



The Beacon • December 2021

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

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

Transition Team Update

We are excited to welcome the Reverend Doctor Kimberly Stryjak, who will be supporting Saint Peter's as a bridge pastor while we search for an interim pastor. For the next few months, she will lead our worship service each Sunday, care for our pastoral needs, and be in the church office Wednesdays.

Pastor Kim completed her doctorate of ministry at Lancaster Theological Seminary. She worked as a chaplain at Main Line Health in Pennsylvania and Saint Joseph's Hospital in Breese, Illinois. She served as supply pastor at Saint Paul's/Zion UCC and Saint John's UCC in Lansdale. She lives in Spring City with her husband, Mark, who is also a pastor, and their three children.

November 21 was a special day for a second reason: It was Consecration Sunday. Consecrating our gifts to God for the work of Saint Peter's is vital and greatly impacts our church's mission, connection with the community, and spiritual life.

When members make a giving pledge, our financial team can project a budget and our leaders can plan for the ministry of Saint Peter's. All our members received pledge cards in the mail a few weeks ago. You can share your plan for giving at our [Saint Peter's UCC Pledge](https://tinyurl.com/StPeterPledge) web page (<https://tinyurl.com/StPeterPledge>)

Pledge Update

Thanks to the members of St. Peter's, we are happy to report the following pledges received (as of 11/21/21): Total number of pledges – 37, Total dollar amount of pledges - \$102,000: 16 members increased their pledge, 5 new pledges, 13 kept the same pledge and 3 decreased their pledge from 2021. The Stewardship Committee will be following up with members to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to contribute to the future of Saint Peter's UCC. We have received \$925.00 in donations to the Wilson Food Pantry, with a member donating an additional \$500.00.

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 **Beryl Frederick**, who passed away November 2nd. Please keep Brian and his family in your prayers. Pastor Mark Johnson baptized **Lainey Jade West** on November 19th at St. Peter's. Lainey is the daughter of **Gary and Katelyn West** and granddaughter of **Becci and Tim Koch**!

SENIOR CENTER

The last meeting of the Senior Center's fall session will be Tuesday, December 7, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Program admission is free; lunch is \$5. The guest speaker for December is Karl Hausman.

Gift Card Fundraiser for Women's Ministry

This is your chance to buy gift cards for Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries, thank you gifts, etc. Please return order form with cash or check, made payable to St. Peter's Women's Ministry, by December 5, 2021. If you have questions, contact Sue Coldren 610-670-1371. Order forms are attached.

Christmas Cookie Outreach December 5

For a St. Peter's Christmas outreach project, we will be donating Christmas cookies to New Journey Community Outreach. We are asking for cookie donations, which will be packaged by us into individual sandwich baggies. The donations will be delivered to New Journey to be distributed in their bagged lunchtime meals. Our idea is to have 4 to 5 different kinds of cookies in a baggie. A cookie bagging assembly line will be taking place on Sunday, December 5, in the kitchen after our church service. If you are willing to donate a batch of your Christmas cookies, please bring them to the church kitchen December 5. We will also need assembly line helpers to bag the cookies. St. Peter's will be spreading some Christmas cheer during the holiday season! For any questions, contact Sue Yeager at 610-678-0332 or Susan.n.yeager@gmail.com

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Christmas is around the corner!!!! We will be decorating the church! Set up will be on Friday, December 3, at 10:30 a.m. Decorating will be on Saturday, December 4 at 9:00 a.m. If you would like to help, please come up!

VETERANS OF THE CROSS
Christmas Fund Offering

The past eighteen months have had a profound impact on UCC clergy and congregations-- physically, emotionally, spiritually, and financially.

But because of gifts to the **Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross**, the people who have been affected the most have known they are not alone.

Last year, donations to the Christmas Fund helped pay the rent for low-income retired ministers and bridged the gap for one active minister's family when her husband lost his restaurant due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Christmas Fund gifts took care of the unexpected expense of a major car repair, helped a retired minister attend his brother's funeral, and assisted in paying for daunting medical expenses, prescriptions, and groceries.

Gifts to the Christmas Fund bring relief and hope to those who have dedicated their lives to serving our churches. By supporting the Christmas Fund, you make a huge difference and bring great joy!

The Christmas Fund provides Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks for retirees and those facing unforeseen financial hardship.

Join with others in the United Church of Christ to bring good news and great joy to those who have who have given so much to our church.

ADVENT DINNER – December 5 at 6:00 p.m.

Please join us for St. Peter's U.C.C. Advent Dinner and Family Bingo on Sunday, December 5, at 6:00 p.m. Let us know whether you will bring a side dish, dessert, or drinks to share. You can e-mail the church at stpucc@yahoo.com or call the office at 610-678-3621. We are also planning Family Bingo after dinner, and it would be great if you could bring a \$5-10 any-age-appropriate gift to add to the prize table! Thank you in advance!!

SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE

We have received 20 Angel tree requests from the Salvation Army. We will have them available for you at the church. Gifts need to be returned by December 10th.

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ
2901 Curtis Road
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FROM WESTERN BERKS SHEPHERDING MINISTRIES

Looking for ways to give back this Holiday Season? Why not consider a gift to Western Berks Shepherding! 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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St. Peter's UCC

