

MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July 2026 NEWSLETTER



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

I came across a cd recently put out by the Teen Challenge Choir in 2012 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of their founding. Teen Challenge is a Christ-centered residential ministry that seeks to provide freedom from addiction through discipleship, mentoring, and life-skills training. I knew it would be powerful because the young men who formed the choir had all experienced true-life transformation through Jesus by the Holy Spirit. One cut, the last of thirteen, really grabbed me. Maybe you know it. Its all over You-Tube and I highly recommend it to you. Its "Thank You for Giving to the Lord" by Ray Boltz. Here are the words: Verse 1: I dreamed I went to heaven and you were there with me. We walked upon the streets of gold beside the crystal sea. We heard the angels singing, then someone called your name. You turned and saw this young man, and he was smiling as he came. And he said, "friend, you may not know me now," and then he said, "but wait, you used to teach my Sunday School when I was only eight. And every week you would say a prayer before the class would start. And one day when you said that prayer, I asked Jesus in my heart." CHORUS: Thank you for giving to the Lord. I am a life that was changed. Thank you for giving to the Lord. I am so glad you gave. Verse 2: Then another man stood before you and said, "remember the time a missionary came to your church and his pictures made you cry. You didn't have much money, but you gave it anyway. Jesus took the gift you gave and that's why I'm here today." CHORUS Verse 3: One by one they came, far as the eyes could see. Each life somehow touched by your generosity. Little things that you had done, sacrifices made, unnoticed on the earth, in heaven now proclaimed. And I know that up in heaven you're not supposed to cry, but I am almost sure there were tears in your eyes. As Jesus took your hand and you stood before the Lord, he said, "my child, look around you, for great is your reward." CHORUS

What an opportunity all of us who believe in Jesus have to serve, to give, to witness, to love, for our Savior in this life, to touch lives for eternity. I see you, MO Friends, in this special song. It is a privilege and a pleasure to be among you as your pastor.

CHURCH LIFE

DEACONS - Proverbs 25:11 says, "A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver." Proverbs 12:25 says, "An anxious heart weighs a person down, but a kind word cheers a body up." The right kind of words expressed at the right time, can have a powerful and positive effect. This is what our Deacons do, in spoken and written forms, every week and all through the year, all of it accompanied by prayer and practical gestures. Thank you, Deacons, for your valuable ministry among us!

MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN - Another sandwich sale was held with a profit of at least \$ 450. The ladies also served 2 funeral meals last month. We thank those that are always ready to help preparing, serving and cleaning up every time asked. And those that make cakes and jello salads are appreciated as we always say "It takes a village".

MISSIONS - Our Mission Focus for the month of July are: CHRIST IN ACTION and LIVING WATERS INTERNATIONAL. Each of these ministries will be given \$300 from our Session Fund and \$1000 from the Bueche Fund. Praise God that we are able to give in this way.

SILVER SISTERS - A group of Silver Sisters went to Delta in Southern York County for a delicious lunch. We enjoyed chatting, laughing, and eating of course. We planned the next lunch for Wednesday July 22 at 11:30 at Olive Garden at Rockvale. All widows are welcome.

SUMMER MUSIC July 12-Rose Griest, July 19-Koryn Barrett and John Girvin,
July 26 - Ben Tozzo, August 2-Grace Notes

TRUSTEES - Some of the discussions at Trustee meeting included the repair of the stone wall that was damaged by a vehicle, the refreshing of the room downstairs for the Scouts, the door that doesn't lock, the gravesites that need leveling, the protecting of the well-pipe, and the setting of the date for fall work day, which is November 7th with a raindate of the 14th. Put that on your calendar. We discuss anything concerning the properties of the church, and what needs immediate attention. Please keep donating to the building fund.

VBS - SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE

After months of preparation, Middle Octorara was pleased to host Vacation Bible School, the theme was Snowball Mountain Challenge on June 22-26. Our MC, Activities Director, Dan and our friend, Ollie the puppet seal guided us through opening and closing exercises every evening as we learned new songs, watched a Bible story from our Challenge Companion, the Bible and enjoyed the friendship of conversation between AD Dan and Ollie (Koryn).

