

# THE REPORTER

*God is still speaking,*  
**PENBROOK  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



## *An Open and Affirming Congregation Of the United Church of Christ*

Sunday Service at 10:30 am

Faith Formation at 9:15 am

(717) 236-5275 [office@penbrookucc.org](mailto:office@penbrookucc.org) [www.penbrookucc.org](http://www.penbrookucc.org)

### **RAMBLINGS FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

This year we celebrate the 502<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of one of the bravest acts I have ever heard of by an individual. Martin Luther's posting of the 95 thesis on the door at Wittenberg. This occurred on Oct. 31, 1517. This is also known as Halloween today: All Hallows Eve in Luther's day and the day before All Saints Day. As we get closer to that day, thoughts drift closer to our own time and how we, today, might celebrate what happened five centuries ago.

Celebration is what worship is all about. We here at Penbrook have just finished celebrating a major church anniversary and soon to be celebrating the 50th Birthday of Penbrook UCC!

For Luther, he knew not only how to reform a church but he knew how to celebrate in life and worship. Luther would be the first to turn worship in October into Oktoberfest. He was known for doing this celebration as an annual celebration for years and years.

O.K I know what many say. OKTOBERFEST IN CHURCH – THAT ALL ABOUT BEER! Yes it is about the Germans drinking beer. But one really needs to discover the real tradition and story behind the event, or we will fall into the trap of the literalists.

The philosophy and intent behind this German tradition, that I know of begins with Luther who was a German. Luther drank beer. Ergo: Oktoberfest and our E tradition drank beer at all church celebrations.

Now for the rest of the story. Martin Luther and his wife, Katie von Bora (a former Nun), had many struggles, especially right before and after their marriage. Luther's life was literally at risk as various factions sought to have him killed to silence him. However, the couple also had more than 20 years of home life, which took place in the 40-room ex-monastery that became their home after it was given to Luther by Frederick of Saxony.

Though it had previously been the Augustinian monastery where Luther served as monk, now it was the 16th century version of a bed and breakfast with up to 25 extra guests at any given time and up to 100 guests for dinner on any given night.

The humble home also housed the couple's six children and their play and education, had gardens, cattle and a pond for providing food, and a brewery, which Katie used to provide Luther with his drink of choice: beer. It also served as the drink of choice to share as a way to show hospitality to one's neighbors. One can only imagine how chaotic, busy, carnival-like, and engaging this place was for all of those who happened to be there at any given moment.

Add to all that the nature of Luther himself, theologian, pastor and teacher and you might imagine why there is so much of Luther's thought under the category of "table talk." The writings under this category are sort of the unfiltered Luther as he spoke to visitors and students at his home, mostly while repasting around the table that those listening took the time to write down and record for posterity.

Not everything, however, is weighty and serious. And while there are many quotes that are directly tracked to Luther himself, there are some which are attributed to him, which may or may not be exact quotes, but which certainly sound like something Luther would have said. One such quote used frequently is "Whoever drinks beer, he is quick to sleep; whoever sleeps long, does not sin; whoever does not sin, enters Heaven! Thus, let us drink beer!"

All of which brings me back to Oktoberfest. The actual history traces back to a wedding of German royalty in 1810. Festivities of that union were so well liked it became an annual celebration. A horse race was one standard event in conjunction with the celebration which got larger and larger through the years.

Music, food, and yes, beer, became the fixed staples of the event that then also had a parade and many other celebratory opportunities. Indeed, the idea of the carnival atmosphere clearly is part and parcel of the celebration.

So what's your point Pastor B? The point is Luther took a church that has not only lost its way theologically, but he taught them to celebrate every breath in and out of worship. He taught them how to live. How then are we going to live and celebrate? How are we going to be the church of the reformation yet continue to reform and follow God's still speaking voice? I think we need to take a serious look at Luther.

Peace

Pastor B

### **NEXT COMMUNION**

We will have the pleasure of celebrating World Wide Communion at Penbrook Church on the first Sunday of the Month, October 6. Please plan to join your brothers and sisters in Christ at the Lord's Table on this occasion.

