



The GLEANER

September, 2026

The McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church

Office: 717-485-4400

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PASTOR'S COLUMN

Sunday, August 9th, my wife and I were visiting a friend who had just lost her husband. Our friend lives near Annapolis, MD, and after we left her, we stopped in Annapolis. We parked near the U.S. Naval Academy and decided to visit the campus. As it turned out, it was the end of Plebe Parents Weekend, and hundreds of parents were proudly walking around campus arm in arm with their sons and daughters in their sharp looking white Navy uniforms. Approximately 1200 young men and women had just completed "Plebe Summer," a test of physical and mental endurance in preparation for a grueling 4-year academic program at the Academy. I observed these impressive young people with some nostalgia, remembering my days as a young NROTC midshipman. I reflected on that experience. All of those young people are united by a common confession – "to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic. . ." and all of them have put on that same white uniform that distinguishes them from the rest of society.

In many ways, this is analogous to our experience as followers of Jesus Christ. All of us are united by our common confession of faith - "Jesus is Lord and Savior." And all of us are called to stand out as "different" from the world around us. Paul calls for us to "clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 13:4). Put on his "compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love" (Colossians 3:12-14). With that kind of "uniform" on, not only will we be different, but we'll make a difference in the world.

September is a time for new beginnings in most of our churches, with "Rally Sunday" and a new church year ahead. It is a time to remember and renew our personal confession of faith and spruce up our spiritual garments so that we will live out our identify as followers of Jesus, united by our common faith, letting the world see Christ in us. As those young midshipmen are ultimately called to protect our freedom as a Nation, we, are called to proclaim our freedom in Jesus Christ!

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, Haley Seville, and other family of Ross DeShong and his wife Paula, Tim Fowler, & the family of Donald Black.

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.



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.



- 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



Gleaner Deadline for the October Issue is September 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.



Session

August 19, 2026

Session met for their August 19, 2026, stated session meeting with all elders and the moderator, Rev. Dale Williams, present in the church board room beginning at 6:20 pm. The clerk of session determined that a quorum was present. The meeting agenda as well as the June 17, 2026, session meeting minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Correspondence from the Presbyterian Foundation was referenced informing session that a grant application for enhanced IT equipment had been denied. An invitation from the Fulton County Gideon chapter for a church representation to attend a dinner at the Needmore Bible church on Friday, September 25, 2026, was read.

The second phase of session members independently finishing the boundary training was determined to be complete.

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 High School on August 17, 2026, and distributed reduced size posters 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. Session members will be assigned to various local businesses and request audience door prizes. Associated costs including the bracelets, posters and a donation to the foundation have been paid.

Small Group Ministry events have been going well. Sixteen concert attendees attended the Raleigh

Ringers show. Three \$55 tickets to the Rhonda Vincent and Malpas Brothers concert at the American Music Theater, Lancaster, PA at 3 pm on September 20, 2026, remain available. The October trip to The Flight 93 Memorial, Somerset, Pa., will be planned during the September 16, 2026, stated session meeting. Also at that meeting, a transportation plan will be discussed for the December 30, 2026, “Joshua” show at the Sight and Sound Theater, Lancaster, PA.

The Sexual Misconduct policy to be submitted to the Guide One Liability Insurance Company was tabled for a future meeting.

Rally Day plans were discussed for the September 13, 2026, worship service planned by session and the worship leader, Carlisle Presbytery Commissioned Elder, Joe Calhoun. This will be the beginning of the worship service at 11 am.

Church Treasurer, Elder Julie Dovey, had previously distributed the mid-year financial reports for the General Fund, the Benevolence Fund and the Building Fund. Session approved a motion to receive the reports. Session approved a motion for the erection of seven streetlamps (three on Second St. and four on Maple Street) at a cost of \$8400 for all seven to be paid from the Building Fund. The Fulton County Commissioners pledged some financial assistance for the three streetlamps on Second St.

Nominating Committee Chairperson, Elder April Leese, will meet with her committee and begin the nominating process for church board members including a new clerk of session.

Stewardship Committee Co-chairpersons, Elder Jack Rhoads and Elder Donna Ankney, will soon meet and plan the November Stewardship Sunday event.

A combined church board meeting will be held in January, 2027, to include the Trustees, Deacons and Session members.

The Clerk had presented Terms of Call for Part Time Interim Pastor, Rev. Nancy McClure, in an August 6th report to session. Pastor Nancy will meet with session at their stated September 16,

2026, meeting. The terms will include 15 hours per week at the Carlisle Presbytery minimum annual cash salary of \$62,700 per annum resulting in a \$805.45 bi-monthly payment. Rev. McClure will typically work on Sunday, stay overnight on Sunday, and hold office hours on Monday. Any remaining hours of the 15 hours will be worked from her home. Pastor Nancy will have one week vacation each month including the Sunday. She will moderate stated session meetings. Her duties will begin January 3, 2027, and she is anxiously awaiting her time with the McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church Congregation.

Pastor Dale Williams will be ending his pastoral care to this congregation on December 24, 2026, with the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. An appreciation recognition will be held at an appropriate time during December 2026.

Session approved an 11am White Church service at the Union Cemetery on October 18, 2026, with the Rev. Rick Boyer.

Elders Donna Ankney and Julie Dovey were elected commissioned elders to attend the September 15, 2026, Carlisle Presbytery Meeting at the Gettysburg Presbyterian Church. The meeting will be in-person or by zoom.

