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The
GLEANER

December, 2017

The McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church
Office: 485-4400
email: office@mupc.org • web page: www.mupc.org

“Advent 2017”

Advent 2017 is upon us! The front page of the Gettysburg Times gives the daily “Shopping Days ‘til Christmas” countdown; radio stations have switched to 24/7 Christmas music; Christmas decorations are going up, and Christmas cards are arriving; December’s calendar is already “crowded”; and the “shopping frenzy” has many of us overwhelmed!

In contrast to the stress and strain that our culture has created for this Season, Advent is truly a time of celebration – celebrating God’s love made flesh (John 1:14); celebrating God’s intervention on our behalf when we were helplessly lost in the darkness of sin (Romans 5:6,8); celebrating God’s promise of peace and joy in His presence (Philippians 4:4-7). More than that, however, Advent is a time of *waiting*!

Kathy Clark-Dickens in *Alive Now!* captures the essence of our wait:

“All my life I have waited: waited for the project to be completed, waited for supper to be ready, waited for the doctor to see me. I have waited at the traffic light, waited for the right relationship, waited to grow up.

I have waited alone or waited with friends. I have waited anxiously. I have waited expectantly. Some waits have brought joy. Other waits have brought bad news. Some waits have been ‘worth waiting for.’

Now it is Advent, and I am waiting again. This time I am waiting in the darkness of my soul – ravaged by sorrow, anger, and fear. But I do not despair in the waiting, for I remember the way light looks and feels. The memories of silent nights with starlit skies are with me, and I have been bathed in the warmth of love’s light. And so I hope for Messiah to come.

Voices sing, ‘Prepare him room.’ I know now waiting cannot be passive. There is something to do, but where? I have no inn or stable, but in my heart, I can make room. Move over doubt. Move over despair. Make room for Truth, for Life, for Love. Make room for the Prince of Peace.”

Cont.

And so we wait in anticipation of Messiah's coming again and while we wait, we live as people of Hope, letting our lights shine so that the world may know that the Prince of Peace lives and reigns in our hearts!

Happy Waiting this Advent Season!

Pastor Dale



- 5-Joshua Kimmel
- 6-Linda Heuston
Jason Carbaugh
- 8-Joshua Lininger
- 10-Donna Ankney
- 11-Helena Eksuzian
- 15-Michael Kerlin
- 17-Makenzie Ann Graham
- 18-Audrey Cutchall
- 20-Barb Leese
- 21-Jack Drover
- 22-Jace Horton
Dexter Hu
- 22-Mary Mundy
- 25-Jack Rhodes
Kenneth Kneas
Raymond Aller
- 26-Don Fowler
- 30-John Nelson

*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

Prayer Concerns: Please be in prayer for those listed below and their families: **Short Term:** Greg Ramsey, Bill Vogel (Doug Brown's Cousin), Ella Spriggs, Joy & Ray Anderson, Mary Jane LeFevre, Family of Spence Perry, Family of Jane MacDonald, Janice Kirkly, Family of Helen Clusman, & PNC. **Long Term:** Ben Faunce, Wayne McCoy, Nolan Heironimus, Anne Howard, Chas Howells (Son of Wes Howells), & Esther Webb (sister of Bill Warthin).

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for supporting our family so generously following the death of Jane MacDonald. We sincerely appreciated the memorial flowers, visits, cards, phone calls, food, luncheon, and music. In addition to gifts to the church's memorial fund, almost \$3000 was given to the MacDonald Family Scholarship in memory of Jane.

The MacDonald Family

Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Cinda Perry wife of Spence Perry would like to thank everyone for the beautiful flowers and cards she received following Spence's death. She deeply appreciates everyone's thoughtfulness.



November 2, 2017

Sandy was with us by phone, all the others were present.

Our December meeting will be December 7, 6 pm at Sandy's home.

Most of our projects are completed. We still plan to install a new set of stairs from the Fire Co. lot to the back of the Fellowship House.

John Nelson is repairing our cemetery for us.

Our elevator has been inspected and is on a schedule for future inspections.

If you see something that needs our attention, let us know.

We are working on our budget for the coming year that will continue to enhance our facilities.

Invite others to worship with us through the Christmas season and through the coming year. Continue to share the love of Jesus in the community.

Ron Mitchell, secretary



November 1, 2017

Meeting was opened with prayer led by Stanley Kerlin. Also present were Connie Brown, Patty Rhodes, April Leese, Barbara MacDonald and Joyce Hornberger.

Previous minutes were reviewed and approved.

