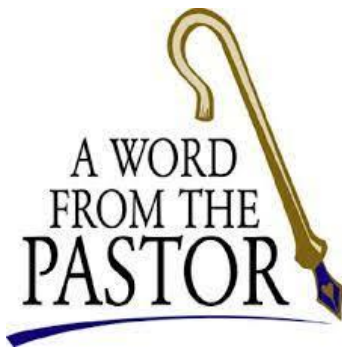




March 2026

THE BEACON

“Let your light shine before others”



For generations of ministers, and no less today, there has always been a balance in the pulpit between challenge and hope, uncomfortable truths and comfort, the pointing finger and the wide embrace.

New ministers will often take those first swings at the pulpit time to “preach Jesus, whether they like it or not,” meaning their take on things to get the congregation’s mind right; to force feed what’s good for them.

Challenge is good, and such sermons can be exciting to some, but every person in the pews is there to get some Good News in a hard world, whether Republican or Democrat or Independent, whether rich or poor, young or old, man or woman.

I think this is especially true today. Our world feels divided, anxious, even upset and angry. There is more than enough division in the world right now; the local church doesn’t help if it becomes just another way to divide; especially in the name of Jesus Christ.

Are such words, such thoughts, simply a justification for sermons that taste like pabulum; bland intellectual fare, easily digestible? No, the local church carries with it the last prayer of Jesus before his betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion by an oppressive Roman empire: “That they all may be one.”

The local minister must believe in that vision; must believe in that call to oneness in a divided world. Jesus knows that human beings are very good at pointing out slivers in the eyes of others, but somehow can’t see the piece of timber in their own eye. It’s much harder, it seems, to find our commonality in the world. And yet, Jesus calls on us to seek more than commonality; that we are to actually believe in, and strive for, oneness.

May God’s church in this world of divisions and accusations, even violence, provide a safe haven where all are welcome. More than that, may we praise God for a vision that frees us, and leads us to new days, “on earth as it is in heaven.”

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2026 HEIFER FAIR SUNDAY



APRIL 26

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Don’t forget to turn your clocks one hour **forward** before going to bed on Saturday March 7th.



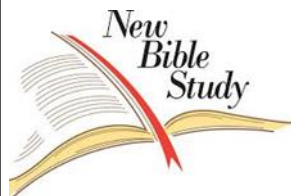
SPRING FORWARD

Gail Raichle's Service

As a reminder, Gail Raichle's graveside service will be held here at St. Peter's Pikeland on Saturday, March 7th at 12 noon, with a luncheon in Fellowship Hall to follow.



Bible Study March 15th



After worship and a time for refreshments on March 15th, Pastor Doug will hold another Bible Study in the Conference Room. The title is "A Quick Dig into Holy Week."

This is the most important week of the year in the church, as it leads toward the cross and also Easter morning. There will be time set aside at both the beginning and at the end for questions, with everyone on their way home by noon at the latest.

CHILI COOK OFF- MARCH 21

Calling all Chili fans!

The Chili Cook-off will be on Saturday, March 21st at 6 PM. Proceeds benefit St. Peter's missions. Chili cookers will need to bring an extension cord and arrive at 5:15 to set up.

Donations (suggested \$8/pp) for one voting ticket and all you can eat chili.

Additional Voting Ticket Costs - 1 ticket \$2, 3 tickets for \$5, and Arm length for \$8. Besides chili cookers we will also need donations for water, iced tea and desserts.

Sign Up Sheet will be in Fellowship Hall or email Maureen Wookey at:

mwookey17@hotmail.com.



Souper Bowl Sunday

February 8th marked the 60th Super Bowl. It also marked another Souper Bowl Sunday at church. Thank you to Maureen Wookey for coordinating the day again this year, and for writing the sermon dialogue between her and Pastor Doug.

Also, thank you to all who brought cans of soup to help the local food pantry; thank you to all who wore their favorite team, and to those who brought delicious football snacks for our fellowship time.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday on February 18th, marking the beginning of the church season of Lent, was observed at St. Peter's in two ways. During the day, from 11:30-1:30pm, eight people came to receive ashes and a blessing, followed by conversations about Lent and just sharing.

In the evening, a Communion service was attended by 21 people, who also came forward to receive the imposition of ashes.



