

MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 2022 NEWSLETTER



The Mission of Middle Octorara Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is to provide a place of fellowship where a community of believers comes together to be spiritually renewed and enabled to effectively witness for Christ through service to others.

OUR PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

"Were You There?" is an African-American spiritual that dates back at least 160 years, probably more. Its anonymous author, known only to God, was an American slave. "Were You There?" became more widely known in the church following the end of the Civil War. It was first published in William Eleazar Barton's 1899 Old Plantation Hymns. It was incorporated in the Episcopal Church Hymnal of 1940, and has been included in almost every major hymnal of all denominations in the last several decades. It has been performed and recorded by many artists, among them Johnny Cash, Marion Wilson, Roy Acuff, Harry Belafonte, Phil Keagy and Wintley Phipps.

The first verse goes like this:

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Additional verses are:

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

still with the language of: tremble, tremble, tremble.

Then there is a final verse, which changes the third line:

Were you there when he rose up from the dead?

Were you there when he rose up from the dead?

Oh! Sometimes I feel like shouting glory, glory, glory!

Were you there when he rose up from the dead?

In a way, the question raised by "Were You There?" is absurd. Of course I wasn't there. It happened more than two thousand years ago. But because the crucifixion, burial and resurrection of our Lord were not only historical events, over and done with, but the anchor and fountainhead of timeless spiritual reality that reaches backward and forward from that point to all believers,

Old and New Testament, the answer is: We can be there. We must be there. We must engage with faith the reality which is offered.

And so we observe Holy Week: the triumphal entry, the Last Supper, Mount Calvary, and the garden tomb. We want to accept the great salvation Jesus offers us, grounded in what he did then for sinners. We want every bit of that new life he freely gives. And the way to do it is to be there as best we can, to understand what happened, and to receive what Jesus purchased for us through his courageous and loving offering of his life.

I pray that we will all be able to say in 2022, and in all the years to come, "I was there, and it has made all the difference in my life." It is a genuine pleasure for me to be on this journey of faith with all of you.

CHURCH LIFE

CHOIR

The choir keeps plugging away. We almost think of it as our mid-week fellowship time. I am so grateful to have such faithful choir members. Most of them come every week. We practice the same songs every week so we get to know them better and we can relay the message to the congregation that we want them to receive. On Good Friday, most if not all of us, are participating with the Little Britain and Union Choirs at the service at Little Britain. Others are being readers and servers of communion. It will be great to worship together. All are invited.

DEACONS

1 John 4:12 says, "when we love each other, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us." Our Deacons continue to express God's love in a public ministry of greeting and facilitating worship on Sunday mornings, and in more of a behind-the-scenes way through cards and visits to individuals. Thank you for all you do!

Worship bags for first-time visitors are now complete and are already being pressed into service.

Deacons will continue to meet on the first Sunday of the month after worship. For a variety of reasons, we will not be having a meal along with that meeting. Though it wasn't said out loud, I suspect there was anxiety building in the group that the pastor might at some point get the bright idea of attempting to cook. Whew! Crisis averted.

We couldn't get the job done of loving service in our congregation without our dedicated Deacons!

MEMBER ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER CHANGES

Sandra Shenk - 717-471-0210

MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Because of the successful fundraisers that MOPW sponsors, we are able to send monetary assistance to many. Recently we sent \$1000 to Neighborhood Ministries' Fuel Fund and \$500 to Mickey's Mission of Hope, \$300 for Easter Meals through the Food Bank, help for three different families in need, and a gift box for the upcoming Solid Rock Auction.

UPCOMING MOPW is looking forward to our second annual Family Fun Day, scheduled for June 12. This will be an event that the whole family will enjoy, and an opportunity that we all can take to invite our friends and family. More details will follow.

MISSIONS

The Committee is happy to report that we were able to send \$300 to Audrey Ball Santiago's Ukraine ministry in February. **(See update from Audrey in this newsletter)**

In March we sent \$300 to Light Shine Ministries, a outreach to the people of Alaska, directed and managed by a local son, Tom Denlinger. If you or anyone you know would like to be a part of this ministry either by attending a work week in Alaska or by supporting monetarily, go on to the web site for 'Light Shine Ministries' and read about all the possibilities.

