



The GLEANER

February, 2024

Vol. CXLVII, NO. 223

The McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church

Office: 717-485-4400

email: office@mupc.org • web page: www.mupc.org

Beloved of God,

As you prepare yourself for another Lent and Easter journey, here is some information about the inspiration for worship throughout Lent. I will be using A Sanctified Art's theme "Wandering Hearts: Figuring Out Faith with Peter." This is what the creative team at A Sanctified Art had to say:

This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. His journey is not polished, or linear, or perfect, but he is always tethered to the love of God. When you look closely at Peter's story, you find Jesus at each step along the way—offering him abundance, catching him when he begins to sink, challenging him when he stands in the way, washing his feet, predicting his betrayal, and offering him agapē love. This Lent, we're joining Peter in figuring out faith. We're not idolizing or vilifying him; instead, we're hoping to wander alongside him, open to what we might learn about Jesus (and ourselves) by stepping in his shoes. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us. As we were studying Peter's faith journey, the lyrics of "Come Thou Fount" came to mind. It's as if Peter himself wrote this song. And so, for each step in Peter's journey, we have selected a phrase from this hymn. As we follow Peter's story, we will sing our way through Lent, binding our wandering hearts to God. In this devotional and series, we want to affirm that faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows. We want to affirm the ways Peter keeps going: he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes. Ultimately, in Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people—in fact, time and again, that's precisely who God claims and calls. We encourage you to engage in the weekly art and reflections at your own pace, looking for the ways your own story may be reflected in Peter's faith journey. As we wander through Lent, let us tune our hearts to sing God's grace. May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing.

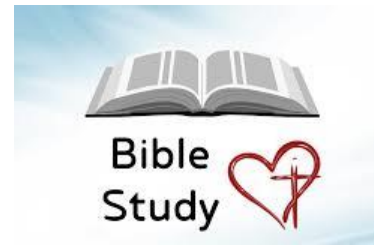
I look forward to wandering through Lent with you again this year. Keep an eye out for daily devotion booklets and other resources this Lent.

Grace & Peace,
Rev. Emily R. McCachren



Short Term: Freda Cromer, Bill & Janet McGinnis, Connie & Doug Brown, Patsy Johnston, Loy & Linda Garber, Suzanne Hockensmith, Dean Strait, Cindy Glessner, Kendra Richards Graham, Byron Helsel, Mary Haubrick, Richard Rhodes, Sylvia Brown, Roger Horton, Dorrie Serry, Linda Peppernick, the family of Helen Clusman, the family of Minnie McCachren, Joanie Peck, Deborah Seville, & Brixten Hahn.

Long Term: Whitaker Raymer, Audrey Mitchell, Amanda Bailey, FaeAnna Heilig, Dean Dovey, & Kathy Kendall.



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



newsletter

Gleaner Deadline for the March Issue is February 27th. It will be printed on the 27th. If you can't email it, feel free to call or lay a hand written document on the secretary's desk.



(December 20, 2023)

Session met for their stated December meeting on December 20, 2023, in the board room at 7:45 pm. All members were present except LeeAnne Kendall who was absent and excused. Elder John Johnston led devotions concerning New Year's Resolutions for Christianity in 2024. He then opened the meeting in prayer.

The meeting agenda and the November 15, 2023, session meeting minutes were approved.

Correspondence was received from McCloskey and Co., insurance agent, stating the 2024 insurance premium would increase 15%. Several recipients from the Deacon's donations expressed sincere gratitude for the recent contributions. Average November attendance for both in person and online was 52. Fifty participants received communion on November 5 th .

Pastor Emily's recurring activities include preparing for worship, leading the Bible study, holding office hours, planning for the youth group, leading the Midweek activities, working with the Deacons, creating the MUPC this week email, updating the church website, providing pastoral care, and participating in various presbytery activities. There will be one more new members class meeting time and then new members will be examined by session at the January stated meeting. Pastor Emily will be on vacation from December 25 – December 31, 2023. Dan Meredith will lead worship on December 31, 2023. There were no items for the record.

Additional work was completed on the Rumel House discussion. Session approved for the clerk to send the Lot 59 Committee a letter granting permission for the committee to commence work on the Rumel House with noted stipulations. Those stipulations being the resulting

building must be insurable and the work must not involve church funds in excess of the \$25,000 gift received to fund the project.

