

# ST. PETER'S LISCHHEY'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## CELEBRATING 275 YEARS

*of Serving the community, Praying without ceasing,  
and Loving like Christ*

**1750 – 2025**

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2025**

5671 Lischeys Church Road  
Spring Grove, PA 17362  
[www.lischeysucc.org](http://www.lischeysucc.org) (717) 225-3932





**3<sup>rd</sup> Church  
1840's**



**4<sup>th</sup> & Present  
Church  
1896**



**Present  
Church w/  
addition  
2010**

## A Brief History of St. Peter's Lischey's United Church of Christ

St. Peter's Lischey's traces its beginnings to **Rev. Jacob Lischey**, a Swiss-born Moravian preacher who came to America in 1742. In **1750**, he received a tract of land in Codorus Township (now North Codorus) where he built his home, gathered worshipers, and organized an **independent congregation** made up of Moravians, Reformed, and Lutherans. A **log church** was erected on his farm, and the earliest cemetery – still containing about a dozen stones, including those of his wives Mary Benezet (d. 1754) and his second wife (d. 1812) – was established there. Rev. Lischey himself was buried there in 1781.

After Lischey's death, the congregation became formally organized under the German Reformed Church in 1784, while still cooperating with local Lutherans. By 1806, a **second log church** and schoolhouse were built on land downhill from the present site. In 1811, the congregations purchased five acres for a new cemetery, as the original burial ground near Jefferson Road was difficult to maintain.

As the congregation grew, a **third church**, a brick building with galleries on three sides, was built in the 1840s near the cemetery. By the 1890s, the decision was made to relocate once more, this time to the top of the hill. The **fourth church building**, constructed of brick, was dedicated on **December 13, 1896**. Its cornerstone, laid on Whitmonday that year, marked the beginning of a new era. The building cost over \$7,200, largely supported by the sacrificial giving and labor of the congregation.

For generations, St. Peter's was a **Union Church**, with both Lutheran and Reformed congregations sharing the same building, alternating services, and maintaining joint Sunday School. Over time, the charges and pastoral leadership changed, but the congregations continued in partnership. In 1965, St. Peter's U.C.C. became a separate charge with its own pastor. After years of discussion, the Lutheran and U.C.C. congregations officially **merged on March 1, 1985**, forming the present **St. Peter's Lischey's United Church of Christ**.

Today, the church honors its long history – from the earliest frontier log church and cemetery to the present sanctuary on the hill – continuing the faith legacy begun by Rev. Lischey more than **275 years ago**.







## Guest Pastor

We warmly welcome **Rev. Dr. Doyle Luckenbaugh** as our guest pastor today at St. Peter's Lischeys UCC. Thank you for joining us and sharing your gifts of faith and leadership in worship.

The Rev. Dr. Doyle A. Luckenbaugh was born and raised on a farm near Spring Grove, Pennsylvania. A proud veteran, he served three years in the United States Marine Corps before pursuing his academic and theological education. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Catawba College in Salisbury, North Carolina, a Bachelor of Divinity and Master of Divinity degrees from Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio.

Dr. Luckenbaugh served two congregations in Pennsylvania before relocating to Ohio, where he ministered to the Suffield United Church of Christ and the Church in Silver Lake. He concluded his active ministry as Senior Pastor of Bethany UCC in Ephrata, Pennsylvania, retiring in 2001.

Throughout his ministry, Dr. Luckenbaugh has been a passionate advocate for civil rights and social justice. In 1964, he traveled to Canton, Mississippi to participate in the voter registration drive, and in 1973, as a delegate to the UCC General Synod in St. Louis, he flew to California to stand in solidarity with César Chávez and the United Farm Workers. A lifelong supporter of women's reproductive freedom, he has worked closely with Planned Parenthood, continuing his advocacy work well into retirement.

Dr. Luckenbaugh has been honored with numerous awards, including the 1998 *Allen Meck Award for Excellence in Ministry* from Lancaster Theological Seminary, the 2000 *Kit Howell Progressive Voice Award* from the Alliance for Tolerance and Freedom, and the 2009 *Betsy and Thomas Distinguished Service Award* from the Clergy Board of the National Planned Parenthood of America in Houston, Texas.

In retirement, he continues to serve others – volunteering weekly with the Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio construction crew and promoting the work of Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi, among churches across Ohio.

Dr. Luckenbaugh has been married to the former Marian Elizabeth Douglass for over 66 years. Together, they are the proud parents of two children, grandparents to five, great-grandparents to six, and also have one step-grandchild. They currently reside in the Pebble Chase Condo Association on Wales Road in Massillon, Ohio.

**WELCOME in the NAME OF JESUS**  
**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Welcome and Gathering Songs- Michele Hamme

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude: "Victory Through Faith"

Smith

Call to Worship

L: We gather to celebrate God's faithfulness over the years.

**ALL: Let us remember those who have gone before us, those who have served faithfully, and those who continue to shape our community.**

L: We give thanks for the ways God has blessed us in the past.

