

# **MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

## **June 2025 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

*In his book, Mere Christianity, C. S. Lewis compares the result of having Christ in our lives to having salt on food. "Far from killing the taste of the egg, the tripe, and the cabbage," he writes, "it actually brings it out. They do not show their real taste until you've added the salt. It is something like that with Christ and us. The more we get what we now call ourselves out of the way, and let him take us over, the more truly we become ourselves. In that sense, our real selves are all waiting for us in him."*

*The world defines freedom and self-fulfillment as doing what we want. God defines it as just the opposite: living for him and for others at his direction. Reference the two great commandments: loving God with our whole selves (heart, soul, mind, and strength) and our neighbors as ourselves. Or even better, reference the one great commandment: loving others as Christ has first loved us. The Apostle Paul says in Galatians 5:1,13, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Do not use your freedom to indulge your sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love." God created us in love, for love, to serve him and others with all that he has built into us. He is in the process of redeeming us in Christ, saving us from sin and self, restoring us to our original purpose.*

*It doesn't happen overnight. It takes a lifetime. But it is the best pursuit any of us can have, dying to self more and more, and trusting Jesus, our Lord and Savior, to live in us. We all have differing gifts to share, we all have different spheres of influence, people whose lives God wants us to impact for him. I continue to be amazed and delighted by the many food flavors God is bringing out through the salt of the gospel, and the powerful ways MO is acting as light and salt in the world. I am blessed to be your pastor.*

## CHURCH LIFE

**DEACONS** - Can you imagine being alone, completely by yourself, without a friend in the world? Sadly, that is the experience of many people. In addition to the social isolation, there is the knowledge and the practical reality that if you should need help, it will not be forthcoming. So, add to loneliness, anxiety. In the body of Christ, we are never on our own. We have each other for companionship and support. No one expresses this better than our Deacons, who connect us in ways large and small. Thank you, Deacons! And may MO continue to be a community in Christ where everyone belongs and is cared for.

**MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN** - The women will hold a meeting today following the worship service. All who are interested in helping with their projects are welcome.

**MISSIONS** - Our mission emphasis for June is New Hope. We are glad to be able to support them in the wonderful work they do for the community.

**SILVER SISTERS** - Silver Sisters had a busy month. Nine of us went to Jukebox Generations at The Magic and Wonder Theater with lunch and musical show. Lots of fun!!

Then another day, ten of us went to the New Holland Family Restaurant for lunch. We eat well with lots of conversation. We keep learning new things about each other.

Our next get-together is on Wednesday June 18 at 11:30 we are having lunch at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse on Plaza Blvd. at Park City. We like to try new places together. All widows are welcome.

### SUMMER MUSIC

June 15 - Paisley Dalmas – Piano

June 22 - Jayne Zook and Emily Irwin

June 29 - Brandon Lefevre and Rose Griest

July 6 - Rick Rineer - Keyboards

**TRUSTEES** - If you haven't seen the brightened-up social hall, hallway, and stairway, make sure to go look at it. Wagner Painting did a great job with needed repairs and painting.

Rose got to the church one morning and wondered what the big holes were in the flowerbeds. It didn't take long to realize that the neighbor's cows were out and were stomping in the beds and leaving a large stream of manure right in front of the steps to the welcome center. Rose texted all the Trustees to see if anyone was available with a pressure washer to come clean up the mess. Fortunately, Herb offered to come take care of it.

Rose had also texted the Trustees before and after the painting, to clear out the social hall and then to put things back. Willing workers were helpful to complete the jobs. Please remember to thank your Trustees for things they do.

We always have future projects that we discuss at the meetings.

**VBS** - We're goin' on a Road Trip with God the week of June 16-20. There are classes for children, ages 3 through grade 5. Also Tami Shaub will hold a class for students with special needs (of all ages). Class begins at 6 PM and ends at 8:30 PM. Our mascot, Scout will lead us as we learn more about Jesus along the way.

Invite the children you know to join us. On the last day, June 20 the students will be doing a closing program for parents and friends, followed by a meal in the Social Hall.

