



MLCC Newsletter - February 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

412-631-8554

<http://www.mtlebocc.org>

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

Our Mission:

Connect, Grow, Serve



Minister's Message

Lent is one of the most sacred seasons of the Christian year. From the earliest days of the church, these forty days were set apart as a time of intentional fasting, prayer, and spiritual preparation. For early Christians, Lent was not simply a symbolic season on the calendar, it was a formative journey of faith.

In the first centuries of the church, Lent was closely connected to baptism. Those preparing to join the Christian community—often called catechumens—spent these forty days in deep spiritual formation. They prayed, fasted, learned the teachings of Jesus, examined their lives, and practiced acts of generosity and service. The entire community walked alongside them, recognizing that spiritual growth was not only for new believers, but for everyone. Baptisms most often took place on Easter Sunday, marking both a personal confession of faith and a communal celebration of new life in Christ.

Because of this, Lent was never meant to be a season only about giving things up. It was about preparing the heart, making space for God to shape faith, renew purpose, and deepen commitment to living as followers of Jesus.

This Lent, I invite each of us to remember our own baptism and confession of faith. Whether you were baptized as an infant, a youth, or an adult, the questions remain the same:

- What does Jesus mean to you today?
- How is your faith shaping the way you live, love, serve, and respond to the world around you?
- How is God inviting you to grow in the year ahead?

Lent offers us a sacred opportunity for reflection and transformation, but only if we choose to engage it. Through prayer, study, acts of compassion, and honest self-examination, we open ourselves to God's renewing work. Growth does not happen by accident; it happens when we intentionally make room for God to move in us.

May this Lenten season be a gentle but persistent call—to grow deeper in faith, to draw closer to God, and to live more fully into the love and justice of Christ. May it shape not only these forty days, but the way we live long after Easter has come.

Grace and peace to you on the journey.

-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.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2025 Financial Wrap-Up

In 2025, the church faced a financial shortfall, with expenses exceeding regular offerings by \$49,799. Despite this deficit, the church was able to balance its finances through investment income, a memorial gift, and the proceeds from the sale of the parsonage. These sources of income helped to offset the gap and maintain the church's operations for the year.

2026 Budget and Financial Plans

For the year 2026, the church has set an operating budget of \$111,655. To ensure transparency and keep the congregation informed, updates will be provided each month detailing the church's financial status. These updates will compare actual offerings and expenses to the budgeted amounts, allowing members to track the church's progress and financial health throughout the year.

Discretionary Spending

The Trustees, with the Board's agreement, have authorized discretionary spending to address several significant building projects. The funds for these projects will be financed by proceeds from the sale of the parsonage. Possible projects include repairing or replacing compromised exterior doors, installing accessibility ramps, and making improvements to the church's audiovisual systems. This allocation demonstrates a commitment to maintaining and enhancing the church's facilities for the benefit of all members and visitors.

Outreach from the Schnarrs Fund

In addition, the Trustees have approved a \$10,000 outreach initiative funded by the Schnarrs Fund. This fund is specifically designated to support individuals who are pursuing graduate or doctorate education in preparation for ministry within the Disciples of Christ denomination. Through this outreach, the church aims to honor the intent of the Schnarrs Fund and encourage and assist future spiritual leaders in their educational and vocational journeys.

Elder's Corner

Fluff and Other Stuff

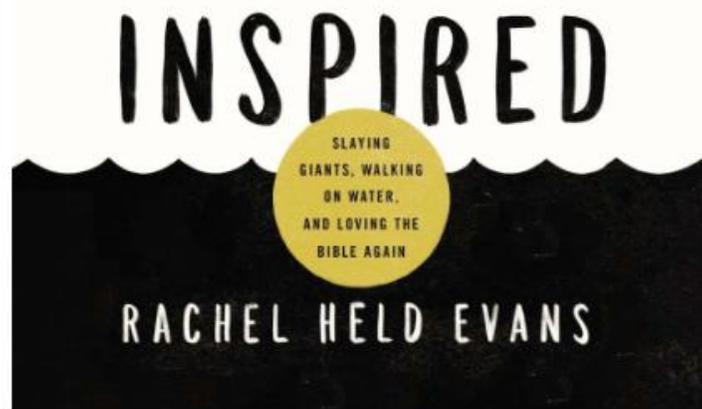
Winnie the Pooh most famously said, if the person you are talking to doesn't appear to be listening, be patient. It may simply be that he has a small piece of fluff in his ear. I've learned over the years that Winnie might be on to something. When someone won't listen or even follow your counsel, which would be to their advantage, it may be that their resistance is nothing more than a piece of fluff in the ear. Or there may be another hindrance. Some folks find it hard to listen well because they're broken and discouraged.

Moses spoke to the people of Israel, but they didn't listen because their spirits were broken and their lives were very, very hard. Exodus 6:9. The word discouragement in the Hebrew text literally means short of breath, a result of their bitter enslavement in Egypt.

What should we do when others won't listen? Winnie the Pooh's words are "be patient." God says love is patient, love is kind. (1st Corinthians 13) God is willing to wait. He's not finished with that individual. He's working through their sorrow.

In our prayers, perhaps in Jesus name, God will open their ears to hear. Just be patient.

Our Creator knows the struggles we face. God has known us from the moment our lives began and knows us better than anyone. We can fight through life's challenges on our own, or we can battle them with God. God longs for us to call for the strength we need to fight our battles. God, who knows our innermost being, is always ready to give us strength that we need.

