



The Aaronsburg Charge
 United Church of Christ
 January and February 2012
aaronsburgcharge@verizon.net
 Phone: (814)349-5094

Worship Schedule for 2011

St. Peter's: 9:30 a.m. (Sunday school following worship)
 Salem: 10:45 am

Communion is open to all who seek to know the Risen Christ and is offered 7 times per year.



From the Interim Pastor:

Happy New Year! 2012 is almost here. Traditionally, we make plans and resolutions as we look toward the future. Some people are cynical about such attempts, having failed so often to meet many or any of their goals. But what does God have to say about the future of the faithful? According to Jeremiah 29:11, NIV, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

It is clear that God wants the very best for God's people. If God wants prosperity, hope and a future for his people, doesn't it make sense that we should join in that same vision for God's church? As we go through this interim time, let's recommit ourselves to find hopeful, long-term ways to carry out the vision of a promising future for the Aaronsburg Charge in this year and beyond!

Peace,
 Leigh, Interim Pastor

Al-Anon Meetings

Al-Anon meets every Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. at St. Peter's UCC in the choir room. If you know of someone or live with someone who is an alcoholic and find that your life has become unmanageable, come to the meetings. This 12-step program may just be the help you need!

Bethany Children's Home---Gift Cards



Between our two churches, we received 30 gift cards for the residents of Bethany Children's Home. Your participation in this effort will make a much nicer Christmas for those less fortunate than we are. Thank you for your generosity.



Our charge participated in the Live Nativity in Millheim on Friday, December 9 from 6-8 PM. A special thank you to all adults and children who helped with this effort in reaching the community with the true meaning of Christmas – we had a live (week-old) calf and a sheep (ram) who participated with us this year. Music performed in front of the Millheim Hotel created a sing along.

Joint Consistory: Next meeting: January 17 at St. Peter's, 7PM Joint Spiritual Life Committee, 7:30PM
 Joint Consistory



Prayer Chain

All Service Personnel and their families. Jacob Kerstetter (deployed to Iraq)
All Charge Shut-ins: Polly Crader, Tom Hazel, Ellen Huey, Bernice Warntz, and Hazel Warntz.

Dorothy Alters	Clinton Bonson	Darlene Boob	Fred & Karen Boob	Randall Boob	
Mike Braucht	Terry Bressler	Bob Brown	Kay Brown	Family of Connie Carper	Carol & Nelson Cook
Alex Corman	Ted Corman	T.J. Coursen	Bill & Janie Crater	Glenda Dobson	Michael Dimock
Dr. Lillian Earle	Jean Eisenhuth	Frances Fetterolf	Tim Galloway	Karen Glasgow	Luke Haskell
Diane Homan	Benjamin Hosterman	Jonathan Huey	Fred & Patty Johnson	Marcia Lingle	
Makayla Luse	Fred & Betty Mensch	Sam Moore	Loretta Neff	Robert Neill	Dixie Ort
Amanda Rachau	David Rearick	Jane Stover Rickner	Shirley Rossman	Jackie Shawver	
Gay Lynne Shouey	Doris Z. Smith	Bernice Snyder	Frank Stapleton	Betty Stover	Cheryl Stover
Evelyn Stover	Randall Stover	Randolph Swartz	Janet & Roy Van Gilder		
Ruth Weaver	Becky Wenrick	Mildred Wingard	Mark & Nancy Wise		

*Names listed in bold are newly added names to this list.

Please feel free to add/subtract from this list by calling your Consistory President. Please make the changes in your church's prayer chain board.



Our Homebound, Nursing Home or Health Care Residents:

If you would like to add someone to the Shut-in list, please submit to aaronsburgcharge@verizon.net or drop a note in the milk box on the front porch of the parsonage.)

Mr. & Mrs. Fredrick Mensch
PO Box 381
Millheim, PA 16854

Tom Hazel
120 E Beaver Ave, Apt 709
State College, PA 16801

Ellen Huey
168 Long Street, PO Box 289
Spring Mills, PA 16875

Emma Brown
Salem Hill Haven
424 Heckman Cemetery RD
Spring Mills, PA 16875

Carrie Neese
Salem Hill Haven
424 Heckman Cemetery RD
Spring Mills, PA 16875

Randall Stover
PO Box 153
Aaronsburg, PA 16820

Hazel Warntz
167 Cemetery Road
Aaronsburg, PA 16820

Mildred Wingard
377 Paradise RD, PO Box 46
Spring Mills, PA 16875

Mr. & Mrs. Guy Zerby
4412 Penns Valley Road
Spring Mills, PA 16875

SALEM'S HAPPENINGS – JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012

Mission Statement: Our goal is to service the community in a Christian way, to love one another and to worship God together seeking truth, justice and peace.



