



# THE CHURCH CHIMES

Peters Creek Evangelical Presbyterian Church • PO Box 184 • Venetia, PA 15367

September 2017



## Kick-Off Church Picnic

**Elm Grove Park  
Thompsonville Rd.  
September 10**

12:00 p.m.  
following 11:00 Service

Desserts, Meat and Drinks provided  
Families with the last name beginning with  
A - M bring a side dish  
and N - Z a salad.

## Sunday School Kick-Off

**Our Sunday School KickOff Celebration** will be on September 10, with the three Children's Classes (Preschool, K-2, and Grades 3-6) beginning to meet again at 9:45 a.m. We will begin on KickOff Sunday with games and a "show and tell" activity – each student is asked to bring one object (rock, shell, picture, toy...) that illustrates one thing they liked best about their summer break!

**Nursery care** will, of course, be provided at 9:45 as well as at 11 o'clock; and **Children's Church** will continue to take place during the 11 o'clock service for all interested children in grades K-3.

## Youth Group Kick-Off

Attention **ALL** Youth of Peters Creek EPC! I know we are all sad to see summer come to end and school start again. However, that means that our Youth Group is starting up again. We will have our official kick-off for the year on **Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.** Parents are invited to join us for the first half of the meeting. We will have dinner and discuss changes and expectations for the upcoming year. After the "boring stuff", the youth can hang out until 8:30. We will have a quick discussion and then play their favorite games. Please RSVP to Marion so we can get an accurate count for food. As always, youth are invited and encouraged to bring friends along. Looking forward to seeing everyone as we kick-off the 2017-2018 Youth Group year.



# FROM OUR PASTOR

**A**s we approach the 10 year anniversary of our disaffiliation from the PCUSA, we still find ourselves locked in a legal battle with our former denomination. Even though we have walked away from the property, given over all of our financial assets, our former friends continue to pursue legal action against us. What could be a worse crisis than that! 10 years of uncertainty, and a constant dripping of the dread that comes from such a situation.

What can we do about it? I think there are two things. Hold fast in faith and be obedient to fulfill our mission as a congregation of Jesus Christ! How do we do that? I think I can name it. Jesus never promised that our life as Christians would be easy all the time. As a matter of fact He said we would suffer if we followed Him. People would misunderstand us, oppose us, and make life difficult for us if we followed His teaching. But He also promised never to leave us nor forsake us!

An American Lutheran theologian by the name of Joseph Sittler once wrote about the suffering Christians must endure. He called it a “germinating darkness.” It is that our life on earth is a place where

our faith is tried and tested, and in that testing it becomes stronger and will eventually gleam with the brightness of pure gold (1 Peter 1:7). While the enemy means to use our fiery trials as-a-means-to destroy us, God always uses them to grow our faith! As Sittler pointed out, “If you completely wipe out the darkness, nothing can come forth and grow.” So it is for seeds planted in the ground, in the darkness they burst forth with life.

Let’s not be bewildered by these events, but instead, let’s use this time to nurture the seeds of the Gospel so that they grow. When the church began on the Day of Pentecost, it started small, it grew without buildings. The reason it grew is because the people, who were themselves changed by the Grace of Jesus Christ, were faithful to share that same grace with others. They focused on the simple things of the Gospel, loving God and loving each other. They kept the *basic* principles. In other words, they made the main thing the main thing. That main thing is Jesus Christ and His saving Grace.

Paul told the Ephesians, “Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.” (Eph. 6:10) To trust in the power of His might requires an active faith. The Bible gives at least three reasons to trust in God’s

power: 1) God’s past record, 2) our present situation and 3) God’s desire that we trust Him.

For the first reason, the Bible tells us that even when people’s faith was weak, God always fulfilled His promise to them. Sometimes people limited God’s power to His physical presence. Like Mary did when she told Jesus, “Had you been here Lazarus would not have died.” Jesus knew all along about Lazarus’ condition and His intention was to heal him all along. His time was not Mary’s timing. God is always working to bring about salvation, the Biblical record tells us that. Even Mary’s unbelief in the face of the death of Lazarus did not keep Jesus from fulfilling His mission.

