



The GLEANER

February, 2026

The McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church

Office: 717-485-4400

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Darkness into light, and the “Real St. Valentine”

There is a theme of Darkness into light emerging in the common lectionary throughout Epiphany and into February. Our season is one where the end of winter meets the first stirrings of spring. The fabled story of St. Valentine also meets at the intersection of darkness into light.

The real St. Valentine was far removed from paper lace doilies, chocolates and Hallmark Cards that we associate with this holiday. According to the Smithsonian Institute, the historical figure is likely a composite of two different 3rd-century martyrs that emerge from the darkness of Roman persecution.

But why are letters of love associated with Valentine? While Valentine was imprisoned, Asterius, a Roman jailer, challenged the saint to prove God’s power. He asked him to heal his daughter’s blindness. Valentine prayed and laid hands on the girl, restoring her sight. Valentine was executed on February 14. Before his death, he reportedly sent a final note to the girl, signing it from your Valentine”

As we move through February’s lectionary there are echoes of this transformation from darkness into light. The month begins with the Beatitudes with the darkness of mourning and hunger, followed by the light of Jesus. By mid-February, the scriptures take us to You are the light of the world”. Our God’s light isn’t just something to see, but something to be—by feeding the hungry and comforting those who grieve. And as we descend into the Lenten season, it is only through the shadows that the light of Easter can truly be revealed.

Valentine’s story and the February lectionary both suggest that light is most visible when the surroundings are darkest. Whether it is a martyr restoring sight to a blind girl in a Roman cell or the liturgical shift from the Glory of Epiphany, to the Dust of Ash Wednesday, the message is consistent: light does not ignore the darkness, it enters it to transform it.

On a lighter note, the oldest known surviving “Valentine” was written in February 1477 by Margery Brews to her fiancé John Paston III and it read as follows:

I promise I will do everything in my power to love you and no one else ever again. And even if my friends (family) say I am doing wrong, they shall not stop me from doing so. My heart commands me to love you forever more. Truly above all earthly things.

May light out of the darkness bring you closer to the Christ Jesus in this coming month. And may your heart be filled with the kind of love that is truly above all earthly things, and with you forever more.

Joe Calhoun



Prayers for Health Issues:

Patsy Johnston, Bob McCormick, Jill Cline, Naomi Marcus, Gary Black, Patty Hall, Randy McGowan, Tyson Ramsay, Morgan Taylor and baby Isaiah, Kathy Kendall, Kenny Walker, Dot Doyle, Len Williams, & baby Hugh Pilkerton.

Prayers for Senior Living & Home-Based Members:

Bill Warthin, Ron and Audrey Mitchell, Faye Elvey, FaeAnna Heilig, & Janet McGinnis.



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.



7-Stanley Kerlin
Patty Rhodes
24-Andy Cutchall
25-William Dovey
28- Anne Gobin
Roger Horton
Joyce Hornberger



Gleaner Deadline for the March Issue is February 26th. It will be printed on the 26th. If you can't email it, feel free to call or lay a handwritten document on the secretary's desk.



Present: Al Clark, Val Alexander, Frank Ingram, Barb MacDonald, Carolyn Kerlin,

Meeting opened with prayer by Al. December minutes were approved.

Organization of the Month: Love's Closet

Old Business:

1. Soup Nights 2/18-3/25 - Deacon's will offer to host 3/4

New Business:

1. Updated Deacon project calendar
2. Discussed annual report for 2025

Visits discussed.

Prayer Lists were updated.

Benevolences

- \$500 Fulton County Food Basket
- \$500 Center for Community Action - Fulton County Charities
- \$200 Love's Closet
- \$2000 Shared Mission Pledge (Session request?)

- \$300 Gas Cards for Appalachian Army
- \$1000 Women in Need

Next Meeting will be on Wednesday, February 4th at 7:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned, with prayer by Carolyn.



Wayne MacDonald called the meeting to order with opening prayer.

In attendance were Bill Dovey, Jayne Metcalfe, Harvey Kneas, Eric Kerlin and Ken Keebaugh.

Harvey reported on the planned ramp for the rear basement door.

We will accept the offer from the town council for two sidewalk streetlamps for the front entry of the church.

There was discussion on the amount of insurance necessary for the manse garage.

There has been difficulty in getting the basement floor tiles buffed and re waxed.

Sidewalk lights will be installed along the south side of the church before sidewalk reconstruction begins.

Money was set aside for continuing cleaning and resetting grave markers.

Next year's budget is planned to be the same as last year.

Jayne is preparing the kitchen to be ready for Soup Night.

Harvey delivered the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.



The 522 Youth Group

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



Soup Night Schedule

5:30-6:30 PM

February 18

February 25

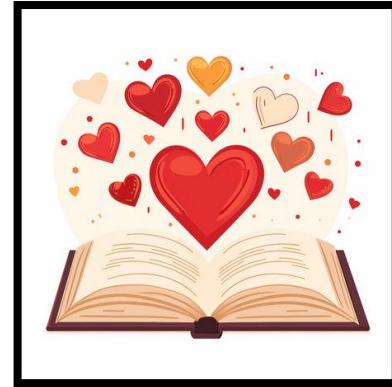
March 4

March 11

March 18

March 25

The sign-up sheet to help with soup night is in the Kitchen.



February Lectionary Readings

Week of February 1, 2026

Joe Calhoun

Micah 6: 1-8

Psalm 15

1Corinthians 1: 18-31

Matthew 5: 1-12

February 8, 2026

Rev. Dr. Rick Boyer

Boy Scout Sunday

Isaiah 58: 1-12

Psalm 112: 1-10

1 Corinthians 2: 1-16

Matthew 5: 13-20

Week of February 15, 2026

Rev. Dale Francis

Transfiguration of the Lord

5-7 PM Youth Group MUMC

Exodus 24: 12-18

Psalm 2

Psalm 99

2 Peter 1: 16-21

Matthew 17: 1-9

Week of February 22, 2026

Rev. Dale Williams

First Sunday of Lent

Communion

Genesis 2: 15-17

Genesis 3: 1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5: 12-19

Matthew 4: 1-11



February 2



Transfiguration of the Lord
February 15



February 8



February 16



February 18



February 14



February 22



2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6	7
Joe Calhoun 11 AM Worship 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal		Office Closed 10 AM Bible Study (CR)	7 PM Deacons Meeting (BR)	Office Closed		
8 Boy Scout Sunday	9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
Rev. Dr. Rick Boyer 11 AM Worship Annual Congregational Meeting 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 Trustee Meeting (BR)	Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Women's Ens.		
15-Transfiguration of the Lord	16-Presidents' Day	17	18-Ash Wednesday	19	20-	21
Rev. Dale Francis 11 AM Worship 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR)	Office Hours 9-2 10 AM Bible Study (CR)	5:30-6:30 PM Soup Night 7:PM Session Meeting (BR)	Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Women's Ens.		
22-First Sunday of Lent	23	24	25	26	27	28
Rev. Dale Williams Communion 11 AM Worship 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR)	Office Hours 9-2 10 AM Bible Study (CR)	5:30-6:30 PM Soup Night	Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Women's Ens.		

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