# The GLEANER

**November, 2026**

**The McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church**

**Office: 717-485-4400**

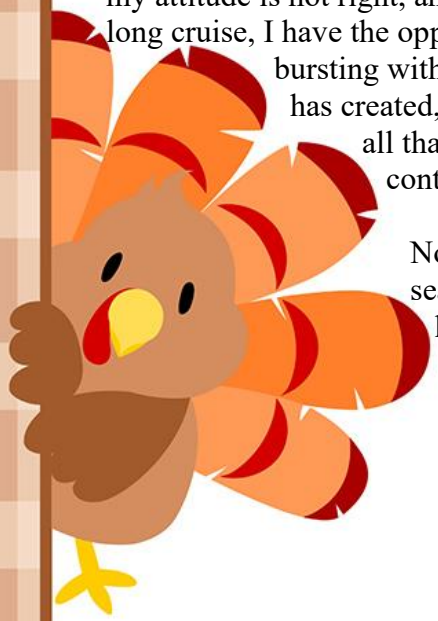
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## PASTOR'S COLUMN

### "So Much To Be Thankful For"

I am writing this month's Gleaner Article from Livorno, Italy, as I serve as Pastor on Holland America's Volendam on a Mediterranean Cruise. I've been reading Paul's 1st letter to Timothy. Timothy was Paul's young disciple, who had been given responsibility for pastoral leadership of the Church in Ephesus. Paul writes, "True godliness with contentment is itself great wealth" (1 Tim. 6:6, NLT). It reminded me of how much I have to be thankful for yet often take for granted. At times, I'm discontented, because a plan doesn't go my way, or I don't get what I want. Paul went on to instruct Timothy to tell those who are rich in material things in this world, not to put their hope in all those things which are so uncertain, but to put their hope in God who "abundantly gives us all things for our enjoyment . . . tell them, instead, to be rich in good works, generous to those in need, ready to share" (1 Tim. 6:17-20).

Again, I have so much to be thankful for yet tend to want to hold on to my possessions as if they belong to me and I deserve them. Everything really belongs to God (Psalm 24:1), and you and I are simply stewards of all God's good gifts. We're called to be generous and ready to share, but often my attitude is not right, and I do give with a sense that it's my duty, or something I have to do. On a long cruise, I have the opportunity to look out at the vast oceans, observe the beauty of a dark night bursting with stars, experience the amazing multitude of peoples and cultures that God has created, and I am humbled. God has blessed me, and I find that true gratitude for all that God is and has done for me in Jesus Christ, brings a sense of peace and contentment; and changes my attitude toward what I have.



None of us has to go on a cruise to realize how blessed we are. During this season of Thanksgiving, may we reflect on God's abundant grace, and live lives of gratitude. All of us have so much to be thankful for!

Pastor Dale




**Prayers for Health Issues:**
Patsy Johnston, Bob McCormick, Jill Cline, Morgan Taylor and baby Isaiah, Kenny Walker, Brandon Genescritti, the family of Tim Fowler, My Family-Anonymous, Tobias Petrocine, & Amanda Bailey and her children Bryson and Mikayla, Linda Mellon, & Matt Bookheimer.

**Prayers for Senior Living and Home-Based Members:**
Bill Warthin, Ron Mitchell, Audrey Mitchell, Faye Elvey (Hospice), FaeAnna Heilig, & Janet McGinnis.




**2-**Hayden Mitchell
Kristen Milroth
**7-**Seth Ott
**8-**Andrew Smith
**9-**Rachel Kimmel
**14-**Gavin Fowler
**15-**Eric Kerlin
**16-**Sonny Harr
**17-**Anne Eisenhower
**20-**Lorraine Milroth
**21-**Charles (Wes) Howells



**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 December Issue is November 24th. It will be printed on the 24th. If you can't email it, feel free to call or lay a handwritten document on the secretary's desk.




**October 21, 2026**

The McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Session met for their stated October 21, 2026, meeting. Elder LeeAnne Kendall led devotions using scripture Ephesians 4, with the message "Be sure to be kind". She then opened the meeting with prayer at 6:10 pm.

The meeting agenda and the minutes from the stated September 16, 2026, session meeting were approved by unanimous consent. The average worship attendance for September was forty-two.

