

MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 2025 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.

PASTOR JOHN'S THOUGHTS

John Calvin (1509-1564), the renowned Protestant Reformer of Geneva, Switzerland, wrote something which caught my attention, that I believe has the potential to enrich our Christian experience: "People will never worship God with a sincere heart, or be aroused to fear and obey him with sufficient zeal, until they properly understand how much they are indebted to his mercy."

When we properly understand that our lives are based entirely on the undeserved mercy of God, his grace freely given to us, and not at all on anything we might contribute ourselves, this leads us to three attitudes and approaches to God: praise for all that he is, thanks for all that he sends our way, and submission to all that he asks of us, in the confidence that he only desires what is for our ultimate good. What would our lives look like, if we offered little prayers every day and all through the day, like, "I praise you God for your love, faithfulness, justice, truth, wisdom, mercy, compassion, kindness, surpassing greatness,...", I thank you God for a new day, for a measure of health, for friends and family, for an awesome world and universe, for food in my belly, and a roof over my head, and clothing on my back, for purposeful jobs to do, for your Church in heaven and on earth, for your holy Word...", and "Do you have something for me to do today?", "Do you have something you want to say to me today?". It seems to me that this kind of continuous prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17) would have the effect of opening wide the spigots of God's grace in our lives and causing our moments and our days to be part of the life of God's kingdom in this world. Could we enjoy any greater blessing and privilege?

I am deeply grateful for the ways the saints of MO illustrate this truth and practice each and every day, and for the honor you afford me to be pastor of such a vibrant local church!

CHURCH LIFE

CHOIR

Well the weather and illness has taken a toll on the choir. Please pray for our choir members Pastor John, Joan, and Sue Ressel who are recovering and for Sue Herr who is working and care-giving for her hubby. They have been very faithful members of the choir, and we miss them when they aren't there. So bear with us when our numbers are smaller. We do the best we can. We are working on music for Lent and Easter. And I am thankful for every voice!!

DEACONS

Where would we be without the faithful labors of our Deacons? People arriving and departing worship services wouldn't receive a warm personal greeting. First time visitors wouldn't receive a nifty gift bag. People worshipping in the Welcome Center wouldn't hear announcements and joys and concerns from the floor of the Sanctuary. Members and friends wouldn't receive birthday and anniversary cards. Homebound and sick wouldn't receive get well, thinking of you, and seasonal cards. A whole host of practical helps, rides, visits, meals, wouldn't happen. In short, MO would be a very different community than it is: cold, disconnected, and uncaring. But we are not any of that. We are warm, connected, and caring, thanks in large measure to our amazing Deacons!

SILVER SISTERS

We had a great lunch with about eight of us at Olive Garden. Lots of conversation and I think the lunch went for nearly 2 hours. Our next one will be on Wednesday February 26 at 11:30. We are going to try "Joe on The Go Coffee" place in Lampeter. We hope the weather cooperates and we have a good turn-out. We do enjoy being together!!

THANK YOU

My medical "event" is coming up on the 2 ½ year mark. I just want to thank everyone for their support. Whether it has been prayers or purchasing items through our many fundraisers, nothing went unnoticed!

I feel I am finally in my healing journey and starting to be able to help/do more. Thanks again for everything you've all done!
Robin Hammond

TRUSTEES

Have you noticed how clear the stone signs at each driveway are. That's due to new plexiglass to look through. And hopefully in the next couple of months the social hall and hallway will look all refreshed. We are getting new lighting and having the walls and ceilings repaired and painted. It's been the same for a long time. We try to keep things looking inviting. We appreciate the donations to the Building Fund. If you notice anything needing attention, let a board member know.



February birthdays

13 – Sam Reinhart
18 – Brad Phipps
20 – William Messick
21 – Sue Ressel
22 – Brian Kauffman

February anniversaries

14 – Ethel & Erick Walden
14 – James & Robin Hammond
14 – Richard & Nanci Caskey

A View from the pew! - "Daily Prayer lessens daily care."

