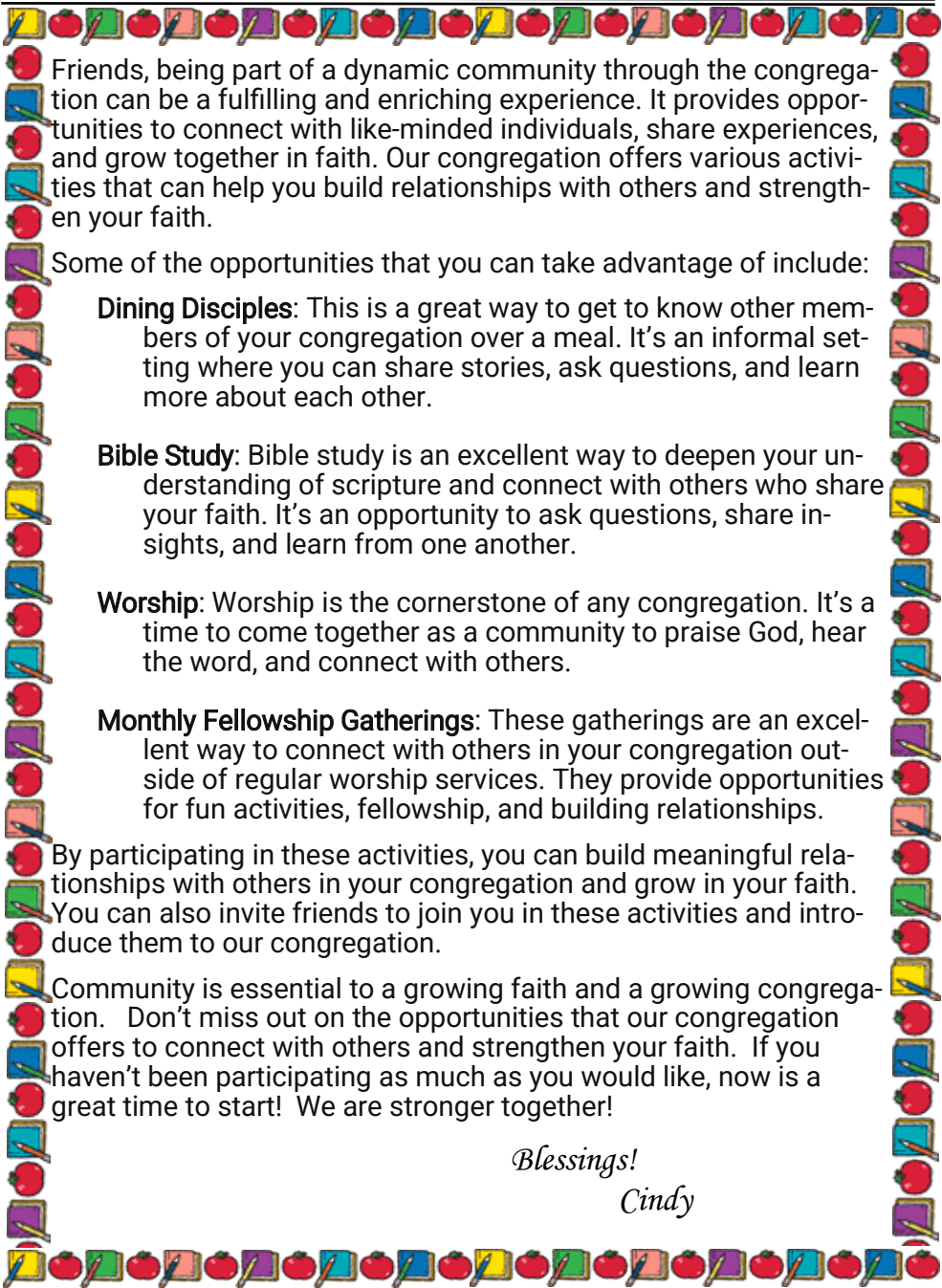


Christian Reporter

Mt. Lebanon Christian Church

September 2023



Friends, being part of a dynamic community through the congregation can be a fulfilling and enriching experience. It provides opportunities to connect with like-minded individuals, share experiences, and grow together in faith. Our congregation offers various activities that can help you build relationships with others and strengthen your faith.

Some of the opportunities that you can take advantage of include:

Dining Disciples: This is a great way to get to know other members of your congregation over a meal. It's an informal setting where you can share stories, ask questions, and learn more about each other.

