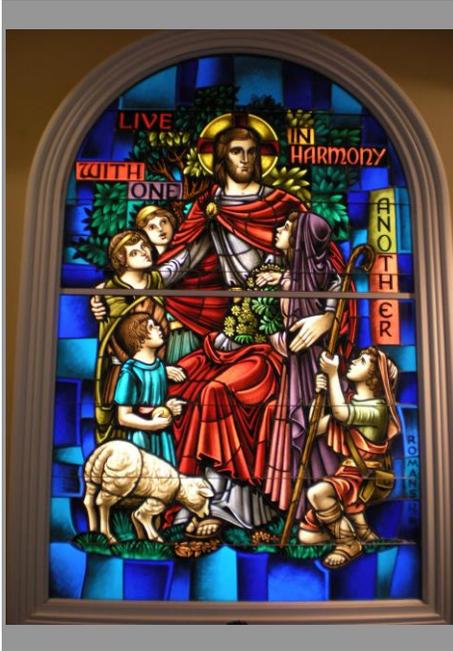


Message from the Pastor



Mark your Calendar

September 2014

- 9-1 Labor Day
- 9-7 Church Picnic
- 9-14 Communion/Deacon Meeting
Church School Begins
- 9-24 Session Meeting – 7 pm
- 9-28 Pastor Peter's Birthday

October 2014

- 10-5 World Communion
Sunday/Peacemaking
Offering
- 10-12 World Food Day/Fall
Round-Up/Deacon Meeting
- 10-13 Columbus Day
- 10-22 Session Meeting – 7 pm

REMINDER

**BIBLE STUDY BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 14
EVERY SUNDAY AT 8:45 A.M.**

Dear Friends,

The Mission Study Team has had a busy and productive summer. The team has been meeting regularly since last October, and in that time they have:

- Reflected on several passages of Scripture, including Acts 9: 10-20 (*the conversion of Saul*), Matthew 25: 31-40 (*the judgment of the nations*), and Romans 12: 9-21 (*the marks of the true Christian*).
- Looked at the history of Harmony Church, and sought help from the congregation in understanding what aspects of your history are most meaningful and important to you.
- Learned about the community's history and demographics.
- Spoken with community leaders in order to better understand the community's needs.
- Studied the congregation's *Ten Year Trends*, as provided by the General Assembly, in order to better understand membership, worship, giving and finances.
- Interviewed more than fifty members in order to understand the congregation's hopes, dreams and visions.
- Employed reflection, prayer and study in order to discern where God is calling Harmony Church.
- Written a first draft of the *Mission Study Report*.

The Mission Study Team has revised that report, and is now preparing to meet with Presbytery liaisons in order to review it. After this meeting, the Session will receive the Report, and it will be sent on to the *Missional Ministry Team* and the *Committee on Ministry*. Once the *Missional Ministry Team* has approved the Report, the *Committee on Ministry* will empower the congregation to elect a *Pastor Nominating Committee*.

That's when the really hard work will begin. In my experience, congregations seek out people that they trust to make a decision that can impact the church for years to come. If you are asked to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee, I hope you will take it as a sign of the trust that others are willing to place in you, and consider your answer prayerfully.

Peace,

Peter

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE**Session Update**

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2014 – 11 AM Worship, Harmony Recreation Field;
Picnic**

Assisting Elder Amy Sandlin

Regular September Session Meeting

Wednesday, September 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2014 - Communion/ Commissioning of Church School Teachers, Church School Begins

Assisting Elder Scott Aydelotte

Greeters Bob Sanders

Assisting Deacon Brittany Marchie

Servers Ruth Skirbst, Richard Fehr, Sherri Aydelotte, Suzanne Swanson

Regular October Session Meeting

Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Deacon Update**Regular September Meeting**

Sunday, September 14, 2014 at 11:30 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2014 - Fellowship

Assisting Elder Bert Kuhn

Assisting Deacon Tom Wismer

Greeters Indyk Family

Regular October Meeting

Sunday, October 12, 2014 at 11:30 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2014 – Fellowship/Pastor Peter's birthday

Assisting Elder Barb Cosimano

Assisting Deacon Emily Swanson

Greeters Ben Rose, Ray Bragin, Louise Harris

Usher Schedule

September 7 Joyce & Charlie Cummins
Annual Picnic Tina & Lance Evans

September 14 Communion Servers
will be the Ushers

September 21 Jeff Indyk, Lori Indyk
Lori Frankenfield, Natalie Dutt

September 28 Rich Salter, Betty Salter
Scott & Sherri Aydelotte

October 5 Communion Servers
will be the Ushers

October 12 Joyce & Charlie Cummins
Tina & Lance Evans

October 19 Joe & Dianne Marchie,
Emily & Dave Swanson

October 26 Richard & JoAnn Fehr, Ray
Lalley, Karen Rose

OCTOBER 5, 2014 - World Communion, Peacemaking Offering, Fellowship

Assisting Elder Natalie Dutt

Greeters Evans Family

Assisting Deacon Gail Bragin

Servers John Counterman, Sandi Skibenes, Rex LaBarre, Vicki Stevens

OCTOBER 12, 2014- Fall-Round-Up Sunday

Assisting Elder Nancy Farley

Assisting Deacon Karen Rose

Greeters Dave & Nicole Ehasz Family

OCTOBER 19, 2014 – Fellowship

Assisting Elder Ruth Skirbst

Assisting Deacon Richard Fehr

Greeters Don & Lois Myles

OCTOBER 26, 2014 - Fellowship

Assisting Elder Dave Swanson

Assisting Deacon Ray Lalley

Greeters Dick & Loyce Johnson

HONORING OUR VETERANS

It is not too early to be thinking of honoring our veterans in November.