REFLECTIONS

by Barry Girvin

Focus on 300th Anniversary

On February 9, I will present a “Minute for History” at the Sunday worship service. I will explain how the Cairnes diaries will be highlighted during one of the “Minutes for History” each month in 2027. Rev. William G. Cairnes lived from 1839 to 1918. He was pastor at Middle Octorara from 1877 to 1914. The diaries are a rich source of information on his education, life during the Civil War, his family including his thoughts on love and marriage, his proposal to Belle, preaching and pastoral support, changing times, events effecting the folks of Bart Township and his retirement. It is all there and much more waiting to be harvested by Richard Keene and myself and anyone else who would like to join in the work.

What follows is a list of questions for use in interviewing people who have been long time participants in the Middle Octorara experience. A booklet will feature their stories. However, if an interview is not your style, please see #4. If you wish to share your story in writing, please see Shirley for help and support. If you have a memory of an amusing, unique, or heartwarming moment, please share it with Deb so it will not be lost in time.

_____ interviewed by _____
_____ on _____.

1. When and where were you born.
2. Where have you lived in the community and what have you done for a living?
3. Will you tell us about your family background and when you came in contact with Middle Octorara.
4. Would you share some memories of Middle Octorara from your childhood and adult life.

POSSIBLE PROMPTS FOR INTERVIEWS – Leadership roles, Mission trips, youth group. Hayrides to Shea’s cabin at Hollaway, Anniversary celebrations/pageants, WWII letters to soldiers.

5. What are your memories about the pastors that served Middle Octorara during your lifetime?
6. What are some of your memories about your school days? Elementary, high school, college.
7. Have you had community involvement such as politics, fire companies, Scouts, coaching?
8. What have you done for fun – hobbies, sports, vacations, church sponsored activities

Sam Reinhart has a three year calendar, but has only commitments for the anniversary day – August 7, 2027, and a Presbytery meeting at Middle Octorara. The 275th Anniversary celebration featured several special events throughout the year. There was special music, the honoring of leaders, veterans, mission programs, a pageant, dress-up-day in period costumes, and others. We had the people and resources to work with. Now, we have the resources but are short on people and creative ideas. If you have ideas about what we should plan or are willing to volunteer some time to help, please contact a member of the committee. Barry Girvin, Deb Hoover, Pastor John Barlow, Dan Henry, Sara Kauffman, Richard Keene, Beth Messick, Jodi Mylin, Sam Reinhart. There is a 300th Anniversary mailbox located with other mailboxes outside the copy room.

Please keep those recipes coming in for the cookbook. Barry is working with Bill and Joyce Russell to produce a 35 minute video to be used for PR during 2026. Barry will show the video and answer questions at any club, church, or social organization looking for a speaker. It is impossible to cover the 300 years in 35 minutes, so there will be a focus on three periods: Early Days, Glory Days, and the Church in a More Secular World. It will be an opportunity to share our story, invite folks to our 2027 events, and maybe even sell some cookbooks.

MISSION MUSINGS

I am writing this from Hilton Head SC where we had 2 inches of snow overnight and it is 28 degrees this morning. Doesn't seem like much snow to us but it is only the third measurable snow on the island since 1989. Since they don't have any snow removal equipment I believe they must say "God put it there and He will take it away someday" 😊 Most businesses are closed and the authorities are asking people to stay home if possible.

On Saturday January 14 we held our annual Nuts n Bolts Consignment Sale. There were 17 vendors and a steady stream of buyers throughout the day. We profited over \$750.00 to help support our friends in the Amazon with more medical supplies.

I should have photos of the most recent medical supplies Margarita has purchased for the hospital in the near future. My brother Dave and several others are planning to go to Tamshiyacu in March. If anyone is interested in going along just contact me. Dave would love for more people to join them on this trip. You can sign up to go for one or two weeks whichever you would prefer. I'm sure Dave will share photos and stories of the trip while they are there and after they return.

Our annual yard sale will be held on Saturday April 19 from 7 am till 1 pm. Start sorting and saving your unused and unwanted valuables and donate them to this Peru mission fundraiser. We will also have outdoor space available to rent again this year so spread the word and come join us as a vendor, buyer or both.