We look forward this month to hearing about from Mindy Boyd who works to spread the Gospel message in Germany.

SESSION

COMMUNITY MEALS ARE BACK

The Session has decided to sponsor Community Meals at Middle Octorara. These meals are free and open to all who wish to come. Dates are:

April 9, 5 PM

June 11, 5 PM

August 13, 5 PM

Anyone who would like to help in the kitchen or dining room or help set up and tear down, should contact Dale Phillips or Dan Henry. Everyone who attends will have the opportunity to give a donation for the Food Bank, either monetarily or an item of food. This is another event where we can invite our friends and family.

SILVER SISTERS

Four of our group went to lunch and the show "Singing In the Rain" at Dutch Apple Dinner Theater. Fun times!! And another day seven of us went to lunch at Brass Eagle, with a few coming back to the church for games.

Our next get-together is on April 13 at 11:30 at Dienners Restaurant. All widows are welcome!!

TRUSTEES

I've been told that workday went well and they got a lot done, trimming trees and shredding the debris and whatever else they worked on. They did have extra help which is what is needed on work day.

We appreciate the suggestions and ideas that we get from church members, as well as being informed of repairs needed. We do listen, discuss, and decide. Some things take a while to get implemented.

The bathrooms at the far end of the church are going to get refreshed whenever the contractor fits it in to his schedule.

MISSION MUSINGS

You may have heard the statement “It’s Friday but Sundays Coming”. I’ve heard it used in sermons with the point being Friday seemed like a terrible day for the followers of Jesus as He was nailed to the cross and crucified. Even Jesus cried from the cross” My God my God why have You forsaken me“ ? But Sunday came, Jesus rose from the dead and the world was forever changed. Of course, it was all part of God’s plan to pay the debt for our sins and restore the relationship between man and God.

We all have our Fridays in life don’t we? Broken relationships, pain, suffering and even death of a loved one have touched each of us in our lifetime. But because of what Jesus did for us with faith and hope our Fridays will turn into Sundays. Of course, it is often not without pain and difficult days.

Part of our mission as Christians is to be there for each other during the Fridays of life.

I would like to tell of two of the Fridays of my life. I am not telling you about these times to draw any attention to me but to put all the focus and praise upon Jesus. I also hope you can reflect back on your Fridays that turned into Sundays and thank and praise Jesus.

On Sunday April 15, 2007, I along with 6 guys who also played softball with Dave Phipps went to visit Dave in the hospital in Philadelphia. When we arrived, the nurse said only two of you can go up to the room at a time. After some explaining and pleading and with God’s intervention, I am sure, the nurse left us all go into the room together.

I don’t believe any of us realized or were prepared for how bad Dave’s condition really was. Occasionally Dave would open his eyes, recognize one of us and weakly say our name. Because he was so weak, we did not stay long. As everyone left the room, I remained a moment and prayed, “God we need a miracle here.”

On Wednesday morning at work, I received the call that Dave had passed away. I went outside for a few minutes and as I came back inside a co worker took one look at me and asked what is wrong with you? I briefly explained our visit with Dave and my prayer to God for a miracle. My co worker said your friend received his miracle, he is now in the loving hands of Jesus. Simple words from a friend in a time of need that I will remember the rest of my life.

Fast forward 12 years to April 2019. My mom had been with hospice for months then she “graduated” for a while but was now back under at home hospice care. I received a call at work from Doug on Monday that the hospice nurse was at mom’s, and it was decided she should be sent to the hospice facility at Mount Joy. It was touch and go Monday and Tuesday but when I visited Wednesday mom seemed much better. In her normal manner of concern about others first I remember her saying, “This is yard sale week. You don’t need to visit me you are needed for the yard sale preparation.” I assured her there were lots of folks helping as usual and the yard sale prep would go fine without me.

