



# The Beacon • November 2024

## 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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*O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.  
~ 1 Chronicles 16:34*

As we turn another page in the calendar, we get closer to the joyful holiday season and to closing out another year. November, with Thanksgiving serving as the kickoff, is the true start of the holiday season - and of all the holidays we observe - Thanksgiving is one that beckons us to dive into the idea of gratitude and thankfulness and reflect on those things that bless our lives.

Thankfulness and gratitude are spiritual practices that can help us care for our minds, body and souls so that we can grow in our faith and relationship with God. We can practice being thankful in many different ways; we can pray our thanksgiving to God, or we can share with someone else the things that we are thankful for. In whatever way we do it, I think many of us tend practice thanksgiving and gratitude a little bit more this time of year.

Within my own family, I always look forward to the ways in which we each can celebrate our gratitude in November. One tradition my family does, that I love, is on Thanksgiving Day we each name one thing from the past year that we are thankful for, so in honor of that tradition, I would like to reflect on some things I am thankful for here at St. Peter's:

I am thankful for all the lay leaders that work tirelessly to keep the church financials, business, and programs organized and running. I am thankful for each and every member who gives their prayers to our church. I am thankful for the generosity of so many that help keep the church running so that we can make a difference in our community - the talents that

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people bring to our community, the time that people offer volunteering, and the financial support that people give to our church. The pledges that each of you have made over the years serve to ensure that Saint Peter's can always be a welcoming place for people to meet and grow in their relationship with God.

We will honor our pledges for next year on Sunday, November 10. And while your pledges and support will be much needed in 2025 to keep St. Peter's a place that calls people to God, we also needs your continued financial support as we close out 2024.

Together we are stronger and together we can imagine doing great things for God. May you have a blessed Thanksgiving and remember all that you can be thankful for this year.

Gratefully,

—*Pastor Kim*

### *A Message from our Consistory President*

With November upon us we begin to turn our attention to all of the wonder that the holiday season brings. We know that this is the “busy season” for our church as we prepare for a number of special outreach projects and worship services. However, before looking forward, I wanted to take a moment to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who helped, in any capacity, to make the Spaghetti “dinner” run smoothly - even those who may have just prayed for our success - we appreciate you. We are still working to finalize the details of the event, but all indications are that it was a resounding success.

Now, in looking towards the many opportunities that Thanksgiving and Christmas bring our way, it is clear that we continue to be active in both fellowship and outreach. We are blessed to have much planned, and to be part of a passionately involved congregation, but we also want to be mindful of the busy schedules of the season. Along these lines, we will postpone hosting another Breakfast with a Purpose until the end of January. Instead, I will look for an opportunity to provide help to one or two families in need through providing a cooked Thanksgiving dinner. More details on this plan will be provided as they are ironed out.

As we move into December we can look forward to the annual Advent Dinner on Sunday, December 8, 5 PM, and then on December 22 we'll host a special “donor appreciation” blood drive during which we'll show our gratitude to the donors by providing them with sandwiches and small “swag” bags. We also hope to raise funds with more raffle baskets at this event. If anyone has a fun idea for a raffle basket, please reach out to me or Kevin Unger.

—Lydia Batz

## ***November Events***

### ***Youth Sponsoring a Clothing Drive***

For the month of November, the kids of Saint Peter's will be promoting a clothing drive for Hope Rescue Mission. Clothing will be collected until November 20<sup>th</sup>. See the enclosed flyer for more information on clothing needs.

### ***Deck the Halls...***

We'll soon be hanging the greens and making the Sanctuary look magical with beautiful Poinsettia's. The poinsettia order form is now available in the Welcome Center. All orders are due by Sunday, November 24 and poinsettias will be available for you to take home following Christmas Eve worship service. Saturday morning, November 30 we could use your helping hands for hanging the greens. Please keep your eye on the announcements for a start time.

### ***Angel Tree Gift Giving***

We are pleased to announce that Saint Peter's will again be participating in *Angel Tree* gift giving for both The Salvation Army and Bethany Children's Home. With your help we will bless 40 children with gifts this holiday season. Angel tags will soon be available for you to choose from and gifts are due by December 1, when we will celebrate this special gift giving during worship service.

