

MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 2024 NEWSLETTER



Photo courtesy of Dick Keene

The Mission of Middle Octorara Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is to provide a place of fellowship where a community of believers comes together to be spiritually renewed and enabled to effectively witness for Christ through service to others.

PASTOR JOHN'S THOUGHTS

John Calvin (1509-1564) was a French lawyer, reformer, and theologian. He succeeded Martin Luther as the leading force in the second generation of the Protestant Reformation. Over his long ministry in Geneva, Switzerland, he preached over two thousand sermons at St. Pierre Cathedral, the main church in Geneva, twice on Sundays and three times during the week, delivering sermons that lasted more than an hour.

Calvin had a firm understanding and personal experience of the Gospel, which is on full display in the following quotation: "Our assurance, our glory, and the sole anchor of our salvation are that Christ the Son of God is ours, and we in turn are in him daughters and sons of God and heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven, called to the hope of eternal blessedness by God's grace, not by our worth." What a glowing description of all that is ours by grace and through faith in the finished work of our Savior.

We have become children of God through reliance on the Son of God, who became a man and bore our sin to the cross of Calvary. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:21, "God made him who had no sin to be a sin offering for us, that in him we might become the righteousness of God." John says in his Gospel, chapter one, verse twelve, "To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." Again, Paul says in Romans 5:1,2, "Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God."

Because Jesus has taken our sin away once and for all through his self-sacrifice in our place, and because we trust wholly in him and his accomplishment for us, there is nothing to prevent us from knowing and walking with God in this life, and going to heaven to live eternally when this fleeting life is past. What an awesome prospect in the present and in the future is ours, all of it based not at all on our performance, but our trust in our loving God and Savior.

Thank you, MO, for being people who live out the Good News! I am so blessed as your pastor to be with you in the heavenward journey.

CHURCH LIFE

CHOIR

Our faithful choir members will sing throughout May, and then will take a summer break. I am grateful for Boni for her accompaniment and the choir members for almost always being at practice and at our Sunday Service as well. Tell them you appreciate them as well!! See you in September for practice and October for the choir to be back!!

CHURCH DIRECTORY

It's here! The directory arrived on May 1st. Thank you to Boni Henry for the dream to have a new directory and her helpers Sara Kauffman, Elaine Ressel and Deb Hoover.

DEACONS

We've all heard the riddle, "What is the one resource that can never be increased, but only spent?" The answer: time. Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882), American essayist, philosopher, and poet, wrote, "I shall pass this way but once; any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." C.T. Studd (1860-1931), British cricketer and Christian missionary to China, Africa, and India, wrote, "Only one life, t'will soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last."

We have differing gifts, distributed to us by God, but we all have the same resource of time. Don't our faithful Deacons do an excellent job in using their time, energies, and abilities in the service of others in Jesus' name?! Thank you for all you do!

LIBRARY

Renovations continue in the library. We removed some of the furniture and pictures and some of the books were put out at the yard sale. Other books were donated to the Mennonite Historical Society for their annual book sale and more sorting will be done. It is a work in progress!

MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

LENTEN TEA

On March 9 we held our annual Lenten Tea. At 2 PM approximately 60 men, women and children were treated to a wonderful musical performance by 'Perfect Harmony'. This trio of 2 women and 1 man sang a variety of familiar sacred and secular songs which struck a chord with all who attended. In addition, their very talented accompanist treated us to a beautiful piano arrangement. After this very professional performance, we headed over to the social hall and enjoyed a tea with tea-size sandwiches, fruit and cookies. Many thanks to those who prepared the food and to the wonderful young folks who helped as servers.

SOUP and FELLOWSHIP

On Sunday, February 11 many folks remained after the church service to enjoy a meal of soups, side dishes and yummy desserts. As always, it is just a good thing to enjoy food with friends.

SUB/SANDWICH SALE

MOPW is planning a sub/sandwich sale for Thursday, May 23. Deadline for placing orders for the sale is May 16. Order forms are available in the Welcome Center. Also available for pick up with your sandwiches will be an assortment of pies.

FAMILY DAY

MOPW is sponsoring a fun day for families on June 9 immediately following church. Burgers and dogs will be provided. Those who attend are asked to bring a side dish or dessert. Games will follow.

PEACH FEST

And we are looking forward to our annual Peach Fest on Saturday, August 10 from 4-6 PM. More details will follow.

MISSIONS

LOVE INC – Love in the Name of Christ is the mission that was our focus in April. This organization provides assistance and services to those in need such as light housekeeping, helping to find affordable housing, rides to appointments and help with errands.

