MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 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

Tailgating is high on my list of pet peeves. There are a number of bumper stickers designed to discourage the practice. Some are quite humorous. Here is a sampling: "Tailgating ME does NOT make the car five cars up go faster" "Back off or I'll deploy your airbag" "Sorry I'm slow – I left on time" "Are your reflexes good? I wanna try something" "Sorry for driving so close in front of you" "How is my driving? 1(800) BAC-KOFF" "I have good brakes. Do you have good insurance?" "Caution I brake for red lights" "Only you can prevent tailgating" and, of course, the classic "The closer you get, the slower I go."

I saw a new one the other day that sparked my interest. (I should point out that I was able to read it because I pulled up behind a stopped car at a red light.) It was in the form of a decal and it read "Do you follow Jesus this closely?" There were other Christian themed decals around it.

As followers of Jesus, our behavior and our words need to be in keeping with the gospel. We are called to demonstrate to all around us the difference that our Lord and Savior is making in us. Paul says in Philippians 1:27, "conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ." In Colossians 4:6 he says, "Let your conversation be always full of grace." Peter says in 1 Peter 1:15, "Just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do." In 1 Peter 2:12 he says, "Live such good lives among unbelievers that they may see your good deeds and glorify God."

Does this include how we drive, and how we respond to the driving of others? It includes everything. Every day we have limitless opportunities to discredit our Savior or lift him up in the eyes of others. May we more and more make the good choice.

CHURCH LIFE

CHOIR - It's hard to believe but we are already practicing Christmas music!! Since we want to really know the songs that we sing, we practice them many weeks in a row before singing them in church. And we like to mix in old favorites too. It's great to have another male voice in the back row. Middle Octorara is a blessing to us and we hope the music blesses you too.

DEACONS - Everywhere I go in my pastoral rounds the people I visit say, "Just look at all those cards I received from church," or, "Thank you for the card." They are crowding the tops of bureaus or buffets, or often taped on a wall. I report this because you all need to know how effective the card ministry of our Deacons and others is, and how much it is appreciated. And, think of it, this is only one of several powerful ministries of our faithful Deacons. Well done, good and faithful servants!

MIDDLE OCTORARA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN - We had another sandwich sale which is the biggest one of the year. The profits go towards buying Christmas presents for Ware residents, gift baskets for fundraisers for local charities, or the needs of less fortunate. All women of the church are welcome to be active members of MOPW.

SILVER SISTERS - A group of Silver Sisters had lunch at Dienner's this month. Lots of good food and good conversation. We always enjoy being together. Our next lunch is November 11 @ 11:30 at Dutchway Restaurant. All widows are welcome.

TRUSTEES - Put November 7 on your calendar so you remember it's church work day. As I said last month, there are inside jobs as well. One project is to thoroughly wash the chairs and tables. And it will take a lot of hands. Of course this is the time we clean out the flowerbeds too. So bring your tarps, trash cans, rakes, loppers etc. There are some wild trees coming up in the shrubs that will need to be cut out too. The rain date is November 14.
It's important to continue donating to the building fund. That money helps when we have repairs that need done, and with bills that come in.

FRONT PAGE LOCATION – *The front page is at Ott's Exotic Plants, 861 Gravel Pike, Schwenksville, PA 19473. This is a chrysanthemum mountain that has been there for over 100 years. There is no cost to stop and see this beautiful display. There is a walking tunnel that goes under it and also steps to go to the top of the outside. You can also purchase mums, pumpkins and plants in their greenhouse, but there is no cost to stop and see it. Mike and I visited it on Wednesday, and it will be pretty for at least another week.* (It brings back a lot of memories for me. My parents, grandparents Frackman and me, Jeff and brother Harry piled in our 1970 Chevrolet Impala and made the trip to enjoy this many times. Then after Travis was born the 3 of us would pack a lunch and make the trip and sit in our vehicle eating our lunch enjoying the beautiful sight).



