



The GLEANER

March, 2026

The McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church

Office: 717-485-4400

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Pastor's Column

“O Lord, Our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!” David, Psalm 8

As most of you know, I love to cruise! As I've cruised the mighty oceans of the world, I have stood in awe and wonder at the vast beauty of God's creation! This past January and February, I've been reminded that none of us needs to travel the oceans of the world to admire and be inspired by God's handiwork.

In January my wife and I spent a week on the Outer Banks in North Carolina, enjoying sunrises and the eternal crashing of the waves on the beach along the Atlantic Coast, as well as amazing sunsets over the Currituck Sound, all the while witnessing a vast array of wildlife. Then, in February, we had the opportunity to visit, for the first time, a number of National Parks: Bryce Canyon, Zion, Arches, Capital Reef, Monument Valley, and the Grand Canyon. I was “blown away” by the grandeur and magnitude, and craftsmanship of God's glorious creation. I thought about the song, “America” – “O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain, For purple mountain majesties, Above the fruited plain! . . . from sea to shining sea!”

Driving home from BWI after our flight from Las Vegas, reflecting on all we had seen the past 2 months, the beauty of the mountains and rolling hills of Pennsylvania caught my attention. And, I thought, “I don't have to go anywhere to enjoy God's creation! It's all here, if I would step away from my busyness, and preoccupation with my cellphone and other distractions, and take in the world around me.

We continue our Lenten Journey throughout this month, and March 20th is the first day of Spring. As we look at Jesus preparing for his final journey to Jerusalem and the cross that awaited him there, we see him getting away to quiet places (Mark 1:35), and climbing up mountains alone (Mark 6:46) – to enjoy God's presence and find rest in God's creation.

With milder temps, and new life bursting forth in Nature as we anticipate the celebration of the Resurrection, March would be a great time to commit ourselves to a regular routine of making time for God, while enjoying God's creation. Paul wrote to Timothy that God has given us everything for our enjoyment (1 Timothy 6:17) – and we really do have a lot to enjoy in our beautiful homeland!

Pastor Dale



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, & baby Hugh Pilkerton.

Prayers for Senior Living & Home-Based Members:

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



- 1-Ronald Mitchell
Valerie Alexander
- 2-Rev.Emily McCachren
Kyzley Doris Mitchell
- 5-Noreen Mann
- 7-JoAnn Carlson
- 10-Al Clark
- 15- Rachel Leese
- 20-Audrey Mitchell
Betty Lockwood
- 24-Madilynn Florence Cutchall
- 28-Diana Lee
- 29-Aaron Kerlin
Kate Carbaugh
- 30-Brent Carlson



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 April Issue is March 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.



Session January 21, 2026

The January 21, 2026, session meeting was held in the board room with all members present. The clerk and the moderator, Rev. Mark Madina attended the meeting through zoom. A quorum was present and Elder Richard Rotz opened the meeting with prayer.

The meeting agenda and the December 3, 2025, session meeting minutes were approved.

December's average worship attendance was 59, Christmas Eve service attendance was 112 and the World Hunger offering totaled \$26,062.

Presbytery's stated clerk, Rev. Kristal Smith will end her service with the presbytery on February 28, 2026.

Elder Richard Rotz will prepare communion on February 22, 2026. The 2026 General Fund Budget was approved. A PNC report was given stated 109 candidates have been reviewed. Pastor Vacancy Announcements have been posted at nine seminaries. The church website will be updated. Session will complete Boundary training. A future Christian education seminar will include "Senior Scam Awareness."

Volunteer groups are needed to host Soup Night during Lent. Mike Binder will provide a minute for mission on February 15, 2026. A \$5,000 transfer will be made from the general fund to the unrestricted endowment as a final repayment of a \$10,000 transfer earlier in 2025.

The 2025 Congregation Statistical Report was approved. Session will prepare and institute Sexual Misconduct policies and training by the end of 2026. Small group ministry will be discussed at the February session meeting. The Audit Committee presented their 2025 report. Approval was given

for the trustees Maple Street sidewalk and streetlamp project.

Elder John K Johnston was elected clerk of session for a one-year term and as the Commissioned Elder to attend the February 7th presbytery meeting. Session plans to explore developing the lot 59 parking lot with handicapped parking and entrance with the Trustees.

