

**MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**November 2023 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

*Amy Beatrice Carmichael, b. 16 December 1867 in Millisle, County Down, Ireland, d. 18 January 1951 in Dohnavur, Tamil Nadu, India (aged 83), served in India as a Christian Missionary for 55 years, and wrote 35 books about her work as a missionary. Within this volume of published materials, we find this short quote: "I would rather burn out than rust out." These were not idle words for Amy Carmichael. Her Dohnavur Fellowship took in and cared for over 1,000 unwanted children, rescuing many of them from temple prostitution, which was only outlawed in 1948. In 1931, Amma (the Tamil word for mother) suffered a fall which badly damaged her hip and back and left her unable to fully walk for the rest of her life. Instead of doing the reasonable thing and returning to the relative comfort of the UK, she remained in India, hot, humid, dusty India, and directed the Dohnavur Fellowship from her bedroom. She also penned 16 of her 35 books over that time period. When she passed to glory, at her request, her remains were buried in an unmarked grave. Her orphan girls overruled her, however, placing a birdbath over the grave, inscribed with one word only: Amma.*

*When Jesus encountered the Samaritan woman outside the town of Sychar in John 4, v.8 says, parenthetically, "his disciples had gone into the town to buy food." When they returned, they urged him to eat something. His answer? "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work." In Galatians 6:9-10, the Apostle Paul says, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of God."*

*Someone told me recently that the average age in our church family is seventy-something. I am so blessed to be among so many of you who have determined to do the work God has assigned to you while you have that opportunity, to follow Amy Carmichael's advice and example, to burn out rather than rust out.*

# CHURCH LIFE

## CHOIR

We'll believe it or not, we have started to practice Christmas music!! Since we are lacking some of our men I have decided not to do a cantata this year. But we will definitely do some nice anthems. The important thing is to worship our Lord with singing. And we still would welcome other singers!!

## DEACONS

Only heaven will show what a timely prayer, a quiet act of kindness, a gift given in secret, has accomplished in the lives of those on the receiving end. And this is how it should be. Jesus says at the beginning of Matthew 6, "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before people, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven." He goes on in the verses which follow to apply this instruction to our practice of almsgiving, prayer, and fasting – all connected, by the way: fasting frees up resources to share, and time, to discern God's will in the matter, and to intercede for the needs of others. All of this should be done quietly, be an enterprise that is strictly between us and God. Only then, as Jesus repeats three times, in verses 4, 6, and 18, "will your Father, who sees what is done in secret, reward you."

Our faithful Deacons know all about this, quietly, secretly, going about their work, not to receive a pat on the back from anyone in this life, but to please our heavenly Father, and to bless all, who along with us, are the objects of his bountiful love. Thank you for all you are doing in Jesus' name, at his direction, and for his glory. We cannot and should not know all that you are doing, but we can still say thank you, and well done.

## MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Women's group is happy to report we are giving \$500 to the Quarryville Food Bank and \$500 to the Fuel Fund.

## MISSIONS

MISSION EMPHASIS for the month of November is Solanco Toy Drive and Angel Tree.

### Solanco Toy Drive

There is an opportunity to make Christmas more joyful for students in the Solanco area.

1. Take a tag off the giving tree in the Welcome Center and purchase a gift certificate from Walmart or Target. Return the gift certificate to the marked container by the giving tree.
2. Purchase a gift for a child from birth to 18 years old and place the gift under the tree in the front of the sanctuary.

The deadline to return the gift certificates and the gifts is Sunday November 26.

The gifts will be delivered to the new home of Joyfully Made Fellowship so they can be distributed on December 9 and 11. Do not wrap the gift certificates or the gifts.

This is a wonderful opportunity to share the love of Jesus and bless students who otherwise may not get a single Christmas gift.

## SESSION

### WEEKLY PRAYER TIME

**"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."**

This is a new venture for Middle Octorara. Folks will be meeting every Wednesday at 4 PM for prayer. There are so many global, national and local issues that we can bring to God. And, we look forward to what God has in store for Middle Octorara. Anyone who is interested in joining this prayer time should meet in the Welcome Center every week. Weather permitting, we may walk around the church or church property. This prayer time will begin November 8. There is a small wooden box in the Welcome Center in which you can place a prayer request which will be included in our weekly time of prayer.

## **SILVER SISTERS**

We love being together no matter where it is!! This month we went to Dutch Apple and also to a member's vacation rental at Fishing Creek for lunch and games. What a lovely place and fun games. We enjoyed a pizza lunch. For November we are going to lunch at an Amish home and we also have reservations on November 15 for the Christmas program at the American Music Theatre.

In December we will have a Christmas party. More details later.

## **TRUSTEES**

The Board of Trustees is always working on something. Work day is scheduled for Saturday, November 11 and the raindate is November 18. There will be a brunch mid-morning. There are always things to do. Bring rakes, tarps, trash cans, etc. We don't have to rake the main lawn, but there are always leaves that blow to the lower parking lot and back by the ramp. There are usually sticks to pick up also. Many hands make light work. There are things that could be done inside as well.