The Presbytery of Carlisle announced a mission trip to Zambia and Zimbabwe with six vacant positions at a future date provided interest is shown to participate. Also, a booklet including all General Assembly Book of Order amendments to be voted on in February 2027, is available on the Carlisle Presbytery website under the temporary stated clerk section.

Pastor Nancy is pleased to be serving our congregation as a part-time Interim Pastor.

The PNC Chairperson, Elder John Johnston, presented a verbal report indicating a very slow trickle of candidates has been provided by the PCUSA Clergy Leadership Connection. All means of additional pastor candidate sources have been accessed. It is suggested for the PNC Chair to contact the local UCC pastor search committee to determine if a pastor search effort for a combined MUPC/UCC pastor search is feasible, should the way be made clear.
The "Live Like Levi" October 14, 2026, seminar held at the high school auditorium to inform the public on social media exploitation of adolescents, report was given by Elder John Johnston. The seminar was well received with 137 interested parents and students present. All aspects of the speakers, door prizes and refreshments provided by the fellowship committee went well.

Small Group Ministry events have been going well. The final excursion on December 30, 2026, with twelve participants will travel to Sight and Sound, Rhonks, PA to see "Joshua."
A motion was approved for the Fellowship Committee (or a subcommittee) determine if the Small Group Ministry should continue and if so, provide a tentative schedule of 2027 excursions, should the way be made clear.

The Deacons will prepare the cocoa for November 28, 2026, Cocoa Crawl sponsored by the Fulton County Chamber of Commerce. Elder LeeAnne Kendall will make sure MUPC is enrolled in the event.

The 2027 Church Picnic will be held on either June 13 or 27, 2027, at the Fulton County Conservation District pavilion. Elder April Leese will contact the conservation district to see which of the two dates the pavilion is available.

Session approved a motion to receive the following reports.
Christian Education – No report.
Fellowship – Elder LeeAnne Kendall stated the Fellowship Committee had provided refreshments after a public meeting on September 18, 2026, explaining a mission trip taken to hurricane damaged areas in North Carolina; and after the "Live Like Levi" seminar at the Central Fulton High School on October 14, 2026.
Finance –A motion was approved to receive the financial report presented by church treasurer and Elder, Julie Dovey.
Nominating – Elder April Leese requested the clerk provide her with the current church membership list.
Stewardship – Session designated November 15, 2026, as Stewardship Sunday and will request time for a Stewardship minute for mission time slot during worship on September 8, 2026.
Worship – Elder Donna Ankney will plan worship with Pastor Nancy and the other music directors beginning in January 2027.

Session's review of a Sexual Misconduct Policy was tabled until it is available in 2027.

A discussion was held on the current policy to start the worship hour at 10 am during the summer

months. It was decided to keep the policy in place as it now exists.

Elder LeeAnne Kendall and Elder Jack Rhodes, as co-chairs of the Fellowship Committee, will determine: a meal or light refreshments, any inclusion of a program and determine an appropriate gift for Pastor Dale William's recognition of serving this congregation as a part-time interim minister; to be held on Sunday, December 20, 2026, after worship and report the same to session at the November stated session meeting, should the way be made clear.
The clerk will reconcile general fund expenditures with the financial gift provided by Audrey and Ron Mitchell used for "growing our congregation" from 2023 going forward. The expenditures list will be provided by the treasurer.

The trustees will be reminded that building funds were approved with the 2026 church budget for the education building rear entrance ramp construction .

Session approved November 22, 2026, for Hanging of the Greens within the church sanctuary interior.

A discussion was held on finding a church treasurer while Elder Julie Dovey deals with her current health challenge. A motion was approved for appropriate alternatives.

New prayer partners were assigned.

The session meeting adjourned with prayer by the moderator, at 7:35 pm.




**The Trustees met on September 9, 2026.**

Present were Wayne MacDonald, Jayne Metcalfe, Richard Hornberger, Bill Dovey, and Ken Keebaugh.

Wayne opened the meeting with prayer.

A progress report on the manse renovations showed the bathroom is nearly completed. Barb MacDonald and Patty Rhodes helped with cleaning the manse. Bill will sort and make a list of excess items in the manse basement and garage to be offered to congregation members. Wayne and Richard will donate remaining building materials to Hands and Feet. After the floor was patched and cleaned, Gary Lininger primed and painted the front porch of the manse. Some furniture will be kept in the manse for the next occupant. Volunteers are needed to clean the basement and garage after excess items are removed.

