



# St. Peter's Press

November 2022

St. Peter's Presbyterian Church - Spencertown, NY  
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## What the Church Means to Me

Messages on *What the Church Means to Me*, continued in October, with presentations from David Pearce, Kate Lippert, and Jere Wrightsman. Their messages are below.



### From David Pearce:

Jeremiah was very angry with the Israelites. Among other things, they were worshipping Baal and not keeping the commandments. He told them in no uncertain terms that if they did not worship the Lord and obey the

commandments, they would be punished, and the temple would be destroyed.

Jeremiah used a medical analogy to encourage the people to change their ways. What we know today as Lebanon was then Gilead, which was the primary source of medicines and whose doctors were the best in that part of the world. The major medicines were balms, which were made up of several ingredients.

The analogy was (NRSV—Jeremiah 8: 22):

- Is there no balm in Gilead?
- Is there no physician there?
- Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored?

Our brothers and sisters who came to this country as enslaved people made a wonderful

discovery! There is a balm in Gilead: faith, hope, and love and a physician – Christ, who makes the people whole.

St. Peter's is my Gilead and Christ provides the faith, hope, and love in this church community to restore me. This "balm" in my Gilead is why I pledge time, talent, and treasure to this church.

As we move into a new year of stewardship, I urge you to join me in pledging your time, talent, and treasure to support Christ in this community, our Gilead.

Yours in faith, hope, and love.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



### From Kate

**Lippert:** What the church means to me is happiness because when I walk in everyone is happy, and so am I because I get to see people. I like to help people, and I like to make drawings for people. I like

ringing the bell and bringing the basket around, and coffee hour. And everyone is so kind here. And because everyone has a good style.

*(What the Church Means to Me is continued on the next page.)*



**From Jere Wrightsman:** I came to St. Peter's with my family in 1980 and began working with the deacons within 2 weeks. That may seem rushed, but it enabled me to

quickly get to know people.

I have seen weddings during morning worship and disputes with people walking out of Session (aka Council) meetings. I have done children's sermons—one involved a fishing pole, because fishing is something I like to do.

St. Peter's has given me the privilege of providing the message as a lay leader many Sundays. Topics I've talked about include women's issues, race, prayer, and the environment. I once delivered a message based on the work of Reverend Serene Jones, whose beliefs question some of the more traditional Christian thinking. Only one person walked out on that.

One time I prayed that I could find my dog, who was lost; and then I found him.

I think we are here to do good, and doing good with others is so much better; it is about being with people doing God's work. This is a strong church, and it will be stronger if we support it. May all of you thoughtfully, prayerfully consider your pledge. Pledging helps us to plan and produce a realistic budget.



12-8

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"Hear that? People in heaven have ever-laughing life."

## Report from Council

By Mary Anne Davis

The following were discussed at the 11/2/2022 Council meeting:

- We will dedicate pledges on November 20 during worship, followed by a catered meal from Panera Bread.
- Reverend Donna Elia presented the Pastor's Report. She said that she heard from Jim Fennimore who said he believes St. Peter's is doing really well. He was very affirming.
- Members of the Whiteman family attended our October 30 service and expressed that they felt a sense of joy here.
- We are exploring having a retreat next spring at Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center in Bangor, PA (in the Poconos), possibly including people from the Valatie and Hudson Presbyterian churches.
- The deacons are:
  - Leading an Election Day dinner on November 8,
  - Collecting donations for Victims of Domestic Violence in Columbia and Green Counties, and
  - Collecting donations of blankets and warm clothes for the people of Ukraine.
- We discussed at length options concerning the manse, including whether to sell or rent it. Additional research is needed before any decisions are made.
  - The water system needs to be fixed. Possibilities include totally replacing it or installing a holding tank with a filtration system.
  - Renting would require a property manager.
  - If selling, we would need to insure that any changes the purchaser makes are compatible with our Spencertown neighbors.
  - We need to check the fuel oil contract.
  - After additional research is completed, Council will reconvene and discuss further.

## Donations for Victims of Domestic Violence



St. Peter's has joined with the Valatie First Presbyterian Church to collect items to support the Columbia-Greene Domestic Violence-Community Action organization's efforts to provide a safe and comfortable place for people escaping domestic violence situations.

