

MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 2023 NEWSLETTER



Covenanter Scottish Festival

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 Carmichael (1867-1951), Irish Christian and missionary to India for fifty years, said this: "Prayer is the core of the day. Take prayer out, and the day would collapse." Ama (mother), as she was called by the thousands of orphans she took in at Dohnavur Fellowship, understood this simple, yet profound, fact: We do not apply God's Word to our lives ourselves, with our own smarts and fortitude. Instead, we ask the Holy Spirit, who inspired the human authors of the Bible, to apply the life-shaping words of Holy Scripture to our daily living.

2 Peter 1:21 says: "Prophecy (Scripture) never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." This is the same Holy Spirit, the third person of the Holy Trinity, that God the Father and Jesus the Son have sent to live in all believers and guide us into all truth. In John 14:6,7 Jesus says: "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, the Spirit of truth, to be with you forever." In verse 26 of John 14: "The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things." In John 16:13 Jesus says: "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth."

How does the indwelling Spirit, the gift of the Father and the Son, do this? Primarily through his Word, as we prayerfully read, commit to memory or paper or both, and take it with us into the day, and throughout the day, "praying without ceasing" as Paul encourages us to do in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, making prayer according to God's will, in Jesus' name, the strong and effective core of each day that God grants us.

It will make all the difference in our Christian experience, between spinning our wheels and going nowhere through self-effort and self-reliance, and getting real traction and making good progress through prayerful listening and dependence on God. None of our days need collapse, if we will trust, listen, and obey.

As I look around our fine, faithful congregation, I see many who do just that, who are strong in the Lord, and ask him every day, "What do you want me to do for you, with you, today?" I am blessed by your shining example, and honored to be your pastor.

CHURCH LIFE

CHOIR

Choir practice will begin on Wednesday, September 27 at 7 PM. If you love to sing and give the glory to the Lord, we would love to have you join us. I try to vary the types of songs that we do, to keep everyone, including the congregation, interested. We do have fun!! And you don't have to read music. There are plenty of seats available.

DEACONS

The Apostle Paul uses the figure of the body of Christ, with Jesus as the head, to define and describe the church in three extended passages in his letters: Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4. Each passage speaks of gifts of the Holy Spirit, distributed to the members or parts of the body, which, when all are exercised in concert, make for full function and growth. In Ephesians 4:16, he puts it this way: "The whole body grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." Different gifts are mentioned in each of the three passages, suggesting that they are representative, and that there are more that are not noted, but do exist, flowing from, and being coordinated by, the Head, our Lord Jesus Christ.

In verses 11 and 12 of Ephesians 4, Paul says: "Christ gave some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." Earlier translators conveyed the idea that pastors do the work of ministry. More reliable translations make it clear that the work of the ministry belongs to the other members of the body, and the pastor/teacher's task and privilege is to equip them for it. Of course, part of effective teaching is modeling, demonstrating, so pastors should themselves engage in ministry, but it shouldn't end there, and they shouldn't be operating alone. I am deeply grateful for the very effective ministry of our MO Deacons, who are exercising their gifts from the Holy Spirit for the benefit of the whole church. Well done, good and faithful servants!

MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Sept. 14 – Sub/sandwich sale. Pick up any time after 2:30. Frozen quarts of beef vegetable (stone soup) and chicken corn for \$8.00/quart will be available. No preorders needed. Deadline for sandwich orders is Sept 7.

Sept 17 – Middle Octorara Pres Women meeting immediately following the church service.

Upcoming – Turkey Dinner – takeouts only. October 14.

MISSIONS

Peru Trip Opportunity

Plans are being made now for mission trips to Peru. Travelers will have a chance to work among our friends in the Amazon and see how we are connected to some villages there. A group will go in the winter of 2024 from January 19-February 3. Travelers may go for 1 week or 2. 1 week. January 19 to 27 or January 26 to February 3. 2 weeks January 19 to February 3.

Also, another group trip is being planned for the summer of 2024. Anyone interested in going should contact Dan Henry. There are Mission Trip funds available in one of our mission funds to help pay the costs.

The Mission Committee met on Sunday, August 27 and have decided to add 2 more mission projects to the 18 we now support. They are JMF (Joyfully Made Fellowship) and the Oaks Ministry. Thank you, as you continue to give to the Benevolence Fund.

During the month of September, we are highlighting 2 missions: Solid Rock and Solanco CROP Walk. Each of these groups will receive \$300.