The second reason we should trust in God’s power is our present situation. Didn’t Pharaoh pursue the Children of Israel until they had their backs to the sea? Didn’t God deliver them? God bought them time and space. First, He put a great cloud between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Then He parted the Red Sea, the Israelites crossed over to safety while the armies of Egypt were held at bay by the cloud. Let’s have faith.

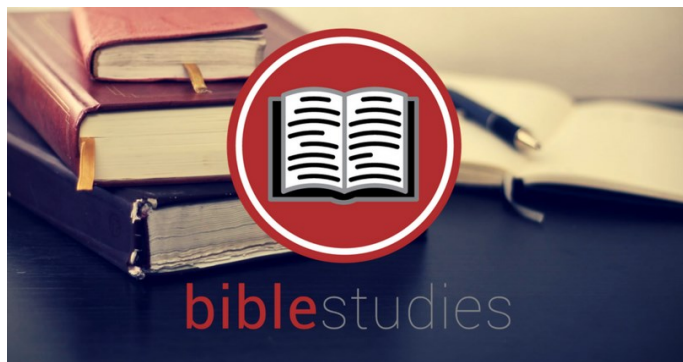


## Pastor's Letter Continued...

The third reason that we can trust the power of God is that often He seems to come only in the nick of time to save His people. William Gurnall points out that Israel probably would never have left Egypt if people who remembered Joseph were still in power. If they left, it would not be because God delivered them, but because they chose to leave. With the tyrant Pharaoh, an ancient Kim Jong Un, God demonstrated His power. When God's people could not deliver themselves, God delivered them to His everlasting glory.

Let's focus on being obedient to the mission of Christ, love God and love others. That means living the way Jesus would have us live, loving each other, and deliberately sharing the Gospel with our community. It also means trusting the power of God's might. Even the darkness produces the work of God, not because the darkness has virtue in itself, but because God power makes it do His bidding.

Your Pastor and Friend,  
Doug Brandt



The **Women's Monday Morning Bible Study** begins on **September 11 at 9:30 am** in the Conference Room at St. David's. ***Lazarus Awakening: Finding Your Place in the Heart of God***, by Joanna Weaver, is a 10 week book study that "invites you to experience a spiritual resurrection that will forever change your understanding of what it means to be the one Jesus loves." For more information or to order a book, please contact Susan Prosser at 724-942-5427.

The **Pastor's Wednesday Evening Bible Study** begins **September 13 at 6:30 p.m.** in Beinhauers Community Room. We will be studying the book, *Simple Church* by Thom S. Rainer. We begin with a meal together and then begin study.



### September Mission of the Month

The September Working Miracles through Mission Offering is for Hurricane Harvey Relief. In response to this devastating hurricane, we are collecting monetary donations to aid those impacted in south Texas and Louisiana. It is estimated that over 15 trillion gallons of rain have fallen in the area causing unprecedented flooding. Your donations this month will be sent through Samaritan's Purse, a Christian organization that reaches out in name of Jesus Christ to help and minister to those in need.



Our next Men's Breakfast is this Saturday, September 9th at 9:00 a.m. at the Bob Evans in Peters. We hope you will join us!



*Summer's End is a time to look back fondly...  
...and to look forward in anticipation!*

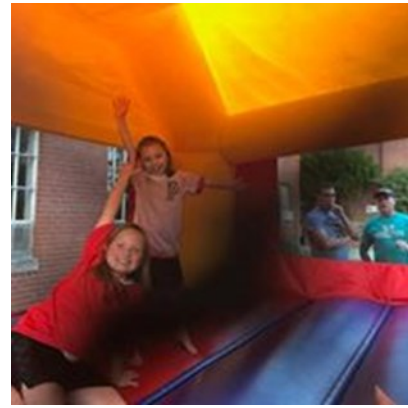
*Looking back on summer memories:*

**1.)** On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, during **the Strawberry Festival**, there was a craft table indoors, at which children were invited to make "snakes" out of strawberry and banana slices (with chocolate chip eyes). These projects then turned into the children's very own, handmade desserts.



We also had a Bounce House outside, which is always a big hit with children of all ages. In addition, the Fellowship Team supervised the children's cracking of a piñata. I would guess that there were at least a dozen or more children present that evening!





