

THE EPISTLE



Letter from the Pastor

By Rev. John Ward-Diorio

What is God calling us to do in this time and place? As Christians, and with people of many faiths, we have a complicated connection with time. Rather than pretend that is not true, we would do well to reflect upon this question.

The Holy Scriptures are important to us. We study them, read from them each Sunday, and seek to discern, through study, sermons, and our prayers, what God is speaking to us today. The Scriptures are thousands of years old. Over the course of those years, people have interpreted the Scriptures to mean one thing or another. Sometimes a particular interpretation or understanding emerges and sticks as definitive, at least for a while.

(continued on the next page)

MONTH HIGHLIGHTS

04 WORSHIP AT PEACE CHURCH

Join us at 9:15AM for worship at Peace Church. It is also Confirmation Sunday.

09/10 PCC ANNUAL MEETING

24 YOUTH IMPACT DAY

A day of fun, fellowship, and service in our community!

Cover Image: Wendi Taylor and Kathy Williams cook for the Broad Street Community Dinner.
Photo Credit: Rev. Allyssa Boyer

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(Cont.) Unfortunately, that does not mean that interpretation is definitely true, rather it means it was understood as true in that time, and sometimes for reasons other than it was consistent with God's great and inclusive love for all.

One major example of this was how Scripture was used by some to defend the practice of slavery, first in Europe and then in the United States. From the beginning, not all Christians agreed with this interpretation, but that interpretation carried great weight for many for way too many years. Another on-going example of this is how Scripture is used by some Christians to defend their prejudice and sometimes violent rhetoric and actions directed at people who are gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual or one of the other non-heteronormative designations. In rationalizing their push for laws that condemn what they want to condemn, these conservative Christians try and use their interpretation of Scripture as evidence to back up their prejudices and phobias, claiming this is true "Christianity."

As practicing Christians who have different interpretations of what Scripture says, we need to be prepared not only to be able to defend our views in private but discern how we might be more public about our witness. For many, their understanding of Christianity comes from what they hear on TV, radio, or via social media, where very conservative Christian voices and views have been the loudest and most prevalent. At the very least, our public witness is needed so there is a more balanced perception of what Christians believe and why we act the way we do. Perhaps more importantly today, our witness is needed as Christians Nationalists, those who believe the United States was founded as a

Christian nation (not true) and want our country to become a Christian nation (as they define Christianity), join with other fascists (remember Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy were supposedly Christian countries) and far-right groups who are willing to use violence to achieve their goals. The rise of Christian Nationalism and other far-right groups is connected to the increasing diversity present in the United States. There has always been diversity present, but there is an increasing understanding that white male Christians will no longer be the clear majority. This should not be cause for great alarm, as we in diverse communities and Congregations recognize, but to those who have held much of the wealth, power and influence in the past, the risk of rising diversity and equality is quite threatening, threatening enough to use whatever means possible to limit the level of equality that emerges, including bending what Scripture says, and claiming exclusive knowledge of what "true" Christians believe and how they should act. Using violence to achieve their goals is seen as appropriate.

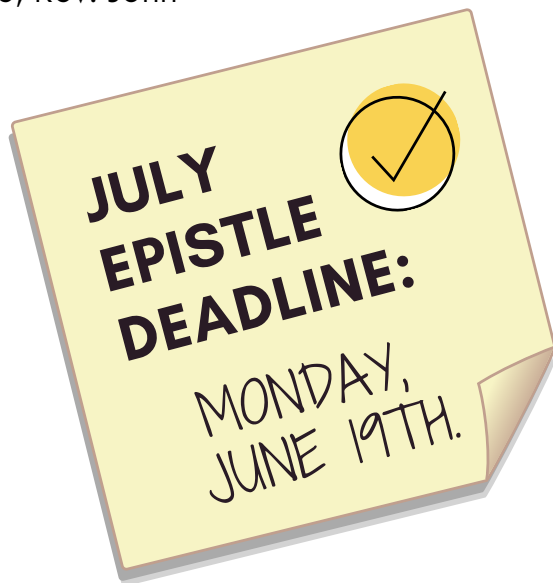
The ironies and outright discrepancies between this way of thinking and acting, and what Jesus taught and how he lived are numerous. The difference we can make in this time of growing crisis, the hope we can offer, is that another way of being in relationship with one another is possible. Jesus demonstrated an inclusive love, love that embraced difference, embraced those who were cast out, embraced those in need, instead of denigrating and targeting them. Jesus taught loving God with our full beings and our neighbors as ourselves (neighbors meaning all people-see the Good Samaritan story) was our clear directive. We can be witnesses to such love through our words and actions locally and our calls for such ways of being nationally as well. And we recognize that a person or people do not have to be Christian to act in these ways. When inclusive love is practiced, God is pleased. Jesus did not force anyone to live the specific

