



The GLEANER

May, 2026

The McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church

Office: 717-485-4400

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“SUMMER REFLECTIONS”

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these . . . anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” – Jesus (Mark 10:14-15)

May 25th, Memorial Day, marks the unofficial start of Summer. Children are out of school, and they seem to be everywhere, into everything! Sometimes, when my wife and I are enjoying quiet moments in a park, or traveling, or sitting down in a restaurant for a meal during these summer months, lots of children loud and all over the place, can be annoying to me in my old age!

However, the Gettysburg Times recently carried an article on one of my heroes – Fred Rogers, of “Mister Roger’s Neighborhood” that made me do some thinking about my “self-centered” attitude. Rogers once said, “We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It’s easy to say, ‘it’s not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.’ Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.” Fred Rogers, who was from Latrobe, PA, received his Master of Divinity from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1963. He then gave his life to responding to the needs of children. In nearly 900 episodes of “Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood” over 33 years, he dealt with issues confronting the lives of children in a calm, meaningful way – subjects included civility, self-worth, tolerance for others, the loss of a pet, divorce, human dignity, death, and dealing with personal feelings. He was awarded an Emmy in 1997 “for giving generations upon generations of children confidence in themselves, for being their friend, for telling them again and again and again that they are special and that they have worth.” As I reflect on Roger’s legacy of kindness and compassion, I’m reminded of Jesus and his kindness and compassion toward “the marginalized” in his neighborhood, and of the Psalmist’s often repeated words that our Lord “is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love” (Psalm 103:8, et al).

As we look ahead to those “Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer,” maybe we can take some time to relax, reflect, and reconsider our attitudes, not just toward children, but toward all who are “marginalized” in our neighborhoods. We need to remember that in God’s eyes, every human being has value, every human being has worth, and God’s love extends to the “least” and the “lost.”

HAPPY SUMMER! – Pastor Dale



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.

Prayers for Senior Living and Home-Based Members:

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



- 3-Carolyn Kerlin
- 7-Doug Brown
- 11-Megan Williams
- 12-Gary Ankney
- 15-Betty Gail Faunce
- 17-LeeAnne Kendall
- 22-Faye Elvey
Panya Peck
- 28-Weylin Mitchell
- 30-Marvin (Jake) Richards
- 31-Janet Gordon



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 June Issue is May 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

April 22, 2026

All members were present and Pastor Dale served as moderator. Elder Jack Rhodes led devotions with thoughts on how do we recognize when God is present with us. Elder Rhodes gave examples of how God has guided his actions with thoughts and peculiar happenings that occurred. He then opened the meeting with prayer at 8:05 pm.

The average worship attendance for March was forty-three. Pastor Dale commented on plans for the church picnic on June 28, 2026, at Cowans Gap State Park. He also mentioned he is in constant prayer for the Pastor Nominating Committee.

The next communion will be prepared by Elder Jack Rhodes on May 24, 2026, Pentecost.

Commissioned Ruling Elder, Joe Calhoun, will be the pulpit supply that day.

Elder boundary training will be completed using two short training videos. The videos will be watched after Sunday worship on April 26, 2026.

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 early next school year. MUPC will cover the presenter travel costs and request the Deacons to make a donation to the Live Like Levi Foundation.

A session committee of Elder Carolyn Kneas and John Johnston presented a report to session concerning Small Group Ministry. The report included a request for session to approve the start of a Small Group Ministry to MUPC, the request was approved. The start of the ministry will be June 27,

2026, group trip to the Lurhs Center, Shippensburg, PA, Raleigh Ringers, Handbell Choir concert.

A concern was expressed that no Sunday School is currently being offered to any age group. A suggestion was made to hold Sunday School after worship and have one class fit all age groups that attend. Additional discussion will be held, and a new Sunday School will be offered beginning on Rally Day, next September.

Treasurer and Elder Julie Dovey will trim the current list of eligible people to charge items at Giant food store. F&M trust has submitted paperwork that fulfills their requirement to have MUPC persons with fiscal responsibility review the trust accounts held in the endowment funds.

Elder Donna Ankney will consult with Richard Rotz and plan for special music during the Church picnic on June 28, 2026, at Cowans Gap State Park. June 7, 2026, will be the start of the summer worship 10 am service. A motion was approved for action taken between meetings when session gave internet approval for the Boy Scouts to collect aluminum cans as a fund raiser. May 17, 2026, was approved for the spring worship service to be held at the White Church with pulpit supply, Rev. Scott Bowerman.

New prayer partners were assigned.



Deacons

April 1, 2026

Present: Al Clark (President), Frank Ingram, Carolyn Kerlin, Barbara MacDonald, Rachel Howells, Joyce Hornberger
Excused: Marin Carbaugh

Meeting opened with prayer at 7PM.

Minutes of March meeting approved.

Six Tulips with Easter Egg Treats were delivered the week following Palm Sunday. Carolyn will have flowers ready for Memorial Day ceremony at our church's military graves.

Prayer list was updated.

Benevolence Giving

Loves Closet (monthly)	\$300
Fulton County Food Basket (monthly)	\$500
Center for Community Action (CCA)(monthly)	\$500
Fulton County Partnership (monthly)	\$500
Fulton County Library	\$500
Hands and Feet of Hope	\$1000

Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 6, 2026 @ 7PM.

