

Christian Reporter

Mt. Lebanon Christian

October 2023

Have you ever given much thought to what it really means to “imitate Christ?” It’s fun to watch infants and young children imitate the actions of their parents, siblings and others around them. Babies observe, and then try to replicate the same motions, sounds, faces and actions of what they are observing.

The word Christian means “little Christ.” We are to be like Christ in everyway that we can. We don’t just mimic Jesus but imitate Him in the deepest parts of our being. There is a difference between mimicking and imitating. Imitation not only replicates the outer behavior, but also the internal motivation for the behavior. We mimic Christ if we carry out the actions, but don’t have the motivation and love of Jesus. Mimicking happens when there is no relationship with our Lord.

How can we imitate Christ in our everyday lives? We imitate Christ by keeping Christ at the center of our thoughts, motivations and behavior. We love others and live in a way that responds to situations with love, compassion, patience and mercy. Our inward motivations are expressed in an outward way.

Our journey of faith should strive to imitate Christ more and more in our lives. My prayer is that each of us will grow closer and closer to our savior and that we will continue to imitate Christ in all of our ways.

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
CAYA Service at 6:00 PM

PLEASE JOIN US!

Worship
With Us



October Worship Leaders & Elders



Elders

1 - Jane McCarty
8 - Verna McGinley
15 - Brad Montgomery
22 - Chuck Sargent
29 - Jeff Hawn

Worship Leaders

1 - Chuck Sargent
8 - Verna McGinley -
15 - Dan Wahl
22 - Jeff Hawn
29 - TBD

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@mtlebcc.org
John.mccarty@mtlebcc.org
tomspray@hotmail.com
churchoffice@mtlebcc.org

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1 - Ralph Scott
14 - Mary Nicholson
17 - Bill Samples
19 - Diane Holmes
20 - Barb Scott
23 - Greg Newman
27 - Margie Schwartz
28 - Charles Sargent
Dan Wahl
29 - Erica Lee Reick
Cori Lynn
Holmes

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

7 - Greg & Karen Newman
17 - Dave Koerber & Alice
Lawson

FOR I KNOW THE
Plans I HAVE
FOR YOU
DECLARES
THE LORD,
plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
PLANS TO GIVE YOU
HOPE &
A FUTURE.

Jeremiah 29:11

A bird is safe in it's nest---
but that is not what his
Wings are made for.



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

We will continue to film the Facebook Live services on Sunday 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/>)



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.

Look for an email this week with the group times and places.

Cindy



The commitments we make to each other do not sap our initiative. They strengthen us.



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

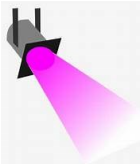
Crist Family—death of Mary
Butler Family—death of Helen
Bill Green
Pete - brain cancer
Barb Smith – Healing
Fires in Maui and Hawaii
Fires and flooding throughout the world
Lee Hasselman – housing
Donny and Heather Harrison – Healing
Totin family – Death of Ed
Scout – friend of Scott's – 5 year old with 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

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



Spiritual Gifts Survey

A few weeks ago you received an email about a survey of spiritual gifts. There are also surveys available on the table near the entrance to the Sanctuary. It is important for us as a congregation to know where our strengths are as individuals and as an entire community of faith. Please fill out the survey and turn it into Rev. Cindy. This will give us a wonderful way to assess our strength as a congregation. Your participation is important and crucial. Please turn in your survey by the end of October. Thank you.



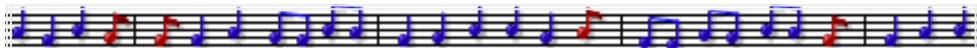
CAYA Praise Band is blessed to have quite a few talented members. Each month we'd like to spotlight a member so that you can get to know them.

CAYA Music Spotlight: Chris Wagner (vocals and humor)

From early on, music became my passion. Starting with the clarinet and piano in grade school, I eventually transitioned to the tuba, a choice that shaped my musical journey. This switch not only spared me reed worries but also opened the door to a lifelong commitment to the tuba, which carried me through high school and paved the way for a transformative career in the US Army.