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(Cont.) way he did, and neither do we. Instead, like Jesus, we need to model such behavior, and like him, call out those who claim to be living lives according to Scripture, but whose words and actions indicate otherwise.

As we were reminded in our Pentecost celebrations, we do not engage in our lives of faith alone. God's Spirit, the Holy Spirit, is always with us, carrying the understanding that Jesus absorbed of what it means to be human. God is speaking to us today. May we listen and respond.

Peace, Rev. John



BIRTHDAYS

06/01 Juliet Rhoads
06/02 Matthew Howe
06/03 Kristen Templin
06/05 Ava Drazba
06/05 Kristine Amtower
06/05 Beth Lengel Mrs.
06/07 Wayne Lengel
06/07 Liane Gladwin
06/09 Michael Gray
06/09 Brian Medkeff-Rose
06/11 Karen Allison
06/11 Cynthia Toombs
06/11 Joanne Schmick
06/11 Thomas Sheaffer
06/12 Calvin Thompson
06/13 Truc Anh Elliott
06/14 Mackenzie Shea
06/14 Jean Layne
06/16 Landyn Miller
06/17 Isabella Shaner-Elliott
06/18 Joan Shearer
06/18 Daniel Wentz
06/19 Lilyan Stumpf
06/20 Eric Dundore
06/21 Cooper Miller
06/21 Caleigh Cowan
06/22 Mark Dundore
06/23 Kylah Miller
06/24 Keira Nalepka
06/25 Martha Brown
06/27 Phoenix Trout
06/27 Stefi Moyer
06/28 Melba Bomberger
06/29 Eleanor Weiser
06/29 Randy Whitman
06/30 Natalia McFarland
06/30 Stanley Rudisill
06/30 Brian Foust
06/30 Ian Nalepka
06/30 Sherri Bergstresser
06/30 Molly Hockenberry

ANNIVERSARIES

06/01 Jonathan & Kimberli Nalepka
06/02 Ralph & Catherine Kiner Jr
06/03 Rebecca & Richard Lingenfelter
06/05 Jeff & Jane Leister
06/06 Sarah Myers & Elizabeth Mihmet
06/07 Daniel & Kara Wentz
06/12 Larry & Donna Sharp
06/16 Kelly & James Wentz
06/24 Jeffrey & Randy Whitman
06/24 Ivonne & John McFarland
06/25 Gregory & Stacey Dickensheets
06/26 Thomas & Tania Pineo
06/27 Jim & Becky Weaver
06/27 Laura & Jesse Ramsey

