| Rev. Lynn Brown | 2/27 |
| Marie Fischer | 2/27 |
| Carol French | 2/28 |
| Samuel Lareau | 2/28 |

In Loving Memory of Lou Wambach



Lou Wambach, a long-time member of St. Peter's, died January 18. He was born in Austerlitz on July 12, 1924. He and Mary, his beloved wife of almost 50 years (their anniversary is March 4), joined the church in 1981 and did so much to support it over many years. Lou served as an Elder from 1982 to 1988 and was Clerk of Session many of those years. He attended church regularly until he no longer could due to health issues. He loved the church very much and joyfully welcomed having communion served in his home. He kept God in his heart always, reading a daily devotional when able.



Lou led the committee for the St. Peter's 225th Anniversary Celebration in 1985. For the celebration, Lou produced a history of the church, taking previous histories compiled in 1941 by Reverend A.C. McMillan and later amended by Reverend Andrew MacTaggart, and bringing the history up to date as of 1985.

In the front of the book, Lou wrote:

This Church History is dedicated, with pride and humility, to our forebears who founded and preserved it for two and a quarter centuries, and gratefulness for their faithful service that we have been permitted to be a part of it now. May all be done for the Honor and Glory of God.

Lou built his house on farmland given to him by his parents. He worked with his father on the family farm in Harlemville, later worked at WarpKnit Mills in Mellenville, and retired from Ockawamick Central School District. He was a member of the Columbia County Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Lou enjoyed telling and hearing a good joke. He loved Mary's good home cooking, hunting, fishing, and gardening. After retirement, he and Mary enjoyed wintering in Florida for several years.

Lou loved old-time country music, not only listening to it but adeptly playing it on his fiddle with friends. He played some of his favorites at home with family at gatherings and around a campfire. He always ended a music set playing *Amazing Grace*, one of his favorite songs.

A private, family-only service was held at Wenk Funeral Home in Chatham on January 22. A memorial service at St. Peter's Presbyterian Church and interment at Harlemville Cemetery will be scheduled in the spring. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to St. Peter's Presbyterian Church or the Spencertown Fire Department. To send online condolences, visit wenkfuneralhome.com.

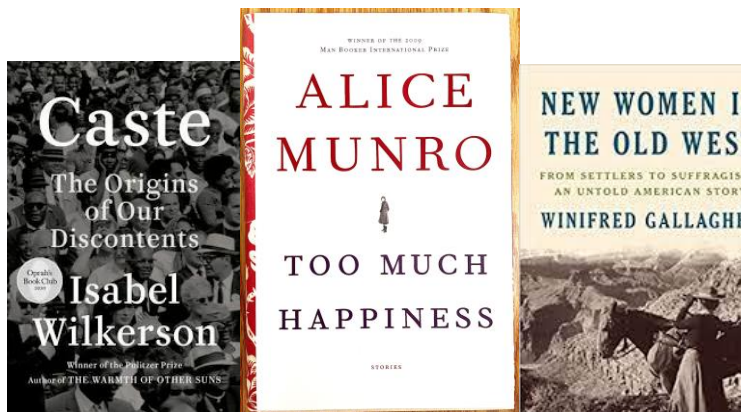
Women Unabridged Book Group

We welcome any woman in the church and friends. We usually meet the third Monday of the month and are currently meeting via Zoom. For questions or information on how to join the Zoom call, please contact Teresa Barendsfeld at (518)755-3273 or tbarendsfeld@gmail.com. Our books for the upcoming months:

February 21 Black History Month: *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent*, by Isabel Wilkerson

March 21: *Too Much Happiness* (short stories), by Alice Munro

April 18: *New Women of the Old West*, by Winifred Gallagher





Lectionary

2/2 Presentation of the Lord - Malachi 3:1-4;
Psalm 84 or
Psalm 24:7-10; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

2/6 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany - Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13);
Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

2/13 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany - Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1;
1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

2/20 Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany - Genesis 45:3-11, 15;
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38

2/27 Transfiguration Sunday - Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99;
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)



SIGN UP FOR COMMUNITY SOLAR!

The Town of Austerlitz has approved Astral Power as a Community Solar Provider for the Solarize Austerlitz Campaign, which will run from November 2021 to October 2022. The key advantages of enrolling in Community Solar are savings on electric charges and reduction of carbon emissions. The savings are passed to the utility account holder for supporting renewable energy produced in a remote location within New York State, without having to have solar panels on the home or in the yard. These discounts are available to renters as well.

A subscription to Community Solar requires no upfront costs, no credit checks or confusing billing. All billing is consolidated with the utility bill with net savings on the subscriber's' NYSEG bill.

Astral Power is offering \$100 (signing bonus) to the first 501st fifty subscribers and will make a donation to the Town of Austerlitz for each enrollment.



