

Christian Reporter

Mt. Lebanon Christian Church

November 2023

Dear Friends,

November always feels like a month of transition. The leaves have changed into gorgeous autumnal colors and have begun the release of the old leaves. The skies get grayer (if that's possible in Pittsburgh).

The holidays are quickly upon us. November is a good time to pause. We pause to take in the beauty around us. We pause to think about preparations for holidays to come. We pause to reflect on what is past and what is to come in the future. We pause to plan and we pause to refresh.

Pauses are a good and necessary part of life, whether it be taking a vacation, going on a retreat, taking a nap or pondering and praying about what God is calling us to next.

On Friday evening, November 16 we will pause as a congregation to reflect on what has brought us to our present story. We will then prepare to concentrate on our future story.

A consultant from New Beginnings will be with us and help guide us through this process. We need as many people as possible to participate in this time of pause, reflection and working together to discern our future story as a congregation.

We are blessed to have such a loving congregation. We are blessed to be able to gather for worship, prayer, study and fellowship. We are blessed to be able to grow in our faith.

I encourage you to think about how you have been blessed in your life. How has this congregation been a blessing to you and how do you share your gifts to bless others?

We have much to explore in the days and months ahead. You are an important part of this congregation and of our ministry together. Please take part as we discern 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

CAYA Service at 6:00 PM

PLEASE JOIN US!

Worship
With Us



November Worship Leaders & Elders



Elders

5 - Kathy Spray
12 - Amy Angotti
19 - Jane McCarty
26 - Verna McGinley

Worship Leaders

5 - Chuck Sargent
12 - Verna McGinley
19 - Dan Wahl
26 - 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

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“Every Member Is A Minister”

Cindy McClung
John McCarty
Tom Spray
Samuel Olawoyin
Joyce Lackey

Pastor
Asst. Pastor
Board Chair
Director of Music
Secretary

minister367@mtlebooc.org
John.mccarty@mtlebooc.org
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NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

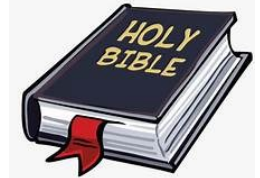
4 - Jim Powell
18 - Richard Ozanick

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

2 - Cliff & Mary Nicholson
19 - Ed & Joy Pajak

Bible Study

The current Bible Study on “Questions Jesus Asked” ends November 1st.



An Advent Bible Study will begin on November 29th - December 20th by Rev. Cindy and Rev. John. Plan on joining us.

Angel Tree

Many of the people at Kane do not have family or anyone with the means to buy gifts for them.

The Angel Tree will be ready for you to choose a name or names to buy a gift for the patients.

The gifts should be wrapped and brought back to the Church by December 10.

Many of the people at Kane don't have family or family doesn't have the means to buy gifts for them. This is a wonderful way to tell and show people that they are cared about by others. You can make a difference in someone's Christmas through this simple gesture.

We will take the gifts and also sing carols at Kane on Saturday, December 16 at 1:30 pm and at the Paramount at 3pm. Please join us in this important outreach.



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.

Joseph Movie

On October 14th we watched the DVD story of Joseph from "Sight and Sound theatres" in our sanctuary. The movie was informative and enjoyed by those who attended. If you want to read about the story of Joseph please read Genesis chapters 37, 39 – 50



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Save the Dates!

November 26 - Angel Tree for Kane patients will be ready to pick names to buy gifts

November 26 - Please stay after worship to help decorate for Advent and Christmas

December 10 - Gifts for Kane patients are due

December 10 - Christmas party following 11 AM worship service.

December 16 - Caroling and sharing gifts at Kane at 1:30 PM
Caroling at Paramount in Bethel Park at 3 PM



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.

Schmidtter family—death of Ruth
Barb Scott—healing
Crist family - death of Mary
Butler family - death of Helen
Ed Pajak – Broken Ankle
Fires in Maui and Hawaii
Fires, flooding and earthquakes throughout the world
War in Ukraine
War in Israel
Bill Green
Duane Ready
Lee Hasselman – housing
Donny and Heather Harrison – Healing
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, DOC Wilkinsburg
Arthur McCarty
All those with Covid
Victims and survivors of Tree of Life Shooting

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

Fellowship Lunch

Sunday, November 5th after worship (12:30) at Olive Garden in Village Square. Please call Chuck Sargent if you plan to attend so we have an accurate count.





Ruth Schmidletter passed away on the morning of October 25th. There was a memorial service on Saturday, October 28th at the church. Please keep Lisa and Ruth's family in your prayers.

November

November is the last of the four months, which have 30 days. The other months are [September](#), [April](#), and [June](#).

Many people in the US can recall what they were doing at 12:30 pm on [November 22](#), 1963. It was on this day that President John F. Kennedy, known as JFK, was fatally shot while riding along with his wife in a procession of cars.

The US has its own historic day, too. Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth [Thursday](#) of November and has been celebrated since 1621.