**2.) This year's Vacation Bible School, "HERO CENTRAL" (curriculum by Cokesbury), took place during the week of July 10.**

Since there were many volunteers who could only commit to only one or two days, in addition to those who were able to be there all four days of VBS, we needed a large number of VBS workers altogether. God provided, and we had a total number of **51 volunteers! Thank you, PCEPC Family!**

Via the online registration for VBS, which had opened in late March and was closed as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, **92 children were registered** to participate. Some dropped out, and others were invited in from the wait list, and so the number fluctuated for a while. In the end, the **total number of children who participated in VBS was 84.**

**The HERO CENTRAL VBS used epic music, crafty crafts, heroic recreation, and fantastic Bible stories to help kids and leaders discover their strength in God!**

On the last day of VBS, we offered Rita's Ice (instead of a full lunch) to parents and children. We received a number of grateful comments, notes, and also donations from pleased parents.







**P.S. Thank you also to the generous helpers from our membership who were willing to sub for me** in the areas of weekly setup and teardown, and also of Children's Church leadership, during the summer periods of my absence!

*Looking ahead to the Fall:*



- 1.) Our Sunday School KickOff Celebration** will be on September 10, with the three Children's Classes (Preschool, K-2, and Grades 3-6) beginning to meet again at 9:45 a.m. We will begin on KickOff Sunday with games and a "show and tell" activity – each student is asked to bring one object (rock, shell, picture, toy...) that illustrates one thing they liked best about their summer break!



**Nursery care** will, of course, be provided at 9:45 as well as at 11 o'clock; and **Children's Church** will continue to take place during the 11 o'clock service for all interested children in grades K-3.

2.) We have a service event planned for September 23 –that will be the day we will return to Paramount Senior Living to sing for the residents again, as we did in May. This time, we will meet at 10:50 a.m.

and sing between 11 and 11:20 a.m. Please let me know whether you think your family can make it -the seniors really enjoy seeing and hearing our kids!



--Please keep PCEPC's Children's Ministry and all the families involved in prayer; and do let me know if you have any comments or suggestions!

Yours in Christ,  
Katie Brandt



*"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it"*  
~Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)

## Youth Volunteers Needed

I need Sunday school teachers for our youth Sunday school class. The curriculum has everything you need to lead a Sunday morning lesson. The goal is to have four teachers so you will only need to commit to once a month. Please prayerfully consider teaching the youth of our church.

If you have questions or would like to sign up, please contact me, Marion Maentz, via e-mail at [Marion@peterscreekchurch.org](mailto:Marion@peterscreekchurch.org) or via phone at 412.208.5825.

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What a wonderful, loving and caring church! We can not thank you enough. Over the past year with everything I have been through our church family has been very supportive. Thank you for the cards, phone calls, visits to the hospital and meals. A special Thank You to Pastor Doug for his visits in the hospital. May God bless you all!

Love,  
Jim and Lorraine

Thank you to all the church for prayers, visits, cards, food, flowers and prayer shawl, I received while recovering from my total knee replacement. I'm still doing physical therapy for several months, the range of motion is a slow process. Bending the knee again.

Hope to see you all in church soon.

Again thank you to our great church family.

In Christian Love,  
Chris Lindsay

## Crosstitchers

The **Crosstitchers needlework/craft group** will meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 1:00-3:00 pm in the Conference Room at St. David's. Bring your own project or work on our current group project. We have lots of yarn and craft supplies waiting to be made into gifts for church members, area nursing homes and various charities. Join us for fun and fellowship on September 20. Contact Susan Prosser for more information at 724-942-5427.

## Church Staff

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### Publication Deadlines

Articles for the Church Chimes and announcements for the bulletin should be submitted in electronic format.

Submissions for the Chimes are due no later than noon on the 15th of each month for the following month's edition.

Sunday Bulletin Submissions are due no later than noon each Wednesday.

### Peters Creek Evangelical Presbyterian Church

*A Congregation of the  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church*  
724-941-6210  
[www.peterscreekchurch.org](http://www.peterscreekchurch.org)