

MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 2021 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

In Mark 12:28 a teacher of the law asked our Lord, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" Out of the 613 commandments of God in our Old Testament, Jesus picked two: from Deuteronomy 6:5, "Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength," and from Leviticus 19:18, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

These two commandments reflect how Jesus lived his life, and how we are to live as his disciples. We are to offer ourselves first to God. All that we are: heart, soul, mind and strength, all that he has made us in our creation, all that he supplies to us everyday that we live. We don't let the needs and requests of others determine how we give of ourselves; we let God call the shots. We offer ourselves to our Creator and Redeemer and let him direct how we care for those around us.

It can be as all-encompassing as having God say, "I want you to go to the time and expense of preparing yourself for a helping profession." It can be as simple and passing as God drawing our eye to a simple need and asking us to contribute in a small way to its solution.

When we respond to God's call, big or small, to care for others, he doesn't ask us to love our neighbor instead of ourselves, but as we love ourselves. In Philippians 2 Paul enjoins us "to look not only to our own interests, but also to the interests of others." He doesn't say that we should replace our interests with the interests of others.

There is a place for Christian self-care, for sticking up for ourselves in situations of conflict, and for taking good care of our health, by getting enough sleep, food (physical and otherwise), relaxation and recreation. Only by safeguarding our physical and emotional health, will we have something to share with others.

In 1 Timothy 6:17 Paul says, "God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment," and in the very next verse, says we are "to be generous and willing to share." Enjoyment and sharing, loving our neighbors as we love ourselves. How do we determine the balance between the two? We let God show us what to enjoy, and what to share, in each and every instance. This is why Paul says about our giving in 2 Corinthians 9:7, "Each person should give what she has decided in her heart to give." We decide in our hearts, which we have given to God in love, and where we hear from him how he wants us to enjoy, and in turn share, out of his bounty.

Jesus, the perfect Spirit-filled man, obeyed his heavenly Father completely, offering his life for all of us in the way prescribed for him. We are called to do the same, offering ourselves first to God, and then to others as he determines, balancing care for ourselves and care for our neighbors.

MO Friends, please take good care of yourselves, even as you care so effectively for others. One is as much a part of God's will as the other. He wants to bless and fulfill us as we follow his program. I am ever grateful for the privilege of partnering with you in the Christian life and mission, - Pastor John.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

CHOIR

The opportunity has arisen!! Choir practice is beginning Wednesday, September 22 at 7 PM. All singers are welcome!! You don't have to read music, but reading words is helpful!! Come join the fun!!

DEACONS

The Deacons met on Tuesday Aug 3rd. We had a bbq chicken dinner with a grilled and seasoned potatoes and onions side dish and an assortment of sides and desserts . It was an awesome dinner for fellowship and spending some time together with an amazing group of people. We reviewed our deacon duties and schedule. We prepared and signed, 8 birthday cards, 2 anniversary blessings, 1 sympathy card and 6 thinking of you cards.

Our next meeting is Tuesday September 7th. Dinner is at 6:30pm. The meeting will follow.

MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PEACH FEST Our first, annual Peach Fest was held on Saturday, August 21, 2021. It was a great success. We welcomed over 40 folks who came out to enjoy the meal and yummy peach desserts. Everyone seemed to have a good time, just relaxing and enjoying one another's company.

Many thanks to all who helped and to all who provided the Peach Desserts. We look forward to doing this event again next August.

NEXT MOPW meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 17 immediately following the Worship Service.

SILVER SISTERS

This fun group had lunch at Dutchway this month and back to the church for games. Also 10 ladies are going to Dutch Apple Dinner Theater for lunch and to see the show "Grumpy Old Men". Lots of laughs!! On September 22 we plan on going to lunch at the Conestoga Wagon. If interested, call or text Rose Griest at 610-636-5378.

TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees had an exciting meeting in August. The church was struck by lightning during our meeting. The lights didn't even blink, but the rain was pounding against the west side of the windows. The security alarm did a slow steady beep, but we were unaware of the electronics being "fried". Mike Hoover is trying to find all of the things affected, including the organ, power point, tv screen, telephone, sound systems, parking lot lights on/off timers, etc. He has to gather estimates for replacements of items needed before he can give it to the insurance company. We thank him for his expertise, and his time to get it all figured out.

