



The GLEANER

December, 2025

The McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church

Office: 717-485-4400

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Pastor's Column

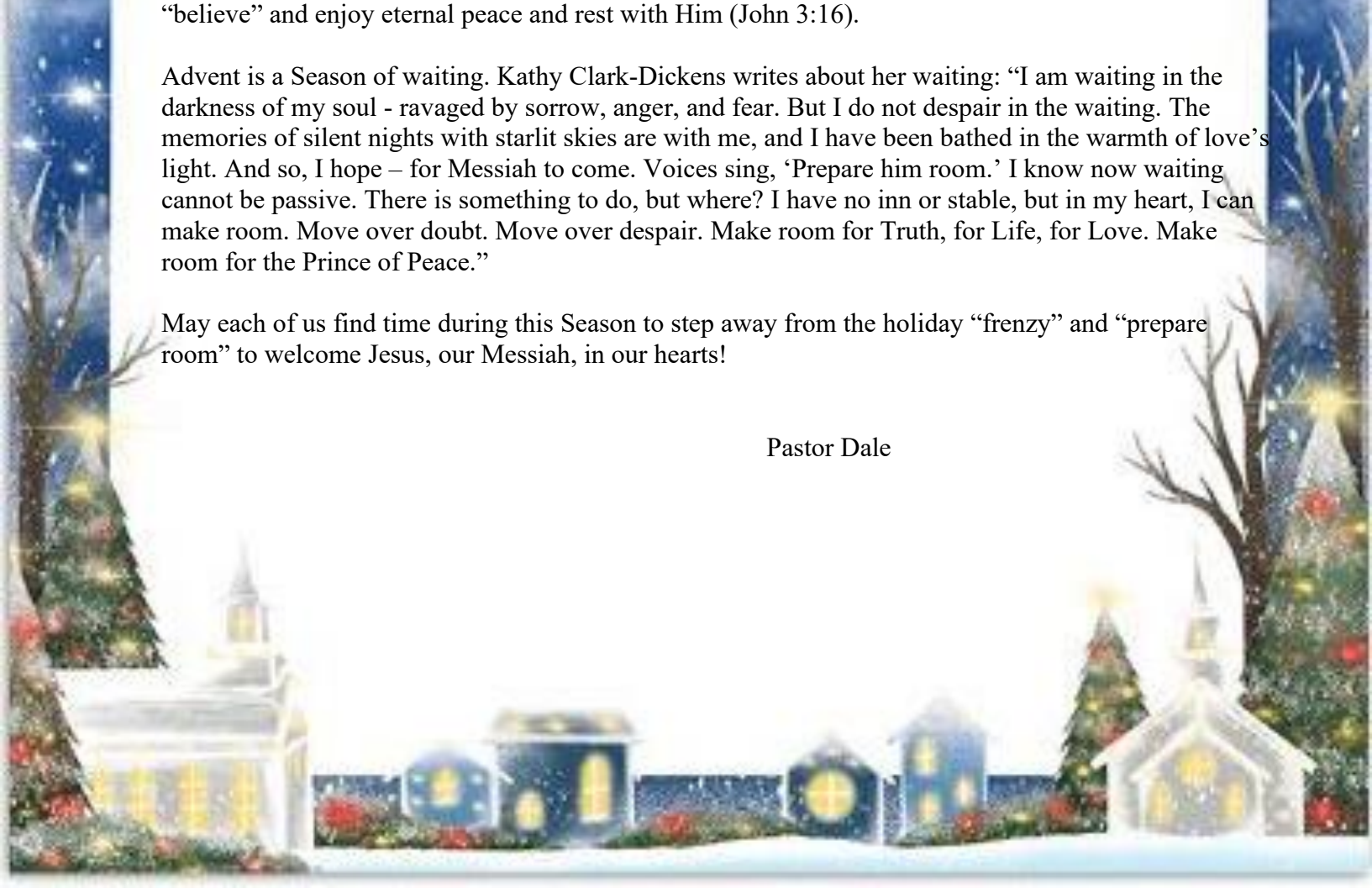
Can you believe it? It's December and another year is almost over! It's December and we are in the Seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Christmastide. To add to the stress and anxiety of living in a world filled with uncertainty, we have the added burdens of decorating, shopping, cleaning, cooking, wrapping, mailing cards, entertaining guests, attending parties and other holiday gatherings.

All of us need to set aside time to listen in stillness once again to the announcement of an Angel that appeared to shepherds on a hillside outside of Bethlehem about 2,000 years ago: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord!" The Angel's message is one of hope, joy, and peace emerging from the love of our Creator, God, who sent His only child into our world that we might "believe" and enjoy eternal peace and rest with Him (John 3:16).

Advent is a Season of waiting. Kathy Clark-Dickens writes about her waiting: "I am waiting in the darkness of my soul - ravaged by sorrow, anger, and fear. But I do not despair in the waiting. 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."

May each of us find time during this Season to step away from the holiday "frenzy" and "prepare room" to welcome Jesus, our Messiah, in our hearts!