### **MISSION SUNDAY**

Our third Sunday second-mile offering will be for the Bethany Hoffman Children's Homes

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Sarah Kempf would like prayers for Robert and Joyce. For Diane Weinhold who's mother, Eleanor Marie Seaman passed away Sunday Sept. 22, 2019. Prayers for health and comfort as this family grieves the loss of mother and grandmother. Robin Wheeler is asking

for prayers for her nephew who is suffering with pain and problems following a hernia repair. Luce Heiss is still in the Community General Hospital. Sarah Kempf is asking for prayers for a dear friend, Cheryl, whose sister, Sandy, is in the hospital in an induced coma because of fluid on the brain.

Prayers for Kendra Dannelley at the death of her partner, Todd. Tita Domingos requests prayers for Mark Kapadia.

Mary Jane McElheny is asking for prayers for Cassandra Pennycoff. Kim Evanoff has also asked for prayers for Becca Molinaro. Ann Bailey is asking for prayers for a friend of Kyle's, Alexandria Anderson. Fran White is asking prayers for her daughter, Sue. Prayers for the best friend of Sparkie Radcliffe who suffered a heart attack. Prayers for India Garnett was discharged from the Hospital (after surgery) and was told they could find no trace of cancer.

Ann Bailey is asking for prayers for Theo's friend, Austin Buzzard. Ann Bailey is also asking for prayers for herself. Mary Jane McElheny asked for prayers for Frank Bomgardner and his family. Mary Jane McElheny also asked for prayers for Briana Starzman's boyfriend, James, who was hit by a car while riding his bike. Continued prayers for Tammy Brehm who underwent brain surgery on Sept. 9th

### **BLANKET SUNDAY – LET’S BLANKET THE WORLD WITH LOVE!**

**“And don’t forget to do good and share with those in need.” – Hebrews 13:16**

Blanket Sunday is October 6, 2019. Beginning that Sunday, and throughout the month of October, we will be collecting contributions for the Church World Service Blanket Program. CWS Blanket Program funds purchase and ship blankets worldwide, wherever they are needed. You all know that there is a tremendous need for them in this country alone. But CWS blankets spread the love around the world, wherever they are needed.

A CWS blanket costs just \$5 but has a multitude of uses. Between January and June 2019, CWS sent 21,574 blankets to families recovering from this past spring's devastating storms and flooding in the U.S. In addition, these gifts are being hand-delivered to neighbors in Ecuador and the Dominican Republic who are particularly vulnerable. When we send CWS blankets, we reach families fleeing their homes, recovering from disaster and more.

When we raise \$1000, CWS will send us an additional patch for our blanket banner in recognition of our contribution. Penbrook UCC has met this goal every year since 1987, so please pitch in to help keep the record of success and worldwide assistance going! Ruth Dunnewold oversees the Blanket Campaign and ultimately forwards the collected funds to CWS. Feel free to use the envelopes specifically for blankets, which may be found on the table by the rear sanctuary door, or any other envelope, and place your contribution in the offering plate or hand it directly to Ruth. Ruth also has Blanket Sunday greeting cards available at no charge if you would like to make a contribution to honor a friend or family member and want to send the person a card to memorialize the gift.

**Please make checks payable to Penbrook UCC and make sure you put “Blankets” in the memo on the check.** If you have questions, call Ruth at 717-545-0921 (home) or 717-599-1606 (cell).

## THE MEMBERS ASSISTANCE FUND

The amount of Deposits and Disbursements for the months of August & September 2019

Balance as of 8/5/2019-\$612.03

No. of Deposits- 2

◆ Amount of Deposits- \$1,040.00

◆ No. of Disbursements- 0

◆ Amount of Disbursements- \$0.00

◆ Balance as of September 9, 2019- \$1,652.03

I want to thank all who have made personal contributions. Please continue to support this fund as best you can. It is a blessing to be able to help those in need in our Church Family and beyond.

Blessing's,

Sarah Kempf

## BOSCOV'S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS

Again this year Boscov's Friends Helping Friends \$5.00 shopping pass is available from Ann Bailey. This \$5.00 shopping pass gets you a 25% discount on almost everything in the Boscov's store on Wednesday October 16, 2019. Our church makes \$5.00 on each shopping pass sold.

