

MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NOVEMBER 2020 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

October 31 puts me in mind of Martin Luther and the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. On October 31, 1517 Dr. Luther attached his 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Cathedral, a kind of message board of the day. It was the start of a movement that refocused the Christian Church's attention on three essential tenets: Scripture alone, faith alone, and grace alone. We do well to return to these foundational building blocks in our individual Christian lives as often as daily.

I recently came across something the great Reformer wrote about John 3:16 that caught my attention and that I would like to share with you. He called this well-known and beloved verse "the heart of the Bible" and he broke it down this way:

*"God.....the greatest Lover
so loved.....the greatest degree
the world.....the greatest number
that he gave.....the greatest act
his one and only Son.....the greatest Gift
that whoever.....the greatest invitation
believes.....the greatest simplicity
in Him.....the greatest Person
shall not perish.....the greatest deliverance
but.....the greatest difference
have.....the greatest certainty
everlasting life.....the greatest possession."*

As we build to our national observance of Thanksgiving later this month, I would encourage you to take some time to personalize Martin's meditation on John 3:16. We have so much to be thankful for as Christians. "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Thanking God for Jesus and all of you,
Pastor John

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

DEACONS

We prepared and signed 20 cards at the October meeting.

The Deacons just started taking the microphone around again during the church service. I ask that you please be patient with us. We haven't done that since before covid19 in March. Just asking for patience. If you would like to use the microphone, we ask that you please wear your mask when speaking. Also, please, the deacons are the only ones that should touch the microphone.

There are some members of our congregation that are hearing impaired. There are also people sitting outside and in the welcome center that can't hear the announcements or joys and concerns unless the microphone is being used.

The next Deacon meeting is Tuesday November 3rd. Dinner at 6:30. Meeting to follow.

MOPW (Middle Octorara Presbyterian Women)

FOOD SALE

By popular demand, we are holding another Sub/Sandwich sale on November 19. Pick up will begin at 3 PM. Order forms for the sale are available in the Narthex and Welcome Center. In addition, other food items will be available for pick up at the same time. They are: pumpkin roll - \$7.00, cheese logs - \$3.50 and quart of soup-\$5.00. Deadline for placing your order for the subs and sandwiches is November 12. Please contact Shirley Miller if you have any questions (717-786-3690).

HELP IS NEEDED. We are meeting on Monday, November 16th at 9:00 a.m. in the church kitchen to make pumpkin rolls and cheese logs for the above sale. All help appreciated.

SESSION

Congregation Meeting

The annual Fall congregation meeting will be held Sunday, November 29th immediately following the worship service. The agenda items will be:

- The election of 2021-2023 church officers
- Approval of the church operating budget for 2021
- Approval of the Benevolence/Mission budget for 2021

Communion

We will celebrate the beginning of the Advent season with Communion during the morning worship service on Sunday, November 29th.

WELCOMING COMMITTEE

We had a meeting on October 16th. Our next meeting will be November 20th at 7:00 pm in the welcome center. Everyone is welcome to join us. From our families to yours, have a blessed Thanksgiving!!

Safety tip of the month:

When walking, hiking, fishing, hunting or any other outdoor activities, always let someone know approximately where you are going and when you are expecting to return.

MISSION MUSINGS

As I write this month's musings, we are preparing for the annual Operation Christmas Child collection week. We will be a Drop Off Center again this year for November 16 thru 23. We will also offer parking lot drop off this year for folks who may want to stay in their vehicle. We already purchased many items to pack in the boxes. We will hold a packing party Sunday November 15 at 9 am. Everyone is welcome to come and join the fun. This will be our 12th year as a Drop Off Center and during this time we have collected over 20,000 boxes!!!

Check the bulletin for the numerous opportunities to help with this great ministry.

I am also pleased to say because of you folk's generous support of missions, we donated to several missions in October. Some were Operation Christmas Child, New Hope Ministry, Solanco Strong (to help Solanco homeless students) and our Peru mission. We will never know this side of heaven how many people have been helped because of your continued support of missions. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

We are looking forward to even more mission opportunities in the near future. We plan to have a giving tree in the Welcome Center this season to help the needy in the Solanco area. Stay tune for more details!!!

Hebrews 13:16

Many blessings, Dan Henry

OCC BOX DROP OFF TIMES

Mon. Nov. 16, Thurs. Nov. 19, Mon. Nov. 23 – **8-10 a.m.**

Tues, Nov. 17, Wed. Nov. 18, Fri. Nov. 20 – **3-6 p.m.**

Sat. Nov. 21 – **9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Sun. Nov. 22 – **2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**



REFLECTIONS

by Barry Girvin

Family Reunions

Family reunions are not what they were in my youth. For kids, it was like Sunday School and Church. You went and did not question why. It was all part of the family ritual.

