

Christian Reporter

Mt. Lebanon Christian Church

February 2024

Every year in February or sometimes early March, Christians enter into a season called Lent. We begin with Ash Wednesday and finish the season the day before Easter. We begin in ashes and move towards crucifixion and resurrection. During Worship we will continue to deepen our understand of discipleship and our mission as a congregation.

Lent is a time for self-examination. It's a good time for us all to reflect on our level of commitment to Jesus Christ, to God's call upon our lives, and our growing edges (places where we can all improve and grow as disciples and human beings.

I encourage and challenge you to fully participate in worship, study, house meetings, dining disciples and self-reflection. As we journey through Lent this year, know that it is good and healthy to ask questions and to wrestle with your faith. If you want someone to talk with, let me know. I will be glad to walk with you in this journey.

This year we will do something a little bit different to begin the season of Lent. Instead of an Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday evening, we will begin our journey on Sunday, February 11 during worship. Ashes to Resurrection is our theme this year. Make the most of this season!!

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





February Worship Leaders & Elders

Elders

4 - Jeff Hawn
11 - Brad Montgomery
18 - Kathy Spray
25 - Jane McCarty

Worship Leaders

4 - Chuck Sargent
11 - Verna McGinley
18 - Dan Wahl
25- 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
Samuel Olawoyin
Joyce Lackey

Pastor
Asst. Pastor
Board Chair
Director of Music
Secretary

minister367@mtlebooc.org
John.mccarty@mtlebooc.org
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Highlights of BOARD MEETING in January

1. Reverend Cindy's Vacation:

Reverend Cindy will be on a well-deserved vacation for 12 days. She will return to lead worship on February 11th. We appreciate your understanding and look forward to her rejuvenated presence among us.

2. Financial Success and Gratitude:

The Financial Secretary shared some uplifting news in the report. The end of the year showed a remarkable increase in both local and undesignated funds for 2023 compared to 2022, encompassing both in-person and online giving. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all members for their generous support. Year-end statements for donations have been mailed,

3. Treasurer's Report:

While awaiting the completion of year-end figures, the Treasurer noted that expenses have been higher this past year.

4. Dining Disciples Gathering Momentum:

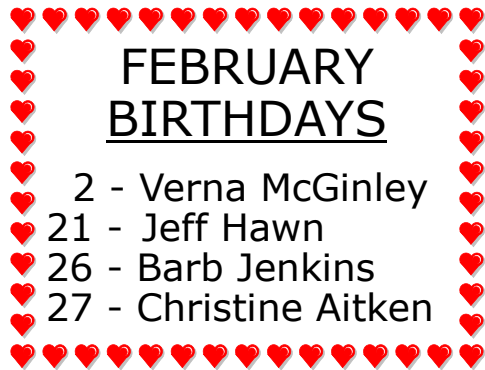
The Dining Disciples program continues to thrive, with luncheons and dinners being enjoyed by our community. Notably, there has been an increase in participation, with some individuals joining new groups and 10 more people are attending this year compared to the last, fostering a stronger sense of fellowship.

5. Program Team Planning Ahead:

Our Program Team is gearing up for exciting events in the upcoming months. They will be meeting soon to plan activities that enrich our spiritual journey and community bonds.

6. Property & Trustees Updates:

The Property & Trustees team has been actively working to enhance our church environment. Trees on the back lot have been cut down and cleaned up. Additionally, a crucial roof repair has been approved, and we thank Paul for obtaining a quote for the replacement of damaged tiles. Also a fire extinguisher has been purchased for the kitchen.


**FEBRUARY
BIRTHDAYS**
 2 - Verna McGinley
 21 - Jeff Hawn
 26 - Barb Jenkins
 27 - Christine Aitken



Bible Study

Bible study will resume in March to allow the church to be in discernment during the New Beginnings process



House Meeting Schedule for February

Sundays after Morning Worship - February 21 and 28
 Wednesday at 1 pm at Friendship Village - February 21 and 28
 Wednesday at 7pm on Zoom February 21 and 28



**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 List

- Gray and McCarty Families – death of Darryl Gray
- Joyce Lackey – recovery from knee replacement
- Pajak and Wagner families – death of Ed Pajak
- Duane Ready
- Horst Riddler – rehab from knee surgery
- Chuck Sargent – should surgery Feb 8th
- Judy Bolind - Healing - friend of Cindy McClung
- Carla - recovery from surgery - health issues
- Donny and Heather Harrison - healing
- Jim - lung cancer - friend of Jane McCarty
- Rev. Janet Hellner-Burris - pastor, DOC in Wilkinsburg
- Ron - death of Sara - fiends of Wahl's
- Leo Schober - healing- Jane McCarty's nephew
- John Schohn - cancer - friend of Alice and Dave
- Scout - fried of Scott's - 5 year old with a brain tumor
- George Walling - cancer - friend of Alice and Dave

All of those with Covid. RSV and the flu
 Fires, floods and earthquakes throughout the world
 War in Israel
 War in Ukraine

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

Forgiveness is a reflection

of loving yourself enough to move on.