## MANNA FOOD PANTRY

The summer has meant many changes for the Manna Food Pantry. Reducing our days from 4 per month to 3 and increasing the number of households we serve in the 3 evenings is challenging. We also have had to say good bye to two main volunteers: Sarah Kempf who was the pantry's administrator and Sharon Bosworth who answered the Manna Food Pantry phone and scheduled all the appointments for the month. **Many thanks to Sarah and Sharon for all they did for the food pantry.**

### About The Manna Food Pantry

The pantry was chosen to participate in a pilot program called Healthy Food Initiative, a program to help people make healthy choices and help pantries provide healthy choices. Our volunteers will have some specialized training in that regard on Saturday, September 28. For more information on that training or to register to attend, please contact Gail Mahoney at [manna.foodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:manna.foodpantry@gmail.com)

Did you know that adult clients can only come once a month to the pantry but children, ages 5 -17 can come each Thursday we are opened to pick up a "PowerPack" of food just for them? Each bag includes individual soups, canned foods, juices, snacks, cereal, milk and a meat

packet i.e. hotdogs, bologna. If you would like to contribute to this program with a food drive or monetary donation please contact Susan Mulford for more information.

### **Volunteers Needed**

**Person needed to schedule appointments for clients** to use Manna Food Pantry. Training is available. This is a job you can do in your own home whenever you want to do it. It is probably only about 2 hours a week - but you spread that over the entire week - five minutes here, five minutes there. It can fit into any one's schedule. Please call Susan Mulford (717-433-6879) if you are interested or want more information.

**We do need volunteers especially** volunteers that could substitute occasionally on **Thursday and Friday mornings** when regular volunteers are out. Thursday mornings, volunteers set up for the food pantry, distribute produce on the give-away table, wrap donated bread and bakery products and other tasks to prepare for Thursday night. On Friday mornings, volunteers, clean the pantry rooms, take inventory, and put away the large order that is received each Friday around 11 am.

**Volunteers are also needed on Thursday evenings** between 5:45 and 8:00. Volunteers on Thursday work directly with clients distributing food or helping clients shop in the pantry rooms.

**If you are interested or want more information about volunteering please contact Gail Mahoney or Susan Mulford (717-433-6879)**

### **MR. STICKY SALE**

Mr. Sticky has been making homemade sticky buns for over ten years and folks who enjoy them tell us they are not only delicious but downright addictive. Mr. Sticky's sticky buns are made fresh daily from a secret recipe. We will begin taking orders Sunday October 13th. Order forms can be found in the office, or in the church's Facebook group for you to download. Order forms and payment can be turned in to the office, or given to Robin Wheeler, by Sunday November 10th. Delivery will be Thursday November 21<sup>st</sup> at noon. Buns will be sorted and available in the ASSR. If you are unable to pick your buns up that day, please make arrangements. Buns not picked up that evening will be left in the front office on the counter. Stock up now, order extra and freeze them. They are fabulous warmed up!

### **CROP HUNGER WALK- OCTOBER 20**

Join us as we walk starting at the Capitol Steps at 1:00 on October 20. CROP is the granddaddy of all walks, collecting money for folks who need our help locally and around the world. See Becky Boone to sign up or contribute. Checks should be made out to Church World Service Memo: CROP

### **KIDWORKS COMMISSIONING ON OCTOBER 27**

We will be commissioning all children and youth of the church who are interested in participating in Kidworks, a service project which benefits older folks in our congregation, as well as the community. Our first project will follow commissioning. We will be decorating

pumpkins and delivering them to a nursing home after enjoying a pizza lunch. See Becky Boone for more information.

### **GIANT GIFT CARDS FOR UCC HOMES RESIDENTS**

In order to provide each resident with a meaningful gift this Christmas, UCC Homes, including Annville and Thornwald Homes and Kindred Place, are asking UCC Churches to provide gift cards for residents to use during the Christmas season. Since we are already purchasing GIANT cards we could just purchase additional cards for our UCC Homes residents. Between now and the end of November please consider writing checks to Penbrook UCC with "Giant UCC Homes" on the memo line. Rick Heiss will see that your money is turned into \$10 Gift cards and that the cards are delivered to the homes in early December. Please see Rick for more info.

### **PUCC EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Penbrook United Church of Christ is currently seeking to fill part-time position of an Organist or Pianist.

– Personnel Committee, Penbrook United Church of Christ

P.S. Should this opportunity not speak to you directly, kindly share this information with any person or association you feel may have a genuine interest in filling this vacancy.

Please find a link to the Job Description below...

