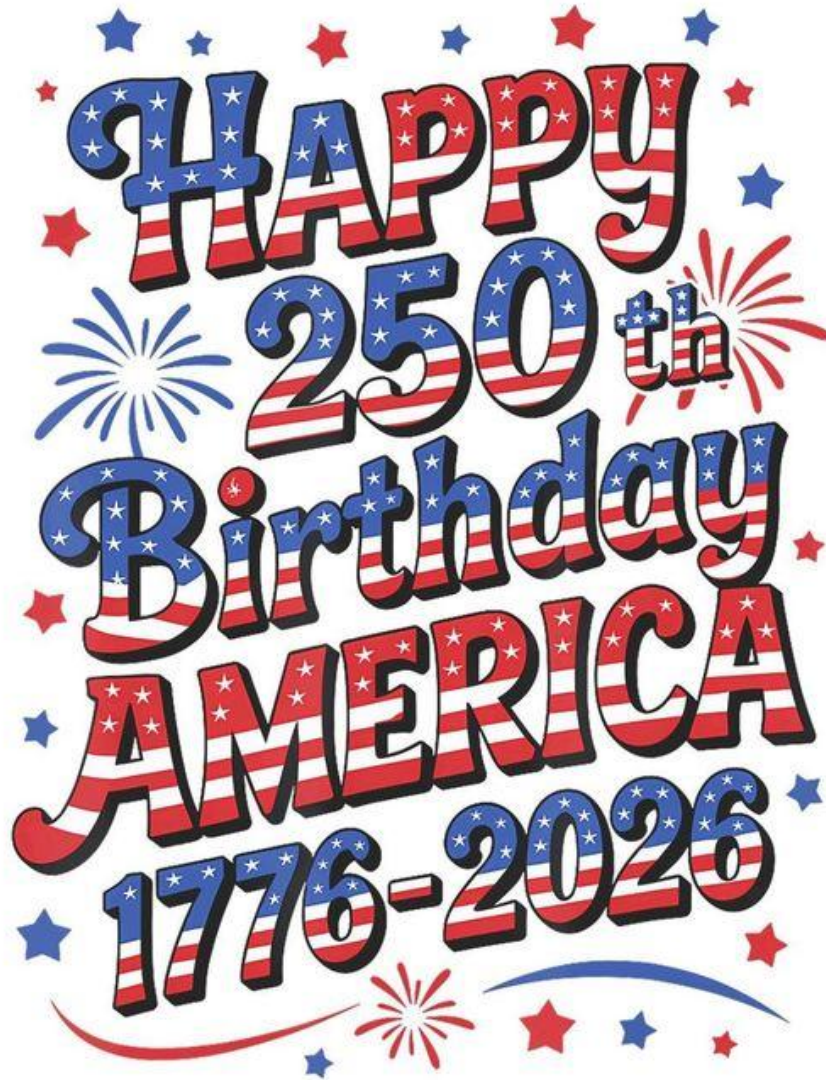


MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 2026 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

The Body of Christ is an important picture in the New Testament of the Church. There are more than thirty individual verses that speak of the Church as Christ's Body, along with two extended descriptions in 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4. It is a great idea and image to ponder and to put into practice. What are some key take-aways?

Jesus is the Head of the Body. He's the Boss. He's the Brains. We all take our direction and our life from Him. We must be looking to Him every day, all through the day, to discern His will and step out in faith to fulfill it, while depending wholly on Him. Daily prayer and Scripture reading will get us there.

We all, as members of His Body, are connected to Him and to each other. Jesus calls us to work in concert to accomplish His will. This requires humility, coordination, and cooperation. What is paramount is the success of the team, not the individual. We achieve our highest personal potential through the work we do together.

Each member's gift from God is needed, and none is better than any other. In the end, God deserves all the credit, and we get to enjoy the ride He affords us.

Because we are all connected, when one part suffers, all suffer; when one part rejoices, all rejoice with him or her. We relate to each other. We give and receive love. We grant and ask for forgiveness. We see to each other's needs. We support and care for one another. And when we extend that kind of relating out into the world, the Body of Christ grows, as more people come to Jesus and become members of His Body.

