

# Hearts and Hands Across the World



Presbytery of Carlisle  
2019 Mission Yearbook

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## Christ Church, Camp Hill

At Christ Presbyterian we are excited about celebrating the arrival of our new Director of Music, Andy Hoke, walking together in the Crop Walk to help end hunger, and our Cross-Gen project when young and young at heart learn together.

## Dickinson Presbyterian Church

Dickinson Presbyterian Church is proud of our long tradition of putting God's love into action in our local community. Every year we look forward to our ecumenical mission with the Fruitbelt Farmworker Christian Ministry, a non-profit ministry dedicated to serving migrant and seasonal farm workers who come to South Central Pennsylvania to harvest the various fruit crops.



Joaquin Lopez leading a worship service for migrant workers.

Along with the Centerville Lutheran Church, we visited a migrant workers' camp on September 16th to share in fellowship, games, worship, and a hearty meal. This year we were very blessed to have Joaquin, a candidate for ministry in the Carlisle Presbytery and fluent Spanish-speaker, accompany our group and deliver worship in both English and Spanish. It was evident that the worship was meaningful to those in attendance. It was also the first year we were able to have "ice-breaker" games in both languages! We were enormously grateful to Joaquin for the work he put into this mission.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this ministry has been the gift of seeing the same workers return season to season. We especially enjoy the children who, serving as excellent translators, tell us about their lives and where they will go next. We hope they look forward to seeing us as much as we do them!

We see God's hand in this ministry by allowing us to overcome a barrier of language to love our neighbors not with words, but deeds. We pray that men and families are reminded that although they may be far from home, God is present.

"Devote yourself to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly as I should." Colossians 4:2-4

## First Presbyterian Church, Carlisle - Mission Spring and Fall

For 10 years First Presbyterian Church has sponsored a Lenten Luncheon Concerts. At noon a local person or group shares their talents with the audience with a variety music both singers and instrumentalists have played. Following the 30 minute concert the community fabulous cooks share the talent with homemade soups and desserts. An offering is taken at each event and ALL proceeds go to the Project SHARE food bank in Carlisle.



Enjoying a Lenten Luncheon Concert at First Church

Every fall, First Presbyterian has an all church Mission Day. There are a variety of projects, such as buckets and schoolbags for victims of natural disasters are filled. Yard and house work for shut-ins and ailing members of the congregation are offered. Personal care items for local homeless shelters are collected and distributed. Packets for the year-round mission of giving a book and knit hat to each baby born in Carlisle Hospital are assembled.



Fall Mission Day Work

## Second Church - We are Building One Carlisle

Second Church is located in the wonderfully diverse town of Carlisle. Daughters of the American Revolution and African-Americans call Carlisle home. So do Bosnian immigrants, Muslims and Jews, dancers and law students, Army officers and pacifist Mennonites, farmers, government workers and warehouse drivers. We are really a community- of-communities. Some communities are based on where we live, work, or worship. Some are based around great institutions like the Army War College, Dickinson College, or the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet. Some are based on race, religion, language and class. For all kinds of reasons we often stick to our own communities – eating, learning, working, and growing up together (but missing out on connections with others). Too often -- once we venture outside whatever we think of as our own neighborhoods -- we are strangers to one another.



Enjoying a Picnic with Friends

One Carlisle is about helping strangers become neighbors and neighbors to become friends. The Second Presbyterian Church community is building relationships with other vibrant Carlisle communities. Along the way, we are enriching each others' lives and finding ourselves blessed.

We have taken several bridge-building steps so far:

- Funded "Weekly Reader" Magazine for all students in LeTort, Bel Air, and Hamilton Elementary Schools (schools with high percentages of students in need)

- Shared dinner with Eastern Cumberland Valley District Amish Community.

- Enjoyed hot dogs and chicken with dozens of homeless men participating in Carlisle CARES.

- Celebrate communion with Bethel AME Church.

- Reached out to Adams County migrant workers from Honduras through meals, worship, and soccer. A relationship several of our members continue to build upon. Our Serve Team is supporting their efforts to build a school in Honduras.

- Shared several meals with the B & H Islamic Center of Pennsylvania in their location and ours, hosted CARES together and members of our congregations have worshiped with each other in their respective houses of worship.

