

Our Vision:

To be a living Body of Christ in today's world, doing Christ's work in Christ's way.

Our Mission:

Win to Christ,
Grow in Faith,
Send to Win.

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Chiques Chronicle

Volume 27, Issue 1

April/May 2026



Newsletter of
CHIQUES METHODIST CHURCH

1215 East Main Street, Mount Joy, PA 17552



Palm Sunday
March 29th 9am

Maundy Thursday
April 2nd 7pm

Easter Sunday
April 5th 9am



**April & May:
Canned Beets & Hamburger
Helper**



PASTOR'S CORNER:

From the Pastor's Pen

Thank you for allowing me to share the Lord with you these first couple months of 2026. I appreciate all your kindness, prayers and support. It has been a pleasure to serve as your preacher. Soon you will have a new minister to worship and work with. You will be in my prayers as the Chiques congregation and pastor together grow in the love, knowledge and service of our Savior.

March 17 is Saint Patrick's Day. I leave you with the blessing attributed to him.

"May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be ever at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
And the rains fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you
In the palm of His hand. Amen.

-Pastor John Lynch



Pastor Chris Ritchie

Christopher Ritchie has been serving as the Lay Leader, part-time contemporary worship leader, and occasional lay preacher at Cornwall United Methodist Church, where he and his wife Megan have been attending for several years. He is currently a candidate for ministry as a licensed local pastor in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Chris graduated from Messiah University in 1993 with a degree in Christian Ministries and spent 12 years serving in church youth ministry and mission work. In 2005 he transitioned into a career in information technology and has worked in that field for nearly 20 years. He currently serves as IT Manager at ARM Group in Hershey. In 2024, Chris began discerning a call back into pastoral ministry and has been preparing to step into a pastoral role in response to that calling.

Chris and Megan have a blended family of five children: Stephen (26), Sara (25), Victoria (22), John (20), and Heather (17). Most of their children are now "grown and flown", while Heather is a senior at Palmyra Area High School and will graduate in June. When time allows, Chris and Megan enjoy traveling, spending time with their two dogs, Harper and Moira, and being with family and friends.

Chris is passionate about helping people grow in faith, building authentic Christian community, and leading worship that connects people with God.



Mother Daughter Celebration

Plans have changed this year. The celebration Friday May 8th has been cancelled, however, on Mother's Day Sunday, May 10th during the morning worship service we will honor the new Mother of the Year! Michelle Myers, the Mother of Year 2025, will present the new Mother of the Year 2026. We will continue honoring the mothers and daughters with cake for everyone during the Fellowship Time.

*This program is sponsored by
The Chiques Women in Missions*



**50 - YEAR
MEMBERS
WERE HONORED ON
OUR 66TH
ANNIVERSARY
SUNDAY
NOVEMBER
2ND**

**LORRAINE HENNY
&
LARRY GRIEST**



Fundraisers

Outreach Update on November 2025 Project

Baby Items for Align Life Ministries

Thanks to your generous donations we collected:

13 Baby Wipes	3 cartons & 6 packs of Diapers all sizes
3 Baby Shampoos	1 pack of Baby wash clothes
1 pack of spoons & forks	1 pack of Baby socks (10 pairs)
1 Sippy cup	34 Handmade knitted caps for the moms

Lisa and Audrey delivered these items to the Columbia location.

Thank you from the Outreach Committee

Outreach Update on October 2025 Project

Grocery Gift Cards for the Needy in our area

Thank you for your generous donations of \$10, \$15, \$25 and \$50 grocery gift cards from Giant, Weis and Stauffers. God bless. We collected 21 grocery gift cards totaling \$570.00.

For those of you who purchased the cards from the church, you also helped toward our roof fund.

Your Outreach Committee

Ongoing Outreach Project for 2026

Collection for UMCOR

This year we have a jar for loose coins or dollar bills for UMCOR. We'd like to see how long it might take to fill the jar.

All donations will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you and God bless you.