A brief report from the personnel committee stated employees would receive a 3% 2024 increase. The treasurer provided a review of the 2024 budget which will receive a second review and approval at the January stated meeting.

A motion was approved to receive the Deacons report. A report was given on the December 5 th presbytery meeting. It was noted that all comments, memos, directives, etc. should be directed at the clerk and not to individual members of session. The Session approved 2024 communion dates as the first Sunday of each month and Maundy Thursday. A schedule will be developed to include session members on communion visits to shut ins.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm with prayer by the moderator.

(January 17, 2024)

For their stated January meeting, session met at 7 pm on January 17, 2024, with Elders Fowler, Johnston, Kendall, Howells, Rotz and the Moderator, Rev. McCachren present. Elders Carolyn Kneas and Julie Dovey were absent and excused. A quorum was present. Elder Fowler led devotions prepared by Julie Dovey and opened the meeting with prayer.

Four new members were examined and told of their faith journeys or answered questions from their new member class material. The new members are Chas Wesley Howells, Diana Lee, Tracey Campbell and Betsy Ingram. April Leese was then examined for ordination and installation as Elder. April's responses to questions were thoughtful and complete with the approval of the session for the office of elder.

The December average worship attendance was fifty-one in person. Forty-four persons participated in communion during the December 3, 2023, worship service. The pastor officiated at Helen Clausman's graveside service on December 26, 2023. Helen had joined the Church Triumphant on December 24, 2023.

Session approved the 2024 general fund budget which will be reviewed at the February 4, 2024, Congregational Meeting. The Pastor's 2024 Terms of Call will also be approved at the February 4th meeting.

A motion was approved granting the Master Gardeners use of the church basement once per month starting Monday, February 5, 2024, at 1 pm and continuing on the first Monday of each month.

The session approved a request for the Handbell Choir to hold an open house after soup night on February 7, 2024. Session also approved February 4, 2024, for the Congregational Meeting to be held after worship. Ordination and Installation of newly elected church officers will be held on February 11, 2024, during worship.

The 2023 Congregation Statistical Report was approved by Session. Our Congregation membership is now at 74 members.

This was elder Wes Howells last meeting of his six years served as elder. Session thanked him for a job well done as he was instrumental in leading the IT effort to livestream worship services during covid and in addition serving on the Lot 59 Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm with prayer by the moderator.



(December 10, 2023)

Present: Al Clark, Barb MacDonald, Pastor Emily, Val Alexander, Frank Ingram, & Rachel Howells.

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

Old Business:

1. Fruit baskets were well received, visits were appreciated.
2. Thank you to Carolyn for College Care packages and poinsettias.
3. Q's for Julie about benevolences - will invite her to the January meeting.

New Business:

1. Nominating Committee - Frank Ingram will represent Deacons
2. Date with a book - Rachel will work with Librarian for February
3. Soup Night - Jan 24, ending Feb. 28 - 6 weeks, Deacons will run first night
4. Annual Report due mid-January - Val will complete

Visits

Prayer Lists

Benevolences

- \$200 Love's Closet
- \$2000 Presbyterian Disaster Relief - earmarked for Israel-Palestine Conflict #DR000081
- \$500 No More Deaths - border crossing
- Whatever is left to the Catholic Mission (\$990.92) - wipe the slate clean :)

Next Meeting will be after church Wednesday, Jan. 3rd at 7:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned, with prayer by Emily.

(January 3, 2024)

Present: Al Clark, Barb MacDonald, Pastor Emily, Val Alexander, Frank Ingram, Rachel Howells, & Carolyn Kerlin.;

*Al Clark - new email address pheus65@gmail.com

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

Old Business:

1. Val will submit an annual report. Deacon report was missed last Gleaner - Val will be sure that two months go in the next Gleaner.

2. Date with a Book - Rachel will contact LeAnne and take charge of this.
3. New Deacons for 2024 - Rachel, Carolyn, and Frank will serve again.
4. Q's for Julie about benevolences - will invite her to the February meeting.
 - What are we paying for flowers?
 - What is the bill for Christmas decorations from Pat Decker?
 - Benevolence vs. Outreach? Guidance on spending Benevolence money?
5. Gift bags for Hann's Senior apartments - reimburse Richard Hornberger, and discuss this as a future event.
6. Soup Night - Jan 24, ending Feb. 28 - 6 weeks, Deacons will run first night.