ONLINE giving

Don't forget, you can easily give your offering to St. Peter' on line by scanning this QR code





Vicki Goodman	3/1
Tom Raichle	3/2
Patrick McCarthy	3/2
Joe Thomson	3/3
Paul McCarthy	3/4
Mackenzie Blue	3/4
Ray Perry	3/4
Scott Raichle	3/5
Charles Garber	3/5
Conner Harlow	3/6
Andrew Dick	3/6
Chad Sproule	3/9
Austin Myers	3/9
Matthew Detwiler	3/12
Ryan Nicholson	3/12
Laurel Wilson	3/14
Claire Wilson	3/14
Virginia Garber	3/15
Trish Cottone	3/16
Charlie Shupe	3/16
Madison Wachsmuth	3/20
James Carnevale	3/21
Dave Zinn	3/23
Ted Bierer	3/25
Dana Montieth	3/26
Barbara Borzillo	3/28
Kat Bowman	3/29
Ken Emery	3/30

Sewing Circle News

Hoagie and Bakeless Bake Sale



There is still time to order your hoagie to benefit Bethany Children's Home. Hoagies are \$7.00 each and 6".

The last date to place your order is Sunday, March

1st. Pickup date is Sunday, March 8 after worship.

If you would like to donate, but don't want to order a hoagie we will be happy to accept your donation through our "Bake-less Bake Sale."

PACS Food Drive



The Sewing Circle and Phoenixville Area Community Services would like to thank everyone who so graciously gave to the Winter Food Drive. Your kindness and generosity mean more than you will ever know!



PALM SUNDAY EVENTS

Join us on Sunday March 29 for our annual Fisherman's Breakfast, supporting Habitat for Humanity, from 7:30 am -9:45 am, followed by our Palm Sunday Service and ending with our Children's Easter Egg Hunt after worship.

Fisherman's Breakfast will include: All you can eat Pancakes, bacon, sausage, spam, fruit, coffee and orange juice. Monetary donations will be taken at the door.

All leftover fruit, bacon and sausage will be available for purchase after worship.

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

2: Holy Week service

5: Easter 8am Communion;
10am family service and social hour

11: Spring clean-up (rain date 18th)

19: Bible study after worship

25: Heifer Sunday



Keep up to date on special things here at St. Peter's Pikeland by "liking" us on Facebook

Our Prayer List

Our Prayer List



Church Staff

Rev. Douglas Hanson,

Pastor

Kat Bowman,

Director of Music and Organist

Jill Cook,

Church Secretary

Deborah Wetty,

Nursery Attendant

Debbie Wolk,

Bookkeeper

Herman Nieuwenhuizen

Cemetery Manager

Church Officers 2026

President of Congregation –
Jim Phillips

Secretary of Congregation –
Kathleen Wachsmuth

President of Consistory –
Pete Warner

Secretary of Consistory –
Sarah Hackman

Elders

Cindy Maguire- Chair
Peter Wilson
Scott Raichle

Deacons

Sarah Hackman – Chair
Cheryl Nicholson
Pete Warner

Trustees

Mark Myers - Chair
Albert Wachsmuth
Mark Myers

Andrea Lafleur
Angie Schlessman
Annamae Moore
Annette Noce, JoAnn Thomson's mother
Austin Myers
Barbara Broyles, friend of the Wachsmuths
Barbara Shivers
Carol Meyer
Connie Hershey, friend of Micki and Alyssa Menkins
Charlie Fishman, Pete Warner's Nephew and Godson
Charles and Virginia Garber
Danielle Smith, friend of Sarah Hackman
David Richman, friend of Grace Merryman
Debbie Rittenhouse, mother-in-law of Mitchell Warner
Dr. Michael J. Ward
Ernie P., friend of Dee McClimon
Fred Schilling, husband of a friend of Kathy Krasley
Gayanne Loring, sister of Dawna DeRosa
Heidi Kieffer, daughter of Eric Johnson's cousin
Jamie Glennon, friend of Eric Hanson
Jeff Johnson, Co-worker of Eric Johnson
Jeanine Leber, friend of Alyssa Menkins
Jennifer Osborne
Jessica G., friend of Grace Merryman
Jim Smith, Denise Harlow's brother
John Pittock, friend of Grace Merryman
Karl Longenbach, friend of Deb Wetty
Kelly Maldonado friend of Maureen & Kenzie Wookey
Laura Dick
Laura S., friend of Grace Merryman
Linda Cherneck, friend of Deb Wetty
Lisa, cousin of Eric Johnson
Mary Andersen, friend of the McCarthy
Pat Cline, mother of Cindy Warner
Paul Pascale, friend of the McClimons
Penny, friend of Linda Johnson
Richard, friend of Dee McClimon
Sally Kramer, Cherri Romano's sister
Sandy C., Friend of Dee McClimon
Sandy McKeever, Maureen Wookey's Sister in law
Sandy Pereni, Joyce Rosen's sister
Sharon Basile, Jennifer Basile's mother-in-law
Sonja Wheelan
Sue and Jeff, Linda Johnson's sister and brother-in-law
Tara Cantello, friend of Denise Harlow
The Frost Family, friends of Sarah Hackman
Tracey Knox, cousin of Kathy Krasley
Travis McClimon
Virginia Lawrence