Pastor Dale





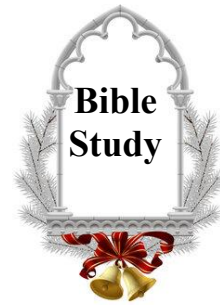
Short Term: Bill & Janet McGinnis,
Patsy Johnston & her daughter Amanda's family,
Bob McCormick, Jill Cline, Gary Black,
Amy Mimm, Patty Hall, Carter Straight,
Jason Carbaugh, Bill Warthin & family,
Rachel Howells, & Joyce Hornberger.

Long Term: Ron & Audrey Mitchell,
Amanda Bailey, FaeAnna Heilig, Dean Dovey,
Loy & Linda Garber, Faye Elvey, &
Naomi Marcus.



Birthdays

2-Steve Walker
5-Joshua Kimmel
6-Linda Heuston
Jason Carbaugh
10-Donna Ankney
11- Duncan Stewart
12 MaKenzie Ann Graham
15-Michael Kerlin
18-Audrey Cutchall
20-Barbara Leese
Jayne Metcalfe
22- Dexter Hu
25-Jack Rhodes
Kenneth Kneas



Bible Study continues Tuesdays at 10 AM in the community room. Everyone is welcome to join our discussion-based Bible Study Group.



Find us on YouTube

Our YouTube channel is MUPCLive. All in-person worship services are also simultaneously broadcast on YouTube.

The videos are also later uploaded to our church website, www.mupc.org, under the Media Worship tab.



Gleaner Deadline for the January Issue is December 23rd. It will be printed on the 23rd. If you can't email it, feel free to call or lay a handwritten document on the secretary's desk.



(No Meeting in November)



November 5, 2025

Present: Val Alexander, Barb MacDonald, Carolyn Kerlin, & Frank Ingram.

Meeting opened with prayer by Val. October minutes were approved.

Old Business:

1. Trunk or Treat was well received with 175 candy bags given out and many people choosing to walk through the Rummel house and participate in the graveyard 'hunt'.
2. Hayride and campfire with UCC at Alexander farm went well. 35-ish people attended and filled two wagons.

New Business:

1. Carolyn will get fruit baskets for our VIPS to be handed out at visits after Nov. 23rd.
2. Barb will follow up with the Treasures for Children/Giving Tree to see if there will be labels this year, or if they need only monetary donations.
3. Val will take care of college care packages - trying e-gift cards from Amazon this year.
4. Deacons will help cover the cost of the senior care packages given out by Richard Hornbaker at the Hann Apts.

Visits - Barb had a busy month with visits and flowers.

Prayer Lists were updated

Benevolences

- \$1,500 to the Fulton County Food Basket
- \$1,000 to the Red Cross for disaster relief
- \$500 to the Center for Community Action for Fulton County Charities
- \$200 to Love's Closet
- \$ for senior care packages kept aside

Next Meeting will be on Wednesday, 12/3 at 7:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned, with prayer by Barb.



(No Report for November)



The 522 Youth Group

Youth schedule will be the second Sunday of each month from 5-7 PM at the Methodist Church.



The Poinsettia Sign Up Sheet is on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary. Deadline to sign up is December 11th. Cost is still \$10.00. Please contact Barb MacDonald if there are any questions. (717-504-3404)



Dec. 21st



Dec. 24th
10:30 PM Special Music
11 PM Service Begins



Dec. 25th



Dec. 25th, Christmas Day
Jan. 1st, New Year's Day



Dec. 31st



December Lectionary Readings

Week of December 7, 2025

Rev. Dale Williams

Communion

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19

Romans 15: 4-13

Matthew 3: 1-12

Week of December 14, 2025

Rev. Dale Williams

3rd Sunday of Advent

5-7 PM Youth Group MUMC

Isaiah 35: 1-10

Psalm 146: 5-10

Luke 1: 47-55

James 5: 7-10

Matthew 11: 2-11

Week of December 21, 2025

Rev. Dale Williams

4th Sunday of Advent

Winter Begins

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19

Romans 1: 1-7

Matthew 1: 18-25

Week of December 28, 2025

Rev. Dale Williams

Isaiah 63: 7-9

Psalm 148

Hebrews 2: 10-18

Matthew 2: 13-23



2025

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | | Office Hours 9-2 10 AM Bible Study (CR) | 7 PM Deacons Meeting (BR) | Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Women's Ens. | | |
| 7 Communion 2nd Sunday of Advent | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Rev. Dale Williams 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 11 AM Worship 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal | 6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR) | Office Hours 9-2 10 AM Bible Study (CR) | 7 PM Trustee Meeting (BR) | Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Women's Ens. | | |
| 14 3rd Sunday of Advent | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| Rev. Dale Williams 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 11 AM Worship 5-7 PM Youth Group MUMC 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal | 6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR) | Office Hours 9-2 10 AM Bible Study (CR) | 7 PM Session Meeting (BR) | Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Women's Ens. | | |
| 21 4th Sunday of Advent Winter Begins | 22 | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve | 25 Christmas Day | 26 | 27 |
| Rev. Dale Williams 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 11 AM Worship 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal | Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR) | Office Hours 9-2 10 AM Bible Study (CR) | Candlelight Service 10:30 PM Special Music 11 PM Service Begins | | | |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 New Year's Eve | | | |
| Rev. Dale Williams 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 11 AM Worship 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal | Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR) | Office Hours 9-2 10 AM Bible Study (CR) | | | | |

Please check our online calendar, www.mupc.org/media/calendar, for any changes.