Our video series during Sunday School right now is Max Lucado "God Never Gives Up on You". It is about the life adventures of Jacob and how God continued to be with Jacob even though Jacob continued to make bad decisions. Join us if you can but if not I encourage you to read about Jacob starting in Genesis chapter 25. You will learn again that God's grace is stronger than our sin just as it was with Jacob.

John 1:16
Blessings, Dan Henry

GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES January 2025

The following is the individual weekly breakdown of offerings:

January 5 -	General Fund	2,622.00	Benevolence	135.00
January 12 -	General Fund	3,863.00	Benevolence	140.00
January 19 -	General Fund	1,631.00	Benevolence	80.00
January 26 -	General Fund	965.00	Benevolence	210.00

An additional \$4,248.45 General Fund money and \$93.00 Benevolence was received by mail etc.

YTD GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES

	Monthly Budget	YTD Budget	Monthly Received	YTD Received	YTD Expenses
General Fund	14,531.36	14,531.36	13,329.45	13,329.45	17,681.74
Benevolence	953.84	953.84	658.00	658.00	

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

01/30/2025 10:18 AM

BEGINNING BALANCE, January 1, 2025		10,668.62
INCOME		
Offerings	\$9,555.00	
Per Capita	2,042.00	
Initial Offering	210.00	
Manse Rent	1,362.45	
Chapel Rent	160.00	
Benevolence	658.00	
TOTAL INCOME	13,987.45	
TOTAL CASH & INCOME		24,656.07
 EXPENSES		
Pastoral Salary	\$6,281.73	
Pastoral Mileage	757.77	
Pastoral Pension	2,507.73	
Pastoral Technology	50.00	
Secretary-Treasurer	566.50	
Clerical/Treasurer Mileage	147.40	
Accountant Fees	90.00	
Payroll Taxes	23.46	
Advertising	31.84	
Office Supplies	30.03	
Copier Lease	120.32	
Electricity	399.99	
Propane Gas	988.77	
Insurance	26.00	
Burner Repairs/maint.	1,494.00	
Misc. Repairs/Mainten.	155.79	
Telephone/internet	104.41	
Snow Removal	1,485.00	
Guest Minister/Speaker	150.00	
Per Capita Payment	2,042.00	
Tsfr. Session Benev. Fund	658.00	
Burner Repairs-Manse	229.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	18,339.74	
ENDING BALANCE, January 31, 2025		6,316.33



ORPHAN
ASSISTANCE
FOUNDATION

www.transitionsoaf.org

January 26, 2025

Dear Friends,

Christmas may be but a memory for most of us, but Christmas cheer continued through January as our Odesa team took Christmas camps to the orphanage in Pishana and to our families in the villages throughout the month. Packages filled with food and necessities, warm clothes, and rechargeable flashlights had already been delivered via mail to all the families prior to Christmas so they could be enjoyed throughout the holidays. Our Christmas camps provided the opportunity for fellowship and extending our love and care to the families up close and personal. Children and families alike enjoyed stories, songs, games, crafts, and small gifts for all. Since pictures seem to tell it best, please enjoy a peek at the Christmas camps and the blessings that your gifts made possible for our folks.





Although Christmas is a magical time, none of this happened by magic. The Christmas Project could not have been such a great success without you who support us with thoughts, prayers and gifts. Please know that you are an essential part of this mission. Thank you for all you do! Special thanks are also in order for two of our teammates. Oksana, master planner, and Maxim, driver extraordinaire, are largely responsible for the success of the trips to the orphanage and the villages through their leadership. I'm not sure how we would manage without these two special folks. We are so very grateful for them and their selfless service.



Oksan

Maxim

As the Christmas Camps were being conducted in the villages, several of the husbands/fathers from the families who are caring for our orphans were called to the war, leaving the women to care for families alone. On a more personal note, three of our young men have now been drafted into the army – Pasha, who has been serving for over a year now, and Maxim and Radik, who have just recently been drafted. All three are former residents of our Boys' Home and each is currently renting to own one of our cottages. Radik joined our staff in the past year, and he and his wife welcomed a baby girl in July. We will miss his presence on our team while he serves.