Our annual Thanksgiving meals held on November 5 at the Gregg Township Fire Hall. We enjoyed a delicious meal of ham and turkey prepared and served by the Ladies Auxiliary. The Four Decades provided entertainment. The collection received supported our entertainers and the Ladies Auxiliary. All the children and the door prize winners received gift bags.

Salem received numerous items from St. John's in November.

The Communion Table and the paraments	Banners made by Phyllis Royer
Two candle holders	A communion set with cups
A set of numbers for the hymn board	

Thank you to St. John's members for being so generous.

Pastor Leigh, Dave and Helen Sweeley attended the Community Thanksgiving Eve services held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Centre Hall. Many clergy throughout the valley participated in the service including Pastor Leigh. The offering collected benefited the Penns Valley Hope Fund. Refreshments and fellowship followed the service.



On December 27, Salem celebrated the Hanging of the Greens service. Everyone assisted in decorating the tree. Twenty-two poinsettias adorned the sanctuary in honor and memory of loved ones of the congregation. Our annual soup and sandwich lunch followed the worship service including a visit from Santa. Santa collected the children's wish lists and gave each child a treat.



Salem received a new member, Emma Brown, by letter of transfer from the Methodist Church. Emma lives at Salem Hill Haven, please take the opportunity to get to know our newest member.



Thank you to Janie Shook for playing the organ on December 11. Janie accepted at the last minute and did a good job!

Church Business:

- Dave Neese has been contracted for parking lot snow removal, Donn Fetterolf will act as back up for this service
- Dave Sweeley will install a new timer to light the church front window and marquee,
- The Family fellowship committee will retain the same officers
- Family Fellowship provided personal care gift items to Mildred Wingard and Ellen Huey delivered the week before Christmas
- A Wal-Mart gift certificate was purchased for our organist, Carol Corman
- Annual Reorganization meeting occurred on December 4,
 - The Joint Consistory and Salem budgets were accepted as presented
 - Gary Auman and Helen Sweeley were re-elected as Elders
 - Donna Auman and Wendell Royer were re-elected as Deacons
 - Salem Consistory officers will remain the same for 2012
 - Cindy Ross and Helen Sweeley will Audit the finances on January 15, 2012
 - Service projects need to be planned to prepare for the "Unbinding the Heart" study for the Lent season

Anna Pauline (Polly) Crader went to be with our heavenly Father on December 3, 2011. Polly was born in Spring Mills on March 30, 1926. She worked for Balfurd Cleaners until her retirement. She joined Salem in 1945. Polly served as a Sunday school teacher. When Polly moved to Lewisburg, she temporarily moved her church membership to that area but returned her membership to Salem in 1994 while she continued to live in Lewisburg. One sister, Mildred Wingard, who resides at Heartside, survives Polly. Polly was laid to rest at Salem Cemetery on December 6 in a private graveside service officiated by Pastor Leigh Pick. A private graveside memorial service will be held at the cemetery in spring 2012. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to Polly's Family.



ST. PETER'S NEWS – JANUARY/FEBRUAR 2011

Worship Schedule for 2011

St. Peter's: 9:30 a.m. (Sunday school following worship)

January	READER	FLOWERS	Monthly Greeter	Monthly Offering Counters
1	Dixie Ort		Hank Kerstetter	Virginia H/Shane Royer
8	Virginia Hosterman			
15	Phoebe Anskis	Dixie Ort		
22	Ed Kerstetter	Terry B/Barb B		
29	Bonnie DeBrasky	Terry B/Barb B		

Consistory Devotions: Doug Royer

February	READER	FLOWERS	Monthly Greeter	Monthly Offering Counters
5	Bill Miles	Henry Kerstetter	Fay & Frank S	Doug Royer/Brenda Stover
12	HEALING SERVICE	SALEM UCC		
19	Lori Corman	Lori Corman		
26	Dixie Ort	Lori Corman		

Consistory Devotions: Shane Royer



On October 30, we celebrated All Saints Sunday.

A bell tolled at the reading of each of the 43 names of friends and family who passed from this life to the next during the year.

The highlight of our service on November 20 was a sharing time by Kyle Miles who was about to embark on a mission trip to Southeast Asia. What an inspiring message – we all look forward to hearing from Kyle upon his return about his experiences from the “other side” of the world.



St. Peters decked the sanctuary with the annual “Hanging of the Greens” service on the first Sunday of Advent. Thanks to all who participated in this meaningful service and purchased poinsettias. They seem especially beautiful this year. God's Faithful Servants helped to organize and serve the soup and sandwich lunch after worship. What a nice time of fellowship and good food.