Bible Study: Bible study is an excellent way to deepen your understanding of scripture and connect with others who share your faith. It's an opportunity to ask questions, share insights, and learn from one another.

Worship: Worship is the cornerstone of any congregation. It's a time to come together as a community to praise God, hear the word, and connect with others.

Monthly Fellowship Gatherings: These gatherings are an excellent way to connect with others in your congregation outside of regular worship services. They provide opportunities for fun activities, fellowship, and building relationships.

By participating in these activities, you can build meaningful relationships with others in your congregation and grow in your faith. You can also invite friends to join you in these activities and introduce them to our congregation.

Community is essential to a growing faith and a growing congregation. Don't miss out on the opportunities that our congregation offers to connect with others and strengthen your faith. If you haven't been participating as much as you would like, now is a great time to start! We are stronger together!

Blessings!

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
Assistant Pastor: The Reverend John McCarty

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM
CAVA Service at 6:00 PM

PLEASE JOIN US!

Worship
With Us



September Worship Leaders & Elders



Elders

3 - Jeff Hawn
10 - Chuck Sargent
17 - Kathy Spray
24 - Amy Angotti

Worship Leaders

3 - Verna McGinley
10 - Chuck Sargent
17 - Dan Wahl
24 - Jeff Hawn

MISSION STATEMENT

Serving Christ!

Living and Sharing Faith, Hope and Love

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.

MT. LEBANON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

A Church Alive with the Holy Spirit!

**367 Cedar Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15228**

Office: (412) 531- 8554

Fax: (412) 531- 4155

“Every Member Is A Minister”

Cindy McClung
John McCarty
Tom Spray
Joyce Lackey

Pastor
Asst. Pastor
Board Chair
Secretary

minister367@mtlebocc.org
John.mccarty@mtlebocc.org
tomspray@hotmail.com
churchoffice@mtlebocc.org

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 - John McCarty
Cathy Snyder
4 - Niko Campbell
11 - Paul Bowers
19 - Marissa Campbell
23 - Brad Montgomery
24 - Alivia Montgomery
26 - Lisa Doyle
28 - Lee Ann Wahl

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12 - Ed & Kat Persinger

Discernment Committee

In the next month or two, Mt. Lebanon Christian Church will engage in a process with New Beginnings.

New Beginnings is part of Transformational Ministries of the Disciples Extension Fund. New Beginnings will help the discernment team in looking to the future of our church.

It is a transparent and spiritual process that will help us clarify our identity as a congregation and how we can make the biggest impact in the community.

There will be opportunities for you to share in this process. Please take part in this exciting time for our congregation. Your input is so important to us. More information will be forthcoming.





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 please contact the church office.

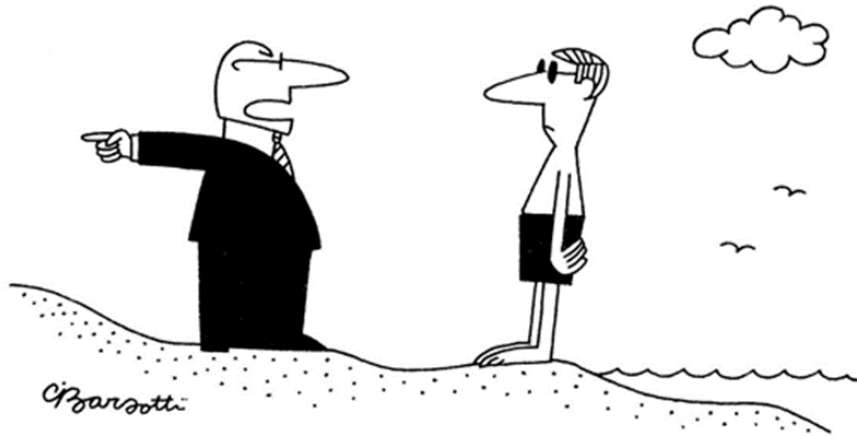
Prayer Requests: If you have requests for the prayer list to go with the announcements, please let Rev. Cindy or Pastor John know by Wednesday of each week by 4pm

- Pete - brain cancer
- Barb Smith – Healing
- Fires in Maui and Hawaii
- Fires and flooding throughout the world
- Lee Hasselman – housing
- Donny and Heather Harrison – Healing
- Totin family – Death of Ed
- Scout – friend of Scott’s – 5 year old with brain tumor
- Carla – recovery from surgery – health issues
- Sara & Ron – friends of Wahl’s
- Rev. Janet Hellner-Burris - pastor of DOC Wilkinsburg – recovery
- Arthur McCarty
- All those with Covid
- Duane Ready
- Jack Davis – recovery – brother of Barb Scott
- Victims and survivors of Tree of Life Shooting

Also, please remember in your prayers our members who are homebound. Helen Butler, Audrey Houke, Connie McCarty, Betty Rothermel, Ruth Schmidtetter and Lee Scott.



