

MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 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

Daniel Webster Whittle (1840-19010) was a 19th Century gospel song lyricist, evangelist, and Bible teacher. He wrote some 200 hymns, including "I Know Whom I Have Believed", "Showers of Blessing", "Banner of the Cross", "Almost Persuaded", and "Moment by Moment".

When, as a young man, Daniel joined up with the Union Army, his godly mother slipped a New Testament into his kit, in the hope that it would help to lead him to faith in Christ. Daniel was wounded at Vicksburg, where he lost his right arm. As he lay in a combat hospital, he was desperate for reading material, and began reading the New Testament, cover to cover, over-and-over again, but was, as yet, unaffected by the message. A nurse came to him and asked him to talk to an eighteen-year-old soldier at the other end of the ward, who was not expected to live and was afraid of dying. She had seen Daniel reading his New Testament and had assumed he was a Christian. He told her he wasn't, but she still asked him to go and speak to the dying man. He went, knelt by the bedside, and offered a prayer. When he finished his prayer, the young man had died, but a look of peace was on his face. In that moment, Major Whittle came to faith in Jesus.

I want to share the backstory of his hymn "Moment by Moment", which he wrote in 1893. Ira Sankey, while attending a prayer gathering at the World's Fair in Chicago, heard the Rev. Henry Varley say, "I do not like the hymn 'I Need Thee Every Hour'; I need him moment by moment." Major Whittle was so moved by the idea that after the gathering he withdrew to his room and penned the hymn "Moment by Moment", revising it until 2 AM. Here are the first verse and the chorus;

Dying with Jesus, by death reckoned mine;

Living with Jesus a new life divine;

Looking to Jesus till glory doth shine,

Moment by moment, O Lord, I am thine

Chorus:

Moment by moment I'm kept in his love;

Moment by moment I've life from above;

Looking to Jesus till glory doth shine;

Moment by moment, O Lord, I am thine.

What a powerful description of the what and the how of the Christian life! It makes me think of what Paul says in Ephesians 4:22-23, about "putting off the old self and putting on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness", and earlier in 2:1-10, about "being raised from the death of transgressions and sins to heavenly realms in Christ Jesus." Major Whittle's lyrics also make me think of you, faithful friends at MO, as you continue to live by grace and through faith in Jesus. I am so blessed to be serving as your pastor.

CHURCH LIFE

CHOIR

We started choir practice last week. We were missing some of our regulars but had a good start anyway. I always pray for guidance and encouragement in choosing the music and keeping the choir going. But whenever I have doubts, I have willing singers that show up to learn the songs. I pray we are a blessing to others with our songs.

DEACONS

A BIG THANK YOU to all of our faithful Deacons for the amazing service they offer to MO throughout the year. Month after month they greet people coming and going at our worship services. They offer gift bags to first time visitors to our church. They run microphone in the sanctuary during announcements and sharing of joys and concerns, so that people can be heard there and in the welcome center. They sign and send cards every month, acknowledging birthdays and wedding anniversaries, thinking of you, get well, sympathy, and holidays, with special attention to our homebound members and friends. They engage in a host of unseen, unsung prayers, visits, and caring acts toward any who are in need.

As I think of all that our Deacons do, the words of Paul in 2 Corinthians 9:12-14 come to mind, and I offer them to you: "This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, people will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you."

SILVER SISTERS

With September being such a busy month, we got together just once for lunch. Ten of us met at Gus's Keystone Family Restaurant in Ephrata for a great lunch and enjoyable conversation. In October, we will meet at Hometown Kitchen for lunch on the 9th at 11:30 in Georgetown. Then we will come back to the church to play games. All widows are welcome.

TRUSTEES

Some of the things that have been taken care of because of the Trustees making the arrangements of over the last month include 3 hornets nests being removed behind the house by Hornet King, having the electrician come to fix the ceiling fan and a couple of lights in the social hall, one of the Trustees has worked on fixing some door knobs, replacing some light bulbs, keeping the water filter filled with salt, and making sure the dehumidifier keeps working downstairs. Another one was cleaning along the wall along the road. And a couple of them have been weed eating the roadside banks along the ballfield, and the cemetery. They try to keep up with things to keep the property safe and looking nice.

There has been a new door ordered for the social hall ramp area. The bats have returned to the attic area of the church. We have been in contact with Ehrlich to eradicate them again. It should be covered by the warranty.

We have scheduled work day to be Saturday November 16th with a rain date of November 23. Save the date!! We always need lots of help.