SILVER SISTERS

We had 14 ladies join together to have lunch at The Conestoga Wagon Restaurant. It was a good meal with lots of good conversations. And there were 8 widows together at Dutch Apple for a delicious dinner and show. Lots of laughing was heard and smiles were evident by all. We do have fun together!!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Sept 3 - Sue Herr and Edie Jackson

Sept 10 - Melody Brown

Sept 17 - Shirley Miller's Great-Grandchildren

Sept 24 - John Girvin

TRUSTEES

We have a bat problem again in the attic/crawl spaces of the entire church building. We have hired Ehrlich Pest Control to get rid of the bats. It is quite an expensive job, **\$9,200.00** to have done, but we feel it is necessary. From the outside of the building, they rent a lift to plug up the holes where they feel the bats enter. At first, they install a cone-like contraption where the bats can exit the building, but not re-enter. In a couple of weeks, they come back to see if the bats are gone and then they permanently close the holes, and remove deceased bats from the crawl spaces.

In the mean time, we have installed two donated bat boxes outside for the bats to make their new home. One box was donated by Brett Holzhauser from Quarryville Agway and the second one by Rob McCullough, an active member of the Covenanter Foundation.

After the Scottish Festival, a couple of our members are going to cut the MIDDLE OCTORARA bushes way back so they can shape them in to letters again. So they will be very bare-looking until they fill out again.

The cemetery restoration work is to start back up in September. If God leads you to make further donations toward the **\$4,600.00** we still need, designate on the check memo line "cemetery restoration".

And we always need donations to the building fund to cover costs of necessary repairs and projects such as bat removal. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

MISSION MUSINGS

Boni and I do not go to many movies but occasionally we hear about one that sounds interesting and we go to the movie theater. We heard about Sound of Freedom so we went to watch it while we were on vacation last month. What an interesting and powerful movie. I highly recommend for all adults to check it out. It is based on a true story and there are many sad, difficult and heartbreaking scenes but there is a happy ending in this case. Many scenes still stick with me. I won't spoil the story for those who haven't seen it yet but a couple of scenes that stick out are the little boy's face when he asked the main character to find his sister. Also when the main character says that child trafficking is the fastest growing illegal crime network the world has ever seen, it has already passed the illegal arms trade and will soon pass the illegal drug trade because you can sell a bag of cocaine one time but you can sell a child several times a day, day after day. Totally disgusting but true what some people will do to children. When he's asked why he does this job he says because "God's children are not for sale". Go see this movie and ask God how He wants you to help. We at M. O. already do support NorthStar Initiative which helps young girls here in the county with a way out of sex trafficking.

Our mission in Peru continues and there will be opportunities to travel to the Amazon again next year. Check out the information in this Newsletter if you or someone you know has an interest in traveling there next year. We also continue to send funds to purchase medical supplies for the hospital in Iquitos and the medical staff there are most thankful for the additional equipment and supplies we have provided this past year. We also continue to support our sister church in Tamshiyacu and support Pastor Johny, his family and other Medical Mission staff in the Amazon. Our funds helped to supply a new roof last month for Villa our friend and Medical Missions right hand man in Iquitos.

We don't always get to see how our donations and prayers help others but be assured they are making an eternal difference in the lives of others. Keep giving and keep praying.

2nd Corinthians 9 6-8 James 5:16

Blessings, Dan

REFLECTIONS

by Barry Girvin

Remembering and Honoring Our Veterans

With the anniversary of 9-11 approaching and with Vietnam Era (1961-1975) veterans to be honored at the Scottish Festival, I thought it appropriate to revisit a piece I wrote in May of 2002.

Tommy Jennings and Mel Wink

As we approach Veteran's Day my mind goes back to the visits that I made to the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. I found the names of two people who were a part of my life.

Thomas Jennings and Melvin Wink were similar in that they both graduated from high school, got a job, got married, were drafted, and were killed in the Vietnam War. However, the similarities end there.

The Jennings family moved in with an elderly couple, the Hartmans, who lived across the road from our home (now Herb's house). When the Hartmans died the family was given very short notice to move. Receiving little for taking care of the old couple and left high and dry the Jennings moved in with us.

Bud Jennings was a giant of a man whose former occupations included professional boxer and work in the Chicago Stockyards. When it was time to butcher steers we watched in amazement as Bud put them down with one well-placed blow from a sledge hammer. Bud was an alcoholic, but he was "on the wagon" when they lived with us.