Many thanks are due to dozens of folks who helped make our VBS week a success: After supplies arrived Brenda and Nancy, Abby, James and Jodie helped prepare décor for hanging and displaying. When the students arrived every evening they were greeted by our registrars, Deb and Kim. Those who volunteered to be teachers and helpers are: Jodie, Cathy, Cayla, Boni, Sharon, Sue, Sue, Tami, Rose. The Craft Station was managed by Shirley, Robin and Carla. Dottie, Ken, Dixie and Nancy provided a snack every evening. Bible

stories were professionally told by Kim with John as her assistant. Our residence scientists were John and Aly – a favorite station of the students. We enjoyed singing along with the song videos and listening to music while the snapshots of VBS participants were shown on the screen. This entertainment was provided by our Video/Audio Tech guy, Mike. Photographers were Koryn and Cayla.

And, of course, VBS would not be complete without the students and their parents/guardians who transported them every evening. Classes were held for students, age 3 through grade 5. In addition, there was a class for those with special needs of all ages.

On Friday, the last day of VBS, those in attendance experienced a very lively and entertaining closing program. The students answered Bible Trivia questions, sang and danced. AD Dan told us about our mission emphasis for the week. Each day students were asked to hang snowflakes on the tree to represent our offering. An anonymous donor offered to match all giving up to \$500. A meal was served to all by Shirley, Jodie, Cathy, Carla, Boni, Dan and Robin. Our good friend, Stu always works tirelessly to help wash dishes. AD Dan announced that we are happy to report that we will be giving more than \$1000 for our mission, Joyfully Made Fellowship.

We are so blessed that we had the opportunity to participate in VBS '26 at MO as we learned a great truth from our Challenge Companion, the Bible which states 'I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.' Phil 4:13

MISSION MUSINGS

We just had a wonderful week of Vacation Bible School last week. It was a safe, enjoyable and meaningful week for all who participated. I won't report any more here because Boni has written about the week above in this newsletter. It did get me to thinking however about serving and heeding God's call to serve and lead. Then of course in God's amazing providence Pastor John's sermon yesterday was titled "How to experience God's leading". Pastor John highlighted the necessity, process and results when his followers are willing to heed His call to serve. There were so many folks who stepped up and got involved in our Bible School and the results were incredible. I am reminded of the many stories in the Bible where people accepted the call and lives were changed including the one called to serve. I'm sure each of you have experienced this in your own life. I know I have and sometimes it was after I acted like Jonah and tried to ignore or flee God's call. I have told this story before but I am reminded of it when I hear of people who were at first the reluctant servant.

In February of 1996 I was walking through the church hallway downstairs when Boni asked me if I would be interested in going along as a male leader to Reach Workcamp that summer. Two years earlier Carol Groff and Kim Bandy had taken several girls to Reach Workcamp in Tennessee. That coming summer some boys were also interested in going and they needed a male leader to go along. I said I would think about it but as I walked down the hallway I still remember thinking there is no way I am taking a weeks vacation to go work in the hot sun during the day with a bunch of teenagers and then sleep on a classroom floor at night. That wasn't my idea of a vacation. I'm not sure exactly how God changed my mind but 2 weeks later I told Boni I would do it and then I went for the next 13 summers and loved each and every trip. I am so glad that God called me to go with the youth and serve with Reach Workcamps. It also reminds me that God has a sense of humor because I'm sure He looked down on me in that hallway and laughed saying, yes you are going to go and you are going to love it.

Everyone has different gifts and no one is called to do everything but everyone is called to do something. I challenge each of you as well as myself to always be open to God's will and His leading to serve Him by serving others in whatever way He may call you to do.

