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**News from St. Peter's Lischey's U.C.C.**  
**This is the second edition of a bi-weekly news update.**  
**Thursday, May 14, 2020**

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*Church Council and Staff are endeavoring to send out this bi-weekly update because due to the current circumstances resulting from the quarantine, and not knowing what safety standards will be in place when we may be able to gather again, long term planning is not possible. Committees will be meeting via Zoom to consider options and how to implement social distancing for future events and worship.*



**Message from the Pastor:**

*"Thus says the Lord of hosts:  
These people say the time has not yet come  
to rebuild the Lord's house. "*

*Haggai 1:2*

*Many times, I have shared with you how much I love the prophets. I especially love the prophets because they tell the people what they need to hear from God and not what they want to hear. This week, I draw your attention to a little known prophet, Haggai. (Haggai is only two chapters in the Old Testament.) Verse 2 of the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter says, "These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the Lord's house."*

*"The time has not yet come..." The people this prophet was speaking too had returned from exile and had begun to rebuild the temple, then stopped midway. They had lots of reasons and excuses: as soon as we have the resources, as soon as we have this or that done, as soon as we have a new leader... the list goes on and on. We all know how this goes, on and on and on... the time has not yet come. It is called procrastination.*

*"As soon as" becomes a delay tactic which I am quite familiar with in my own life. As soon as we get a house, as soon as I get my Master's degree in education, as soon as we get a second car, as soon as... then we will begin a family. Well, in my life, God had other plans and as I look back, I am most thankful for His plans!*

*Lischey's is a congregation with a strong heritage and people with a passionate commitment to God and the community of faith. As we look to the coming months, we cannot say, the time has not yet come or "as soon as the quarantine is over. Rather the time has come for this congregation to discern what God is calling them to be and become in the year ahead. The challenge will be great but not something you cannot overcome with God's leading, wisdom and guiding. Prayer is the path to wisdom, guidance and discernment. I implore you to join me in daily prayer for the future for the church and especially God's spirit to unfold within this congregation.*

*In the peace of Christ, Pastor Cathy*



*This section is intended to update the congregation and respond to questions that have been raised during these times. Please email the church office at: [lischeys@gmail.com](mailto:lischeys@gmail.com) with your questions and concerns.*

❖ **Worship via Zoom.**

*Zoom has recently upgraded its security and the password will be necessary to access worship. Once again, it is the best option the church has to share worship together at this time.*

❖ **When might we worship together again?**

*This question is central to ALL congregations. On May 12<sup>th</sup>, the pastor and members of the church participated in a Zoom meeting hosted by Penn Central Conference regarding the reopening of churches at which time it was suggested that this not take place until adequate preparation takes place and we are in the “green” phase. To that end, Council has identified a Task Force consisting of Pastor Sherry, Council President Larry Spangler, Jean Weidler and Bud Hamme to look at what will be necessary to prepare for re-opening. In summary, the sign in front of the church says there will be no services until the quarantine is lifted.*

❖ **What's happening?**

*The Profile Committee continues to work on the profile. Many thanks to Sandy Lehman, Karla Waltersdorff, Amanda Godfrey, Elvin Myers, Tammy Wetzel, and Don Carl for their work on the profile!*

*Jean Gross continues to follow up with the Cares Act Small Business Loans. Jim Messinger cleaned up the Prayer Garden. Pat Warner picked up Upper Room devotionals and delivered them to the people in her apartment complex. Elvin Myers is busy checking safety and emergency issues at church. Michele Hamme organized the Sunday School office. Nancy Cherry has completed organizing all 19 drawers of anthems. Jim and Joan Messinger delivered Mother's Day cards to Homewood. Joy Spangler and Sandy Lehman have helped at Harvest of Hope. Thank you to everyone for pitching in during these times!*

*Christian Education and Youth met via Zoom on May 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss Messy Church and VBS. It was decided to postpone VBS until then end of July or early August at this time. No definite date has been set for VBS.*

*Messy Church will be held via Zoom on Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> from 7 PM to 7:30 PM. Families will be invited to drive by and pick up craft kits outside the lower entrance prior to the event. Dates and times for pick up are listed below. Questions, contact Pastor Cathy.*

❖ **What about E-tithing?**

Hopefully you found the information sheet in last week's update helpful. The church cannot proceed to set up e-tithing until the banks re-open. When that occurs, you will receive information to set up individual contributions. **Thank you** for your contributions being sent by mail and to Elvin Myers, Darlene Miner and Joann Hoffman for making weekly deposits.