In the army, my musical repertoire centered around spirited marches, yet there were moments of lightness and humor. Professor Peter Schickele's whimsical arrangements, inspired by the fictional character PDQ Bach, introduced a blend of classical styles that made playing truly enjoyable. Musical anecdotes added levity, like the memorable mix-up between a perfect fifth and a major fifth, punctuated by our instructor's witty responses.

My time at the Armed Forces School of Music was both enriching and occasionally demanding. It was there that I honed my music theory knowledge and elevated my tuba playing skills. Serving in various distinguished army bands, including the 3rd Infantry Division and the 389th Army Band, was a source of great pride. Now, singing with the CAYA praise band, I find immense joy in the spiritually uplifting music selection that brings glory to God.



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Helen Butler. She passed away on September 19th at the age of 95. Her funeral was private.

John Crist's wife, Mary, passed away this week. Please pray for John for peace and comfort.

Arrangements for Mary Crist

Laughlin's Funeral Home on West Liberty Ave.

Saturday, October 7

Visitation 2-4 PM

Funeral 4 PM at the Funeral Home



October

There are seven months in the year with 31 days and October is the sixth of them. The amount of days hasn't changed over the ages either, with the ancient Roman calendar also placing 31 days in October.

The Saxons had a name for October, too. Theirs was Wyn Monath, which translated into "wine month" because it was the time of the year for [making wine](#). I'm not sure about you, but I think October just became my favorite month!

October is a rather beautiful time of year if you live in the northern hemisphere. It's the time of year that the color of leaves begins to change into a magnificent array of hues.

The first full moon after the Harvest Moon quite often falls in October and even has its own name. Known as the Hunter's Moon, it's one of the only two full moons (along with the Harvest Moon) that aren't connected to a specific month. Depending on the year the Hunter's Moon either falls in October or [November](#).

The world-famous Indian political and spiritual leader Mahatma Gandhi was born on [October 2](#), 1869. His worldwide renown is attributed to the nonviolent way in which he resisted the colonial British rule of [India](#).

On [October 1](#), 1949, the People's Republic of China was founded. Mao Zedong ruled the republic from its founding until his death in 1976.

October has just one birthstone, but with this dazzling stone who needs another? October's birthstone is the Opal, which was valued by the [Ancient Romans](#) as the most priceless of all. The opal comes in a myriad of striking colors that often seem to swirl together and is a symbol of both faithfulness, purity, and hope.

It wouldn't be October without [Halloween](#), which is celebrated on [October 31st](#). The celebration's origins go all the way back to the Gaelic people of modern-day England, Scotland, and [Ireland](#). Among other activities, the original celebrants of Samhain would dress in costumes or disguises and go door-to-door receiving gifts of food, much like how today's children dress up and receive treats!

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.



Elder's Corner

TRY TO LEARN EACH DAY

One morning my husband and I were taking a walk along the river. Our path took us from the Casino to the end of the walkway. We needed boots to walk along the river. There were so many Goose droppings we had to watch we didn't slip. In a short time, a large goose began following us. Honking and wanting to "move faster". We didn't take the hint and he honked louder as if we were on a two-lane road and driving too slowly. We would stop and move over and so did he. The grumpy bird stayed behind us to the end. We turned around to go back. Being tired, we moved slower. Mister grumpy was not going to have this so he nipped at my butt! Yo!, I yelled let's get moving. On a slow jog we finally finished this difficult walk / jog. The goose honked loudly as we turned off the walking area.

I still smile when I picture that goose trying to bully us. We could have let that squawking, bobbing fowl stop us or we could have changed our course. Instead, we chose to keep moving forward focused on finishing our walk even if changing how we finished it. In this case Mister Grumpy helped to push us and give us some extra energy.

