

Christian Reporter

Mt. Lebanon Christian Church

February 2022

THE GIFTS IN THE FRIES

All of us are important to the Body of Christ. Each of us has been given a gift for the use of the community of faith. This story illustrates that everyone has an important role to play.

A man goes to buy a hamburger for lunch. The young lady behind the counter asks, "Do you want fries with that?" The man answers he does. The lady gets the fries from under a hot lamp. She could not have gotten the man fries if someone had not delivered them in a truck. The truck driver could not have delivered them unless someone had grown the potatoes and taken them to market. The fries could not have been taken from market and delivered by truck unless someone had made boxes in which to ship them. The boxes would not have been available unless a plant had been built. The plant could not work without a machine, and the machine would not have been available without an engineer to design the machine. The engineer is working on the design of a machine when he notices it is noon. He drives to the nearest fast food restaurant and orders a hamburger. The lady asks, "Do you want fries with that?"

Everyone in the story is important. Some may make more money or have more prestige, but if you left out one person in that circle there would be no fries in the restaurant. If you think you don't play an important part, be assured that every part, gift and person is critical to God's plan. We need each other as we live out God's calling for our lives.

Blessings,

Cindy

Mt. Lebanon Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
367 Cedar Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
412-531-8554
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PASTOR: THE REVEREND DR.
CINDY McCLUNG

WORSHIP
WITH US



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

PLEASE JOIN US!



February Worship Leaders

- 6 - Chuck Sargent
- 13 - Verna McGinley
- 20 - Dan Wahl
- 27 - Jeff Hawn

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.



No Updates

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
- Assistant Pastor
- Board Chair
- Director of Music
- Secretary

- minister367@mtlebooc.org
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My Candygram Message



As I helped my kindergarten students read their Valentine cards from their classmates, I looked at the vase of red roses sitting on my desk. *I can't believe a guy I've never met sent me flowers*, I thought. Eric lived 150 miles away. We'd matched through an online dating service a few weeks before and had spent hours talking on the phone. Both of us single parents, we made an easy connection. Our first in-person date was scheduled for the coming weekend. Was I ready to take that step?

I'd been devastated when my first marriage fell apart, and I worried I'd get hurt again. The risk was too great. I had to text Eric to cancel. I reached for my phone, but one of my students interrupted to hand me a present. "It's a lollipop angel!" she said. Indeed she'd wrapped paper around the lollipop's "head" to form wings. On one of them, she'd written, "Love one another because love comes from God. 1 John 4:7." I kept my date with Eric.

This year, we celebrate our fifteenth Valentine's Day, happily married. Our love is definitely a gift from the sweetest angel.

Reality Assessment Group

The group discussing the book, "The Call," by Rev. Cletus Hull, last Fall found the information relating to MLCC quite relevant and helpful. Although we finished reading the book, transitioning from our initial focus hasn't been easy. From our discussion of Rev. Hull's book we have learned that it is important to understand our reality which requires research, identifying trends, and considering their impact. So the Wednesday group, formerly known as the Book Discussion Group, then the Mission and Identity group, will now be called the **Reality Assessment Group**. This means we will begin by focusing on our changing demographics to learn where our church can best be a witness for Christ in our community. In other words, what is the reality we are living in, and how can we best witness the Good News of Jesus Christ in that reality. We can no longer rely on old assumptions. If you are interested in helping us understand our reality, please join with us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. If you let me know of your interest, I will send you a link to connect through Zoom.

Thanks,
 John Crist

Advent Success

During Advent we had several activities that went well; including the Women's retreat, the outdoor Chrismon Tree and special evening, special manger scene in front of the communion table, Christmas Eve luminaries and Christmas Eve service. We also had a couple special Facebook videos that were made by Verna McGinley about the meaning of Chrismon ornaments. Thanks to all who made these events so special.



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, pick Video and select what you want to watch. (or enter this <https://www.facebook.com/MtLebanonCC/>) **Face masks are required at all Services.**



Safety?

A company trying to continue its five-year perfect safety record showed its workers a film aimed at encouraging the use of safety goggles on the job. According to Industrial Machinery News, the film's depiction of gory industrial accidents was so graphic that twenty-five workers suffered minor injuries in their rush to leave the screening room. Thirteen others fainted, and one man required seven stitches after he cut his head falling off a chair while watching the film.



Those who walk with God always reach their destination.



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

Marie Jensen - broken leg, requires surgery
Ann Peden - healing and relief from pain - Friend of Rev. Cindy
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
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 Schmidtter, Lee Scott and George Hafner.

