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The GLEANER

January, 2018

The McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church
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RING IN THE NEW YEAR!

For many, 2017 has been a pretty rough year: Millions were displaced and became refugees worldwide; the threat of nuclear war seemed very, very real; there were mass shootings in Las Vegas, and in a little church in south Texas; hurricanes reeked havoc in the southwestern, and southeastern United States as well as in the Caribbean; fires devastated our western states; there was fear of terrorism worldwide; and often, we in America seemed to be our own worst enemies! Anxiety and insecurity reigned as we dealt with much “darkness” in our world.

And yet, Christmas Eve I couldn’t help but think about the Apostle John’s statement about the Word of God made flesh, that “In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” We sang “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” with the stanza, “Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings . . . “ No amount of darkness can overcome Christ’s light. Jesus told his disciples, “In this world you will have plenty of darkness, but be of good courage, for I have overcome the world!”

It is the God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, that offers “light at the end of the tunnel,” who gives us hope for the future - So that we can look ahead to 2018 with anticipation rather than despair, with excitement rather than fear. God is at work in our world, and he may just be at work in our world through you and me! As the Magi followed the star of Bethlehem to the source of hope, may we resolve to renew our commitment in this New Year, to follow that same star so that his light will shine through us. How will God be at work in our lives . . . How will he work through our lives? He told his followers: “You are the light of the world; let your light so shine that all people will see your good work, and glorify your Father who is in heaven!”

May we ring in the New Year with the confidence that our God is faithful, and because he identified with us in our darkness, he knows what we’re up against, and Jesus, our “Emmanuel” - “God with us” - promises to be with us all the way!

Cont.

As we begin this new year, I do want to express my humble gratitude for the overwhelming love and support you have given me in my very limited ministry at McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church. You have been a blessing to me! May God's richest blessings be upon you and your families in the year ahead!

Pastor Dale



*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

2-Nancy Ritchey
3-Maxwell Correll
6-Lilah Rivlin
Nadler Drover
8-William Dovey III
11-Peyton Hornberger
12-Bryson Bailey
17-Beckie Drover
18-FaeAnna Heilig
William Milroth, MD
20-Abel Ankney
21-Richard Rotz
22-Rena Ott
23-Susan LeCornu
Judy Aller
26-Freda Cromer
28-Benjamin Flory
Oria Grimes
29-Jen Reed

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, Audrey Mitchell, & PNC.

Long Term: Ben Faunce, Wayne McCoy, Nolan Heironimus, Anne Howard, Chas Howells (Son of Wes Howells), Esther Webb (sister of Bill Warthin), Chuck Wissinger (Friend of Bill & Janet McGinnis).



Soup night will begin on January 31 and run through March 21. Times will be 5:30-6:30. Church boards and various groups please sign up for the week/weeks that you could host. (Sign up sheets are in the basement.) The Fellowship committee will host the first week. Please continue to support this valuable outreach. Thank you, the Session.



MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS ARE PLACED IN
THE SANCTUARY
TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY THE
FOLLOWING

**J. Faye Elvey in memory of
The Elvey Family**

**Rena Ott in memory of
Paul & Lori Ott**

**Paul MacDonald in memory of
Jane MacDonald**

**Barbara & Wayne MacDonald in
memory of
Jane MacDonald**

**The Eisenhower Family in memory of
Frank L. Eisenhower**

**Melissa & Roger Horton in memory of
Our Parents**

**Richard Rotz in memory of
Beulah & Harold Rotz**

**Joyce & Richard Hornberger in memory
of
Our Parents**

**Patsy & John Johnston in memory of
Our Parents**

**Julia & William Dovey in memory of
Loved Ones Lost**

**Charlotte & Don Fowler in memory of
Loved Ones**

**Carolyn & Stanley J. Kerlin in memory of
Rev. George R. Howard**

**Marion & Charles Walker in memory of
Timothy Walker**

**Brown & McGinnis Families in memory
of
“Skip”, Michelle, Ralph, & Bessie**



December 7, 2017

The Trustees met at Sandy's home. She provided a delicious meal before the meeting. Wes, Richard, Dave, Sandy and Ron were present.