On Friday morning, it was in fact Good Friday, Doug called to say mom had passed away. Doug and I split up the phone calls to friends and relatives. I called the Brondyke’s and I still remember Rev. Richard’s words. He said although we grieve, we Do Not grieve as those without hope. Oh so true. Because of what Jesus did Friday on the cross our sin debt is paid and because on Sunday He rose from the dead, Satan was defeated. We only need to confess our sins and believe that Jesus is the Son of God who died on the cross and then rose from the dead.

But then we can’t stop there. Our mission is to live our lives so that others see through our words and deeds that Jesus can and does make a difference. May our life’s mission be to get to heaven and take as many people as possible with us.

And may all God’s people say Amen.

2nd Corinthians 1: 3,4

Blessings, Dan Henry

REFLECTIONS

by Barry Girvin

Kennedy vs. Khrushchev – Not that Simple Today

Dan Henry's "Mission Musings" article in last month's newsletter offered a realistic but hopeful look at the havoc brought on by the war in the Ukraine. Dan wrote "Though we are sometimes frightened, disillusioned and saddened by the storms we must believe and have faith they are part of His plan and God will bring good out of evil and always accomplish His will." So, let's be realistic. His will, will be done, and it may require more of us than we like to think about.

The days of the Cuban Missile Crisis are over. The two nuclear powers went head to head, and we all feared World War III may be at hand as Soviet ships headed for Kennedy's blockade. The Soviet ships turned back as Khrushchev did not allow his ego to destroy the world. Kennedy's earlier decision not to invade Cuba had also avoided direct conflict. Two leaders acted in a sane manner not allowing their egos or public opinion to sway their decisions. As of this writing, President Biden's decision to not declare a no-fly zone over Ukraine has avoided direct military conflict with Russia. With Ukrainian forces fighting bravely and Russian losses mounting, will Putin prove to be sane, and agree to a peace agreement not to his liking?

I believe that Putin will employ whatever means short of nuclear war that are available to him to save face: chemical and biological weapons and most likely, cyber attacks. Also, there are several nuclear powers in today's world. How will they react regardless of what happens between the U.S. and Russia? Think North Korea headed by a dictator who is certifiably crazy.

Putin believes, as Lenin said, "Religion is the opium of the masses." If Putin can destroy our faith in God and in our democratic institutions, he will have it made. We tend to think of wars as happening somewhere else, and not on our soil. If Putin is able to shut down our power grid and scramble our communications networks, we will all become front-line soldiers of Christ.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

- 3 – Edith Ambler Jackson
- 4 – Cayla Sallander, Gwen Lefever
- 6 – Brandon Pfeiffer
- 8 – JoAnn Irwin
- 9 – Dale Phillips
- 10 – Gene Graver
- 14 – Stephanie Herr
- 18 – Amanda Lefever, Dave Garver, John Garver, Faye Reinhart, Todd Reinhart
- 23 – Boni Henry, Cheryl Girvin
- 26 – Lindsey (Girvin) Neiss
- 29 – Amanda Evans

Anniversaries

- 24 – James & Theresa Williams

**Update from Audrey Santiago, Director
Transitions Orphan Assistance Foundation, Inc.**

March 31, 2022

Dear Friends, War has been waging in Ukraine for over a month now. The Ukrainian people have endured five long weeks of shock, destruction, fear, determination, bravery and much, much more. No real end is in sight. I never imagined that this would be happening in the country that is my other home.

A month ago, I asked all of you to consider helping Ukraine in some way. Your response was immediate and astounding. You opened your hearts to Ukraine and the results are absolutely heart-warming.

I want to let you know that all of our people are accounted for. Our foster family and girls' home mom and girls have relocated to various places in Eastern Europe. They are safe. The men and older boys are unable to leave Ukraine, and they remain in Odessa, but they, too, are safe at this time.

Imagine hearing missiles fly overhead on a daily basis. Imagine seeing the Russian warships in the sea next to you. Imagine sleeping in your clothes in a cellar, just in case. Imagine wondering how you and your family will eat with no income and food prices rising daily. I am told that prices in Ukraine have nearly doubled since the war started. Incomes have been disrupted and many have no work and no paycheck.