The painters were here and refreshed the outside of the sanctuary doors and semicircle above. and painted the outside of the back kitchen door which was getting rusty. And they painted or touched up the windowsills and edges of the door frames in the sanctuary and vestibule.

We were in contact with the snow-removal company. Last year we didn't need them, but we need to be prepared!!

## **MISSION MUSINGS**

During our Sunday School time we are watching and discussing a video series by Max Lucado called Help is Here. It is a study on the Holy Spirit. I would venture to say the Holy Spirit is the least understood person of the Holy Trinity. We likely relate better to God as Father and Jesus as Son but the Holy Spirit is a little different to understand. Max Lucado does an excellent job teaching and explaining anything he talks about and this video series is no exception. If you would like to know more about and understand the Holy Spirit better, you are certainly more than welcome to come and join us at 9 am on Sunday mornings. When Jesus was leaving this earth and His mission here, he told His disciples to wait here and I will send to you the counselor and comforter to be with you. That same promise, that same counselor, that same comforter is still available for us today.

We all know this earthly life is often full of trials, temptations and troubles and we can certainly all use the counselor and comforter that God has provided. We were never meant to walk this earthly walk alone. Jesus promised to never leave us or forsake us and that promise is for eternity.

Boni and I just got a 9 week old beagle pup last week and I was thinking about how he is so small, so helpless and so dependent upon us to take care of him. I named him Yogi and he is so full of energy. He is just beginning to explore new surroundings and when we are outside and he gets a little ways away from me he suddenly starts looking around to see where I am. When he sees me he comes running as fast as his little legs can go to return to safety. He is confident that I am his security and the one who will protect him and care for him. That's what we need to do as well. Stay close to God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit knowing they will be our ever present help in trouble and the source of life here on earth and for eternity.

John 14:16

Blessings

Dan

# REFLECTIONS

by Barry Girvin

## *Go To Church*

In a recent newsletter article, I commented that the real problem in our society is that we have become too secular. Regular attendance at church and Sunday School is now the exception, not the rule. At the Amish Farm and House, I start house tours by explaining how the Amish are unique: their history, plain dress, beliefs, worship practices, etc. Then I add, they are unique because they still go to church regularly. I should ask the folks if they go to church regularly. But the way things are today, they would probably think I am a religious fanatic.

Many years ago, a Christian Endeavor publication featured “Nine Reasons for Going to Church” by Teddy Roosevelt. He was speaking to the men of his era, when gender roles were different than today. However, the message applies to all of us.

“In this actual world, a church-less community, where men have abandoned and scoffed at or ignored their religious needs, is a community on the rapid downgrade.

Church work and church attendance mean the cultivation of the habit of feeling some responsibility for others.

There are enough holidays for most of us. Sundays differ from other holidays in the fact that there are fifty-two of them every year – therefore, on Sundays. Go to church.

Yes, I know all the excuses. I know that one can worship the Creator in a grove of trees or in a man’s own house just as well as in church. But I also know, as a matter of cold fact, the average man does not thus worship.

He may not always hear a good sermon at church. He will hear a sermon by a good man, who, with his good wife, is engaged in making hard lives a little easier.

He will listen to and take part in reading some beautiful passages from the Bible. And if he is not familiar with the Bible, he has suffered a loss.

He will listen to and take part in singing some good hymns. He will meet and nod or speak to good quiet neighbors.

He will come away feeling a little more charitable toward all the world, even toward those excessively foolish young men who regard church-going as a soft performance (waste of time).

I advocate a man’s joining in church work for the sake of showing his faith in his work.”



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### November birthday's

- 11 – Travis Hoover, Troyana Miller
- 14 – Dan Henry, Kathy Harvey
- 16 – Stephanie (Frackman) Miller
- 18 – Jodie Mylin
- 19 – Ken Garver
- 20 – Gertie Rineer
- 21 – Dixie Clark
- 23 – Melissa Cannon
- 28 – Kay Trout
- 29 – Jeff Roland

### November anniversaries

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

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES OCTOBER 2023

The following is the individual weekly breakdown of offerings:

October 1 -	General Fund	2,197.00	Benevolence	160.00
October 8 -	General Fund	1,490.00	Benevolence	50.00
October 15 -	General Fund	2,012.00	Benevolence	720.00
October 22 -	General Fund	2,393.00	Benevolence	240.00
October 29 -	General Fund	1,742.00	Benevolence	265.00

An additional \$4,175.68 General Fund money and \$80.00 Benevolence money was received by mail etc.