Birthday's
5 – Craig Bance
11 – Travis Hoover, Troyanna Miller
14 – Dan Henry, Kathy Harvey
16 – Stephanie Miller
18 – Jodie Mylin
19 – Ken Garver
20 – Gertie Rineer
21 – Dixie Clark
23 – Melissa Cannon
26 – Barry Wallace
28 – Kay Trout

Anniversaries
8 – Dan & Boni Henry
Rick & Elaine Ressel
14 – Wayne & Beth Messick

REFLECTIONS

by Barry Girvin

Returning to the Old Cemetery

In my October Reflection, I mentioned how Col. James Thompson and his wife, Lydia Bailey Thompson, had nine children who died young. The inscriptions on the tombstones from the 1700s and 1800s speak of the sorrow involved in burying a child.

Infant daughter of
Andrew & Margaret J.
Beyer
Sleep sweet babe
And take thy rest
God called thee home
He thought it best

Lived
CLARA
daughter of
Frank and Lydia Chalfant
Died Aug. 17, 1859
Aged 2 months & 21 days
On wings of love she soared away
To the home beyond the skies.

Early
LIZZIE REED
daughter of
Frank & Lydia
died Sept. 30, 1863
aged 1 year
We miss her but in Paradise
Another angel is born.

Other inscriptions tell of several children in the same family dying about the same time. A number of infectious diseases took their toll.

There were those who died of yellow jaundice soon after birth. This was probably due to RH incompatibility which was identified in 1939.

On the other hand, there were some who lived into their 80s and 90s.

In
Memory of
DANIEL RUSSELL
Died March 26, 1817
Aged 73 years, 7 mo. & 4 days
Also
SARAH RUSSELL
Wife of Daniel Russell
Died Feb. 14th, 1867
Aged 91 years

Record keepers tell us life expectancy in the late 1700s and the early 1800s was 40. This was an average brought down by so many children dying. The truth is that if you were a man and lived to age 21, or a woman who survived her child bearing years, you had a good chance to live a long life.

The inscriptions on the stones in the Old Cemetery read like the pages of Longfellow poetry. Here are a few that touch the heart and may even bring a smile.

Our Mother
MARY J. JOHNSON
Wife of Andrew J. Johnson
Born March 8, 1834
Died Jan. 9, 1887
Aged 52 years, 10 mo. &
1 day
Dear Mother thou art gone to rest
Thy toils and cares are o'er
And sorrow, pain and suffering now
Shall ne'er distress thee more.

In memory of
JAMES ARMSTRONG
who departed this life
June 2, 1866
Aged 62 years,7 months & 18 days

Think of me as you pass by
As you are now, so once was I.
As I am now, soon you will be
Prepare for death and follow me.

HANNAH
wife of
John Martin M.D.
Died June 29th, 1873
Aged 48 years, 6 months
and 14 days
She has done what she could.

Then there is the grave of James S. Brown, Gentle Jimmy Brown, who is the subject of today's Minute for History.

MISSION MUSINGS

Our Monthly Mission Focus ministries for November are Oaks Ministry and Southern End Gift Drive.
Oaks Ministry is headquartered in Oxford and seeks to provide women with compassionate hope filled support designed to help women heal, grow and thrive. They provide comprehensive Christ centered support services. They provide safe housing, meals, counseling and many other services that help women through difficult times. We are pleased to help support this local worthwhile ministry.

Our other Mission Focus for November is the Southern End Gift Drive. This is organized by Avery Hill the Solanco School District social worker and provides Christmas gifts for Solanco students who might not otherwise receive any Christmas gifts. Last year they provided gifts to over 300 students. Once again this year M. O. will host this wonderful event. Starting December 7 our social hall will be turned into a room filled with awesome gifts for parents to choose for their children on Friday December 11. We are pleased to help support this ministry and thankful that God led them to use our building to bring Christmas cheer and happiness to many students. Please pray that as folks enter our church building they will feel welcome and they will know someone cares about them and that most of all God cares for them and knows each one of them as His child.
Please pray for these ministries as they help people in our community.

Also an update on our newest outreach in Peru. As many of you know our Mission Committee voted and Session approved to donate $8,000.00 from the Peru Mission Fund to provide anti parasite medicine and vitamins to Tamshiyacu and Santa Clare for 2026 & 2027. The parasite medicine will be distributed semi annually and the vitamins monthly. The total cost is approximately $16,000.00 and 1st Pres Jefferson City is also contributing $8000.00. What a huge blessing this will be to so many people in those two villages. We are thankful for the blessings from God to us that we can share with others.