Leaving an abusive relationship is very difficult. Delyse Ledgard, Registered Clinical Counsellor (RCC) says, *There is often an overwhelming feeling of being lost and confused..... As the person in the subordinate position, you lose the ability to think for yourself..... Also, a strong sense of right and wrong permeates your interactions, and if you are often in the position of being wrong, it is hard to maintain confidence in yourself.*

*When the relationship ends, you are responsible for yourself, and making decisions can bring up a lot of fear and doubt. Although consciously you may recognize that being out of the relationship is a good thing, the fear of making your decisions can cause you to hold on to the relationship, or look for others to tell you what to do.*

After making the brave and difficult decision to start a new life, these women and, often, children need a helping hand; the Community Action organization does this, and we can help them. Items needed include: All sizes of new women's bras, underwear, and socks; baby wipes, any size disposable diapers; pots and pans; gift cards for gas, groceries, stores, or eating places; toiletries; twin bed sheets.

You may put your donations in the box in the narthex beside the right-hand door to the sanctuary. We will be collecting through Sunday, November 13.

## The Peace of Wild Things

By Wendell Berry



When despair for  
the world grows in  
me  
And I wake in the  
night at the least  
sound  
In fear of what my  
life and my

children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
Rests in his beauty on the water, and the great  
heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
Who do not tax their lives with forethought  
Of grief. I come into the presence of still water,  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
Waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



St Peter's is collecting blankets and warm clothing for the citizens of Ukraine, who are facing a difficult winter. The person organizing this campaign is Ron Hess of the Mennonite community. Ron says that residents of many cities and villages lived in damp basements for 6 months, so their blankets deteriorated due to constant moisture and mold. Many use gas for heat, and this winter there will be a dire shortage of gas. Adults and children are sleeping in cold rooms. Winter clothes, including new or slightly used coats, insulated snow pants, and new thermal underwear are also needed. You can put your contributions in the big box by the bulletin board in the narthex. Donations will be put on a truck that will go to PA on November 15, from which they will be loaded into a sea container for transport to Ukraine. We'll accept donations at St. Peter's through November 13.



**Election Day Dinner – November 8:** Go vote, then come have a delicious pot roast or lentil meatloaf dinner at St. Peter’s. Offering a dinner on Election Day is a long-standing tradition for St. Peter’s Church, which is situated near the Town Hall where local voting takes place. Come join us for a delicious meal – all are welcome! If you can, call the church number, 518-392-3386, to make a reservation. No reservation? No problem. Walk-ins are welcome! See poster below for details:



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:**

Pot roast, gravy, potatoes, carrots with butter, sweet and sour red cabbage, roll, coffee, tea, homemade dessert

**Vegetarian option:**

lentil loaf with sides

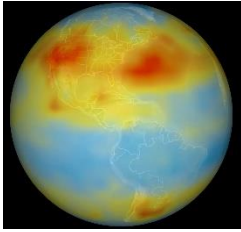


**Wreath Making – November 26:** Our annual gathering to make beautiful wreaths with ribbon and decorations from nature is the Saturday after Thanksgiving beginning at 10 AM. Katie Smith Cashen is obtaining the wreaths. If you have natural decorations, please bring them in. It’s a great time! We will sell the wreaths for \$30 each.

**Poinsettia Memorials:** The deadline for ordering your poinsettia memorials is December 5. The 4.5-inch plants are \$5.75; the 6.5-inch plants are \$12.00. Mitzi Lobdell, as always, will make the sanctuary gorgeous for Christmas Eve with our orders. Look for order forms soon.



## Good Things Are Happening (Continued)



**Austerlitz Climate Change Workshop — November 13:** The Austerlitz Climate Action Committee is having a Fossil Fuel Divestment Workshop at Spencertown Academy at 4 PM. Come and learn how to invest wisely with companies that do not increase our carbon footprint.

## The St. Peter's Annual Christmas Bazaar December 3



The Christmas Bazaar  
at  
St. Peter's Church



Saturday, December 3rd  
10 AM to 2 PM  
Chili and Cornbread Lunch  
(vegetarian and meat options)

Naturally Decorated Wreaths, Cookie Walk, Quilt Raffle,  
Handmade Items, Silent Auction

### Volunteers Needed

Crafters, helpers, baked goods, setup, cleanup  
Email Jennifer Thompson at [jthompson61@icloud.com](mailto:jthompson61@icloud.com)  
or call her at 347-613-2930

**Good Things Are Happening (Continued)**

*United in  
Love and Gratitude*



**Annual Thanksgiving  
Inter-Faith Community  
Service**

**Tuesday, November 22, 2022, 7 p.m.**

**at St. James Catholic Church**

Corner of Route 66 & 203 in Chatham, NY

Please bring a non-perishable food item for donation to the

Chatham & Ghent food pantries

*Let our hearts be full of both Thanks and Giving as we  
gather together for this annual grace-filled event*