Energized by



To sign up visit: <https://www.astralpower.com/solarize-austerlitz/>

To speak w/ our Campaign Contact: Cara Humphrey (914) 475-1395

—Jere Wrightsman

St. Peter's @250 Anniversary Income/Expenses Report

In 2021, two Board members of the Friends of Historic St. Peter's Church and several members of St. Peter's Church congregation formed a committee to plan events to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Church.¹ The Committee hoped the celebration would increase community awareness of St. Peter's as a place to worship and as a community center. (These events were in addition to the June 1 special service led by Pastor Lynn Horan.)

Over the course of weekly meetings held during July through September, we planned several events, not only to raise funds but bring more neighbors and residents to celebrate with us. We agreed that the Church and the Friends would share the proceeds generated (minus expenses). Related brochures and news articles were prepared and published.

We endeavored to get business supporters, creating a brochure to attract attention. Ultimately, few donations were received through that channel, although if a similar approach were used in the future with more dedicated outreach, we may have better success.

The Committee's events included:

- A Community Program on August 1 (Church service with remarks by long-time members and a former pastor, music on the Green, and a program at the Town Hall featuring remarks by the Town Historian and Austerlitz Historical Society Board president, including refreshments)
- An Art exhibit at the Town's History Center (and online) featuring church-related artworks (opening at the Church), which ran from Labor Day through the end of October
- A lasagna dinner on Election Day
- A raffle of two jewelry pendants designed by Rita Van Alstyne based on the Church's weathervane, drawing held at the Christmas Bazaar.

The Committee achieved much of what it expected to do – many people attended the August 1 service, program and reception. The art exhibit saw 12 regionally based artists create new works – paintings, mostly – of the Church.² Most of those artists had not been familiar with the Church or its setting prior to our call for submissions

¹ Participants were Barbara Smith and Lynne O'Connell from the Friends Board, and Kathy Geddie, Sandy Fischer, Nancy Ordman, Marion Ulmer, Wendy Diskin, Joel Dyslin, and Larry Massimo from the Church.

² Artists were Richard Bazelow, Arlene Boehm, Mary Ann Davis, Randy Ezinga, Marie Fischer, Marcia Kammerer, Eden Hart, David Lesako, Mitzi Lobdell, Martha Morano, Jackie Rogers, Debbie Shaw, and Willard Ulmer.

and their response. Vintage paintings and photographs of the Church were also displayed. The Election Day Dinner was a success, and the raffle of the jewelry appealed to many participants. Much positive feedback was received for each of these events.

In broad terms, the events and donations generated about \$9,900 in income, from which expenses of \$1,850 were paid, leaving about \$8,000 to be split between the Church and the Friends.

A summary of income and expenses follows.

Income

Donations specifically for the @250 Celebrations: \$750

Art sales (credit or check) \$4557

Raffle Tickets (93 tickets @\$25 each) \$2325

Miscellaneous income (additional cash from art sales, dinner sales) \$1420

Income/funds were collected mostly by the Friends and expenses paid by the Friends. It is anticipated that a check to the Church for its share of the proceeds will be sent in the near future.

Expenses³

Ghent Band (Played August 1) \$250

Town of Austerlitz (cost to use Town Hall for 8/1 reception) \$200

Nancy Scans (cost for yellow poster for art show) \$85

TrevellyanBiz.com. (design work for poster, other uses) \$ 250

TroyWeb (Friends website work supporting art sale and raffle ticket sales) \$480

Peter Blandori (raffle poster & slide design, bill not yet received, anticipated) \$150

Crandall Theater (raffle slide included in pre-movie show, bill not yet received, anticipated) \$80

Payments to several artists (percentage of sales shared with them) \$435

The Committee applied to the Clara Gott Fund for financial support to defray some/all of the foregoing expenses, and we are awaiting their response. If the Fund makes a grant, the proceeds to be shared between the Church and the Friends will increase proportionately.

³ Please recognize that not all costs incurred are noted, as some individuals did not submit for reimbursements (e.g. for certain printing or postage). Also, some income which might have been segregated into categories has been grouped together. This project was a group effort, with many people working for its success.

Anniversary Report Update

August 1 Reception: Following the Church service and music on the Green, participants gathered at the Town Hall for a program and refreshments. Samson's Restaurant in Schodack generously donated the food and beverages, valued at \$750.

Jewelry Raffle: 93 of 100 raffle tickets were sold, at \$25 each (totaling \$2,325). The winners were picked at the conclusion of the Christmas Bazaar. The "sun" pendant was won by Terra Niesen of Ghent, and the "moon" pendant was won by Hannah Schmidl (Barbara Smith's daughter), former Spencertown resident, now of Texas. Many thanks to Rita Van Alstyne for her generous donation of design and production of the weathervane-inspired pendants.

—Barbara Smith, Friends of St. Peter's Board member