In Our Hearts and Prayers

Addie (Stork-Whitson); Kevin & Karen Allison; Barb Bell; Marshall Bender; Cindy & Dick Bensel; Beverly (Hayden); Barbara Blust; Braylan; Bria (LaRue); Anna & Dale Burns; Nancy Cabrera (Runkle); Jeff Carlson (P. Miller); Alyssa Claar (A. Thompson); Rosie Clapp; Pat Cleland; Don Coldren (Grice); Heather Connelly (Bomberger); John & Sheri Conner (Layne); Mary Cooley (Richey); Donna D'Agostino; Emily Degnitz; Denny (Rhoads); Evelyn Diorio; Allen Dreibelbis; Nancy Dreibelbis; Bob & Eve Fenner; Jerry Foulke & Lynn Carson; Fenton Fox & Rick Holtzapple; Diane Freeman; Steven Freeman; Ron Gabriel; Bill Gladstone (Aumiller); Floyd Gouse; Shirley Grammer; Mike Greenwald; Harriet & Mark Grimm; Dr. Mark Hagenbuch (Bomberger); Jane Hall; Mike Hatz; Jim and Leslie Hoehn; Brenda Hoffer (Stork-Whitson); Dan & Will Jones; Jean & Will Jones; Julia (Fox/Holtzapple); Elaine Kansy (Hoehn); Kathy (Simpson); Martha & Gene Keith; Stephen Keith; Rev. Dr. Chris Kennedy (Ward-Diorio); Ralph Kiner; Jesse King; Dave Kirkwood; Glenn Kline; Sandy Kline; Kristine and Family (Ward-Diorio); Chris L.; Leibowitz Family; Debbie Lever (A. Thompson); Liam (Simpson); Larry Linder (Stork-Whitson/Williams); Judy Linton & Family; Jess Logan; Luca; Taran M. (Taylor); Manny (Sharp); Marie (Murphy); Michael & Ernie (Richey); Anita Miller; Charles Miller (Lloyd and Matthew's dad); Joanne Miller; Sue & Dayne Miller; Tasha Misner (Trout); Carol Moran; Ernie Moyer; Randy, Dar & Sarah Murphy; Gene & Ruth Ellen Myers (Boyer); Susan Myers (A. Thompson); Nyugen, Thu (P. Boyer); Patrick (Gabriel); Richard & Nancy Reba (Richenbacher); Carol Rhoads; Jason & Rachelle Rhoads; Wes Rhoads & Family; Alan and Diane Richenbacher; Harry Reidinger (Sponsler); Monisha Ridley; Laura Robeson; Philomena Rosati; Franklin, Andrew, Levi Roth; Jack Runkle; Rhoda & Ned Rupp; Thomas Schwartz (Sizemore); Scott & Tracey (Davinroy); Jean Searle; Susan Shanaman; John Shandra; Karen Shapiro; Sherry (Short); Shondra; Corky Short & Candy LaRue; Barbara Sterner; Terry; April Thomas (Bomberger); Cathy Thomas; Edward Thorn; Tracy Thrush Family; Kathy (Wolford Witmer) Toth; Shannon & Phoenix Trout; Bill Utley (Boyer); Rosalie Utley (Boyer); Vickie (S. Miller); Jean and David Weiss; Ryan Wilson (Bomberger); Chelsey Wirth; Mitchell Worley (Jones); Suzanne Worley (Jones); Kevin Young (A. Thompson); Zachary (Taylor).

Thank you for Serving

Head to our website, under the "sign up" heading, to volunteer.

Sunday, June 4, 2023 - Peace Church 9:15 A.M.	Sunday, June 11, 2023 9:15 A.M.	Sunday, June 18, 2023 9:15 A.M.	Sunday, June 25, 2023 9:15 A.M.
Acolyte	Acolyte	Acolyte	Acolyte
Lector Shirley Keith Knox	Lector Kathy Aumiller	Lector	Lector Eric Dundore
Greeter - Peace Church	Greeter - Common's Table Consistory	Greeter - Common's Table Shirley Keith Knox	Greeter - Common's Table
Greeter - Peace Church	Greeter - Electronic Door Consistory Steven Roush	Greeter - Electronic Door Joan Moyer	Greeter - Sanctuary Exterior Door
Greeter- Peace Church	Greeter - Sanctuary Exterior Door Consistory Chris Grice	Greeter - Sanctuary Exterior Door	Greeter - Electronic Door
Altar Flower Delivery Nancy Richey	Greeter - Communion Server -Consistory Wendy Hayden	Altar Flowers Delivery Joan Moyer	Altar Flowers Delivery Martha Keith
Counting Team Member	Greeter - Communion Server - Consistory	Kid's Place Attendant	Kid's Place Attendant
Counting Team Member	Altar Flower Delivery Patty and Dave Scott	Kid's Place Attendant	Counting Team Member Martha Keith
	Kid's Place Attendant	Counting Team Member	Counting Team Member
	Kid's Place Attendant		
	Counting Team Member		
	Counting Team Member		

**"EACH OF YOU SHOULD USE WHATEVER GIFT YOU HAVE
RECEIVED TO SERVE OTHERS, AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS
OF GOD'S GRACE IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS."**

1 PETER 4:10

Events and Announcements

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL — “OPERATION RESTORATION: MENDING GOD’S WORLD”

Our kids can be menders of the universe! But, you think, they’re just kids. How can they be menders of the whole universe? At “Operation Restoration,” they will practice being universe menders because that’s exactly how God made all of us. Your kids have been given the power to feed, heal, forgive, pray, and rest—essential tools to help repair all that has gone wrong in the world. They’ll learn more about their mending powers at “Operation Restoration” Vacation Bible School!

