



The GLEANER

July/August 2026

The McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church

Office: 717-485-4400

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PASTOR'S COLUMN

Last month my wife, Len, and I spent a week with our oldest daughter, Kristin, who lives in London; and then we spent a week traveling along the Rhine River on a riverboat. While in London we happened to visit Westminster Abbey, just as Noon worship was beginning, and we attended the service. It was kind of overwhelming to worship where others, including royalty have worshiped since 1066 AD, and where over 40 Kings have been crowned.

The following Sunday we worshiped at the Cathedral in Strasbourg, France, completed in 1439 and until the 19th century, the tallest structure in the world. Both worship experiences inspired a sense of the awesomeness of God, whose name had been glorified in both of these massive structures for centuries by countless others.

As I reflected on these experiences and on my other visits to dozens of beautiful cathedrals in England and Europe, I was reminded of the message of the Prophet Micah to worshipers in Israel centuries before Christ: “God does not need extravagant shows of worship. What God does require is that we act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him” (Micah 6:8). And I also thought about how the early church thrived, as they gathered in homes to study the Scriptures, pray, and enjoy fellowship, “praising God and enjoying the favor of all people” (Acts 2:42-47).

The beauty of our building and sanctuary at McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church certainly enhances our worship and is a structure to take pride in – but, WE, every one of us, is the CHURCH! First and foremost, God wants our hearts! And as we love God with all our hearts, our love for neighbor - those around us in our community – will grow and we will be the “Body of Christ” that He intended for us to be. The “building” that is His People will inspire others to know the love of God. This is something to think about this Summer as we prepare for a new Church year and our outreach in the Fall.

– Pastor Dale





Prayer Requests

Prayers for Health Issues:

Patsy Johnston, Bob McCormick, Jill Cline, Naomi Marcus, Patty Hall, Morgan Taylor and baby Isaiah, Kenny Walker, Harvey Kneas, Laura Thatcher, David Nuner, Brandon Genescritt (kidney transplant), Vince Feight, & Faye Elvey (recent fall).

Prayers for Senior Living and Home-Based Members:

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



August Birthdays

4-Gene Leese
Jeff Bigelow
5-Tara Ritchey
7-Rosemary Billings
10- Debbie Reed
14-Sandra Richards
15-Carolyn Kneas
Richard Hornberger
16-Frank Ingram
21-John Heuston
22-Tim Fowler
26-Sarah Cutchall



July Birthdays

3-Dan Adams
Marin Carbaugh
4-Olivia Mitchell
6-Nancy Bivens
15-Chas Howells
17-Darryl Mitchell
25-Scott Alexander
Brett Cornelius
27-Rebecca Eisenhower
28-John Johnston
29-Joyce Fowler
31-Janet Champion



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 September Issue is August 25th. It will be printed on the 25th. If you can't email it, feel free to call or lay a handwritten document on the secretary's desk.



Session June 17, 2026

The McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Session met for their stated June 17, 2026, meeting. Elders LeeAnne Kendall, John Johnston, Donna Ankney, Julie Dovey, Carolyn Kneas, and April Leese were present. Elder Jack Rhodes was absent and excused. The Rev. Mark Medina was present by zoom and served as moderator. Elder Donna Ankney led devotions with scripture from Matthew 18:10, the parable of the lost lamb. The shepherd left the flock of ninety-nine to search for the one lost lamb and when found, rejoiced for the lost one was brought home. She then opened the meeting with prayer at 6:14 pm.

The average worship attendance for May was forty-three.

As correspondence, a Carlisle Presbytery newsletter announcing a Honduras Mission Network Celebration will be held October 10-15, 2026. Also, a Board of Pensions letter explaining a dues subsidy for dependent children and family health care coverage will be extended through 2029 for

pastors enrolled in the Congregational Pastors Package.

Pastor Mark stated there are a number of Pastor Nominating Committees (PNC) searching for pastors and experiencing frustration with no searching pastors making a contact with PNCs. One alternative pathway to pastoral leadership is through the Commissioned Elder concept. Either using a current Commissioned Elder such as Joe Calhoun or encouraging an elder in the MUPC to complete the training.

The PNC Chairperson, Eder John Johnston, presented a verbal report to inform session that 131 candidates have been reviewed with an estimated 60% contacted and requested to file an application. Of those requested applications, forty-four contacted the committee and withdrew their application. The remaining applications expired due to a three-week deadline to respond. Three interviews have been conducted with the results that one candidate was deemed not a match to the congregation, and the other two withdrew their applications when they realized other congregations better met their expectations. Fifteen seminaries were contacted with a vacancy announcement to be posted to their website. Also, a vacancy announcement ad was placed in the Presbyterian Outlook magazine, both in print and on their online ads.

