



July 16, 2023

From the Addiction & Recovery Taskforce: Addiction and the Family

One of the often-unrealized effects of the present opioid epidemic is the restructuring of many families with the grandparents raising their grandchildren. Statistics are hard to find for exact numbers but in May of 2018 *60 Minutes* reported that there were over a million families in America with grandparents raising grandchildren due to misuse of drugs. The legal, economic and other hardships that impose on grandparents is considerable.

Most of our congregations have such families in our midst. Learning more about the challenges they face and the support your community has available for them is an important ministry.



August Workshop ... "One Shepherd, Two Flocks"

On Saturday, Aug. 12 a workshop will be held on Zoom on "One Shepherd, Two Flocks: Advice and Guidance on Sharing a Pastor."

Rev. Kevin McLemore and others will conduct a free workshop on why sharing a pastor with another congregation is a good option for many congregations in this time of pastoral scarcity. Pastor McLemore and others will share practical strategies on how to talk to your congregation about this possibility, how to find a pastor and congregation willing to do so, and how other churches are already doing it successfully. Pastors who currently pastor two congregations will join us to share both the blessings and challenges of this arrangement, and how to avoid some of the mistakes they've witnessed in their own settings. To learn more go to psec.org, click the News & Events tab then go to Aug. 12 on the calendar for more information and the registration link.

Lifting up more of our 2023 Anniversary Churches Celebrating 250 Years of "Being Church"

St. Peter's Union Church, Macungie

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Paul Sorcek

St. Peter's Union Church is located on St. Peter's Road it has been a landmark for many years, and is often referred to as "The Little White Church On The Hill".



The earliest reference to services being held at the St.

Peter's Church site was 1773. Services were held in a small stone building



known as "Die Barrick Schule" On June 2, 1844, in the 68th year of American Independence, the Church Articles were drawn up for a Union Church to be called St. Peter's German Lutheran and Reformed Church. The cornerstone to the Christian Education Building was laid in 1969, by Mary Lessig, who served as Superintendent of

the Sunday School for more than 50 years. She became Superintendent when she was 17. The building was dedicated to Mary Lessig and known as Mary Lessig Hall. Many changes have taken place over these years.



Celebrating 175 Years of "Being Church"

Salem UCC, Donaldson

Salem UCC is a small congregation but one that is proud of its Faith and Fellowship. They are led by Eugene Horner.



Celebrating 75 Years of "Being Church"

Saint Stephen's UCC, Philadelphia

Pastored by Rev. Dr. William Alexander who is a retired military chaplain.

They have a day care in connection with the Grace Neighborhood Development Association which is recognized as the best in Philly! The day care also offers an after-school program.

