

MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 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

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite illustrations of the Christian life has to do with Lord Shaftesbury, who lived in England from 1801 to 1885. He became a Member of Parliament's House of Lords in 1826. Two years in he began to promote laws that prohibited employment of children in coal mines and as chimney sweeps, provided care for insane persons, and limited the working day of factory workers to ten hours. He had a strong Christian faith and was associated with thirty-three philanthropic organizations in his lifetime. His public accomplishments were numerous and impressive.

But he was the same person in private as he was in public. On one occasion people who did not know him were asked to meet him at a rail station. They asked how they were to recognize him and received the answer: when you see a tall man getting off the train and helping somebody, that will be Lord Shaftesbury. As expected a tall man came down out of a coach carrying his own suitcase in one hand and three bundles belonging to an elderly working woman in the other.

Could you and I be identified by our Christian kindness? I believe MOPC could be, as a group of Christians in greater Quarryville who are working tirelessly to bless their community and their world in the name of Jesus. I think you literally ran out of room on your Mission Information Form to describe all of the ministries that you are engaged in for our Lord.

Well done, good and faithful Servants! As the song says, "they will know we are Christians by our love." It is exciting and a great privilege for me to be called to work alongside you.

With a grateful heart,
Pastor John

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

CHOIR

Well this has been some year!! But the Session has approved us starting the choir!! The first practice is Wednesday, September 23 at 7 PM and our first scheduled time to sing is October 4. Please be in prayer that we have enough people to have a choir, and that being together causes no problems. As we all have been told over and over, if you don't feel well, STAY HOME!! But I will welcome all who wish to join us to spread God's message with song!!

DEACONS

We met on August 11th instead of the 7th. I postponed the meeting because of heavy wind and rain from the hurricane.

We prepared 8 birthday cards, 1 anniversary blessing and 6 thinking of you cards.

Pastor John blessed us by joining the meeting. A wonderful evening. My apologies to the trustees for trying to have a meeting in the welcome center. We did get a little carried away with our laughter.

I urged the deacons to call or send cards to our shut ins at the various senior homes. Some people haven't had any visitors since the end of February. I encourage everyone from Middle Octorara to take some time to send a card or call a shut in. I'm sure it would make someone's Day!

Dale Phillips

MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Sub/ Sandwich Sale

Twice annually MOPW sponsors the Sub/Sandwich Sale. Our September sale is planned for Thursday, September 17. The subs and sandwiches will be available from 3-5 PM on the 17th. Since Life Line Screening will be using the Social Hall that day, we request that you pick up your order in the Welcome Center by entering through the back ramp.

Orders are due by **September 10**. The order forms should be placed in the basket in the Welcome Center or you may call Shirley Miller with your order (717-786-3690). We are not taking orders for Chicken Corn Soup but it will be available for pick up when you pick up your subs and sandwiches. Price for the food items: Subs \$6.00; Pretzel Sandwiches \$5.00; Quart of Soup \$5.00

As always, thank you for your support of this MOPW fund raiser. We are pleased we can use the funds raised to support Missions and to help families who fall on hard times.

Turkey Dinner

MOPW is getting geared up to hold the Annual Turkey Dinner on Saturday, **October 10**. This is the largest fund raiser of the year for MOPW. Because of the Covid-19 situation, there will be no dining indoors. All meals will be purchased via a drive-through course.

Since this is such a big event, we are asking those who can, to give some time for preparing the meal, serving and clean up.

September 13 – Dale Phillips has asked all who are interested in helping with the Turkey Dinner to come to a meeting after church on September 13. This will be a planning meeting to make sure all aspects of the dinner are discussed and well planned.

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

A thank you note to the **Pastor Search committee** for your 2-year volunteer time in finding a pastor for Middle Octorara Church. It is important to tell you, as a result of the 2-year **Ladies bible study** with **Chris Paxson** and **Rose Stiller**, who have emphasized over and over, "*God is in control of everything*". It is such an assuring feeling, and a joy to know Pastor John Barlow is God's choice for Middle Octorara's spiritual leader.

And not to forget the prayers to Lord Jesus from faithful members of the church. All in all, together, Middle Octorara will grow again as long as Jesus remains #1 in our hearts and we walk in the knowledge of God's word. Thanks be to God, Doris Woerth

SESSION

In our efforts to make the church basement a neater, cleaner and less cluttered space please do not put anything in any of the rooms without the Trustees permission. If you would have items for next year's yard sale please hold them until the week of the yard sale next April.

We thank everyone for your cooperation.

SILVER SISTERS

The widow's group, Silver Sisters, is planning on going to lunch and show at Bird In Hand Restaurant. Rose and Val have spoken to the ladies that have previously attended any of our functions to see if they are interested. But if you have never attended and would like to go, call Rose so she can reserve a spot for you.