Prayer concerns and visits were discussed. Prayer list was updated.

Old Business

Blood drive is scheduled for December 6 in the Fellowship Hall.

Giving Tree: April has coordinated with Sisters Martha and Martha and is ready to go. Tree will go up on November 12, with

gifts being returned to the church by December 3.

Missionary from Malawi spoke Sunday about their need for support. The board has decided to sponsor three children at a cost of \$360/child/year.

New Business

Care packages for college students will be started up again. Deacons will bring in items this Sunday to be packaged and mailed to Matt Brown.

Fruit baskets for shut ins: List of recipients was compiled. Joyce will order fruit baskets and have them delivered to church on November 18. Deacons can pick them up on November 19 and deliver them the week of Thanksgiving.

Benevolences

Rays of Hope (3 children in Malawi)
\$1080.00

PDA- earmarked for Puerto Rico
\$1000.00

Fulton County Fuel Mission
\$1000.00

Fulton County Food Basket
\$1000.00

Loves Closet
\$100.00

Next meeting will be December 13, 2017.

Deacons are to bring 1 dozen cookies each to assemble cookie trays.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm with prayer by Patty Rhodes.



SESSION



November 15, 2017

Session met on November 15, 2017 in the Fellowship House with elders Tim Drover, Al Clark, Mary Lou Eisenhower, Donna Ankney, Carolyn Kerlin, LeeAnne Kendall,

and moderator Rev. Dale Williams present. Elder Keebaugh was absent and excused. The agenda as well as the minutes of the October meeting were approved. The average attendance for October was 55. Pastor Dale will conduct a class, "What Presbyterians Believe" during the Sunday School hour on November 19. He also spoke about the trip to Scotland. Enclosed are the greetings that the group brought to the Glasgow Cathedral as the group worshiped there on October 22, 2017.

During the recent trip to Scotland and England led by Rev. Dale Williams, the group attended the 11 AM worship service at Glasgow Cathedral in Glasgow, Scotland on Sunday October 22, 2017. We were given the opportunity to extend our greetings, which were as follows: "Good morning. We bring you greetings from the McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church located in rural south-central Pennsylvania on the edge of Carlisle Presbytery. Our congregation of 120 worships in a building dedicated in 1867 and is made up of the descendants of earlier Seceder, Covenanter, Associate, and United Presbyterian congregations all of which had combined into one United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America by 1958. While our current church building was preceded by others in our county dating back to the 1790s, Carlisle Presbytery had sent itinerant preachers to our valley on the frontier as early as 1769 when Pennsylvania was still a colony of Great Britain. In America, anything that dates to the 1700s is really old; but that seems rather recent standing here in a church consecrated in 1197. We are very pleased to be able to worship with you this morning in this beautiful place." The church was presented one of the wood block models of MUPC and the greetings were reciprocated. MUPC members in attendance:

Donna Ankney, Dave and Nancy Bivens, Tim and Becky Drover, John and Linda Heuston, Richard and Joyce Hornberger, Wayne and Barb MacDonald, and Rev. Dale Williams, supply

Elder Eisenhower gave a brief update on the progress of the PNC. The call list in case of bad weather was worked on. Elder Drover discussed the budget for 2018. Salaries were increased for the secretary, the organist, and the choir director. Others remain the same. The budget for the Fellowship Committee was increased. Elder Drover, financial chair, gave the report of the finances for the month of October, and discussed the status of the ongoing projects: steel beam in the education building, the plastering and painting of the sanctuary, the heating/air conditioning upgrade, and the cleaning of the sanctuary after completion of the work there. Most have been completed. The steeple was repaired after a hole was discovered and water was leaking in. Elder Clark reported that the luncheon following worship on November 12 was a big success. The committee will provide a lunch following worship on December 10 preceding hanging of the greens. It was reported that the chair of the nominating committee is working on dates for a meeting. Sandy Richards will represent the trustees on the committee, and Patty Rhodes will represent the deacons. Elder Ankney reported that so far she has received 35 time and talent sheets. The organ is in need of repair and cleaning. The organist will take care of getting this done. Soup night will begin on January 31 and continue until March 21, 2018. Church security was discussed in light of recent shootings. Christmas caroling was set for December 17 at 3:00 followed by a Christmas party with Santa at 5:00. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served by the fellowship committee. New shelving for the library was discussed

as well as an updated church directory. The new directory will be put on hold until we have a new pastor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 by the moderator.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

