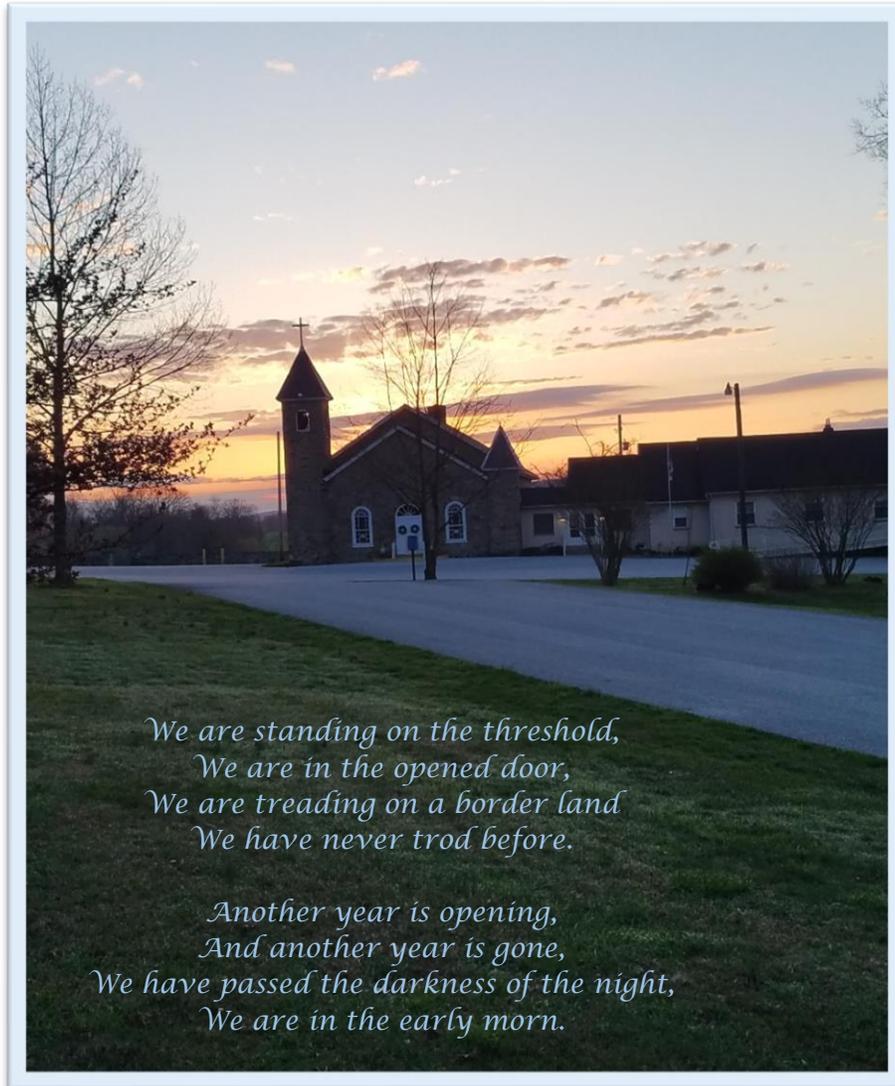


# MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *JANUARY 2021 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

*It's a dated illustration, but a good one, I think: An old Scot operated a small rowboat as a water taxi. On one of its oars he had carved the word FAITH and on the other WORKS. When one of his customers asked him to explain, he offered a demonstration. Dropping the FAITH oar, he used the WORKS oar alone, and the boat went around in a circle. Using the FAITH oar by itself had the same effect, but in the opposite direction. Neither method would advance the boat one nautical inch toward its destination. Then he pulled with both oars, and the boat went straight and true and easily reached its goal. He explained that this is how it is in the Christian life. Dead works not grounded in faith are useless, and faith without works is also dead, getting a person precisely nowhere. But faith and works pulling together make for safety, progress and blessing.*

*Scripture certainly backs this up. Paul says in Romans 7, "the things I don't want to do I keep on doing, and the things I want to do I cannot accomplish on my own. Who will deliver me from this body of death?" He asked the right question when he started not with "what" but with "who" because the answer is not a religion or a philosophy, a technique, a program or a product, but a Person. How does Paul answer his question, "Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!" The solution for our inability to walk in God's good will for our lives is what God has done for us in his Son our Savior, and our faith in him.*

