

St. Peter's Press

St. Peter's Presbyterian Church

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Clerk of Council Report

This month I can report the good news that St. Peter's will soon have a regular preacher to serve for several months, as we discern our way forward into the future. In March/April, Council received two proposals that would provide us with the continuity we've needed since last October, including presiding over Sunday services. Rev. Kathryn Bielke from First Presbyterian in Hudson and Rev. Donna Elia, who has filled our pulpit many times since January, have each offered to minister to us. A volunteer committee composed of Ruling Elder Jere Wrightsman and Deacons Mary Anne Davis and Jennifer Thompson met with Kathryn and Donna, and with Peg Smith, our shepherd from COMAC (Presbytery's Committee on Ministers and Congregations), to explore each proposal; Council will vote on it during our regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 4.

Council is deeply grateful to both Kathryn and Donna for their interest in serving St. Peter's and to the members of this committee who volunteered to do undertake such critical work under a tight deadline. I'll report Council's decision after our Wednesday meeting.

I met with Mary Anne, Jere, and Donna a couple of weeks ago. I was sitting in our sunroom looking out at the lake and saw an eagle fishing. When I exclaimed that the eagle caught a fish, we figured that was a positive sign for St. Peter's. Let's all pray for our congregation's success as we find our way back from a difficult winter to a spring of possibilities.

Peace to all,
Nancy Ordman, Clerk of Council

Treasurers' Report

As most of us have experienced recently, the cost of most everything has gone up. That too is the case with the church. Our operating balance is low due to higher bills, increased costs, and less income. Increases have occurred with everything from maintenance to utilities.

However, as we move forward we have things to be grateful for as well. The friends of St. Peter's recently gave us half of the money made during the 250th anniversary celebration last year. Thanks to the hard work of a small committee and the contributions of many, it has given us something to celebrate and some more money in our coffers. In addition, the manse has been rented out temporarily, increasing our income a bit as well, despite some unexpected work needing to be done there.

The Clara Gott fund received a good sum to disperse this year and has awarded money to several deserving people and initiatives. And finally, the weather is improving almost daily. Hopefully we can look forward to lower fuel bills, and more fundraisers as we begin our search for a new pastor to lead us here at St. Peter's.

Wendy Diskin and Jeff Kiplinger, Co-treasurers

Women Unabridged

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 16, at 6:30 via Zoom. We discussed the possibility of going back to in-person meetings and decided that we will take this on a month-by-month basis depending on the numbers of Covid infections in our area. The book for May is *Too Much Happiness* (short stories) by Alice Munro.



May Birthdays!

Dan Franck	5/5
Sandy Fischer	5/8
Beth Illingworth	5/10
Mindy Gardner	5/13
Barbara Iverson	5/16
Christopher John Cashen	5/30



A Prayer for Mothers
From Book of Blessings, U.S.A)

For our mothers, who have given us life and love,
that we may show them reverence and love,
we pray to the Lord.

For Mothers who have lost a child through death,
that their faith may give them hope,
and their family and friends support and console them,
we pray to the Lord.

For women, though without children of their own,
who like mothers have nurtured and cared for us,
we pray to the Lord

For mothers, who have been unable to be a source of strength,
who have not responded to their children
and have not sustained their families,
we pray to the Lord.

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children,
so you watch over your church.

Bless these women, that they may be strengthened as mothers.

Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.

Grant that we, their sons and daughters,

May honor them always with a spirit of profound respect.

Grant this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Submitted by Mary Wambach



Hey gardeners, let's plant sunflowers this season to show support for Ukraine! It's a small act of beauty in this dark moment in history. They grow easily from seeds, and many garden centers offer seedings as well. Maybe a patch at the manse, or along the cemetery fence could be planned, as well?

To warmer days and sunshine, Barbara Smith.



Lou Wambach's Memorial Service

Many friends and family members attended a beautiful memorial service at St. Peter's on April 23, 2022, for Lou Wambach, who died January 18, 2022. This is one of the beautiful poems included in the bulletin.

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free.
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call;
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way;
I found that place at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss;
Ah yes, these things, I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow.
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much;
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seems all too brief;
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now; He set me free.