November 8, 2017

The November 8, 2017 meeting of the Presbyterian Women was opened by moderator Carolyn Kneas. Nine ladies were present. Special prayers for Kenny and Ella Spriggs, Mary Jane LeFevre, Audrey Mitchell, Tammy Metz, Martha Seville, Ellen Garrison, Anne Howard, Nolan Heronimus, Ben and Betty Gail Faunce, Bernice Stewart, Barb Leese, Charlotte and Jeff Fowler, Mary Lou Eisenhower, Paul MacDonald, Darryl Mitchell, Myers Kimmel, PNC, Harvey Kneas, and all in need of his healing touch. The minutes of the October meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given by Marion Walker. The October offering was \$100.00 leaving a balance of \$386.72. Nineteen sweaters plus hats, blankets, and scarves were delivered to A.C. Moore's to be sent to Church World Vision. Thank Offering which will be on November 19 was discussed as well as the Christmas program and other upcoming programs.

Carolyn Kneas then presented the program, God Gave me You. This was the inspiring story about an oncology nurse, Trish Seaman who she and Harvey met when he was in Harrisburg Hospital. Trish Seaman took a terminally ill cancer patient into her home as well as her son and took care of her until her death. Following her death, Trish and her family adopted the son, Wesley. A truly inspirational story.

Delicious refreshments were served by Marion Walker and Carolyn Kerlin.

The next meeting will be on December 13, 2017. Program TBA. Mary Ott and Helen Clusman will serve as hostesses.

follow at 5PM with refreshments. All are invited to the party.



A Blood Drive will be held at MUPC in the basement on Wednesday, December 6, 2017. 12:30 PM to 6:00 PM. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org and enter: MUP to schedule an appointment.



The Hanging of the Greens will be on 12/10/17 after the service. A light lunch will be served.



The Poinsettia sign up sheet is on the bulletin board at the back of the Sanctuary. The cost is still \$10.00. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 10th. You must sign the sheet to have your flowers ordered. Checks may be made payable to the Church & marked Poinsettias in the memo section. You may place them in the



ON 12/17/17 Christmas Caroling will begin at 3PM. A Christmas party will

offering plate or give to Janet McGinnis.
Thank you.

Luke 2: 22-40



December Lectionary Readings

Week of December 3

1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64: 1-9
Psalms 80: 1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1: 3-9
Mark 13: 24-37

Week December 10

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40: 1-11
Psalms 85: 1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3: 8-15a
Mark 1: 1-8

Week of December 17

3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11
Psalms 126 or Luke 1: 46b-55
1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24
John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Week of December 24

4th Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9: 2-7
Psalms 96
Titus 2: 11-14
Luke 2: 1-14 (15-20)

Week of December 31

First Sunday after Christmas Day

Isaiah 61: 10-62
Psalms 148
Galatians 4: 4-7

GLEANER DEADLINE for the January issue is December 26, 2017. Please submit your information by that day. If you can't email it, feel free to call or lay a hand written document on the secretary's desk.



DECEMBER, 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRI DAY	SATUR DAY
					1 6:30 PM Boy Scouts CE	2
3 1st Sunday of Advent 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM The Gathering 11:00 AM Worship 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	4 6:30 PM PNC Meeting FH 6:30 PM Cub Scouts CE	5 Office Hours 9AM-2PM	6 7 PM Deacon Meeting FH	7 Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7PM Trustee Meeting FH	8 6:30 PM Boy Scouts CE	9
10 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM The Gathering 11:00 AM Worship Hanging of the Greens 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	11 6:30 PM PNC Meeting in F.H. 6:30 PM Cub Scouts CE	12 Office Hours 9AM-2PM	13 2 PM Presby. Women FH	14 Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 Women's Ens.	15 6:30 PM Boy Scouts CE	16
17 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM The Gathering 11:00 AM Worship 3PM Christmas Caroling 5PM Christmas Social 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	18 6:30 PM PNC Meeting in F.H. 6:30 PM Cub Scouts CE.	19 Office Hours 9AM-2PM	20 6:30 PM Session Meeting FH	21 Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 Women's Ens.	22 6:30 PM Boy Scouts CE	23
24th 4th Sunday of Advent 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM The Gathering 11:00 AM Worship 11 PM Christmas Eve Service 31 1st Sunday after Christmas	25 Nativity of Jesus Christ Christmas Day	26 Office Hours 9AM-2PM	27	28 Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 Women's Ens.	29 6:30 PM Boy Scouts CE	

Cont.

DECEMBER



McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church
116 South Second Street
McConnellsburg, PA 17233