Bud and Isabel Jennings had two sons, Tommy and Bob. Isabel was a gregarious woman who loved to talk and loved to eat. She was also a strong disciplinarian, and Tommy got slapped around almost every day whether he needed it or not.

The Jennings family later moved to Mount Pleasant and then to Lancaster. By then Bud was drinking again and he and Isabel got divorced. Tommy was a good athlete who enjoyed having his father come to his games. However, Bud missed most of them because of his most recent binge.

Tommy grew up in the city and became a tough, street wise kid. During his tour in Vietnam he received a furlough which he spent in Hawaii with his wife. Soon after returning to duty he was killed when he stepped on a land mine.

Mel Wink represents a later chapter in my life. He was a student in my history classes at CV, and I coached him in baseball. Mel was the oldest of a large family, a good student, a hard worker, and a fine athlete. Mel was the kind of son that all parents would like to have – caring, responsible, dependable. His parents and his siblings looked to him as the leader of the family.

Mel was the type of student who did his homework every day – every bit of it no matter how tedious. He was a left-handed hitter with a beautiful swing that produced some line-drives that I will never forget. On one occasion we were playing "up on the hill" in Columbia, and Mel hit a ball that literally went out of sight. I am sure it did not make it to the river, but it looked like it did.

Mel went to work for a plumber in Brownstown, got married, and was going part-time to trade school when he was drafted. Only two weeks before the end of his tour in Vietnam he was part of the "incursion" into Cambodia in 1970. His unit was ambushed and he was gunned down as he tried to protect some of his men as they endeavored to find cover. All who enter Conestoga Valley High School see a plaque dedicated to Mel and his supreme sacrifice. My history club raised the money for the plaque and conducted the dedication ceremony.

These were very different young men, but they both honored us and their country with their sense of duty and patriotism. What can we say of these men cut down in their prime? John Steinbeck put it well "...Oh, what might have been."

Middle Octorara Presbyterian
Church
Income and Expense Statement
GENERAL FUND 01,
August 2023

08/30/2023 01:12 PM

BEGINNING BALANCE, August 1, 2023		30,208.40
INCOME		
Offerings	\$8,496.00	
Manse Rent	1,269.45	
Account Interest	0.24	
Soc.Hall Rent 1/2 to MOPW	100.00	
M.O.Cemetery Fund-Mowing	2,500.00	
Benevolence	570.00	
TOTAL INCOME	12,935.69	
TOTAL CASH & INCOME		43,144.09
EXPENSES		
Pastoral Salary	\$5,626.17	
Pastoral Mileage	394.57	
Pastoral Pension	2,108.40	
Pastoral Technology	50.00	
Secretary-Treasurer	893.00	
Accountant Fees	90.00	
Payroll Taxes	48.52	
Advertising	31.00	
Office Supplies	96.94	
Church Supplies	30.78	
Copier Lease	120.32	
Electricity	402.38	
Propane Gas	136.13	
Misc. Repairs/Mainten.	359.46	
Telephone/internet	166.75	
Cleaning Service	337.50	
Upkeep of Grounds	1,854.10	
Guest Minister/Speaker	150.00	
Special Music Payments	120.00	
Tsfr. Session Benev. Fund	570.00	
Transfer to MOPW	50.00	
Property Taxes-Manse	2,027.28	
TOTAL EXPENSES	15,663.30	
ENDING BALANCE, August 31, 2023		27,480.79

TREASURER'S REPORT

GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES AUGUST 2023

The following is the individual weekly breakdown of offerings:

August 6 -	General Fund	2,627.00	Benevolence	140.00
August 13 -	General Fund	1,816.00	Benevolence	160.00
August 20 -	General Fund	1,672.00	Benevolence	75.00
August 27 -	General Fund	2,031.00	Benevolence	195.00

An additional \$4,219.69 General Fund money was received by mail etc.