In the month of May we are focusing on North Star Initiative and FIM- the ministry where Mindy Boyd serves.

Through your giving to our benevolence fund, Middle Octorara is able to support 19 different ministries throughout each year. We thank God for giving us the privilege to serve.

SILVER SISTERS



Silver Sisters had lunch at Centerville Diner. Jane's 92nd birthday is the beginning of May, so she got dessert to start her celebration!!

The next get-together for Silver Sisters will be at Hometown Kitchen on May 29 at 11:30. Afterwards we will come to the church to play games.

TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees have been busy clearing brush from the upper fence line in the upper cemetery, and trimming the banks of the cemetery and also by the ballfield and behind the rental house. Some of them have worked many hours and have worked hard to accomplish this. You all can be proud of the workface willing to keep up with this. There always are jobs to be done to keep it looking so nice.

We have a "future project" list of things we would like to do. So we need to keep filling the pink envelope to help take care of some of these projects.

VBS

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the week of June 17-21. Dozens of volunteers are needed to make the week successful. If you would like to help, please contact Boni Henry at 717-405-1113. We look forward to being able to present the Gospel this year through the curriculum called SCUBA.



MISSION MUSINGS

In June of 2006 I went to the Amazon jungle of Peru for the first time. The one day of the trip we traveled to Nauta, a village along the Amazon river. It was a two hour bus ride from Iquitos. It was only about 50 miles but because of the primitive roads it took that long to arrive. That day our tasks were to build some tables and chairs for the SCOTA school which stands for special children of the Amazon. We also planted some flowers and shrubs around the school building. This school is another project of Medical Mission just like the SCOTA school in Tamshiyacu which we support. This past fall we were asked if we would be interested in contributing some funds to put a fence around the school property. In the recent past squatters were attempting to set up tents on the property and people were driving motor cars across the school property. Our mission committee approved to contribute \$2000.00 to the project. We recently received notice along with photos of the completed project. It is an impressive 6 foot high chain link fence with barb wire above it. The children are now safer minus the squatters and the vehicle traffic. I will ask Mike to share the photos on PowerPoint in the near future.

Our annual yard sale was a huge success this year thanks to many folks helping out in a variety of ways. We made a profit of nearly \$3000.00!!! This money will purchase more medical supplies for the hospital in Iquitos. Our nurse friend Margarita is getting quotes for an incubator as well as other medical supplies the hospital could definitely use. This is just another way our M. O. church family is being the hands and feet of Jesus and spreading His love and the gospel in the Amazon.

As Joan mentioned this morning during the Minute for Mission we now support 18 missions with \$300.00 each through our Monthly Mission Focus. This is only possible because of your generosity. This of course is only part of our total mission commitment as we also support other missions throughout the year. In 2nd Corinthians Paul writes God loves a cheerful giver. Rest assured your giving is helping people locally, nationally and worldwide. May we each continue to give as we are able and led by God to do.

2nd Corinthians 9:6-8

Blessings , Dan Henry

Reminder: The first Sunday of each month Middle Octorara, Union and Little Britain cooperate together to hold a Praise and Prayer Service at 4:30 pm. This afternoon it will be held at Little Britain and in June it will be at Union. Come join us as we lift up our prayers and praises to our Almighty Father.

REFLECTIONS

by Shirley Girvin

I Was a Huckster's Daughter

I volunteered to challenge myself to write this month's article for Barry. He asked me to consider writing about Dad who was an entrepreneur and at the same time encourage other families from MO to consider submitting articles.

Growing up in Georgetown with parents who only focused on work from sun-up to sun-down (sounds like the Amish) prepared me for a similar lifestyle. Their idea of fun was watching "I Love Lucy" on Monday evenings or enjoying homemade ice cream with family.

Mom was an excellent cook, canning and freezing vegetables and fruits, proud to show her African violets to anyone interested, making quilts for family and friends, and helping with the annual church suppers at MO.

Dad was an entrepreneur and very successful. He started a "Huckster" market business in Paoli, Malvern, and Conshohocken in the early 1940s – going door to door selling eggs, fresh vegetables, seasonal fruit, sandwich meats and cheeses, and meats – chicken, beef – no fish. Yep, he had a refrigerated cabinet to keep food items cold. I recall when I was in eighth grade Dad needed a helper to go with him on Fridays and lucky me I was the one. My grades were good and Mr. Troop said that it would be a good learning experience for me. Dad and I would arise at 4 AM in the morning and return home about 10 PM. It is noteworthy that credit cards were not used in the 1950s so I learned how to make change for the customers (my math lesson for the day!).

