



The Beacon • July 2022

Saint Peter's United Church of Christ

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For The Beauty of The Earth

*For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise. (Verse 1)*

Summer can be such a busy time, with vacations, summer sports, new schedules to organize, and gatherings with family and friends to plan. It can become overwhelming and often I think we forget to take in the beauty of summer—the warmth of the sun as it kisses our skin or the melody of the rain as it washes the earth.

Summer is a great time to remember the love God shares with us through creation. While we can enjoy and celebrate creation any time of year, summer usually affords us more opportunities to be outside in God's creation. With the warmer weather and sunny days, we may find ourselves taking more walks, working in our gardens, having more picnics, going to the pool, or taking a trip to lake.

The hymn above, "For the Beauty of the Earth," reminds us that in the beauty of creation is the love of God, which surrounds us from our birth. Just as we live on this earth, each day surrounded by creation, God's love is always present in our lives. The grounding of the earth can help us feel God's steadfast presence in our life journeys. The light from the sun reminds us that God's light is in each one of us. The brush of the wind is symbolic of the Holy Spirit moving around us, guiding us through life. It is amazing how, when we take time to appreciate the creation around us, we can see God's deep kindness and compassionate

goodness in unexpected places. This year as we make summer journeys to the water's edge, the mountain's summit, or the grassy fields, let the beauty of the world remind you of God's presence, generosity, and patience in our lives.

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 death of Lois Harwick, wife of our founding pastor, Ray. Their son, Nevin, contacted the church very late last month to share the news of Lois's passing and to let us know that, although the Harwicks left Saint Peter's in 1967, this church has always had a special place in her heart. We give thanks for Lois and all the visionaries who planted and grew this church.

It is with joy that we welcomed Reagan Catherine, daughter of Chelsea and Randy Klinge, granddaughter of Wayne and Kathy Lubas, into the family of Christ. Reagan was baptized June 26.

Meet Angela Romano!

We welcome our new parish administrator, Angela Romano, who will begin at Saint Peter's on June 28. Angela was born and raised in New Jersey, received her Bachelor of Arts from Rutgers - New Brunswick, and spent her early career working as a project manager for tech startups in New York. It was in there that she met her husband, Andrew. After their first child was born, Angela became a stay-at-home mom, and she and Andrew relocated their family to Wernersville, Pennsylvania. Angela and Andrew have a daughter, Evangeline, a son, Thomas, and two dogs. Since moving to Pennsylvania, Angela has worked as a substitute teacher in the Wilson School District and in both administrative and project management roles for an investment advisory firm in Lancaster. When not working, Angela spends her time driving her kids to various ice rinks, where they practice and compete as a figure skater and hockey goalie. Angela has made productive use of all the experience and time spent in ice rinks to help form and run events for The Reading Figure Skating Club.

Angela will be in the office Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Angela!

Consistory Highlights

At the June meeting of the consistory, your leaders began organizing some special projects—developing policies and fees for use of our facilities, upgrading our virtual worship with improved audio and video and electronic distribution of our bulletin, and determining which members of our congregation prefer envelopes for their giving. These projects will need the time and talents of our members. If you're called on to help, please consider saying yes. If you'd like to be involved in one of these special projects, please contact the church office.

Summer Fun



In the next weeks, look for an announcement from the social and stewardship teams about an outdoor family movie night to be held in our pavilion near the end of July.

Worship with Us Outdoors



On July 10 (rain date July 17), we'll meet in the pavilion at 10:00 to enjoy the splendor and beauty of God's creation as we worship. If the weather looks threatening, please check your email or Saint Peter's Facebook page for announcements about moving worship indoors.

Generosity Abounds!



Thank you for your gifts of over \$300 to the United Church of Christ's Strengthen the Church offering. Together, we plant new churches, revitalize existing churches, and prepare youth for leadership in the church.

The End of an Era

For the last decade, Women's Ministry has partnered with Giant Supermarkets to raise nearly \$1,000 per year for Saint Peter's. But the Giant corporation recently changed their procedures, creating a complicated process that Women's Ministry has determined is not suited for us. We will revisit fundraising activities that were highly successful prior to the pandemic including candy making.

Thank you so much for the support many of you have given through your regular purchasing of

the gift cards. It has enabled the Women's Ministry to provide many opportunities for outreach over the last ten years.