Caring Caterers for Lou Wambach's Memorial Service Reception

Mary Wambach and family wish to thank Joel Dyslin for handling the catering for their Memorial Service for Lou on April 23. Joel has a lot of experience cooking and providing food in large quantities for many organizations (including the Kinderhook Elks, the Spencertown Firehouse, and St. Peter's). He does this to raise money to help others in the community or for the organization holding an event. *No doubt about it; he is amazing!*

Joel developed the menu, with help from Donna Staron and Barbara Smith. He obtained the ingredients to feed an estimated 100 people. Then, he was joined by an amazing crew to prepare the sandwiches and abundant side dishes and beverages, serve the food, and clean up afterward.

Joel is very grateful the following workers who helped make it happen: Sandra, Adam, Jane, and Marie Fischer; Ruthie Fitzpatrick; Judy Hoag; Donna Staron; Barbara Smith; Jennifer Thompson; Werner Schmidl; Dave Page (firefighter); and Bill Rogers (firefighter). We have a wonderful community!

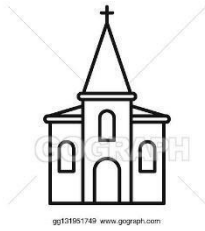


Marie Fischer, Joel Dyslin, Judy Hoag, and Ruthie Fitzpatrick washing dishes.

Sandy Fischer putting away chairs.



Painting the Church Exterior



The Friends of Historic St. Peter's Church is happy to announce that a project to paint the exterior of the church will begin soon, likely mid-June, at the cost of \$77,000. The firm, LA Painting – owned by Louis DeCrosta of Rigor Hill Road in Ghent – will perform the work, including the use of two lifts. The storm windows will be reglazed as well. The Cemetery Association has approved the plans for using the lift(s) with care taken for the headstones and surrounding land. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate!

As ever, the Friends' organization is grateful for the ongoing financial support of the St. Peter's congregation. Our plan initially included repair and repainting of the hand railing at the front of the church, but that aspect was deleted as a cost-saving measure. As we all emerge from the Covid times, the Friends looks forward to developing a new fundraising campaign to support future maintenance of the church building. Your donations may be mailed to: Friends of St. Peter's, PO Box 278, Spencertown, NY 12165.

St. Peter's Mission to Provide Support to USCRI

Most Afghan evacuees fleeing the Taliban have waited in U.S. military bases for months to see their new homes.

USCRI Albany is welcoming new families to the Capital Region every day and they need your help now more than ever.



St. Peter's will continue collecting donations for the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) in Albany throughout the month of May. USCRI's goals include assisting refugees in finding and furnishing housing, obtaining employment, achieving self-sufficiency, and nurturing community integration. In collaboration with State and local partners, USCRI Albany works toward these goals by providing case management, employment assistance, Family Support Services, and English Language Training.

Currently, they need cleaning supplies and tools; toiletries for men and women; diapers for larger babies (sizes 4-6); and household items such as gently used kitchen towels, potholders, drapes, bathmats, etc. There is a box in the Narthex beside the Sanctuary door to put your donations. Money is also needed; contact Kathy Geddie (kegeddie@gmail.com) or Sharon Wing (igwsdw@aol.com) for monetary donations.



Revised Common Lectionary Readings

May 1, Third Sunday of Easter

- **First Reading** Acts 9:1-6
- **Psalm** 30
- **Second Reading** Revelation 5:11-14
- **Gospel** John 21:1-9

May 8, Fourth Sunday of Easter

- **First Reading** Acts 9:36-43
- **Psalm** 23:1-6
- **Second Reading** Revelation 7:9-17
- **Gospel** John 10:22-30

May 15, Fifth Sunday of Easter

- **First Reading** Acts 11:1-18
- **Psalm** 148:1-14
- **Second Reading** Revelation 21:1-6
- **Gospel** John 13:31-35

May 22, Sixth Sunday of Easter

- **First Reading** Acts 16:9-15
- **Psalm** 67:1-7
- **Second Reading** Revelation 21:10, 21:22-22:5
- **Gospel** John 14:23-29
- **Gospel** John 5:1-9

May 29, Seventh Sunday of Easter

- **First Reading** Acts 16:16-34
- **Psalm** 97:1-12
- **Second Reading** Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
- **Gospel** John 17:20-26