Notes From January Board Meeting

- Rev. Cindy will be in the Holy Land from Jan 24-Feb 5th with 18 people in her group.
- Financial statements of donations for 2021 will be handed out in person on Sunday and then mailed to those who are not at church.
- The Trustees discussed purchasing new bibles.
- Plans are underway to get a video doorbell for the chapel entrance doorbell for security reasons.
- Estimates for repairs needed for Fellowship Hall are in process.
- Building maintenance and parsonage expenditures were over \$35,000 and overextended that budget by \$20,000. The Trustees moved funds from the General Fund to cover the expenses.
- We received a check for \$2,500 from insurance towards the damage in Fellowship Hall from the flooding we had last year.
- Boiler pump part for our boiler that heats the Chapel has been discontinued. Search for a replacement pump or new boiler is underway.
- John Crist will continue to lead a study group on Wednesday evenings via zoom. See article in this newsletter for more details.
- The Vision Team is now focusing on a new Mission Statement and Vision Statement for our congregation.

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.



February Outreach Winter Clothing Drive - Washington City Mission

Mt. Lebanon Christian Church is teaming up with Washington City Mission, a Christ-centered rehabilitative homeless shelter, to provide winter clothing for local men and women experiencing homelessness.

As we generously share God's warmth and hope, let's take time to PRAY for all those at City Mission.

We're collecting the following new or clean, gently used items:

- Blankets
- Glove
- Hats
- Socks

Please bring new or clean, gently used blankets to the Outreach table in the Narthex by Sunday, February 28.





MUSICAL NOTES

BY CHARLES BIERI

SONG IS....

The climate in which God Himself works in His most glorious ways as Creator – Job 38:4-7 “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone – while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?”

The companion means by which we are taught to see the Word of God enriched in its workings within our lives, in practice and purity. – Colossians 3:16-17 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

The conduit by which the soul’s night of darkness is ignited with hope and deliverance. – Job 35:10 But no one says, “Where is God my Maker, who gives songs in the night...” Psalm 32: 6-7 Therefore let everyone who is Godly pray to you while you may be found; surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him. You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

The claim of the barren, by which God says we may entertain and expect fruitfulness – Isaiah 54: 1 “Sing O barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband,” says the Lord.

The conquering instrument available when we all are outnumbered by circumstance – 2 Chronicles 20:21-22 After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise Him for the splendor of His holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying, “Give thanks to the Lord, for His love endures forever.” As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mt.Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.



Sometimes the best helping hand you can give is a good, firm push.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Elder's Corner

Thanking someone for their service has become a touching and soothing phrase to those men and women who have given up time, energy and a great part of their lives to protect their country.

You hear it all the time! You know how important it is to take care of those around you. Your little brother or sister, mom & dad and the homeless you see in the street all need care. It seems like society has forgotten to be concerned about others, they are so self-absorbed and self-centered. All want their rights but forget about others. Why is service to others so important? I know it helps them, but how does it help me? How will serving others make a difference in my life!

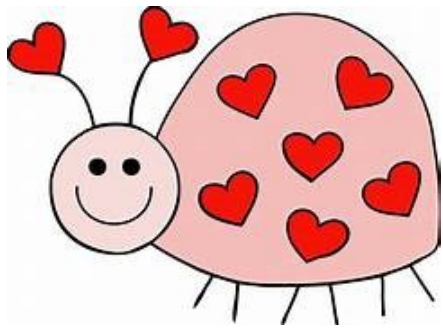
The answer is quite simple. When you decide to notice, when you decide to act, when you decide to make a difference (even in the smallest way) you have taken the first step in changing the world around you.

What’s in it for you? Your actions will not only be appreciated, but chances are they will touch the lives of both the people you meet and many people you will not meet. The greatest reward of serving others is how it makes you feel about yourself. That special feeling of God’s way of telling you “Thank you”! Thank you for caring! Thank you for making a difference in the world.

Read Matthew 25:37:-40 John 13:4-5

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Verna McGinley
- 21 - Jeff Hawn
- 26 - Barb Jenkins
- 27 - Christina Aikens
- Kayla Wolff



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February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	2 Reality Assessment Group Led by John Crist	3	4	5
6 11:00 am United Service	7	8 Program Team 7:00 pm via Zoom 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	9 Reimagining the Church in the 21st Century (via Zoom).	10 7:00 pm Elders Mtg.	11	12 Vision Meeting 10:00 am via Zoom
13 9:30 am CAYA 11:00 am Traditional Service	14  Valentine's Day	15 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	16 Reimagining the Church in the 21st Century (via Zoom)	17	18	19
20 9:30 am CAYA 11:00 am Traditional Service	21  President's Day	22 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	23 Reimagining the Church in the 21st Century (via Zoom)	24	25	26
27 9:30 am CAYA 11:00 am Traditional Service	28 Reimagining the Church in the 21st Century (via Zoom)			<p style="text-align: center;">A person is never so empty as when he is full of himself.</p> 		