We are awaiting information from floor waxing providers pertaining to the church basement tile floors.

We are hoping to have a new sidewalk poured along Maple Street on the south side of the church before the Fulton Fall Folk Fest. Three new streetlamps matching the new borough streetlamps will be installed along the street fronting the sanctuary and four new streetlamps along Maple Street at a cost of $1,052 per lamp.

Bill will contact Ed Lininger to service heating and cooling systems and have filters replaced.

Wayne and Richard will paint the drywall patches where the baby gate was located at the pastor's study hallway.

The meeting adjourned and was followed with a walk-through inspection of improvements made to the manse.

Ken Keebaugh, trustee's secretary




**September 2, 2026**

Present: Al Clark (President), Barb MacDonald (Secretary), Carolyn Kerlin, Frank Ingram, Joyce Hornberger, & Rachell Howells.
Excused: Marin Carbaugh.

Meeting opened with prayer at 7PM.

Agenda was distributed and correspondence was reviewed.

Minutes of the August meeting were approved.

The Benevolence to be highlighted in the month of September is Food Pantry and Care Closet at three county schools.

The prayer list was updated.

| BENEVOLENCES | |
|---|---|
| Love's Closet (monthly) | $300 |
| Fulton County Food Basket (monthly) | $500 |
| Center For Community Action (CCA)(monthly) | $500 |
| Fulton County Partnership (monthly) | $500 |
| Work Loving God | $1000 |
| (Work Loving God) Sheetz Gift Cards 4@ $250 | $1000 |

**Deacon Minutes**
**October 7, 2026**

Present: Al Clark (President), Barb MacDonald (Secretary), Carolyn Kerlin, Frank Ingram , Rachel Howells (via phone). Excused: Joyce Hornberger, & Marin Carbaugh.

Meeting opened with prayer at 7PM.

Agenda was distributed and correspondence was reviewed.

Minutes of the September meeting were approved.

The Benevolence to be highlighted during the month of October will be **FAR Reach Ministries** (Faith, Action, Results) a faith-driven outreach directed by Chris Elliott. He will be speaking about this mission at the White Church service on Sunday 10/18/2026.

Plans were made for the upcoming **Trunk or Treat** community event Thursday 10/29/2026. We will be celebrating All Hallows' Eve starting at The Rumel House. Children will receive a treat bag including candy, a tea light candle, a scripture verse, and information about All Saints' Day. Participants will be offered a graveyard visit to selected tombstones identified with a pumpkin and historical information on the "saint" buried at that site.

Deacons will also participate in the community **Cocoa Crawl**, Saturday, 11/28/26. A Cocoa treat will be provided, and participants will be encouraged to enjoy music provided by the bell choir, Noreen's youth singing group, and other piano music.
The prayer list was updated.

Plans were made to deliver fruit baskets to VIP's (**Very Important Presbyterians**) the week of Thanksgiving.

**Flowers** will be sent from our church family to the funeral service of Naomi Marcus on 10/4/26.

| BENEVOLENCES | |
|---|---|
| Love's Closet (monthly) | $300 |
| Fulton County Food Basket (monthly) | $500 |
| Center For Community Action (CCA)(monthly) | $500 |
| Fulton County Partnership (monthly) | $500 |
| Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) | $1500 |
| Heifer Project International | $1500 |
| American Red Cross (Fulton County) | $1500 |
| World Central Kitchen | $1500 |
| Doctors Without Borders | $1500 |

Submitted by Barb MacDonald, Secretary




**November 15, 2026**

The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness,
the world and those who dwell therein. Psalm 24:1

It's that time of year again: a day set aside to consider your part in this church community.

Stewardship is about how we engage in using the talents God has provided. We can think of talents in terms of our financial support as in the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) where the servant was reprimanded for not taking a risk; the story of the woman who gave all she had at the temple (Mark 12: 41- 44); or the law of Moses that required the "tithe" (one tenth of the annual income) in support of worship (Deuteronomy 16:17) and (Malachi 3:10 ). Obviously the other focus on talents can be giving back through action, participation and ministry to our brothers and sisters who are the people of the congregation.