As Ukraine moves ahead into a new year, war continues to sow uncertainty and trauma. From frequent drone and missile activity and interruptions in utilities, to saying goodbye to loved ones who have been called to serve, everyone is affected all of the time. Those who are serving and those who wait at home for them to return would much appreciate your prayers and positive thoughts. As always, we will continue to love, care for, and support our folks through it all. With gratitude and love, Audrey

Donation Information

Checks may be written to:

Transitions Orphan Assistance Foundation, Inc.

541 Evening Sky Drive
Oviedo, FL 32765

-or-

3530 Diamond Leaf Lane
Oviedo, FL 32765

Online options to donate can be found on our website: www.transitionsoaf.org



PRESIDENTIAL TRIVIA - (as of 2022)

1. Which president played five musical instruments? a) Woodrow Wilson b) Calvin Coolidge c) Richard M. Nixon d) Bill Clinton
2. Who was the first president to write a biography of another president? a) John Quincy Adams b) Grover Cleveland c) William Howard Taft d) Herbert Hoover
3. How many presidents were veterans of the Civil War? a) Three b) Seven c) Ten d) Fourteen
4. Who is the only president never to have been elected to national office? a) Millard Fillmore b) William McKinley c) Harry S. Truman d) Gerald Ford
5. Who was the first sitting president to visit an Asian country? a) Woodrow Wilson b) Franklin D. Roosevelt c) Dwight D. Eisenhower d) Lyndon B. Johnson
6. Which president was nicknamed "Old Rough and Ready"? a) Zachary Taylor b) Ulysses S. Grant c) Theodore Roosevelt d) Dwight D. Eisenhower.
7. How many presidents have died in the White House? a) Two b) Four c) Six d) Eight
8. Who was the first president to meet the pope? a) James Monroe b) Chester A. Arthur c) Woodrow Wilson d) John F. Kennedy
9. How many state capitals are named after U.S. presidents? a) Two b) Four c) Seven d) Twelve
10. Which president's last name was originally Blythe? a) James K. Polk b) James Garfield c) Ronald Reagan d) Bill Clinton
11. Which president disliked his official portrait so much that he had it burned? a) Thomas Jefferson b) Theodore Roosevelt c) Lyndon B. Johnson d) Donald Trump
12. Who was the first president to name a woman to his cabinet? a) Grover Cleveland b) Calvin Coolidge c) Franklin D. Roosevelt d) John F. Kennedy
13. Which president believed that he lost the election that put him in office? a) James Madison b) Rutherford B. Hayes c) Richard M. Nixon d) George H.W. Bush
14. How many presidents have served on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee? a) Five b) Eight c) Thirteen d) Nineteen.
15. Who was the first president born in a hospital? a) John Tyler b) James Buchanan c) William Howard Taft d) Jimmy Carter
16. Which president played professional baseball under the pseudonym "Wilson" to make money while maintaining his amateur standing so he could play college sports? a) James Garfield b) Herbert Hoover c) Dwight D. Eisenhower d) Gerald R. Ford
17. Who was the first president to live to ninety? a) John Adams b) Martin Van Buren c) Andrew Johnson d) Ronald Reagan
18. Which president lost his wife to tuberculosis two weeks before he lost his bid for reelection? a) James K. Polk b) Franklin Pierce c) Benjamin Harrison d) Calvin Coolidge
19. Which president chose the location of the White House? a) George Washington b) Thomas Jefferson c) James Monroe d) John Quincy Adams :
20. Which president is a three-time Grammy winner? a) Jimmy Carter b) Bill Clinton c) Barack Obama d) Donald Trump.