A VIEW FROM THE PEW - "A problem not worth praying about is not worth worrying about."

MISSION MUSINGS

MISSIONS WE SUPPORTED IN 2023

Boy Scouts
Christ In Action
Child Fund
Crop Walk
Donegal Presbytery
Extend A Blessing
Faith Friendship
FIM
Glovers
Holiday Mission
Joyfully Made Fellowship
Local Families in need of
Lightshine Ministries
Living Waters International
L. O. V. E Inc.
New Hope Ministries
Northstar Initiative
One Great Hour of Sharing
Operation Christmas Child
Orphan Assistance Foundation
Oxford Neighborhood Services
Parish Resource Center
Peru Mission
Post Prom
Ronald McDonald House
Shiloh Pres. Church
Solanco Food Bank
Solanco Neighborhood Services
Solanco Strong
Solanco Toy Drive
Solid Rock
Ware Presbyterian Village
Water Street Rescue

Over \$30,000.00

Galatians 6:9, Blessings, Dan Henry



OCTOBER BIRTHDAY'S

10 – Hunter Musser
11 – Paul Trout
12 – Sue Herr
14 – Herb Girvin
15 – Brandon LeFevre
19 – Jerry Garver
24 – Joshua Keene
28 – Shirley Miller

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

12 – Jeff & Annie Frackman

REFLECTIONS

by Barry Girvin

Since When is Liberal a Bad Word, or Why Our Country is in Deep Trouble

Our Founding Fathers feared that our new country would become a dictatorship ruled by the new king, George Washington. So, they did all they could to create a system that depended on compromise, a complex and difficult way to govern where no person or movement would ever be able to dominate - a system of checks and balances. This was spelled out in something called the Constitution. Over time it worked.

Political parties and a political spectrum came about. On the right were conservatives who resisted change but in the end often supported some changes. My grandmother, Emma Groff, defined conservative beliefs as well as it can be stated – “Be not the first by whom the new is tried, nor yet the last to lay the old aside.” On the far right were reactionaries who wanted to go back to the “good old days,” whatever that meant at the time.

On the left were liberals who were much more open to new ideas than conservatives. On the far left, radicals were those fascinated by the words of the Communist Manifesto or some other utopian dream. For nearly 300 years, liberals and conservatives compromised their way to solving problems. Politicians could be enemies when debating, like Ronald Reagan and Tip O’Neill, but good friends otherwise. Both parties had their own spectrums. Republicans were the conservative party, but there were a number of liberal Republicans mostly from Northern urban areas. Democrats were the liberal party, but there were many conservative Democrats, mostly from the South. The conservative Democrats and liberal Republicans were often referred as moderates or middle-of-the-roaders. Radicals and reactionaries have never come to power in America. A good thing, since both would throw out the baby, the Constitution, with the bathwater.

In the 1930s, Russia was communist and Germany and Italy were fascist. Both far left and far right approaches were attracting support from Americans suffering a terrible depression. Nazi rallies were held in Madison Square Garden, and Communists were weaving their “cells” throughout the country. Huey Long of Louisiana was able to spellbound his audiences with rhetoric sounding much like Hitler and Mussolini. Enter FDR, a liberal favoring no particular political philosophy or “ism,” but willing to try what he felt was a practical approach – create numerous agencies (AAA, WPA, PWA, and others) using government funds to create jobs. This approach did not end the depression, but it took the edge off the situation. Having a job meant everything to many who otherwise may have become communists or fascists.

Why is it different today? Both parties have purged their moderates and moved toward their doom – one influenced by reactionaries and the other by radicals (Progressives). Each feel that they represent truth, like a religion or cult. If you are a true believer, how can you compromise? Therefore those who oppose you must be either evil or stupid – probably both. It is our way or the highway. Moderates need not apply. Make no mistake about it, reactionaries pushing the Republicans to the far right, and radicals (Progressives) pushing Democrats to the far left are dangerous. Many would support a dictator to get America their way.

So, where do we find ourselves as the coming election looms? Reactionary voices in the Republican Party challenge much that has for years been accepted as normal – calling for changes in or even elimination of Social Security (privatize), the Affordable Care Act, Medicare, and our support of NATO. They would support efforts by the States to outlaw abortion, disallow any restrictions on guns, and would find ways to make it inconvenient for lower and middle class folks to vote.

