



## MLCC Newsletter - March 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](mailto:john.mccarty@mtlebocc.org)

**Our Mission:**  
**Connect, Grow, Serve**

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## **Minister's Message**

Lent often arrives while the world still feels caught between seasons. The days are slowly growing longer, yet the ground remains cold and hard. Trees stand bare. Gardens look empty. And yet, beneath the surface, something holy is happening. Spring reminds us that what appears dormant is not dead. Beneath frozen soil, roots are strengthening. Seeds are stirring. Life is quietly preparing to rise. This is the work of resurrection.

During this Lenten season, our congregation is leaning into that same hidden work through our small group book study, *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*, with our weekly sermons paralleling its themes. Lent invites us to slow down, not as an act of withdrawal, but as an act of trust. Trust that God is at work even when nothing seems to be happening on the surface.

Hurry convinces us that productivity is the measure of worth and busyness is the sign of faithfulness. Lent gently tells another story. Through practices like Silence and Solitude, Sabbath, Simplicity, and Slowing, we are learning to create space - space where God can breathe new life into us. These practices may feel countercultural, even uncomfortable at first. Like winter soil, they can seem quiet, empty, or unproductive.

But God does some of God's best work in hidden places.

As we eliminate hurry, we are not losing something essential; we are making room for what truly matters. We are allowing roots to grow deeper. We are trusting that rest can be faithful, that stillness can be spiritual, and that slowing down can prepare us for new life.

Easter will come. Resurrection always does. And when it does, it often reveals that the transformation began long before we could see it.

May this Lenten season be a time when you trust what God is growing beneath the surface of your life. May you find hope in the waiting, peace in the slowing, and confidence that even now, God is preparing something new.

With gratitude for this shared journey,

Pastor John

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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](http://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.

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## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

This year, we will be tracking our expenses against our annual budget of \$111,656. Through January, the most recent month with complete numbers, we are under budget by \$219.

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## Elder's Corner

### God Understands Your Love

## Verna McGinley

I confess that prayer is not my strongest and most spiritual discipline. I'm comfortable leading prayers and worship or praying for someone who is ill. Making a disciplined effort to spend a good amount of time in prayer is very difficult for me.

I get anxious when I sit still. My mind is not one that goes easily quiet. But this day was important to me. My husband had fallen and broken his hip. And I was very, very anxious. From the time he left the house until the time he returned from the hospital, I prayed for him. I prayed through my morning routine, showering, and dressing. I prayed while I made some coffee, and then I sat on the couch for an hour and poured my heart out to the Lord for my husband.

It was an emotionally draining experience, but I believe it was very necessary. That was the best way I could have cared for my spouse.

It isn't necessarily the way we pray that matters, or whether we sit, kneel or stand. It isn't about whether we speak out loud or make lists or say one word prayers throughout the day. What matters most is that we do pray intentionally by faithfully pouring out our joys and fears to God. He sees all, knows all, and loves all.

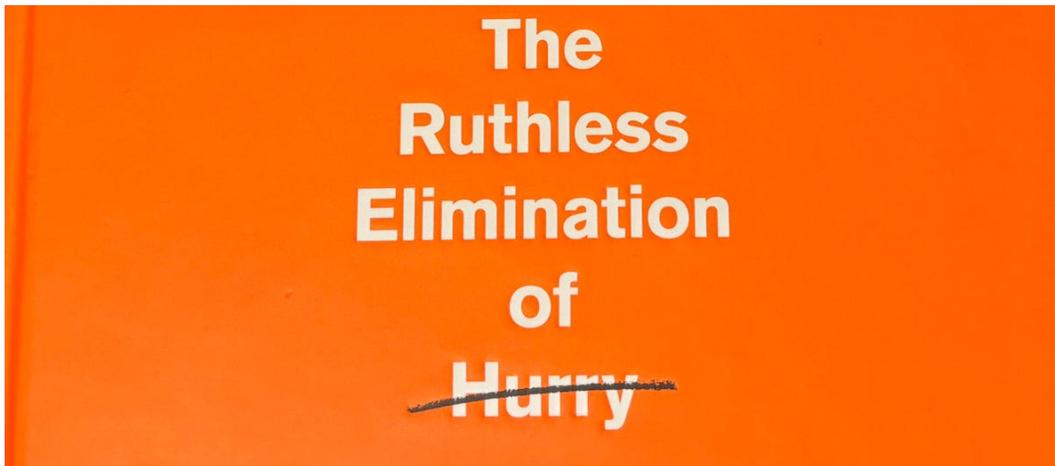
How thankful we should be that God, through Christ, graciously offers us forgiveness when we fail to maintain our relationships with God and others. Only in God's commandments do we find our ultimate reality in this life and the life to come.

Jesus said to the lawyer, You shall love the Lord God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

How will I make time for my relationship with God and with others today?