1st Chronicles 29:14
Blessings, Dan Henry

10/30/2026 12:33 PM

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

BEGINNING BALANCE, October 1, 2026		**9,404.36**
INCOME		
Offerings	$8,467.00	
Manse Rent	1,408.95	
***CD Cashed**	**6,991.11**	
Benevolence	790.00	
TOTAL INCOME	17,657.06	
TOTAL CASH & INCOME		**27,061.42**
EXPENSES		
Pastoral Salary	$6,082.54	
Pastoral Mileage	1,785.24	
Pastoral Pension	2,707.00	
Pastoral Technology	50.00	
Secretary-Treasurer	822.00	
Clerical/Treasurer Mileage	140.60	
Payroll Taxes	53.19	
Advertising	71.64	
Office Supplies (Qtrly Number of Copies Made/Stamps)	522.30	
Church Supplies	150.36	
Copier Lease	120.32	
Church Envelopes (2027 Offering Envelopes)	255.85	
Choir Music- Senior	4.99	
Electricity	418.09	
Misc. Repairs/Mainten. (Martin's Freezers/Fire Suppression System checked)	436.08	
Telephone/internet	118.80	
Cleaning Service	495.00	
Upkeep of Grounds	1,979.01	
Pest Control	218.00	
Tsfr. Session Benev. Fund	790.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	17,221.01	
ENDING BALANCE, October 31, 2026		**9,840.41**

(*Cashed a C/D to cover shortage in income)

TREASURER'S REPORT

GENERAL FUND & BENEVOLENCE FINANCES - October 2026

The following is the individual weekly breakdown of offerings:

October 4 -	General Fund	3,950.00	Benevolence	455.00
October 11 -	General Fund	1,093.00	Benevolence	65.00
October 18 -	General Fund	1,706.00	Benevolence	150.00
October 25 -	General Fund	1,543.00	Benevolence	120.00

An additional $8,575.06 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	165,266.20	**16,867.06	**148,320.08**	164,671.51
Benevolence	953.84	10,253.78	790.00	9,475.00	

***This includes two C/D's totaling - $18,259.69**

**This includes a C/D 6,991.11

Our expenses continue to exceed our income. I cashed another C/D this month. This is the second time this year I cashed a C/D to make up for the shortage in the General Fund. We also started the year with a balance of $26,191.84 and that has been spent also. YTD that total is a $44,451.53 shortage in the General Fund. I am anticipating needing more to finish the year.



THANKSGIVING WORD SCRAMBLE

1. pearad _____
2. erwolyfMa _____
3. ornc _____
4. nebairresrc_____
5. rovbNeme _____
6. gmsirpli _____
7. lbfaloto _____
8. opeostat _____
9. tknafulh _____
10. yrkteu _____
11. liyamf _____
12. tsufnifg _____
13. eafts _____
14. inrden _____
15. nieipmkupp _____

ClassyMommy.com





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Subject to change)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov. 1	Nov. 2	Nov. 3 Session Mtg. 6:40 p.m.	Nov. 4 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Choir practice 7:00 p.m.	Nov. 5	Nov. 6 Forged in Fire 6:30 p.m.	Nov. 7 Church cleanup day
Nov. 8	Nov. 9	Nov. 10 Trustee Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	Nov. 11 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Silver Sisters 11:30 a.m. Choir practice 7:00 p.m.	Nov. 12	Nov. 13 Forged in Fire 6:30 p.m.	Nov. 14
Nov. 15	Nov. 16	Nov. 17 Mom's Connect 6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Nov. 18 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Choir practice 7:00 p.m.	Nov. 19	Nov. 20 Forged in Fire 6:30 p.m.	Nov. 21
Nov. 22 Extend a Blessing	Nov. 23	Nov. 24	Nov. 25 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Choir practice 7:00 p.m.	Nov. 26	Nov. 27 Forged in Fire 6:30 p.m.	Nov. 28
Nov. 29 Congregation Mtg. after church	Nov. 30	Dec. 1	Dec. 2 ROMEO Club 9:00 a.m. Choir practice 7:00 p.m.	Dec. 3	Dec. 4	Dev. 5