



MLCC Newsletter - January 2026



Worship with Us

In-Person or Facebook Live

Sunday Blend: 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.

Mt. Lebanon Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

367 Cedar Blvd.

Pittsburgh, PA 15228

412-531-8554

<http://www.mtlebocc.org>

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



Minister's Message

As we turn the calendar to January and step into a new year, we are reminded that new beginnings are woven into the heart of our faith. A fresh year invites us to pause, give thanks for where we have been, and open ourselves to what is still unfolding. God is always doing something new among us, calling us forward with hope and purpose. January is a natural moment to ask not only what we hope for personally in the year ahead, but how we might more fully live into the shared life and calling of this church.

Our mission to Connect, Grow & Serve offers a faithful guide for this new beginning. In the months ahead, I invite you to look for new ways to connect: with God, with one another, and with our wider community. That connection may take shape through worship, small groups, Bible studies, or simply taking time to listen and share life with someone new. As we connect more deeply, we also create space to grow: growing in faith, understanding, compassion, and courage as disciples shaped by love and grace.

Finally, a new year is an invitation to renew our commitment to serve. Service is how our faith becomes visible and tangible in the world. Whether through long-standing ministries or new opportunities that stir your heart, each act of service helps further God's work of healing and hope. As we begin 2026 together, may we embrace this season of new beginnings with open hearts, finding fresh ways to Connect, Grow & Serve, so that our church continues to be a living expression of God's love in the world.

-Pastor John

Support MLCC

Mail Checks to: Mt. Lebanon Christian Church, 367 Cedar Blvd. Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Online Giving available through our Givelify by clicking on <https://giv.li/rwhcas> or by scanning the QR code below or give online at mtlebocc.org

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 Pastor John.

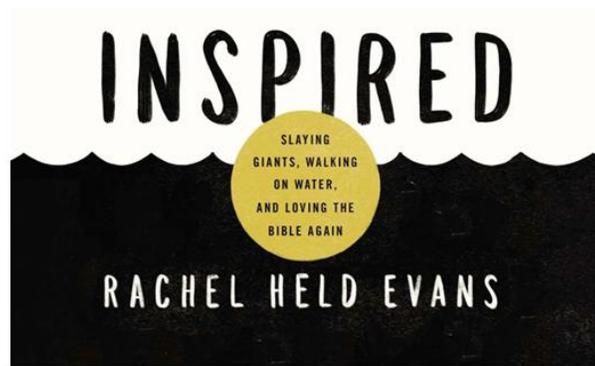
Elder's Corner

Hand-me-downs. When I was growing up, children wore hand-me-downs. Often darned or patched and passed down from older brothers and sisters. Except at school, at church and for special occasions. I often wear clothing that no longer fit my brother. I worked with what my parents provided. Some hand-me-downs were better than others.

I also wore attitudes, behaviors, beliefs and responses that were handed down, received from my parents and other role models. Some were good and acceptable, others were not. When I grew up and started to earn a living, I cast off my drab hand-me-downs, bought new clothes and took responsibility for what I wore.

On the glorious day when I asked Jesus into my life, I prayerfully thought through my spiritual and behavioral health. I ask God to take away my broken soul and destructive behavior beliefs an attitudes and to clothe me in a new spirit. Humans are spiritual and physical beings.

Our relationship with God is our primary concern as well as our relationships with other humans. Alternating between both these kinds of relationships is a lifelong challenge requiring our constant attention. I'm thankful I can be that through Christ. Graciousness offers us forgiveness when we fail to maintain our relationships with God and others. Only in God's commandments do we find our ultimate reality in this life and in the life to come.



Small Group Book Study | Wednesdays at 7 p.m. on Zoom

Beginning Jan. 14, we will gather at 7 p.m. Wednesday evenings on Zoom for a small group book study of “Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again” by Rachel Held Evans.

This study invites thoughtful conversation about Scripture - how it was formed, how it speaks through story, and how people of faith can engage the Bible honestly and faithfully today.

Books are available at the church and can be picked up in advance. Please read before the first session:

- The Introduction
- Chapter 1, Origin Stories
- Chapter 2, Deliverance Stories

Whether you love Bible study, have questions about Scripture, or are looking for meaningful conversation in community, you are encouraged to participate. More details and the Zoom link will be shared soon.



Annual Service & Outreach Impact - 2025

In 2025, the generosity, compassion, and faithful commitment of the Mt. Lebanon Christian Church community made a meaningful difference—near and far. Through your gifts, service, and love for neighbors, our congregation continued to live out Christ’s call to connect, grow, and serve.

