



St. Peter's Press

October 2022

St. Peter's Presbyterian Church - Spencertown, NY
PO Box 14 | 5219 County Route 7 | Spencertown, NY 12165
Telephone: 518.392.3386 | Email: saintpeters.spencertown@gmail.com
Website: <http://saintpeterspc.org> | Facebook: www.facebook.com/saintpeterspc

What St. Peter's Means to Me

Beginning with our September 25 worship service and continuing for several weeks, some St. Peter's congregants are sharing their thoughts and feelings on *What St. Peter's Means to Me*. The first two to share were Mary Anne Davis and Marion Ulmer. Excerpts from their presentations are below.



From Mary Anne Davis: The community that this church inspires keeps me coming back week after week, year after year. It enlivens me to help where I can, to commit to giving my time and my talent to be sure it will be here

for those in our area that may have yet to find it. As well as those who may have moved away but might come back.

My son Gabriel came to this church when he was 5 years old. He made friends here that were stronger than those he had in school at that time. He was a regular part of the Sunday school in those days. At age 8, he made it clear he was ready to be baptized. I felt it ought to be up to him, so waited until he was ready. Don Shriver performed the sacrament in 2003. It was a lovely ceremony, my sister came in from Minnesota and the church agreed to remain faithful to Gabe's spirit, in this place and in the world. I love that today we baptize Wendy Diskin's granddaughter Teagan and commit to her wellbeing and hold this place strong for her future.

St. Peter's is a beacon of hope, a place where I am reminded of my moral compass, where I find support for the sometimes-difficult traverses of day-to-day life. I am grateful to be a member here and to pledge my time, talent, and resources as best I can.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



From Marion Ulmer: Willard and I moved to the area 50 years ago. St. Peter's is and always has been our church. It was the end of the 1960s when most children went to Sunday School. Christmas and Easter services filled all the pews. This little country church in an area dotted with dairy farms fit us perfectly.

Giving: I have enjoyed setting up Vacation Bible School, helping organize a Presbytery Meeting for 100 people at St. Peter's, being in the Tower Club, singing in choir, and serving as Clerk of Council for 10 years.

Receiving: St. Peter's helped root us to the community. Here, I met the parents of most of my Spencertown Academy students. We enjoyed Coffee Hours and Potlucks. We learned much about the Old Testament through a year-long Monday night Bible Study, and I went to other study groups as well.

Over the years, I learned a lot about being a Presbyterian, especially as Clerk of Council. Writing the minutes let me use my writing skills. While working on or editing a stewardship letter, I came to realize that we at St. Peter's are a family, and the church is both our house and our home. *(Continued on following page)*

What St Peter's Means to Me (Continued):

It costs money to maintain a church building, and we were thankful in the past for the Tower Club's help. Now the church is indebted to the generosity of the Friends of St. Peter's; and as they say on WMHT, by people like you.

Then along came Covid. Now in my late 80s and Bill in his early 90s, we are afraid to mingle. You rescued me with Zoom and rescued both of us with continued care and friendship. So I shall just end this by saying, "Thank you, St. Peters."

~~~~~

**Baptism of Teagan Reese O'Rourke**



*From left: Rev. Donna Elia, Great Grandma Emma Jensen, Grandma Wendy Diskin holding Teagan, Mom Brianna O'Rourke, and Big Sister Collins O'Rourke (four generations)*

On September 25, Brianna and Kevin O'Rourke brought their baby Teagan Reese (see family in photo at right) to be baptized at St. Peter's, with Rev. Donna Elia officiating. It was a beautiful ceremony, followed by Rev. Elia carrying Teagan all around the sanctuary for all to see her up close. Teagan fully cooperated, and did not cry throughout the sacrament.



Afterward, the O'Rourke-Diskin families hosted a grand reception with amazing fare, including quiche, bagels with cream cheese, croissant sandwiches, gourmet cheese, mini muffins, fresh fruit salad, and the gorgeous/delicious cake seen in the photo to the left.

Fifteen members of the O'Rourke-Diskin families came to the service. Teagan's Godmother is Beth Diskin, Brianna's sister-in-law; her Godfather is Chris Murray, Kevin's brother-in-law.

~~~~~



Consider joining the St. Peter's Choir. No experience necessary; no audition required. If you'd like to sing with a group, enjoy fellowship

with other choir members, learn more about music, and perhaps become a better singer, join us! Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7 PM (Tuesdays the first week of the month) and at 9 AM before church on Sundays.

Report from the Council

By Mary Anne Davis, Clerk of Council

Following are excerpts from Minutes of the Council Meeting held October 5, 2022:

Pastor's Report

- We are working to reconstruct committees.
- We are thinking of making some changes to the opening of our worship service. Perhaps move the chiming of the hour first?
- Training Elders to Celebrate Communion begins October 16 after worship.