I am privileged to be pastor of the MO branch of the Body of Christ. You faithful people are living into the vision and opportunity Jesus holds out to us, on a daily basis.

CHURCH LIFE

DEACONS - Psalm 122:1 says, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the LORD.'" That's how I feel about Sunday mornings at MOPC. There is anticipation, there is joy, because we are going to be together in the presence of our Lord. There are a lot of brothers and sisters in God's family who make this possible. Our Deacons welcome and dismiss us with love. They facilitate our communication of joys and concerns and announcements, making sure that those who worship in the welcome center are included. Our Welcome Committee keeps all of us safe, so that we can focus on what matters most, worshiping God and growing together. Our Technology Team ensures that not a word is dropped, and the ministry of the Word is streamed on Facebook, to be viewed by many every week. Our Team leader, along with others, chooses inspirational multimedia that magnifies the theme of the service. Our Secretary/Treasurer produces amazing worship guides and communications, and safeguards our financial contributions. Our Session Members take turns keeping us all informed of coming attractions. Our Trustees oversee a spotless and serviceable building, surrounded by well-maintained parking lots and beautiful grounds. Our musicians beam the good news of Jesus through song and support the congregation's worship. Our Christian Educators create a welcoming and inspirational space for our children. Our many fine cooks and bakers provide weekly refreshments and occasional fellowship meals that are always a treat. And then there is a whole host of people who come to Sunday morning service, prayed-up and ready to give themselves to the Lord and to one another. No wonder Sunday mornings are so good at MO. Thank you, everyone!

MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN - It's been a quiet month for MOPW. There is a sub and pretzel sandwich sale this month. The sandwiches are to be delivered to Shirley Miller's house on June 11. This is one of the fundraisers we have to allow us to help others.

Our annual Peach Fest is on August 15th.

MISSIONS - During the month of May, the Mission Team emphasized NorthStar Initiative and FIM (Fellowship International Mission). Mindy Boyd has been working with FIM for many years in Leipzig, Germany. We were happy to host Mindy last May when she told us much about her ministry there. NorthStar Initiative is a mission located in Lancaster County. It provides one of the few 24x7 restoration homes for domestic sex trafficking survivors in the region and is one of the only missions of its kind that is Christ centered. NorthStar provides a holistic, trauma-informed program. Its goal is for every survivor to be fully restored so she can return to the community and enjoy a life of sustained independence. North Star uses these words from the Bible as its inspiration..."Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the ancient foundations; you will be called repairer of broken walls; restorer of streets and dwellings". Isaiah 58:12. Motivated by the love of Jesus, Northstar works to end trafficking and empower survivors to reclaim the lives they were created to enjoy through healing their whole person.

SILVER SISTERS - The Silver Sisters met at the Conestoga Wagon Restaurant for lunch and conversation. There were about a dozen of us that enjoyed a great meal and just being together. Our next outing is June 10 at the Delta Family Restaurant in York County. We will meet at 11:30 for lunch. All widows are welcome.

SUMMER MUSIC - June 7 - Rick Rineer – keyboards, June 14 - Ben Tozzo and Matthew Sisson
June 21 - Bud Hart, June 28 - Emily Irwin and Jayne Zook, July 5 - Julie Shoff, July 12 - Jen Daily

TRUSTEES - The Trustees always have lots of discussions about projects that need to be done or are in process and where the money comes from for each project. The Boy Scout Troop will be installing a shed in the back parking lot to keep their equipment. We gave them permission and they were responsible to get a permit and to pay for it. They have many cub scouts this year and would like another room downstairs to use. So we are providing a refreshed room for them to use. We like to support the troop, and they do things for us at times too.

We are looking into repairing or replacing the sign up by the road that announces our events. The glass fell out of one side of it.

Please keep donating to the building fund so we can continue to do repairs and keep things looking good.

