The GLEANER

October, 2026

The McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church

Office: 717-485-4400

Vol. CXL VII, NO. 252 **email: office@mupc.org • web page: www.mupc.org**

PASTOR'S COLUMN

As I reflected on the life of the church in the month of October, I thought about the irony of two significant dates. October 31st is Reformation Day, marking the onset of the Protestant Reformation, when Martin Luther published his 95 Theses addressing, what he believed to be, corrupt practices in the Catholic Church. Luther was excommunicated (kicked out), and this gave birth to a multitude of Christian faiths and practices. In fact, the World Christian Encyclopedia lists approximately 9,000 distinct Protestant denominations and over 22,000 independent Christan groups today, and this does not include Catholic and Orthodox Christianity! This might leave "outsiders" wondering about the central core of Christianity.

On the other hand, October begins with World Communion Sunday, October 4th, when many denominations all over the world gather at the Lords' Table, breaking bread, drinking the cup as a symbol of our unity, oneness, and shared mission in the Body of Christ. Sadly, many denominations and independent groups determine not to participate for one reason or another. Like the rest of society, it sometimes becomes "us" versus "them" in the church, and our witness for Jesus Christ is compromised.

Addressing arguments in the Church at Corinth about who should be in charge, and who was most important, Paul wrote, "We are co-workers in God's service . . . For no one can lay any foundation other than Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 3:9-11).

As we gather at the Lord's Table at the beginning of the month, let us remember the Reformation cry, "Sola Christus" (Christ Alone!), and rededicate ourselves to working together with our brothers and sisters in Christ for the glory of God alone, "Sola Gloria de Deo"!

Happy Fall!

Pastor Dale



Prayers for Health Issues:
Patsy Johnston, Bob McCormick, Jill Cline, Morgan Taylor and baby Isaiah, Kenny Walker, Harvey Kneas, Brandon Genescritti, Vince Feight, the family of Tim Fowler, the family of Donald Black, Elder Joe Calhoun, & My Family-Anonymous.

Prayers for Senior Living and Home-Based Members:
Bill Warthin, Ron Mitchell (recent pacemaker plus another hospitalization), Audrey Mitchell, Faye Elvey, FaeAnna Heilig, Janet McGinnis, & Naomi Marcus.



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 27th. It will be printed on the 27th. If you can't email it, feel free to call or lay a handwritten document on the secretary's desk.



Session

September 16, 2026

The McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Session met in the McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church board room for their stated September 16, 2026, meeting. Elders LeeAnne Kendall, John Johnston, Donna Ankney, Jack Rhodes, Julie Dovey, Carolyn Kneas, and April Leese were present as well as The Rev. Dale Williams, moderator. The Rev. Nancy McClure was also present and was granted the privilege of voice. A quorum was present. Elder Julie Dovey led devotions using scripture from Psalm 40, with the message "Put trust in the Lord". She then opened the meeting with prayer at 6:05 pm.

The congregation was saddened to learn that Tim Fowler had passed on September 5, 2026. The Rev. Dale Williams led Tim's memorial service on September 12, 2026, which also included the Rev. Jamie Fowler. The active membership is now 60 members.

The minutes from the stated August 19, 2026, session meeting minutes were approved by unanimous consent. The average worship attendance for August was forty-one.

As correspondence, a Live Like Levi Foundation letter acknowledged a donation of $420 was received on July 11, 2026; from the Board of Pensions, a letter notified session that a new dues subsidy was announced to help alleviate the cost of medical coverage for a minister's children that will begin January 1, 2027; the national Presbyterian Church USA acknowledged a $6,780 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering; and an anonymous prayer request was received on September 13, 2026 requesting prayers for the family.

Pastor Dale previewed his plans for a zoom Christian Education Series – Rising Above: Nurturing our Souls in a Chaotic World on 9/23; 9/30 and 10/07 from 7 to 8 pm. Login instructions will be forthcoming from the church office. His 2026 Advent plans include the theme: Journey to the Manger; From Darkness to Light.

The PNC Chairperson, Elder John Johnston, presented a verbal report to inform session that 133 candidates have been reviewed, more than half of those were granted an invitation to provide additional information. Three self-referred candidates were interviewed but none provided an interest in a second interview. The committee has attempted to attract candidates by placing an ad in the Presbyterian Outlook, placing pastor vacancy announcements with 15 various Presbyterian Seminaries, and have placed a listing on other denomination candidate seeker sites including UCC, Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed candidates. The "Live Like Levi" October 14, 2026, seminar to inform the public on social media exploitation of adolescents, report was given by Elder John Johnston. He attended the back-to-school night at the McConnellsburg Elementary School, and distributed information leaflets and bracelets. A positive response was received from parents who said they would plan to attend the seminar. The Fellowship Committee will assist with refreshments after the seminar. A discussion was held on how to efficiently distribute door prizes.

