



Mt. Lebanon
Christian Church

MLCC Newsletter – August 2025



Worship with Us

In-Person or Facebook Live

Worship: Sunday at 11:00 AM

Mt. Lebanon Christian Church
367 Cedar Blvd
Pittsburgh, PA 15220

<http://www.mtlebocc.org>

Dr. Cindy McClung: minister367@mtlebocc.org

Assistant Minister: The Reverend John McCarty: john.mccarty@mtlebocc.org

Our Mission:
Serving Christ!
Living and Sharing Faith, Hope and Love



Minister's Message

Friends, the world can seem crazy, chaos swirls around us—sometimes quietly, a background hum, and sometimes as a roaring storm that threatens to upend everything we hold dear. Whether it's in the headlines, our homes, our health, or our hearts, there are times when the world feels unmoored, and we, adrift. In moments like these, it can feel as though hope is a distant memory—something we once knew, but now struggle to recall. We pray, we wait, we search for signs, and sometimes, God Himself can seem impossibly far away.

But hope is not a fragile thing that withers in the cold winds of uncertainty. It is resilient. It is alive, even when hidden beneath the harshest conditions. To understand this, let's revisit a story—one that speaks directly to those who are weary, waiting, and wondering if their hope has died.

Imagine walking through a dry, cracked desert. Nothing green, nothing blooming. Just miles of dust, sand, and silence. But what you can't see is what's underneath that lifeless surface.

Beneath the dirt, hidden in the harshest environments, are thousands—sometimes millions—of tiny desert seeds. They've been lying dormant for years, sometimes decades, waiting for a single moment: rain.

When that rain comes—and it doesn't come often—it doesn't just water the ground. It awakens life.

Almost overnight, the desert transforms. Wildflowers explode into color. Plants shoot up from what looked like death. The dry wasteland becomes a garden. Why? Because the seed never forgot what it was promised. It was created with the expectation that rain would come.

Some of you have been waiting. Praying. Holding on. And it feels dry. Lifeless. Like nothing is changing. But if God planted a promise in you, you can trust this: He knows when the rain is coming.

Hope in God's promises is like those desert seeds. Just because it hasn't bloomed yet doesn't mean it's dead. It means it's waiting—for God's timing, for His rain, for His appointed season. And when it comes? It won't just trickle. It will burst.

Hang on to the hope we have in our Lord. The desert will come to life!!

Blessings!

Cindy

Mail Checks to: Mt. Lebanon
Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Support MLCC

Christian Church - 367 Cedar Blvd. -

Or Give online at mtlebocc.org

Or **Online Giving** available through our Givelify by clicking on <https://giv.li/rwhcas> or clicking on the QR code below



Your gift of time, talent or treasure enables MLCC to serve Christ by living and sharing faith, hope and love.

It's simple to donate once or set up reoccurring donations using the Give link. Options for giving include helping with Building Maintenance projects and Community Outreach programs.

