

MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 2025 NEWSLETTER



Church Magnolia Tree Blossoms

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.

PASTOR JOHN'S THOUGHTS

I found a two-cd album at a thrift store last week that caught my eye. It set me back \$50c. The title is WJTL UNiTe: 34 of the area's best Christian Artists. There are seventeen offerings on each of the two discs. The second cut on the second disc spoke to me in a big way. It was recorded in 1998 by a group called RiverEdge, who also produced the lyrics and music. The title is Moths Can Not Destroy This. Here are the lyrics, beginning with the chorus which is repeated after the verses:

*Praise God, He died and saved me
And I'm gonna serve Him till the end
Praise God, He's made a place for me
And I'm gonna be there with my friends*

*No, I'm sorry I cannot go out for I have
better things to do
Please don't get me wrong I enjoy the time
that I spend with you
But I must spend time with my Lord
For I must keep my treasure stored*

*I cannot wait to see His face
No crying there, not in that place*

*Eat and drink and merriment that's all
that a lot of people do
But food and wine is worthless
if it's lasting treasure that you would pursue
And I want faith like a little boy
What I have gained, moths cannot destroy*

It's a song about heaven, and laying up treasure there instead of on this earth. The chorus speaks powerfully of what God in Christ has done to make it possible for each of

us to go there. It is through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus for all of us, that we will soon be celebrating in Holy Week, as we do throughout the calendar year. Our Savior lived a perfect life as a sinless human being wholly dependent on the Holy Spirit and submitted to the will of his heavenly Father. He arrived at the cross totally qualified to bear the sin of all humanity in his body laid down for us. In his resurrection on the third day he makes it possible for us who believe in him to be raised to new life now and eternally.

The last line of the chorus just warms my heart. It's the line that reached out to me and drew me in: "I'm gonna be there with my friends." That includes you, dear MO. We're going to be together in heaven. And we are friends now on earth, all through the grace of our Lord. Friends who are ever seeking to expand the circle to include still others through the mission Jesus has assigned to us, friends that I am privileged to serve as your pastor.

CHURCH LIFE

CHOIR

The choir has been getting ready for Easter. We try to tell the Easter story in song. As we go through Lent, concentrate on what Easter really means to us. We will be joining Little Britain Church and Union Church choirs on Good Friday April 18 at 7 PM at Little Britain for the solemn Good Friday Service. Consider coming to the service. I am thankful for faithful choir members, and Boni for her keyboard knowledge.

DEACONS

Our faithful Deacons continue to model and express the love and the good news of Jesus among us in so many practical and powerful ways: in card ministries, in a warm welcome to all on Sunday mornings and other service times, in a microphone ministry that insures that everyone in various locations in the building for worship can hear announcements and joys and prayer concerns, in prayers and many provisions of support for special needs that arise with members and nonmembers alike. Thank you, Deacons, for all you do!

JOYFULLY MADE FELLOWSHIP

There are 2 important events coming up for the Joyfully Made Fellowship Church. The first one is an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday April 13 at 4 PM for all ages of Special Needs folks. If you know of anyone to whom this would apply, invite them and/or bring them. This should really be a fun event. The church is at 75 Mt Hope Rd Quarryville.

The second one is the A-Team Talent Show which is Sunday May 4 at 6 PM and is being held at Wesley Church. The group LOVES to present their talent for an audience. And the more, the merrier. I guarantee you won't be sorry if you come!!

LIBRARY

New Arrivals for the library:

A Good Old Age-An A to Z of loving and following the Lord Jesus in later years

Life with Flavor, by Herr's Snack founder Jim Herr

Why Be Plain – Are the Plain Churches Following Christ?

Beechdale Road, Where Mercy is More Powerful than Murder - A True Story from the family of the 2020 abductor of local 18 year old Linda Stoltzfoos.

We are no longer putting cards in the back of the books for checking out. The sticky label damages the books when removing to pass the books on when no longer needed in our library. There is a label with the church name and address on the book that will hopefully remind individuals where the book belongs.

MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PROJECT LINUS - In the past, we have knitted, crocheted, or sewn lap robes for nursing homes or veterans hospitals. The last time we took over 100 of them, the veterans only wanted half of them, so we stopped that project. There was recently an article in the newspaper about Project Linus which provides security through blankets. So, we are going to support this project. There are directions regarding sizes, types of yarn and fabric to be used in the wall holder in the hallway of the welcome center or contact Rose Griest to get a copy. We will collect them in February. Happy sewing, knitting and crocheting!!

MISSIONS

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES CHANGE

ALERT ALERT!!! An update from Operation Christmas Child.

Soap will go on the **INAPPROPRIATE** list for 2025 due to customs regulations in more and more countries around the world.

SESSION

Pastor John has hip surgery scheduled for April 30. He will be off duty during May to recover. Please contact Dan Henry for pastoral care during that time. M. O. members and local Pastors will be supporting our members during Pastor John's recovery.

May Pulpit Supply: May 4 - Mindy Boyd, May 11 & 25 - Pastor Charlie Gross, May 18 - Dan Henry

CONGREGATION MEETING NEWS

The following people were elected to the 2026 Auditing Committee: Kathy Harvey, Sue Herr and Elaine Ressel.

The following people were elected to the 2025 Church officers Nominating Committee: Dixie Clark, Dottie Garver, Rose Griest, Dale Phillips, Rick Ressel, Jonathan Welch. Jeff Frackman, Stephanie Miller and Nancy Minchoff. The first six are principal members and the next three are alternates.

BUECHE BEQUEST

At our March Session meeting we approved donating funds from the Bueche bequest for 2025 as follows:

\$1000.00 to each of the following:

Solanco Food Bank, Solanco Fuel Fund, Orphan Assistance Foundation, Lightshine Ministries, LOVE INC., Glovers, North Star Initiative, FIM (Mindy Boyd), New Hope Ministries, Living Waters International, Christ In Action, Peru Mission, CROP Walk, Solid Rock Ministries, Operation Christmas Child, Joyfully Made Fellowship, Southern End Gift Drive, Oaks Ministry, Solanco Strong, Samaritan's Purse, Water Street Mission, Micky's Mission of Hope.

This allows for \$3,000.00 to be donated to other missions later this year.

SILVER SISTERS

We had a great lunch at Hometown Kitchen and then came to the church for games. We enjoy being together!! Our next lunch will be Wednesday April 23 at 11:30. This time we are going to try the Conestoga Restaurant on East King Street Lancaster. All widows are welcome.

TRUSTEES

We had a beautiful warm day for work day. Lots of sticks picked up, trees trimmed along the cemetery driveway, and other things cleaned up. Dottie Garver and Dixie Clark see that we get nourished and refueled to continue more work. Thank you all for coming!!

We approved having a couple of the old partially dead trees cut down. We are still looking forward for the social hall to be repaired and painted. Have you noticed how much brighter the social hall lights are? We've had a couple of people come to look at the pews to see if they can be repaired. Many are cracking and have protruding nails. Since we are planning to replace the carpet in the church, we feel the pews should be repaired or replaced at the same time.

MISSION MUSINGS

This evening I am thinking about how wonderful it is to live in a community that has so many wonderful people, churches, businesses and wonderful ministries devoted to helping others. Boni and I had the opportunity to attend two events for two different ministries in the last week. The first was a Solanco Neighborhood Ministries Summit at Mechanic Grove church. The folks at SNM are working on a vision for the future and sought input from pastors, volunteers and community members who are involved with SNM and the community. Thirty four people attended and many ideas, concerns, suggestions and questions were shared that will help SNM become an even more vital leader in helping those in need in the Solanco area. We at M. O. are an important part of this ministry and we can be assured that our contributions of time and finances are appreciated and being used wisely and effectively.

The other event was the Solid Rock Youth Ministries dinner and auction. Solid Rock provides a much needed outreach to the youth in the southern end. They are a Christ centered ministry providing after school and summer programs, weekend retreats, mentoring, discipleship programs and much more focused on teaching the students how to live for others and how to live for Jesus.