The Outreach Committee

ANNIVERSARIES

4/24 Jim & Sue Thompson (50 years married)

April



- 4/1 Paul Burke
- 4/3 Shirley Brumbach
- 4/9 Esther Marrero
- 4/12 Deborah Henny
- 4/15 Janet Hirst
- 4/21 Grace Lenhard
- 4/22 Roger Gundlach
- 4/25 Isla King
- 4/27 Michael Muehling
- 4/29 Joyce Shoemaker

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5/18 Julius & Audrey Buckner (45 years married)
- 5/30 Jeff & Marcia Fuhrman (34 years married)

May



- 5/1 Leona Charles
- 5/4 Sue Thompson
- 5/8 Reed Wolgemuth
- 5/18 David Muehling
- 5/20 Dan Gohn

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Total to date = 389

Please let us know if any of you like to knit or crochet and would like to be part of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. We are also looking for donations of yarn.

Dear friends,
Thank you!

The dear people you just helped with your gift may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be -Thank You!

And through your financial support you are serving within a vital web of interactive relationships, partnering to engage globally in direct ministry to people in need.

Together may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate the healing power of the gospel with those who suffer.

Grace and peace, UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery

Chiques,

Thank you for your support of our ministry. Through your generosity, we are able to continue serving children and their families in the Mount Joy Area. As our mission statement reflects, our goal is reach local youth with the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ. You are helping make that happen. We so appreciate your gift of \$870.00 and your commitment and prayers as we continue to shape lives and hearts at Raise28. May God continue to bless you and your family as you use your resources to further His kingdom plan.

Raise28

Chiques Church,

Thank you for your support. Your donation total for the year 2025 was \$1,781.50. We assisted 229 families made up of 399 adults and 179 children. We distributed over 51,000 pounds of food and personal care items. We also provided over \$58,000 in financial aid for rent, utilities, and medical expenses to over 52 families.

Mount Joy Helping Services
717-653-5585

Dear Chiques,

Thank you so much for joining us in caring for men, women and children who are without homes this season! We're truly grateful for your heart of compassion and desire to partner with us!

Water Street Mission

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Lebanon VA Medical Center patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donation of holiday cards.

It is through the efforts of community partners like you that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide for our deserving Veterans. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you again for future events.

Lebanon VA Medical Center

Dear Chiques,

Thank you for your generous donation to Align. Your kindness is such a blessing and truly makes a wonderful difference in the lives of families we serve daily. We are deeply grateful for all of your support.

Align Life Ministries

**Opportunities
for
Fellowship &
Service**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Trustee's Meeting 3pm	2 Maundy Thursday Service 7pm	3 Good Friday	4 11 am Easter Egg Hunt
5 9am Worship No Coffee or Fellowship Time 	6 8pm AA	7	8	9	10	11
12 9am Worship 9am Children SS 10am Fellowship 10:30 Adult Sunday School	13 8pm AA	14 Ad Council 5:30pm	15	16 Chiques Women In Missions 3pm	17	18
19 9am Worship 9am Children SS Brunch Bunch	20 8pm AA	21	22	23	24	25
26 9am Worship 9am Children SS 10am Fellowship 10:30 Adult Sunday School	27 Property Use AA Anniversary Meeting 7pm Fellowship Hall	28	29	30		



Holy Communion will be held on Sunday, May 17th at 9am.

May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Bus Trip Museum of The Bible Wash DC
3 9am Worship 9am Children SS 10am Fellowship 10:30 Adult Sunday School	4 8pm AA	5	6 Trustee's meeting 3pm	7	8	9
10 9am Worship 9am Children SS 10am Fellowship 10:30 Adult Sunday School 	11 8pm AA	12 Ad Council 5:30pm	13	14 Hempfield Sportsmen 7:15pm Chiques Women In Missions 3pm	15	16
17 9am Worship 9am Children SS Communion Brunch Bunch	18 Secretary on Vacation All week 8pm AA	19 Annual Conference Wildwood NJ	20 Annual Conference Wildwood NJ	21 Annual Conference Wildwood NJ	22	23
24 9am Worship 9am Children SS 10:30 Adult Sunday School No Coffee or Fellowship Time	25 8pm AA  Officed Closed	26	27	28	29	30
31 9am Worship 9am Children SS 10am Fellowship 10:30 Adult Sunday School						