Just Desserts

At a Valentines Party a young wife admonished her husband. "That's the fourth time you've gone back for ice cream and cake. Doesn't it embarrass you?"



"Why should it?" answered her spouse. "I keep telling them it's for you."



As the discernment process continues ...

Keep Praying and Thinking

We have wrapped up two house meetings in the New Beginnings process which is designed to help us understand our church's current situation and decide about its future direction. It has been wonderful to have, not just the participation, but the active engagement of so many in our congregation.



During the first session we learned about the marks or characteristics of a vital church community: (1) a compelling sense of "why" we exist; (2) a focus on discipleship; (3) being relevant to the broader external community; (4) passion and energy; and (5) the mobilization of resources for mission. Participants received the New Beginnings Assessment to begin to take in a full picture of our situation.

At the second meeting, referencing our assessment, we discussed our church through three lenses: (1) what we, as a congregation, are deeply passionate about; (2) what our external community needs us to be "best at;" and (3) our resources and how we use them. This allowed us to begin to explore where those three perspectives might intersect to better inform our "why."

As we enter a time of personal prayer and reflection, we ask that you continue to deepen your understanding and consider what might be possible for our church's future. The final two house meetings will be held the weeks of February 18 and 25. Keep praying and thinking ... we look forward to hearing what God has been whispering to you!

FEBRUARY

February is mostly recognized for Valentine's Day, flowers and, depending on where you live, it being incredibly cold.

February fluctuates between having 28 and 29 days per year. The 29th day only occurs every 4 years during leap year. IN 712 B.C., February was officially added to the Roman calendar when Julius Caesar remade the Roman calendar.

If you were born in February your birthstone is amethyst and your flower is primrose.

In Welsh, FEBRUARY is sometimes known as "y mis bach," which means "little month"

The name of February comes from the Latin word "februum", which means purification.

Sadly, on February 1, 2003, the space shuttle "Columbia" Broke apart in flight, which killed all seven crew members. The

Barbie, perhaps one of the most famous toys on the Planet, was born in February. On February 4, 1959, the iconic doll was first revealed to the world.

The entire month is dedicated to chocolate

One for the Adults. Margarita was discovered with it salted glass rim for the Tequila lover.



February Outreach



GIFTS TO LIVE ON
SPECIAL OFFERING | February 18-25, 2024
Week of Compassion  FOR 80 YEARS



This February MLCC is supporting Week of Compassion. As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world, with a vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope. Monetary donations should be designated to Week of Compassion February 18-25.

Looking Ahead, not Looking Down

Elder's Corner

When I was a small girl, my cousin offered to teach me how to ride his two-wheeler. I was shorter than Bob and my feet did not reach the pedals when they were at the bottom. Finally, I managed to reach the pedals. I was doing ok but Bob wanted me to look ahead "don't look down at your feet". But I spent much of the time looking down anyway, trying to keep my feet on the pedals. After that I finally began to ride. Suddenly, I hit something, flying off the bike I saw I had hit the street cleaner's cart, spilling it over. His cart of paper dirt and cigarettes made a mess. I took his broom and swept it up as best as I could. I learned the value of looking ahead not down.

Looking ahead is important also in our spiritual life. We can easily get stuck focusing on our inabilities, hindrances, and shortcomings both in our work and our personal lives but the writer of Proverbs shows us the way out: "Let your eyes look directly forward". Many times, as I have lifted my head and am focused on the Lord in prayer, I have been able to move on through the rugged times in my life.

I finally learned to ride a bicycle

Life is like riding a bicycle.
To keep your balance you
must keep moving.







What we fear doing most is usually
what we most need to do.



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February 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>God's gift to you What you do with it your gift back to God.</p> 			1	2	3
<p>4</p> <p>11:00 am Traditional Service CAYA Service 6pm</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 pm Elder's Meeting</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Dining Disciples A noon 7:00 pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Dining Disciples B 6:00 PM</p>
<p>11</p> <p>11:00 am Traditional Service CAYA Service 6pm</p>	<p>12</p>  <p>Lincoln's Birthday</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>Ash Wednesday Valentine's day</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Dining Disciples B 6:30 PM</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>18</p> <p>11:00 am Traditional Service House Meeting following service CAYA Service 6pm</p>	<p>19</p>  <p>Washington's Birthday</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group</p>	<p>21</p> <p>House Meeting at Friendship Village at 1:00 pm, Zoom at 7 pm</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>25</p> <p>11:00 am Traditional Service House Meeting following service CAYA service 6pm</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group</p>	<p>28</p> <p>House Meeting at Friendship Village at 1:00 pm, Zoom at 7 pm</p>	<p>29</p>	