



The Beacon • January 2022

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

2901 Curtis Road, Reading, PA 19609 • stpucc.com • stpucc@yahoo.com • 610.678.3621, Kathy Lubas, Editor

EPIPHANY

The Magi ... *“went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.”* —Matthew 2:9-11

Twelve days after Christmas, Christians around the world commemorate the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child by celebrating Epiphany (Greek for “revelation”).

A star lit the way for the Magi, and God lights our way, too. That light leads us into worship and then pilots us back out into the world. God’s radiant love is with us day and night, in good times and troubling ones. Wherever you go today, know that you are surrounded by Christ’s light and the blessing of God.



PLEDGE UPDATE: ROOTED IN LOVE 2021

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone who prayerfully committed to supporting Saint Peter’s UCC in 2022. 42 families pledged \$107,060.00 to our church and its mission. We would also like to thank the many families who, during this time of transition, are considering a future contribution. We appreciate your heartfelt comments during this time. Let’s all focus on the positives of our church’s mission, and we welcome ideas and suggestions on how to keep our church and congregation healthy and productive in these challenging times. We are grateful to everyone who filled out a pledge card. If you haven’t yet had a chance to

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Rooted in Love 2021 *(cont'd from page 1)*

pledge, please share your plan for giving with us. You can do that by contacting the church by email (stpucc@yahoo.com) or phone (610-678-3621) or by filling out our online survey (<https://tinyurl.com/StPeterPledge>).

Yours in Christ,

Derek Rutter & Alicia Lee, Larry & Diane Ross, Eric Lamm

Stewardship 2022

PARISH NEWS

Please remember one another in your prayers. We are continuing to receive prayer requests, and we are all grateful for the power of prayer to keep us connected with God, renewing our strength and courage.

We mourn the passing but celebrate the eternal life of **Tony Yaklick**, who passed away November 24. Please keep his family in your prayers.

Advent Dinner

Eleven members of Saint Peter's had a great time at the annual advent dinner on December 5. Delicious food and bingo were enjoyed by all! Thank you, Kim, Brian, Noah and Luke!

Reconnecting With Saint Peter's

The Stewardship Committee is currently working on ways our congregation can get together more frequently in the new year as we reconnect with our church and with our community. In the beginning of the year, we will test some of our congregation's suggestions that, we hope, will encourage members to build Saint Peter's into our regular schedules. We have all been living through unprecedented times of disruption, and we all need these cornerstones in our life. Please watch for updates.

Salvation Army Angel Tree

Thank you, Christmas tree angels, for your gifts to the Salvation Army. Children in our area are surely as grateful to you as we are.

Gift Card Fundraiser for Women's Ministry

Women's Ministries would like to thank everyone who helped to make the gift card fundraiser a success! We raised \$490. The money will be used to further the missions of Saint Peter's.

Christmas Cookie Outreach

Thanks to everyone who participated in our cookie outreach on December 5. We spread our Christmas spirit by donating 111 baggies with 5 cookies in each and delivering them to New Journey Community Outreach the next day. Our cookies were included in bagged lunches for those in need. New Journey acknowledged our cookie donation on their Facebook page. Our volunteers decided to repeat this outreach project in December 2022—and maybe in spring.

Hanging Of the Greens

Thank you to all who made our church so beautiful for this Christmas season.

Wilson Area Food Pantry

If you give food to the hungry and satisfy those who are in need, then the darkness around you will turn to the brightness of noon. —Isaiah 58:10

Did you know that in 2019—before the pandemic—there were more than 50,000 people living with food insecurity in Berks County's cities, towns, suburbs, and rural areas?

Since 2007, Saint Peter's has partnered with other churches to support the Wilson Area Food Pantry in its work to feed our neighbors in the western suburbs of Reading. We do that with monetary gifts, food donations, and the help of monthly volunteers.

The food pantry leverages monetary donations by purchasing food at low cost from Helping Harvest. Donations of food are used to create supplemental food baskets for large families.

How can you help? Your financial gifts are always welcome, and you can donate by placing a check or cash in the offering plate or dropping it off in the church office. Simply mark your donation for the Wilson Area Food Pantry.

We also accept donations of food on behalf of the food pantry. Canned meats and fruit, peanut butter, pasta, spaghetti sauce, and macaroni and cheese are especially welcome. Bring your gifts of non-perishable food to Saint Peter's welcome center from 9:00 to 11:00 Mondays through Thursdays or to worship service on Sunday mornings. We'll deliver your gifts for you.

If you'd like to learn more about volunteering at the food pantry once a month, contact Marty Welsh, Elaine Wiley, or the church office.

Visit the food pantry's website to learn more about it or to learn about eligibility requirements. Thanks to generous donors and volunteers, many local families who experience food insecurity are helped every month.

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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FROM WESTERN BERKS SHEPHERDING MINISTRIES

This important ministry provides transportation to doctor appointments, the pharmacy, and the grocery store to individuals in need in our community. While many of us take these simple acts for granted, our clients cannot. For them, our services are not a convenience; they are a necessity. We do not charge our clients for these services. While we accept donations, many are on a fixed income and can only afford to give very little. Because of this, it is becoming increasingly more difficult to cover our operating expenses. Your tax-deductible gift, this holiday season, will allow us to continue to actively serve them in 2022. Checks may be made payable to Western Berks Shepherding Ministries, Inc. and mailed c/o Trinity Lutheran Church, 108 S. Robeson St., Robeson, PA 19551. Thank you so much for your generosity.



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