New Business:

1. Update project and event calendar for 2024

Visits

Prayer Lists

Benevolences

- \$200 Love's Closet
- \$184.22 to reimburse Richard Hornberger for gift bags for Senior apartments
-

Meeting was adjourned, with prayer by Emily.

Next meeting is Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 7:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87039776253?pwd=eXhsK3B0eFN1YTVaTjVDb0tkcFJEUT09>

Meeting ID: 870 3977 6253

Passcode: 509548



(January 10, 2024)

ATTENDANCE: Wayne MacDonald, Harvey Kneas, April Leese, Jayne Metcalfe, Connie Brown, Eric Kerlin (via cell phone) & Ken Keebaugh.

BUDGET: The entire meeting was working on the Trustees Budget for 2024.

MANSE: \$6,000 (including front porch repair).

CHURCH: \$2,500

THERMOSTATS: \$5,000.

CLOSING PRAYER: Connie Brown

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Keebaugh, Trustees secretary



The 522 Youth Group
February 11th 3-6:30 PM
February 25th 3-6:30 PM



Midweek Youth Group
February 7th at 5:30 PM
February 21st at 5:30 PM



Soup Night Schedule
5:30-6:30 PM

February 7
 February 14
 February 21
 February 28



February Lectionary Readings

Week of February 4, 2024

Isaiah 40: 21-31
 Psalm 147: 1-11, 20
 1 Corinthians 9: 16-23
 Mark 1: 29-39

Week of February 11, 2024

2 Kings 2: 1-12
 Psalm 50: 1-6
 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6
 Mark 9: 2-9

Week of February 18, 2024

Genesis 9:8-17
 Psalm 25: 1-10
 1 Peter 3: 18-22
 Mark 1: 9-15

Week of February 25, 2024

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16
 Psalm 22: 23-31
 Romans 4: 13-25
 Mark 8: 31-38



MUPC Handbell Choir

Directed by Donna Ankney
 will present

A Free Mini-Concert

after Soup Night
 on

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

In the McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church,
 125 South Second St., McConnellsburg PA 17233
 Starting at 6:30 P.M.

The Audience will be given the opportunity to ask
 questions and try playing bells
 in addition to listening to hymns and sacred songs.

Come for Soup at 5:30 and stay to hear some
 music.



Ladies' Movie Night! 2/9 @ 7 pm

Time for some light-hearted fellowship! We will have a movie night to watch the 2023 Barbie movie together (rated PG-13). All are welcome, though we suspect this may be more of a ladies' night. We will have snacks and drinks, but plan to eat dinner beforehand. Bring your old Barbie for a moment of show-and-tell if you have one! Check the trailer to see if you are interested.



February 2, 2024



Prayer 101

Pastor Emily is offering a class throughout Lent on how to pray. We will learn the basics before touching on some creative prayer ideas. This class is for you if you struggle to feel comfortable praying for a group, don't feel confident enough to pray aloud, or feel like your prayers have hit a rut. Each session will feature a time of prayer after the lesson. We will meet after worship on Sundays from about 12:15 to 12:45, February 18th through March 24th.



**Happy Valentine's Day
February 14, 2024**



2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Groundhog Day	3
				Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Women's Ens.	6:30 PM Boy Scouts CR	
4 Congregational Meeting	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 11 AM Worship +Children's Church Congregational Meeting 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	1 PM Master Gardeners (FH)	Office Hours 9-2 10 AM Bible Study (FH) 6:30 PM Cub Scouts (CR)	5:30 PM Midweek 5:30-6:30 PM Soup Night 6:30 PM Bell Concert 7:30 PM Deacons Meeting (BR)	Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Women's Ens.	6:30 PM Boy Scouts CR 7:30 PM Movie Night (CR)	
11	12	13	14-Valentine's Day	15	16	17
9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 11 AM Worship +Children's Church 3-6:30 PM 522 Youth Group 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal		Office Hours 9-2 10 AM Bible Study (FH) 6:30 PM Cub Scouts (CR))	5:30-6:30 PM Soup Night 7:PM Trustee Meeting (BR)	Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Women's Ens.	6:30 PM Boy Scouts CR	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 11 AM Worship +Children's Church 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal		Office Hours 9-2 10 AM Bible Study (FH) 6:30 PM Cub Scouts (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.	6:30 PM Boy Scouts CR	
25	26	27	28	29		
9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 11 AM Worship +Children's Church 3-6:30 PM 522 Youth Group 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal		Office Hours 9-2 10 AM Bible Study (FH) 6:30 PM Cub Scouts (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.