*Our works should begin with looking to Jesus and listening for what he wants to do through us as we trust in him. Works that are not linked to faith are a complete waste of time. They are our idea and not what God has for us. They are going in circles rather than his direction for our living.*

*At the same time, faith that does not issue in works is equally pointless. The Apostle James says in his Letter, "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." God has work for us to do as we listen to him and trust in him. Jesus wants not just to save us from sin and death, but to live his life of love through each of us as we yield to him and depend on him.*

*I believe the faith and works rowboat has application not only to our individual Christian walks, but also to the life of congregations. I have had parishioners say to me, "I can't do anything anymore," referring to practical service in God's kingdom that they simply can no longer perform due to changes in their circumstances. Often that has been followed, I'm happy to report, by the words: "But I can still pray, and I feel God calling me more and more to that." How much we need people whose physical knees may be worn out through long service, to employ their spiritual knees in prayer, so that those who can carry out the plan are well supported in that effort. And how much can be accomplished simply through believing prayer.*

*MO, I think you do this so well! I commend you and I give thanks to God for the privilege of being your pastor. As we stand on the threshold of a new calendar year, let's keep in mind the necessity of coordinating our faith and our works, so that we don't go in circles, but move in the straight line of what God wants us to do in the strength he provides.*

*Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you always,*

*Pastor John*

## **CHURCH HAPPENINGS**

### **CHOIR**

We were so glad for the good turnout for the cantata on Christmas Eve. The weather forecast kept some away, but there were several extended family members here to worship together. Choir member Sue Herr will be having surgery this week, so will be recovering for awhile. Please pray for a smooth recovery. Brandon loves the choir!! He learns parts of the songs because of repetition, but often tells me he loves being in the choir, and that he will sing "loud and proud"!! May our music be a blessing to your worship experience. Happy New Year!!

### **DEACONS**

The deacons met at Hometown Kitchen for breakfast on December 5th. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and great food.

After breakfast, we met back at church to sign 26 Christmas cards, 12 birthday cards, 2 anniversary cards and 7 thinking of you cards. I encouraged the deacons to send cards to our shut ins at various senior homes. The high care seniors haven't had any visitors since before the covid19 lock down in February.

I would like to thank Val Keene, Lloyd Miller and Marlene Fromm for their services to our church as deacons.

I would like to thank Jonathan Welch for accepting to serve another three years.

I would like to welcome four people who chose to accept the call to become deacons. Dixie Clark, Nancy Cox, Susan Herr and Kim Barlow.

From our families to your families. We want to wish everyone a very happy and blessed Christmas and a happy new year!!! Dale Phillips

### **SESSION**

January 10 - We will ordain and install newly elected church officers during the morning worship service.

January 10 - Session meeting following the worship service. Lunch will be provided.

January 31 - Our winter congregation meeting will be held immediately following the worship service.

We will review all financial reports from 2020, elect an auditing committee, a nominating committee and discuss other matters of the church.

### **SILVER SISTERS**

We invite all widows to join us at Hometown Kitchen for lunch on Thursday January 14 at 11:30 AM. Anyone that would like to play games is welcome to go back to the church afterwards.

## TRUSTEES

At our December meeting, we held election of officers. They officers remain the same for another year:

President-Jeff Frackman, Vice-President-Andy Keene, Secretary-Rose Griest.

We welcome Nancy Minchoff back to Trustees, and thank you to Dixie Clark whose term ended.

We do try to keep up with repairs and upkeep of the church and grounds. If you notice something that needs attention, mention it to one of the Trustees. Some stonework repair is planned up in the cemetery, but will probably wait until Spring.

We accepted the bid of the maintenance of the grounds (mowing). We will have the same company at the same price for 2021.

## MISSIONS

These are items Margarita purchased with the latest funds given by 1st Presbyterian Church of Jefferson City Missouri and us. The wheelchairs are a dream come true for that hospital. Dave said the only ones they had were wooden with broken backs and no foot rests. Praise God for blessing us so we can bless others.