ANSWERS

1. C. Richard M. Nixon. Nixon could play the piano, violin, clarinet, saxophone, and accordion. He helped remake his political image after losing the 1962 California governor's race by performing a piano concerto he composed himself on an episode of The Jack Paar Program.
2. D. Herbert Hoover. After his time in the Oval Office, Hoover wrote a biography of Woodrow Wilson titled The Ordeal of Woodrow Wilson.
3. B. Seven. Andrew Johnson, Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James Garfield, Chester Arthur, Benjamin Harrison, and William McKinley.
4. D. Gerald Ford. Ford was made vice president after Spiro Agnew resigned and then became president after Richard Nixon resigned. Ford then lost the 1976 presidential election to Jimmy Carter.
5. B. Franklin D. Roosevelt. FDR went to Iran in 1943 for the Yalta Conference, making him the first president to visit an Asian country while in office.
6. A. Zachary Taylor. As a U.S. Army officer, Taylor was given the nickname for his willingness to bear the hardships of the field alongside his soldiers.
7. A. Two. William Henry Harrison died on April 4, 1841, and Zachary Taylor died on July 9, 1850. Both died of illnesses.
8. C. Woodrow Wilson. He met Pope Benedict XV on January 4, 1919. No other president met with the pontiff until Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1959.
9. B. Four. Jackson, Mississippi; Jefferson City, Missouri; Lincoln, Nebraska; and Madison, Wisconsin. Two world capitals are named after U.S. presidents: Washington, DC, and Monrovia, Liberia.
10. D. Bill Clinton. After Clinton's mother remarried, he took his stepfather's last name so he would share a last name with his half-brother, Roger Clinton Jr.
11. B. Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt hated the first attempt at capturing his presidential likeness. The painter, famed French portraiture artist Théobald Chartran, said he had "never had a more restless or more charming sitter."
12. C. Franklin D. Roosevelt. Roosevelt nominated Frances Perkins as secretary of labor in 1933. Presidents have appointed sixty-four women in total to cabinet-level positions.
13. B. Rutherford B. Hayes. He told a group of reporters after the disputed 1876 election: "I am of the opinion that the Democrats have carried the country and elected [Samuel] Tilden."
14. B. Eight. Andrew Jackson, James Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, Benjamin Harrison, Warren G. Harding, John F. Kennedy, Barack Obama, and Joe Biden. Only Buchanan and Biden chaired the committee.
15. D. Jimmy Carter. Carter was born on October 1, 1924, at the Lillian G. Carter Nursing Center in Plains, Georgia.
16. C. Dwight D. Eisenhower. On June 20, 1945, Eisenhower told Giants' manager Mel Ott that his professional baseball playing was "the one secret of my life." Despite violating his amateur standing, Eisenhower went on to play baseball and football at West Point.
17. A. John Adams. Herbert Hoover, the 31st president, was the next president to live to ninety.
18. C. Benjamin Harrison. Caroline Harrison died of tuberculosis on October 25, 1892. On November 8, 1892, Harrison lost to Grover Cleveland, the man he had defeated four years earlier.
19. George Washington. In accordance with the provisions of the Residence Act of 1790, Washington chose the location of the north walls and entrance of the new executive mansion along Pennsylvania Avenue. Construction of the White House was completed in 1800.
20. A. Jimmy Carter. Carter has been nominated nine times in the Best Spoken Word Album category and has won three times: one for Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis in 2006; another for A Full Life: Reflections at Ninety in 2015; and the third for his autobiography Faith: A Journey For All in 2018.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb. 2	Feb. 3	Feb. 4	Feb. 5 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Prayer 4 p.m. Choir practice 7:00 p.m.	Feb. 6	Feb. 7	Feb. 8
Feb. 9 MOPW mtg. after church Praise service-Union 4:30 p.m.	Feb. 10	Feb. 11 Trustee Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	Feb. 12 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Prayer 4 p.m. Choir practice 7:00 p.m.	Feb. 13	Feb. 14 	Feb. 15 Community meal 4:00 p.m.
Feb. 16	Feb. 17	Feb. 18	Feb. 19 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Prayer 4 p.m. Choir practice 7:00 p.m.	Feb. 20	Feb. 21	Feb. 22
Feb. 23	Feb. 24	Feb. 25	Feb. 26 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Silver Sisters 11:30 a.m. Prayer 4 p.m. Choir practice 7:00 p.m.	Feb. 27	Feb. 28	March 1 Bart Mud sale parking at church all day

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

CHURCH BOARDS

Session

Clerk of Session: Dan Henry
Phone: 717-381-9947
Email: danhensy55@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