St. Peter's held their Annual Meeting following worship on Sunday, December 11. The proposed 2012 budget was approved. Brenda Stover and Shane Royer were re-elected as consistory members and Ed Kerstetter was re-elected to the Cemetery Board.

Thank you to Bonnie DeBrasky and Orvil Hosterman who have served on consistory for numerous years.



A wonderful time was had by all the children who attended the Children's Christmas Party after worship on Sunday, December 11. Special thanks to Bonnie and all her helpers for making this possible.

Lenten Series for the Aaronsburg Charge



For six Sundays in Lent (beginning Feb. 26), we will begin a Charge-wide Lenten series using the book Unbinding Your Heart by Martha Grace Reese. It is a 40-day experience of prayer and faith sharing.

This summer many of the Charge's leadership participated in this study and found it to be very meaningful and helpful in moving their faith life to a new level.

Books will be provided and the series will take place each Sunday afternoon in Lent from 3:00-4:00 p.m. beginning Feb. 26 and continuing through Apr. 1. The following is the schedule and location for all sessions:

Feb. 26	3:00-4:00 PM St. Peter's Choir room
Mar. 4	3:00-4:00 PM St. Peter's Choir room
Mar. 11	3:00-4:00 PM St. Peter's Choir room
Mar. 18	3:00-4:00 PM Salem Sunday School room
Mar. 25	3:00-4:00 PM Salem Sunday School room
Apr. 1	3:00-4:00 PM Salem Sunday School room



This is an incredible opportunity to enter into a Lenten practice involving prayer and sharing our faith with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Sign-up sheets will soon be available so we know how many books to order. Please join in this meaningful and potentially transformative experience!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, Saturday, June 30

Ah, summer...the warmth of a sunny, June day...the hum of the bees...the caress of a gentle summer's breeze on your face... Wait a minute! It's only January, you say? That's true, but we've already begun planning for this year's Vacation Bible School. This year's theme is "I Love to Tell the Story". The program will be broken down into three parts: the Old Story, the New Story, and Our Story.

Here in East Penns Valley, VBS will be just one day - June 30, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. There is still more planning ahead, but some ideas for the one-day program include having a singing group such as Recreation as part of the day's experience along with the children hearing the stories of children in other lands, tasting the foods of other countries and taking part in crafts from other lands. Parents and children are to all join in the day. Adults can be part of Bible studies and other activities.

For this one-day experience, we will need help. We need:

Teachers/ Helpers	Activities leaders	Food/Food servers
Music leaders	Arts/Crafts teachers	Registrars



Please **prayerfully consider** being a part of this one-day event. We are so fortunate VBS is still available for the children in our community. If we want to continue to have such a program, we need to support it with our physical presence. Time and again, people find that when they get involved in something like VBS, they end up receiving so much more than they have given. Please avail yourself of the opportunity to "be blessed to be a blessing."

Longest Night Service

For the third year in a row, the Aaronsburg Charge offered the community a "Longest Night Service." This year's service was held at Salem UCC on December 18 at 7:00 p.m. The evening consisted of readings from scripture and other sources, music, prayer and lighting of candles in remembrance of departed loved ones. Pastor Leigh and Carol Corman orchestrated a fabulous service.

AARONSBURG CHARGE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild wrapped at least 100 books for needy children in the community on Tuesday, December 6 and then enjoyed a time of fellowship with cookies and hot chocolate. An invitation is extended to all to come and join us – we have a good time and stimulating Bible Study! Thank you to members of Friends with a Mission for the beautiful fruit baskets that were made for homebound members of Salem and St. Peter's.



On November 6, the Hymn Selection Committee met and selected hymns for the first six months of 2012. Thank you to all who participated and to those of you who are readers each Sunday. You add so much to our worship services.

We participated in the nation-wide UCC effort for a Mission 1 offering on 11-11-11 of canned and dried goods for those in need. The Millheim Outreach Center received the canned/dried goods. The money donated was credited to the Millheim Outreach Center account at Burkholder's Market. The goal for our charge was 1,111 canned goods or monetary equivalent and we met the goal. Kudos to all!



On November 12, Penn Central Conference held a Small Church Seminar at the office in Harrisburg. Ginny Hosterman, Dave Sweeley, Donna Auman, Marilyn Weaver and Pastor Leigh attended this event lead by Area Conference Minister, Laurene Bowers. She is an inspiring speaker; she shared much information on how to grow small churches numerically. We will be trying to focus on our strengths and trying some of these ways of growing our churches as we travel into the future.



St. John's UCC in Boalsburg hosted the Ten Days for Peace Service on November 13. Rev. Robert Hunsicker delivered the message entitled, "The Gift of Peace." Christmas cards for the inmates and money for the Mission 1 campaign were collected and blessed as the offering of the day. Refreshments followed the service.