## MISSION MUSINGS

What a busy month it has been with lots of giving opportunities here at M. O. and for sure our church family responded. Our mission focus for November was the Solanco Neighborhood Services Christmas gift drive and along with the \$300.00 to purchase gifts from the Session Fund many folks brought gifts and placed under the sanctuary tree as well.

We also sponsored an Angel tree for gifts for Solanco homeless students and every gift card and gift tag was filled!!! Folks also placed socks, gloves and hats on the tree that will be given to New Hope Ministry to be sold at the Community Closet to raise funds for their ministry.

Our December mission focus was Solanco Strong which was organized by the Solanco Education Foundation to help Solanco students in numerous ways.

We also purchased bedding, towels, other essentials and a few toys for a local family of seven with money from the Youth Fund.

There is much need in our community and our church family have responded with tremendous support and love in the name of Jesus.

Also on December 7th Pastor John, Boni and I went to the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center near Baltimore to help process shoeboxes filled with gifts to be sent around the world proclaiming and spreading the gospel. The day we were there the boxes were being processed to go to Malawi. We had an enjoyable day and hopefully next year we will be in a Covid free world and more folks will be able to join us.

Also, I received an email that 2 of our M. O. boxes that we used the follow my box labels are going to the Dominican Republic.

We also sent funds to our sister church in Tamshiyacu to sponsor the annual Christmas party for the children. I should have photos to share from that gathering soon.

On Sunday December 6th thirteen folks went caroling to 8 of our home bound members. Everyone had a wonderful time and I am not sure who enjoyed it more, those caroling or those who were home bound. We returned to a wonderful meal and fellowship at church thanks to Shirley Miller and Jodi Mylin.

This has been an unusual and sometimes difficult year but it also has given God's people an opportunity to be even more involved in helping others. I believe we at M. O. have done that and trust we will continue to do so in the coming year. May we seek God's guidance and His will as we continue to serve Him.

My News Years prayer is:

If there's anyone reading this anywhere or any place Who doesn't know of God's love and amazing grace I pray you will ask Jesus to come into your heart And accept Him as your savior before this life you depart.

Psalms 27: 1-3

Blessings

Dan Henry

# REFLECTIONS

by Barry Girvin

## *“You won’t have Nixon to kick around anymore”*

This statement was made by Richard Nixon after losing the presidential election in 1960 and the governors race in California in 1962. Nixon claimed that he had been hounded by the media and by retiring to private life he would be taking away their red meat, their ratings and thus their sponsors.

Although Nixon made a political comeback, this story sounds very familiar to us today.

Where to start with this? There are many who believe deeply in their religion, but then treat their politics like a religion. Why? Because the media makes millions training them to think a certain way.

Religion does not compromise. You cannot choose which parts of the Apostle’s Creed to follow or which of the Commandments to follow, you are either in or out, no compromise!

Politics is based on the premise that well meaning people can come together and compromise in order to get things done, like Ike and Democrats Lyndon Johnson and Sam Rayburn in the 1950s, or Ronald Reagan and Speaker of the House Tip O’Neil, a Democrat, in the 1980s.

However, the media does not see it that way. They try to make it like a religion – no compromise. Fox News achieved high ratings during the Obama years by using what might be called a “doctrine” that went something like this. Democrats are socialists in sheep’s clothing who will destroy private initiative with high taxes and unneeded restrictions. They are promoters of abortion and unrealistic tree huggers who believe in the climate change hoax. They will take away your guns and religious freedom. Many women and minorities are attracted to this way of thinking and will soon be running the country, so be careful! You can’t compromise with the likes of the Democrats without violating your principles.

That all changed when Donald Trump became president. Today, CNN and MSNBC ratings are higher than those of Fox in almost all time slots, and they enjoy the money that rolls in from sponsors. Their “doctrine” goes something like this. We must tax the rich so all can afford adequate medical care, have free college education, and student loan forgiveness. Women’s right to choose must be protected, and restrictions to slow climate change must be part of a move to alternative energy sources. This must be part of our planning or we will pay the price with terrible consequences with the clock ticking as the citizens of earth continue self-destruction. There must be reasonable restrictions on guns and law enforcement tactics. Since Republicans, the party of white privilege and “dog eat dog” capitalism, disagree with most of this, how can there be any room for compromise? Those that buy the CNN and MSNBC “doctrine” would be violating their principles by any form of compromise.