What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.



“Get back to the office, Broomfield, when I said you could have a summer vacation I didn’t mean the whole damn summer.”



This past year several discipleship groups met to share a meal, get to know one another better and to deepen our discipleship in Jesus Christ. We had a great time! There were lots of laughs as well as more serious discussion.

The groups are going to meet again this year.

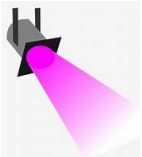
Please prayerfully consider joining us. We meet once a month for about 1 1/2 hours. It's well worth your time and has done much to strengthen our connections as a congregation.

Sign ups will begin on August 6. Sign up sheets will be on the table at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Please indicate your preferred time to meet as well as your name and contact information. I look forward to our time together!



Life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.





CAYA Praise Band is blessed to have quite a few talented members. Each month we'd like to spotlight a member so that you can get to know them.

Ron Brown- (keyboard, guitar, bass, vocals)

Ron had music and religion around him since he was born. His maternal grandmother was a Nazarene minister, for The Church of Nazarene in Monongahela, PA. His paternal grandmother sang, played piano, guitar, banjo, and loved to play gospel organ. They were his inspiration.

He started playing guitar at age 14. Some boys in his neighborhood wanted to start a band. Since every young man wanted to play guitar and they needed a bass player, he decided to learn the bass. Ron was self taught in voice, guitar, bass, keyboards, and even a little drums.

He learned sound engineering, and stage lighting, on the job. He was in several local touring bands and went as far as Nevada to play.

Ron pursued a working career as a railroader like his father and grandfather. In 1990 while a foreman with Conrail, he sustained a chemical inhalant injury and was told he would always be on oxygen and never sing again. That was not in God's plan. He retired after 32 years from Norfolk Southern as a yardmaster. Ron became involved with Mt Lebanon Christian Church, Easter of 2015 when his friend, John Mc Carty started a CAYA service and needed help. He asked Ron and his wife Amy to sing and play guitar.

Unfortunately, Ron ended up with head and neck cancer, which started on his tongue. He endured 30 chemo and radiation treatments and was told he may never sing again, but God said no. He joined the Congregation of Mt. Lebanon Christian Church in 2020. They started out just helping, then Pastor John asked about full time. According to Ron, "It's what you do, you help your friends. In 2023 they started playing and singing in the CAYA band full time. Today Ron sings and plays for the church and in bands that entertain in the Tristate area. He loves to write and create music in his in-home studio because music is in his heart, and God said "No!"



1. The name "September" comes from an old Roman word, "septem," which actually means 7. That's right – September was the seventh month of the year on the Roman calendar – It did not become the ninth month until the advent of the Gregorian calendar.
2. The Romans expected fires and volcanic eruptions to occur during this month.
3. Out of all 12 months of the year, September is spelled with the most letters. It contains nine letters, and it happens to be the ninth month of the year. No other months have the same amount of letters as their number in the calendar year.
4. This September "Harvest Moon" is the fullest moon of the year. When you gaze at it, it looks very large and gives a lot of light throughout the entire night. No other lunar spectacle is as awesome as the Harvest Moon.
5. The first day of fall is typically on September 22 or September 23 in North America. This is when the hours in the day are almost equal to the hours in the night. This occurs at the same time as the Spring Equinox does in Australia.
6. There are more pop and classic songs with "September" in the title than any other month.
11. Famous people born in September include Adam Sandler, Amy Winehouse, Bill Murray, Bruce Springsteen, Confucius, Freddie Mercury, Queen Elizabeth, Stephen King, and Sophia Loren



Save the Dates

Back to Church Sundaes Sunday September 10

Brownies and Ice Cream following worship

Bible Study

Resumes September 13 on Zoom 7 PM

Women's Retreat

September 22 - 24

Movie Night - Joseph from the Sight and Sound Theaters

October 14

Lunch at Olive Garden following 11 AM Worship

November 5

Christmas Party following 11 AM Worship

December 10

Christmas Caroling at Kane (Tentative)

December 16 - Saturday



Jesus Said You Are a Child of God

Elder's Corner

Jesus came to remind us of the love our God the Father has for every one of us. The image of God that Jesus encouraged us to cling to was that of God as Our Father (Matthew 6:9). I have always believed that God loves me. I'm not sure or why? Perhaps it is because I always knew my own Father loved me. He wanted what was best for me. I never doubted that. We disagreed at times, but never once did I think he was acting out of selfishness. He cared for me and protected me. He made incredible sacrifices so that I could have opportunities he never had. He comforted me in my failures and rejoiced with me in my successes. More than anything, my father delighted in just being with me.