Small Group Ministry events have been going well. It was decided the October trip to The Flight 93 Memorial, Somerset, Pa., will be held on October 10, 2026. The carpools will meet at the church at 10 am, stop for lunch at the Jean Bonnet Restaurant near Bedford, PA and proceed to the memorial for a 1 PM ranger program.

Session approved the Terms of Call with the Rev. Nancy McClure to begin on January 3, 2027. Rev. McClure will utilize the vacant home of Faye Elvey for her overnight stays in McConnellsburg.

Session approved a motion to receive the following reports.
Christian Education – Elder Carolyn Kneas is working on an intergenerational program to be offered on Sunday mornings.
Fellowship – Elder Jack Rhodes will take on the responsibility of ordering kitchen supplies.
Finance – Elder Julie Dovey presented the treasurer's report.

Nominating – Elder April Leese requested the three at-large nominating committee members be provided to her.
Stewardship – Session designated September 15, 2026, as Stewardship Sunday and will allow time for a Stewardship minute for mission time slot during worship on September 8, 2026.
Worship – Elder Donna Ankney will plan 2027 worship services with Pastor Nancy and the other music directors.

Session approved the Anti-Racism Policy, approved by the Carlisle Presbytery on 10/29/2024, for use by the McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church.

Session approved the MUPC participation in the 2026 Fulton County Chamber of Commerce Cocoa Crawl. Offering hot cocoa and providing various music programs will be scheduled.

Elder LeeAnne Kendall will bake the communion bread for the October 4, 2026, Worldwide Communion led by Pastor Dale Williams. It was suggested that a Spanish speaking portion of the service be provided by Olivia Alexander who now serves in the Peace Corp in El Salvador in addition to Pastor Dale's children: "Dr. Kristin Holly Williams, Asian Studies Librarian, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, London, England will be asked to write out: "We are One Body in Christ" in Japanese, using our English alphabet. Also, Pastor Dale's other children will be asked: our other daughter, Rachel Williams, to write it out in Arabic (in which she is fluent). Rachel is the Program Manager for AMIDEAST in Washington, DC. And I will ask our son, Jason Williams, to write it out in Spanish. He is a High School Spanish teacher in the Philadelphia area."

The 2026 Audit Committee Report was received and session approved each of the recommendations listed at the end of that report. Recommendation number 3 appoints John Johnston as an alternate person to call upon for recording the weekly offering. Recommendation number 4 instructs the treasurer to investigate the transfer of Wilmington Trust and the Presbyterian Foundation endowments to a local financial manager. For recommendation number 6, Scott Alexander will be asked to perform the backup treasurer's duties. The Audit Committee report will be included as part of these meeting minutes.

Session members were asked to visit the Fulton County Conservation District's pavilion at their office campus as a possible 2027 church picnic site. The church picnic plans may include extending an invitation to the local UCC congregation and/or the Wells Valley Presbyterian congregation. A possible date will be June 6 or 13, 2027.

A deacon's request to use the church sanctuary for a public informative meeting on the North Carolina Disaster Mission Trips was approved for Friday, September 18, 2026. The fellowship committee will serve refreshments.

There was no commissioned elder report from the September 14, 2026, Carlisle Presbytery meeting as the zoom portion of the meeting was unable to cover the contents of the meeting.

New prayer partners were assigned. The meeting adjourned with prayer by the moderator at 8:05 pm.



Trustees
August 12, 2026

ATTENDANCE-Wayne MacDonald, Jayne Metcalfe, Richard Hornberger, Brett Cornelous, Bill Dovey, Eric Kerlin, and Ken Keebaugh.

OPENING PRAYER-Wayne MacDonald

MANSE PROGRESS REPORT-The bathroom renovation is nearly complete. Contact paper has been removed from the kitchen Formica counter tops. A new range hood has been installed. The yard has been cleaned up. Volunteers are needed to

clean the garage and basement. The porch needs repairs and painting.

CEMETERY REPORT-Brett reported on repairs made to broken stones and power washing.

SIDEWALK REPAIRS-Eric spoke with Mark Mellott pertaining to putting conduits under the sidewalk before the concrete is poured. Jayne made a motion to amend a motion from the previous meeting to change the number of streetlights needed from four to six lights (three in front and three on the south side of the church). Eric will ask Mike Ritchey about electrical wiring to get power to the lamp posts.

