



The GLEANER

October, 2025

The McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church

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Pastor's Column

The month of October is filled with significance for all of us in the Church of Jesus Christ!

It begins with World Communion Sunday, observed on the first Sunday of the month, this year on October 5th. World Communion Sunday was the idea of Rev. Hugh Thompson Kerr, pastor of Shadyside Presbyterian in Pittsburgh in 1936. He wanted to emphasize our “oneness” in Christ when we come to the Lord’s Table – believers from every culture, every race, every background throughout the world. The idea was later adopted by the National Council of Churches during World War II and then promoted worldwide. Every Thanksgiving, members of my immediate and extended family, scattered across the country, along with several widowed friends from Lower Marsh Creek Church, gather at the Willilams family table for a feast. We are all different, but we come together as family united in gratitude to God for His abundant blessings. So it is, on World Communion Sunday, that we gather –bridging the multitude of our human differences – at the Table of our Lord to celebrate God’s abundant blessings and the grace of God poured out on us in the shed blood and broken body of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ – we are One in the Spirit, we are One in the Lord!

The month ends October 31st, “All Hallow’s Eve.” “Hallow” comes from the old English, “holy,” and this holy evening has traditionally been a Christian vigil to prepare for the observance of “All Saint’s Day,” on November 1st. What is particularly significant about October 31st for us is that on that day in 1517, Martin Luther, a young priest and Theology Professor, nailed “95 Theses” (discussion points) to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. He wanted to create dialogue in the Church regarding what he considered “abuses” of Church authority particularly with respect to the sale of “indulgences.” In essence, this practice was all about “buying time” for your loved ones or yourself with God. It was a practice used by the church to raise money for church construction. It was one of many works that church leadership established as a means to improve one’s standing before God.

Martin Luther was adamant that our standing before God was a matter of faith in God’s grace alone, and that the Scriptures were our sole source of authority for faith and life. The Church was abusing its authority, and Luther just wanted to talk. The Church was not happy about Luther questioning its authority and kicked him out, thus launching the Protestant Reformation, with a multiplicity of denominations, and a growing emphasis on personal faith and spirituality.

A new “church year” will begin in November with Advent, but as we close out this church year, October is a great time for each of us to take stock of our relationship with fellow followers of Jesus throughout the world, and to examine our own personal faith – how we relate to God. It is a time to recommit ourselves to working together as Christ’s disciples in service to God in McConnellsburg, in our Nation, and in our World. And it is a time to rededicate ourselves to God in humble reliance upon God’s grace.

Happy October!

- Pastor Dale



Short Term: Bill & Janet McGinnis, Patsy Johnston, Harvey Kneas, Bob McCormick, Jill Cline, Betty Warthin, Gary Black, Mac Miller, Amy Mimm, Louise Julia Kemmler, Sandy Richards, Patty Hall, & the Amos McCoy family.

Long Term: Audrey Mitchell, Amanda Bailey, FaeAnna Heilig, Dean Dovey, Loy & Linda Garber, Faye Elvey & Naomi Marcus (mother of Diane Seiders Johnston, began receiving kidney dialysis on July 25th).



Birthdays

5-Inga Smith
8-Janet McGinnis
9-Jackie Kerlin
10-Julie Dovey
11-Patsy Johnston
14-Jeremy Dickerson
Nancy Harr
18- Ken Keebaugh
Alison Reed
22-Kenny Walker
23-David Bivens
25-Harvey Kneas



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 November Issue is October 28th. It will be printed on the 28th. If you can't email it, feel free to call or lay a handwritten document on the secretary's desk.



Session

September 17, 2025

Session met for their September 17, 2025, stated meeting in the board room. A quorum was present and elder Carolyn Kneas led devotions with a message comparing the mystery of God's vast creation of the universe and yet He knows each of us as individuals.