There was a time when I pretended, I didn't believe in God. My grandmother died and we were at her house after the funeral. I was sitting on the stairs of the front porch and my dad came out and sat down next to me. I said to him in an angry, tear strained voice, "I don't believe in God anymore!" My dad didn't overreact. He responded calmly; "That's OK. God still believes in you."

Many years later, being a parent myself has changed me in so many ways. This has taken my spirituality to a whole new level. Yes, there are some horrible mothers and fathers in this world. But here are some amazing ones too. I know a great mother or father when I see them. If you multiply everything good about them times infinity, you will still have just a bare glimpse of our God the Father.

Who does Jesus say you are? He says you are a child of God.

Continued on from Page 7

Rev. Teresa Hord Owens' re-election to the esteemed position of General Minister and President is a testament to her unwavering dedication and exemplary leadership in serving the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) community. Throughout her initial term, she has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the denomination's values, biblical literacy and spiritual formation, building an infrastructure for ministry and congregational data, and fostering engagement and inclusion within the Church. Her visionary approach to ministry has inspired many, and she continues to be a beacon of hope for those seeking a more just and inclusive Church community.

Her exhortation to the church is "Let's be the church we say we are. It is in being who we say we are that we actively bear witness to God's limitless love for all." In addition to collaborative service with the ministries that comprise Disciples Justice Ministries, she has been active in leadership in the Poor People's Campaign.

We look forward to witnessing the positive impact of her continued leadership and the transformative work she will spearhead during her second term in office.



September 2023 Outreach Focus

This September, let's focus our outreach on leveling the education playing field by partner with The Education Partnership so local students are ready to learn by donating the resources they need to succeed. Here's a list of most needed items:

Classroom basics include:

- Pencils
- Notebooks
- Markers (8-packs)
- Crayons (24-packs)
- Filler Paper
- Scissors

Other high need items:

- Copy paper reams (8.5×11, white)
- Pens
- Dry Erase Markers

Please bring your school supply donations to the church Outreach Table by September 24. Monetary donations will be accepted through Givelify, the donation box on the outreach table or church envelopes (be sure to note "The Education Partnership" in the message section) Thank you for helping to level the education playing field so that local students are ready to learn.

Stay tuned for more service opportunities



"Right actions for the future
are the best remedies for
wrong ones made in the past."

Action
Changes
Things

Calling All Tech Enthusiasts! Join Our Church Tech Volunteer Team!

Are you ready to dive into an exciting world of tech and make a real

impact?   Mt. Lebanon Christian Church is on the lookout for enthusiastic volunteers like YOU to be a part of our Tech Team!



Sound Board Wizardry: Get behind the scenes and control the sound that fills our worship space. Your skills will ensure that every note, prayer, and message is heard loud and clear.



Camera Prodigy: Capture the moments that matter! From dynamic sermons to heartwarming congregational gatherings, your camera work will help us share the experience with everyone.



Slide Mastermind: Project visual aids that enhance the worship experience. Your knack for timing and creativity will make sure every slide aligns perfectly with the message.



Flexible Hours: We know your schedules are busy, so we offer flexible time slots that fit your commitments: Sundays at 11am or 6pm or help to create slide presentations remotely according to your schedule. Make a difference while earning community service hours at your convenience!



Join Our Tech Family: Not only will you gain hands-on experience in tech production, but you'll also become a part of a supportive community that values your contributions.



No Experience Required: Never operated a soundboard or camera? No worries! We provide comprehensive training that equips you with all the skills you need to shine.

Reach out to John McCarty at Johnmccarty@mtlebcc.org to learn more and get involved. Please share this opportunity with your friends and family.

Women's Prayer Retreat

Join MLCC Women's Prayer Group for a spirit filled weekend of relaxation, faith building and worship at beautiful Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Retreat Center, September 22-24. Arrival Friday evening September 22 through Sunday breakfast September 24.