Deacons' Report

- Election Day Dinner is November 8 with both eat-in and takeout available.

Financial Report

- Some larger bills this month brought our balance down, but Donna feels we are strong and not in trouble. New people are coming, and attendance is going up. She said our pledge income compared with pledged amount is very strong.
- The *What the Church Means to Me* series is very compelling.
- The church ought to be supported primarily by pledges, not fundraisers; we applaud that we have been successful in doing that.
- In addition to pledging, many people donate time and talent. That also needs to be acknowledged and encouraged.

Clara Gott

- The committee met October 2 and awarded two grants: (1) Barbara Smith for crafting for the Christmas Bazaar, (2) Lucky Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.
- There is over \$2000 left for grants for the final cycle of the year. Deadline to submit applications is December 15.

Building and Grounds

- **The Manse:** We are considering whether to rent or sell the manse. We need to drill a new well before either can be done. Gould well driller will provide an estimate for replacement or creating a new well. A storage tank might also be a good idea.

- It is thought that selling the manse would return a minimal long-term asset, but renting it would return regular income to provide part of the church budget directly.
- Barbara Conkling and David Pearce volunteered to take on renting the manse in the short term.
- **Fire Detection Panel:** Recently, the fire detection panel quit working properly.
 - Council decided to go forward with fire alarm repair and asked for a quote for the manse as well. The insurance company gave us four sensors to detect water or fire; a text message will be sent to someone to alert there is a problem.
 - Our \$2500 deductible could cost us again if an electrical strike takes out the alarm system. Should we raise our payment to reduce our deductible? Should we submit a claim to them for the current alarm system repair cost? Jeff will call them.

Worship Committee:

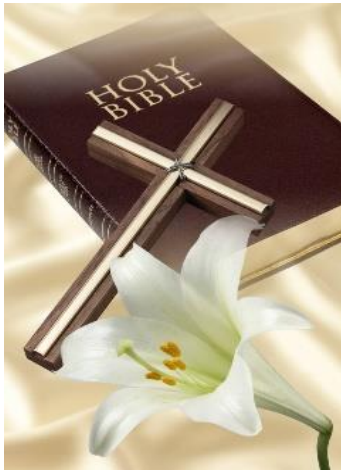
- There is discussion of our lay leaders going to other churches to lead services when their regular pastors are unavailable. Sharing talent between churches could be a rich way of connecting with other congregations.
- Elder Barbara Wheeler will preach November 27, the first Sunday of Advent. Donna will be at St. Peter's that day and will preside over communion.
- Christmas is on a Sunday this year. Since the Christmas Eve service will be the night before, perhaps we will not have a service Christmas Day. Maybe we can record the Christmas Eve service on Facebook live so people could watch it Christmas Day.

Nominating Committee: A congregational meeting will be held October 16 to elect people to the Nominating Committee.

Rev. Donna Elia will be at St. Peter's October 12 and 19. Feel free to come chat with her in person while she is here. You can also call her cell phone (518-495-6795) or on the church phone (518-392-3386).

October Lectionary Readings

2nd: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4, Psalm 37:1-9, Luke 17:5-10



9th: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7, Psalm 66:1-12, Luke 17:11-19

16th: Jeremiah 31:27-34, Psalm 119:97-104, Luke 18:1-8

23rd: Joel 2:23-32, Psalm 65, Luke 18:9-14

30th: Isaiah 1:10-18, Psalm 119:137-144, Luke 19:1-10

~~~~~

### October Worship Sundays at 10 AM

(In-person and via Zoom))

**2nd:** Rev. Donna Elia  
Communion

**9th:** Jeffrey Kiplinger

**16th:** Rev. Donna Elia  
Congregational Meeting after Service

**23rd:** Rev. Donna Elia

**30th:** Jennifer Thompson

~~~~~



IS THERE ANY CHANCE YOU COULD TURN JUST A LITTLE BIT OF THAT WINE BACK INTO WATER?

Amaryllis Bulb Sale



Thank you to Jean Brower for organizing the annual amaryllis bulb sale to raise money for the deacons, which they will use to buy grocery gift cards for those who need a little extra help at

Christmastime. Jean finds the most fabulous bulbs, which will brighten up our homes during winter months. Through her efforts, we have an additional \$150 to purchase the gift cards.

~~~~~

### Get Your Quilt Raffle Tickets!



Get your raffle tickets for a beautiful handmade quilt created by Margy Quinn.

Tickets are on sale now until the drawing of the winner at the end of the annual Christmas Bazaar, on

December 3. If you would like to sell tickets to your friends and family, we have some available at the church.

For questions, contact Wendy Diskin at 518-392-6395. Tickets are \$2 each, \$5 for 3, and \$10 for 7.

