



The GLEANER

January, 2026

The McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church

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Pastor's Column

“Treasuring and Pondering”

“Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.” (Luke 2:19)

2025 has been a year filled with turmoil, tragedy, and trauma in our World, in our Nation, and perhaps, for some of us, in our lives. Yet, as we affirm our faith each Sunday in “God, the Father, Almighty . . . in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord . . . and in the Holy Spirit” who unites God’s people as one Body throughout the world, we believe that God is at work making all things new. God gives us life and light each new day; God blesses us with countless blessings, and God promises us a future eternity of peace with Him, when there will be no more fighting, warring, weeping, or death. We have God’s assurance, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you” (Heb. 13:5). We are a people blessed, and we can look to the future with hope.

For a number of years now, as an old year passes, and a new year begins, I have found the practice of Jesus’ mother, Mary, to be helpful – treasuring and pondering. On New Year’s Eve, or on New Year’s Day, I set aside time to “treasure” – to reflect on what God has been doing in my life throughout the previous year – God’s blessings, things I’ve learned, significant experiences, etc.; and I list them under “Things I’ve Treasured.” Then I “ponder” what the New Year will look like in my life – making a list of those things I’d like to change or do differently in the New Year - new goals, new growth in my relationship with God, new experiences with family and friends. I find that it’s helpful to “take stock” of what God has been doing in my life and consider what the future might look like as I continue life’s journey.

On the night of Jesus’ birth, holding the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords in her arms, Mary “treasured up” all that God had done in her life over the past 9 months, and “pondered” the future might look like – how this child would change her life, and how he would change the world!

Take time at the beginning of this New Year to “treasure” and “ponder”!

[Pastor’s Note: One of the things I’ve “treasured” in 2025 is my relationship with all of you, my “family” at McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church. Thank you so much for your love and support since I began supplying your pulpit on December 1, 2024. Pondering the year ahead, I will continue to fill your pulpit, but not as frequently. Age, travel plans, and spending time with family (not to mention the distance between us) are all factors in this decision. You hold a special place in my heart, and I pray daily that the Lord will raise up the right person to lead MUPC into God’s future.]

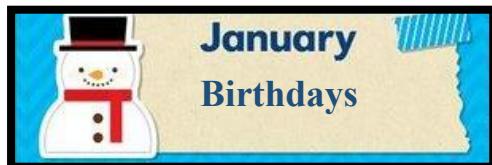
Pastor Dale



Prayer Requests

Short Term: Janet McGinnis & family, Patsy Johnston, Bob McCormick, Jill Cline, Gary Black, Amy Mimm, Patty Hall, Carter Straight, Jason Carbaugh, Bill Warthin & family, Rachel Howells, Joyce Hornberger, Randy McGowan, Tyson Ramsey, Morgan Taylor & baby Isaiah, Kathy Kendall, April Walkup, & Kenny Walker.

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



2-Nancy Ritchey
8-William Dovey III
17-Beckie Drover
18-FaeAnne Heilig
Dr. William Milroth
21-Richard Rotz
23-Judy Aller
Jonas Daniel Howells
27 Melody Collins
29-Peter Billings



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 February Issue is January 27th. It will be printed on the 27th. If you can't email it, feel free to call or lay a handwritten document on the secretary's desk.



Session December 3, 2025

Session met on December 3, 2025, for their stated combined November and December meetings. Session met in the boardroom and Elder April Leese began the 6 pm meeting by leading devotions with the challenge by thinking of what Christmas means to each of us, understanding Love, Peace and Hope.

The October 15, 2025, meeting minutes were approved as well as the meeting agenda. Average worship attendance for September was 46; October was 42, and November was 40.

Pastor Dale celebrated communion with Audrey and Ron Mitchell on November 30, 2025. He will ask different families to light the advent candle each week during worship. Pastor Dale will not be spending as many 2026 Sundays with our congregation as he will be traveling with his family and participating in mission trips.

January 4, 2026, will be the next communion and Pastor Dale will be leading the worship service. Elder Johnston gave a PNC report and mentioned the number of profiles reviewed. Elders Dovey and Leese will continue to develop information for the church website to keep it current. The clerk reviewed the Pulpit Supply List and was pleased to report that most of the 2026 vacant Sundays have been filled with retired pastors and chaplains.

The personnel committee reported no response has been received to fill the recently announced church Public Relations position. A 2.5% salary or hourly wage increase will be used for 2026 employees. The nominating committee is working to fill trustee, deacon and session 2026 vacancies.

The financial report showed a healthy balance in each of the benevolence, building and general funds. Soon a \$5,000 repayment will be transferred

from the general fund to the unrestricted endowment. This will be a second \$5,000 repayment made to the unrestricted endowment to replace a \$10, 000 transfer at the beginning of 2025.

