



# The GLEANER

September, 2025

The McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church

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Vol. CXLVII, NO. 240

## Pastor's Column

According to Webster's Dictionary, "rally" means to "arouse for action" . . . "to come together again to renew an effort" . . . "to join in a common cause." Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, is "Rally Sunday," which marks the beginning of a new church year, a coming together again after summer vacations and travel to renew our pursuit of growing together as the family of God.

Last month, in my series from Colossians, I was struck by the Apostle Paul's exhortation to young believers in Colosse, "So, then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness" (Col. 2:6-7). Rally Sunday we are "aroused to action, joining in a common cause" as the Body of Christ at MUPC to "continue to live in Christ." It's a time to strengthen our relationships with one another, and with our Heavenly Father, to grow in our knowledge and understanding of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to consider new ways to take Christ's love beyond the walls of the church and out into the community. At the same time, it's also a good time to reflect on who we are as a congregation, what we've accomplished in the past and how God has blessed our ministry, and where God is leading us, "overflowing with thanksgiving" for the exciting future God has in store for us.

The Holy Cow Survey has confirmed that we are a family of faith that really cares about each other, in spite of differences; really has a "heart" for the needs of our community; and sincerely desires to grow in our Christian faith. Whomever God brings to lead this congregation as its new Pastor, will be blessed with a dynamic, enthusiastic group of believers to partner with!

Join the MUPC family on Rally Sunday and celebrate a new year, with renewed commitment to the God who loves us and has called us to be His children! And, with my heart "overflowing with thankfulness," I appreciate all that you do!

Pastor Dale

[Check out the activities that are planned for September 14<sup>th</sup> in this month's Gleaner!]



**Short Term:** Bill & Janet McGinnis, Patsy Johnston,  
Julie Dovey, Harvey Kneas, Bob McCormick,  
Jill Cline, Betty Warthin, Gary Black, Mac Miller,  
Amy Mimm, the family of Freda Cromer, Louise  
Julia Kemmler, & Sandy Richards.

**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 25<sup>th</sup>).



### **Birthdays**

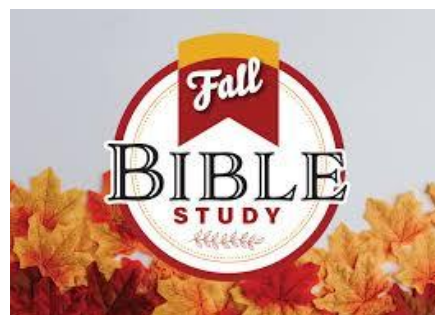
- 2-** Laura Metcalfe
- 3-** Debbie Carbaugh
- 5-** Wayne MacDonald
- 7-** Sarah Kimmel  
Hannah Kimmel
- 9-** Betsy Ingram
- 13-** Ferree LeFevre
- 20-** Tracey Campbell
- 21-** David Lane
- 23-** Sally (Rhonda) Peck  
Carlton Walker
- 30-** Kyriana Mitchell



### **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.



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



**Gleaner Deadline** for the October Issue is September 23<sup>rd</sup>. It will be printed on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you can't email it, feel free to call or lay a handwritten document on the secretary's desk.



**August 20, 2025**

Session held their August stated meeting following the combined church board meeting on August 20, 2025, in the church social room. The combined meeting provided each church board to review current and expected projects in addition to receiving suggestions for enrichment of ongoing projects. At the conclusion of the joint church board meeting, the session meeting began with prayer at 7:25 pm with all members present.

The clerk reported that Joe Calhoun will serve as the worship leader on November 09, 2025. Church attendance has been in the 38 to 40 range for May through July.

Pastor Dale has made several home visits on the Sundays he was in McConnellsburg.

Elder Carolyn Kneas has activated a Flower Committee and developed written guidance on their function. Rally Day will be held September 14, 2025. The day will include communion, special music and announcements on Christian Education. Elder Johnston informed session of the presbytery's Commission on Ministry approval of MUPC's Mission Study and Mission Discernment Profile. The PNC may now access pastor candidates from the Clergy Leadership Connection. Gary and Donna Ankney are now available to provide audio and camera service during sanctuary activities in the absence of IT staff.

Session is exploring the need for a Public Relations staff member to provide social media exposure by celebrating the many functions of our music

program and deacon benevolence support in addition to promoting outreach activities. If interested in filling this position, please contact the clerk of session.

IT staff member Jason Carbaugh will explore the use of a "One Call" telephone call to reach each congregation member and friends when an urgent information call needs to be made.

Session approved a motion for the Trustees to move forward with the Manse bathroom renovation and instructed the Trustees to provide plans and bid amount for session review should the way be made clear.

Elder Richard Rotz will reserve a Cowan's Gap pavilion for the 2026 church picnic. Wells Valley Presbyterian Church and the McConnellsburg United Church in Christ congregations will be invited to attend the picnic. The Ice Cream Social will be held in the church basement after Rally Day, September 14, 2025. Various presbytery and synod policies concerning adult behavior and child protection were adopted to be applicable for the MUPC staff and congregation. A fall White Church hymn sing will be held October 19, 2025. Pastor Dale will provide a weekly online Bible Study each of the three weeks leading up to Thanksgiving. The first Sunday in Advent is Thanksgiving Weekend, November 30, 2025.

The meeting adjourned with prayer by the moderator at 8:42 pm.



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





**July 2, 2025**

Present: Al Clark (President), Frank Ingram, Carolyn Kerlin, Barbara MacDonald, Rachel Howells (by phone), Valerie Alexander (by phone)  
Excused: Marin Carbaugh,

The meeting opened with prayer at 7PM.  
Minutes of May and June meetings corrected and approved. Note: The Presbytery of Carlisle Shared Giving yearly pledge was paid in February 2025 in the amount of \$2000.