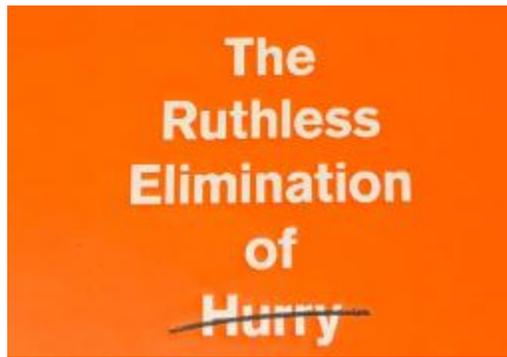


Small Group Book Study | Wednesdays at 7 p.m. on Zoom

Join us Wednesday evenings on Zoom for our 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.

Whether you love Bible study, have questions about Scripture, or are looking for meaningful conversation in community, you are encouraged to participate. Watch for the Zoom link in the weekly invitation email.



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

This Lent, you are invited to slow down and make space for God. Beginning Wednesday, February 25, we will gather for a Lenten small group book study using *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* by John Mark Comer. Together, we will explore what it means to resist the constant busyness of our culture and intentionally cultivate a life of presence, Sabbath, prayer, and deeper connection with God. Lent offers a sacred opportunity to pause, reflect, and reorient our lives toward what truly matters. Whether you feel overwhelmed, spiritually restless, or simply longing for a deeper sense of peace, this study offers a meaningful way to journey through the season together. All are welcome—come as you are, and let this Lent be a time of renewal for your faith and your life.

♥ February Service & Outreach: Valentine's Card Ministry ♥

This February, Mt. Lebanon Christian Church is living out our mission to **Connect, Grow, and Serve** by sharing Christ's love with our neighbors at **Kane Senior Living**. Through a Valentine's Day card outreach, we're creating meaningful connections and reminding residents that they are loved and remembered.

For this outreach, we are partnering with the students who share the building with us from the Home Away From Home School. They will be using their creativity to make Valentine's Day cards for the residents at Kane.

On February 8, you are invited to select one or more of the students' cards and write a personal note to one of the residents, using your creativity to make someone feel seen. The cards should be signed "*With Love from your friends at Mt. Lebanon Christian Church.*"

If you are interested in going to Kane Senior Living to distribute the cards to residents, please let Kathy Spray know (412-344-6076 or kaspray@hotmail.com). This is a chance to personally connect with those around us.

This shared outreach offers a wonderful opportunity for all generations to grow in compassion while serving together. Let's connect hearts, grow in faith, and serve with love this Valentine's season. ♥

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.



February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 Sunday Blend 10:45 Praise Music 11:00 Worship	2	3 7:00PM Women's Prayer Group	4 7:00PM Inspired Small Group Study on Zoom	5 7:00PM - Yoga in the Chapel with Bev Gray	6	7
8 9:30 Elders Meeting 10:30 Sunday Blend 10:45 Praise Music 11:00 Worship 12:45 Friendship Lunch @ Olive Garden	9	10 7:00PM Women's Prayer Group	11 7:00PM Inspired Small Group Study on Zoom	12 7:00PM - Yoga in the Chapel with Bev Gray	13	14
15 10:30 Sunday Blend 10:45 Praise Music 11:00 Worship 12:00 Ministers Program Team	16	17 7:00PM Women's Prayer Group	18 Ash Wednesday Service @ 7pm	19 7:00PM - Yoga in the Chapel with Bev Gray	20	21
22 10:30 Sunday Blend 10:45 Praise Music 11:00 Worship	23	24 7:00PM Women's Prayer Group	25	26 7:00PM - Yoga in the Chapel with Bev Gray	27	28

February Birthdays

- 2 - Verna McGinley
- 21 - Jeff Hawn
- 26 - Barbi Jenkins
- 27 - Kayla Wolff

February Worship Leaders

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

February Elders

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

FRIENDSHIP LUNCHEON - LET'S EAT!

You are warmly invited to join us for a Church Friendship Lunch at Olive Garden in Village Square on Sunday, February 8, right after worship. This is a wonderful opportunity to continue the spirit of fellowship beyond the sanctuary by sharing a meal, meaningful conversation, and plenty of laughter together. Whether you've been part of the church for years or are newer to the community, this lunch is a simple and welcoming way to build connections and strengthen relationships. There's no program or pressure, just come as you are, enjoy good food, and spend time with people who are glad to be on the journey of faith with you. We hope you'll join us for this time of connection and community.

SAVE THE DATES!!!

Sunday, February 8: 9:30 a.m. - Elders Meeting

Sunday, February 8: 12:45 p.m. - Friendship Lunch at Olive Garden

Sunday, February 15: Noon - Ministries Program Team

Wednesday, February 18: 7 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Service

Prayer List

Jocelyn Wagner

Ray Dubiel

Neal - friend of Anne Totin

Donny Harrison

Heather Harrison

Giles McCarty

Bill Green

Eric – friend of Pastor John

Tom Herisko – friend of Pastor John

Robert Kasimir

Michelle Samios (friend of Pastor John)

Chris Ireland

Barbi Jenkins - Loss of Abbie

Peace and civility in our nation

People affected by war

People impacted by natural disasters