These are just two of the now 19 ministry's we support through our Monthly Mission Focus giving.

My brother Dave and the rest of the Peru Crew returned home safely yesterday from their mission trip to the Amazon. Dave sent several photos that I will get to Mike to show on a Sunday morning during Joys and Concerns. The photos will show some of the wonderful things the crew did to help the folks in Tamshiyacu and to show the love of Jesus in that remote region of God's amazing world. Another great mission that we have supported for nearly 20 years !!!

All these ministries are a part of our commitment to follow Jesus's command to be His hands and feet and go into all the world preaching and teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Mark 16: 15, 16

Blessings, Dan Henry

REFLECTIONS

by Barry Girvin

Some Thoughts About the Word, Old

We often misuse words just because they seem right. For example, people at MO are used to calling the Covenanter Church the Old Church. In a way that is correct, it is old. It is the oldest Covenanter Church in North America. However, if you use the term to mean older than MO, it is not correct.

The Covenanters bought the land from MO in 1753 and built their church in 1754. That building was taken down in 1849 and rebuilt with a new design. MO Church was founded in 1727, and the main part of the church building that we worship in today was built about 1790. So, the congregation and the church at MO are older than the Covenanter congregation and their church building.

In another context, we often use the expression, "Old Folks". If used correctly, the expression should refer to age, but even that is difficult to pin down. At what age are you old? Are you expected to feel and act different when you reach that magic age? When does middle age turn to old age? As you age, why do we remember yesteryear more clearly than we remember what happened yesterday?

Statistics tell us that more people than ever before are living to age 100, yet mortality rates for children are high in some parts of the county including the Amish in our area. Modern medicine has many benefits if you can afford it and if you are not a vaccine denier.

Many questions, few answers. What is clear, old should not carry with it any stereotype which labels folks as useless or even inferior to the younger set. Genetics offers hope that we may at least live as long as our ancestors, but that can be advanced or reduced by lifestyle. We all know the truth, only the Lord knows when and why we pass away. However, this reality should not be used as an excuse to lead a slovenly life.

A View from the pew!

Take time to love and be loved –It is God's greatest gift.

Take time to be friendly – It is the road to happiness.

Take time to dream – It is what the future is made of.

Take time to pray – It is the greatest power on Earth.

There is time for everything.

Middle Octorara Presbyterian
Church
Income and Expense Statement
GENERAL FUND 01, March 2025

BEGINNING BALANCE, March 1, 2025		3,354.10
INCOME		
Offerings	\$16,104.00	
Per Capita	236.00	
Manse Rent	1,362.45	
Account Interest	0.13	
Chapel Rent	300.00	
Benevolence	1,585.00	
TOTAL INCOME	19,587.58	
TOTAL CASH & INCOME		22,941.68
EXPENSES		
Pastoral Salary	\$6,026.73	
Pastoral Mileage	679.00	
Pastoral Pension	2,507.73	
Pastoral Technology	50.00	
Secretary-Treasurer	720.50	
Accountant Fees	115.00	
Payroll Taxes	46.19	
Advertising	31.84	
Office Supplies	170.94	
Church Supplies	38.39	
Copier Lease	120.32	
Choir Music- Senior	38.35	
Electricity	389.77	
Insurance	3,447.25	
Telephone/internet	104.49	
Cleaning Service	480.00	
Per Capita Payment	236.00	
Tsfr. Session Benev. Fund	1,585.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	16,787.50	
ENDING BALANCE, March 31, 2025		6,154.18

The following is the weekly breakdown of offerings:

March 2 -	General Fund	2,895.00	Benevolence	140.00
March 9 -	General Fund	3,690.00	Benevolence	355.00
March 16 -	General Fund	1,653.00	Benevolence	325.00
March 23 -	General Fund	2,714.00	Benevolence	270.00
March 30 -	General Fund	2,408.00	Benevolence	175.00

An additional \$ 4,642.58 General Fund money and \$320.00 Benevolence money was received by mail etc.