VBS – *When:* June 22-26, 6 to 8:30 PM

Where: Middle Octorara Church, 1199 Valley Rd., Quarryville, PA

What: Theme is *Snowball Mountain Challenge* Classes will be held for children, ages 3 through grade 5. And, we look forward to, once again hosting a class for special needs folks of all ages. On the final night, the students will present a short program about what they learned. This will be followed by a meal for family and friends.

2026 GRADUATES

Addison Hess

Daughter of Jason and Cori Hess

2026 graduate of Solanco High School with 3.9 GPA

Addie has loved horses since she was a girl. She has been learning and improving her skill as a rider for 7 years. She rides competitively as a jumper and sometimes she competes in dressage. Addie has won many awards for her efforts.

In the fall, Addie will be attending Wilson College in the Pre-Veterinarian program, with aspirations to go to Vet School.

Addie will be participating on Wilson's Riding Team.

Grace Phipps

Daughter of James and Jennifer Phipps. Grace graduated from Lampeter Strasburg High School May 29.

While at LS Grace played on the Tennis and Lacrosse teams. She also played Cello and was in County and District Orchestra. Grace is teaching herself to play Guitar.

In October, Grace will begin a course of study at the Sheffield Institute for Recording Arts where she will study Audio Engineering. The school is in Baltimore County near Phoenix, MD.

Kira Roark

Daughter of Caley and Melissa Roark.

2026 graduate of Solanco High School with 3.9 GPA

Kira's accomplishments in high school include many awards and trophies in Art and Softball.

She was awarded 2 Scholastic Gold Key Awards for her Art creations. Also, Kira received the National American Visions Gold Medal award.

On the sports field, she was a 4-time Lancaster/Lebanon League First Team Allstar while playing Girls' Softball. For 2 years she was named to the All-State Team. In addition, Kira was named Most Valuable Player on the Solanco softball team.

She will be continuing her softball career when she attends Shippensburg University in the fall. Kira will major in Communications, Journalism and Media Studies.

We pray for God's blessing for each of these young ladies as they strive to follow His guidance.

MISSION MUSINGS

Sometimes I look at things some young people say and do and just shake my head. I say what were they thinking when then said or did that ? Then I stop and think our parents' generation likely said the same thing about us. Then there are other times I am amazed at how mature and how much common sense and wisdom many young people possess.

That was the case on two occasions last week. Boni and I attended the Baccalaureate service one night and Commencement the next night at Lampeter Strasburg High School. On Thursday night at Baccalaureate five seniors led their classmates and all the attendees in several worship songs. As they played instruments and sang, I smiled at the joy on their faces and the folks in the audience faces as well. Then five more seniors each spoke a few minutes on their favorite scripture verse and why it meant so much to them. I was impressed by their composure, thoughtfulness and wisdom. I told Boni there is no way I would have stood up in front of people and spoke when I was 18 years old. Times like that helps reinforce what I already know that there are still a lot of good young people in this country and soon they will be leaders in the workplace, government and churches. I pray that God will bless these youth as they continue to share their faith with others.

The next night at the commencement ceremony I was once again reminded that these young students are already making their presence known in the community. These graduates have already contributed many thousands of volunteer hours to the local community through school programs, charities and church supported missions. Of course this is just one senior class and there are several dozen more schools in Lancaster County alone all with many wonderful young people ready to make their communities a better place to live.

I challenge each of you and myself to make it a mission to encourage the young people in our lives to make this world a better place and do it by sharing the love of Jesus and His gospel message with others.

Romans 1:16

Blessings, Dan Henry



June birthdays

12 – Andy Keene
13 – Theresa Williams
29 – Betty Hughes
30 – Tami Shaub

July birthdays through 6th

4 – Happy 250th birthday America
5 – Beth Messick
6 – Stacy Herr

June anniversaries

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

July anniversaries through the 6th

1 – Carlton & Allyssa Armstrong
2 – Ken & Dottie Garver
5 – Ed & Melissa Cannon

REFLECTIONS

by Barry Girvin

86

When my Dad turned 80 years of age, he told me, "I can't believe I'm still alive." I could say the same as I turn 86. After diseases, accidents, and the troublesome thing called anxiety, I still have the physical and mental strength to do what God has given me the ability to do. He has kept me around to do it; to pray, to work, and to love. If I do not practice these virtues each day, I am sure to dry up like a dead vine.