**DATES: MONDAY, JULY 10 –
THURSDAY, JULY 13
TIME: 6:00-8:15 PM**

All kids age four through rising 5th graders are invited to grow in faith as they play, learn, sing, and work to be menders of God’s creation.

To sign up, pick up a VBS registration form on the table in the Common, download a registration form from our website, or email Rev. Allyssa at allyssaboyer@outlook.com. Please return your completed form to St. Paul’s by June 25. See you at “Operation Restoration” VBS!

ADULT & YOUTH HELPERS NEEDED FOR VBS

Vacation Bible School is a terrific way for the youngest among us to grow their faith as part of our church community. But we can’t do it without enthusiastic, committed adults and youth! We are in need of station leaders, crew leaders, actors/storytellers, and a photographer. All adult helpers need Safe Church clearances. To volunteer, go to the sign-up page on our website and click “VBS helpers,” or contact Rev. Allyssa at allyssaboyer@outlook.com. Thank you!



YOUTH IMPACT DAY

Our youth are smart, compassionate, and ready to change the world for the better!

On June 24, St. Paul’s UCC’s youth will help with a local service project at Mission Central. They’ll participate in the Grocery Challenge, a team competition to shop for specific grocery items which are then donated to a local food aid program. They’ll learn about poverty in the U.S. and globally, and play games and have fun. Adult volunteers are needed to help drive and chaperone throughout the day. If your youth would like to participate, or if you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Rev. Allyssa at allyssaboyer@outlook.com.



PRISM

All singles are invited to attend our potluck lunch after church on Sunday, June 25th. Please bring a favorite dish to share. We look forward to spending time with you. Questions, contact Carol Sizemore. (717-858-3105)

POLLYANNAS

Pollyannas will be having their next lunch meeting at 11:30 am, Tuesday, June 27 at TJ Rockwells, hopefully on the patio. Please contact Bonnie Plymette if you are planning to attend. (717.591.8471)

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Please join us on June 4 at Peace Church as our confirmands affirm their baptism and enter into the full life and ministry of the church as members of St. Paul's UCC. Our confirmands have worked diligently over the past year, meeting with their adult mentors, going on field trips, and participating in confirmation class sessions. Let us welcome them into covenant as members of St. Paul's UCC and the church universal!



HEY Y'ALL, WANNA PLAY PICKLEBALL?!

Join your St. Paul's friends on Wednesday evenings at the Monroe Township Park courts (Boiling Springs Rd/Rt 174), 5:30-7pm. (These courts tend to be less busy.) This is an informal and non-competitive activity; no sign-ups, come when you can, make your own judgements with the weather. Several of us have extra paddles that we bring along for anyone who is new to the game and wants to try it out. Pickleball is great exercise, but the best part is the laughs! We'll get started June 7, after choirs take a break for the summer.

GARDEN BLESSING

Our congregation grows over 1,000 pounds of veggies every year in our Lee Jackson Memorial Community Garden. Many St. Paul's members work hard throughout the year to prepare the earth, plant, tend, water, weed, and harvest the produce from our garden, which is then donated to local food aid programs. We will join together at the garden following worship on June 11 to add our congregational blessing to the garden, its volunteers, and the fresh, healthy food it produces. Please join us! (Rain date: June 18)



PCC MISSION PROJECT: PERIOD SUPPLIES DONATION DRIVE

All the congregations in the Penn Central Conference are invited to participate in a conference-wide mission project: a donation drive for The Period Project Harrisburg. We are asking for donations of period supplies, specifically unopened packages of...

- **TAMPONS WITH PLASTIC APPLICATORS**
- **THIN MAXI PADS**
- **BOXES OF INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL WIPES**

All brands are acceptable. The period supplies are being collected in the donation area, between the main hallway and Fellowship Hall. Please bring in your donations by Wednesday, June 7. All products collected will support those in the Harrisburg area who are unsheltered or who struggle to afford these essential items. Thank you for helping to end period poverty!



