

Through the Study Window

Peru Community Church

12 Elm Street Peru, NY 12972

September 2021

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Pastor's Pen – Sense of Wonder

The Rev. Peggi Eller



Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Unit

The mission project for August was the Child and Adolescent Unit at CVPH.

We ended up collecting over \$475.00

Your donations will help fund renovations to the unit and make a more cheerful and healing environment.

Craft supplies were also donated.

Each day when I stop at the Dunkin' Donuts I am filled with wonder. Sitting in the drive-thru line seems to be my special time with God. I know, that seems strange, but something happens in that time of waiting that opens my mind to wondering. This spring, I noticed the sunflowers beginning to emerge among the landscaping and wondered. Why let the sunflowers overshadow the plants that were so carefully planned and planted? And as I watched the sunflowers grow and blossom, I wondered. Will someone find them a nuisance and cut them down now that they are beginning to blossom and crowd the cars? And today, as I watched the honey bees just inches away gather the pollen in their pouches, I wondered. Who knew that this was the right place to allow these sunflowers to flourish and provide this life giving pollen for the bees? I constantly wonder about God creating everything to happen just at the right time. Oh, I understand the science of it all, but I try not to let that obscure my sense of awe and wonder.

I think of a sense of wonder as my delight, amazement and admiration for what God has so carefully created. I experience joy in the simple yet immensely complex parts of life. This sense of wonder expands my ability to see what is possible. I ask you to think about what touches you in this world. What makes you wonder and appreciate all God has provided?

I invite you to watch and listen to LeeAnn Womack sing "[I Hope You Dance](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iN9bwC5UZUs)" and take time today to unleash your sense of wonder.

Blessings,

Pastor Peggi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iN9bwC5UZUs>

“

Proceed with much prayer and your way will be made plain.

- John Wesley

PRAYER REQUESTS

Nona Arnold	Hilda Curtis	Lori Dahlman	Katie Francia
Jackie Douglass	Dave Fountain	Donna Gengenbach	Kelly Guynup
Marianne Miller	Mike Morse	Barb Perry	Jocelyn & RJ Reyell
Guy Rotz	Nancy Sunderland	Ann Wilke	Amber & Joe Woods

Those struggling with physical, mental and spiritual health and addiction.

Please pray for our military, law enforcement, first responders and medical personnel.

Teachers, students and support staff returning to school this month.

Those in our congregation who recently lost loved ones.

Pray for the people of Afghanistan and those affected by Tropical Storm Henri.

Sunday Worship at 9:00am on ZOOM



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88446894229?pwd=U2FXczljeEY3ZUdPejJoSoN4dzYzUTo9>

By Phone: 1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 884 4689 4229 Passcode: 579851

Be assured that we will continue to offer online worship as well as in-person.

OPERATING FUND INCOME & EXPENSES

As of July 31, 2021

Category	Actual Year to Date	Budget Year to Date	Annual Budget
X-fer from Endowment	\$ 0	\$ 30,000	\$ 45,000
Giving & General Income	\$24,639	\$12,479	\$156,000
Total Income	\$24,639	\$42,479	\$201,000
Operating Expenses	\$15,764	\$20,250	\$240,513

CAPITAL FUND - As of July 31, 2021

Beginning Balance	\$41,532
Total Income	\$ 821
Expenses	\$ 0
Ending Balance	\$42,354

Bible Studies, Devotionals, Sunday School, Kids Programs and More!



The congregation has access to “Amplify Media” - a service that provides a wealth of material for everyone. Take advantage of this opportunity to enrich your relationship with God.