**Keep God's Music in Your Heart - a Message from the Music Director:**

We look forward to May when the return to warmer weather brings flowers amid the greener grass. It is also the month we celebrate Mothers' Day. We reflect on the blessings we have been privileged to receive as we grew up in a home hopefully with a caring mother. Our homes have been the center of our learning values that have guided us our whole lives. What fond memories do you have of being with your mother and learning life long skills from her? Did she teach you to tie your shoes and cook? Did she teach you to love God and pray? I hope your memories are happy!

"Happy the Home When God is There" is a hymn written by Henry Ware (1794-1843). He was a pastor and then a professor at Harvard. Ralph Waldo Emerson, the well-known American poet, and shirt-tail cousin in my family, served Henry Ware as an assistant for a time. His collected writings, including hymns, were not published until after his death, in 1846. The hymn tune was written by John Dykes (1825-1876.) These words, written over 100 years ago, are still meaningful!

Happy the Home when God is there  
And love fills ev'ry breast,  
When one their wish and one their prayer  
And one their heav'nly rest.

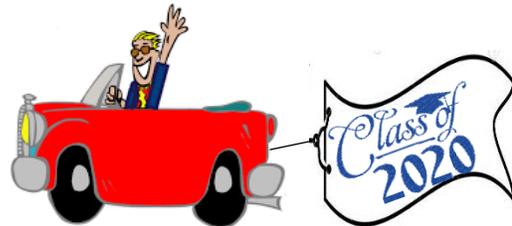
Stay well,  
Nancy

# a **LOOK** at What's **Happening**

## Upcoming Dates and Meetings:

All classes, worship and meetings  
are held via Zoom unless noted otherwise.

- Sunday, May 17      Sunday School – 9:15 AM  
Worship – 10:30 AM  
P, B, & J – 11:15 AM
- Thursday, May 21      **Surprise** Card Shower/Parade for Cole – 7 PM
- Sunday, May 24      Sunday School – 9:15 AM  
Worship – 10:30 AM -A Memorial Day Service  
P, B, & J – 11:15 AM
- Tuesday, May 26      Messy Church Craft Pick Up – 6 PM to 7 PM  
Profile Committee Meeting – 6:30 PM at the church
- Wednesday, May 27      Messy Church Craft Pick Up – 10 AM to 11 AM
- Friday, May 29      Messy Church – 7 PM
- Monday, June 8      Council Meeting – 7 PM



**What is P, B & J?**  
In addition to regular  
Sunday services on  
Zoom, we have  
Sunday School at  
9:15 AM and a  
children's time at  
11:15 AM called P, B  
& J! Not the favorite  
sandwich, but  
Prayer, Bible and  
Jesus time!

**SHHHHH!** It's a "**SURPRISE!**" Lischey's is planning a drive-by card shower for Cole McKowen on Thursday evening, May 21<sup>st</sup> to honor him as a proud 2020 Spring Grove graduate. If you wish to join us, we will begin forming our parade at 6:50 PM along Lischey's Church Rd. (at the end, near Jefferson Rd., facing the church) At 7:00 PM we will begin heading toward the McKowen's home. Feel free to lay on the horn, wave, shout well wishes and cheer him on! There will be a place where cards can be dropped as you pass by. You may dress up your vehicles with signs (that you can also leave with Cole), blue & white streamers, or whatever you like. Let us all show Cole that we are thinking of him as he begins a new chapter in his life's journey. Please remember that this is a surprise. Contact person for this event is Larry Spangler if you have any questions.

**Note: We will be practicing social distancing for this event. There is absolutely no need for anyone to leave their vehicles at all, simply drive by, and head home.**