During worship on July 13th Rev. Chris Elliott will present a Minute for Mission regarding FAR Reach Ministries in Burundi and Rwanda.

Discussed moving the annual Ice Cream Social from August to September and possibly incorporating it into Rally Day (9/14/2025).

Annual Hayride and Picnic (Hot dogs and S'mores) scheduled for Sunday 10/5/2025 at the Alexander Farm at 4:00PM. Invitation will be extended to McCbg. UCC church.

The prayer list was updated.

#### **Benevolence Giving**

Loves Closet	\$200
Fulton County Food Basket	\$500
Center for Community Action (CCA)	\$500
personal assistance	\$1,606
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)	\$2,000
American Red Cross	\$2,000

Next meeting will be Wednesday, 9/3/2025 @ 7PM . No meeting in August.

Submitted by Barb MacDonald



**June 11, 2025**

Wayne MacDonald opened the meeting with prayer. In attendance were Harvey Kneas, Bill Dovey, Ken Keebaugh and Eric Kerlin on conference call.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Mike Hess's excavation bill should be entered under Lot 59, not Rummell House.

Manse bathroom remodeling will be tabled for now.

Doug Steiner is mowing grass at the manse.

The UPC does not qualify under Hands and Feet of Hope for a ramp at the basement entry door. Harvey will draw up plans for a Volunteer Day to complete the project.

The lavatory at the back of the sanctuary has been repaired.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The Maid Squad will do a walk through the buildings to review the cleaning schedule.

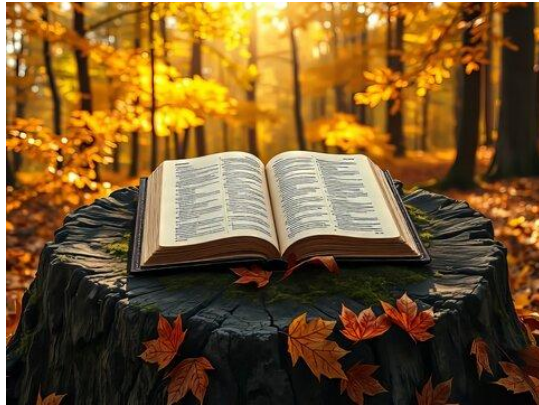
Instructions will be posted for the sound system.

Harvey will contact Mike Ritchey to reset the timers for the exterior lights.

Gladhill Pest Control will be called in for the ant problem at the basement lift.

A walk through the church graveyard was done after the meeting adjourned.

Ken Keebaugh, secretary



## September Lectionary Readings

### **Week of September 7, 2025**

#### **11 AM Worship**

Jeremiah 18: 1-11

Psalms 139: 1-6, 13-18

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14: 25-33

### **Week of September 14, 2025**

#### **Communion**

#### **Rally Day**

Jeremiah 4: 11-12, 22-28

Psalms 14: 1-7

1 Timothy 1: 12-17

Luke 15: 1-10

### **Week of September 21, 2025**

Jeremiah 8: 18 & 9: 1

Psalms 79: 1-9

1 Timothy 2: 1-7

Luke 16: 1-13

### **Week of September 28, 2025**

Jeremiah 32: 1-3a, 6-15

Psalms 91: 1-6, 14-16

1 Timothy 6: 6-19

Luke 16: 19-31



### **The 522 Youth Group**

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



**September 1, 2025**



**Joint MUPC/UCC Hayride**

**Sunday Oct. 5, 4:00pm**

**Alexander Farm**

**Hot dogs and S'mores provided.**

**Bring your own lawn chair.**



**An Ice Cream Social** will be held in the church basement after Rally Day, September 14, 2025.



**Beginning September 7, 2025**

**9:30 AM Adult Sunday School**

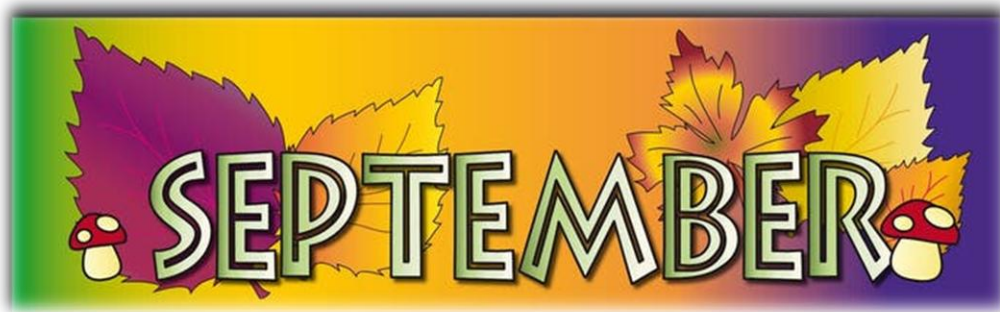
**11 AM Worship**



**September 22, 2025**



**Calling All Cocoa Lovers:** MUPC is looking for a winning cocoa recipe to make for the Cocoa Crawl this year. Please submit your recipes to Joyce Fowler at [jefowler85@gmail.com](mailto:jefowler85@gmail.com) for your recipe to possibly be chosen as our church's featured cocoa this year.



**2025**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1 Labor Day</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
	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.		
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
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)	7 PM Trustee Meeting (BR)	Office Hours 9-2 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7:30 PM Women's Ens.		
<b>14 Communion</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Rally Day</b> 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School 11 AM Worship Ice Cream Social 5-7 PM Youth Group 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.		
<b>21</b>	<b>22 Fall Begins</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
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.		
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				
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)				

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