**ALL: Let us continue to be a community of faith, seeking to serve God, being faithful in prayer and extending God's extravagant love to all.**

L: We give thanks for the ways God has guided us in the past.

**ALL: Let us look forward with hope to the future God has for us.**

Hymn: "The Church's One Foundation" (See page 7)

Wesley

Confession

L: Blessed are those who seek the face of God and ask for forgiveness.

**ALL: Lord, we thank you for your faithfulness through the years, during times of celebration and challenge. We ask for your forgiveness for the ways in which we have not been faithful, in the past and in the present, as individuals and as a congregation of your Word and your ways. Forgive us for our sins and shortcomings. Forgive us for not loving you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and for not loving our neighbors – and each other, as we ought. Forgive us for missed opportunities to follow you with a greater commitment of trust and faithfulness to the priorities and purpose that you intend for us. Give us a renewed desire for worshiping and serving you, our Great and Faithful God. Amen.**

L: Rejoice and be glad. Blessed are those who repent, for they shall be forgiven.

**P: Thanks be to God!**

Hymn: “Jesus, I Live to Thee” (See page 8)

Woodbury

Children’s Message- SPLATT (St. Peter’s Lischey’s Activities for Teens & Tweens)

Sanctuary Choir: “Love Grows Here”

Besig

Scripture: Old Testament Lesson: Micah 6: 6 – 8      Jenell McKowen  
New Testament Lesson: Matthew 25: 31 – 40      Jenell McKowen

Welcome: Rev. Dr. Doyle Luckenbaugh

Message: “If Only These Walls Could Talk” – Rev. Dr. Doyle Luckenbaugh

Affirmation of Faith: Apostles’ Creed (Pew Booklet- page 5)

Announcements, Joys, and Prayer Concerns

275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Moment – Serving, Praying, & Loving

Litany of Praise

L: Today we celebrate the 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Peter’s Lischey’s United Church of Christ.

**P: For 275 years God’s Word, has been proclaimed through this community of faith.**

L: Countless children, parents, and grandparents have been part of St. Peter’s Lischey’s church.

**P: Countless witnesses have gone out to spread the gospel in this community and beyond in word and deed.**

L: Countless prayers of thanksgiving and praise have been offered in this place.

**P: All our activities we offer up in praise to God.**

**ALL: With thanksgiving for the past, with joy in the present and with hope for the future, we celebrate this 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**

Special Music: “Lord’s Prayer” – (Solo) Don Carl

Malotte

\*Closing Hymn: “Christ is Made the Sure Foundation” (See page 9)

Smart

\*Benediction

\*Postlude: “The Church’s One Foundation”

Hughes/Wesley

*\*All who are able, please rise.*

# The Church's One Foundation

1 The chur-ch's one foun-da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord.  
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op-pressed,  
 4 Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,  
 5 Yet she on earth has un - ion with God, the Three in One,

She is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.  
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
 by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more:  
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won:

From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride.  
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,  
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,

With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.  
 And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

This hymn was one of twelve written by an English curate to affirm the articles of the Apostles' Creed with biblical allusions such as 1 Corinthians 3:11 here. Though not created for this text, the tune was joined to it in 1868, and the two have been inseparable ever since.



# Jesus, I Live To Thee

LAKE ENON S. M. (Second Tune)

The musical score is written for a four-part setting in G major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems, each with a vocal melody line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system. The first system contains four verses of lyrics. The second system contains a single line of lyrics. The music features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs.

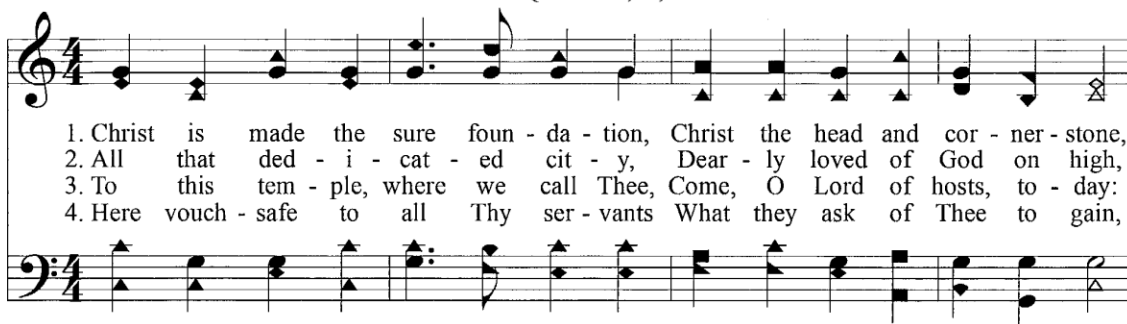
1. Je - sus, I live to Thee, The love - li - est and best;  
2. Je - sus, I die to Thee, When - ev - er death shall come;  
3. Wheth - er to live or die, I know not which is best—  
4. Liv - ing or dy - ing, Lord, I ask but to be Thine;

My life in Thee, Thy life in me, In Thy blest love I rest.  
To die in Thee is life to me In my e - ter - nal home.  
To live in Thee is bliss to me, To die is end - less rest.  
My life in Thee, Thy life in me Makes heav'n for ev - er mine. A - men.