Pastor Dale visited the Mitchell's and the McGinnis household since the August session meeting. Pastor Dale provided information of Rev. Katy Brungraber leading a Woman's Retreat at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church on November 15, 2025, beginning at 9:30 am. Pastor Dale will lead a zoom three-week series entitled "Count Your Blessings: A Look at Gratitude in the Scriptures." The series will start October 29, and end on Nov. 12. Everyone is welcome to join from 7:00 to 7:45pm. He also asked if elders were interested in reading scripture during the worship service.

Carolyn Kneas reported a meeting would be held soon by the committee. Julie Dovey volunteered to be responsible for the month of October. A flower schedule will be posted, and individuals are encouraged to choose a Sunday to provide flowers either fresh or artificial and/or in memory of someone.

Elder LeeAnne will prepare communion bread on October 5, 2025, Worldwide Communion.

The Cowans Gap State Park pavilion #1 has been reserved by Elder Rotz for Sunday, June 28, 2026, for the 2026 church picnic.

As a comment from the session retreat, the IT staff will be asked to upload a current music program or a current event to the website.

A discussion was held concerning the manse bathroom renovation. Session would like to see the trustees move forward and the project be completed within the next six months; using neutral colors; following the current layout of the bathroom and with a maximum expense of \$25,000. A feasibility study should be completed to see if additional bathroom features could be included if the towel closet were made smaller.

A discussion was held on a trustee's request to provide guidance on the state of church security. No decision was made on the use of door keys. One possible addition to be explored by the trustees and the IT team is a doorbell with a camera and intercom. One additional means of security for the pastor and secretary is for interior door locks to be installed.

A motion to receive the financial report was approved with a balance sheet showing bank account balances for the general fund, building fund and benevolence fund. Also, a \$7,597.43 general fund balance as of August 2025, was shown.

Session approved November 16, 2025, for Stewardship Sunday with individuals providing a brief report of where the church offerings are spent; with the current budget and the Board of Deacons benevolence support.

Pastor Dale will investigate supplying the congregation with "fish banks" for the One Great Hour of Sharing effort next March or April 2026.

Session approved a Donna Ankney request to use the sanctuary on Mondays for voice lessons.

A Harold Comerer property request will receive future consideration once additional information is received. The item will also be forwarded to the Trustees for their input.

Action on the status of security camera installation was tabled for additional consideration before recommending action to be taken.

A Wayne MacDonald email was read to explain the receipt of the nativity set donated by Bob Peck. It was requested that a letter be sent to acknowledge the gift.

The meeting adjourned with prayer by the moderator at 8:12 pm.



Deacons

September 3, 2025

Present: Val Alexander, Al Clark, Frank Ingram, Barb MacDonald, & Rachel Howells.

Meeting opened with prayer by Al. August minutes were approved. Correspondence was reviewed. Val shared info from Joint Session, Deacon, Trustee Meeting in August.

Old Business:

1. Ice Cream/Rally Day - Val, Barb will make ice cream
2. Hayride 10/5 with UCC - Deacons will provide hot dogs, buns, S'mores

New Business:

1. Trunk or Treat - new idea to use the log cabin instead of the church this year, with an All Saints Day bend.

Prayer Lists were updated.

Visits were discussed.

Benevolence

- Love's Closet \$200
- Fulton County Food Basket \$500
- Center for Community Action \$500

- FAR Mission - Chris Elliott \$2000 - Barb has paperwork if you need it
- Women in Need \$1000
- No More Deaths \$1000
- Presbyterian Disaster Relief \$1800

Next Meeting will be on Wednesday, October 1st at 7:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned, with prayer by Val.



Trustees

July 9, 2025

Attendance

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

Opening Prayer: Wayne

Minutes: Approved

Old Business:

Basement Ramp – Harvey will design.

Sound System – Instructions will be posted.

Insects – Gladhill Pest Control will be contacted.

Basement Floor – Jayne will contact floor wax applicators.

Street Post – Wayne and Eric will rewire and reset.