We attended the Pinkerton Reunion and the Shimp reunion. My great-grandmother on my Dad's side was a Pinkerton – married to A. Galen Girvin. The Shimp connection came from my maternal grandmother Emma Shimp Groff. I got bored with how older people just sat around and talked. I appreciate it now. Oh how I wish people today still talked to each other just for the experience of enjoying each other's company. Today, many people work on genealogy, but they have lost the gift of gab.

However, there were games for children, and the Shimp Reunion was held at the pavilion at the Nickel Mines pool. The very detailed notes from the reunion secretaries offer the genealogist a wealth of information on officers, committees, activities, birthdays, and how attendees fit in the family structure. The oldest and youngest attendees were always honored.

About 40 years ago, Eleanor Wilson Bush and I helped start a Girvin Reunion - descendants of J. Clarence Girvin and Anna Peters Girvin – our grandparents. I am proud to say that our reunion still thrives, and I try to keep everyone up to date on what I have discovered about our roots. James Austin Wilson, Jr. is now our president and Ernest Girvin is treasurer.

As Shirley and I work on genealogy, I am always fascinated by the ways families interconnect. For example, I am related to a guy named Hayes Girvin (now deceased) through two families. His father was a Girvin and his mother a Shimp. My uncle, Austin (Joss) Wilson was married to a Girvin and his mother was a Girvin. Thus, two Girvin lines were unified. My brother Herb was a widower when he married Carol Hoffman, a widow. Carol's first husband, Harry Steven Hoffman Sr., was Herb's first cousin. Thus, Carol's two sons and Herb's two sons are second cousins and Carol's sons are Herb's first cousins once removed. After the marriage, Carol's sons also became Herb's step-sons.

Family history! It can be interesting!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

November birthdays

4 – Jim Bueche, Jane Trout
11 – Troyanna Miller, Travis Hoover
14 – Dan Henry, Kathy Harvey
16 – Stephanie Frackman
18 – Jodie Mylin
19 – Ken Garver
20 – Gertie Rineer
21 – Dixie Clark
23 – Melissa Cannon
29 – Jeff Roland

November Anniversaries

8 – Dan & Boni Henry
14 – Wayne & Beth Messick



Dan & Boni Henry on their recent vacation

Giddy up, yee haw!

FUN PAGES

Kids in Church

3-year-old Reese :

'Our Father, Who does art in heaven,
Harold is His name.

Amen.'

~~~~~  
A little boy was overheard praying:

'Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it.  
I'm having a real good time like I am.'

~~~~~  
After the christening of his baby brother in church,
Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car.
His father asked him three times what was wrong.

Finally, the boy replied,

'That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home,
and I wanted to stay with you guys.'

~~~~~  
One particular four-year-old prayed,

'And forgive us our trash baskets  
as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets.'

~~~~~  
A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they
were on the way to church service,

'And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?'

One bright little girl replied,

'Because people are sleeping.'

~~~~~  
A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3.

The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake.

Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.

'If Jesus were sitting here, He would say,

'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said,

' Ryan, you be Jesus !'

~~~~~  
A father was at the beach with his children

when the four-year-old son ran up to him,

grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore

where a seagull lay dead in the sand.

'Daddy, what happened to him?' the son asked.

'He died and went to Heaven,' the Dad replied.

The boy thought a moment and then said,

'Did God throw him back down?'

~~~~~  
A wife invited some people to dinner.

At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said,

'Would you like to say the blessing?'

'I wouldn't know what to say,' the girl replied.

'Just say what you hear Mommy say,' the wife answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said,

'Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?'

~~~~~  
(Thanks to Dick Keene for this submission)



Thanksgiving Word Scramble

ntnkavshgiig _____

utraiedtg _____

sevhtra _____

lssesgbni _____

orcoucniap _____

ndiinsa _____

rlipsimg _____

oembenrv _____

pkpmnui _____

snftgfui _____

hftnkual _____

tratdiino _____

rkteuy _____

fstea _____

ahgetr _____

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TREASURER'S REPORT

GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES *October 2020*

The following is the individual weekly breakdown of offerings:

Oct. 4 -	General Fund	2,535.00	Benevolence	224.00
Oct. 11 -	General Fund	2,043.00	Benevolence	260.00
Oct. 18 -	General Fund	6,798.00	Benevolence	184.00
Oct. 25 -	General Fund	1,680.00	Benevolence	210.00

An additional \$1,766.88 General Fund money and \$324.00 Benevolence money was received by mail etc.