While it seems that we are powerless to end the fighting, we can help to provide the necessities for our families and those in need in the surrounding community. Thanks to you and your gifts, that is exactly what is happening.

In the past month, with your gifts, we have helped to provide transportation costs for two of our families plus twenty-one other Ukrainians to relocate to other countries. In addition, we have been providing food, medicine and other necessities for those who remain in Odessa. We have been able, through my church in Odessa, to give some assistance to cities harder hit than Odessa, such as Kherson. We remain in touch with those in country and out, and we have promised to continue our assistance to them for as long as they need us and for as long as we are able.

I will continue to keep you informed as I learn more, but for now, I want to sincerely thank you once again for your belief in and your faithful support of what we do and what we are doing in Ukraine. Information on how to give can be found at the end of this letter. Please know that your prayers and gifts are making a huge difference!

With gratitude and love, Audrey

****Checks are still the quickest means to donate: Transitions Orphan Assistance Foundation, Inc. 541 Evening Sky Drive -or- 3530 Diamond Leaf Lane Oviedo, FL 32765 Oviedo, FL 32765 Online options: PayPal is also pretty quick. Network for Good will administer your donation made on our behalf, but it takes some weeks for payment to reach our bank account.**

				Middle Octorara Presbyterian Church	
				Income and Expense Statement	
04/02/2022 03:40 PM				GENERAL FUND 01, March 2022	
BEGINNING BALANCE, March 1, 2022					43,138.39
INCOME					
Offerings				\$13,467.24	
Per Capita				70.76	
Manse Rent				1,209.00	
Account Interest				0.37	
Chapel Rent				25.00	
Benevolence				1,054.00	
Tsfr. To Mission Fund				50.00	
TOTAL INCOME				15,876.37	
TOTAL CASH & INCOME					59,014.76
EXPENSES					
Pastoral Salary				\$5,258.09	
Pastoral Mileage				552.83	
Pastoral Pension (2 months)				3,754.74	
Pastoral Technology				50.00	
Secretary-Treasurer				573.75	
Accountant Fees				75.00	
Payroll Taxes				26.52	
Advertising				28.64	
Office Supplies				104.97	
Copier Lease				120.32	
Electricity				288.21	
Propane Gas				1,422.94	
Insurance				2,578.75	
Telephone/internet				120.18	
Cleaning Service				285.00	
Upkeep of Grounds				270.00	
Snow Removal				430.00	
Transfer to Mission Fund				50.00	
Per Capita Payment				70.76	
Tsfr. Session Benev. Fund				1,054.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES				17,114.70	
ENDING BALANCE, March 31, 2022					41,900.06
Interest checking account					

TREASURER'S REPORT

GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES - *March 2022*

The following is the individual weekly breakdown of offerings:

March 6 -	General Fund	3,585.00	Benevolence	265.00
March 13 -	General Fund	1,276.00	Benevolence	120.00
March 20 -	General Fund	1,329.00	Benevolence	170.00
March 27 -	General Fund	2,873.00	Benevolence	349.00

An additional \$5,759.37 General Fund and \$150.00 Benevolence money was received by mail etc.

YTD GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES

	Monthly	YTD	Monthly	YTD	YTD
	Budget	Budget	Received	Received	Expenses
General Fund	12,390.48	40,269.06	14,822.37	42,358.33	45,197.77
Benevolence	769.24	2,500.03	1,054.00	3,117.00	

Debbie Hoover, Secretary-Treasurer

A STEP BACK IN TIME



***Troy Miller, Martin Hileman, Cayla Miller, Brandon Sallander, Travis Hoover, Jani Hileman
Easter Sunrise Service April 8, 2012***

Easter Wordsearch Puzzle



See if you can find all the Easter words in this wordsearch!
The words may be forwards, backwards and diagonal.