Not only did CNN and MSNBC enjoy a windfall by opposing Trump but comedians like Steven Colbert raised their ratings. In fact, Colbert was about to be pushed off of his time slot on CBS when Trump came along – easy pickin’. Now he has the highest rating among the late night hosts. Saturday Night Live has also improved its rating by the satire aimed at Trump. Why?

Doing satire on Trump and his political allies is just easier and more interesting than what was available from a rather dull eight years of Obama.

What is my point from all this? Religion and politics are not the same. The media "doctrines" have divided us and caused us to hate each other so they make money. The political center is gone as moderate or middle of the road politicians in both parties have been driven out. You are either a believer or you aren't, just like with religion.

What an irony, the media of the left sad to see Trump lose the election. Their meal ticket gone. CNN and MSNBC are scrambling to find another boogie man and Fox is sharpening its knives to take on Biden.

Don't listen to the fake "doctrines". Get your news from a variety of sources and think for yourself. There are many issues in which both political parties have similar views like trying to improve our infrastructure. Support efforts to work together on such issues and to achieve your ends by working together even if you have to give a little in the compromise process. It would not be a sin.

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### January birthdays

5 – Annie Frackman  
6 – Curtis Reinhart  
22 – Ray Wessner  
29 – Paul Armer, Tammy Mullis  
Faith Keene, Ed Girvin

### January anniversaries

30 – Jim & Kay Bueche

### February birthdays to the 7th

1 – Mindy Dalmas, Wayne Messick  
2 – John Ressel

### ***How many of you remember the rest of these jingles?***

1. "My bologna has a first name"
2. "I don't wanna grow up"
3. "Gimme a break, gimme a break"
4. "The best part of waking up"
5. "Sometimes you feel like a nut"
6. "I'd like to teach the world to sing"
7. "Reach out and touch someone"
8. "If you dare wear short shorts"
9. "They're magically delicious"
10. "Meow, meow, meow, meow"
11. "Plop, plop, fizz, fizz, oh what a relief it is"
12. "So kiss a little longer. Hold hands a little longer. Hold tight a little longer"

***.... and how many of you sang them?***



2 Corinthians 9

2020 "EXTEND A BLESSING" DONATIONS  
*Total \$450.00*

1. \$10.00 + \$100.00 for Samaritan's Purse
2. \$10.00 + \$90.00 for Mercy Ships
3. \$10.00 + \$40.00 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
4. 10.00 + 90.00 Solanco Food Bank
5. \$10.00 plus was used to purchase the ingredients to make 12 Doz. Super delicious Peanut Butter Chocolate Chip Cookies and they were given to Caregivers, Like Nurses, Nurses Aide's, Administrators, Teachers and of course Moms as a Thanksgiving Thank You!
6. \$10.00 + \$15.00 was given to Paralyzed Veterans of America
7. \$10.00 + \$15.00 was given to Paralyzed Veterans of America
8. \$10.00 + \$20.00 for UNICEF USA
9. \$10.00 + \$26.00 for Compassion International (food for malnourished children)
10. \$10.00 + \$40.00 for Water Street Mission
11. \$10.00 + \$90.00 to Ronald McDonald House-Hershey
12. \$10.00 + \$10.00 for Solanco Neighborhood Ministries Homeless Kits
13. \$10.00 + \$10.00 for Solanco Neighborhood Ministries Homeless Kits
14. \$10.00 + \$10.00 for Solanco Neighborhood Ministries Homeless Kits
15. \$10.00 + \$10.00 for Solanco Neighborhood Ministries Homeless Kits
16. \$10.00 + \$10.00 for Solanco Neighborhood Ministries Homeless Kits
17. \$10.00 + \$100.00 to Solanco Neighborhood Ministries
18. \$10.00 gave to a friend to buy gas.
19. \$10.00 given to Sr. Citizens struggling to make ends meet.

20. \$10.00 given to Sr. Citizens struggling to make ends meet.
21. \$10.00 + \$10.00 for Peru Medicine.
22. \$10.00 + \$10.00 for Peru Medicine.
23. \$10.00 to help sponsor a family through Mission of Hope with no money for Christmas.
  
