

# *Through the Study Window*

Peru Community Church

12 Elm Street Peru, NY 12972

March 2024

Page 1

## **Pastor's Pen - On Board the Lenten Train**

The Rev. Peggi Eller



I hope you have been enjoying our trip through Lent, looking for signs of God in our midst – pointing the way in the same way that hobos leave signs and warnings for other hobos. I know some of you are reading along in the Lenten Study by Edward Hays. I find that when I look at Scripture for different points of views and at different times in my life, there is always something in there for me. Often times I think of the cost of discipleship.

In this year's Lenten Scriptures, I've experienced a new understanding of what it means to 'get on board' and ride the ups and downs of life. So I have a question for you to ponder as we head toward Holy Week at the end of this month.

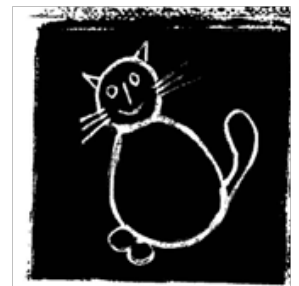
How does your relationship shift when your name or title changes? Abram and Sarai became Abraham and Sarah and Simon became Peter and we have all been adopted as God's children. How would it affect you if your name were to be changed? Would it give you a fresh start or a new identity that opens up an opportunity to change something about your thoughts or behavior?

I think heading through Lent is the perfect opportunity to take on the mantle of discipleship and live into the transforming power of your faith.

Blessings,

Pastor Peggi

~ Holy Week Schedule of services is located on page 5



## ***Palm Sunday Marks Return to Sanctuary***

Celebrate Palm Sunday with us in the Sanctuary! Sunday, March 24th we will once again be worshipping in the Sanctuary. Come for an early brunch in the Fellowship Center and stay for church - come for church and stay for brunch!

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Sarah Connelly; Jackie Douglass; John Grant; Ed Guest; Suzanne & Eukie Jones; Andrea Moore  
Dorothy Grant passed away in late January. Please keep John, her family and friends in your prayers.

Those struggling with addiction and physical, mental and spiritual health.  
Please pray for our military, law enforcement, first responders and medical personnel.  
The teachers, students and support staff in our schools.

## Sunday Worship at 9:00am on ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88446894229?pwd=U2FXczljeEY3ZUdPejJoSoN4dzYzUT09>

By Phone: 1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 884 4689 4229

Passcode: 579851

*We will continue to offer online worship for our homebound and out of town members.*

### OPERATING FUND INCOME & EXPENSES

January, 2024

Category	Actual Year to Date	Budget Year to Date	Annual Budget
X-fer from Endowment	\$25,000	\$26,250	\$ 45,000
Giving & General Income	\$89,557	\$87,381	\$149,800
Total Income	\$114,557	\$113,631	\$194,800
Operating Expenses	\$123,003	\$131,667	\$225,819

### CAPITAL FUND - As of January 2024

Beginning Balance	\$56,646
Total Income	\$666
Expenses	\$450
Ending Balance	\$56,862

### BINGO Prizes for Valehaven Residents

Toiletries such as: lotions, body spray, body wash, deodorant, after shave, shaving cream, bar soap, toothpaste.

Holiday items: pins, hats, necklaces, scarves, socks, small décor.

Also, other fun or useful items appropriate for someone with limited space.

We'll share more events (like game days) or needs for the residents of Valehaven as we continue to grow our relationship with them.



## SNOW REMOVAL VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to everyone who signed up for a Sunday to volunteer to clear the sidewalks.

We have snow removal contracted for snowfall over 3 inches, but if *less than that* falls, the walks still need to be cleared.

Listed below are the names of those who volunteered for March and April with the corresponding date. Remember, if over 3 inches falls, the contractor should be here.