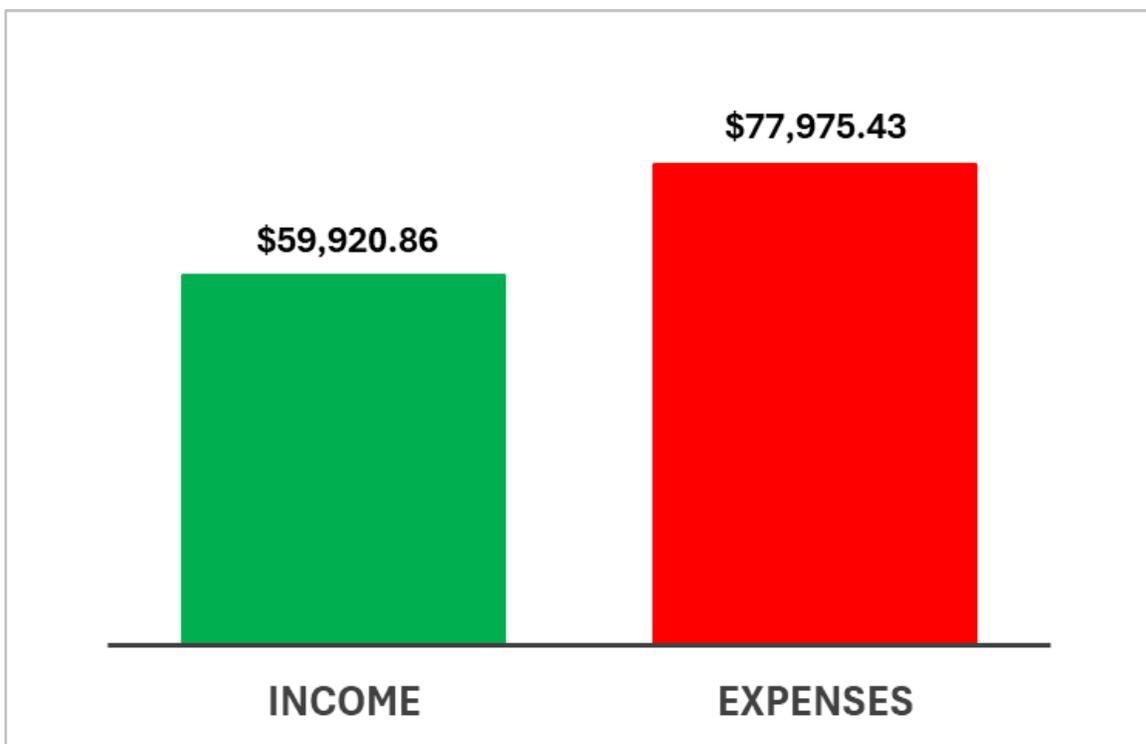
There are plenty of ways to get involved. Volunteer opportunities include:

AV Tech - Contemporary Worship Musicians - Social Media - Child Care Nursery - Small Group Leader - Landscaping - Greeter - Community Service - Event Planning
For more information about volunteering contact John McCarty.

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Year-to Date Financial Report (new feature)

May 2025



August Service and Outreach

Back to School with The Education Partnership **Help Kids Start the Year Ready to Learn**

As the new school year approaches, many local students are excited to return to classrooms, see friends, and continue learning. But for too many families in our community, back-to-school season brings stress and hardship as they struggle to afford the basic school supplies their children need.

As part of MLCC's commitment to **Connect, Grow, and Serve**, our church is partnering with **The Education Partnership** to help ensure that every child starts the year with the tools to succeed in three steps. The Education Partnership works with schools serving under-resourced students in Southwestern PA to provide essential supplies—from pencils and notebooks to backpacks and hygiene items.

1. **Collect monetary donations to Adopt-A-School:** The Adopt-A-School program connects sponsors with schools that are eligible for help to supply each student with their very own Power Tools Homework Kit filled with items students can use at home, such as crayons, scissors, glue sticks, and more. The church outreach fund will match every dollar collected. We hope to **adopt a small school** to provide every student with the supplies they need for success.
2. Our church team will **visit The Education Partnership to build the school's Power Tools Homework Kits**—and build camaraderie while you're at it!
3. **Attend an assembly at the school** to speak to students, distribute the kits, and see the impact of our efforts first-hand.

Your gift has the power to change the course of a child's school year and education.

How You Can Help

- **Donate online** at [Givelify](#)
- **Give by check** with "Education Partnership" in the memo line or drop a cash donation in the donation box on the outreach table
- **Pray** for the students and teachers we will be supporting

Together, we can **connect** with our neighbors, **grow** our compassion, and **serve** the next generation. Let's help students start school with confidence and dignity—and show them the love of Christ through our actions.

Let's be the church that makes a difference—one school, one student, one kit at a time.

Congregational Meeting Note 06/29/2025

Changes to our church Constitution and By-Laws were voted on and approved at the congregation meeting after the worship service. These changes had been approved by the board at the board meeting on 5-20-25. These changes were made so that the document reflects how we have been organized the past few years and plan to be for the future.