Ken – Eastern Elevators in Windber will be contacted for new inspection certificate.

Brett – Graveyard Repairs-volunteer help will be needed.

New Business: August Meeting will not be held.

Closing Prayer: Wayne



October Lectionary Readings

Week of October 5, 2025

Rev. Dr. Rick Boyer

Worldwide Communion

Hayride 4 PM

Lamentations 1: 1-6, 3: 19-26

Psalm 137: 1-9

2 Timothy 1: 1-14

Luke 17: 5-10

Week of October 12, 2025

Dirk Grove

5-7 PM Youth Group MUMC

Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7

Psalm 66: 1-12

2 Timothy 2: 8-15

Luke 17: 11-19

Week of October 19, 2025

Rev. Dale Williams

White Church Service

11 AM FFFF Hymn Sing

Jeremiah 31: 27-34

Psalm 119: 97-104

2 Timothy 3: 14 – 4: 5

Luke 18: 1-8

Week of October 26, 2025

Rev. Dale Williams

Joel 2: 23-32

Psalm 65: 1-13

2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18

Luke 18: 9-14



The 522 Youth Group

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



New Address

Betty & Bill Warthin,
2256 Shanks Church Road
Room 204
Greencastle, PA 17225.



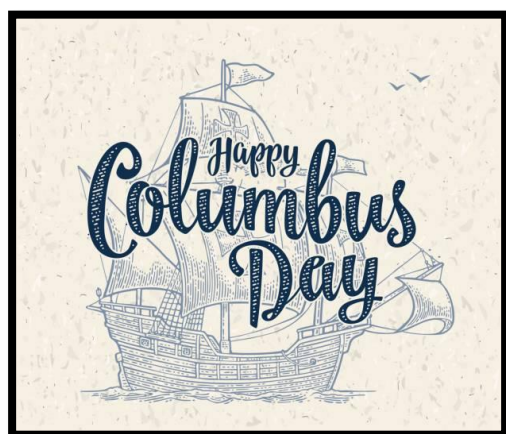
During this time of transition, if you require pastoral care or assistance, please email our Session at session@mupc.org or call our clerk, John Johnston at 717-658-1921.



**Hayride at the Alexander Farm
4 PM October 5th**



October 31



October 13



**October 19
11 AM White Church Service
Fulton Fall Folk Festival Hymn Sing**

Feel overwhelmed? Need a break from life's busy-ness?
Believe that the Lord is calling you to do "something,"
but you're over-committed and have no bandwidth?

You are invited to a *Table Connections* Women's Retreat.

Bless Your Neighbor

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

1186 Jason Drive, Greencastle, PA 17225

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE



**Saturday
November 15, 2025
9:30AM to 1:30PM**

This retreat is led by
Rev. Katy Yates Brungraber,
a Minister of Word and Sacrament
in the Presbyterian Church (USA).
Our anchor scripture is Romans 12:13
"Take every opportunity to open
your life and home to others."
TELIC and non-TELIC members
are welcome; bring a friend!

<https://www.pew.org/en/press/2015/04/and-american-evangelical-20150401/>

*Your gift of any amount at the door –
suggested \$25 – covers lunch (\$9) and supports
Pastor Katy in ministering to those who cannot
afford to pay for care, coaching or consulting.*

We have room for 25 women.
Call the church office to register by November 6:
717.597.9348
(please leave your name and phone number)





2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
			7 PM Deacons Meeting (BR)	Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Women's Ens.		
5 Worldwide Communion	6	7	8	9	10	11
Rev. Dr. Rick Boyer 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 4 PM Hayride-Alexander Farm 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.		
12-Dirk Grove	13 Columbus Day	14	15	16	17	18
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 Session Meeting (BR)	Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Women's Ens.		
19-White Church Service	20	21	22	23	24	25
Rev. Dale Williams 11 AM FFFF Hymn Sing 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.		
26-Rev. Dale Williams	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	
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.		

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