- Partnered with Hope Station (a local non-profit organization serving the needs of people in low economic area) over food, worship, tutoring, and games. We continue to support events they host and work to build relationships with the community members.

### ***Second Church, cont.***

Hosting the Carlisle Area Religious Council Community Thanksgiving Dinner and Interfaith Service. It is a service that includes Christians, Muslims, Jews and Buddhists. In a time when there are so many acts of hate, we can show love to each other and our community.

Each of these strategic steps has been taken after serious conversation with leaders of the partnering community about how best to get to know each other. Not every initiative turned out the way we planned, but we are willing to risk making short-term mistakes in order to make long-term progress. We can already see some of the “fruit” of our efforts. Each of these steps has led to individuals forming new relationships across lines of race, class, and religion. This is the kind of peace-making, justice-seeking, boundary-crossing work that Jesus calls us to do. We have made a strong start. We have a long way to go.



Rev. Jeff Gibelius enjoying a dinner with visitors from area ecumenical groups in the Carlisle community.

### **Central Church**

As Central Presbyterian Church celebrates its 150th Anniversary, there is a purposeful effort to reach local people. Along with opening the church during community events, Central is sponsoring the Diaper Depot at Central, maintaining a Blessing Box and a Little Free Library, and helping other local organizations.

Diaper Depot at Central, where parents obtain disposable diapers, is held monthly. Families can also take advantage of a hot breakfast, dental exams, in-season produce, donated clothing and children’s items, and health information. Diaper Depot is a mission of the community. Partial financial support has come in the form of grants from Franklin County Foundation, the Carlisle Presbytery, and the Synod of the Trinity. Members of the church and many people from the community volunteer so this mission can operate.

Central Church maintains a Blessing Box and a Little Free Library. The Blessing Box is stocked daily with non-perishable food items that are free for anyone who is food insecure. It has been noticed that some people take while others donate. The Little Free Library is filled with donated books and people are welcome to take a book or two. At one point, two children’s drawings were left as thanks for the books.

Adopting a Migrant Farmworkers camp, providing meals for a local drop-in shelter, ringing the bell for Salvation Army, and helping with She’s Somebody’s Daughter are other ways Central reaches out to local people. Also members of Central are active in helping organizations of their choice.

### ***Central Church, cont.***

“Sharing the heart of Christ from the heart of the city” is the vision Central is living out with God’s help. God’s hand can be seen as all of these missions grow and individuals come forward to offer their services. Central is pleased to be entrusted with God’s missions to help the most vulnerable among us.

Prayer: Father God, we praise and love you. Please help us to love as you love and see the needs of others as you see them. Open us to help the most vulnerable in the ways you want. Mold us to be your hands and feet in this world. Amen.

### **Falling Spring Church**

The Falling Spring congregation in Chambersburg has just sent a young couple, Justin and Caitlin Hanks, to France to begin language school. They will learn to speak French, and plan to serve as long-term missionaries in the African country of Cote d'Ivoire, (the Ivory Coast). Caitlin has already spent a full year there living with host families.

Also, a mission team to the African country of Zambia is in the planning stages for 2019. The target dates for the trip are May 29 through June 12, 2019. Plans are to construct a playground area in a mission base along the Zambesi River. A church member has a brother, who has been living among these unreached groups of people. Currently, he and his wife teach and are planting house churches in 18 different villages along the river.

### **Monaghan Church - Christmas Baskets for New Hope Ministry**

Monaghan Presbyterian Church, Dillsburg, has always had a close relationship with New Hope Ministry. One of the ways in which members of the church help New Hope serve the community is by providing Christmas baskets.

Each year in late November, members of the congregation are asked to bring in specific donations to go into these baskets. These include items such as fresh fruit, energy bars, and certain canned products. Then usually either the first or second Sunday in December, during the Sunday School hour,



**Collections for the baskets for New Hope Ministries**

***Monaghan Church, cont.***

classes of all ages from preschool through adult work on packing the baskets. Colorful cards are also made to go with the

baskets. It truly is an inter-generational opportunity to serve. In 2017, the Sunday School classes packed approximately 100 baskets for New Hope. These baskets are then taken to the Dillsburg Center of New Hope Ministry, where they are distributed to clients throughout the area.