Submitted by Barb MacDonald, Secretary



Trustees
(No Report for April)



The 522 Youth Group

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

The Raleigh Ringers

Session has approved an idea for Small Group Ministry, and we will start with a trip to the Luhrs Center for the Performing Arts at Shippensburg University on June 27, 2026. At 7 pm. Cost for each ticket is \$35, and a limited number of tickets are available for purchase from the clerk of session. The show will be The Raleigh Ringers, a handbell choir from Raleigh, NC.

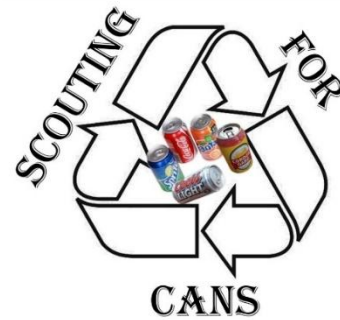
The Raleigh Ringers perform interpretations of sacred, secular and popular music, including **rock 'n' roll** tunes, arranged for handbells. The group plays on the largest set of handbell or handbell-like instruments in the world – 36½ octaves composed of 494 individual pieces of equipment.

The seats are in the orchestra right section and grouped together. We will plan to carpool and go early enough to have dinner and then the show. All costs are the responsibility of each person. Plan to have an enjoyable evening and join us.



Pastor Nominating Committee

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.



PUBLIC RELATIONS

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.



Mother's Day-May 10th



Ascension Day-May 14th



May 16th



May Lectionary Readings

Week of May 3, 2026

Rev. Dale Williams

Acts 7: 55-60

Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2: 2-10

John 14: 1-14

Week of May 10, 2026

Rev. Dale Francis

Mother's Day

5-7 PM Youth Group MUMC

Acts 17: 22-31

Psalm 66: 8-20

1 Peter 3: 13-22

John 14: 15-21

Week of May 17, 2026

Rev. Scott Bowerman

Acts 1: 6-14

Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4: 12-14, 5: 6-11

John 17: 1-11

Week of May 24, 2026

Elder Joe Calhoun

Communion

Acts 2: 1-21

Psalm 104: 24-35b

John 7: 37-39

Week of May 31, 2026

Elder Dirk Grove

Genesis 1: 1 & 2: 4a

Psalm 8: 1-9

2 Corinthians 13: 11-13

Matthew 28: 16-20



May 25th

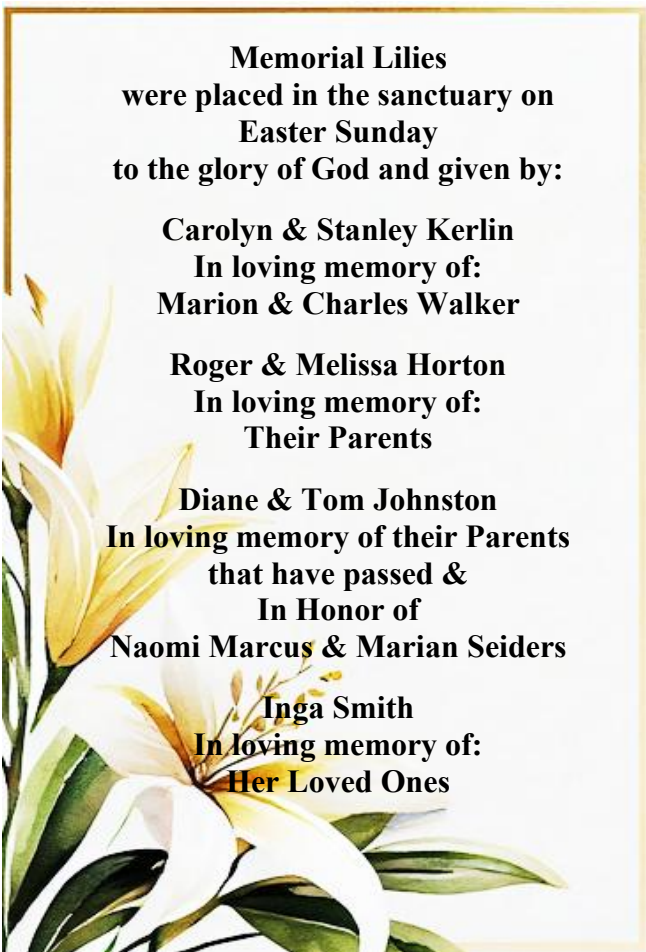
Memorial Lilies
were placed in the sanctuary on
Easter Sunday
to the glory of God and given by:

Carolyn & Stanley Kerlin
In loving memory of:
Marion & Charles Walker

Roger & Melissa Horton
In loving memory of:
Their Parents

Diane & Tom Johnston
In loving memory of their Parents
that have passed &
In Honor of
Naomi Marcus & Marian Seiders

Inga Smith
In loving memory of:
Her Loved Ones





2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Rev. Dale Williams 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 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.		
10-Mother's Day	11	12	13	14-Ascension of the Lord	15	16- Armed Forces Day
Rev. Dale Francis 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 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.		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Elder 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.		
24- Elder Joe Calhoun Communion	25-Memorial Day	26	27	28	29-	30
9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 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.		
31-Elder Dirk Grove						

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