



# The GLEANER

September, 2023

Vol. CXLVII, NO. 218

The McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church

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Beloved of God,

Here we are, once again, at the start of another program year. There is always so much hope in our anticipation of rehearsals, classes, and events. We look forward to a year full of worship, fellowship, and learning. All while the relief of summer is fresh in our minds. We enjoyed the freedom of no rehearsals. And the relaxation that came in having another free evening instead of a meeting. And the opportunity to let our minds rest instead of learning something new. Summer is good for us that way. It allows us to relax and reflect on the previous program year. We wonder what, if any, of the programs we will participate in this coming year. At some point the hopeful anticipation of regularly scheduled worship, fellowship, and rehearsals returns. We set our sights on the new year quickly approaching.

On Rally Day, September 10th, we will officially kick-off the start of the 2023-2024 program year for our congregation. Worship will be full of members and new friends as we are strongly encouraging you to bring a friend, neighbor, or stranger, along with you to worship. We will have multiple musical offerings and a chance to test your knowledge with a bit of Christianity Jeopardy. There will be lunch and dessert afterward that all worshipers are invited to stay for.

Later in the day, choir rehearsal and youth group begin. Like last year, our youth group has joined with the UCC and MUMC congregations to form The 522 Youth Group. Youth Group will meet every other week, starting on September 10th. Bell Choir and Women's Ensemble return on September 14th. Adult Sunday School starts the weekend after, on the 17th, at 9:30. We are still working on creating a children and youth Sunday School, so stay tuned for that announcement. In addition to these recurring programs, there will also be quite a few special events in the months leading up to Christmas. Keep an eye out for those as well.

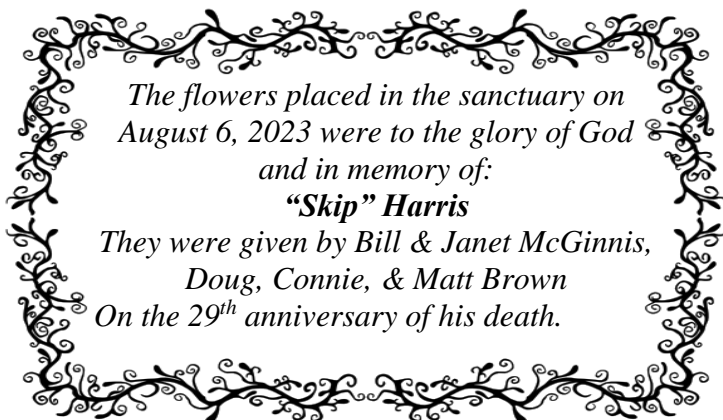
This fall is another great time to fall in love with God with the McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church once again. Join us.

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Emily R. McCachren



**Short Term:** Bill Vogel, Betty Warthin, Judy Aller, Freda Cromer, Bill & Janet McGinnis, Sandy & Jake Richards, Connie & Doug Brown, Patsy Johnston, Suzanne Hockensmith, Harvey Kneas, the family of Bonni Myers, Loy & Linda Garber, Glenn Crouse, Jayne Metcalfe, the family of Jim Smith, & Sarah Cutchall.

**Long Term:** Whitaker Raymer, Audrey Mitchell, Amanda Bailey, Helen Clusman, FaeAnna Heilig, Shalynn Stough, Don Chatley, Dean Dovey, & Kathy Kendall.



Mark your calendars for Rally Day 2023 on September 10th! Worship will return to the typical 11 am time. Here are a few things to know about Rally Day 2023:

1. Bring a friend as we rally around the Word. Non-members will receive a special MUPC welcome bag. Anyone who brings a guest will

receive a unique piece of MUPC "merch".

2. We will have a blessing of the backpacks for all school-age children and youth. So, bring your backpack! We will have keychains to distribute with scripture. Any child or youth or cannot be with us in worship will receive a blessed keychain after worship.

3. There will be a brief Christianity Jeopardy. This is to give a taste of a larger event to take place later this season.

4. Lunch is being planned - stay tuned!



### **Session** **August 16, 2023**

Session met on August 16<sup>th</sup> for their stated meeting. All session members were present except Elder Julie Dovey who was absent and excused. A quorum was present. Elder Howells lead devotions and opened the meeting with prayer.

Average weekly attendance has been forty-two for June and forty-five for July. Forty-Five persons participated in Communion for June and thirty-nine for July.

Ferree LeFevre requested his membership be transferred to the Chambersburg UCC Church. Pastor Emily facilitated the transfer. A former pastor, Bob Dent, has provided a video sermon and it will be presented during the September 3<sup>rd</sup> worship service.