Because of you, we were able to respond to urgent needs, strengthen vital community partners, and bring hope and joy to those who needed it most:

\$130 donated to the **American Red Cross** to support flood relief efforts.

\$650 given to **Week of Compassion** to assist communities impacted by flooding.

\$320 donated to **The Education Partnership**, helping ensure teachers and students have the supplies they need to succeed

\$637 and **345 pounds of food** shared with **SHIM**, supporting food-insecure neighbors in our community

\$671 plus coats and shoes donated to Washington City Mission, offering warmth, dignity, and care to those experiencing homelessness

\$410 given to the Disciples Mission Fund Christmas Offering, supporting ministry across the PA/WV Region of the Disciples of Christ

Beyond financial giving, MLCC members shared time, creativity, and presence in beautiful ways.

Residents of **Kane Senior Living** were reminded they are seen and loved through Valentine’s Day cards, Mother’s Day floral arrangements, and **44 Giving Tree gifts**, all delivered during a joyful and festive MLCC caroling visit. (see above photo)

Thank you for being the heart and hands of Christ. Your generosity is not just measured in dollars and pounds—but in hope shared, relationships built, and lives touched. Together, MLCC continues to make God’s love visible in our community and beyond.



On Christmas Eve, we joyfully opened the doors to the **Connect Cafe** - a vibrant new gathering space created to bring our mission of **Connect, Grow, and Serve** to life. With newly frosted windows, fresh modern paint and furnishings, a welcoming coffee bar, and a cheerful Kid's Corner designed with our youth in mind, the Cafe is already becoming a place where relationships can flourish. The renovated space will soon include new carpeting, lighting and a smart TV for streaming worship services or children's and adult Bible studies.

This beautiful transformation was made possible by the dedication, creativity, and generous spirit of so many who shared their time, talents, and passion. Their efforts were celebrated on Christmas Eve, when nearly 50 people gathered after worship to enjoy cookies, cakes, snacks, and—most importantly—meaningful fellowship.

The Connect Cafe is more than a refreshed space; it's a reflection of God's love at work through our congregation, creating room for connection, conversation, and community for all. Be sure to join us for Sunday Blend, coffee and fellowship in the Connect Cafe, Sundays at 10:30 am. We can't wait to see how God will continue to use this space to bring people together in the months ahead.

Sunday Blend: Connect with God and One Another

Join us Sundays from 10:30 to 11 a.m. for a time of connection and renewal.

10:30 a.m. – Gather in the Connect Cafe to enjoy coffee, tea, and conversation with friends

10:45 a.m. – Step into the sanctuary for a short time of praise and worship, drawing closer to God.

Life is all about relationships - this is a wonderful opportunity to deepen your walk with God and strengthen your connection with others.

11:00 a.m. – worship service

January Worship Leaders

Jan 4 - Chuck Sargent

Jan 11 - Verna McGinley

Jan 18 - Dan Wahl

Jan 25 - Jeff Hawn

January Elders

Jan 4 - Drake Moore

Jan 11 - Brad Montgomery

Jan 18 - Verna McGinley

Jan 25 - Chuck Sargent

SAVE THE DATES!!!

Sunday, Jan. 11 - Elders meeting in person - 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, Jan. 18 - Ministries Program Team meeting at church - Noon

Monday, Jan. 19 - Trustees meeting via Zoom - 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 20 - Board meeting via Zoom - 7 p.m.

Prayer List

Prayers for Healing:

Ray Dubiel

Bernie and Verna McGinley

Jocelyn Wagner

Anne Totin

Neal - friend of Anne Totin

Donny Harrison Heather Harrison

Giles McCarty

Bill Green

Eric – friend of Pastor John

Tom Herisko – friend of Pastor John

Peace and civility in our nation

People affected by war

People impacted by natural disasters

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Happy New Year!	2	3
4 10:30 Sunday Blend 10:45 Praise Music 11:00 Worship	5	6 7:00PM Women's Prayer Group	7 No Bible Study	8 7:00PM – Yoga in the Chapel with Bev Gray	9	10
11 9:30 Elders Meeting 10:30 Sunday Blend 10:45 Praise Music 11:00 Worship	12	13 7:00PM Women's Prayer Group	14 7:00PM Inspired: Small Group Study on Zoom	15 7:00PM – Yoga in the Chapel with Bev Gray	16	17
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