[Organist or Pianist Job Description](#)



# Fall Festival

Oct 12 | 10-3

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**FREE ADMISSION**  
**PROCEEDS BENEFIT SUMMER CAMP**  
**PROGRAMS**

live music, hayrides, games, kid's raffle, silent  
basket auction, homemade food & baked  
goods, s'mores...and more

5076 Old U.S. Hwy 322 Milroy  
800-502-2246  
[hartmancenter.com](http://hartmancenter.com)

## HOUSE BOUND

- **Walda Ansel**, Church of God Home, Personal Care Unit, Rm 223, 801 N Hanover St, Carlisle, PA 17013
- **Tammy Brehm**, Room 122, Spring Creek Rehabilitation and Health Center, 1205 South 28th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17111
- **Marge Lippert**, 1020 N. Union Street, Room 135A, Frey Village, Middletown, PA, 17057
- **Bill Oberholtzer**, 45 Conestoga Drive, Lititz, PA, 17543, Phone #(717) 581-3372
- **Mary Sherk**, 4700 Oakhurst Blvd., Apt 202, Kindered Place. Harrisburg, PA 17110
- **Peggy Stellfox**, Room 226, Frey Village, 1020 N. Union St. Middletown, PA 17057
- **Jeannetta (Jeannie) Wagner**, Frey Village, Phoenix Unit, Room 220, 1020 North Union Street, Middletown, PA 17057

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



We would like to extend a very happy birthday to everyone celebrating in October.

Elizabeth Einig	5 October
Richard Stokes	10 October
Cathrine Stauffer	11 October
Muriel Bronakoski	14 October
Jean Lucas	16 October
Robert Lane	24 October
Martha LaRue	26 October
Jeremy Wheeler	26 October
Dale Mease	27 October
James Grier	30 October

Note: A complete list by Month is in the Church Directory.

## PUCC WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER

World Wide Communion Sunday 10/6/2019	Liturgist: Dale Mease Greeter: Lorna Owens Acolyte: Head Usher: Richard Stokes
Sunday 10/13/2019	Liturgist: Ann Bailey Greeter: Acolyte: Harvey Bailey Head Usher: Richard Stokes
Children's Sabbath Sunday 10/20/2019	Liturgist: Brian Johnson Greeter: Carol Proper Acolyte: Ann Bailey Head Usher: Richard Stokes
Reformation Sunday 10/27/2019	Liturgist: Linda Grier Greeter: Lorna Owens Acolyte: Harvey Bailey Head Usher: Richard Stokes

OCTOBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
NA = Narcotics Anonymous	(ASSR) = Adult Faith Formation Room (DSS) = Downstairs Faith Formation Rooms	(FH) = Fellowship Hall (RR) = Ross Room	(OC) = Off Campus (TBD) = To Be Determined			
		10:30 am: Manna Bread Delivery 4:00 pm: Piano Lessons 7:00 pm: Meditation (RR) 7:00: Manna Board (ASSR)	6:00 pm: Girl Scout Meeting (ASSR) 7:00 pm: NA (FH)	9:30 am: Manna Preparation 8:00 pm: Manna Food Pantry (FH) 7:15 pm: Chancel and Women's Choir Rehearsal	9:30 am: Manna Preparation	9:30 am: Manna Preparation
<b>WORLD WIDE COMMUNION</b> 6 9:15 am: Faith Formation 9:15 am: Men's Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am: Worship Blanket Sunday Begins 8:15 pm: A-pealing Too 7:00 pm: A-pealing Praise	7 3:30 pm: Piano Lessons 7:00 pm: River City Singers (ASSR)	10:30 am: Manna Bread Delivery 4:00 pm: Piano Lessons 7:00 pm: Meditation (RR) 7:00 pm: Crafts	7:00 pm: Consistory (ASSR) 7:00 pm: NA (FH)	9:30 am: Manna Preparation 6:00 pm: Manna Food Pantry (FH) 7:15 pm: Chancel and Women's Choir Rehearsal	9:30 am: Manna Preparation	10:00 am to 3:00 pm: Hartman Center Fall Festival
13 9:15 am: Faith Formation 9:15 am: Men's Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am: Worship 8:15 pm: A-pealing Too 7:00 pm: A-pealing Praise Mr. Sticky Sale Begins Holiday Candle Sale Begins	14 3:30 pm: Piano Lessons 7:00 pm: River City Singers (ASSR)	10:30 am: Manna Bread Delivery 4:00 pm: Piano Lessons 7:00 pm: Meditation (RR)	7:00 pm: NA (FH)	9:30 am: Manna Preparation 6:00 pm: Manna Food Pantry (FH) 7:15 pm: Chancel and Women's Choir Rehearsal	9:30 am: Manna Preparation	
20 <b>CHILDREN'S SABBATH</b> 10:30 am: Worship TBD CROP WALK	21 3:30 pm: Piano Lessons 7:00 pm: River City Singers (ASSR)	4:00 pm: Piano Lessons 7:00 pm: Meditation (RR)	7:00 pm: NA (FH)	REPORTER ARTICLES DUE 7:15 pm: Chancel and Women's Choir Rehearsal	SILENT RETREAT	SILENT RETREAT
<b>REFORMATION SUNDAY</b> 27 SILENT RETREAT 9:15 am: Faith Formation 9:15 am: Men's Choir Rehearsal Kidworks Commissioning 10:30 am: Worship 8:15 pm: A-pealing Too 7:00 pm: A-pealing Praise	28 3:30 pm: Piano Lessons 7:00 pm: River City Singers (ASSR)	4:00 pm: Piano Lessons 7:00 pm: Meditation (RR) 7:00 pm: Crafts	7:00 pm: NA (FH)	31 <b>HALLOWEEN</b> 7:15 pm: Chancel and Women's Choir Rehearsal		