SENDING YOUR TITHE/OFFERING TO MO DIRECTLY FROM YOUR BANK

- Make sure you have a checking or savings account set up with your bank
- Contact your bank, ask them if they could send a check to MO directly from your bank account. I think this is called an ACH debit.
- The check is sent by mail to MO.

OR....

If you do online banking, you can do this yourself with the bill pay feature.

Advantages to this:

- 1- There is no charge for this service
- 2- Having Deb set up a direct wire from your bank to MO involves a fee. This does not, because the paper check is sent through the mail.
- 3- I like doing it because then I am consistent about the giving and I don't forget it that way.

MISSION MUSINGS

I often write Mission Musings about reaching out to help folks in our community, nation and world. All of this is very important of course but just as important is helping those in our own families. We can do this by caring for and loving those who are closest to us.

We can be good role models and mentors no matter whether we are siblings, parents, grandparents or any family member.

It is such a blessing to be raised in a loving and caring family where you know that no matter what happens you will be there for each other.

Jesus often spoke and taught about loving each other as God loves us.

I was certainly blessed to be raised in a wonderful family. My parents taught us right from wrong, to respect others and most of all they taught us about Jesus.

I have so many wonderful memories of times spent with parents, siblings, aunts, uncles and grandparents.

I challenge myself and each of you to realize our families are God's family and He desires that we accept the responsibility and privilege of teaching and guiding them to know Jesus.

I guess I am thinking these thoughts of family partially because my brother Dave will retire from 1st Presbyterian Church of Jefferson City on August 31st after over 40 years in the ministry. I am sure he will not retire from pastoring in some way. May we each continue to seek to "pastor" others as God leads us to.

Proverbs 22:6

Blessings

Dan

REFLECTIONS

This and That

The memorial service for Harry William Frackman, Jr. was a warm and inspirational tribute to the life of a man so loved by family, church family, and the community. For Shirley, it marked the passing of another of her first cousins. The Welk connection – Harry's mother was Ruth Mary Welk. Other cousins, Lester and Maurice Welk passed recently.

Lester Welk and his son, Jim, built our house in 1968. As we prepare to sell our home and move to the Presbyterian Retirement Community, many memories of our lives in Smoketown make it a very melancholy time.

We are honoring WWII veterans at the Scottish Festival, and one of the names to be read is that of James Clarence Girvin, Jr., my dad. He was stationed in Italy in 1944, part of our Allied force moving north toward the Brenner Pass. Wes and Kathy are now in Italy, and Wes is anxious to show us the route taken by Allied troops including PFC James C. Girvin. Dad suffered broken ear drums and a serious mastoid infection, was treated at Indiantown Gap Hospital, and cured thanks to penicillin. He was slated to take part in the invasion of Japan, but the Atomic bomb made that pending slaughter unnecessary. No wonder, Pop thought Harry Truman was the greatest man that ever lived.

I am preparing to start teaching Sunday School starting on September 26. Middle Octorara's 10:30 AM worship service on October 10 will be held at the Shrine Church. Pastor Barlow will preach from excerpts of a John Cuthbertson sermon, the Kirkin' O' Th' Tartans Ceremony will be performed, and there will be singing in the Covenanter style. The schoolroom museum will be open for fellowship and research after the service.

Shirley and I are back working at the Amish Farm and House, her more than me. I usually tell folks on my bus that most Amish children either walk or ride their scooters to school. A school bus driver set me straight on this. In the Conestoga Valley School District this year there is a very large increase in the number of Amish riding the public school busses. The driver believes this is a result of the Linda Stoltzfoos kidnap and murder.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

September birthdays starting with the 5th

9 – Justin Peiffer, Doris Williams
12 – John Girvin
13 – Donna Garver, Greg Trout
15 – Shirley Graver
16 – Bill Zander **95th**
18 – Ken Bradford, Jr.
19 – Beaty Armer, Val Wessner
20 – Deb Hoover
25 – Shirley Girvin
27 – Nancy Minchoff

September anniversaries

10 – Brian & Susan Kauffman
14 – John & Sue Ressel
17 – Cory & Koryn Barrett
19 – Douglas & Kristine Hileman

