

**MIDDLE OCTORARA
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
June 2024 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

In my ongoing quest for bargains, I came across a used CD of George Beverly Shea singing favorites from the Billy Graham crusades. One cut in particular has spoken to me: "Until Then" by Stuart Hamblen. I'll share the words to the first verse and the chorus directly. But first a word about the composer. Stuart Hamblen (1908-1989) was a country singer and Hollywood actor in the 1930s and 40s. He became famous as one of radio's first singing cowboys and appeared in ten westerns. He was also an alcoholic. In 1949 he reached a turning point when he attended a Billy Graham crusade in Los Angeles and gave his heart to Jesus. It was also a game changer for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, which went from drawing small crowds to drawing large crowds due to the conversion and public testimony of the number one radio personality of the West Coast at that time, Stuart Hamblen. He gave up the bottle and his secular career. He entered gospel ministry and wrote many gospel songs, among them "This Old House" and "It Is No Secret (What God Can Do)." "Until Then" goes like this:

My heart can sing when I pause to remember

A heartache here is but a stepping stone

Along a path that's winding always upward

This troubled world is not my final home.

CHORUS: But until then my heart will go on singing

Until then with joy I'll carry on

Until the day my eyes behold that city

Until the day God calls me home.

What a message! It truly puts things in proper perspective. We all have to deal with the fact of our mortality, and the crushing problems that come our way in this life. But withal we are granted the sure expectation of eternal life with our Savior in heaven. God gives to us all this wonderful promise in 1 Peter 1:3-7, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These come so that your faith may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

Keep on trusting, MO Friends. God will see you through, all the way to heaven! I am so blessed to be with you as your pastor on this journey.

CHURCH LIFE

DEACONS

One of the ways that God walks with us in the deep valleys of this fleeting life, is through his people, employing the gifts of the Holy Spirit he gives us for that purpose. 1 Peter 4:10-11 says, "Each one should use whatever Spiritual gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone serves, she should do it with the grace God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever. Amen." And 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 says, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God."

Our faithful Deacons are not the only ones who engage in this powerful ministry of companionship and encouragement, but they do lead the charge. Thank you for being God's arm of compassion and care among us!

SILVER SISTERS

We only got together one time in May. We went to Hometown Kitchen in Georgetown, so we could come back to the church to play games afterwards. We have fun doing that once in awhile.

In June, we will meet for lunch on Wednesday June 19 at 11:30 at Fox Meadow Creamery 193 East Main Street Leola. They serve a light lunch and delicious ice cream!! We can car-pool to this. All widows are welcome.

SUMMER MUSIC

It was a struggle getting the Special music this year. I can't tell you how many texts I made that never got answered and messages I left that didn't get called back. But finally, I feel like the schedule is nearly filled. Just waiting on a couple of confirmations.

June 2 Joan Probst
June 9 Emily Zook - cello
June 16 John Girvin
June 23 Koryn Barrett
June 30 Stephanie Pfeiffer
July 7 Kira Roark - cello

TRUSTEES

Some of the dedicated Trustees have worked hard to improve the upper cemetery by cutting the brush along the upper fence row. It's worthwhile taking a drive to the top to see how much nicer it looks.

At our meetings, we talk about things that need to be done soon and those that can be put on the "Future Project List". We got bids on the repair of the sign that was knocked over by a hit/run driver. The state police have the information that was received, so we must have patience and wait for the investigation.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

A pastor decided to skip church one Sunday morning and go play golf.

He told his assistant he wasn't feeling well. He drove to a golf course in another city, so nobody would know him.

He teed off on the first hole. A huge gust of wind caught his ball, carried it an extra hundred yards and dropped it right in the hole, for a 450 yard hole in one.

An angel looked at God and said, What did you do that for?

God smiled and said, "Who is he going to tell?"