In 1945, Dad started a milk hauling business with Penn Dairies – milk cans. This was before bulk tanks. Both English and Amish shipped milk to Penn Dairies. By the way – to an Amishman if you weren't Amish then you were English – no other nationality distinction! Dad also realized that there was a need for ice to keep milk cold in the summertime, so he added an icehouse on to the garage. There was an ice plant at Ingleside in Lancaster and Dad would buy 300 pound blocks of ice. Amish came in their spring wagons to purchase ice, and anyone else who wanted ice could buy from Dad.

Dad was very diversified – in addition to market and milk, he also delivered seeds to farmers for spring planting, and in the fall he would bring truckloads of coal for those who ordered from him.

Dad and Mom were successful in their lifetime and I am proud to have been part of it. Those of you who have connections to family entrepreneurs, I encourage you to talk to me about sharing your story. I would be happy to help. Please share with our MO family.

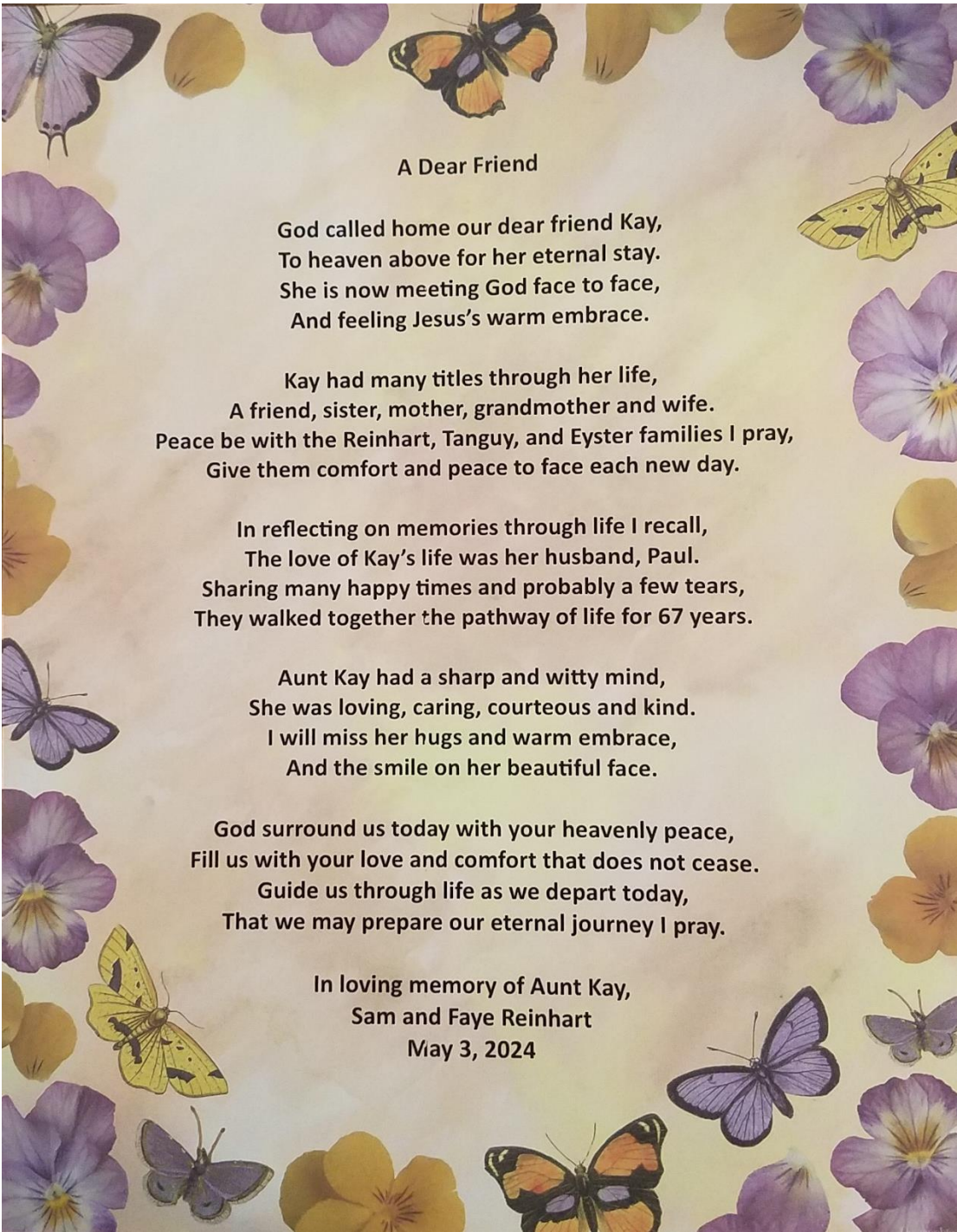


May birthday's starting with the 6th

7 – Wes Girvin
9 – Sharon Wallace
10 – Andrew Dalmas
17 – Cathy Snyder
25 – Barry Girvin
27 – Rose Griest, Alyssa Armstrong
30 – Christy Heidinger

May anniversaries

10 – Herb & Carol Girvin
21 – Sue & Mike Herr, Dan & Melissa Keene



A Dear Friend

God called home our dear friend Kay,
To heaven above for her eternal stay.
She is now meeting God face to face,
And feeling Jesus's warm embrace.

Kay had many titles through her life,
A friend, sister, mother, grandmother and wife.
Peace be with the Reinhart, Tanguy, and Eyster families I pray,
Give them comfort and peace to face each new day.

In reflecting on memories through life I recall,
The love of Kay's life was her husband, Paul.
Sharing many happy times and probably a few tears,
They walked together the pathway of life for 67 years.

Aunt Kay had a sharp and witty mind,
She was loving, caring, courteous and kind.
I will miss her hugs and warm embrace,
And the smile on her beautiful face.

God surround us today with your heavenly peace,
Fill us with your love and comfort that does not cease.
Guide us through life as we depart today,
That we may prepare our eternal journey I pray.

In loving memory of Aunt Kay,
Sam and Faye Reinhart
May 3, 2024

Middle Octorara Presbyterian