Advent Vesper Services have been held each Wednesday of Advent. St. Peter's hosted the service on December 7 – the weather was discouraging, but all who attended left with a sense of peace.



God's Faithful People will be having a Spaghetti dinner after church on **February 12**. Look for more details in the worship bulletin.

January Anniversaries

January 3 Donald & Virginia Boob
January 16 Joe & Lucinda Stover



February Anniversaries

February 14 Jackie & Steve Shawver

January Birthdays

January 1	Sarah Miles	January 15	Dixie Ort
January 4	Dawn Johnstonbaugh	January 16	Bill Miles
January 6	John Devinney	January 26	Jordin Houtz
January 9	Garret Hampton	January 26	Paul Houser



February Birthdays

February 1	Virginia Hosterman	February 14	Louise Houser
February 2	Darice Hampton	February 16	Jeff Stover
February 6	Helen Benner	February 16	Bob Brown, Sr.
February 9	Guy Zerby	February 18	Patty Miles
February 11	Darl Johnstonbaugh	February 23	Carrie Neese
February 11	Henry Kerstetter	February 26	Barb Bower
February 12	Gavin Hampton	February 27	David C Edwards
February 13	Donald Boob	February 28	Joe Stover
		February 28	Lori Corman

JANUARY 2012 CALENDAR

Tue	Jan	3	Noon 7:15 PM	Autism Support Group meeting, Millheim Hotel Women's Guild, St. Peter's
Wed	Jan	4		
Thu	Jan	5	8:30 AM	PV Ministerium at Brody's
Fri	Jan	6		
Sat	Jan	7		
Sun	Jan	8		
Mon	Jan	9	7:00 PM	Salem Consistory
Tue	Jan	10	7:00 PM	St. Peter's Consistory
Wed	Jan	11		
Thu	Jan	12		
Fri	Jan	13		
Sat	Jan	14		
Sun	Jan	15	TBA	Audit of Treasurers' books for Salem Annual Report items due to Charge secretary
Mon	Jan	16		
Tue	Jan	17	7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Joint Spiritual Life committee, St. Peter's Joint Consistory, St. Peter's
Wed	Jan	18		
Thu	Jan	19	7:00 PM	VBS meeting at St. John UCC, Millheim
Fri	Jan	20		
Sat	Jan	21		
Sun	Jan	22	1:30 PM	Community Ice Cream Social at St. Peter's Lutheran, Aaronsburg

Mon	January	23	
Tue	Jan	24	<i>Clergy Convocation at Hershey Hotel</i>
Wed	Jan	25	<i>Clergy Convocation at Hershey Hotel</i>
Thu	Jan	26	<i>Clergy Convocation at Hershey Hotel</i>
Fri	Jan	27	
Sat	Jan	28	
Sun	Jan	29	
Mon	Jan	30	
Tue	Jan	31	

 **FEBRUARY 2012 CALENDAR** 

Wed	Feb	1	
Thu	Feb	2	
Fri	Feb	3	
Sat	Feb	4	
Sun	Feb	5	
Mon	Feb	6	
Tue	Feb	7	Noon 7:15 PM Autism Support Group meeting, location TBA Women's Guild, St. Peter's
Wed	Feb	8	
Thu	Feb	9	
Fri	Feb	10	
Sat	Feb	11	
Sun	Feb	12	After worship God's Faithful People Spaghetti Dinner
Mon	Feb	13	
Tue	Feb	14	
Wed	Feb	15	
Thu	Feb	16	
Fri	Feb	17	<i>Donut Days at St. Peter's</i>
Sat	Feb	18	<i>Donut Days at St. Peter's</i>
Sun	Feb	19	10:45 AM 1:30 PM Salem Pot Luck Lunch, following morning worship Bowling at Millheim Lanes, \$3.00 per game/shoes included
Mon	Feb	20	
Tue	Feb	21	
Wed	Feb	22	Ash Wednesday
Thu	Feb	23	
Fri	Feb	24	
Sat	Feb	25	
Sun	Feb	26	3:00 PM Lenten Series for the Charge, St. Peter's Choir room
Mon	Feb	27	
Tue	Feb	28	

In the future...

March 4	3PM	Lenten Series for the Charge, St. Peter's Choir room
March 11	3PM	Lenten Series for the Charge, St. Peter's Choir room
March 18		Salem's Lenten Lunch prepared by the men lead by Ken Royer
March 18	3PM	Lenten Series for the Charge, Salem Sunday school room
March 25	3PM	Lenten Series for the Charge, Salem Sunday school room