YTD GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES

	Monthly Budget	YTD Budget	Monthly Received	YTD Received	YTD Expenses
General Fund	12,682.40	136,335.80	14,822.88	112,116.73	79,907.39
Benevolence	492.32	5,292.44	1,202.00	9,019.50	

Debbie Hoover, Secretary-Treasurer

Middle Octorara Presbyterian Church
Income and Expense Statement
GENERAL FUND 01, October
2020

10/28/2020 11:18 AM

BEGINNING BALANCE, October 1, 2020		47,849.55
INCOME		
Offerings	\$14,356.00	
Manse Rent	466.47	
Account Interest	0.41	
Benevolence	1,202.00	
TOTAL INCOME	16,024.88	
TOTAL CASH & INCOME		63,874.43
EXPENSES		
Pastoral Salary	\$4,695.25	
Partial Soc. Sec. Offset	359.19	
Pastoral Mileage	282.67	
Pastoral Pension	1,807.37	
Pastoral Technology	50.00	
Secretary-Treasurer	824.00	
Clerical/Treasurer Mileage (3rd qtr.)	97.18	
Accountant Fees	75.00	
Payroll Taxes	278.40	
Office Supplies	49.00	
Copier Lease	138.14	
Choir Music- Senior	137.00	
Electricity	209.43	
Propane Gas	63.42	
Insurance	1,771.00	
Burner Repairs/maint.	548.00	
Telephone/internet	119.32	
Upkeep of Grounds	1,648.09	
Snow Removal	1,000.00	
Tsfr. Session Benev. Fund	1,202.00	
Plumbing Repairs-Manse	226.95	
TOTAL EXPENSES	15,581.41	
ENDING BALANCE, October 31, 2020		48,293.02
Interest checking account		

I'm not turning my clock back on Sunday. The last thing we need is an extra hour of 2020!!!!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov. 1	Nov. 2	Nov. 3 Deacon Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	Nov. 4 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m.	Nov. 5	Nov. 6	Nov. 7
Nov. 8	Nov. 9	Nov. 10 Trustee Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	Nov. 11 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m.	Nov. 12 Session Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	Nov. 13	Nov. 14
Nov. 15 Pack OCC boxes 9:00 a.m.	Nov. 16 Make pumpkin rolls, cheese logs 9:00 a.m. OCC drop off 8-10 a.m.	Nov. 17 OCC drop off 3-6 p.m.	Nov. 18 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. OCC drop off 3-6 p.m.	Nov. 19 Soup/Subs 3:00 p.m. OCC drop off 8-10 a.m.	Nov. 20 OCC drop off 3-6 p.m. Welcoming committee mtg. 7:00 p.m.	Nov. 21 OCC drop off 9-12 a.m.
Nov. 22 OCC drop off 2-4:00 p.m.	Nov. 23 OCC drop off 8-10 a.m.	Nov. 24	Nov. 25 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m.	Nov. 26 Thanksgiving	Nov. 27	Nov. 28
Nov. 29 Communion & Congregation Mtg. after worship svc.	Nov. 30	Dec. 1	Dec. 2 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 3	Dec. 4	Dec. 5

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR REV. JOHN BARLOW

Address: 433 W. Lincoln Ave
Myerstown, PA 17067

Cellphone: 717-377-4570
Email: revjohnbarlow@aol.com

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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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
2018–2020–Dan Henry, Jerry Garver, Dale Phillips
2019-2021-J. Barry Girvin, Susan Ressel, Koryn Barrett
2020-2022-Jim Bueche, Kay Bueche, Joan Probst

Deacons

Administrator: Dale Phillips
Phone: 717-587-1684
Email: bigdp1234@gmail.com
2018-2020-Marlene Fromm, Val Keene, Jonathan Welch, Lloyd Miller
2019-2021-Nancy Harnish, Kathy Harvey, Sandra Shenk, Vivian Caldwell,
2020-2022-Linda Farmer, Dottie Garver, Sara Kauffman, Sharon Mowery

Trustees

President: Jeff Frackman
Phone: 717-989-6896
2018-2020-Virgil Roark, Dixie Clark, Shirley Miller
2019-2021-Douglas Henry, Andrew Keene, Samuel Reinhart
2020-2022-Jeff Frackman, Shirley Girvin, Rose Griest