S	L	I	A	T	N	O	T	T	O	C	G	G	S	Y
T	P	E	R	N	D	L	I	D	O	F	F	A	D	F
C	A	R	T	E	O	D	C	R	A	F	T	L	L	B
H	T	A	I	V	S	I	L	W	T	O	H	O	S	Y
O	D	B	G	N	M	U	T	U	L	R	W	Q	N	E
T	N	B	E	H	G	T	R	A	D	E	T	N	K	L
C	S	I	L	N	L	R	F	R	R	P	U	L	E	L
R	T	T	I	S	W	O	I	S	E	B	I	T	R	O
O	C	Y	E	C	U	B	E	N	E	C	E	A	G	W
S	K	C	I	H	C	N	R	A	C	K	T	L	L	U
S	E	F	L	U	H	R	D	T	S	M	M	I	E	R
B	E	D	A	R	A	P	G	A	H	T	U	G	O	C
U	M	O	W	C	U	I	B	S	Y	G	E	I	O	N
N	E	F	L	H	U	N	T	C	E	O	F	R	W	S
S	G	G	E	O	H	E	T	A	L	O	C	O	H	C

Basket
Bunny
Celebration
Chicks
Chocolate

Church
Cotton tails
Craft
Daffodil
Easter

Eggs
Flowers
Hot cross buns
Hunt
Parade

Rabbit
Resurrection
Spring
Sunday
Yellow





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 3 Deacon mtg. after church	April 4	April 5	April 6 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Choir practice 7:00 p.m.	April 7	April 8	April 9 Community meal 5:00 p.m.
April 10 Palm Sunday Communion Session Mtg./lunch after church	April 11	April 12 Trustee mtg. 7:00 p.m.	April 13 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Choir practice 7:00 p.m. Silver Sisters 11:30	April 14	April 15 Good Friday Svc. Little Britain Church 7:00 p.m.	April 16
April 17 Sunrise svc. 7:00 p.m. Egg hunt Church service	April 18	April 19	April 20 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Choir practice 7:00 p.m.	April 21	April 22	April 23 Yard Sale 7:00 – 1:00
April 24	April 25	April 26	April 27 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Choir practice 7:00 p.m.	April 28	April 29	April 30

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR REV. JOHN BARLOW

Address: 433 W. Lincoln Ave
Myerstown, PA 17067

Cellphone: 717-377-4570
Email: barlowjohn604@gmail.com

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: 1199 Valley Road, Quarryville, PA 17566
Phone: 717-786-3402 or 717-786-8284
Email: mopc_sec@comcast.net
Website: middleoctorara.org
Facebook: middle octorara

Church Secretary/Treasurer Debbie Hoover
Phone: 717-786-8284
Email: thehoovers@comcast.net or mopc_sec@comcast.net
Address: 2115 Mine Road, Paradise, PA 17562

Senior Choir Director Rose Griest
Accompanists Boni Henry, Shirley Girvin, Sue Herr

Technology Team Leader Mike Hoover
Email: mopc_av@comcast.net

Superintendent of Cemeteries James Williams
Phone: 717-517-6968

CHURCH BOARDS

Session

Clerk of Session: Dan Henry
Phone: 717-381-9947
Email: danhensy55@aol.com
2020-2022-John Girvin, Joan Probst, Sam Reinhart
2021-2023-Jerry Garver, Dick Keene, Dale Phillips
2022-2024-J. Barry Girvin, Dan Henry, Vivian Caldwell

Deacons

Administrator: Pastor John Barlow
Phone: 717-377-4570
mail: barlowjohn604@gmail.com
2020-2022-Linda Farmer, Dottie Garver, Sara Kauffman, Sharon Mowery
2021-2023-Kim Barlow, Dixie Clark, Sue Herr, Jonathan Welch
2022-2024-Nancy Cox, Andy Keene, Sandra Shenk, Val Keene

Trustees

President: Jeff Frackman
Phone: 717-989-6896
2020-2022-Jeff Frackman, Shirley Girvin, Rose Griest
2021-2023-Nancy Minchoff, Shirley Miller, Virgil Roark
2022-2024-Douglas Henry, Lloyd Miller, Skip Mimm