

Christian Reporter

Mt. Lebanon Christian Church

January 2022

The New Year is upon us and we say good-bye to 2021. New Year's is a good time to reflect on the past and look to the future. It is an especially good time to reflect on our spiritual health. Here are a few questions on which to reflect.

Are you growing spiritually?
What is your spiritual priority?
What helps you in your spiritual growth?
What area(s) do you need to work on?
Is your spirituality and growth a priority in your life?

These are important questions. If our spiritual growth is a priority, then how are we living it out in our lives? Are you making room for Jesus?

There are many spiritual practices that one can use in our quest for spiritual growth, along with worship and Bible Study. If you are interested in these practices, let me know and I will share some with you.

My hope and prayer is that this year will be a year that we all continue to grow in our faith. Let's explore together. Thank you for your wonderful gift to me this Christmas. It is deeply appreciated. We have a great congregation of people/community of faith. We are blessed!

Blessings and Happy New Year!

Cindy

Mt. Lebanon Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
367 Cedar Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
412-531-8554
www.mtlebocc.org

PASTOR: THE REVEREND DR.
CINDY McCLUNG

WORSHIP
WITH US



CAYA (Contemporary) Worship 9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM



PLEASE JOIN US!



January Worship Leaders

- 2- Chuck Sargent
- 9 - John Crist
- 16 - Dan Wahl
- 23 - Jeff Hawn
- 30 - Verna McGinley

VISION STATEMENT

God's vision for Mt. Lebanon Christian Church (DOC) is that we be a Christ-centered church; growing in faith through prayer, worship, and Bible study; growing in service through outreach; growing in love through Fellowship.

The correct phone number for Barbara Jenkins is
979-482-1475

MT. LEBANON CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

A Church Alive with the Holy Spirit!
367 Cedar Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
Office: (412) 531- 8554
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"Every Member Is A Minister"

Cindy McClung
John McCarty
John Crist
Chuck Bieri
Joyce Lackey

Pastor
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Director of Music
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Get Your Newsletter Online

Anyone who wants to receive their Newsletter online just needs to let the secretary know.



The advantages are:

- You get your Newsletter as soon as it is approved, not 3 or 4 days later
- Your Newsletter is in full color
- The Church saves money on ink, paper and postage
- Your Newsletter will not come torn and tattered from the mail

If you want to try it let Joyce know by calling the church, email, churchoffice@mtlebocc.org, or leave a note on her desk. If you decide that you don't like it, contact Joyce again and you will be put back on the mailing list.



MISSION AND IDENTITY GROUP

The former Book Discussion Group that met in the Fall to discuss Rev. Cletus Hull's book, "The Call," completed its review of the book in December. Because the discussion became so stimulating to the members regarding applying the issues presented in the book to the needs of MLCC, the group decided to continue meeting in January.

Therefore, the group will transition to the MISSION AND IDENTITY GROUP. The first meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 5th, via zoom. While the original group had six participants, everyone is welcome to participate. A zoom link will be sent to everyone in January.

Rapture: One-way, all-expense-paid trip for all eternity. No baggage allowed.



Extra Giving to the Church

Consider tithing the amount you spend on Christmas gifts. Keeping this in mind also helps us think about the real reason for celebrating the season. Thanks so much for all you give and share with the ministry of our congregation as we seek to serve God in God's earthly kingdom.



Services in-Person, via Facebook Live or Free Conference Call

We will continue to film the Facebook Live services on Sunday at 9:30 and 11:00 am even though we are meeting in person now. We will also continue to use "Free Conference Call" using phone number 425-436-6348 and access code 284262#. Remember, you can view past services on our Facebook Live page by clicking [here](https://www.facebook.com/MtLebanonCC/), pick Video and select what you want to watch. (or enter this <https://www.facebook.com/MtLebanonCC/>)

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Chris Wagner
- 5 - Duane Wolff
- 6 - Geri Offenbach
- 9 - Debora Sykes
- 10 - Ed Persinger
- 16 - Lisa Schmidtetter
- 20 - Horst Riddler
Mary Jane Webb
John Crist
- 24 - Alyson Campbell
- 25 - Barbara Dillon
- 29 - Walter Ozanick



IN NEED OF PRAYER

Please contact The Elders for any prayer concerns or even just to talk. The Elders pray for those in our congregation who need prayers from those on our prayer lists and those mentioned during our worship services. If you are in need of prayer and would like to be included in our private prayer list or in the newsletter prayer list, please contact the church office or one of the Elders. Please pray for our church family, friends and neighbors. Pray for all of America and the World as we fight this COVID-19 virus.

Prayer List

Rick Fleischauer - Traumatic brain injury - nephew of Jane McCarty
Linda Carmen - healing of leg -
Audrey Houke
Dorothy Hawn
Greenawald family - Death of Dale
Jim Powell - recovery from surgery
Family of Irene Corwin - death of Irene
Art Mace
Family of Kevin Dwyer - death of Kevin
Maggie Goodwin - pain
Maggie Dwyer - broken toe
Situation in Afghanistan
Deborah Sykes - spiritual strength
Karen Newman
Family of Dave Wade - Rev. Cindy's brother-in-law
Betty Rothermel
Ed Pajak
Ron Brown
Duane Ready
Veterans and their families
Active service military

Also, please remember in your prayers our members who are homebound. Helen Butler, Connie McCarty, Ruth Schmidtetter, Lee Scott and George Hafner.