The biggest change is the creation of a Ministries Program Team which will help direct all the programs of the church. (This is how we have been functioning unofficially for the past couple of years.) The teams that had been documented in the prior constitution no longer exist. The functions that the prior teams provided will be directed by the new Ministries Program Team. Copies of the new Constitution & By-laws will be emailed to all members in late July, early August. Paper copies will also be available at the church.

Officers approved for July 25 – July 26 church year -The following officers were approved at the congregation meeting:

Chair - Tom Spray
 Vice Chair - Ed Persinger
 Recording Secretary - Chuck Sargent
 Financial Secretary - Kathy Spray
 Treasurer - Janet Bowers
 Clerk - Cathy Snyder

Elders approved for three-year terms - Chuck Sargent, Drake Moore, Jim Powell
 Trustees approved for three-year terms - Dan Wahl, Jeff Hawn
 Diaconate, three-year terms - Jim Bowers, Paul Bowers, Mary Jane Webb

MT. LEBANON CHRISTIAN CHURCH OFFICERS 2024-2025
 as of 6/29/2025

Congregational Chair	Tom Spray
Vice Chair	Ed Persinger
Recording Sec.	Chuck Sargent
Financial Sec.	Kathy Spray
Treasurer	Janet Bowers
Church Clerk	Cathy Snyder

2025-2026

2026-2027

2027-2028

Amy Angotti
 Jeff Hawn
 Jane McCarty
 Verna McGinley
 Brad Montgomery

ELDERS
 John Crist

Drake Moore
 Jim Powell
 Chuck Sargent

Ray Dubiel
 Laurie Sargent
 Tom Spray
 Chris Wagner

Diaconate
 Carol Dubiel
 Ed Persinger
 Bonnie Philippon
 Mike Philippon
 Dan Wahl

Jim Bowers
 Paul Bowers
 Mary Jane Webb

Ed Persinger
 Mike Philippon

TRUSTEES
 Tom Spray
 Mary Jane Webb

Jeff Hawn
 Dan Wahl

Elders Shepherd Program

As we know, shepherds are devoted to their flock. The Good Shepherd wants us, goes looking for us and cares for us.

The Bible also stresses that the Elders should tend to their flock. Sheep are most productive when they are properly tended to and cared for by the shepherd.

The Elders Shepherding program at Mt Lebanon Christian Church was started many years ago as a way for Elders to watch over their sheep. Each Elder has their own list of members that are their sheep. The goal is to help us all in some of the following ways:

- **To bring elders in closer ties to members of our congregation and help members with communications and any concerns they may have.**
- **To allow the Elders to help members spiritually.**
- **To make it easier for us to know where we can help individuals because of any health or other concerns they may have in their lives.**
- **For those who might be shy or more laid back, this will give them the opportunity to pass along their needs that might otherwise go unnoticed.**
- **We also use our Shepherds list for any all-church phone calls we may need to make.**

Your shepherd will pray for you and be available when you want to talk. Remember, your shepherd is someone you can call on whether you need a friend or need spiritual guidance.

“Shepherding is for Everyone”. It means everyone deserves and should have a shepherd. It also means, everyone can be a shepherd in his or her own way for others.

The Shepherd’s list is posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway at the church.

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“BEYOND”: A Transformative Gathering in Memphis

Reflections from the 2025 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

My wife Jane and I had the joy and privilege of attending the 2025 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Memphis, Tennessee this July. We joined nearly 3,000 Disciples from across North America and beyond for a powerful few days filled with uplifting worship, meaningful business, inspiring workshops, fellowship, and hands-on service.

The theme this year was simply: “BEYOND.” It was rooted in Ephesians 3:20–21:

“Now to the one who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine...” (NRSV)

So often, we place limits on what we believe God can do - within us, through our churches, and in the world. But this Assembly reminded us that God’s power is already at work in us, and God is always moving beyond what we can see, plan, or even pray for.

Worship That Stirred the Soul

The worship experiences were deeply moving. An eclectic mix of global music, powerful liturgy, and Christ-centered preaching drew us into the presence of God. The speakers didn't just motivate - they ignited imagination and renewed our calling, reminding us that when we surrender to God's work in and through us, God can do far more than we ever thought possible.