PEACE CHURCH

We are delighted to have the opportunity to worship in the historic Peace Church, built in 1798 by our congregation's forebears. Worship at Peace Church is an annual event that was postponed for the past several years; it's a joy to be able to resume this cherished tradition. Peace Church is located at the intersection of Trindle and St. John's Church Roads in Camp Hill across the (street from the Sunoco gas station and McDonald's). Please plan to park in the parking lot of the office building across the street: 395 St. John's Church Rd, Camp Hill, PA 17011. Peace Church kicks-off our summer schedule; worship will be held at 9:15 AM. We hope to see you there!



YARD SALE

Thank you to everyone who helped with the St. Paul's Spring Yard Sale. Wow! The parking lot was full of cars, fellowship hall was filled with generous donations from people's houses, and we had lots of customers who commented on how friendly all of the St. Paul's workers were. And, the food! Delicious made-to-order egg sandwiches, homemade hamburger barbeque and 2 tables filled with baked goods and canned goods. This community event provides an opportunity for our neighbors to come to our church, meet some of our welcoming congregants, and purchase all sorts of things at a very discounted price. (And we get to have our 'no longer needed in our house' things go to a new loving home instead of a landfill.) A win all around. Oh, and did we mention that this also raised \$2400 for St. Paul's General Fund? Woohoo!

Thank you especially to our talented:

- Church administrative person- Renee Durbin - She handles all the vendors who call in, and many other administrative details to help this event come to fruition.
- Sorters and sellers, who spent many days setting up tables and organizing all of the

donations from the stage into appealing displays for people to buy. And then they were wheeling and dealing all day at the yard sale to sell countless items! Go Team!

- Kitchen team - they purchased dozens of eggs, baked up crispy bacon, and fed many customers from 7AM - 1.
- Bakers and Baked Sale workers - Your sweet and salty treats were delicious! There was a great variety of goodies and you sold almost everything.
- Jarred Goods Specialists - Ernie and Joan Moyer - Their delicious Jams, Sauces, and Relishes are always great sellers. Probably because they are delicious.
- Set-up and Clean-up crew - Your help is SOOOO appreciated! Thank you for hauling tables, chairs and anything else that needs to be moved from one place to another place. Many hands make quick work.
- Yard Sale committee - Mary Runkle (Chair), Joan Moyer, Carol Sizemore, and Kim Pirtle for making it happen.

And Thank You to all who came out and purchased things at the Yard Sale. We hope to see you again next year.



Thank You!

Dear St. Paul's Staff/Friends,
Thank you for allowing our family the use of Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 23rd. We celebrated the baptism of our granddaughter, Stevie Mae. All that attended were so pleased with not only our welcoming signs, but also the safety of our parking lots!

Love and Peace,
Betsy and George Bingaman

To St. Paul's Congregation,
I want to thank everyone that sent me get-well cards, retirement cards, talked to me personally, and shared their prayers with me. To those that attended my tribute, I want to tell you how much that meant to me. And the framed tribute, written by Wendi Taylor, has found a special wall in my house.

Thank you for everything,
Mike Hatz

To the St. Paul's Folk,
Thanks so much for the flowers, the lap robe, the dinner, and the cards & prayers. Thank you, Rev. John, for visiting. The support of the church has been uplifting and helpful. You are truly Christ's hands in this world.

Laura Robeson



June 2023

[HTTPS://SAINTPAULSUCC-MECH.ORG/CALENDAR](https://saintpaulsucc-mech.org/calendar)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 6PM: PPRC Meeting	2	3
4 9:15AM: Worship at Peace Church	5	6 4:30PM: MLC Meeting	7	8 6PM: Safety & Security 7PM: CE Meeting	9 10AM: Room Reservation	10 PCC ANNUAL MEETING
11 9:15AM: Worship with Communion 11:45AM: Called to Care Meeting	12 7PM: PFLAG Meeting	13 1PM: Prayer Shawl 5PM: Finance Meeting 6PM: Caregiver's Support	14	15	16	17 9AM: Community Garden Workday
18 9:15AM: Worship	19 6PM: Property Meeting	20 5:45pm: Consistory	21	22	23 10AM: Room Reservation	24 8:30AM: Youth Impact Day
25 9:15AM: Worship 12:30PM: PRISM	26 1PM: HR Committee 6:30PM: Passages Bereavement Support Group	27 11:30AM: Pollyanna's 5PM: Pavilion Reserved - Mech. Museum Assoc.	28	29 6:30PM: All Committee Meeting	30	
Help us keep it current by scheduling your events at the church through the church office				The most up to date calendar is on the church website.		