### March

3<sup>rd</sup>: Joanne McGovern

10<sup>th</sup>: Sarah Davis

17<sup>th</sup>: Lynda Guest

24<sup>th</sup>: Pat McCoy

### April

7<sup>th</sup>: Michelle St. Onge

14<sup>th</sup>: Jonathan Side

21<sup>st</sup>: Pat McCoy

28<sup>th</sup>:

## Lectionary Year B - Bible Readings for March 2024

### Third Sunday in Lent - March 3rd

- Exodus 20:1-17
- Psalm 19
- 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
- John 2:13-22

### Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 10th

- Numbers 21:4-9
- Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
- Ephesians 2:1-10
- John 3:14-21

### Fifth Sunday in Lent - March 17th

- Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Psalm 51:1-12
- Hebrews 5:5-10
- John 12:20-33

### Passion/Palm Sunday - March 24th

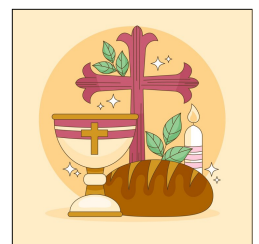
- Isaiah 50:4-9a
- Psalm 31:9-16
- Philipians 2:5-11
- Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16

### Good Friday - March 29th

- Isaiah 52:13-53:12
- Psalm 22
- Hebrews 10:16-25
- John 18:1-19:42

### Easter Sunday - March 31st

- Acts 10:34-43
- Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
- John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8



# Palm Sunday Brunch

Sunday, March 24th

Peru Community Church  
Fellowship Center

13 Elm Street, Peru, NY

8:15am -12:15am

Pancakes, Maple Syrup, Bacon,  
Apple Compote, Coffee, Tea, Milk, Juice

Adults: \$10

Children ages 5-11: \$5

Children under 5 are free

All Take Out: \$10



**ALL YOU  
CAN EAT**



## ***SAVE THE DATE!***

Granny's Attic Spring 2024 Unique Boutique Sale  
(and Bake Sale) is scheduled for Saturday, April  
27th from 9am to 4pm in the Fellowship Center.

Item donations will begin on Sunday, April 14th.

More information will follow. If you have any questions, new ideas, or wish to volunteer  
please call or text Barb Benkwitt at (518) 565-6263!





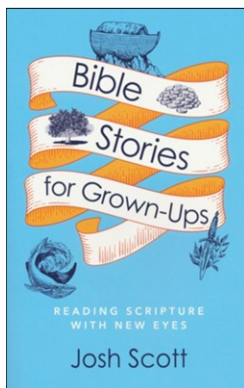


This year, our Special Collection for *One Great Hour of Sharing* focuses on helping to provide water for those in need through the Presbyterian Church. We each know how important water is to our daily lives and survival, so I encourage you to set aside the cost of a cup of coffee each day so that we can help others with a source of clean, accessible water. Just imagine what a small sacrifice on our part can do to change the lives of others.




QR Code for One Great Hour of Sharing - Will take you to our online giving page through Vanco Payment Solutions.

Through Lent, there will be paper bags at the end of each row in the chapel where you can drop your OGHS offering. The offering will be collected weekly. Please keep it separate from your regular weekly giving so it's easier to keep track of. Thank you!



## Lenten Bible Study: Bible Stories for Grown Ups

Join me after worship on Sundays for a quick video and discussion about some of your favorite Children's Sunday School stories. We started with Noah and Jonah in February and will delve into the Binding of Isaac, the Parable of the Talents and Zacchaeus in the Sycamore Tree. The objective of this study is to help us understand these familiar stories more deeply. We'll begin around 10:15am and finish around 11am.



### Holy Week Services

- 3/24 9:00AM PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY
- 3/28 7:00PM MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE IN THE CHAPEL WITH COMMUNION
- 3/29 NOON – 8:00PM GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS EXPERIENCE IN THE CHAPEL
- 3/31 6:30AM EASTER SUNRISE AT THE PERU BOAT LAUNCH WITH COMMUNION
- 3/31 9:00AM EASTER WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY



## Take Action Against Human Trafficking

*It is in our backyard!*

**Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>  
1pm-3pm**

**Temple Beth Israel  
1 Bowman Street**

*Sponsored by Interfaith Council of  
Plattsburgh & Clinton County*

- **View** Homeland Security's short film, *Chosen*, on human trafficking today.
- **Hear** Jonathan Phillips – actor in *Finding Faith*, a powerful story inspired by actual events, who is also the pastor of North Argyle Community Church, speaking about predators, how they groom, the red flags we should all be aware of and how we can help.
- **Browse** information tables on human trafficking/slavery and actions YOU can take.