The Youth Group will now be coordinated between the MUPC, UCC and Methodist ministers to share lessons and planning responsibilities. The pastor has provided pastoral care to five individuals in-person and seven members by text or phone calls.

The Rummel House preservation cost, future work needed and intended mission of the church are to be discerned by Session and resulting thoughts are to be discussed at the next session meeting.

A building use request to use the fellowship hall for August 5<sup>th</sup> was recorded as approved as it had been approved by email distribution prior to the August 5<sup>th</sup> event. The 2024 Church picnic will be held at Cowans Gap State Park; Elder Rotz will reserve the pavilion for June 23<sup>rd</sup> or any July Sunday. The 2024 White Church service will be held May 19<sup>th</sup> and again during the Fall Folk Festival Sunday with a service in the morning and a hymn sing in the afternoon.

The Capital Campaign will end in October and a sincere thanks to the congregation will celebrate the closure. The offering total is now \$228,776. The Nominating Committee needs to meet and prepare the new slate of officers so that training is available prior to ordination and installation. The Bylaws Committee has prepared its final draft to the church bylaws. These bylaws are now ready for the congregation's review prior to a vote for adoption.

Rally Day is set for September 10<sup>th</sup> and will be emphasized as "Bring a Friend Day." Special activities will include music, Bible Jeopardy, and Blessing of the School Backpacks. Efforts will be made to have a Food Truck and Ice Cream Truck available after worship for food and fellowship. The meeting adjourned with prayer at 8:52 pm



### **Deacons** **July 5, 2023**

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

#### **Old Business:**

1. Community Picnic - not reaching new people outside of church members, consider having it AT the church to minimize work for members. Weeknight? Summer Soup Night?

### **New Business:**

1. Homebound members - revisited list of those who appreciate visitors
2. Ice Cream Social - Sunday August 27, hosted at Rotz farm with rain date at the church, Deacons provide hot dogs and hamburgers, members bring sides, everyone who can bring Ice Cream
3. Hayride - Possible date Sunday, Oct. 8th at Alexander farm, possibly invite UCC
4. Crop Walk - Possible date Sunday, Oct. 1 at Cowan's Gap - Al will contact Gap

### **Prayer List Updated**

#### **Benevolences**

- \$150 Love's Closet
- \$200 Our Daily Bread
- \$1000 Catholic Mission

**Next Meeting will be on Wednesday, 8/2/23 at 7:00 pm.**

Meeting was adjourned, with prayer by Emily.

### **Deacons August 2, 2023**

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

### **Old Business:**

1. Ice Cream Social - Sunday, August 27th at Rotz/Walker/Kerlin/South farm 5-7pm. Kerlins provide hot dogs and hamburgers, and members bring a side and/or ice cream! Rain location at the church.
2. Crop Walk - Sunday Oct. 1st 2pm at Cowans Gap, pavilion #1, more info to come.
3. Hayride - tentative date, Sunday Oct. 8th 4pm at Alexander farm. S'mores around the campfire. Will reach out to UCC.
4. Meal chain was planned.

### **New Business:**

None

### **Visits**

### **Prayer Lists**

#### **Benevolences**

- \$150 Love's Closet
- \$ 1000 Dental Clinic
- \$ 1000 Presbyterian Disaster Relief \*designate for US hurricane relief code DR000169
- \$ 500 Food Basket
- 

**Next Meeting will be on Wednesday, Sept. 6th at 7:00pm.**

Meeting was adjourned, with prayer.



### **Trustees (No report for July)**



#### **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](http://www.mupc.org), under the Media: Worship tab.





**Gleaner Deadline** for the October Issue is September 25<sup>th</sup>. It will be printed on the 25<sup>th</sup>. If you can't email it, feel free to call or lay a hand written document on the secretary's desk.



### **The 522 Youth Group**

Jr High: Every other Sunday, starting Sept. 10th

Sr High: Every other Sunday, starting Sept. 10th

Timing is still being discussed, but we will meet in the late afternoon/evening every other Sunday and will share dinner together. We will continue to meet at the Methodist church in town. Pastor Emily, Pastor Peter (of UCC), and Pastor Michelle (of MUMC) will be co-leaders of the 522 this year.



### **Choirs at MUPC**

"When you sing, you pray twice." -St. Augustine

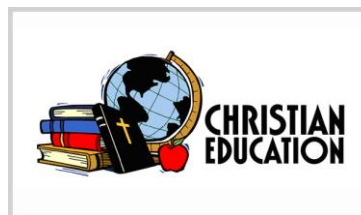
Chancel Choir: Meets for rehearsal weekly on Sunday evenings and sings most Sundays throughout the month. Director Richard Rotz would be delighted to speak to you about joining, [richardhrotz@gmail.com](mailto:richardhrotz@gmail.com).