MISSION MUSINGS

Tonight I am thinking about wisdom. Mostly because of Pastor John preaching on Proverbs the last few Sundays. The Book of Proverbs is full of wisdom and many of our current day sayings come from the Proverbs. Also one of my coworkers reminded me there are 31 chapters in the Book of Proverbs so we can read one chapter each day for a month and gain much wisdom. This is also the time of year when there are a lot of graduations. There are graduations for high school and college as well as kindergarten, elementary school, middle school and so on. We likely all agree young people need wisdom as much or more than adults. We can easily look around us and see that common sense and wisdom is lacking in today's world. The Book of Proverbs was written to show us the divine truth enabling us to look at life through God's eyes and then live accordingly. We can and should read God's word to find wisdom to live out our daily lives. Many people who are reading this have children and grandchildren who can greatly benefit from the wisdom you have gained and can now pass on to the younger generations. God puts us in the path of and gives us the opportunity to share our experiences and wisdom with young people every day. May we seek God's guidance, direction and blessing to share His wisdom with others.

Proverbs 3:5-7

Blessings, Dan Henry

GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES May 2024

The following is the individual weekly breakdown of offerings:

May 5 -	General Fund	2,915.00	Benevolence	325.00
May 12 -	General Fund	2,582.00	Benevolence	115.00
May 19-	General Fund	1,788.00	Benevolence	150.00
May 26 -	General Fund	2,740.00	Benevolence	145.00

An additional \$6,799.45 General Fund money and \$100.00 Benevolence money was received by mail etc.

YTD GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES

	Monthly Budget	YTD Budget	Monthly Received	YTD Received	YTD Expenses
General Fund	13,910.32	73,029.18	16,824.45	73,236.07	87,402.39
Benevolence	953.84	5,007.66	835.00	4,833.00	

				Middle Octorara Presbyterian Church	
				Income and Expense Statement	
				GENERAL FUND 01, May 2024	
BEGINNING BALANCE, May 1, 2024					15,912.53
INCOME					
Offerings				\$15,555.00	
Manse Rent				1,269.45	
Benevolence				835.00	
TOTAL INCOME				17,659.45	
TOTAL CASH & INCOME					33,571.98
EXPENSES					
Pastoral Salary				\$5,851.21	
Pastoral Mileage				993.61	
Pastoral Pension				2,189.93	
Pastoral Technology				50.00	
Secretary-Treasurer				760.00	
Accountant Fees				90.00	
Payroll Taxes				33.64	
Technology (Annual Streaming license)				84.00	
Safety/Security (Alwine yearly monitoring fee)				790.00	
Advertising				31.84	
Office Supplies (Stamps, PO Box yearly renewal, Staples order)				456.92	
Church Supplies (Paper towels, toilet paper, Coffee)				170.07	
Printing Exp/Supplies				145.68	
Copier Lease				240.64	
Choir Music- Senior (CCLI license)				165.00	
Electricity				299.84	
Plumbing Repairs/Maint. (Martin's water system check/supplies)				543.82	
Misc. Repairs/Mainten.				155.79	
Telephone/internet				93.98	
Cleaning Service				240.00	
Upkeep of Grounds				1,854.10	
Pest Control				165.00	
Trash Removal				492.76	
Tsfr. Session Benev. Fund				835.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES				16,732.83	
ENDING BALANCE, May 31, 2024					16,839.15

REFLECTIONS

by Barry Girvin

A Visit to Pequea Presbyterian Church

Last Saturday, Pequea Presbyterian Church, Salisbury Township, celebrated its 300th anniversary. Shirley and I, Wayne and Beth Messick, and Deb Hoover attended the event and came away with some ideas to share with our 300th anniversary committee.

I am often asked where we fit in the founding of Presbyterian Churches – congregations not buildings. A wonderful source for this information is The Octorara Family of Churches, compiled by A. Wayne Morris, and published by the Herald Publishing Company, in 1950. We have a copy in our library. I will not include all the churches listed in that book, but rather provide the names of churches that most locals will recognize.

1711 – Chestnut Level – Gravestone markings indicate that the congregation was organized as early as 1711.

1720 – Upper Octorara – Parkesburg

1721 – Donegal (Mount Joy)

1724 – Pequea (273 Cambridge Road, Salisbury Twp.)