TRUSTEES

As most of you know, the Board of Trustees is responsible for keeping the property in good condition as well as making financial decisions regarding the church and the property. If there is anything that you notice that needs attention, please talk to a Trustee. If you have any suggestions or requests of anything you would like us to discuss, again talk to a Trustee. And when it comes time for work day, we appreciate all of the help that we can get. It takes willing workers to get things accomplished. Also remember to keep contributing to the building fund so we have funds for needed repairs.

WELCOMING & SAFETY COMMITTEE

We had a welcoming committee meeting on Aug 21st. We felt it was important to let Pastor John know what we are trying to do. The next welcoming committee meeting is on Friday September 18th at 7pm in the welcome center. We welcome anyone that interested in helping out or influencing on how we do security. Dale Phillips

Safety tips for around your home.

1. Trim all bushes and shrubs to 3 feet or less. This will increase your viewing ability and reduce anything that people can hide behind.
2. Keep the outside home well lit.
3. Keep a "watch for dog" sign in the window facing the road. This could make someone think twice about breaking in.
4. You can also place a big watering bowl or big dog chew on the front porch or walkway.
5. Keep all windows and doors locked if you are home or away. A locked door will make it slightly harder to get in but it can help you run to a neighbors and call the police.

MISSIONS

LOCAL

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with our annual yard sale. Although postponed from April because of Covid 19 and then scheduled quickly it was a huge success. We made a profit of \$2,652.63 to help our brothers and sisters in Tamshiyacu spread the love and gospel message of Jesus Christ to others in the Amazon.

We plan to hold another one next April as usual so start setting aside your unwanted treasures now 😊

Thank you

The M.O. Mission Committee.

MISSION MUSINGS

Wow August has flown by already. In some ways it was a tough month for me. On August 15 pain from a kidney stone sent me off to the ER. The next 2 weeks were a challenge with pain from surgery, a stent, stent removal and then more pain. Through it all I knew I could rely on my family and church family for concern, love and prayer. I was reminded of Paul's words in Philippians 1:3. What a blessing. Through it all I felt God's presence although there was a time or two, I cried out to Him to please give me some relief from the pain. Of course, He was with me every step of the way and I am so thankful for Him.

On to some joyful events. We were blessed to have Pastor John begin to shepherd us and to lead us in worship starting August 2nd. We are so blessed to have he and Kim as part our church family.

Another enjoyable evening was the sweet corn prep gathering at Shirley Miller's. What a wonderful evening working together on the porch and under the great shade tree. All who show up at Shirley's house feel welcomed. I couldn't help but think of the hours and hours folks have spent chatting and visiting on that spacious porch. I am sure Carl was looking down watching over us with his huge smile. This corn will be used for soup sales and the turkey dinner. These events are outreach opportunities and fund raisers for the MOPW to help those in need in our community and throughout the world.

Next up was the yard sale this past weekend. Again our M.O. family showed up in a huge way. Lots and lots of treasures were donated and many, many hours were spent organizing and pricing hundreds of items. I was especially thankful for the many helpers as I could not help much because of my kidney stone ordeal. God blessed us with beautiful weather and a large turnout of buyers. Over \$2,600.00 was raised that will be used to purchase medicine and help support our sister church in Tamshiyacu to spread the love and gospel message of Jesus Christ in the Amazon.

I have heard it said a church alive is a church involved in worship and mission. God has blessed us with folks called to do both. As James wrote "faith without works is dead".

May we continue to heed God's call to serve the least of them and to worship Him without ceasing.

Many blessings

Dan Henry

REFLECTIONS

by Barry Girvin

Know When to Hold 'em and Know When to Fold 'em

J. Elias Fritz was Supervising Principal when I started teaching at Conestoga Valley in 1962. Among his many favorite expressions was this, and I quote – “When you start thinking you are indispensable try driving by a cemetery.”

As a worrier and a control freak it is difficult to admit that I may not be as effective and efficient as I once was in playing the many roles that are part of my life. What I lost in my stroke and what I gained in dealing with that leads me to this conclusion. I can still be effective on a smaller but more enjoyable scale. I have already told the Board members at the Shrine Church that in 2021, I will resign from the presidency and from the Board. My request to them is that I be appointed as Curator of the Schoolroom Museum. After completing my current term on Session at Middle Octorara, I hope to find a new role on a committee formed to plan our 300th anniversary in 2027.

I have at times in my life overplayed my hand by staying in positions beyond my usefulness, and I have seen many others do the same thing. We resist changes, and sometimes to a selfish extent.