Church
Income and Expense Statement
GENERAL FUND 01, April 2024

BEGINNING BALANCE, April 1, 2024	17,425.66
INCOME	
Offerings	\$10,750.01
Manse Rent	1,269.45
Account Interest	0.31
Soc. Hall Rent From MOPW	25.00
Soc.Hall Rent 1/2 to MOPW	255.00
Benevolence	944.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	350.00
TOTAL INCOME	13,593.77
TOTAL CASH & INCOME	31,019.43
EXPENSES	
Pastoral Salary	\$5,851.21
Pastoral Mileage	650.57
Pastoral Pension	2,189.93
Pastoral Technology	50.00
Secretary-Treasurer	565.00
Clerical/Treasurer Mileage	177.55
Accountant Fees	90.00
Payroll Taxes	170.41
Advertising	31.84
Copier Lease	120.32
Electricity	301.54
Telephone/internet	94.23
Cleaning Service	457.50
Upkeep of Grounds	1,854.10
Guest Minister/Speaker	150.00
1 Grt.Hr.Shr.Payment	635.00
Tsfr. Session Benev. Fund	944.00
Transfer to MOPW	127.50
Property Taxes-Manse	646.20
TOTAL EXPENSES	15,106.90
ENDING BALANCE, April 1, 2024	15,912.53

GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES
April 2024

The following is the individual weekly breakdown of offerings:

April 7 -	General Fund	4,080.00	Benevolence	365.00
April 14 -	General Fund	1,102.00	Benevolence	45.00
April 21 -	General Fund	1,988.00	Benevolence	354.00
April 28 -	General Fund	2,290.01	Benevolence	180.00

An additional \$3,189.76 General Fund money was received by mail etc.

YTD GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES


	Monthly Budget	YTD Budget	Monthly Received	YTD Received	YTD Expenses
General Fund	13,910.32	59,118.86	12,649.77	56,411.62	71,504.56
Benevolence	953.84	4,053.82	944.00	3,998.00	





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 5	May 6	May 7 Session Mtg. 6:45 p.m.	May 8 ROMEO Club 9 a.m. Prayer 4 p.m. Choir 7 p.m.	May 9	May 10	May 11
May 12 	May 13	May 14 Trustee Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	May 15 ROMEO Club 9 a.m. Prayer 4 p.m. Choir 7 p.m.	May 16 Sub orders due	May 17	May 18
May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22 ROMEO Club 9 a.m. Prayer 4 p.m. Choir 7 p.m.	May 23 Subs available for pickup	May 24	May 25
May 26	May 27	May 28	May 29 ROMEO Club 9 a.m. Prayer 4 p.m. Silver Sisters 11:30 a.m.	May 30	May 31	June 1

Name: _____ Date: _____

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the
vocabulary words
in the grid. Look
for them in all
directions including
backwards and
diagonally.