Elder Joe Calhoun will be filling our pulpit to lead worship on a 2026 monthly basis. He has entered a Covenant of Agreement with MUPC for his pulpit supply.

Boundary training will be scheduled for elders in 2026.

Session approved a \$2,000 Shared Mission Pledge for the deacons to issue: 80% to support the whole ministry of the Presbytery of Carlisle and 20% to the General Assembly Mission Agency.

Session has the opportunity to receive Ruling Elder Communion training on April 11, 2026, at Newport, PA.

The 2026 General Assembly needs elders to serve as Commissioned Elders to represent the Carlisle Presbytery from June 28 through July 3, 2026, in Milwaukee, WI.

The 2026 annual general fund budget will be approved at the January session meeting, as well as the 2025 Congregation Statistical Report.

Subjects for the 2026 Christian Education Seminars were discussed such as keeping our children safe and making our seniors safe from financial fraud schemes; and possible dates to present them.

The clerk gave a report on 2026 church fire and liability insurance coverage and premium changes as discussed with our McConkey Insurance Consultant, Stacey Peck.

There will be no 4 pm family Christmas service scheduled this year.

Session approved Sunday, February 8, 2026, for the annual congregational meeting after worship. The 2025 Audit Committee will present their report at the January 2026, stated session meeting.

The Rev. Dr. Rick Boyer will be asked to moderate the February 8, 2026, annual congregational meeting and the Rev. Mark Medina will be asked to

moderate the stated January 21, 2026, session meeting.

New prayer partners were assigned.

Having no other business to be brought before session, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm with prayer by the moderator.



Deacons **December 3, 2025**

Present: Al Clark, Val Alexander, Frank Ingram, Barb MacDonald, Carolyn Kerlin, Marin Carbaugh, Rachel Howells via phone

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

Organization of the Month: Women in Need

Old Business:

1. College Care Packages (Amazon gift cards) have been sent to our 5 college students.
2. Cocoa Crawl was well-attended, and many people stayed to listen to bells and singers.
3. Giving Tree items have been delivered.

New Business:

1. Poinsettias for our VIPs

Visits - Fruit baskets were delivered.

Prayer Lists were updated.

Benevolences

- \$500 Fulton County Food Basket
- \$500 Center for Community Action - Fulton County Charities

- \$200 Love's Closet
- \$800 Fulton County Partnership - Child Care

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

Meeting was adjourned, with prayer by Rachel.



Trustees **November 12, 2025**

Attendance: Brett Cornelius, Harvey Kneas, Jayne Metcalfe, Wayne MacDonald, Bill Dovey, Ken Keebaugh & Eric Kerlin on phone conference call.

Wayne opened the meeting with prayer.

Brett reported on the Manse heating system.

Harvey reported on repairs & improvements on the electrical system. He will continue contacts for waxing the basement floor & he reported on the Manse bathroom renovation options.

Bill reported on readiness of heating systems.

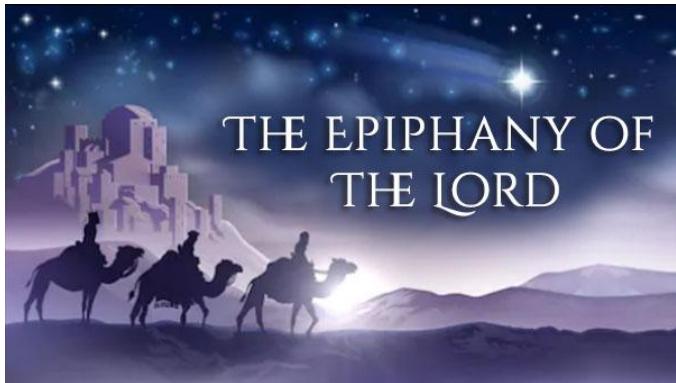
Harvey will design a ramp for the basement entry door.

Eric will contact a contractor for repair of stone veneer at the front entry.

The Trustees see no present use for the Comerer building for the church.

Repair of the sidewalk was tabled.

Mike Ritchey will be called for electrical needs.