## FACTS AND FIGURES

### AUGUST 2019

General Fund	August	YTD
Offering Envelopes	\$8,148.00	\$76,972.96
Budgeted Amount	\$9,616.00	\$81,732.00
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$1,468.00)	(\$4,759.04)

### August Missions:

UCC Homes \$409.00

### MEMBERS ASSISTANCE FUND

### SECOND CENTURY BRICKS

### MEMORIAL BRICK FUND

### MEMORIAL FUND

Music Ministry Gifts...

If I Ruled the World - Mackenzie Weinhold 9/1/19  
<https://youtu.be/UTZa7SvRzFI>

For the Beauty of the Earth - PUCChancel Choir  
 9/8/19  
<https://youtu.be/748OfKcFrOM>

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace - PUCChancel  
 Choir – 9/15/19  
[https://youtu.be/kGXZVz\\_4exQ](https://youtu.be/kGXZVz_4exQ)

For God So Loved the World - PUCChancel Choir  
 – 9/22/19  
<https://youtu.be/jWIXeolb7jw>

## STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Minister: Rev. Brian Damrow  
 Music Director: Faith Brown  
 Organist:  
 Bell Choir Director: Ruth Dunnewold  
 Office Staff: George Long  
 Manna Food Pantry Director: Susan Mulford  
 Web Administrator: George Long

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT

8:30am to 12:30pm Tuesday, Wednesday &  
 Thursday

Telephone 717-236-5275

Email: [office@penbrookucc.org](mailto:office@penbrookucc.org)

Website: [www.penbrookucc.org](http://www.penbrookucc.org)

### NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Articles for the November Reporter are due to the church office by **OCTOBER 24**. Please keep this in mind when submitting articles that are date sensitive. Thank you for your cooperation. Articles should be e-mailed to: [office@penbrookucc.org](mailto:office@penbrookucc.org)

### MEMBER ASSISTANCE FUND

The Church maintains a fund for members and friends of the congregation who need temporary financial assistance. There are basic needs for gas and food. If you have a need for this kind of assistance, we encourage you to talk to Rev. Brian.

### ALTAR COMMITTEE

The altar committee needs more people to join us, (Men or Women). Please call the Church office and leave your name and phone number and I will get in touch with you. Thank you, Linda Grier.

The Reporter is published monthly by:  
 PENBROOK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
 56 BANKS STREET, HARRISBURG, PA 17105

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**56 Banks Street**  
**Harrisburg, PA 17103-2097**  
**(717) 236-5275**  
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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Penbrook United Church of Christ is an accepting, caring, and nurturing community gathering to worship God and welcoming all persons in their journey on the spiritual path.

As faithful stewards, we follow the model of Jesus Christ through loving service to the local community and to the larger world.

We strive in all aspects of our life as a congregation to be a people of courage and a people of peace.