BABY GATE- Wayne patched holes in the drywall where the baby gate had been located at the end of the short hallway at the pastor's study. A new replacement gate mysteriously appeared in the conference room.

BASEMENT WALL OUTLETS-Brett will have Jack Cornelous look at the loose basement wall outlets on the south side of the church basement Social Hall.

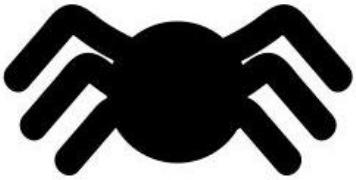
LOT 59-Plans for a ramp and parking lot are on hold.

DEHUMIDIFIERS-Two new humidifiers were installed in the church basement kitchen and Social Hall.

BASEMENT FLOOR WAXING-Eric reported Elite Floors no longer does floor cleaning. Richard will inquire at the local Giant grocery store who cleans their floors.

ADJOURNMENT-The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Ken Keebaugh, Trustees Secretary



Deacons

No Report



The 522 Youth Group

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



Pastoral Search 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.



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.

Small Group Ministry
Flight 93 Memorial

The small group ministry trip to the Flight 93 Memorial will leave the MUPC at 10 am on Saturday, October 10, 2026. Please arrive by 9:45 am so carpools can be formed. The group will stop at the Jean Bonnet Tavern on Route 30, west of Bedford, PA, for lunch. Cost of the meal will be the responsibility of each individual.

It is planned to arrive at the Flight 93 Memorial, Shanksville, PA, by 12:45 pm for a 1 pm Ranger-led program, Called to Action: The Flight 93 Story. The 30-minute talk covers the context of September 11, the terrorists' plan, personal stories of the passengers and crew and the obstacles they overcame. Additional time will be available to view the Visitors Center Complex.

Additional space is available to travel with Gene and Shirley, Doug and Connie, Carolyn Kneas, LeeAnne Kendall, Inga Smith and John and Patsy. Talk to John if you wish to be included in this trip and your name does not appear above. The fall foliage should be visible in Bedford and Somerset Counties.



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.



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 from 7 PM – 8:30 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.



Center for Community Action is collecting winter clothing, coats, hats, gloves, and scarves. Items may be new or gently used and must be clean. There will be a box at the back of the church available through Sunday, October 18. The giveaway will occur at the CCA office (N. 2nd St.) on Thursday October 22, from 1:00 to 6:00pm.



ON-LINE BIBLE STUDY

The congregation is invited to join Pastor Dale in a 3 part Bible Study & Discussion by Zoom: Wednesdays, September 23, and 30; and October 7 from 7-8 PM. The title of the study is: "Rising Above: Nurturing Our Souls in a Chaotic World." We'll discuss personal goals for spiritual growth, spiritual disciplines, and our response to God's grace. The study may be joined by Zoom or by phone. Links will be sent out, and those who need Tech help can contact Elders Julie Dovey or April Leese. Printed copies are at the back of the sanctuary.



October 4th



October 12th



Fulton Fall Folk Festival
Weekend of October 16th-18th



White Church Service
October 18th



October 29th



Halloween!



October Lectionary Readings

<u>Week of October 4, 2026</u>
Rev. Dale Williams
World Wide Communion
Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19: 1-14
Philippians 3: 4b-14
Matthew 21: 33-46

<u>Week of October 11, 2026</u>
Elder Dirk Grove
Exodus 32: 1-14
Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4: 1-9
Matthew 21: 1-14

<u>Week of October 18</u>
Rev. Dr. Rick Boyer
White Church Service
Exodus 33: 12-23
Psalm 99: 1-9
1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10
Matthew 22: 15-22

<u>Week of October 25, 2026</u>
Rev. Nancy McClure
Deuteronomy 34: 1-12
Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17
1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8
Matthew 22: 34-46



2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	**2**	***3***
				Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Women's Ens.		
4 World Wide *Communion*	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	***10***
Rev. Dale Williams 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 Deacons Meeting (BR)	Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Women's Ens.		**Flight 93 Trip**
11	**12-Columbus Day**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	***17***
Elder Dirk Grove 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) **7 PM – 8:30 PM Live Like Levi Seminar at McConn. High School**	Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Women's Ens.	**Fulton Fall Folk Festival Weekend!!**	
18-White Church Service	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	***24***
Rev. Dr. Rick Boyer 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.		
25	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**	***31***
Rev. Nancy McClure 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 PM Halloween Parade 7:30 PM Women's Ens.		**Halloween**

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