Bell Choir: Rehearses Thursday evenings at 6:30. Contact bell director Donna Ankney if you are interested in learning more or joining the

choir, [donnaankney@gmail.com](mailto:donnaankney@gmail.com). No experience needed.

Women's Ensemble: Rehearses Thursday evenings at 7:30. Director Donna Ankney selects a wide variety of music for the Women's Ensemble to sing and invites anyone interested to reach out for more information to [donnaankney@gmail.com](mailto:donnaankney@gmail.com)

Men's Quartet



Adult Sunday School: Meets weekly before worship at 9:30. The lessons are easy to jump into and open to anyone interested.

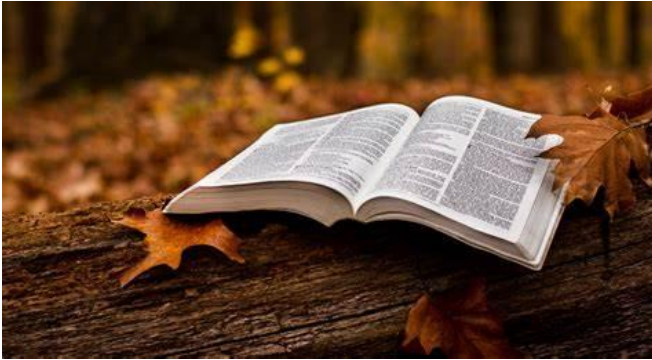
Parent Fellowship: **\*NEW\*** Pastor Emily is preparing a Parent Fellowship group that will meet about once a month to reflect on the unique challenges of parenting in 2023. This will be a joint group with parents from the UCC and MUMC churches. Watch for more information about when we will meet and possible book studies for parents too.

Youth: Aside from youth group, we are working to create a more regular schedule of Sunday School or Bible Study time for youth. Stay tuned for more information.

Children & Toddlers: Children's Church will continue throughout the year. Similar to the youth Sunday School, we are in the process of discovering possibilities for children and toddler Sunday School in the near future. We will make sure to announce those plans when they are finalized.



**Bible Study** continues on Tuesdays at 10 AM in the community room. Everyone is welcome to join our discussion-based Bible Study group.



## September Lectionary Readings

### **Week of September 3**

#### **Communion**

Exodus 3: 1-15

Psalm 105: 1-6, 23-26, 45b

Romans 12: 9-21

Matthew 16: 21-28

### **Week of September 10**

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalm 149

Romans 13: 8-14

Matthew 18: 15-20

### **Week of September 17**

Exodus 14: 19-31

Psalm 114 or

Exodus 15: 1b-11, 20-21

Romans 14: 1-12

Matthew 18: 21-35

### **Week of September 24**

Exodus 16: 2-15

Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45

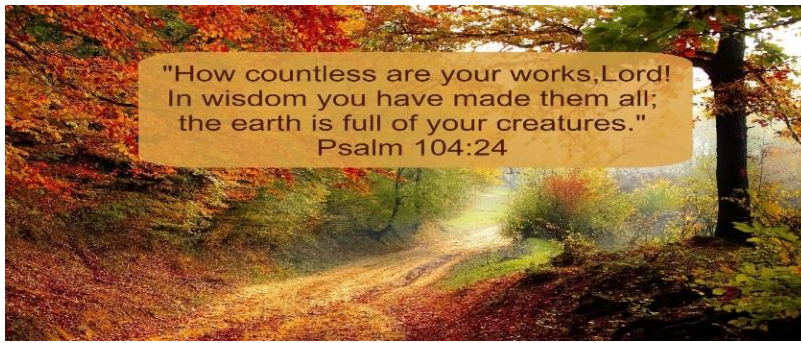
Philippians 1: 21-30

Matthew 20: 1-16



Happy  
**LABOR DAY**

September 4, 2023



## SEPTEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
					6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR)	
<b>3-Communion</b>	<b>4-Labor Day</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
10:00 AM Worship +Children's Church	6:30 PM Cub Scouts (CR)	Office Hours 9-2 10 AM Bible Study (CR)	7 PM Deacons Meeting (BR)	Office Hours 9-2	6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR)	
<b>10-Rally Day</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
11 AM Worship +Children's Church Youth Group MUMC (TBD) 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PM Cub 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.	6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR)	
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM The Gathering 11 AM Worship +Children's Church 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PM Cub 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.	6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR)	<b>Autumn Begins</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM The Gathering 11 AM Worship +Children's Church Youth Group MUMC (TBD) 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PM Cub 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.	6:30 PM Boy Scouts (CR)	

Please check our online calendar, [www.mupc.org/media/calendar](http://www.mupc.org/media/calendar), for any changes.