	<u>Monthly Budget</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Monthly Received</u>	<u>YTD Received</u>	<u>YTD Expenses</u>
General Fund	18,164.20	47,226.92	18,002.58	44,368.59	48,883.03
Benevolence	1,192.30	3,099.98	1,585.00	3,358.00	

Happy Birthday and Anniversary to...



April birthday's

8 – JoAnn Irwin
9 – Dale Phillips
10 – Gene Graver
18 – Amanda Lefever, Dave Garver
John Garver, Faye Reinhart,
Todd Reinhart
23 – Boni Henry, Cheryl Girvin
26 – Lindsey Neiss
29- Amanda Herr

May birthday's through the 5th

5 – Robin Hammond

Anniversaries

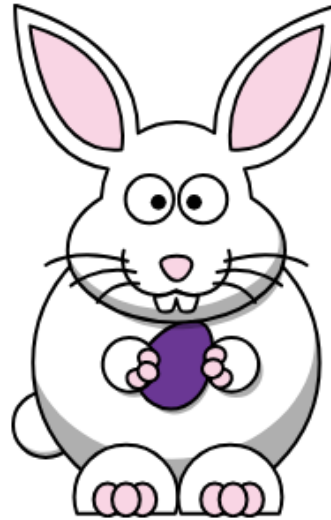
24 – James & Theresa Williams

Anniversaries

5 – Mike & Deb Hoover

Easter

marshmallow
jellybeans
celebrate
chocolate
decorate
basket
spring
church
Treats
Sunday
purple
flower
Easter
sweet
Jesus
cross
chick
candy
march
bunny
lamb
lily
hunt
pink
eggs



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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 6	April 7	April 8 Trustee Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	April 9 ROMEIO Club 9:00 a.m. Prayer 4 p.m. Choir practice 7:00 p.m.	April 10	April 11	April 12 Community Meal 4:00 p.m.
April 13 Communion	April 14	April 15	April 16 ROMEIO Club 9:00 a.m. Prayer 4 p.m. Choir practice 7:00 p.m.	April 17	April 18 Good Friday Service Little Britain 7 p.m.	April 19 Yard Sale 7:00 – 1:00
April 20 Sonrise service 7:00 a.m.	April 21	April 22	April 23 ROMEIO Club 9:00 a.m. Silver Sisters 11:30 Prayer 4 p.m. Choir practice 7:00 p.m.	April 24	April 25	April 25
April 27	April 28	April 29	April 30 ROMEIO Club 9:00 a.m. Prayer 4 p.m. Choir practice 7:00 p.m.	May 1	May 2	May 3

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

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 68, Bart, PA 17503
Physical/Shipping 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

Personnel Committee:
2023-2025- Brenda Roark
2024-2026- J Barry Girvin
2025-2027- Sue Ressel

CHURCH BOARDS

Session

Clerk of Session: Dan Henry
Phone: 717-381-9947
Email: danhenny55@aol.com
2023-2025-Joan Probst, Sue Ressel, Brenda Roark
2024-2026-Shirley Girvin, Richard Keene, Jonathan Welch
2025-2027-Vivian Caldwell, Dan Henry, Jerry Garver

Deacons

Administrator: Pastor John Barlow
Phone: 717-377-4570
mail: barlowjohn604@gmail.com
2023-2025-Annie Frackman, Dottie Garver, Kathy Harvey, Cathy Miller
2024-2026-Kim Barlow, Dixie Clark, Linda Farmer, Sue Herr
2025-2027-Koryn Barrett, Andy Keene, Val Keene, Elaine Ressel

Trustees

President: Jeff Frackman
Phone: 717-989-6896
2023-2025-Rose Griest, Boni Henry, Sam Reinhart
2024-2026-Jeff Frackman, Herb Girvin, Nancy Minchoff
2025-2027-Bob Mowery, Dale Phillips, Rick Ressel