1727 – Middle Octorara

1730 – Faggs Manor – Cochranville

1732 – Little Britain

1740 – Doe Run – Kennett Square

1741 – Leacock

1832 – Bellevue – Gap

1835 – Honey Brook

1851 – Penningtonville – Atglen

1854 – Free Presbyterian Church of Coleraine – Andrew Bridge

1857 – Union

1873 - Latta Memorial – Christiana

Each church has its unique story including the abolitionist Free Church, but Middle Octorara has the best history book – Faith and Works at Middle Octorara Since 1727 by Madison E. McElwain

Your ideas and support will be much appreciated as the 300th Anniversary Committee make plans for 2027.

Shirley Girvin wrote a recent newsletter column about entrepreneurs of Middle Octorara. If your family has a history of a successful business, please consider sharing the story that has been a part of your life. Any questions please contact Shirley.



June birthdays

3 – Sandra Shenk
4 – Lloyd Miller
12 – Andy Keene
13 – Theresa Williams
29 – Betty Hughes
30 – Tami Shaub

June anniversaries

10 – Clint & Aley Frackman
18 – Gene & Shirley Graver
21 – Stu & Jodie Mylin
26 – John & Cheryl Girvin
28 – Virgil & Brenda Roark

July through the 7th

4- Beth Messick
5 - Stacy Herr

1 – Carlton & Alie (Girvin) Armstrong
2 – Ken & Dottie Garver
5 – Ed & Melissa Cannon

World War II D-Day Allied Invasion



The original World War II D-Day occurred on June 6, 1944. On this historic day Allied troops invaded the beaches of Normandy, France. It is the largest amphibious assault in world history. This massive, bloody battle was the turning point of the war in the European theater.

On this day, 156,000 troops from the United States, Great Britain, and Canada stormed five beaches. American troops landed on Omaha and Utah beaches. At the same time, British troops landed on Gold and Sword Beach. And Canadian forces landed on Juno Beach. 4,000 Allied troops died on these beaches on D-Day, and 2,000 of them were American.

Please take a moment of silence today and thank the many soldiers who fought and died for our country on D-Day.



Fourth of July

WORD SCRAMBLE

WFORRIESK

PEIEDDEENCNN

DAREPA

EFOMEDR

FGLA

NPCCII

URMSEM

EIBTLYR

ERACMA

NITEUD STTSEA

JUYL

SASTTE

RTILEVOONU



PTTOIARCI

RASTS



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 2	June 3	June 4 Session Mtg. 6:45 p.m.	June 5 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Prayer 4:00 p.m.	June 6	June 7	June 8
June 9	June 10	June 11 Trustee Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	June 12 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Prayer 4:00 p.m.	June 13	June 14  Happy FLAG DAY	June 15
June 16 Family Day, Lunch and games after church	June 17 VBS	June 18 VBS	June 19 ROMEO club 9:00 a.m. Silver Sisters 11:30 a.m. Prayer 4:00 p.m. VBS	June 20 VBS	June 21 VBS	June 22
June 23	June 24	June 25	June 26 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Prayer 4:00 p.m.	June 27	June 28	June 29
June 30	July 1	July 2	July 3 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Prayer 4:00 p.m.	July 4  4th of July	July 5	July 6

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: danhenny55@aol.com
2022-2024-J. Barry Girvin, Dan Henry, Vivian Caldwell
2023-2025-Joan Probst, Sue Ressel, Brenda Roark
2024-2026-Shirley Girvin, Richard Keene, Jonathan Welch

Deacons

Administrator: Pastor John Barlow
Phone: 717-377-4570
mail: barlowjohn604@gmail.com
2022-2024-Nancy Cox, Andy Keene, Sandra Shenk, Val Keene
2023-2025-Annie Frackman, Dottie Garver, Kathy Harvey, Cathy Miller
2024-2026-Kim Barlow, Dixie Clark, Linda Farmer, Sue Herr

Trustees

President: Jeff Frackman
Phone: 717-989-6896
2022-2024-Doug Henry, Lloyd Miller, Dale Phillips
2023-2025-Rose Griest, Boni Henry, Sam Reinhart
2024-2026-Jeff Frackman, Herb Girvin, Nancy Minchoff