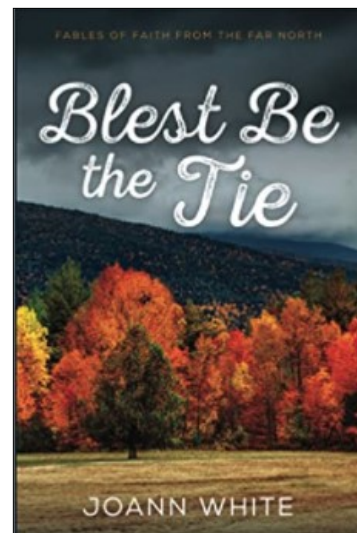
There are many studies by favorite authors (Adam Hamilton, Max Lucado, AJ Levine) and favorite topics (Old and New Testament, Women, Men, Children and Teen)

There are also “live” videos running so you are able to get a taste of the different programs and studies available that you may not be initially drawn to.

URL:	https://my.amplifymedia.com/perucommunitychurchperuny1
Congregation Access Code:	CGPNKF

From RESOURCE CONNECTIONS - PNNY Newsletter

Reverend Joann White, pastor of Saranac Lake’s First Presbyterian Church, has published a new collection of short stories inspired by small-town life in the Adirondacks of northern New York. “Blest Be the Tie: Fables of Faith from the Far North”, published this summer by Wipf and Stock (wipfandstock.com), is available through local booksellers, Barnes and Noble, Amazon, and the publisher. Joann White is a writer, pastor, spiritual director, and enthusiast of wild places. Since 2005, she has pastored the First Presbyterian Church of Saranac Lake.



Lectionary Year B - Bible Readings for September

Proper 18 - September 5, 2021

- Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
- Psalm 146
- James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17
- Mark 7:24-37

Proper 19 - September 12, 2021

- Proverbs 1:20-33
- Psalm 16:1-9
- James 3:1-12
- Mark 8:27-38

Proper 20 - September 19, 2021

- Proverbs 31:10-31
- Psalm 98:1-5
- James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a
- Mark 9:30-37

Proper 21 - September 26, 2021

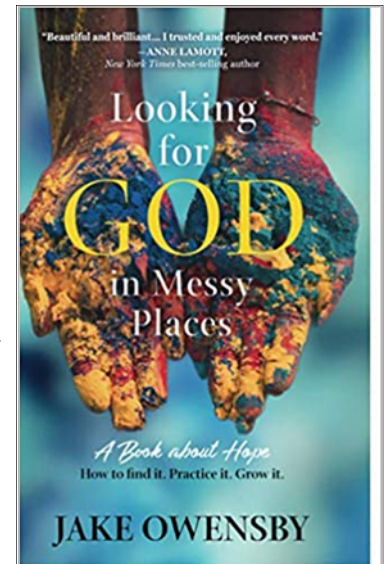
- Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
- Psalm 19:7-14
- James 5:13-20
- Mark 9:38-50

Upcoming Book Study with Pastor Peggi

Looking for God in Messy Places: A Book about Hope

September 12, 19, 26 & October 3, 10
Sundays 10:00 – 11:00am in the Fellowship Center

We will be discussing Jake Owensby's book about how to find hope, practice hope and grow in hope. Each week will involve approximately 30 pages of easy reading for reflection at our Sunday gathering. Whether the last year has worn you down, or you are just struggling to find hope in the world, this book will remind you that God is always with us. We just may be looking in the wrong places. What a great opportunity to share with one another the messy parts of our lives and how God is working through each of us despite our challenges.



Looking for God in Messy Places is available on Amazon. If you'd like the office to order your book, please call and let Amanda know by September 5. Books are \$17 each.



A New Member and A Baptism

On Sunday, August 1st we welcomed Mr. Bob Crawford to the congregation. Bob moved from New Jersey to Peru during Covid to be with his son and family. Bob comes to us from Trinity United Methodist Church in Mullica Hill, NJ.

We also celebrated the baptism of Joseph James McCloud. Joey is shown in the picture with Pastor Peggi, his sister Vhea (who sang a special song for him) and his mother Michele.