During the next five years, Shirley and I will be keeping our house in good shape, planning for our future home in a retirement community, traveling, and spending our winters in Florida. Scotland next year and a visit to Wes and Kathy in Italy the following year are in our plans. This all depends on how our health holds out. Realistically, if poor health becomes a problem the retirement community will come sooner rather than later.

Now, I need to cope with giving up control and not worrying about how others will play my old roles. It is not easy, but I hope to settle into a sensible life with Shirley and the wonderful family that the Lord provided. Will it be a relaxed life? I doubt it. That is not my nature. Help me – J. Elias Fritz.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

September birthdays

- 9 – Doris Williams – 90th!, Justin Pfeiffer, Dee Rineer Romito
- 12 – John Girvin
- 13 – Donna Garver, Greg Trout
- 15 – Shirley Graver
- 16 – Bill Zander
- 18 – Ken Bradford, Jr.
- 19 – Beaty Armer, Val Wessner
- 20 – Deb Hoover
- 25 – Shirley Girvin
- 26 – Stephanie Pfeiffer
- 27 – Nancy Minchoff

September anniversaries

- 10 – Brian & Susan Kauffman
- 14 – John & Sue Ressel
- 17 – Cory & Koryn Barrett

October anniversaries through the 4th

- 3 – Paul & Beaty Armer

Just in time for Autumn!



TREASURER'S REPORT

GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES *August 2020*

The following is the individual weekly breakdown of offerings:

August 2 -	General Fund	2,889.00	Benevolence	280.00
August 9 -	General Fund	2,285.00	Benevolence	220.00
August 16 -	General Fund	2,595.00	Benevolence	190.00
August 23 -	General Fund	1,350.00	Benevolence	174.00
August 30 -	General Fund	1,729.00	Benevolence	178.00

An additional \$ 2,168.30 General Fund money was received by mail etc.



YTD GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES

	Monthly Budget	YTD Budget	Monthly Received	YTD Received	YTD Expenses
General Fund	15,853.00	110,971.00	13,016.30	85,317.91	50,894.02
Benevolence	615.40	4,307.80	1,042.00	6,609.50	

Debbie Hoover, Secretary-Treasurer

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

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BEGINNING BALANCE, August 1, 2020		47,353.45
INCOME		
Offerings	\$11,606.90	
Manse Rent	1,209.00	
Account Interest	0.40	
Chapel Rent	200.00	
Benevolence	1,042.00	
TOTAL INCOME	14,058.30	
TOTAL CASH & INCOME		61,411.75
 EXPENSES		
Pastoral Salary*	\$4,695.25	
Pastoral Mileage	19.55	
Pastoral Technology	50.00	
Secretary-Treasurer	688.00	
Accountant Fees	100.00	
Payroll Taxes	-45.76	
Safe Deposit Box Rental	40.00	
Office Supplies	185.68	
Church Supplies	18.53	
Printing Exp/Supplies (Qtrly color bill & Yearly copier contract)	1,067.70	
Copier Lease	138.14	
Electricity	252.98	
Misc. Repairs/Mainten.	349.88	
Telephone/internet	110.94	
Cleaning Service	307.50	
Upkeep of Grounds	1,648.09	
Guest Minister/Speaker	82.70	
Special Music Payments	60.00	
Tsfr. Session Benev. Fund	1,042.00	
Plumbing Repairs-Manse	93.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	10,904.18	
ENDING BALANCE, August 31, 2020		50,507.57

*(Pastoral Pension bill not received yet)

Fall Word Scramble

Unscramble the words and write the letters in the boxes. Use the letters in the shaded boxes to form a new word that answers the riddle.

ULQIT

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LAVEES

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BEEESTRMP

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SVRTAEH

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TECTHUNS

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AUMUTN

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ATOLFLOB

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Q. What do you get when you drop a pumpkin?

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Cute cow items at our yard sale

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sept. 6	Sept. 7	Sept. 8 Trustee Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	Sept. 9 ROMEO Club meeting 9:00 a.m.	Sept. 10 Session Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Sub orders due	Sept. 11	Sept. 12
Sept. 13 Turkey dinner mtg. after church	Sept. 14 Ladies bible study 9:00 a.m.	Sept. 15	Sept. 16 ROMEO Club meeting 9:00 a.m.	Sept. 17 Lifeline Screening Subs here for pickup	Sept. 18	Sept. 19
Sept. 20	Sept. 21 Ladies bible study 9:00 a.m.	Sept. 22	Sept. 23 ROMEO Club meeting 9:00 a.m. Choir practice 7:00 p.m.	Sept. 24	Sept. 25	Sept. 26
Sept. 27	Sept. 28 Ladies bible study 9:00 a.m.	Sept. 29	Sept. 30 ROMEO Club meeting 9:00 a.m.	Oct. 1	Oct. 2	Oct. 3

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

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
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