Likewise, God can use challenges in our lives to bolster our determination. As a teacher I once had a very challenging Sunday school class. When the school year ended, the class slipped a note on to my desk: "Thanks for not giving up". That was the year God reignited my passion for teaching and equipped me for my work with children and troubled teenagers. Each obstacle we face can help to prepare us for the next stage of our spiritual journey.

Even a grumpy goose can be used by God for good.



Movie Night

On Saturday, October 14 at 6:15 PM we will be showing the movie Joseph from the Sight and Sound Theatres. Joseph is a story of dreams and the power of forgiveness. You will see Joseph in his colorful coat and his story as it plays out. If you want to familiarize yourself with the story or refresh your memory about Joseph, read Genesis chapters 37, 39 – 50. These chapters will give you the story of Joseph and his family. Please join us! Bring a friend!





October/November 2023 Outreach Focus

SHIM Tackle Hunger Food Drive



More than 6,000 families are turning to SHIM for food this year.

Can you help us stock the three food pantries that serve families across the South Hills?

Tackle Hunger Food Challenge

Mt. Lebanon Christian Church is collecting food and supplies for thousands of families and individuals who rely on SHIM monthly.

It's a Win Win

Each bag of groceries donated is a win for our hungry neighbors and a chance for you to win a gift card to Crust Cafe' and Pizzeria.

Most-needed items:

- Dried beans and lentils
- Rice
- Pasta sauce in jars
- Cereal and oatmeal
- Soup (especially low sodium)
- Adult diapers, especially L and XL
- Diapers sizes 3-6
- Baby food
- Sugar
- Cooking oil
- Personal care (shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, feminine items, etc.)
- Diapers
- Dog food

Please drop off your donation at:

The Outreach Table in the Church Narthex by November 30

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@mtleboecc.org to learn more and get involved. Please share this opportunity with your friends and family.

Bible Study



Fall Bible Study: Questions Jesus Asked

Wednesdays at 7pm on Zoom started 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.

Save the Dates

Movie Night - Joseph from the Sight and Sound Theaters

October 14 6:15 PM in the Sanctuary

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



As long as you try your best, you are never a failure.



Discernment Team Update



DISCERNMENT

What is the next step? On Wednesday, October 11 Mt. Lebanon Christian Church will host a member of the New Beginnings assessment team. James Bane will be here on the 11th to tour the church, meet with various members of the discernment team as well as anyone from the congregation who would be part of the conversation about our future called Appreciative Inquiry.

The Discernment team is gathering a lot of information on our building and it's use, our finances, the community, our history, membership, etc. This information will give the assessment leader an extensive overview of our congregation.

The Discernment team invites you to join us at 7 PM in the Chapel for the Appreciative Inquiry piece of the assessment. Your input is important. While meeting in person is most helpful, we realize some folks don't drive at night. We will also have a zoom link for that meeting as well. The more people who participate in this process, the better picture we will have of the congregation and our hopes for the future.

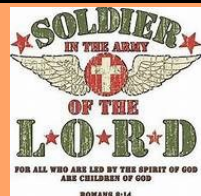




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October 2023

1 11:00 Traditional Worship Service CAYA Service 6:00 pm	2	3 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	4	5	6	7
8 1:00 Traditional Worship Service CAYA Service 6:00 pm	9	10 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	11 Appreciative Inquiry with New Beginnings 7 PM	12 7:00 pm Elder's Meeting	13	14 Movie Night 6:15 PM
15 11:00 Traditional Worship Service CAYA Service 6:00 pm	16	17 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	18	19	20	21
22 11:00 Traditional Worship Service CAYA Service 6:00 pm	23	24 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	25	26 Program Team 7 PM on zoom	27	28
29 11:00 Traditional Worship Service CAYA Service 6:00 pm	30	31 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	<div style="background-color: #f4a460; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Do you march with the Army of the Lord, or hide in the Secret Service?</p>  <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">FOR ALL WHO ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD ARE CHILDREN OF GOD ROMANS 8:14</p> </div>			