One of the most unforgettable moments was Rev. Dr. Bernice King's sermon on Saturday night. Standing in the very city where her father, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was assassinated, she preached a bold, prophetic word. Dr. King declared that God is not bound by human expectations, but calls us to live lives that go "beyond barriers, beyond boundaries, and beyond what we can imagine." Her message was a clarion call to live out our faith with expansive hope and courageous justice.

Workshops That Equipped and Inspired

The Assembly also offered a wide variety of workshops, overflowing with both spiritual depth and practical insight. Jane and I attended sessions on intergenerational ministry, local and global mission, volunteer engagement, congregational vitality, and spiritual practices. Each one challenged and equipped us to return home with new tools, new ideas, and a renewed sense of purpose for our ministry.

Looking Ahead: GA 2028

If you've never attended a General Assembly, I wholeheartedly encourage you to come in 2028. It's more than a church conference - it's a spiritual homecoming, a reminder that we are part of something bigger, deeper, and more Spirit-filled than we often realize. Whether you are clergy, a lay leader, a long-time member, or just beginning your journey in the church, GA 2028 will be another opportunity to experience God doing BEYOND - in us, through us, and among us.

-Pastor John

Dining Disciples



Join us for Dining Disciples!

Dining Disciples are groups that meet once a month for lunch or for dinner to get to know others, talk about faith and find ways to live out our faith in our everyday lives. Dining disciples is a great way to connect with others, grow in your faith and find ways to serve the Lord in God's Kingdom here on earth. Resuming in the fall.

Elder's Corner

Will return next month

Wellness Opportunities at MLCC



Starting April 22: Join Bev Gray for an all-levels yoga class in the Chapel at Mt. Lebanon Christian Church, Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:15 and Saturday mornings, 9:30-10:45. Start where you are! Bring your own mat. For more info, visit <https://yogawithbev.netlify.app/>



Through May 19 and beginning again in September: Join Janet Tant for Slow Evening Gentle Flow class Monday evenings, 7:00-8:15. For more info, visit <https://www.janettantyoga.com/>

August Birthdays

8th Gary Schwartz
14th Sally Myton
20th Virginia Plavetich
21st Doris Riddler
23rd Cindy McClung
26th David Koerber

August Worship Leaders & Elders

3 - Chuck Sargent and Jeff Hawn
10 - Verna McGinley and Chuck Sargent
17 - Dan Wahl and Drake Moore
24 - Jeff Hawn and John Crist
31 - Chuck Sargent and Verna McGinley



August 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11:00 am Worship Service		7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30 am Elders Meeting in person 11:00 am Worship Service		7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
11:00 am Worship Service		7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
11:00 am Worship Service		7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group				
31						
11:00 am Worship Service						



Upcoming Events - Save the Date

Sunday, August 10 - Elder's Meeting in Person

Prayer List

Family of Duane Ready - comfort and peace
Family of Joy Pajak - comfort and peace
Abby, Mike and Crawford Teti
Maggie Dwyer - Breast Cancer - Cathy Snyder's daughter
Anne Totin
Karen Newman
Jocelyn Wagner
Lois Lindemann
Horst & Doris Riddler
Ray Dubiel
Family of Joanne Houston - comfort and peace
Family of Bill Samples - comfort and peace
Family of Barb Scott - comfort and peace
Family of Ron Brown – comfort and peace
Hugh Pollen - father of Bonnie Philippon
Brice Bell - Son of Bonnie Philippon
Ron Abels - friend of Wahl's
David Blandino - Cancer - friend of Rev. Cindy
Those impacted by the California Wildfires
Those impacted by Tornados
Neal - friend of Anne Totin
Peace and civility in our nation
Maggie Goodwin - healing
Sam Levine – 17-year-old - inoperable brain tumor
Giles McCarty - healing
Bill Green
Ann Peden – friend of Rev. Cindy
War in Ukraine
War in Israel
Individuals Impacted by Hurricanes Helene & Milton
Travelers