## MISSION MUSINGS

On Saturday June 7 at 4 pm we will host a Community Meal with picnic food. Hamburgers, Hotdogs, wings, ice cream, watermelon and other goodies will be on the menu. Donations will be accepted to help support Meals On Wheels. Meals on Wheels is a ministry that delivers meals to shut ins at a very low cost.

On Sunday June 15 we will celebrate Father's Day and Communion during the Worship Service.

June 16 we will kick off our 2025 week of Bible School. The theme this year will be "Road Trip". The Joyfully Made Fellowship students will join us again this year. Along with Scout our adventurous puppy everyone will have fun learning more about God and how He is always with us no matter we are.

Boni and I hope our puppy Yogi will be able to join Scout and all the students for an evening or two as well. Remember we may say it's the lazy, hazy days of summer but every day is a great day to share the love of Jesus with others through our words and deeds.

Joshua 1:9  
Blessings, Dan

## REFLECTIONS

by Barry Girvin

### *I Resent Being Written Off*

A Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) blood test is used to detect prostate cancer or an enlarged prostate. Results are reported in numbers – the lower the better. A high number results in having a biopsy of the prostate as a second check for cancer. I have been through that process three times with no positive results, although on one occasion Lancaster General wasn't sure, so they sent the specimen to John Hopkins for confirmation. In my seventies, I accepted the following statements as truth. By your seventies you do not need a PSA test. If you develop prostate cancer, a slow growing cancer, something else will probably kill you before the prostate cancer does.

Therefore, I was shocked to learn that former President Biden, a man three years younger than I, has aggressive prostate cancer that has already spread to his bones. I was even more shocked to learn that he had not had a PSA for eleven years, in spite of a family history of cancer. I always thought that the presidents got the best of medical advice and care.

I resent being written off based on a myth accepted as a truth. Even if that myth is true for a high percent of people, it is still a lie. In my case, it would be a shame to die of prostate cancer after surviving several other serious medical problems.

Thus I called my Urologist and demanded a PSA. I had the test today, May 28. The result was well within the acceptable level. Wonderful! Am I paranoid? Probably, but that is how I manage my healthcare.

### **A View from the pew!**

A Fathers Prayer:  
Dear Lord, So far today, am I doing alright?  
I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy,  
grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent.  
I have not whined, complained, cursed, or drank any beer.  
I have charged nothing on my credit card.  
But I will be getting out of bed in a minute, and I think  
that I will really need your help then.

Middle Octorara Presbyterian  
Church  
**Income and Expense Statement**  
**GENERAL FUND 01, May 2025**

BEGINNING BALANCE, May 1, 2025		<b>2,123.82</b>
INCOME		
Offerings	\$7,857.00	
Manse Rent	1,362.45	
Account Interest	0.06	
Chapel Rent	100.00	
<b>CD Cashed</b>	<b>10,677.22</b>	
Benevolence	880.00	
One Great Hour of Sharing	201.50	
TOTAL INCOME	<u>21,078.23</u>	
 TOTAL CASH & INCOME		 <b>23,202.05</b>
EXPENSES		
Pastoral Salary	\$6,026.73	
Pastoral Mileage	408.10	
Pastoral Pension	2,507.73	
Pastoral Technology	50.00	
Secretary-Treasurer	891.00	
Accountant Fees	90.00	
Payroll Taxes	53.72	
Technology	87.00	
Safety/Security	720.00	
Advertising	39.80	
Office Supplies	309.85	
Church Supplies	148.93	
Printing Exp/Supplies	125.28	
Copier Lease	120.32	
Choir Music- Senior	170.00	
Electricity	293.73	
Burner Repairs/maint.	142.00	
Plumbing Repairs/Maint.	384.24	
Telephone/internet	104.53	
Cleaning Service	435.00	
Upkeep of Grounds	1,979.01	
Pest Control	177.38	
Trash Removal	516.04	
Guest Minister/Speaker	361.60	
1 Grt.Hr.Shr.Payment	201.50	
Tsfr. Session Benev. Fund	880.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>17,223.49</u>	
 ENDING BALANCE, May 31, 2025		 <b>5,978.56</b>

## GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES - May 2025

The following is the individual weekly breakdown of offerings:

May 4 -	General Fund	3,388.00	Benevolence	450.00
May 11 -	General Fund	1,574.00	Benevolence	80.00
May 18 -	General Fund	1,295.00	Benevolence	125.00
May 25 -	General Fund	820.00	Benevolence	105.00

An additional \$2,444.01 General Fund money, cashed C/D \$10,677.22 and \$120.00 Benevolence money was received by mail etc.