A WORD FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

I was as caught off-guard!
The unexpected message was profound,
Yet so simple!
Words heard since childhood.
How had I missed it?

*“Repent! For the Kingdom of God
Is near!”*

Words heard only in church,
By Believers!
Words not heard
On the playground
Or the workplace.

As with many religious phrases,
Familiar words are sometimes
Taken for granted.
Without thoughtful reflection.

Then it happened:
*“Repent, for the Kingdom
Of Godis near!”*

The meaning seemed clear:
*Let God be the ruler of
Your day!
Your hour!
Your moment!*
Surprisingly, repentance
Isn't a one time occurrence,
Every day our selfish path
Must be altered!

Let God - be the ruler - of your day,
That God's Kingdom
Might prevail!

`Submitted by John Crist



Tornado Victims

Mt. Lebanon Christian Church is teaming up with Week of Compassion to provide relief for tornado victims. We will be collecting monetary donations throughout January. You can give in person or online at <https://www.mtlebcc.org/fund-raising/> Please designate your gift for "US Storms," and 100% of your gift will go toward responses in tornado-affected communities.



Chuck Bieri and I would like to express our thanks and gratitude for the very generous gifts and cards we received.

I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas.

Joyce Lackey

A census taker was making his rounds in the lower East side of New York, who interviewed an Irish woman bending over her washtub. "Lady, I am taking the census. What's your name? How many children have you?" She replied, "Well, let me see. My name is Mary. And then there's Marcia, and Duggie, and Amy, and Patrick, and..." "Never mind the names," he broke in, "just give me the numbers." She straightened up, hands on hips, and with a twinkle in her eye, said, "I'll have ye know, sir, we ain't got into numberin' them yet. We ain't run out of names!" The image of God as the Good Shepherd tells us that is the way it is with God. He knows us by name.





SONGS IN THE CHURCH

Song is the one thing we most commonly enjoy amid the broad diversity of our Christian traditions. We may meet in different types of buildings; we may set our tempo at varied paces, our tone at different levels. But we all still meet on the common ground of *SONG* – and often intersect at the precise point of even singing the same songs. But I wonder if we all realize how central our song is to the release of God's divine power within, among and through us – the many – membered body of Christ's living Church. *SONG* is certainly one of mightiest means of ministry. There is a life-begetting power in music that's born of His anointing. It's found in its dual potential for "life" - both in respect to life's birthing power and its breakthrough qualities. Many have been born again as God's Word has come to them through music. How many people have experienced the broken chains of bondage to doubt or fear as they lifted their voices in praiseful song. The Church thrills and thrives, multiplies and advances on a Holy Spirit breeze of blessing that we simply call *SONG*.

The secret of song is the Church's most distinctive resource, not because music is more important than the Word or the Spirit, but because song is a means by which both can become so joyously conjoined – by ALL people of the Lord.

HE is the *Founder* of our Song, so it's to Him we come.
His Son is the *Foundation* of our Song, so it's Him we praise.
His *Spirit* is the *Fountain* of our Song, so we drink of Him.

What does the "Disciple of Christ" Mean?

Isn't it amazing how many people in our society think that everyone can win the game of life? That's because the culture tries to convince us that we can each make up our own rules as we go or that we can conveniently move the finish line when we want. As a Christian you know that isn't true. Both in example and in His saving message of salvation, Jesus sets expectations for all of us, and He extends unending love and support to help us live up to them. The best part for us He gives us many opportunities as His disciples to be an example to others of how to win the only race that counts.

DISCIPLE, WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME.....

Defend others when you see them taking heat for doing or saying something that is right.

Include the Christian perspective in conversation or discussion you have with others when appropriate.

Seek the truth of the Gospel as the only real measure of success in your *life*.

Convince your friends to join you in responding to people who are in need.

Invite people who seem excluded to church to be a part of Jesus' life.

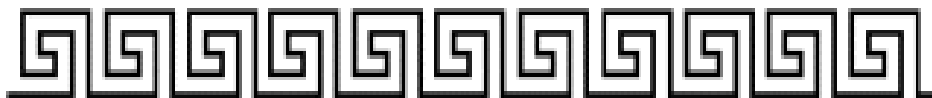
Pray every day for strength and humility to do God's will.

Love unconditionally by serving others' needs before your own.

Encourage others to get involved in activities that reflect Christ-like values.



You can't run into trouble when on your knees praying.





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January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1  New Year's Day
2 11:00 am United Service	3	4 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	5 7:00 pm Mission & Identity Group	6	7	8 Vision Team Retreat 10 - 4
9 9:30 am CAYA 11:00 am Traditional Service	10	11 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	12 7:00 pm Mission & Identity Group	13 7:00 pm Elders Mtg.	14	15
16 9:30 am CAYA 11:00 am Traditional Service	17  Martin Luther King Day 7:00 Trustee's Mtg.	18 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group 7:00 Board Mtg.	19 7:00 pm Mission & Identity Group	20	21	22
23 9:30 am CAYA 11:00 am Traditional Service	24	25 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	26 7:00 pm Mission & Identity Group	27 7:00 pm Vision Mtg	28	29
30 9:30 am CAYA 11:00 am Traditional Service	31			<div style="background-color: #007bff; color: white; padding: 10px;"> <p>What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year.</p>  </div>		