On Sunday, November 15th you will receive your **Pledge Card** and your **Time and Talent Survey**. This is updated from the form previously used because our programs have changed a bit since the previous form was developed. You are encouraged to spend some time previewing these forms and prayerfully consider how you will fill them out. Each member of the family is asked to fill out a time and talent survey to clarify individual commitment. This card will allow us to connect your choices with the committee members responsible. (ex: if you wish to be an usher/greeter then your name will be sent to the coordinator for inclusion.) All confirmed members should complete the pledge card. **(**There is a box to check if you feel that your monetary support is between you and God only.)

Ultimately the purpose of all pledges, financial or time, is for each one of us to examine our place in our own personal journey with the Lord. That is why praying and preparing your answers is so important.

Micah 6:8 (NIV)
**8** He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly[a] with your God.



**The 522 Youth Group**

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




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.




**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.




**Nov 1st**




**The Scouts are collecting <u>Aluminum cans</u>** (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). <u>Cans must be washed.</u> Please place your clean aluminum cans in the large trash can in the Scout meeting room downstairs to support our Scout troop.




**Nov. 3rd**




**Nov. 11th**




**Nov. 22nd**




**Nov. 26th**




**Nov. 28th**



## November Lectionary Readings

**<u>Week of November 1, 2026</u>**
**Elder Joe Calhoun**
Revelation 7: 9-17
Psalm 34: 1-10, 22
1 John 3: 1-3
Matthew 5: 1-12

**<u>Week of November 8, 2026</u>**
**Rev. Dale Francis**
Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78: 1-7
1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18
Matthew 25: 1-13

**<u>Week of November 15, 2026</u>**
**Rev. Nancy McClure**
**Stewardship Sunday**
Judges 4: 1-7
Psalm 123: 1-4
1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11
Matthew 25: 14-30

**<u>Week of November 22, 2026</u>**
**Elder Dirk Grove**
**Christ the King/Reign of Christ**
Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100: 1-5
Ephesians 1: 15-23
Matthew 25: 31-46

**<u>Week of November 29, 2026</u>**
**Rev. Dale Williams**
**First Sunday of Advent**
**Communion**
Isaiah 64: 1-9
Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1: 3-9
Mark 13: 24-37




# 2026

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1-All Saints Day** | **2** | **3-Election Day** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** |
| **Elder Joe Calhoun**<br>**Daylight Saving Time Ends**<br>11 AM Worship<br>6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal | 26:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR) | Office Hours 9-2<br>10 AM Bible Study (CR) | 7 PM Deacons Meeting (BR) | Office Hours 9-2<br>6:30 PM Bell Choir<br>7:30 PM Women's Ens. | | |
| **8** | **9** | **10** | **11-Veterans Day** | **12** | **13** | ***14*** |
| **Rev. Dale Francis**<br>11 AM Worship<br>6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal | 6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR) | Office Hours 9-2<br>10 AM Bible Study (CR) | 7 PM Trustee Meeting (BR) | Office Hours 9-2<br>6:30 PM Bell Choir<br>7:30 PM Women's Ens. | | |
| **15-*Stewardship Sunday*** | **16** | **17** | **18** | **19** | **20** | ***21*** |
| **Rev. Nancy McClure**<br>11 AM Worship<br>5-7 PM Youth Group MUMC<br>6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal | 6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR) | Office Hours 9-2<br>10 AM Bible Study (CR) | 7 PM Session Meeting (BR) | Office Hours 9-2<br>6:30 PM Bell Choir<br>7:30 PM Women's Ens. | | |
| **22-Christ the King/Reign of Christ** | **23** | **24** | **25** | **26-Thanksgiving Day** | **27** | ***28*** |
| **Elder Dirk Grove**<br>**Hanging of the Greens**<br>11 AM Worship<br>6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal | 6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR) | Office Hours 9-2<br>10 AM Bible Study (CR) | | Office Hours 9-2<br>6:30 PM Bell Choir<br>7:30 PM Women's Ens. | | **Cocoa Crawl**<br>**9 AM-3 PM** |
| **29 1st Sunday of Advent** | **30** | | | | | |
| **Rev. Dale Williams**<br>**Communion**<br>11 AM Worship<br>6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal | 6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR) | | | | | |

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