24. \$10.00 + \$10.00 for a needy family.
25. \$10.00 + \$10.00 for a needy family.
26. \$10.00 + \$10.00 to St. Jude.
27. \$10.00 + \$10.00 to St. Jude.
28. \$10.00 + \$190.00 to help two local men with serious medical issues.
29. \$10.00 + \$40.00 to Hospice.
30. \$10.00 + \$40.00 to Hospice.
31. \$10.00 + \$15.00 to Humane League of Lancaster County.
32. \$10.00 + \$10.00 given to a needy person.
33. \$10.00 + \$30.00 to The Salvation Army Bell Ringers
34. \$10.00 + \$10.00 to a local business.
35. \$10.00 + \$10.00 to a local business.
36. \$10.00 to Neighborhood Ministries
37. \$10.00 to Neighborhood Ministries
38. \$10.00 to Neighborhood Ministries
39. \$10.00 + \$10.00 to Community Aid on Columbia Ave.
40. \$10.00 + \$10.00 to Living Water International.
41. \$10.00 + \$90.00 to a local widow with children.
42. \$10.00 + \$40.00 for a needy family.
43. \$10.00 + \$40.00 for food bank.
44. \$10.00 + \$90.00 for an unemployed father with 2 children.

\$450.00 plus an additional \$1,361.00 is equal to \$1,811.00 to help others!!!



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan. 3 Communion	Jan. 4	Jan. 5	Jan. 6 ROMEO club 9:00 a.m.	Jan. 7	Jan. 8	Jan. 9 Nuts & Bolts 7:00 – 1:00
Jan. 10 Installation of officers. Session Mtg.	Jan. 11	Jan. 12 Trustee Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	Jan. 13 ROMEO club 9:00 a.m.	Jan. 14 Silver Sisters 11:30	Jan. 15	Jan. 16
Jan. 17	Jan. 18	Jan. 19	Jan. 20 ROMEO club 9:00 a.m.	Jan. 21	Jan. 22	Jan. 23
Jan. 24	Jan. 25	Jan. 26	Jan. 27 ROMEO club 9:00 a.m.	Jan. 28	Jan. 29	Jan. 30
Jan. 31 Congregation Mtg. after worship svc.	Feb. 1	Feb. 2	Feb. 3 ROMEO club 9:00 a.m.	Feb. 4	Feb. 5	Feb. 6

## **CONTACT INFORMATION FOR REV. JOHN BARLOW**

Address: 433 W. Lincoln Ave  
Myerstown, PA 17067

Cellphone: 717-377-4570  
Email: [revjohnbarlow@aol.com](mailto:revjohnbarlow@aol.com)

### **CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Address:** 1199 Valley Road, Quarryville, PA 17566  
**Phone:** 717-786-3402 or 717-786-8284  
**Email:** [mopc\\_sec@comcast.net](mailto:mopc_sec@comcast.net)  
**Website:** [middleoctorara.org](http://middleoctorara.org)  
**Facebook:** middle octorara

**Church Secretary/Treasurer** Debbie Hoover  
**Phone:** 717-786-8284  
**Email:** [thehoovers@comcast.net](mailto:thehoovers@comcast.net) or [mopc\\_sec@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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:** [danhens55@aol.com](mailto:danhens55@aol.com)  
2019-2021-J. Barry Girvin, Susan Ressel, Koryn Barrett  
2020-2022-Jim Bueche, Kay Bueche, Joan Probst  
2021-2023-Jerry Garver, Dick Keene, Dale Phillips

#### **Deacons**

**Administrator:** Dale Phillips  
**Phone:** 717-587-1684  
**Email:** [bigdp1234@gmail.com](mailto:bigdp1234@gmail.com)  
2019-2021-Nancy Cox, Kathy Harvey, Sandra Shenk, Vivian Caldwell,  
2020-2022-Linda Farmer, Dottie Garver, Sara Kauffman, Sharon Mowery  
2021-2023-Kim Barlow, Dixie Clark, Sue Herr, Jonathan Welch

#### **Trustees**

**President:** Jeff Frackman  
**Phone:** 717-989-6896  
2019-2021-Douglas Henry, Andrew Keene, Samuel Reinhart  
2020-2022-Jeff Frackman, Shirley Girvin, Rose Griest  
2021-2023-Nancy Minchoff, Shirley Miller, Virgil Roark