Session approved the following communion service dates: February 22, First Sunday in Lent; May 24, Pentecost; October 4, World Communion; and November 29, First Sunday in Advent. Newly elected elders Jack Rhodes and Donna Ankney will be examined at the February 18, 2026, session meeting. The Sunday, January 25, 2026, worship service was cancelled due to inclement weather. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

February 18, 2026

The February Session meeting was held on the 18th at 7 PM following the Ash Wednesday service. All session members were present with April Leese attending by zoom. LeeAnne Kendall led devotions and opened the meeting with prayer. Jack Rhodes and Donna Ankney were examined as elder candidates and found they appropriately responded to questions according to the Book of Order. The minutes of the February 21, 2026, session meeting were approved as well as the January session meeting agenda. Many Voices, One Song; a presbytery worship event will be held August 30, 2026, in Carlisle and all congregations are invited to attend.

The clerk was instructed to send letters of thankful service to resting elders Richard Rotz and Joyce Fowler as they completed their second term as elder. The average January worship attendance was 43. Communion will be celebrated on April 2, 2026, Maundy Thursday. Session members will complete Boundary Training in the coming month. Communion training is available to elders on April 11, 2026. A Christian education seminar will be held on March 18, 2026, with "Making Seniors Safe from Scams" as the subject following soup night. All weekly soup night volunteers have been scheduled.

Session committees and chairs have been decided for 2026. One Great Hour of Sharing minute for mission segments will be added to the worship hour in the coming month. An offering envelope is included in the box of weekly envelopes for One Great Hour of Sharing offerings. A new model of church growth idea, small group ministry, will be discussed at next month's meeting. A report on the February 7th Presbytery meeting was given. The membership roll was reviewed, and seven members will be moved to the "friends of the congregation" list. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm with prayer by the moderator.

Visits discussed.

Prayer Lists were updated.

Benevolences

- \$500 Fulton County Food Basket - already sent
- \$500 Center for Community Action - Fulton County Charities - already sent
- \$300 Love's Closet (monthly)
- \$500 Fulton County Partnership - Daycare (monthly)
- \$600 School Care Closet (Stacey Duffey)
- \$200 Our Daily Bread
- \$900 American Red Cross

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

Meeting was adjourned, with prayer by Val.



Deacons

February 4, 2026

Present: Al Clark, Val Alexander, Frank Ingram, Barb MacDonald, Carolyn Kerlin, Rachel Howells, & Julie Dovey.

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

Organization of the Month: Appalachian Army, Work Loving God

Old Business:

1. Soup Night hosted by Deacons on March 4th before the next meeting.

New Business:

1. Julie came to discuss the benevolence report and answer questions regarding format and classification.



Trustees

No Report for February



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



March Lectionary Readings

Week of March 1, 2026

Rev. Dale Williams

Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12: 1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17

John 3: 1-17

Week of March 8, 2026

Rev. Dale Williams

Third Sunday of Lent

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Exodus 17: 1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5: 1-11

John 4: 5-42

Week of March 15, 2026

Rev. Dale Williams

Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16: 1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5: 8-14

John 9: 1-41

Week of March 22, 2026

Rev. Dale Williams

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8: 6-11

John 11: 1-45

Week of March 29, 2026

Palm/Passion Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

Matthew 21: 1-11

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

Psalm 31: 9-16

Philippians 2: 5-11

Matthew 26: 14 – 27: 66

Matthew 27: 11-54



March 20



**Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 8**



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

March 29 through April 4 is Holy Week in anticipation of the celebration of our Savior's victorious resurrection Easter Sunday! There will be a Maundy Thursday Service held Thursday, April 2nd, at 7:00 pm in our Sanctuary, remembering our Savior's "Last Supper" with his disciples the night before he took our sins upon himself at the cross. All are welcome to this service of reflection and humble gratitude for God's love.



March 17



2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Second Sunday of Lent	2	3	4	5	6	7
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)	5:30-6:30 PM Soup Night 7 PM Deacons Meeting (BR)	Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Women's Ens.		
8-Third Sunday of Lent	9	10	11	12	13	14
Pastor Dale Daylight Saving Time Begins 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)	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.		
15-Fourth Sunday of Lent	16	17- St Patrick's Day	18	19	20- Spring Begins	21
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)	5:30-6:30 PM Soup Night 7:00 PM Session Meeting (BR)	Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Women's Ens.		
22-Fifth Sunday of Lent	23	24	25	26	27	28
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)	5:30-6:30 PM Soup Night	Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Women's Ens.		
29-Palm/Passion Sunday	30	31				
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)				

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