Yes, Jesus Christ helps us obey your commandments, to love and remain in a right relationship with you and with others. Amen.





### **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 with our 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.

For each week of the practices of Silence and Solitude, Sabbath, Simplicity, and Slowing, ask these check-in questions.

1. How did you intentionally engage the practice this week? (Be specific — when, how long, what did it look like?)
2. What felt life-giving? What felt difficult or resistant?
3. What did you notice about your heart, mind, or pace as a result?
4. What got in the way — and what might you adjust next week?





## March Service and Outreach

### Celebrate National Pi Day with Pie!!!

Mt. Lebanon Christian Church is celebrating **National Pi Day** in a delicious way! Join us on **Sunday, March 15** for a fun and tasty **Pie Cook-Off Fundraiser** to support our neighbors at **South Hills Interfaith Movement (SHIM)**.

We invite everyone to **Connect, Grow, and Serve** by participating in this special event that combines fellowship, friendly competition, and meaningful service and outreach.

### How You Can Participate

#### Bake or Bring a Pie

- Make your favorite homemade pie **or purchase one to share**
- Sweet or savory pies are welcome
- Bring your pie to church on March 15

#### Taste and Vote

After worship, everyone is invited to the Pie Day celebration where you can:

- Sample a variety of delicious pies for a **small donation**
- Vote for your favorites in our friendly Pie Cook-Off competition
- Help crown our MLCC Pie Champions!

#### Pie Cook-Off Prizes

Prizes will be awarded in three fun categories:

- **Best Tasting Pie** – The pie everyone wants the recipe for!
- **Best Decorated Pie** – The most beautiful and creative presentation
- **Most Unique Pie** – The most original and unexpected entry

Whether you're an experienced baker or just trying something new, everyone is encouraged to participate!

### **Take a Pie Home**

- Some donated pies will be available for **whole-pie purchase**
- Perfect for enjoying at home or sharing with family and friends

### **Serving Our Neighbors**

All proceeds from the Pie Cook-Off will benefit **South Hills Interfaith Movement**, helping provide food, clothing, and essential services to neighbors in need throughout the South Hills community. This is a wonderful opportunity to live out our mission to **Connect, Grow, and Serve** — sharing fellowship with one another while making a difference in our community.

Bring a pie, bring a friend, and bring your appetite!

**Together we can make Pi Day meaningful — and delicious!**

**FYI, the first 10 digits of pi are 3.1415926535**





## 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.



## March 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 Unhurry 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	9	10 7:00PM Women's Prayer Group	11 7:00PM Unhurry 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 Pie Cook-off Fundrasier	16	17 7:00PM Women's Prayer Group	18 7:00PM Unhurry Small Group Study on Zoom	19 7:00PM - Yoga in the Chapel with Bev Gray	20	21 10:00 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Women's Breakfast
22 10:30 Sunday Blend 10:45 Praise Music 11:00 Worship	23	24 7:00PM Women's Prayer Group	25 7:00PM Unhurry Small Group Study on Zoom	26 7:00PM - Yoga in the Chapel with Bev Gray	27	28
29 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 10:30 Sunday Blend 10:45 Praise Music 11:00 Worship	30	31 7:00PM Women's Prayer Group	1	2	3	4

**March Birthdays**

2 - Clare Newman  
 19 - Lee Scott  
 27 - Amy Angotti  
 28 - Janet Bowers

**March Anniversaries**

7 - Verna and Bernie McGinley  
 18 - Diane and Richard Ozanick  
 29 - Jane and John McCarty

**March Worship Leaders**

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

**March Elders**

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

## **Men's and Women's Breakfasts - LET'S EAT!**

### **March 21**

Join us for a relaxed morning of food and fellowship at 10 a.m. March 21.

- Men are invited to gather for breakfast at Denny's (Greentree Road).
- Women are invited to meet for breakfast at Eat 'N Park (Banksville Road)

Come enjoy good conversation, great company, and a welcoming start to the day—friends and newcomers are always welcome!

**SAVE THE DATES!!!**

Sunday, March 8: 9:30 a.m. - Elders meeting

Sunday March 15: Noon - Pie Cook-off Fundraiser

Saturday, March 21: 10 a.m. - Men's and Women's Breakfasts

## Prayer List

Prayers for Healing:

Diane Losk – Friend of Anne Totin

Jocelyn Wagner

Ray Dubiel

Donny Harrison

Heather Harrison

Giles McCarty

Bill Green

Tom Herisko – friend of Pastor John

Robert Kasimir

Michelle Samios (friend of Pastor John)

Marianne Bowman

Dorothy - Kathy Spray's mom

Marcella Ireland - Death of husband Chris

Peace and civility in our nation

People affected by war

People impacted by natural disasters

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