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Jeff Fuhrman, Chairman (Lay Leader)	Pastor Chris Ritchie	Kathy Gohn, Treasurer, Education Chair
Jay Mueller, Finance Chair	Linda Geib, SPRC Chair	Ron Myers, Trustees Chair
Lenora Dukehart, Outreach Chair	Michele Melhorn, Events Coordinator	Audrey Buckner, Secretary
Debbie Henny, Lay Delegate		
<p>Meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM in the Butzer Room. 1/13, 2/10, 3/10, 4/14, 5/12, 6/9, 7/14, 8/11, 9/8, 10/13, 11/10, 12/8 Meetings are open for anyone to attend. The Administrative Council serves as the executive agency of the church. The council guides and furthers the ministry of the congregation. They create and oversee a strategic plan for a healthy and effective congregation.</p>		

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ron Myers, Trustees Chair	Kathy Gohn, Treasurer & Trustee	Audrey Buckner, Secretary
Jeff Charles	Art Geigley	Brian Myers
Paul Wagner	John Wolgemuth	
<p>Meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 3:00 PM in the office conference room. 1/7/26, 2/4/26, 3/4/26, 4/1/26, 5/6/26, 6/3/26, 7/1/26, 8/5/26, 9/2/26, 10/7/26, 11/4/26, 12/2/26 Meetings are open for anyone to attend. The Board of Trustees is the group responsible for all things property related. They are responsible for maintaining the property and approving any contracts for the church.</p>		

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Linda Geib, SPRC Chair	Pastor Chris Ritchie	Debbie Henny, Delegate to Annual Conf.
Jeff Fuhrman, Lay Leader	Diane Breneman	Michele Melhorn
Michael Muehling		
<p>Meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM in the office conference room. 3/17/26, 4/21/26, 5/19/26, 6/16/26, 7/21/26, 8/18/26, 9/15/26, 10/20/26, 11/17/26, 12/15/26 Meetings are closed due to their confidential nature. The Staff Parish Relations Committee serves as the personnel committee for the church. They serve as a liaison between the pastor and the congregation and oversee the church staff.</p>		

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Jay Mueller, Chair	Kathy Gohn, Treasurer	Lenora Dukehart, Finance Secretary
Linda Geib, SPRC Chair	Jeff Fuhrman, Ad. Council Chair	Ellen Barnes
Tom Breneman	Donna Shank	
<p>Meet quarterly on Fridays at 3:00 PM in the office conference room on the following dates: 3/27/26, 6/26/26, 9/25/26, 11/20/26 Meetings are open for anyone to attend. The Finance Committee oversees the church finances. They prepare an annual budget and monitor it. They look for areas to keep spending down and brainstorm ways to raise money for ministry.</p>		

LAY LEADERSHIP/NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Pastor Chris Ritchie, Chair	Jeff Fuhrman, Lay Leader	Diane Breneman
Lisa Gibble	Kathy Gohn	Lorraine Henny
Carol Thomas		
<p>Meeting dates and times are determined by the pastor. Meetings are closed due to their confidential nature. The Lay Leadership/Nominating Committee oversees the appointment of individuals to leadership positions and committees. They observe talents demonstrated among the congregation members to make recommendations to the Charge Conference.</p>		

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Kathy Gohn, Chair	Megan Muehling	Lenora Dukehart
2nd-7th grade teachers		Nursery, Pre-K & 1st grade teacher
<p>Meet on an as-needed basis. Meetings are open for anyone to attend. The education committee oversees the Sunday School program.</p>		

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Pastor Chris Ritchie, Chair	Diane Breneman, decorating	Jeff Fuhrman, IT
Linda Geib, greeter coordinator	Debbie Henny, website & Facebook	Bethany Leggore, communion
Jay Mueller, head usher		
<p>Meeting dates and times are determined by the pastor. Meetings are open for anyone to attend. The Worship Committee works with the pastor to plan and evaluate the worship experience for the congregation.</p>		