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

New prayer partners were assigned.

Having no other business to be brought to the session, the meeting adjourned with prayer by the moderator, at 7:45 pm.



Deacons **July 1, 2026**

Present: Al Clark (President), Barbara MacDonald, Joyce Hornberger, Rachel Howells, Frank Ingram, Carolyn Kerlin. Excused: Marin Carbaugh.

Meeting opened with prayer at 7 PM.

Minutes of May meeting approved.

Prayer list was reviewed.

Benevolence Giving

Loves Closet (monthly)	\$300
Fulton County Food Basket (monthly)	\$500
Center for Community Action (CCA) (monthly)	\$500
Fulton County Partnership (monthly)	\$500
Habitat For Humanity -Franklin County	\$1000
Levi's Fund Lecture	\$400
Scholarship For MHS	
Summer Musical Camp	\$100

Next meeting will be Wednesday, August 5, 2026 @ 7 PM.

submitted by Barb MacDonald, Secretary

Deacons

August 5, 2026

Present: Al Clark (President), Barb MacDonald (Secretary), Carolyn Kerlin, Frank Ingram, & Joyce Hornberger.

Excused: Rachell Howells, Marin Carbaugh

Meeting opened with prayer at 7PM

Agenda was distributed and correspondence was reviewed.

Minutes of the July meeting approved.

The Benevolence to be highlighted in the month of August is Camp Krislund. Pastor Dale will present a Minute for Mission 8/30/26.

After some discussion it was decided that Deacons will NOT be hosting an Ice Cream Social or a Hayride this year. These were typically held in August and September respectively.

The prayer list was updated.

BENEVOLENCES

Women In Need(WIN)	\$200
Love's Closet (monthly)	\$300
Fulton County Food Basket (monthly)	\$500
Center For Community Action (CCA) (monthly)	\$500
Fulton County Partnership (monthly)	\$500
MHS Care closet Central Fulton	\$500
School Food Pantry Southern Fulton	\$500
School Food Pantry/Cardinal Closet Forbes Road	\$500

Note: \$2000 was earmarked for an upcoming mission trip to North Carolina after a meeting to determine best means of support.



Trustees

May 13, 2026

ATTENDANCE: Wayne MacDonald, Jayne Metcalfe, Richard Hornberger, Brett Cornelius, Erick Kerlin, & Ken Keebaugh.

OPENING PRAYER: Wayne

MANSE:

Bathroom-Renovations should be done by the end of May.

Kitchen-Jayne will work on counter tops.

Landscaping-Outside is good.

Painting-Wait for painting walls.

Garage-Clean out.

CEMETERY: Brett will clean stones.

LOT 59: Waiting for direction from Session.

RAMP: Waiting for Session.

BASEMENT FLOOR: Eric will check with Elite Mercersburg Cleaning.

SIDEWALK: The sidewalk is on Mark's List.
Lamp posts-pour bases.

Ken Keebaugh, Secretary

Trustees

July 8, 2026

ATTENDANCE

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

OPENING PRAYER

Wayne

MANSE RENOVATION REPORTS

Bathrooms are almost finished

Kitchen Counter Tops still undecided how to handle

Manse Clean up done

Painting walls after Chris Peck is finished with bathrooms

Garage needs cleaned out

Dehumidifier is checked by Richard

Clothesline Poles need painted

CEMETERY REPORT

Brett Cornelous was absent.

LOT 59

Awaiting instructions from Session how to proceed.

BASEMENT FLOORS

Ken will ask Eric to check with Eric Mellott about sidewalks.

LAMP POSTS

On a motion by Bill / Jayne, "We will buy four posts lights at \$1,000 each, two for the front and two for the side." The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Ken Keebaugh, Secretary



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.



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



September 7, 2026



September 13, 2026



A trip is planned to see Rhonda Vincent on September 20th at 3 pm at the American Music Theater in Lancaster, PA. Cost is \$55 pp. Inga Smith has volunteered as the driver, please contact Inga for instructions



Fall Begins September 22, 2026



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 at 7 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.



11 AM Worship begins September 13th



September Lectionary Readings

Week of September 6, 2026

Rev. Katy Yates Brungraber

Exodus 12: 1-14

Psalms 149: 1-9

Romans 13: 8-14

Matthew 18: 15-20

Week of September 13, 2026

Elder Joe Calhoun

11 AM Worship Begins

Communion

Rally Day

Exodus 14: 19-31 or

Exodus 15: 1b-11, 20-21

Psalms 114: 1-8

Romans 14: 1-12

Matthew 18: 21-35

Week of September 20, 2026

Elder Dirk Grove

Exodus 16: 2-15

Psalms 105: 1-6, 37-45

Philippians 1: 21-30

Matthew 20: 1-16

Week of September 27, 2026

Rev. Nancy McClure

Exodus 17: 1-7

Psalms 78: 1-4, 12-16

Philippians 2: 1-13

Matthew 21: 23-32



2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
		Office Hours 9-2 10 AM Bible Study (CR)	7 PM Deacons Meeting (BR)	Office Hours 9-2		
6	7-Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12
Rev. Katy Yates Brungraber 10 AM Worship	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.		
13-Communion	14	15	16	17	18	19
Elder Joe Calhoun 11 AM Worship Rally Day 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.		
20	21	22-Fall Begins	23	24	25	26
Elder Dirk Grove 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.		
27	28	29	30			
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)				

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