## YTD GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES

	Monthly Budget	YTD Budget	Monthly Received	YTD Received	YTD Expenses
General Fund	14,531.36	76,289.64	20,198.23	75,915.31	80,480.37
Benevolence	953.84	5,007.66	880.00	5,178.00	



### June birthday's

12 – Andy Keene  
13 – Theresa Williams  
30 – Tami Shaub

### June anniversaries

18 – Gene & Shirley Graver  
26 – John & Cheryl  
28 – Virgil & Brenda Roark

### July birthday's through 7<sup>th</sup>

4 – Beth Messick

### July anniversaries through 7<sup>th</sup>

2 – Ken & Dottie Garver



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



ALEXANDRITE

BARBECUE

D-DAY

DIPLOMA

FATHER'S DAY

FLAG DAY

GARDEN

GEMINI

GRADUATION

HONEYSUCKLE

JUNE

JUNETEENTH

LEMONADE

LONGEST DAY

OUTDOORS

PEARL

PICNIC

ROSE

SOLSTICE

STRAWBERRY

SUMMER

THIRTY DAYS

VACATION

WEDDING





# FATHER'S DAY WORD SCRAMBLE

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ERHO	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
EKSOJ	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
ULVESA	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
REVBA	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
PYHPA	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
ADDDY	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
PDURO	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
TBES	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
SPTRCEE	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
VOLE	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
TRSGNO	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
ERRUTNU	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
REPNTSE	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
NPRAET	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
FAMILYI	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
SIFGT	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
EDIFRN	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
DRANAPG	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
NCRAGI	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
EPICSLA	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>



EVERY SNACK  
YOU MAKE  
EVERY MEAL  
YOU BAKE  
EVERY BITE  
YOU TAKE  
I'LL BE WATCHING YOU



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

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

## **CONTACT INFORMATION FOR REV. JOHN BARLOW**

Address: 433 W. Lincoln Ave  
Myerstown, PA 17067

Cellphone: 717-377-4570  
Email: [barlowjohn604@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:mopc_sec@comcast.net)  
**Website:** [middleoctorara.org](http://middleoctorara.org)  
**Facebook:** middle octorara

**Church Secretary/Treasurer** Debbie Hoover  
**Phone:** 717-786-8284  
**Email:** [thehoovers@comcast.net](mailto:thehoovers@comcast.net) or [mopc\\_sec@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:mopc_av@comcast.net)

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

**Personnel Committee:**  
2023-2025- Brenda Roark  
2024-2026- J Barry Girvin  
2025-2027- Sue Ressel

### **CHURCH BOARDS**

#### **Session**

***Clerk of Session:*** Dan Henry  
**Phone:** 717-381-9947  
**Email:** [danhenny55@aol.com](mailto:danhenny55@aol.com)  
2023-2025-Joan Probst, Sue Ressel, Brenda Roark  
2024-2026-Shirley Girvin, Richard Keene, Jonathan Welch  
2025-2027-Vivian Caldwell, Dan Henry, Jerry Garver

#### **Deacons**

***Administrator:*** Pastor John Barlow  
**Phone:** 717-377-4570  
**mail:** [barlowjohn604@gmail.com](mailto:barlowjohn604@gmail.com)  
2023-2025-Annie Frackman, Dottie Garver, Kathy Harvey, Cathy Miller  
2024-2026-Kim Barlow, Dixie Clark, Linda Farmer, Sue Herr  
2025-2027-Koryn Barrett, Andy Keene, Val Keene, Elaine Ressel

#### **Trustees**

***President:*** Jeff Frackman  
**Phone:** 717-989-6896  
2023-2025-Rose Griest, Boni Henry, Sam Reinhart  
2024-2026-Jeff Frackman, Herb Girvin, Nancy Minchoff  
2025-2027-Bob Mowery, Dale Phillips, Rick Ressel