How We Practice Good Stewardship of PCC Financial Resources

- Not printing bulletins and announcements every week
- Offer an alternate method of text messaging worship updates which saves \$13/month
- Removal of the land line in the church building.
- Discontinue "The Word For You Today" after the Sept./Oct./Nov. issue. "Our Daily Bread" will continue to be available. Many devotionals, including both mentioned above, are available online or as an app - most are free, some for a small fee.
- Continue to "shop around" to find the best price on office supplies, worship supplies, cleaning supplies, etc.

There's nothing easy about fundraising. **Actually, now there is.**

How It Works
 TD Bank will make an annual contribution to your organization based on the activity of all participating members' TD Bank accounts. Eligible accounts* include:

- Checking - Business & Consumer
- Savings
- Money Market
- Certificate of Deposit
- Retirement

Fundraising Potential
Checking Accounts

- \$50 for every new checking account¹
- \$10 for every existing checking account

Savings Accounts or CDs

- 1/10 of 1% contribution based upon your participants annual average balances²

If you are already a TD Bank Customer, visit any one of our locations and ask to have your balances included as part of your organization's Affinity Membership Program.

Get \$25¹
 when you open a new non-interest bearing checking account
Coupon code: 20005

Open your account today!

TD Bank
 America's Most Convenient Bank[®]
 1-888-791-9000 | tdbank.com

*Eligible to the program. Summary of Terms for a complete list of eligible accounts.
¹Minimum deposit must be \$25 and have been opened and maintained at least three months prior to the Program conclusion anniversary date. Any closed participant checking accounts will affect the calculation of the \$50 new checking account incentive. Number of participating checking accounts must be maintained or open one year for contribution eligibility. An account is considered new the year it will be opened, after which it is included as existing. Participation incentive must be maintained or open one year for contribution eligibility.
²CHECKING BONUS: Bonus offered to new personal checking customers only. Only new, non-interest bearing checking accounts with initial deposits of \$100 or more are eligible. Cannot be combined with any other offer. One bonus maximum per Customer. Bonus will be credited one year anniversary from account opening date and will be reported on bankline records. Offer may be withdrawn at any time.
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Are you a TD Bank customer?

Are you a member of their Affinity Program?

This program provides you with an opportunity to give to the church by simply being a TD customer.

A percentage of the amount of all customer accounts designated to Peru Community Church are given annually to the church.

Stop by your local branch today and make sure you are enrolled in the program.

Be sure to mention you would like to support Peru Community Church.

The Finance Team

~A Prayer For the Start of the 2021 School Year~

Merciful God,

We are grateful for the resilience, innovation and determination our students, teachers, school staff, parents and administrators demonstrated and developed over the past year. We begin this new school year in prayer because we are anxious for our students to resume school in person, yet still be safe from COVID-19.

We pray for a better year; for a safe return to classrooms; for the health of students, teachers and school staff; for school boards and administrators under pressure to make difficult decisions; and for parents exhausted by the uncertainty and constantly changing plans.

Help us, Holy God, to bear with one another in love as we face the new challenges this year will inevitably bring. We pray that our teachers banked enough summer renewal to face any new disruptions. We ask that the hard lessons students learned in since the start of this pandemic will give them the confidence and courage to face whatever lies ahead. With confidence in your ability to do more than we ask or imagine, we pray that faith will deter fear and hope will bring new life.

Bless us, Holy God, in our efforts to protect and care for students so they can focus on their healthy development and their studies. Lead us all to health and healing.

In Christ's name we pray,
 Amen

By: Teri McDowell Ott, *The Presbyterian Outlook* (8/10/21)



From the Church Historian

Recently I was contacted by Helen Nerska of the Clinton County Historical Association as they were planning cemetery tours in Peru two weeks hence, and seeking history of our God's Acre Cemetery. (Her family is from Jahez Allen with ancestors and relatives were members of the Methodist church in Peru.) Quickly put together this overview, and was encouraged by Nancy Smith who thought this might be interesting to all. Here's what was used that tour day by CCHA. Darrell Altizer, president of the Board for the Peru Cemetery behind TD Bank led the tour at that cemetery in person. I was privileged to see his information (thanks to Barb Perry) but unfortunately was not able to attend the tours. Thanks as always to Wally Rickert who is the PCC contact for the cemetery.
-- Barb Benkwitt, Church Historian

