



# The Beacon • June 2022

## Saint Peter's United Church of Christ

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Rev. Dr. Kimberly Stryjak, Minister  
2901 Curtis Road, Reading, PA 19609 • [stpucc.com](http://stpucc.com) • [stpucc@yahoo.com](mailto:stpucc@yahoo.com) • 610.678.3621

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“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” —Jeremiah 29:11 (NRSV)

With so much transitioning happening in our faith community over the past year, I think it can be easy to get caught up in the challenges of change. Change is hard; change always includes loss. The very definition of “change” is to make something different or replace with something else. For this community it has been the loss of leadership, loss of the status quo and familiar faces, and the loss of what was, due to the pandemic. With changes come all the feelings that surround loss—grief, fear, discomfort, and sadness. Dealing with all these emotions, we can lose sight that change can also bring anticipation, joy, and excitement as well. In our days ahead, and in this time of transitioning, we are reassured that our ministry is about God. It has never been about just one thing or one person. All that is done here at Saint Peter's—every sermon preached, every person fed, every ministry offered, every child embraced, every baptism, every youth confirmed, every wedding officiated and life celebrated—has always been about God and sharing God's love of humanity.

And because of that we can look forward to the future and the changes happening here at Saint Peter's with anticipation, joy, and excitement because God has a plan for Saint Peter's and for you! It is an exciting time when we as a community can dream and imagine what we believe God wants Saint Peter's to be and what impact we can have on our surrounding community.

The above passage from Jeremiah has always brought me some comfort as my and my husband's calls to ministry have moved our family from Spring City to southern Illinois and back again, and then onto Reading, and as we have faced challenges in ministry. Knowing that

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what we do each and every day is for God, and that if we open our ears and hearts to God's still-speaking voice, God will guide us in this life-long call to ministry is reassuring. And I believe the words of this passage can be a comfort to us, our church family, as we start this journey together into the future of Saint Peter's. Collectively knowing that God has a plan for Saint Peter's can ignite our imaginations and dreams of all that we can be.

May the peace and love of Christ that we have come to know continue to guide us throughout this year as we envision what our future will be.

Blessings,

***Pastor Kim***

## Parish News

Please remember one another in your prayers. We are grateful for the power of prayer to keep us connected to God, renewing our strength and courage. If you have a prayer request or would like to join the list of those praying for others, please contact the church office.

We celebrate the life and mourn the deaths of two of our members. Kevin Kopp, son of Jack and Gloria, passed into eternal life on May 20. Keep Jack and Gloria; Kevin's son, J. Alexander; sister, Pamela; and aunts, Sandra and Rosalie, close in prayer. Gary Brown passed away suddenly on May 24. We lift up his wife, Page, and daughters, Kylie, Cassidy, and Tatum, in prayer.

We're so proud of our graduates and ask God's blessing on them as they take the next steps in their life journeys.

After graduating from Wilson High School, Noah Barndt will attend Lebanon Valley College and major in actuarial science.

Jane and Jake Brubaker are celebrating the graduation of two of their grandchildren. Daniel graduates from Wilson High School this spring and will study engineering at Widener University. James, who is employed by Brubacher Excavating in Lancaster County, earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in diesel technology.

The Bubel family has much to celebrate, too. Alyssa earned her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing at Penn State and accepted a graduate nurse position at Penn State Health Hershey Medical Center's Heart and Vascular Institute Critical Care Unit. She'll take her NCLEX exam this month. Nina earned her Juris Doctor degree at the Weidner

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University of Delaware Law School. Nina will take her Pennsylvania and New Jersey bar exam in July and plans to practice family or real estate law.

The Mooney family shared that Emilie graduates from Wilson High School this month and that Reilley graduated from Penn State with a Bachelor of Arts degree in linguistics.

Kara Rae Unger graduated from Temple University Fox School of Business with a Bachelor of Science degree in business management and is looking for work in New York City.

## Consistory Highlights

At the May consistory meeting, the leaders of Saint Peter's approved the hire of a new parish administrator, Angela Romano. Look for Angela's biography in the next issue of the *Beacon*. Pastor Kim continues to work with members of Saint Peter's on rebuilding our Christian education program for children and youth. Bryan Sterner and Allan Owen reported that the generosity and care of our congregation has resulted in total giving of \$63,211 through the end of April, which surpassed our projected giving for these first four months of the year by nearly \$17,000. Your offerings and tithes help to support our work in the community and provides Saint Peter's the ability to operate so that we can further the mission of the church. Thank you!

	Actual		Budget		Difference	
					Fav / (Unfav)	
Total Giving	\$	63,211	\$	46,228	\$	16,983
Total Expenses		(33,002)		(40,613)		7,611
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>30,209</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,615</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>24,594</b>

## Food and Fellowship

The Social Committee cordially invites everyone—kids and adults—to a summer kick-off party at the home of Glenn and Shannon Sunday from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Thursday, June 9. Games, drinks, and hot dogs will be provided. Please bring a dessert or side dish to share. RSVP by using [our online form](#) or by contacting the church office by Sunday, June 4. Thanks to Glenn and Shannon for helping Saint Peter's start the summer with a bang.