## ***All Things Women's Ministry***

### ***Cookie Collection***

The Women's Ministry Christmas cookie collection for New Journey Community Outreach is set for Sunday, December 8. We will bag the cookies and then drop them off at New Journey to be distributed with their lunch bags. If you are willing to donate Christmas cookies to this effort, please bring them to the downstairs kitchen on the morning of the 8th. If your cookies have peanut butter, nuts or other common allergens in them, please label your container to let us know. Let's spread some cookie cheer! Contact Sue Yeager with any questions.

### ***Gift Card Fundraiser***

Start planning your holiday gifts early and raise funds at the same time! Women's Ministry will begin selling gift cards Sunday, November 10. Order forms must be returned by Sunday, November 24 and gift cards will be available for pickup Sunday, December 1, which will also be in time to be used for Angela Tree giving. Contact Sue Coldren with questions.

### ***Chocolate Bark & Pretzel Sale***

Women's Ministry will be making chocolate bark and chocolate coated pretzels on Saturday, November 9, between 9 AM - 1 PM. Join us in the church kitchen as we work, enjoy the fellowship, and maybe even a small sample of the delicious results. Bark and pretzels sales are just in time for holiday serving and gift giving or are perfect just to enjoy as your own

little treat! Proceeds will be used towards projects that support our church and our community. We will offer 3 dates to purchase: November 10, November 17, November 24

### **Christmas Dinner**

The Women's Ministry Christmas Dinner will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 6 PM. It will be "covered dish", and a chicken entrée will be provided. Look for more details in the December Beacon.

### **Sponsored Collection for Wilson Food Pantry**

Each Sunday in November Women's Ministry is sponsoring a special food collection for the Wilson Area Food Pantry, through which all donations will remain in our community to aid our neighbors. We are asking for specific item contributions each Sunday in November as follows:

Week 1. A box of pasta & a jar of pasta sauce

Week 2. A can of tuna, chicken or Spam & a box of mac & cheese

Week 3. A can of soup & a can of fruit

Week 4. A box of cereal & a can of vegetables

Questions about this collection can be directed to Sue Yeager, Phyllis Gertney or Elaine Wiley.

## **Make An Impact in The Community**

### **Bethany Auxiliary Committee**

Bethany Children's Home is looking for more members to join their Bethany Auxiliary Committee.

The committee helps aid Bethany to provide youth with their emotional, physical, and spiritual needs.

With being a member, you can expect to:

- Wrap Christmas gifts for the youth
- Participate in baked goods sales
- Volunteer at Bethany events
- Host the employee appreciation breakfast
- Attend the annual meetings & tribute dinner

For more information, please contact Bethany Children's Home Marketing & Events Coordinator Jocelynn Phillips at: [jphillips@bethanyhome.org](mailto:jphillips@bethanyhome.org) or at (610)589-6834



**Join the Bethany Auxiliary Committee**

Since 1886 the Bethany Auxiliary Committee helps aid Bethany Children's Home to provide youth with their emotional, physical, and spiritual needs.

All are welcomed and encouraged to join!

**Duties consist of:**

- Volunteer to wrap Christmas gifts for youth
- Baked good sales
- Employee appreciation breakfast
- Volunteer at events
- Attend annual meetings and Tribute Dinner

For more information contact:  
Jocelynn Phillips  
(610)589-4501 ext: 305  
[jphillips@bethanyhome.org](mailto:jphillips@bethanyhome.org)

**ST PETER'S UCC**  
is partnering with  
**Hope Rescue Mission & LightHouse!**

**Clothing Collection**  
**November 1st - 20th**



**We'll be collecting all seasons  
of clothing for men, women  
and children.**

**Coats, hats, scarves, gloves,  
shoes, towels, belts, purses,  
new mens underwear &  
long Johns in sizes  
small to xxxl.**



**[www. HopeForReading.org/HopeThrift](http://www.HopeForReading.org/HopeThrift)**

## Dates to Remember



November 1	Collection begins for Hope Rescue Mission clothing drive
November 3	All Saints Sunday celebration
November 5	General Election
November 9	Women's Ministry bark & pretzel making
November 10	Consecration Sunday during worship w/Communion Women's Ministry gift card sale begins along with chocolate bark/pretzel sale
November 17	Chocolate bark and pretzel sale Consistory meets
November 20	Last day to drop off clothing for HRM clothing drive
November 24	Final day of chocolate bark and pretzel sale Poinsettia orders due Gift card orders due
November 27	Thanksgiving Day - church office closed
November 30	Hanging of the Greens
December 1	Angel tree gifts due Gift cards available for pick up