God's Acre on Maiden Lane is owned by the Peru Community Church and has been maintained by Wally Rickert as caretaker for many years. The Church is the gray stone building (1833, National Historic Register-listed in 2001) at the intersection of Routes 22 and 22B (Main, Pleasant & Elm Streets), and its Fellowship Center across Elm St. The Community Church in Peru, Inc. was established as such 76 ½ years ago by the federation of the two Protestant churches in Peru founded in the early 1800's - the First Congregational Church (also called the Presbyterian Church) at the current Community Church location, and the Methodist Episcopal Church (Methodist) - which was the red brick building located on Main Street at the current site of Vale Haven (formerly Grand Union), razed in 1957 as it was deemed unsafe.

This God's Acre cemetery came to the new Community Church at its federation in 1944.

The God's Acre name is typical for churchyards, specifically the burial grounds (from the German, *Gottesacker*, 'field of God'). We are not sure when the cemetery came to its current size of 2.4 acres. Initially, the cemetery may have been a private, family cemetery, or perhaps was simply open land, owned by perhaps the Everest family. We have not been able to verify with a deed or transfer record yet. A chronological history of the Peru Methodist Episcopal Church in the church Anniversary booklet states "1877 God's Acre Cemetery given to the church by Jenette Everest". Interestingly, old church baptismal records show that Miss Jannette Elmore (*sic*) baptized at age 18 (1832) by the Congregational Church of Christ in Chesterfield (Keeseville's town). That Chesterfield church established the Peru Congregational / Presbyterian Church, which, along with the early owner of God's Acre, the Methodist Episcopal church, formed the current Peru Community Church. So Mrs. Everest was 'connected' to both 1800's churches in Peru. (Her first name shows varied spellings of 'Jennette'.)

The earliest death date in God's Acre is 1858, for Jenette's husband and son. In front of the inscribed "Hiram H. Everest 1877" are the following:

Hiram Hartman Everest, August 27, 1812 - March 8, 1858.

His Wife, Jennett Elmore Everest, November 30, 1814 - February 10, 1908

Their Son, Elmore Hiram Everest, July 21, 1849 - June 8, 1858.

The Elmore family home was nearby on Main Street, and both the Everest and Elmore names have long been associated with Peru. Many Elmore and Everest families are in the Peru Village Cemetery (no Elmore's in God's Acre). In 1882, according to County Deed records, Jennette Elmore Everest sold, for \$1 as paid by the First Congregational Church, burial plot #23 in God's Acre Cemetery, for the pastor to use as required (with the stipulation that one must not plant nor transplant any trees on that lot). Jennette died in 1908. Methodist church records show she left a trust fund of \$6,000 to the church for the maintenance of the God's Acre cemetery. Also noted in the Anniversary Booklet is "1909 Caretaker elected for God's Acre Cemetery 25c per hour."

The information is provided by Church Historian Barb Benkwitt with references for further investigations. She invites inquiries through the Peru Community Church Office office@perucommunitychurch.com or her personal email barbbenkwitt@charter.net.

References: Peru Community Church Anniversary Booklet (1961) Linc Sunderland's books on the History of Peru, New York (2003 printing).



Congratulations to Gaige Ess as he graduated from Officer's Candidate School on August 18, 2021 at Quantico Marine Corps Base. Gaige is finishing his senior year at Binghamton University before beginning his military career.