<https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>

To report suspected human trafficking to Federal law enforcement, call: 1-866-347-2423

## Results of the MELT Project

Thank you to everyone who helped us exceed our goal for the MELT Project! We collected \$2775.00 which enabled us to sponsor a book, 20 children, and 3 teachers. We hope to have Heather White, founder of MELT, come visit us when the book is published. The dedication page of the book we are sponsoring will say:

*"This book is lovingly dedicated to the children whose lives it enriches. May it help them learn and grow in wisdom and intelligence."*

*From the Peru Community Church, Peru, NY, USA*

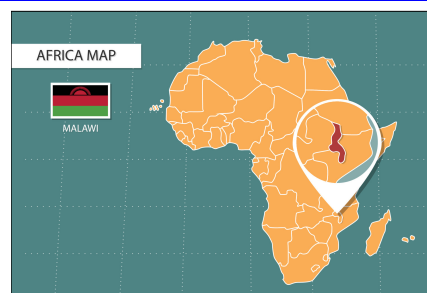
MELT develops and publishes K-2 early literacy readers for the library established in Mzuzu by the MELT team. These readers are written about village daily life, Malawi science and culture, and

important basic health topics relevant to children in Malawi.

The Malawi Department of Education has approved MELT early readers for use in Malawian schools.

Thank you to Meg Edwards for leading this project and helping us all become more aware of one of the many missions our Presbytery supports in Malawi, Africa.

To learn more about the Malawi Missions, visit <https://www.presbyteryofnny.org/assets/>





# WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS...

Exploiting a person through force, fraud, or coercion

Anyone under the age of 18 involved in a commercial sex act

Sex trafficking, forced labor, and domestic servitude

A highly profitable crime

Exploitation-based and does not require movement across borders or any type of transportation

## THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### SEX TRAFFICKING

Victims are manipulated or forced against their will to engage in sex acts for money.



## HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS HAPPENING IN THE UNITED STATES



SUBURBS



RURAL TOWNS



CITIES

### FORCED LABOR

Victims are made to work for little or no pay. Very often, they are forced to manufacture or grow products that we use and consume every day.



### DOMESTIC SERVITUDE

Victims are hidden in plain sight, forced to work in homes across the United States as nannies, maids, or domestic help.



VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING MIGHT BE AFRAID TO COME FORWARD, OR WE MAY NOT RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS, EVEN IF IT IS HAPPENING RIGHT IN FRONT OF US.

## IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE

NO MATTER AGE, RACE, GENDER IDENTITY, SEX, ETHNICITY, NATIONALITY, IMMIGRATION STATUS, AND SOCIOECONOMIC CLASS



## RECOGNIZE AND REPORT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- To report suspected trafficking to federal law enforcement, call 1-866-347-2423 or submit a tip online at [www.ice.gov/tips](http://www.ice.gov/tips).
- Get help from the National Human Trafficking Hotline by calling 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to 233733 (BEFREE).
- Call 911 or local law enforcement if someone is in immediate danger.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Visit the Blue Campaign website to learn more about the **indicators** of human trafficking: [DHS.gov/BlueCampaign](http://DHS.gov/BlueCampaign).
- Use Blue Campaign **materials** to raise awareness of human trafficking in your community.
- Follow @DHSBlueCampaign on **Facebook**, **Instagram**, and **Twitter**.

## 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 Fellowship Center (13 Elm Street)  
We will be worshipping in the Chapel through 3/17.

For links to all our social media visit:  
[linktr.ee/PCC8641](https://linktr.ee/PCC8641)

### Contact Us:

Phone: 518-643-8641  
E-mail: [office@perucommunitychurch.com](mailto:office@perucommunitychurch.com)  
Website: [www.perucommunitychurch.com](http://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)
- ✚ Actively care for all God's Creation (be good stewards)

On Friday, February 23rd, some of us went to St. Joseph's Outreach Center to help pack bags of food for distribution for **Plattsburgh Cares**. In just over 30 minutes, 108 bags were packed with water, juice, snacks, soup, crackers, pb&j, fruit, veggies and cookies. PCC donated paper plates, bowls and flatware from our extra cases of overstock. Many handmade hats, mittens, neckwarmers (some donated by our Knit Wits) were also placed in each bag. It was a fun and rewarding time. Many folks from area churches volunteer to do this every 2-3 weeks. There is a great need in our area. We'll let you know when the next packing project happens so you can join too.



**Paz  
Amor  
Seguridad**

**Peace  
Love  
Safety**

**سلام  
الحب**

**lapè  
lanmou  
sekirite**

**paix  
amour  
sécurité**