1st Peter 4:10,11
Blessings
Dan

REFLECTIONS

by Barry Girvin

QUIZ

- _____ 1. The proprietor of the Green Tree Inn during the Revolutionary War period was:
A. Robert Bailey C. Robert Thompson
B. Jacob Bare D. James Fulton
- _____ 2. The director of "The Surprising Christmas Pageant" during the 275th anniversary celebration was:
A. Dave Garver C. John Girvin
B. Edie Baldwin D. Rose Griest
- _____ 3. Which of the following was never president of the Octorara Covenanter Presbyterian Foundation?
A. Madison McElwain C. Jeff Alexander
B. Fred Williams D. Barry Girvin
- _____ 4. Who wrote the majority of the Minutes for History during the 250th anniversary celebration?
A. Dick Keene C. Dan Henry
B. Rev. Robert Tanguy D. Dorothy Beyer
- _____ 5. Who was the catcher on the Middle Octorara softball team that played at the Buck during the early 1960s?
A. Abe Rhoads C. Bill Wilson
B. Roy Henry D. Parke Prange
- _____ 6. Which of the following wrote poetry that was published in church anniversary publications?
A. Dan Henry and Barry Girvin C. Sam Reinhart and Dan Henry
B. Sam Reinhart and Ginny Shea Landis D. Rose Tanguy and Dick Keene
- _____ 7. Which of the following veterans was in both the 2002 and 2026 Memorial Day photos?
A. Rev. Douglas Hileman C. Jean Emery Bevan
B. Seth Hoffman D. Paul Girvin
- _____ 8. Which of the following is NOT true?
A. Georgetown was once known as Hardscrabble
B. Georgetown was named for George Washington
C. The post office in Georgetown was named Bart because there was already a Georgetown post office in Beaver County, PA
D. Bart Township was named for an abbreviation of the royal title of Sir William Keith (Baronet, abbreviated to Bart)

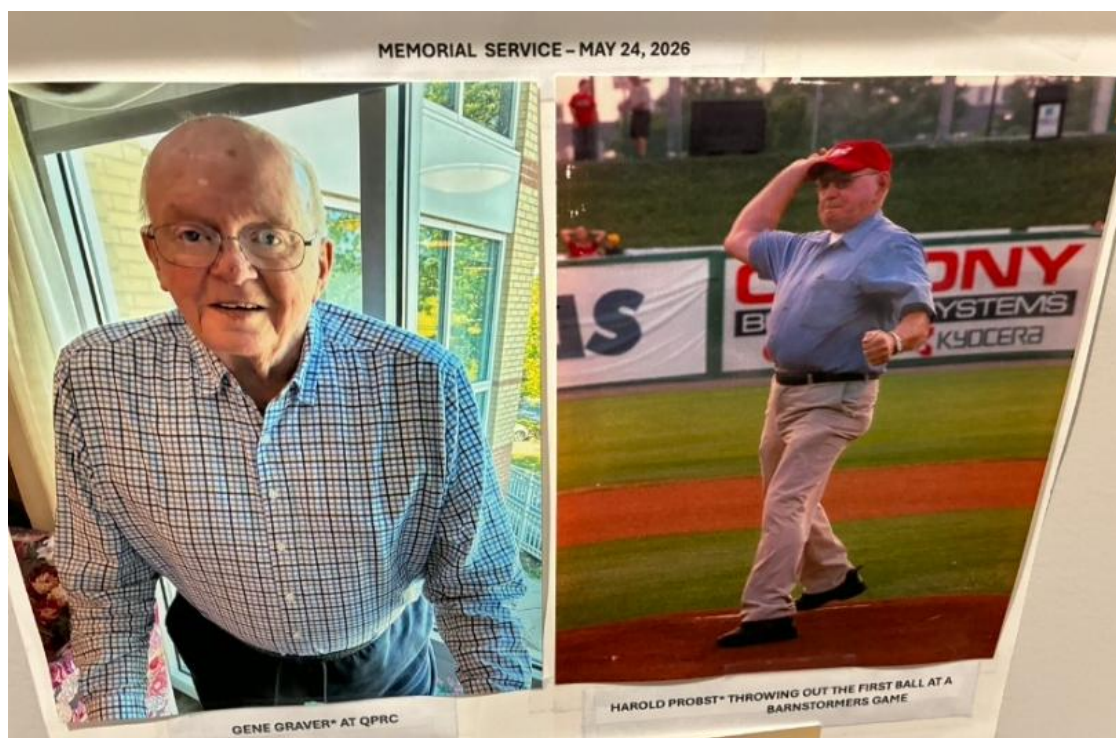
CORRECTION FROM JUNE NEWSLETTER

The picture below had the first veteran named incorrectly and is now corrected.