MERRY MONTH OF MAY

Word Search

E	B	H	C	Q	Q	U	Z	O	K	W	G	E	M	I	N	I	P	J
N	O	Y	A	M	E	D	O	C	N	I	C	S	G	O	G	D	J	Y
I	L	Y	P	A	V	D	J	T	J	L	Y	A	G	P	L	A	N	T
H	X	L	B	V	N	M	Y	A	D	S	R	E	H	T	O	M	G	E
S	E	E	D	S	Q	M	O	I	L	D	I	I	L	T	E	Q	L	F
N	E	C	J	I	Y	E	D	M	E	E	W	C	S	L	L	N	I	K
U	C	D	L	Q	W	M	G	N	I	R	P	S	Q	N	O	N	N	U
S	U	K	N	O	I	O	E	X	Q	S	U	V	C	F	P	L	H	A
Q	W	P	E	E	S	R	E	N	K	F	Z	G	P	A	Y	A	Z	G
H	O	H	O	S	E	I	B	L	D	Y	L	F	T	A	A	R	F	L
M	M	F	E	H	V	A	E	B	C	V	O	H	T	U	M	E	O	F
N	U	Q	C	F	S	L	L	N	U	H	X	A	Q	V	L	W	L	F
A	E	A	L	E	O	D	B	B	E	T	N	T	I	S	M	O	S	C
G	E	E	B	A	H	A	M	Z	L	I	T	A	M	D	W	M	Y	X
T	F	A	R	L	D	Y	U	B	P	O	E	E	N	E	S	N	W	D
Q	L	Z	F	G	M	Y	B	I	N	S	S	J	R	N	R	W	C	W
L	B	Y	O	D	A	B	B	P	A	T	Z	S	S	F	H	A	Y	Z
I	Y	Y	Z	T	A	U	R	U	S	G	O	E	O	O	L	L	S	G
Y	O	O	Q	F	I	S	K	R	G	F	D	G	U	M	Y	Y	R	J

BASEBALL
BLOSSOM
BUMBLEBEE
BUTTERFLY
CINCO DE MAYO
FLOWERS



GARDEN	MOTHER'S DAY
GEMINI	PIÑATA
GREEN	PLANT
LADYBUG	SEEDS
LAWN MOWER	SPRING
MAYPOLE	SUNSHINE
MEMORIAL DAY	TAURUS
MOM	TEACHER

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR REV. JOHN BARLOW

Address: 433 W. Lincoln Ave
Myerstown, PA 17067

Cellphone: 717-377-4570
Email: barlowjohn604@gmail.com

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 68, Bart, PA 17503
Physical/Shipping Address: 1199 Valley Road, Quarryville, PA 17566
Phone: 717-786-3402 or 717-786-8284
Email: mopc_sec@comcast.net
Website: middleoctorara.org
Facebook: middle octorara

Church Secretary/Treasurer Debbie Hoover
Phone: 717-786-8284
Email: thehoovers@comcast.net or mopc_sec@comcast.net
Address: 2115 Mine Road, Paradise, PA 17562

Senior Choir Director Rose Griest
Accompanists Boni Henry, Shirley Girvin, Sue Herr

Technology Team Leader Mike Hoover
Email: mopc_av@comcast.net

Superintendent of Cemeteries James Williams
Phone: 717-517-6968

CHURCH BOARDS

Session

Clerk of Session: Dan Henry
Phone: 717-381-9947
Email: danhenny55@aol.com
2022-2024-J. Barry Girvin, Dan Henry, Vivian Caldwell
2023-2025-Joan Probst, Sue Ressel, Brenda Roark
2024-2026-Shirley Girvin, Richard Keene, Jonathan Welch

Deacons

Administrator: Pastor John Barlow
Phone: 717-377-4570
mail: barlowjohn604@gmail.com
2022-2024-Nancy Cox, Andy Keene, Sandra Shenk, Val Keene
2023-2025-Annie Frackman, Dottie Garver, Kathy Harvey, Cathy Miller
2024-2026-Kim Barlow, Dixie Clark, Linda Farmer, Sue Herr

Trustees

President: Jeff Frackman
Phone: 717-989-6896
2022-2024-Doug Henry, Lloyd Miller, Dale Phillips
2023-2025-Rose Griest, Boni Henry, Sam Reinhart
2024-2026-Jeff Frackman, Herb Girvin, Nancy Minchoff