YTD GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES

	Monthly	YTD	Monthly	YTD	YTD
	Budget	Budget	Received	Received	Expenses
General Fund	13,460.28	117,777.45	12,365.69	119,926.71	115,549.48
Benevolence	953.84	8,346.10	570.00	6,493.00	

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

September birthdays

- 4 – Carol Girvin
- 9 – Justin Pfeiffer
- 12 – John Girvin
- 13 – Donna Garver, Greg Trout
- 15 – Shirley Graver
- 19 – Beaty Armer, Val Wessner
- 20 – Deb Hoover
- 25 – Shirley Girvin (80th)
- 26 – Stephanie Pfeiffer
- 27 – Nancy Minchoff

September anniversaries

- 14 – John & Sue Ressel
- 17 – Cory & Koryn Barrett
- 19 – Douglas & Kristine Hileman



“...the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere...” James 3:17

Greetings in Christ from Japan!

I (Scott) arrived here last night, Tokyo time, and then our East Asia leadership team for Jesus Film traveled by car to the foot of mount Fuji. The view outside of our window this morning was stunning and beautiful.

Partnership for East Asia

Thanks for your prayers for Sally and I as we traveled to Dallas a few weeks back. There we took part in a conference that brought ministry leaders that lead work in the large “restricted acces” country in East Asia where we used to serve. For us, it was wonderful to be in the same room with over 100 brothers and sisters, most of whom have served in East Asia themselves, but all of whom have East Asia on their hearts.

Even though the past few years have created increasing pressures on the church there, God opened up doors for partnership in the gospel for us.

We connected with two new partners who have worked among smaller unreached Muslim People Groups in East Asia. We will both be able to pursue translating the Jesus Film into the languages of those peoples, but we will also work together with them to get media resources and training for the frontline missionaries who are crossing cultures to represent Jesus in these places.

We also met with two existing partners and got to hear how God has used tablets we provided to help church planters do house to house evangelism and start some small groups in villages with no church.

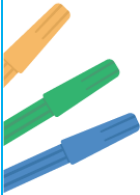
We were also blessed to meet one Mongolian brother who said that he was the Jesus Film for his people. We didn't know what he meant at the time, but after we heard the story, we learned that he had helped organize the two known Mongolian churches at that time to come together to help translate the Jesus Film and then contribute to recording the voices necessary for dubbing the film. This brother lit up as he described how the Jesus Film team came in and created a makeshift studio with mattresses for soundproofing and how he got to play three of the characters in the film. Even more fun, he told us that the Jesus Film in his language is still a key tool for evangelism among his people who have not heard of Jesus. Hearing Jesus speak and the gospel proclaimed in their language has been a powerful thing for planting the church among this people!

It is exciting to remember how significantly God used the Jesus Film in the Mongolian heart language in East Asia as **Sally will travel to Okinawa** in September to help record the new Okinawan version of the Jesus Film to be used among churches there.

Most people we met at the conference were familiar with the Jesus Film, as it has been widely used across East Asia, but we are always surprised that so many don't know that it can be used as a powerful tool for follow-up of young believers, discipleship and church planting. Knowing Jesus, a curriculum designed for non-literate cultures, does just this. Each of the 61 segments from the Jesus Film can be used as the text for study of a passage of scripture so that young believers can understand the core teachings of Jesus, and maturing believers can understand the great commission and the call to multiply their faith in the lives of others! We have several follow up appointments to introduce this strategy to add to existing church planting efforts.



Back To School Word Search



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



A B C

APPLE
 DESK
 LUNCHBOX
 PENCIL
 SCHEDULE

SCISSORS
 TEACHER
 BACKPACK
 LIBRARY
 MATH

PLAYGROUND
 SCHOOL
 STUDENT
 WRITING
 CRAYONS

LOCKER
 NOTEBOOK
 RECESS
 SCIENCE
 STUDY





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sept. 3	Sept. 4	Sept. 5 Session Mtg. 6:45 p.m.	Sept. 6 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Secret Sister party 6:00 p.m.	Sept. 7 Sub orders due	Sept. 8	Sept. 9 Scottish Festival 9:00 – 5:00
Sept. 10	Sept. 11	Sept. 12 Trustee Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	Sept. 13 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Silver Sisters 11:30 a.m.	Sept. 14 Subs available for pickup	Sept. 15	Sept. 16
Sept. 17 MOPW meeting after church	Sept. 18	Sept. 19	Sept. 20 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m.	Sept. 21	Sept. 22	Sept. 23
Sept. 24	Sept. 25	Sept. 26	Sept. 27 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Choir practice 7:00 p.m.	Sept. 28	Sept. 29	Sept. 30

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR REV. JOHN BARLOW

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Myerstown, PA 17067

Cellphone: 717-377-4570
Email: barlowjohn604@gmail.com

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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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: danhens55@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
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