**November Worship  
Sundays at 10 AM**

*(In-person and via Zoom))*

**6th:** Jere Wrightsman

**13th:** Jennifer Thompson

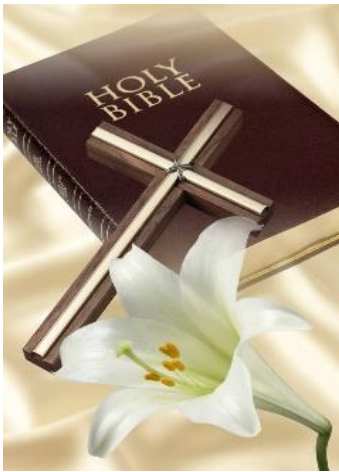
**20th:** Reverend Donna Elia  
Dedication of Pledges, Catered lunch after  
service from Panera Bread

**27th:** Barbara Wheeler, Sermon  
Reverend Donna Elia, Communion

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**November Lectionary Readings**

**6th:** Haggai 1:15b-2:9, Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21, Luke 20:27-38



**13th:** Isaiah 65:17-25, Psalm 98, Luke 21:5-19

**20th:** Jeremiah 23:1-6, Psalm 47, Luke 23:33-43

**27th:** Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122, Matthew 24:36-44

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**Bring Your Food  
Pantry Donations  
to Church**

**Get Your Quilt Raffle Tickets!**



Get your raffle tickets for Margy Quinn's beautiful handmade quilt.

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.

**Rev. Donna Elia** will be at St. Peter's November 8 and 30. Feel free to come chat with her in person while she is here. You can also call her on her cell phone (518-495-6795) or on the church phone (518-392-3386).

## ♪ Happy Birthday to You: ♪



Evan Young	11/1
Mary Wambach	11/1
Kathy Geddie	11/6
Nona Lange	11/6
Aleric Culley	11/11
Denise Davis	11/15
Arlene Lareau	11/21
Sharon Wing	11/30

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



Congratulations to Morgan Deane and George Moore on the birth of their twins on October 7! They were born on the same date as Morgan's mom, Roanne. *Left:* In the crib are Sojourner Ceridwen "Soji" Moore (6lbs 2oz) on the left and her brother Hope Nasser Moore (5lbs 4oz) on the right. They were born only 1 minute apart at 10:20 and 10:21 AM. *Right:* The whole family is together with Mina holding Sojourner and Rowan holding Hope. Rowan's expression reflects his imitation of a dinosaur.

**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](mailto:saintpeters.spencertown@gmail.com).*



# Photo Album



*The first session to train elders to celebrate Communion was held after church on October 16. From left: Mary Anne Davis, Larry Massimo, Jere Wrightsman, Joel Dyslin, Reverend Donna Elia, and Jeff Kiplinger.*

## **Photos from memorial service held for Delmer Goodrich, Jr., October 22.**



*Mitzi Lobdell visiting with Delmer's brother.*

*Larry Massimo, Joel Dyslin, and Kathy Geddie set up and served refreshments.*



# November



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>All Sunday Services below begin at 10 AM</b></p>		<p><b>1</b> Choir Practice 7 PM</p>	<p><b>2</b> Council Meeting 7 PM via ZOOM</p>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<p><b>5</b></p> 
<p><b>6</b> Jere Wrightsman “</p>	<p><b>7</b> Moon appears full (officially full at 6:02 AM tomorrow)</p> 	<p><b>8</b> Election Day! <b>Election Day Dinner</b> – Come have a delicious meal. Rev. Elia in office in the afternoon</p>	<p><b>9</b> Choir Practice 7 PM</p>	<b>10</b>	<p><b>11</b></p> 	<b>12</b>
<p><b>13</b> Jennifer Thompson Fossil Fuel Divestment Workshop at Spencertown Academy at 4 PM</p>	<b>14</b>	<p><b>15</b> Deacons' Meeting 7 PM via Zoom</p>	<p><b>16</b> Choir Practice 7 PM</p>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<p><b>20</b> Rev. Donna Elia Dedication of pledges Catered Lunch</p>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<p><b>23</b> Choir Practice 7 PM</p>	<p><b>24</b> <i>Happy Thanksgiving!</i></p>	<p><b>25</b> Deadline for submission to the December Newsletter</p>	<p><b>26</b> Wreath making at the church 10 AM</p>
<p><b>27</b> Barbara Wheeler, Sermon Donna Elia, Communion</p>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<p><b>30</b> Rev. Elia in office, 10 AM to 2 PM Choir Practice 7 PM</p>	<p><b>November is National Native American Heritage Month, also called American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month.</b></p>		