If you're interested please email Jane.e.mccarty@gmail.com or 412-527-4421. Learn more about the retreat center at: <https://www.lclcenter.org/amenities>



Bible Study

Fall Bible Study: Questions Jesus Asked
Wednesdays at 7pm on Zoom starting September 13th



In the quest for spiritual growth and understanding, we often find ourselves seeking answers to life's profound questions. What if we told you that

Jesus, in His infinite wisdom, posed questions that not only challenged the hearts and minds of His listeners but continue to resonate with us today? We are thrilled to announce our upcoming Bible Study series, "Questions Jesus Asked," authored by Magrey de-Vega. This series promises to be a transformative exploration of Jesus' inquiries that will undoubtedly ignite a flame of curiosity within our souls.

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to connect, learn, and grow together as we explore the questions that Jesus posed during His earthly ministry. We believe that this study will not only deepen your understanding of the Gospel but also ignite a passion for seeking the profound truths that lie within the words of Christ.

I wouldn't be where I am now
if I hadn't had certain setbacks.
They made me open different
doors and made me stronger



The General Assembly Re-Elects Rev. Teresa 'Terri' Hord Owens to General Minister and President

Posted on August 2, 2023 on disciples.org

Louisville, KY – The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) convened in Louisville, Kentucky, from July 29 to August 1, 2023, and proudly announces the re-election of Rev. Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens to a second term as General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. She is the first African American and second woman to lead the denomination – and the first African American woman to lead a mainline Christian denomination. The Administrative Committee of the General Board, following the procedures and requirements outlined in *The Design for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)* and the Standing Rules of the General Board, officially nominated Rev. Teresa Hord Owens for re-election. Subsequently, the General Board voted to forward her name for consideration.

On Tuesday, August 1, Owens was installed and charged with continuing her ministry of visionary love, spiritual leadership, prophetic imagination, and ecumenical service. In her sermon during closing worship, she invited the General Assembly to "imagine new ways of being church and to stay at the table no matter what we face. Our commitment to staying at the table is grounded in our covenant relationship with God and with one another."

Rev. Owens is regarded in the ecumenical world as "head of communion" and as the chief representative of the church in national and world ecumenical councils. In keeping with the Disciples' historic commitment to Christian unity, she serves in leadership at the National Council of Churches as the Treasurer of the Governing Board and as a member of the World Council of Churches Central Committee. Her ecumenical and interfaith collaborations also include the Faith Table, an interfaith social justice coalition.

Prior to being elected to serve as General Minister and President in 2017 she served as the dean of students for 12 years at the University of Chicago Divinity School, pastor of First Christian Church of Downers Grove in Illinois, and more than 20 years in corporate America leading diverse teams in data management.



Continued on page 12



MT. Lebanon Christian Church (DOC)

367 Cedar Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15228
 PH: 412-531-8554, Email: churchoffice@mtlebocc.org
 Web address: www.mtlebocc.org

September 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <p>The road to success is always under construction.</p>  | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| <p>3</p> <p>11:00 Traditional Worship Service CAYA Service 6:00 pm</p> | <p>4</p>  <p>HAPPY LABOR DAY</p> | <p>5</p> <p>7:00 Women's prayer group</p> | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| <p>10</p> <p>Snack after service 11:00 Traditional Worship Service CAYA Service 6:00 pm</p> | 11 | <p>12</p> <p>7:00 Women's prayer group</p> | <p>13</p> <p>7:00 pm Bible Study on zoom</p> | <p>14</p> <p>7:00 pm Elder's Mtg.</p> | 15 | 16 |
| <p>17</p> <p>11:00 Traditional Worship Service CAYA Service 6:00 pm</p> | <p>18</p> <p>7:00 pm Trustees Mtg.</p> | <p>19</p> <p>7:00 Women's prayer group 7:00 pm Board Mtg.</p> | <p>20</p> <p>7:00 pm Bible Study On zoom</p> | 21 | <p>22</p> <p>Women's retreat</p> | <p>23</p> <p>First day of Fall</p>  <p>Women's retreat</p> |
| <p>24</p> <p>Women's retreat 11:00 Traditional Worship Service CAYA Service 6:00 pm</p> | 25 | <p>26</p> <p>7:00 Women's prayer</p> | <p>27</p> <p>7:00 pm Bible Study on zoom</p> | 28 | 29 | 30 |