On the Democratic side, in spite of pressure from Progressives, President Biden tried to govern from the center by maintaining existing social programs, supporting NATO, improving the economy by adjusting interest rates, and supporting Israel. Biden found no center to support him. Both parties have expelled their moderates/compromisers.

He has been forced to give some ground to the Progressives. He is under pressure from them to support socialized medicine (Medicare for everyone), federal laws legalizing abortion, federal regulation of guns, support of gay and gender initiatives, and finding ways to make it easier to vote – Sunday voting, etc. The Progressive’s agenda would move the country to Socialism – Uncle Sam would take care of you from the cradle to the grave. Following a dictator to get there would make us a Communist country.

What should we hope will be the result of our coming election? In my humble opinion, it would be best if it brings more divided government. One party could have the president but the other party would control at least one House of Congress, but by a small majority. What would get done? Nothing. The system will only begin functioning when the compromisers reappear and grease the wheels of democracy. This is what the “Founding Fathers” had in mind.

Think and pray for our country when you cast your vote.

TREASURER’S REPORT

GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES September 2024

The following is the individual weekly breakdown of offerings:

September 1 - General Fund	3,327.00	Benevolence	340.00
September 8 - General Fund	2,625.00	Benevolence	159.00
September 15 - General Fund	2,021.00	Benevolence	305.00
September 22 - General Fund	961.00	Benevolence	80.00
September 29 - General Fund	1,049.00	Benevolence	100.00

An additional \$7,979.71 General Fund money was received by mail etc.

	Monthly Budget	YTD Budget	Monthly Received	YTD Received	YTD Expenses
General Fund	17,387.90	135,625.62	17,962.71	131,613.77	147,414.19
Benevolence	1,192.30	9,299.94	984.00	8,780.00	

Middle Octorara Presbyterian Church
Income and Expense Statement
GENERAL FUND 01, September
2024

10/03/2024 11:14 AM

BEGINNING BALANCE, September 1, 2024		13,535.54
INCOME		
Offerings	\$16,693.00	
Manse Rent	1,269.45	
Account Interest	0.26	
Benevolence	984.00	
TOTAL INCOME	18,946.71	
TOTAL CASH & INCOME		32,482.25
EXPENSES		
Pastoral Salary	\$5,851.21	
Pastoral Mileage	607.02	
Pastoral Pension	2,189.93	
Pastoral Technology	50.00	
Secretary-Treasurer	615.00	
Accountant Fees	90.00	
Payroll Taxes	16.96	
Website	95.00	
Advertising	31.84	
Office Supplies	64.18	
Church Supplies	171.93	
Printing Exp/Supplies	210.79	
Copier Lease	120.32	
Electricity	317.52	
Insurance	2,947.25	
Electrical Repairs/Maint.	405.85	
Misc. Repairs/Mainten.	350.00	
Telephone/internet	94.20	
Cleaning Service	120.00	
Upkeep of Grounds	1,854.20	
Special Music Payments	90.00	
Tsfr. Session Benev. Fund	984.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	17,277.20	
ENDING BALANCE, September 30, 2024		15,205.05



FALL WORD SEARCH

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

WORD BANK

WWW.ALWAYSTHEHOLIDAYS.COM

ACORNS
 APPLES
 BONFIRE
 CIDER

CORN
 FOOTBALL
 GOURD
 HALLOWEEN

HARVEST
 HAYRIDE
 LEAVES
 PUMPKIN
 ORANGE

RED
 SCARECROW
 SWEATER
 THANKSGIVING
 YELLOW



**Someone take
grandma's yarn away**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct. 6	Oct. 7	Oct. 8 Trustee Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	Oct. 9 ROMEO Club 9 a.m. Silver Sisters 11:30 Prayer 4 p.m. Choir practice 7:00	Oct. 10	Oct. 11	Oct. 12
Oct. 13	Oct. 14	Oct. 15	Oct. 16 ROMEO Club 9 a.m. Silver Sisters 11:30 Prayer 4 p.m. Choir practice 7:00	Oct. 17	Oct. 18	Oct. 19
Oct. 20	Oct. 21	Oct. 22	Oct. 23 ROMEO Club 9 a.m. Silver Sisters 11:30 Prayer 4 p.m. Choir practice 7:00	Oct. 24	Oct. 25	Oct. 26
Oct. 27	Oct. 28	Oct. 29	Oct. 30 ROMEO Club 9 a.m. Silver Sisters 11:30 Prayer 4 p.m. Choir practice 7:00	Oct. 31 	Nov. 1	Nov. 2

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