October anniversaries through the 3rd

3 – Paul & Beaty Armer



Back To School Word Search

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teacher
classroom

friends
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TREASURER'S REPORT

GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES *August 2021*

The following is the individual weekly breakdown of offerings:

| | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------|-------------|--------|
| August 1 - | General Fund | 4,171.00 | Benevolence | 605.00 |
| August 8 - | General Fund | 1,955.00 | Benevolence | 177.00 |
| August 15 - | General Fund | 2,036.00 | Benevolence | 135.00 |
| August 22 - | General Fund | 2,389.00 | Benevolence | 247.00 |
| August 29 - | General Fund | 1,311.00 | Benevolence | 105.00 |

An additional \$6,288.81 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 | 14,998.55 | 104,989.85 | 18,150.81 | 114,778.97 | 125,035.63 |
| Benevolence | 615.40 | 4,307.80 | 1,269.00 | 8,556.00 | |

Debbie Hoover, Secretary-Treasurer

Middle Octorara Presbyterian Church
Income and Expense Statement
GENERAL FUND 01, August 2021

09/01/2021 05:14 PM

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| BEGINNING BALANCE, | | 47,459.81 |
| INCOME | | |
| Offerings | \$12,441.00 | |
| Manse Rent | 1,209.00 | |
| Account Interest | 0.81 | |
| Grant Income | 2,000.00 | |
| M.O.Cemetery Fund-Mowing | 2,500.00 | |
| Benevolence | 1,269.00 | |
| TOTAL INCOME | <u>19,419.81</u> | |
| TOTAL CASH & INCOME | | 66,879.62 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Pastoral Salary | \$5,104.95 | |
| Pastoral Mileage | 257.04 | |
| Pastoral Pension | 1,824.73 | |
| Pastoral Technology | 50.00 | |
| Secretary-Treasurer | 565.25 | |
| Payroll Taxes | -146.83 | |
| Advertising | 28.64 | |
| Copier Lease | 120.32 | |
| Electricity | 281.82 | |
| Telephone/internet | 118.73 | |
| Cleaning Supplies | 5.49 | |
| Cleaning Service | 217.50 | |
| Upkeep of Grounds | 1,648.13 | |
| Guest Minister/Speaker | 125.00 | |
| Special Music Payments | 90.00 | |
| Tsfr. Session Benev. Fund | 1,269.00 | |
| M.O.P.C. Investment Fund | 10,000.00 | |
| Property Taxes-Manse | 1,874.35 | |
| Upkeep of Grounds-Manse | 146.00 | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | <u>23,580.12</u> | |
| ENDING BALANCE, August 31, 2021 | | 43,299.50 |
| Interest checking | | |



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|----------|--|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Sept. 5 | Sept. 6 | Sept. 7 Deacon's meeting/meal 6:30 p.m. | Sept. 8 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. | Sept. 9 | Sept. 10 | Sept. 11 |
| Sept. 12 Session Meeting/meal 12:00 p.m. | Sept. 13 | Sept. 14 Trustee Meeting 7:00 p.m. | Sept. 15 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Solanco Fair | Sept. 16 Solanco Fair | Sept. 17 Solanco Fair | Sept. 18 |
| Sept. 19 Pastor Barlow Installation Meal 2:00 p.m. | Sept. 20 | Sept. 21 | Sept. 22 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Silver Sisters Choir practice 7:00 p.m. | Sept. 23 | Sept. 24 | Sept. 25 |
| Sept. 26 | Sept. 27 | Sept. 28 | Sept. 29 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Choir practice 7:00 p.m. | Sept. 30 | Oct. 1 | Oct. 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

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
2019-2021-J. Barry Girvin, Susan Ressel, Koryn Barrett
2020-2022-Jim Bueche, Kay Bueche, Joan Probst
2021-2023-Jerry Garver, Dick Keene, Dale Phillips

Deacons

Administrator: Dale Phillips
Phone: 717-587-1684
Email: bigdp1234@gmail.com
2019-2021-Nancy Cox, Kathy Harvey, Sandra Shenk, Vivian Caldwell,
2020-2022-Linda Farmer, Dottie Garver, Sara Kauffman, Sharon Mowery
2021-2023-Kim Barlow, Dixie Clark, Sue Herr, Jonathan Welch

Trustees

President: Jeff Frackman
Phone: 717-989-6896
2019-2021-Douglas Henry, Andrew Keene, Samuel Reinhart
2020-2022-Jeff Frackman, Shirley Girvin, Rose Griest
2021-2023-Nancy Minchoff, Shirley Miller, Virgil Roark