Your Trustee team will continue working to make our facilities more attractive, functional, and inviting through the coming year. Our committee has completed most of our projects. An unexpected project was replacing the manse furnace. The new church signs which invite people to worship with us have been installed. They can be found near the borough line on the north and west sides, near the Sewerage plant and near the water tanks. There is an older one at the fairgrounds, also. We have not found a contractor to build the steps from the Fire Co. lot. We will continue trying to get bids and complete this project.

Now we encourage you to invite others to worship with us. We wish Christmas blessing on all of you as you help others in the community.

Ron Mitchell, secretary

SESSION

December 13, 2017

Session met for their stated December 13, 2017 meeting in the Fellowship House with elders Carolyn Kerlin, Donna Ankney, Al Clark, Mary Lou Eisenhower, Ken Keebaugh, LeeAnne Kendall, and the moderator, Rev. Dale Williams present. Absent and excused was elder Tim Drover.

The meeting was opened with devotions by Pastor Williams and prayer by Elder Ankney. The meeting agenda was approved, as well as the minutes of the November 15 stated Session meeting. The average attendance for November was 64. Fifty five were served communion on December 3, first Sunday in advent. Pastor Dale also reported that he is committed to filling the pulpit for the foreseeable future. He will miss two Sundays in January but will conduct the services on Ash Wednesday and Maunday Thursday. He gave a brief report on the last Presbytery meeting. He will attend the dinner at Kay's place and participate in the Christmas Eve service. Dale will provide scripture and readings for each soup night.

Elder Eisenhower reported that the PNC continues to meet every Monday and continues to pursue suitable candidates to serve as our pastor. The congregational meeting and dinner will be held on February 4 with installation and ordination of new officers on February 11, 2018. The Fellowship committee is working on signing up groups to host soup night and provide refreshments for the gathering. They provided a meal before the hanging of the

greens on December 10, and hosted the Christmas party following caroling on December 17. The nominating committee met following worship on December 17.

The new officers will be examined by session on January 17, 2018. Dale will provide training following the first soup night. New prayer partners were assigned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 with prayer by the moderator.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

December 13, 2017

The December 13, 2017 meeting of the Presbyterian Women was opened by Moderator Carolyn Kneas. Eight ladies were present. Special prayers for: Kenny and Ella Spriggs, Clusman and Ott families, Mary Jane Lefevre, Ben and Betty Gail Faunce, Bernice Stewart, Nolan Heronimus, Audrey Mitchell, Tammy Metz, Darryl Mitchell, Myers Kimmel, Charlotte Fowler, Barb Leese, Paul MacDonald, Anne Howard, Martha Seville, Harvey Kneas, and all in need of his healing touch. Carolyn shared a picture and card from the Evan Smith family, and a thank you from Ella. She also shared a registration form for the church wide gathering to be held this summer in Louisville. The women will host soup night on February 7.

Janet Gordon read the scripture from Luke 2 which she memorized as a child. We then shared Christmas memories and readings. It was a moving and enjoying program.

Delicious refreshments were served by Mary Ott and Helen Clusman. Thank you ladies for the lovely food and beautiful ornaments.

The next meeting will be on January 10, 2018. Hostesses will be Debbie Reed and Donna Ankney. The program will be memories of their trip to Scotland shared by those who went.



No Report

GLEANER DEADLINE for the February issue is January 30, 2018. 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.

The Cradle Roll will be managed by Carolyn Kerlin beginning January, 2018.



January Lectionary Readings

Week of January 7 **Baptism of the Lord**

Genesis 1: 1-5
Psalms 29
Acts 19: 1-7
Mark 1: 4-11

Week January 14 **2nd Sunday after Epiphany**

1 Samuel 3: 1-10 (11-20)
Psalms 139: 1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6: 12-20
John 1: 43-51

Week of January 21 **3rd Sunday after Epiphany**

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10
Psalms 62: 5-12
1 Corinthians 7: 29-31
Mark 1: 14-20

Week of January 28 **4th Sunday after Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20
Psalms 111
1 Corinthians 8: 1-13
Mark 1: 21-28