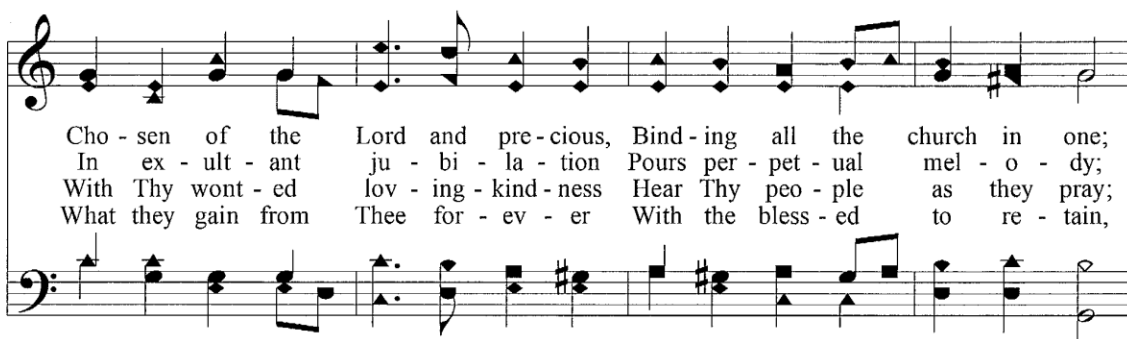
Words: Rev. Henry Harbaugh (1850)  
Music: Isaac Baker Woodbury

# Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation

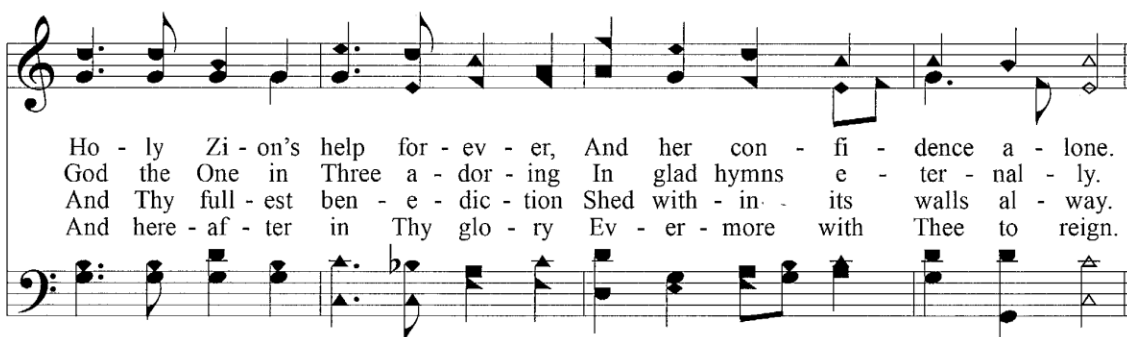
REGENT SQUARE 8s, 7s, 6 lines



1. Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and cor - ner - stone,  
2. All that ded - i - cat - ed cit - y, Dear - ly loved of God on high,  
3. To this tem - ple, where we call Thee, Come, O Lord of hosts, to - day:  
4. Here vouch - safe to all Thy ser - vants What they ask of Thee to gain,



Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious, Bind - ing all the church in one;  
In ex - ult - ant ju - bi - la - tion, Pours per - pet - ual mel - o - dy;  
With Thy wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness Hear Thy peo - ple as they pray;  
What they gain from Thee for - ev - er With the bless - ed to re - tain,



Ho - ly Zi - on's help for - ev - er, And her con - fi - dence a - lone.  
God the One in Three a - dor - ing In glad hymns e - ter - nal - ly.  
And Thy full - est ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in - its walls al - way.  
And here - af - ter in Thy glo - ry Ev - er - more with Thee to reign.

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
1750 – 2025**

We, your Christian brothers and sisters of the United Church of Christ  
of the Penn Central Conference

recognize and celebrate the faithful ministry of the people of

**ST. PETER'S (LISCHEY'S)  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
SPRING GROVE, PA**

on your

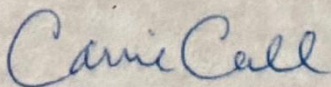
**TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY FIFTH  
ANNIVERSARY**

We are grateful for the many ways through the years  
and in the present time, in which you have been, and are,  
ambassadors of Christ,

offering and furthering God's reconciling love  
through worship, study, fellowship, and service.

Our prayers of thanksgiving are  
with you this day and always.

May God grant you  
wisdom, courage, vision and faithfulness  
in all the years ahead.



Rev. Carrie Call  
Conference Minister



Rev. Nora Foust  
Commission on Ministry