~~~~~

Don't forget to bring your food



pantry donation when you come to church. You will make a difference to someone's life.

*COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE ST. PETER'S ELECTION DAY
COMMUNITY DINNER!*

*TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS; HAVE A LOVELY EVENING
OUT TOGETHER AFTER VOTING.*

See the flyer below for details.

If possible, get involved by volunteering. The following opportunities for helping are available:

- Spread the word; hang flyers all around.
- Contribute a delicious dessert.
- Come to the church at 10 AM or later on November 7 to help prepare food, prewash dishes, etc.
- Come to the church at noon on November 8 for final preparations.
- Come to the church at 4:30 PM on November 8 to help serve the eat-in customers or help pack up dinners for the takeout customers.
- Come 6 to 7 PM November 8 to help with cleanup.



 **ST. PETER'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
SPENCERTOWN | NEW YORK
call 518.392.3386 for reservations -
walk-ins welcome



**ELECTION DAY
COMMUNITY DINNER**

Nov 8th, 2022
Eat in from 5-7PM
Take out from 4:30PM
\$18/\$9 12 and under
Handicap accessible



Menu:
Roast beef, gravy, potatoes, carrots with
butter, sweet and sour red cabbage, roll,
coffee, tea, homemade dessert
Vegetarian option: lentil loaf with sides



Congratulations to the following newlyweds!

Evan Young, grandson of Bonnie Mesick and great nephew of Donna Staron, married Katie Walker on September 10; they honeymooned in Hawaii.



Evan Young and Katie Walker



*Bonnie Mesick escorted by grandsons
Ahron and Garret, brothers of the groom*



Carrie May Newton, Leslie Newton's daughter and Mitzi Lobdell's granddaughter, married Alex Alberti on September 17 at beautiful Catamount Mountain. They are thinking of going to a warm place when it is winter here for their honeymoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Alberti

Gabe Franck, son of Mary Anne Davis and Dan Franck, married Megan Humiston on October 1 by the pond on Jack Shear's property. They have settled in beautiful Glens Falls, NY, Megan's hometown. Our pastor, Donna Elia, performed the ceremony.

*From left, Mary Anne Davis,
Gabe Franck, Megan Humiston,
Dan Franck*



Note: If you have milestones in your family (marriages, anniversaries, births, milestone birthdays, graduations, etc.), please contact Kathy Geddie in the Church Office at 518-392-3389 or email saintpeters.spencertown@gmail.com.

Photo Album

Collins O'Rourke (below left) came to St. Peter's September 11 with her parents and Grandma Wendy Diskin, . The next day, she said to Grandma Wendy, "Can we go to church today?" When Collins went into the kitchen, she said, "This is a very nice house!"



Kate Lippert and Larry Massimo, ringing bell to chime the hour.



Barbara Smith, Larry Massimo, and Pat Meess crafting pom poms for the Christmas Bazaar. Look for opportunities to join in the fun!

More photos from Teagan Reese O'Rourke's Baptism Day



Left: Is big sister Collins testing her dad, Kevin, a little bit? **Right:** Teagan is looking a little tired (rightfully so), but being well taken care of by Lesley Myers.



♪ Happy Birthday to You: ♪

Richard Iverson 10/1
 Lee Coalter 10/8
 Barbara Conkling 10/9
 Sandy Davey 10/11
 Irene Young 10/13
 Patricia McKeon 10/15



Marcy Coalter 10/16
 Caitrianna Coalter 10/16
 Tom Lareau 10/19
 Eliza Alice Braley 10/23
 Sarah Braley 10/28

*Did we forget your birthday?
 If you would like to be added to the birthday list, please contact one of the deacons.*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All Sunday Services below begin at 10 AM						1
2 Rev. Elia World Communion Sunday	3	4	5 Council meeting, 7:00 PM on Zoom	6	7	8
9 Jeff Kiplinger Full Moon (Hunter's Moon)	10 Indigenous Peoples Day	11	12 Rev. Elia in office, 10 AM to 2 PM	13	14	15
16 Rev. Elia Congregational Meeting after church to select Nominating Committee	17 Women Unabridged 6:30 pm, via Zoom	18 Deacon's Meeting 7 PM via Zoom	19 Rev. Elia in office, 10 AM to 2 PM	20	21	22 Memorial service for Delmer Goodrich, Jr. at 1 PM, followed by light snacks in fellowship hall.
23 Rev. Elia	24	25 Deadline for submitting articles to the newsletter	26 Rev. Elia in office, 10 AM to 2 PM	27	28	29