Louise Miller

A Joyful Noise

What's your favorite hymn? Take some time to leaf through our hymnals or sift through your memory and come prepared for a hymn sing on Sunday, July 31.

A Milestone on Our Faith Journey



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

On June 25, 1957, the United Church of Christ was born, the product of the union of parent churches from different traditions, one English and one German. In the UCC today, we name as our ancestors in faith the early church, the Reformation movements of Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin, the Puritans who settled in New England, and—here in Pennsylvania—the Swiss and German immigrants who were able to maintain their religion, language, and culture as part of William Penn's "holy experiment".

The constitution of the United Church of Christ says, in part that it "looks to the Word of God in the Scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world. ... It affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God."

We recognize with gratitude the gifts of God to our ancestors in faith. Happy Birthday, United Church of Christ!

Outreach: Being a Beacon of Light

Saint Peter's Women's Ministry lives out part of our vision and mission statement: "To be a beacon of light sharing God's love with others". The group was formed around 1970 when a group of church members met to share fellowship, friendship, and a desire to give back.

Since 1970, we have funded service to our church and our community through sales of candy, Giant gift cards, baked goods, gift cards at Christmas, and plants. These fundraising efforts supported many projects, most recently the replacement of the floor and rug in the nursery and the purchase of outdoor sound equipment for the keyboard in our pavilion. Some of the funds raised by Women's Ministry go to memorial donations for members of Saint Peter's who have passed away.

Women’s Ministry does more than raise funds. We do the work of Christ by organizing collections of items needed by the various groups and organizations in our community—classrooms in the Reading School District, Mary’s Shelter, Bethany Children’s Home, Wilson Food Bank, Opportunity House, and Safe Berks. We put our hands to work, too, maintaining the garden and providing meals for member’s families facing health-related challenges.

The members of Women’s Ministry believe what Mother Theresa said: “It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you”. Women (and men!) who are interested in joining this group may contact Jane Brubaker.



Outreach: Back-to-School Supply Drive

This summer, the youth of Saint Peter’s have partnered with the Reading Recreation Commission to provide school supplies to children in need. The Reading Recreation Commission supplies approximately 150 - 200 students with necessary school items every year.

There will be a collection box in the welcome center from July 17 to August 14. Please consider donating any of the following items:

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| Backpacks | Folders with two pockets inside |
| Colored pencils | Two-inch three-ring binders |
| Pencils | Pencil cases with three holes to fit in binders |
| Crayons | Five-subject notebooks |
| Rulers | Single-subject notebooks |
| Notebook paper | |

We are asking our children to spread the word to their family and friends. If the children are successful in filling the entire box, they will be rewarded with a special treat! Thank you for your kindness and for helping our youth help others.

Mission Partners: Wilson Area Food Pantry

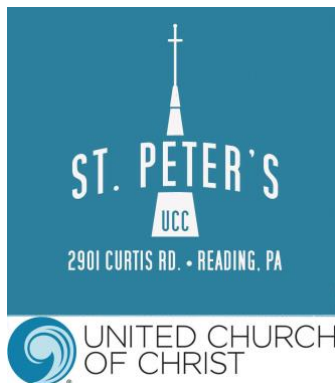
School’s out for summer, and that means that students from kindergarten through 12th grade have lost access to free school meals. Food insecurity rises in summer, so please remember to donate to the Wilson Area Food Pantry. While all nonperishable foods are welcome, the food

pantry currently has a special need for peanut butter, canned fruit, canned vegetables, pasta or tomato sauce, and canned meats and tuna. In May, Saint Peter's and six other churches supplied food to 73 families (over 280 people).

The WAFP needs additional volunteers during the summer months. 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.

Trivia: How Well Do You Know Peter?

1. We read how Jesus walked on water in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and John. But we read about Peter's decision to join Jesus on that walk only in Matthew. What happened to Peter when he started to walk out to Jesus?
2. The man we call Peter didn't start out with that name. Jesus called him that. What was Peter called before Jesus changed his name?
3. What does the name "Peter" mean?
4. Peter had a brother who also followed Jesus. What was his name?
5. What job did Peter leave to follow Jesus?



1. Peter starts walking to Jesus, panics, begins to sink, and Jesus lifts him up.
2. Simon.
3. Peter means "rock", not a bad choice for us since our church is built on the site of a quarry!
4. Peter's brother was named Andrew.
5. Peter and Andrew were both fishermen.