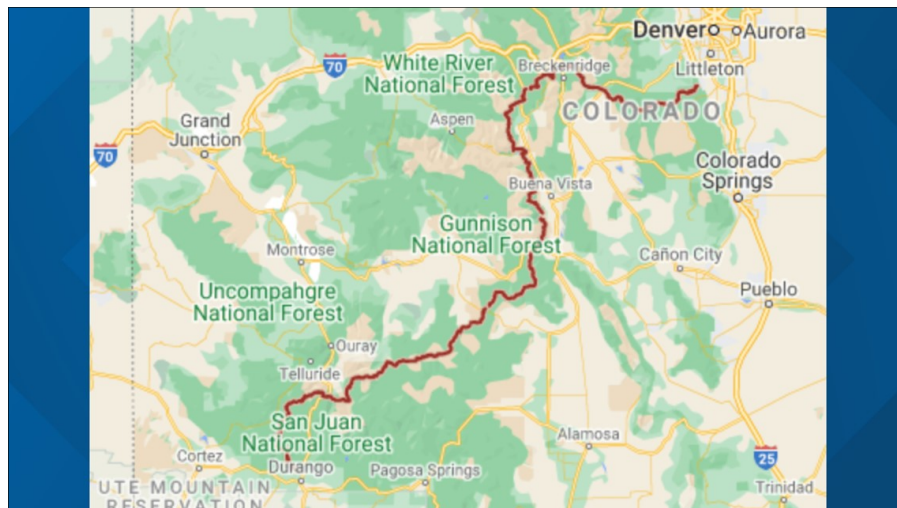
Gaige is pictured here, in uniform, with his brother, Dalton, who recently attended ROTC training Camp Pendleton in California. Dalton is active in Navy ROTC at The Ohio State University where he is beginning his sophomore year. Their parents are Bill Maverick and Jennifer Ess.

A COLORADO TRAIL JOURNEY IN 10 DAYS: 'SUPER FUN MEMORIES, NOT FUN IN THE MOMENT'

Kyle King and Charles Remillard are elite marathon runners, but neither had ever done an ultra-marathon, let alone tried to run 485 miles in 10 days. - Katie Eastman, 9 News (Denver)

Charles Remillard is the son of Cheryl and Tom Remillard. Cheryl shared this news story of Charles and his friend Kyle's adventure on the Colorado Trail with Pastor Peggi, who thought it was definitely worth sharing with all of you.

<https://www.9news.com/article/news/local/storytellers/marathon-runners-try-colorado-trail-denver-to-durango/73-d5068530-48c0-48bb-9eae-a81301deb54e#longform> **chapter 11**





Beartracks in Concert at Peru Community Church

On Saturday, October 2nd, Beartracks will be performing a concert at Peru Community Church Fellowship Center (13 Elm Street, Peru). At this time the concert time and ticket prices are to be determined. Updates will be posted to Facebook, Instagram, on our website, and in the weekly announcements when the information becomes available. We hope you can come out and enjoy the show!

Applefest Parade 2021 - September 18, 2021

In 2019 we all had a delightful time with our own Peru Community Church float in the Applefest Parade. It's time to decide if we will do so again, and are seeking a coordinator as well as helpers and walkers. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

LAST INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS ABOUT BY-LAWS AND CHURCH STRUCTURE HELD THIS SUNDAY

If you have not yet attended one of the informational meetings your last chance to do so will be this Sunday, August 29th at 10:00am in the Fellowship Center or at 11:00am on Zoom. (Use worship codes to log-in)

The Task Force Team has worked very hard to put together updated by-laws to reflect the changes in our church.

Please read the materials posted on the website: <https://www.perucommunitychurch.com/2021-by-laws> and come prepared with any questions or thoughts you have.

The Task Force will then re-gather to plan a date for the congregational meeting and vote of the 2021 By-laws. Once a date has been decided and approved by the Adirondack District and Presbytery of NNY it will be announced.

DEVOTIONAL OPTIONS

This month we'll focus on The Upper Room®

The Upper Room Ministry has its roots in The United Methodist Church. The Upper Room Devotional is found in UM churches everywhere. There are several options to receive devotionals from The Upper Room.

For a subscription: <https://www.upperroom.org/available-subscriptions/daily-devotional-options>

Free devotionals emailed daily - content based on Upper Room Books: <https://upperroombooks.com/neweverymorning/>



School Begins Soon!