I was born on May 25, 1940. The following day Operation Dynamo, the evacuation of more than 338,000 Allied troops from Dunkirk, France began. As I write this, we are at war with Iran. War and peace, prosperity and recession, 16 presidents (FDR to Trump twice), each decade with its own political and social trademark, the technology revolution, one room schools with outhouses to modern schools with air conditioning, Billy Graham to a more secular society – it goes on and on.

I have not liked all the changes. One of my Reflections written about 2000 was titled "Why I hated the 1990s." In regard to music, I would like to go back in time to Sunset Park in the early 1960s and be entertained by such as Ernest Tubb. I would be entertained and have no desire to be part of the act. Today, everyone has to be up and moving, part of the act.

Here is my wish list for my country's future

1. That Christians follow Christ's teachings and not their own prejudices – a third "Great Awakening."
2. That politicians learn to disagree but yet respect each other – as in "I disagree with you, but I would give my life to defend your right to freedom of speech."
3. That citizens fulfill their role as the only hope of keeping our democracy – if the people rule then a majority, and not just a few, must vote and participate in the business of their church, local government, and charity work. Achievements will come through the process of debate and compromise.
4. That people smart up and not fall for conspiracy theories or other false teachings that deny the proven advances in medicine and science – how could people allow measles to come back?
5. That Christians, Jews, and Muslims, who all claim Abraham as their father, find a way to co-exist without leading the masses to kill each other.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE



Robert Mowery



Cemetery Wreath



Patriotic Cake



Wesley Girvin



Choir singing "Freedom's Price"



David Garver



Descendant Scott Tanguy honoring Captain John Paxton, a Revolutionary War Veteran




John & Wes Girvin singing "Have a Little Talk with Jesus" accompanied by Shirley Girvin on the piano



Pastor John



All Veterans in attendance at the service
 Rob Lowe, Dick Keene, Roger Harvey, Paul Girvin, Wes Girvin, Bob Mowery, Dave Garver



FATHER'S DAY WORD SCRAMBLE

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Middle Octorara Presbyterian
Church
**Income and Expense
Statement**
**GENERAL FUND 01, May
2026**

BEGINNING BALANCE, May 1, 2026		19,483.95
INCOME		
Offerings	\$11,540.67	
Per Capita	39.00	
Manse Rent	1,408.95	
Account Interest	0.16	
Room Rent	500.00	
Benevolence	1,065.00	
TOTAL INCOME	<u>14,553.78</u>	
TOTAL CASH & INCOME		34,037.73
EXPENSES		
Pastoral Salary	\$6,082.54	
Pastoral Mileage	397.30	
Pastoral Pension	2,048.86	
Pastoral Technology	50.00	
Secretary-Treasurer	1,014.00	
Payroll Taxes	62.01	
Technology (Video license)	206.67	
Safety/Security (Alwine Security Yearly Monitoring Fee)	720.00	
Advertising	39.80	
Office Supplies	69.76	
Church Supplies	46.98	
Copier Lease	120.32	
Choir Music- Senior (License)	176.00	
Electricity	312.36	
Plumbing Repairs/Maint.	369.59	
Telephone/internet	118.40	
Cleaning Service	450.00	
Upkeep of Grounds	1,979.01	
Pest Control	199.14	
Per Capita Payment	39.00	
Tsfr. Session Benev. Fund	1,065.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>15,566.74</u>	
ENDING BALANCE, May 31, 2026		18,470.99

GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES - May 2026

The following is the individual weekly breakdown of offerings:

May 3 -	General Fund	1,962.00	Benevolence	285.00
May 10 -	General Fund	3,307.00	Benevolence	400.00
May 17 -	General Fund	1,130.00	Benevolence	75.00
May 24 -	General Fund	3,772.00	Benevolence	230.00
May 31 -	General Fund	1,193.00	Benevolence	75.00

An additional \$2,124.78 General Fund money was received by mail, manse rent, etc.