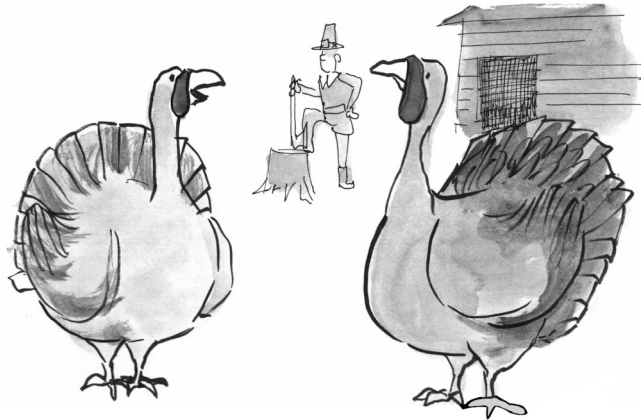
The Full moon in November is traditionally called the [Beaver Moon](#) in the US. The tradition goes back to North America's early colonial years, as it was during this time of year that hunters would set their beaver traps for the last time before the lakes and water sources they lived in froze over.

November has just one birthstone, the radiant topaz. The topaz is symbolic of many things, but most of all, it is a symbol of strength and honor. The ancient Greeks also believed that the stone had the ability to turn oneself invisible.

November also only has one birth flower, although with a flower like this, who needs another?! We're talking about the ever-stylish chrysanthemum, which to the most extent, symbolizes cheerfulness.

Those born in November can be born under one of two very different star signs. If you're born before [November 23rd](#), then you have the sign of [Scorpio](#). Those born on November 23rd or later have the sign of [Sagittarius](#).

November is apparently the official month for [banana](#) pudding lovers. If month-long celebrations aren't really your thing, then check out National Cook For Your Pets Day on [November 1st](#). Other fascinating days to celebrate throughout November include World Vegan Day, also on November 1st, Veterans Day on [November 11th](#) (US), National Button Day on [November 16th](#) (US), and National Cake Day on [November 26th](#) (US).



"My investment adviser told me to go for short term capital gains."

Discernment Committee

The Discernment Committee continues to explore what might be necessary to ensure that our church community is healthy and sustainable well into the future.



We met with Jim Bane to tell our history and make an assessment of our current situation. That report will be coming out in November. We will be sharing that with you soon.

Please hold the Discernment Committee in your prayers!

If you have not filled out your spiritual gifts survey, please do fill it out and turn it in to Rev. Cindy by mid-November. This survey will help us assess our strengths as a congregation. Thank you!



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

Do you think that God has a sense of humor?

Elder's Corner

Once when I was at my doctor, he asked me if I had a sense of humor. I replied yes when I don't feel as bad as I do today. I know that most of my memorable experiences in my life are humorous. As I left the Doctors office I went to another place in my mind. I wonder if Jesus had a sense of humor.

I was imagining him walking down the dusty roads of Galilee with His disciples. Thirteen guys spending all that time together. There must have been some moments of laughter. Oh, how I'd Love to be with Jesus when He broke into laughter. Wouldn't you like to know?

Recently we bought a new TV that was advertised as being smart. While trying to set up the TV, the cable kept popping out of the socket. Going back to the store to tell them about this issue, we overheard the couple in front of us complaining of the same problem. The salesperson behind the counter told them how to resolve the issue. A plastic ring used for packing is located at the end of the cable and must be removed. The customers replied; "What a stupid thing to put something we could not see down there!" Although they brought back only the TV and not the cable, they still were not satisfied with the resolution. Angrily they stomped away, heading to the return desk. Bernie and I slipped out of the line a little embarrassed. Walking down the aisle we both broke out into laughter!

What small unseen barriers in your life are stopping you from enjoying your time with Jesus on this earth?



We often think if life were smooth, we would be better witnesses: But God knows best. Faith amidst life's trials can honor Him more powerfully than you might expect. A simple action such as a smile is all it takes.



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NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Your heart is happiest when it's beating for others.</p>			1	2	3	4 Turn your clock back
<p>5 11:00 Traditional Worship Service CAYA Service 6:00 pm</p> <p>Lunch @ Olive Garden after a.m. Service</p>	6	<p>7 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group</p>	8	<p>9 Noon—Dining Disciples A</p> <p>7:00 pm Elder's Meeting</p>	<p>10 6:00 Dining Disciples B</p>	<p>11  Veteran's Day</p>
<p>12 11:00 Traditional Worship Service CAYA Service 6:00 pm</p>	13	<p>14 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group</p>	15	<p>16 6:30 Dining Disciples C</p>	<p>17 7:00 PM Gathering with New Beginning Consultant in person and on zoom</p>	<p>18 9:00 AM New Beginnings training For house leaders</p>
<p>19 1:00 Traditional Worship Service CAYA Service 6:00 pm</p>	<p>20 7:00 pm Trustee's Meeting</p>	<p>21 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group</p> <p>7:00 pm Board Meeting</p>	22	<p>23 </p>	24	25
<p>26 11:00 Traditional Worship Service 12:00 Decorate the Church CAYA Service 6:00 pm</p>	27	28	<p>29 7:00 Bible Study on zoom</p>	30		