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Lenora Dukehart, Chair	Audrey Buckner	Lisa Gibble
<p>Meet on an as-needed basis. Meetings are open for anyone to attend. The Outreach Committee plans and implements opportunities for the congregation to minister to others in the community.</p>		

CHURCH OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Michele Melhorn, Events Coordinator		
<p>The Church Outings Committee plans opportunities for the congregation to fellowship with one another and to also invite friends and colleagues to fellowship as well.</p>		

CHIQUES WOMEN IN MISSION

Audrey Buckner, Coordinator	Kathy Gohn, Treasurer	
<p>Meet in the office conference room on Thursdays at 3:00 PM on the following dates: 3/19/26, 4/16/26, 5/14/26, 9/17/26, 10/15/26, 11/19/26 Meetings are open for anyone to attend. Chiques Women in Mission plan events to help fund missions they support and provide fellowship opportunities for the women in the congregation.</p>		

Phone Contacts

Pastor Chris Ritchie (717) 350-2883
 Barnes, Ellen (412) 398-3436
 Buckner, Audrey (717) 314-7316
 Dukehart, Lenora (223) 221-1067
 Geib, Linda (717) 951-6823
 Gibble, Lisa (717) 723-1929
 Henny, Debbie (717) 984-4592
 Leggore, Bethany (717) 449-2781
 Muehling, Megan (717) 468-4269
 Mueller, Jay (717) 203-3941
 Myers, Ron (717) 278-0540
 Wagner, Paul (717) 413-3874

Breneman, Diane (717) 381-5291
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 Fuhrman, Jeff (717) 342-1257
 Geigley, Art (717) 471-7751
 Gohn, Kathy (717) 723-1338
 Henny, Lorraine (717) 361-8643
 Melhorn, Michele (603) 860-3837
 Muehling, Michael (717) 562-3033
 Myers, Brian (Bubba) (717) 413-6785
 Shank, Donna (717) 330-7873
 Wolgemuth, John (610) 406-1676

Souper Bowl Sunday, February 8, 2026

Winterfest Saturday, December 6, 2025



Brunch Bunch Centerville Diner 2 February 15th



Next Chiques Outing
Museum of the Bible Bus Trip
Washington DC
Saturday, May 2nd
\$125.00 covers everything, the bus, entry to the museum, and lunch.
Please sign up and give your payment to Michele Melhorn by Apr 2nd.
If you'd like to go and don't have the money please see Michele there might be a sponsorship for you. Please let Michele know if anyone else would like to sponsor someone.

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1215 East Main Street
Mount Joy, PA 17552

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NOTE:

We need your written contributions to make this a valuable communications link for all Chiques members and friends.

Mailing Label



Chiques Annual Community
Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4th 11:00am

Open to Children Preschool to 4rd Grade

Held Rain or Shine

Eggs & Prizes

No Buffet

Volunteers are needed the day of the Egg Hunt. Please sign up.



Chiques Chronicle is published by Chiques Methodist Church

The Chronicle Team: Audrey Buckner (editor),
Kathy Gohn

Individuals or organizations wishing to place an item or announcement in **Chiques Chronicle** should deliver it in writing or by e-mail to Audrey Buckner (chiquesoffice@gmail.com) in the church office. Include a phone number where you can be reached for any additional information.

**Deadline for June/July 2026 issue is
May 4th**

* **Church office hours:**

9:00am to 3:00pm Monday thru Friday

* **Telephones - church office:**

(717) 653-5175; FAX (717) 653-1087

- **e-mail:** chiquesoffice@gmail.com
- **Church website:** www.chiquesumchurch.org

Administrative Council:

Jeff Fuhrman, *Chair & Lay Leader*

Linda Geib, *Staff-Parish Relations Chair*

Jay Mueller, *Finance Chair*

Kathy Gohn, *Church Treasurer, Education*

Ron Myers, *Trustees Chair*

Deborah Henny, *Delegate to Annual Conference*

Chris Ritchie, *Pastor*

Lenora Dukehart, *Outreach*

Michele Melhorn, *Events Coordinator*

Audrey Buckner, *Secretary*