A suggestion has been brought to our attention for a way to honor those of the past as well as those of the present. For a \$1 donation you can have a veteran listed in a special bulletin for Veteran's Day. That veteran can be a relative or friend, who served in the Military at any time from the Revolutionary War to the presents.

Funds from this project will be designated to an appropriate group like the "Rolling Thunder" which honors today's veterans.

Please let any Elder or Deacon know if you are interested in naming someone for this new project. There will be a flyer in the upcoming bulletins to afford you the opportunity of naming one or more.

CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

During the Church Picnic on September 7th, children will be registered for the 2014-2015 Church School year. Church School begins on Sunday, September 14, 2014.

REMINDER - CHURCH PICNIC

Remember that worship on September 7th will be at 11:00 a.m. at the Harmony Recreation Field, with the annual Church Picnic immediately following. In the event of inclement weather, worship will be in the Sanctuary, followed by the picnic in Fellowship Hall.

FALL-ROUND-UP SUNDAY

October 12th is Fall-Round-Up Sunday. Be sure to share your faith with a neighbor, friend, or relative at 10:00 a.m. worship that day.

CHOIR NEWS/RING THOSE BELLS!

If anyone is interested in joining the Children's Choir or the Adult Choir please see Sandy Vliet. We are always glad to have new faces and voices. Also, please let Ruth or Sandy know if you feel called to ring some bells this fall. It is time to get started again.

FOOD FOR THE NEEDY SUNDAY

Remember the FOOD FOR THE NEEDY SUNDAY is the first Sunday of every month. However, you may bring food any Sunday. As you come to worship, please place your nonperishable food items in the baskets located in the downstairs hallway. Poverty and hunger, like God, do not take a vacation. Donations have been declining and then need is great. Please consider helping this worthy cause.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 5, 2014, is World Communion Sunday. On the first Sunday of October, the faithful of all races and nations are invited to gather to celebrate The Lord's Supper. In this meal many are made one, united with Christ and with the church of every time and place. This unity, which God offers in the Sacrament, is a sign of the unity God wills for all creation, all races, all nations, all tongues, all classes. It is a meal which reminds all who eat and drink of the love God has shown in the past, and the hopes of the Kingdom which has come in Jesus Christ, but has not finally arrived. At Christ's table we are made one, and we can offer ourselves in obedient service to God's reign and rule, as we join God in fulfilling the Kingdom that Christ has proclaimed. With Christians around the world, join in this special celebration on Sunday, October 5, 2014, at the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARYS

If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary please contact the church office at 908-859-0355 or send e-mail to tomcat507@verizon.net. Please note that the birthday and anniversary lists will be no longer appear in the Tower but will be available on our website tpcnh.org.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR DEACONS

The Office of deacons, as set for in Scripture, is one of sympathy, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, of exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, warm sympathies, and sound judgment should be chosen for this office. It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith. They shall assume such other duties as may be delegated to them from time to time by the session, such as leading the people in worship through prayers of intercession, reading the Scriptures, presenting the gifts of the people, and assisting with the Lord's Supper.

Contact Becky Brandt, chair, of the Personnel & Nominating Committee, if you are interested in serving as an Elder or Deacon.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELDERS

As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament Church provided persons with particular gifts to share in governing and ministry. Elders are chosen by the people. Together with ministers of The Word and Sacrament, they exercise leadership, government, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a particular church as well as the church at large, including ecumenical relationships. They shall serve faithfully as members of the session. When elected commissioners to higher governing bodies, elders participate and vote with the same authority as ministers of The Word and Sacrament, and they are eligible for any office.

Elders should be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel, both within the church and in the world.

It is the duty of elders, individually and jointly, to strengthen and nurture the faith and life of the congregation committed to their charge. Together with the pastor, they should encourage the people in the worship and service of God, equip and renew them for their tasks within the church and for their mission in the world, visit and comfort and care for the people, with special attention to the poor, the sick, the lonely, and those who are oppressed. They should inform the pastor and session of those persons and structures which may need special attention. They should assist in worship. They should cultivate their ability to teach the Bible and may be authorized to supply places which are without the regular ministry of The Word and Sacrament. In specific circumstances and with proper instruction, elders may be authorized by the presbytery to administer the Lord's Supper. Those duties which all Christians are bound to perform by the law of love are especially incumbent upon elders because of their calling to office and are to be fulfilled by them as official responsibilities.



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