January 6, 2026

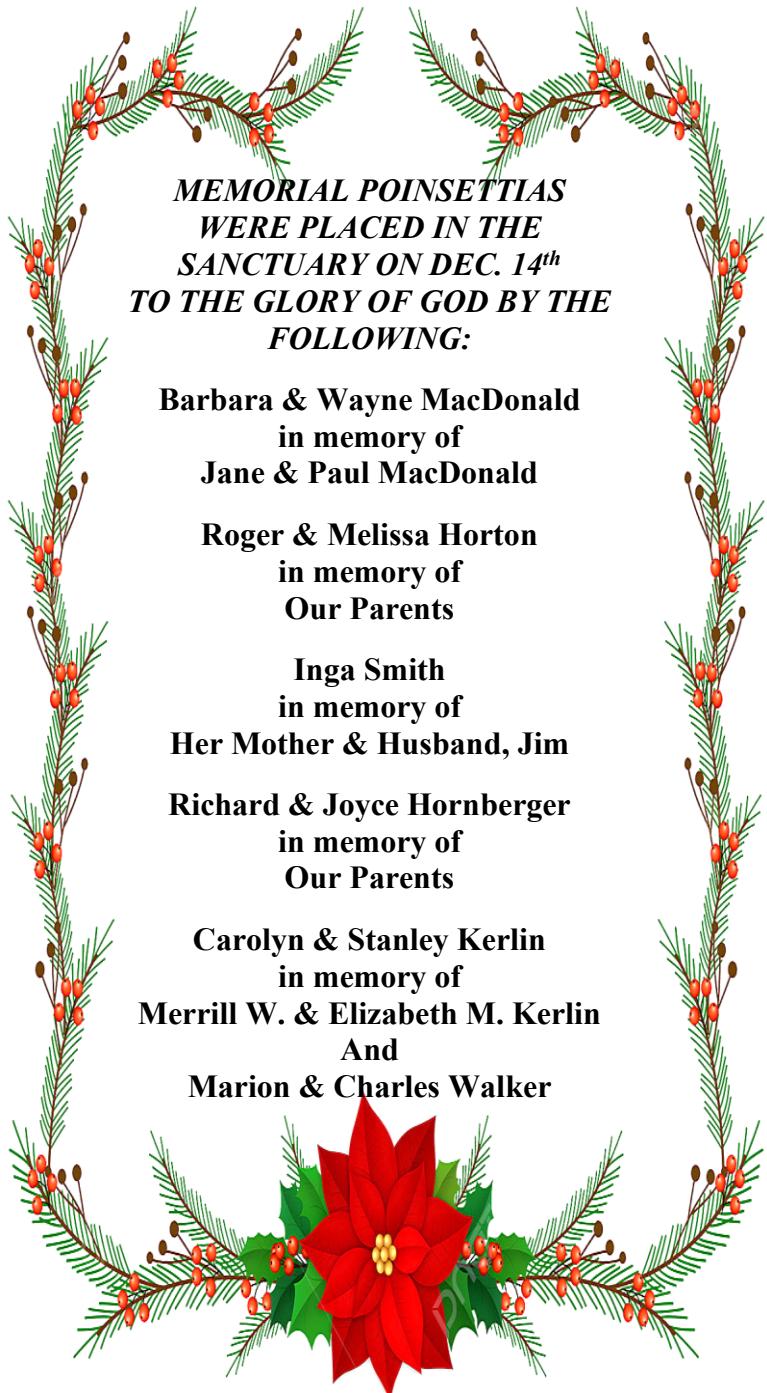


Baptism of the Lord
January 11, 2026



The 522 Youth Group

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



***MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS
WERE PLACED IN THE
SANCTUARY ON DEC. 14th
TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY THE
FOLLOWING:***

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

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

**Inga Smith
in memory of
Her Mother & Husband, Jim**

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

**Carolyn & Stanley Kerlin
in memory of
Merrill W. & Elizabeth M. Kerlin
And
Marion & Charles Walker**



January Lectionary Readings

Week of January 4, 2026

Rev. Dale Williams

Epiphany Sunday
Communion

Jeremiah 31: 7-14

Psalm 147: 12-20

Ephesians 1: 3-14

John 1: 1-18

January 6, 2026

Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3: 1-12

Matthew 2: 1-12

Week of January 11, 2026

Rick Boyer

Baptism of the Lord

5-7 PM Youth Group MUMC

Isaiah 42: 1-9

Psalm 29

Acts 10: 34-43

Matthew 3: 13-17

Week of January 18, 2026

Scott Bowerman

Isaiah 49: 1-7

Psalm 40: 1-11

1 Corinthians 1: 1-9

John 1: 29-42

Week of January 25, 2026

Joe Calhoun

Isaiah 9: 1-4

Psalm 27: 1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1: 10-18

Matthew 4: 12-23



2026



Soup Night Schedule

5:30-6:30 PM

February 18

February 25

March 4

March 11

March 18

March 25



2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
				Office Closed		
4 Epiphany Sunday Communion	5	6 Epiphany of the Lord	7	8	9	10
Pastor Dale 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 Deacons Meeting (BR)	Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Women's Ens.		
11-Baptism of the Lord	12	13	14	15	16	17
Rick Boyer 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 Trustee Meeting (BR)	Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Women's Ens.		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Scott Bowerman 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 Session Meeting (BR)	Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Women's Ens.		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Joe Calhoun 11 AM Worship 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR)	Office Hours 9-2 10 AM Bible Study (CR)		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.