### YTD GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES

	Monthly Budget	YTD Budget	Monthly Received	YTD Received	YTD <b>Expenses</b>
General Fund	16,825.35	148,063.08	14,009.68	145,999.12	144,695.97
Benevolence	1,192.30	10,492.24	1,515.00	9,386.00	

				Middle Octorara Presbyterian Church	
				<b>Income and Expense Statement</b>	
11/02/2023 04:20 PM				<b>GENERAL FUND 01, October 2023</b>	
BEGINNING BALANCE, October 1, 2023					<b>27,861.76</b>
<b>INCOME</b>					
Offerings				\$10,324.00	
Manse Rent				1,269.45	
Account Interest				0.23	
M.O.Cemetery Fund-Mowing				2,416.00	
Benevolence				1,515.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>				<b>15,524.68</b>	
<b>TOTAL CASH &amp; INCOME</b>					<b>43,386.44</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Pastoral Salary				\$5,626.17	
Pastoral Mileage				636.66	
Pastoral Pension				2,108.40	
Pastoral Technology				50.00	
Secretary-Treasurer				674.50	
Clerical/Treasurer Mileage				163.10	
Accountant Fees				90.00	
Payroll Taxes				157.21	
Advertising				31.00	
Office Supplies				63.95	
Printing Exp/Supplies				312.52	
Copier Lease				120.32	
Electricity				395.16	
Insurance				2,625.00	
Misc. Repairs/Mainten. (Devonshires-675.00, AED battery/pads-538.27)				1,213.27	
Telephone/internet				123.37	
Cleaning Service				195.00	
Upkeep of Grounds				1,854.10	
Pest Control				165.00	
Tsfr. Session Benev. Fund				1,515.00	
Donations (BTFC Fund drive)				500.00	
Misc. Repairs-Manse (Devonshires)				360.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>				<b>18,979.73</b>	
<b>ENDING BALANCE, October 31, 2023</b>					<b>24,406.71</b>



# Thanksgiving

## WORD SEARCH

R	U	G	Z	L	L	G	N	I	F	F	U	T	S	F
S	U	N	P	W	U	F	R	T	G	Q	D	E	A	S
E	B	I	L	U	M	F	U	A	F	Z	I	L	E	R
V	A	V	S	T	M	R	K	H	T	R	L	O	J	E
S	E	I	H	W	K	P	C	N	R	I	T	D	T	H
M	H	G	T	E	E	D	K	E	A	A	T	Y	R	T
I	O	S	Y	Q	J	E	B	I	T	H	L	U	A	A
R	L	K	Z	X	U	N	T	O	N	N	T	X	D	G
G	I	N	A	B	A	E	P	O	F	Q	P	H	I	E
L	D	A	V	R	L	X	V	F	E	A	S	T	T	C
I	A	H	C	B	S	E	Y	L	I	M	A	F	I	O
P	Y	T	B	H	M	A	G	E	U	D	D	S	O	R
O	T	O	P	B	P	L	Y	M	O	U	T	H	N	N
U	G	L	E	E	I	P	I	R	I	M	H	Q	B	T
C	O	R	N	U	C	O	P	I	A	J	Z	R	B	Y

FALL	THANKFUL	NOVEMBER
GATHER	TURKEY	PLYMOUTH
HOLIDAY	CORNUCOPIA	STUFFING
PILGRIMS	FAMILY	THANKSGIVING
PUMPKIN	GOBBLE	CRANBERRIES
CORN	GRATITUDE	POTATOES
FEAST	PIE	TRADITION








## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov. 5 Prayer svc. Little Britain 4:30 p.m.	Nov. 6	Nov. 7 Session Mtg. 6:45 p.m.	Nov. 8 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Choir practice 7:00 p.m.	Nov. 9	Nov. 10	Nov. 11 Work day
Nov. 12 Shoebox packing party 9:00 a.m.	Nov. 13	Nov. 14	Nov. 15 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Choir practice 7:00 p.m. Silver Sisters	Nov. 16	Nov. 17	Nov. 18
Nov. 19	Nov. 20	Nov. 21	Nov. 22 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Choir practice 7:00 p.m.	Nov. 23 	Nov. 24	Nov. 25
Nov. 26 Congregation Mtg.	Nov. 27	Nov. 28	Nov. 29 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Choir practice 7:00 p.m.	Nov. 30	Dec. 1	Dec. 2

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

Address: 433 W. Lincoln Ave  
Myerstown, PA 17067

Cellphone: 717-377-4570  
Email: [barlowjohn604@gmail.com](mailto: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](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:** [danlhenry55@aol.com](mailto:danlhenry55@aol.com)  
2021-2023-Jerry Garver, Dick Keene, Dale Phillips  
2022-2024-J. Barry Girvin, Dan Henry, Vivian Caldwell  
2023-2025-Joan Probst, Sue Ressel, Brenda Roark

#### **Deacons**

**Administrator:** Pastor John Barlow  
**Phone:** 717-377-4570  
**mail:** [barlowjohn604@gmail.com](mailto:barlowjohn604@gmail.com)  
2021-2023-Kim Barlow, Dixie Clark, Sue Herr, Jonathan Welch  
2022-2024-Nancy Cox, Andy Keene, Sandra Shenk, Val Keene  
2023-2025-Annie Frackman, Dottie Garver, Kathy Harvey, Cathy Miller

#### **Trustees**

**President:** Nancy Minchoff  
**Phone:** 717-786-3810  
2021-2023-Nancy Minchoff, Shirley Miller, Virgil Roark  
2022-2024-Lloyd Miller  
2023-2025-Rose Griest, Boni Henry, Sam Reinhart