Elder boundary training will be completed using a second short training video. The videos will be watched independently and then discussed at the August stated session meeting.

As a MUPC Christian Education effort, the non-profit, Live Like Levi Foundation, whose focus is to keep our children aware of harmful internet use will present a seminar co-sponsored by MUPC and the Central Fulton School District on October 14, 2026. Session approved a motion to contribute \$420 to the foundation and cover incidental costs such as poster printing, purchase of door prizes and refreshments.

A Small Group Ministry report was presented by the clerk. Seven shows or trips will be attended by congregational groups of four to sixteen people per event over the next seven months. It is the hope of the ministry that each carpool group will create a close congregational bond and enjoy the fellowship together.

The clerk reported that required policies and procedures were submitted to Guide One Liability Insurance Company to qualify MUPC for Sexual Misconduct Liability Insurance coverage at one million dollars as recommended by the Carlisle Presbytery. Guide One responded, quoting \$623 as the annual premium for one-million-dollar sexual misconduct liability insurance coverage. The submitted policies and procedures were to be approved at this meeting, however discrepancies in the printed subject matter were deemed unacceptable. A committee of Elders Julie Dovey and April Leese was appointed to correct the deficiencies and report to session when their work is completed.

A Boundaries in the Church policy (approved November 2019 and Amended August 2024 by the Carlisle Presbytery), created by the Commission on Ministry, Carlisle Presbytery, was approved as policy for MUPC.

Christian Education: Elder Carolyn Kneas reported on her work to create a Sunday School program for all ages. Her concept is to provide short (four to six week) topics and to rotate teachers. The Sunday School would be held prior to the worship hour and would include a short fellowship time with food prior to the lesson. Elder Kneas feels strongly that Sunday School needs to be provided for Christian Education. Additional program preparation will be completed with the assistance of volunteers, Elders LeeAnne Kendall and John Johnston. Assistance is needed to create excitement to attend the newly created Sunday School. A motion was approved to receive her report, and to take further action when the material is finalized and returned to session for a decision.

Fellowship: Preparations have been made for the June 28, 2026, Church Picnic. Planning for Rally Day, September 13, 2026, will include a picnic lunch and an ice cream social.

Stewardship, Personnel, and Nominating committees had no report. Treasurer and Elder Julie Dovey will prepare a midyear financial report for the stated August session meeting.

The Worship committee informed session that Donna Ankney, Rachel Leese and April Leese will provide music at the June 28, 2026, Church Picnic.

Also, after a review of the various pew cards in use, a Prayer Request card and a MUPC information card were selected to be used in the pews.

Action to set a combined church board (session, deacons and trustees) meeting was tabled until the August stated session meeting.

A Carlisle Presbytery meeting will be held Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 6 PM. The location will be Gettysburg Presbyterian Church as a hybrid meeting. Action to commission two elders will be tabled until the August stated session meeting. Elder Donna Ankney will check her availability. New prayer partners were assigned.

Having no further business to be brought before the session, a motion was approved by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting with the Lord's Prayer at 7:48 pm.

John K Johnston
Clerk of Session



Deacons

**No meeting in June. Next meeting will be
Wednesday, July 1, 2026 @ 7PM.**



Trustees

(No Report for June)



The 522 Youth Group

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



HELP! The MUPC Session is looking for a PR (Public Relations) person to promote the ministry of our congregation to the wider Fulton County Community. The individual we are looking for should be familiar with social media and how to communicate our mission to a new generation. Please reach out to one of our Elders if you or someone you know might be interested.



The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continues to review candidates who are matched to our congregation by the Presbyterian Church (USA) Clergy Leadership Connection. A small number of candidates have been interviewed but have either determined not to be a good fit for our congregation or have been beyond the benefit package that our budget can support. The PNC has not been discouraged by the process as we know GOD oversees our pastor search and our chosen pastor has not yet been presented to the committee. Please join our committee and pray for GOD to present the pastor HE has chosen for our congregation



The Scouts are collecting Aluminum cans (any not attracted to a magnet) including soda cans, beer cans, energy drinks... cat food cans/lids.. NOT STEEL CANS. Aluminum only for now. The scouts get \$0.52/lb when they recycle and they use these funds for activities, camporees and summer camps. Cans will be collected and recycled every two weeks on Saturdays. (ie: 4/11, 4/25, 5/9... and continues biweekly). Cans must be washed. Please place your clean aluminum cans in the large trash can in the Scout meeting room downstairs to support our Scout troop.