## Outdoor Clean-Up

On May 21 fifty volunteers, including members of our congregation and two Scouts BSA troops, braved the heat and humidity to help spruce up the church property. Together they spread over eleven yards of mulch, performed general upkeep, and removed the shed, which seemed to have a very stubborn desire to remain standing. Despite the weather, a good time was had by all (except, perhaps, the shed). When you have a moment, please walk the grounds and take a moment to appreciate everyone's hard work. Thanks to the Boy Scouts and all our volunteers!

## What's Your Gift?

*So, we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God's message, we should do it according to the faith that we have; if it is to serve, we should serve; if it is to teach, we should teach; if it is to encourage others, we should do so. Whoever shares with others should do it generously; whoever has authority should work hard; whoever shows kindness to others should do it cheerfully. —Romans 12:4-8*

What's your gift?

If it is to drive, would you offer a non-driving member of Saint Peter's a ride to church for communion?

If it is an understanding of computers, would you help a member of Saint Peter's connect to our online worship services?

If it is expertise in videography, would you join a team working to improve how we record our services?

Share your gift! Contact the church office to join our communion car partners or our tech squad.

## Many Hands Make Light Work

Getting the sanctuary ready for worship and reading the Gospel are both great ways to serve God and Saint Peter's. Sign-up sheets for reading and for opening/closing the church on Sundays in June, July, and August are in the welcome center.

**John Stover**

## 2022 Plant Sale

Thanks to all who helped make this year's plant sale a success. That includes all who donated plants, those who helped set up and tear down, and especially those who purchased plants. Our profit, which goes to Women's Ministry, was \$269, which surpassed the profit of previous years. We hope all (realistically most) of the plants thrive and provide beauty to your gardens.

**Louise Miller**

## Lost and Found

The plaque in memory of Mildred Schnable, just like us, once was lost but now is found! It has been restored to its original location. The next time you're in the Welcome Center, see if you can find it. Here's a hint: Mildred loved all the little children.

## Worship with Us Outdoors!



On Sunday, June 12, we'll meet in the pavilion at 10:00 to enjoy the splendor and beauty of God's creation as we worship. The rain date—in case God decides that our plants need watering that day—is June 19. Check the calendars in future issues of *The Beacon* for other outdoor worship days this summer and fall.

## United Church of Christ Special Offering: Strengthen the Church



The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering is one of five special offerings of the United Church of Christ. STC reflects our shared commitment to build up the United Church of Christ. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. When you give to this program, you build up the Body of Christ.

Pentecost, the “birthday” of the church, is the day that we will receive this offering at Saint Peter's, but you may give at any time, either by placing a donation in the offering plate, sending a donation to the church, or by donating [on our web page \(stpucc.com/donate\)](https://stpucc.com/donate)

## Mission Partners: Mary's Shelter



Mary's Shelter, founded in 1995, supports young mothers by supplying temporary housing, counseling, classes on parenting, interpersonal relationships, and housekeeping. Mary's Shelter also helps coordinate prenatal care and supports their clients as they complete their education, learn about budgeting, and find permanent housing.

Women's Ministry of Saint Peter's continues to support this important local organization by collecting baby items this May and June. Look for a receptacle in our welcome center in which to place your gifts. Here are the items for which Mary's Shelter would be most grateful. Those with the asterisks are greatly needed. Please don't donate baby oil or baby powder.

Baby books	Diapers (sizes 4 ~ 6) *
Baby bottles	Formula—Similac
Baby wash, shampoo, and lotion	Nail clippers
Baby wipes*	New underwear (sizes 2T to 10/12)
Bassinet sheets	Pull-Ups (all sizes)
Blankets	Puzzle books
Crib sheets	Socks
Diapers (sizes newborn ~ 3)	Toys (baby to age 8)

Thank you for helping these babies and supporting the young mothers who are building a future for them.

## Mission Partners: Wilson Area Food Pantry



The Wilson Area Food Pantry, staffed by volunteers, has served our community for fourteen years. On the third Friday of each month, food is distributed from 3:00 to 5:00 pm in the Community Center at West Lawn United Methodist Church. The day before, from 12:00 to 3:30 pm, food collected from participating churches is bagged for distribution and the food pantry's order from Helping Harvest is delivered. Would you like to volunteer? Those capable of heavy lifting are always in need. Learn about the required civil rights training for volunteers and requirements for eligibility for food on the [food pantry's website](http://wilsonareafoodpantry.org) (wilsonareafoodpantry.org). Contact Elaine Wiley with your questions.