YTD GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES

	Monthly Budget	YTD Budget	Monthly Received	YTD Received	YTD Expenses
General Fund	19,217.00	84,554.80	13,488.78	*74,040.08	81,760.93
Benevolence	1,192.30	5,246.12	1,065.00	4,715.00	

***This includes a \$11,268.58 C/D**

***Treasurer's Notes:** We continue to not meet the monthly expenses with our income. For the month of May we were \$1,000.00 short and this was a 5 Sunday month of offerings which should have given us a gain. With the current trend, I am expecting the month of June to be a much bigger shortage of income compared to expenses. There is a quarterly insurance payment due in June and we are back to a 4 Sunday month with offerings.*

When I need to transfer funds again, I will have to use either the Building Fund or our Investment Fund.

As I have reported in the past, this is a two part problem. Our expenses keep increasing and member deaths/life changes have greatly affected our offerings.

As always please feel free to ask me, Session or Trustees any questions you may have.

Debbie Hoover – Secretary/Treasurer

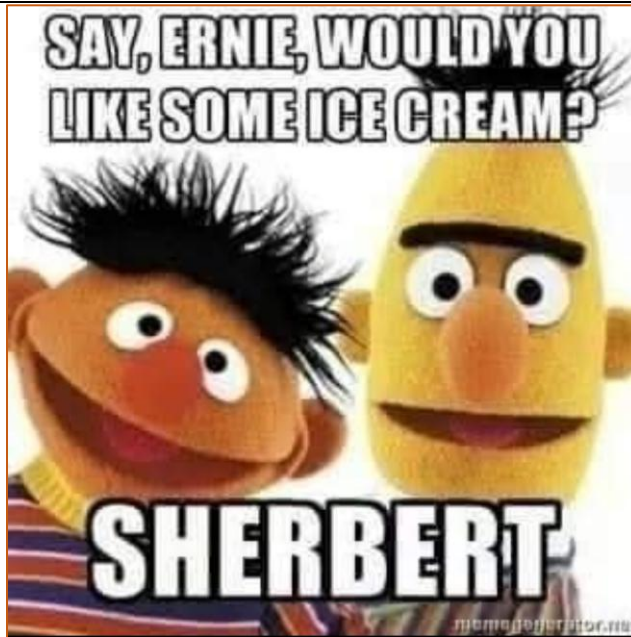


Join the Octorara Covenanter Presbyterian Foundation on July 12th, 2026 for “The Liberty Tree”, a concert celebrating 250 years of American freedom with the great songs & stories of days gone by. The must-see concert will be held at Middle Octorara Presbyterian Church, 1199 Valley Road, Quarryville PA, starting at 6:00 pm.

Singer/guitarist Charlie Zahm and fiddler Tad Marks will step back into the stirring soundscape of early America with an unforgettable concert celebrating the songs of liberty that inspired a young nation. Featuring beloved patriotic and folk melodies such as Yankee Doodle, Chester, The Liberty Song, and so much more, this lively program for the whole family brings to life the music that echoed through taverns, battlefields, and town squares during America’s struggle for independence. Relive the spirit of the Revolutionary era and join in the songs that helped forge our country.




Refreshments will be served after the concert!

Tickets- Zeffy website ["The Liberty Tree" The Music that Forged a Nation!](#) Or contact Barry Girvin-717 471-8668 - Donna McCool 610 593-6989.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 7	June 8	June 9 Trustee Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	June 10 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Silver Sisters 11:30 a.m. Prayer 4:00 p.m.	June 11	June 12	June 13
June 14 	June 15	June 16	June 17 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Prayer 4:00 p.m.	June 18	June 19 	June 20
June 21 	June 22 VBS	June 23 VBS	June 24 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. VBS	June 25 VBS	June 25 VBS	June 27
June 28	June 29	June 30	July 1 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Prayer 4:00 p.m.	July 2	July 3	July 4