July 4, 2026



There is a show ticket available for the following:
 Carol King Musical \$48 July 28, 2026,
 2:30 pm at the Shenandoah Conservancy of Music,
 Winchester, VA

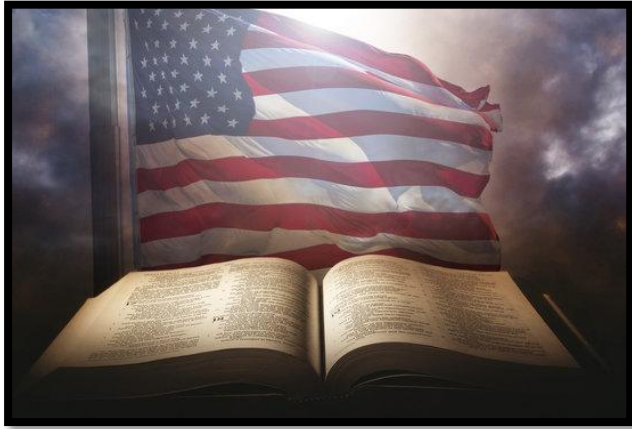
Rhonda Vincent \$55 September 20, 2026,
 3 pm at the American Music Theater,
 Lancaster, PA

Inga Smith has volunteered as the driver,
 please contact Inga for instructions



A Christian Education Seminar dealing with “Safe Internet Use by Minors” will be co-sponsored by the McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church and the Central Fulton School District. Presenters will be Tricia Maciejewski, mother of Levi Maciejewski, and founder of the Live Like Levi Foundation. The foundation was created after Levi’s tragic suicide death due to a fraudulent internet sextortion assault. In addition, FBI Special Agent Ford informs the audience on laws and enforcement of fraudulent internet schemes. This very important information seminar will be held on October 14, 2026, at the Central Fulton auditorium at 7 pm. We hope to have a large audience for such an important topic. Do not think your child, grandchild, niece, nephew or other minor would never be the victim of a social media assault. This is one seminar to attend and learn about social media pitfalls. The community is invited to this seminar; we encourage you to attend and invite a neighbor to come along.





July Lectionary Readings

Week of July 5, 2026

Rev. Dale Francis

Genesis 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Psalm 45: 10-17

Song of Solomon 2: 8-13

Romans 7: 15-25a

Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

Week of July 12, 2026

Elder Joe Calhoun

Genesis 25: 19-34

Psalm 119: 105-112

Romans 8: 1-11

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

Week of July 19, 2026

Elder Dirk Grove

Genesis 28: 10-19a

Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24

Romans 8: 12-25

Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

Week of July 26, 2026

Rev. Dale Williams

Genesis 29:15-28

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

Psalm 128:1-6

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52



August Lectionary Readings

Week of August 2, 2026

Rev. Dale Williams

Genesis 32: 22-31

Psalm 17: 1-7, 15

Romans 9: 1-5

Matthew 14: 13-21

Week of August 9, 2026

Elder Joe Calhoun

Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28

Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b

Romans 10: 5-15

Matthew 14: 22-33

Week of August 16, 2026

Rev. Dale Francis

Genesis 45: 1-15

Psalm 133: 1-3

Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15: 10-28

Week of August 23, 2026

Elder Dirk Grove

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalm 124:1-8

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

Week of August 30, 2026

Rev. Dale Williams

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28



2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
			7 PM Deacons Meeting (BR)	Office Hours 9 AM-2 PM.		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Rev. Dale Francis 10:00 AM Worship	6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR)	Office Hours 9-2 10 AM Bible Study (CR)	7 PM Trustee Meeting (BR))	Office Hours 9 AM-2 PM		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Elder Joe Calhoun 10:00 AM Worship 5-7 PM Youth Group MUMC	6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR)	Office Hours 9-2 10 AM Bible Study (CR)	No Session Meeting	Office Hours 9 AM-2 PM.		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Elder Dirk Grove 10:00 AM Worship	6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR)	Office Hours 9-2 10 AM Bible Study (CR)		Office Hours 9 AM-2 PM.		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Rev. Dale Williams 10:00 AM Worship	6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR)	Office Hours 9-2 10 AM Bible Study (CR)		Office Hours 9 AM-2 PM		

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



2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Rev. Dale Williams 10:00 AM Worship	6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR)	Office Hours 9-2 10 AM Bible Study (CR)	7 PM Deacons Meeting (BR)	Office Hours 9 AM-2 PM		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Elder Joe Calhoun 10:00 AM Worship 5-7 PM Youth Group MUMC	6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR)	Office Hours 9-2 10 AM Bible Study (CR)	7 PM Trustee Meeting (BR)	Office Hours 9 AM-2 PM		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Rev. Dale Francis 10:00 AM Worship	6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR)	Office Hours 9-2 10 AM Bible Study (CR)	7 PM Session Meeting (BR)	Office Hours 9 AM-2 PM		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Elder Dirk Grove 10:00 AM Worship	6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR)	Office Hours 9-2 10 AM Bible Study (CR)		Office Hours 9 AM-2 PM		
30 Rev. Dale Williams 10:00 AM Worship	31 6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR)					

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