Mike Weaver, Dick Keene, Roger Harvey, Paul Girvin, Wes Girvin, Bob Mowery and Dave Garver

Gene Graver and Harold Probst are also veterans but were unable to attend the Veteran's Service.



Middle Octorara Presbyterian
Church
**Income and Expense
Statement**
**GENERAL FUND 01, June
2026**

07/02/2026 11:01 AM

BEGINNING BALANCE, June 1, 2026		18,470.99
INCOME		
Offerings	\$10,860.00	
Manse Rent	1,408.95	
Account Interest	0.17	
Soc..Hall Rent 1/2 to MOPW	150.00	
Chapel Rent	150.00	
Benevolence	925.00	
TOTAL INCOME	<u>13,494.12</u>	
TOTAL CASH & INCOME		31,965.11
EXPENSES		
Pastoral Salary	\$6,082.54	
Pastoral Mileage	532.88	
Pastoral Pension	2,403.58	
Pastoral Technology	50.00	
Secretary-Treasurer	864.00	
Payroll Taxes	50.75	
Technology	58.82	
Advertising	31.84	
Office Supplies	130.99	
Church Supplies	96.77	
Copier Lease	120.32	
Electricity	295.79	
Insurance	3,141.21	
Telephone/internet	118.40	
Cleaning Service	412.50	
Upkeep of Grounds	1,979.01	
Special Music Payments	120.00	
Tsfr. Session Benev. Fund	925.00	
Transfer to MOPW	75.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>17,489.40</u>	
ENDING BALANCE, June 30, 2026		14,475.71

TREASURER'S REPORT

GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES - June 2026

The following is the individual weekly breakdown of offerings:

June 7 -	General Fund	3,451.00	Benevolence	465.00
June 14 -	General Fund	1,699.00	Benevolence	180.00
June 21 -	General Fund	2,279.00	Benevolence	190.00
June 28 -	General Fund	881.00	Benevolence	90.00

An additional \$4,259.12 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	15,373.60	99,928.40	12,569.12	86,609.20	98,325.33
Benevolence	953.84	6,199.96	925.00	5,640.00	

***This includes an \$11,268.58 C/D**

Treasurer's notes: As I expected our expenses exceeded our income for the month of June. I will be requesting ½ of the payment that the Cemetery Fund pays towards the yearly mowing expense which will help in July, but we are getting close to having to transfer money from other funds to meet the General operating expenses of the church. I need between \$12,000 - \$13,000 by the 10th of the month to pay the regular expenses. With never knowing what the first offering will be I need to start the month off with enough to pay these bills. Again, the two main causes of this are the yearly increase in expenses and members passing away or life changes affecting their ability to continue their giving.



Submitted by Kathy Harvey

Try to figure out the saying/word that is being described by the pictures.

1. Sand

2. Man
Board

3. Stand
I

4. R / E / A / D / I / N / G

5. Wear
Long

6. R
R o a d
a
d

7. Cycle
Cycle
Cycle

8. T
o
w
n

9. 0
BA
BS
MS

10. $\frac{i}{O}$ $\frac{i}{O}$

11. Chair

12. T
o
u
c
h

13. Ground
Feet
Feet
Feet
Feet
Feet
Feet

14. Mind
Matter

15. ECNALG

Answers are on the bottom of page 11.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 5	July 6	July 7 Session Mtg. 6:40 p.m.	July 8 ROMEO Club 9:30 a.m. Prayer 4 p.m.	July 9	July 10	July 11
July 12	July 13	July 14 Trustee Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	July 15 ROMEO Club 9:30 a.m. Prayer 4 p.m.	July 16	July 17	July 18
July 19	July 20	July 21	July 22 ROMEO Club 9:30 a.m. Silver Sisters 11:30 a.m. Prayer 4 p.m.	July 23	July 24	July 25
July 26	July 27	July 28	July 29 ROMEO Club 9:30 a.m. Prayer 4 p.m.	July 30	July 31	Aug. 1

1. Sand Box 2. Man Overboard 3. I understand 4. Reading between the lines 5. Long underwear 6. Crossroad
 7. Tricycle 8. Downtown 9. Three degrees below zero 10. Circle under eyes 11. High chair 12. Touchdown
 13. Six feet under the ground 14. Mind over matter 15. Backward glance