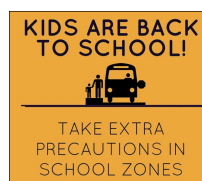
Opening Day of Districts in our area:

Au Sable Valley District: Thursday, September 2

Beekmantown & Saranac Districts: Friday, September 3

Peru & Plattsburgh Districts: Tuesday, September 7

Peru Nursery School: Tuesday, September 14





Mzuzu Crisis Nursery
 P.O. Box 395, **Mzuzu**
 Tel: (265) 01 311 699/ 722.
 Email: mzuzucrisisnursery@gmail.com

July 29, 2021

Peru Community Church
USA.

Dear Re. P. Eller,

THANK YOU FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

On behalf of Mzuzu Crisis Nursery, I would like to thank your church for your financial contribution of \$1,920.00 towards the cost of essential services. Thank you for your concern, for a kind heart, and for your approval to our request through Rev. Paul Heller. Also, thank you for helping the Nursery with supplies such as baby sweaters, hats, and baby blankets. The babies are kept warm because of your good outfit donated. The welfare of the children, who were deprived of their parent's loving care and help, is improving through provision of quality care.

The Nursery is convinced that your works of charity are a good example, even to the beneficiaries. By helping, you not only give blessings, but also joy and hope to the little ones. Your help is a priceless contribution to the Nursery. Thank you for your care, compassion, mercy, and for the contribution that you have made to help repair the window screens and reconstruct the partly collapsed fence. The works will help babies free from mosquito (malaria prevention) and general security respectively. If it were not for your support, the Nursery would not have been able to meet this need with its slim budget.

Thank you once again for your support! Your church has truly shown love to the children from a distance. Help us in prayers so that the children we care for would become good citizens and pleasing children of God.

We send our greetings to all the lovely church members who are our fellow servants in Christ. We are very grateful to you for the care of the children through your financial support and prayers.

By God's grace,

Augustine Harawa
For/PROGRAMS DIRECTOR.

Peru Community Church

A place for you to encounter God.

PO Box 38
12 Elm Street
Peru, NY 12972



Come Worship With US!

Sunday Morning at 9:00am on ZOOM
AND In-Person
in the Sanctuary (12 Elm Street)

For links to all our social media visit:
linktr.ee/PCC8641

Contact Us:

Phone: 518-643-8641
E-mail: office@perucommunitychurch.com
Website: www.perucommunitychurch.com



The Coming Together of
Two Great Traditions:

Presbyterian Church USA
The United Methodist Church



Our vision at Peru Community Church is to:

- † Meet people where they are (physically, emotionally and spiritually)
- † Transform lives by sharing and growing in the love of Christ (grow disciples)
- † To actively care for all God's Creation (be good stewards)

We are striving to hold a Granny's Attic soon and do appreciate your patience. As of now, two tentative dates are penciled in on the church calendar - for Saturday, September 25th or Saturday October 23rd. Helpers will be needed several days before the event to receive more donations, to price, sort, and organize; day of event for 'traffic' control, restocking, organizing and cashier; and day after event for clean up. Please call or text Barb Benkwitt (cell 518-565-6263) anytime to say how and when you can help. In this changing situation we hope to firm up the dates soon. Thank you!!

Granny's Attic 2021



Mrs. Able got a little too used
to attending church on Zoom.

NEW CHURCH TEXT NUMBER - (518) 339-1536

As stated in the last newsletter, the Worship Team decided to discontinue the contract with Text in Church effective 8/1/21. We now have a new cell number that we will use to send worship and event reminders to you. Everyone who had signed up for Text in Church was carried over to the new number. If you wish to be removed, text **STOP** to **(518) 339-1536**. If you wish to be **added** for texts, please text your **first and last name** to **(518) 339-1536**. You must include your name to be added so we know you are a 'real' person. Texts will be sent and replied to only during working hours: Monday through Friday 8am - 4pm