**Duncannon Presbyterian Church**

Not many churches own the town library, but Duncannon Presbyterian does. The library is a three-story free-standing building adjacent to the church and has served many purposes over the years. A fireproof door on the first floor reminds residents of the days when it was the town bank. Now, as the town library, we are able to make books of all kinds available to both children and adults and is well used.

We have also made the library a resting place for hikers who come through Duncannon on the Appalachian Trail. (It goes right through the middle of town.) We provide computer access so that they can send and receive messages, small food items to take on the trail with them, and a warm welcome, especially to the solitary hikers, who appreciate having someone to talk with while they rest.

Our new mission outreach project in 2018 is providing a lunch and song time for the residents of a small apartment building that is only a few blocks from our church. The residents appreciate the food we provide and are also becoming familiar friends who we invite to come and worship with us on Sunday morning.

We are a small church, but we are proud of the many ways we can reach out to so many people in our community. Among them are these: in conjunction with the American Legion Post #340 we provided 64 backpacks and school supplies to elementary students in low income families, several members are involved each month with Meals on Wheels, one of our members was a Lend a Hand participant on a trip to North Carolina, household items such as paper and cleaning products that are not covered by government subsidies are given out, and in December the children of low income families will receive Christmas gifts.

We try through our worship to challenge ourselves to reach out to the “least of these” in our community. Shannon Martin in her book “The Ministry of Ordinary Places” says that the starting point for what we do is to uncover the hidden corners of our neighborhood, and to invest deeply in the lives of people around us. “Learn what it is to love and be loved right where God has placed you,” she says. That is what we try to do in Duncannon Presbyterian Church.

## Gettysburg Church



Pastor Dave Wright on the left has been leading groups to the Yucatan for over 30 years.

**Hands-on mission trips** are an important part of the ministry of Gettysburg Presbyterian Church. We currently run 4-5 such trips each year. Our newest addition is an annual trip to the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. Working under the direction of Accion Ministries, we send a team of people to one of many Mayan villages. We stay in homes, sleep in hammocks, prepare our own food, and do our best to survive the heat without air conditioning! We spend the mornings doing construction work on a church or home with local Presbyterians. In the afternoon we run a Vacation Bible School and a reading glasses clinic. In the evening we worship and fellowship with

the local church. Pastor Dave has been taking groups to the Yucatan for over 30 years. He appreciates the fact that this ministry is a true partnership with local people, and the fact that it always challenges and helps us grow in faith.

Prayer - Gracious Heavenly Father, we are thankful for the members of our church family who faithfully give of their time, talents and treasures which allow us to support mission teams in the local community and far from home. We are especially grateful for members of those teams who follow the example of your Son Jesus, serving the poor and disadvantaged while spreading Your Word. Amen

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Church Staff: Rev. Dr. David C. Wright (Senior Pastor) Rev. Louis A. Nyiri (Associate Pastor), Emily K. Koons (Director of Music & Organist), Libby Crowe (Director of Middle School Ministry & Contemporary Worship), Cheryl L. Betts (Director of Christian Education), Penny Messinger (Administrative Assistant), David Conklin (Adult Choir & Praise Band Director Mission Committees), Jerry Cleaver (Elder for National & International Missions), Bill Tindall (Elder for Local Missions)

## Great Conewago Church

Located near Gettysburg, Great Conewago Church's Presbyterian Women's Association is an affiliate of Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc.

Among many missions, the Association sponsors "Blanket" Sunday and distributes blankets locally and nationwide to victims of poverty and natural disasters. The Association also sponsors the annual "Thank" offering that supports the missionary service of the denomination around the globe.

Please pray for: The Women's Association of Great Conewago Presbyterian Church Ministry



Great Conewago Presbyterian's Women's Association

Let us pray: Gracious Jesus, through your teachings, your humble servants have been striving to see and fulfill just a few of the missions that you would have us work towards for all your people. Please work through the Women's Association of Great Conewago and Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to guide us to improve our world and to assist your people through the Ministry of Jesus Christ, Our Lord. In your blessed name we pray, AMEN.

## **Lower Marsh Creek Church - The Hands and Feet of Jesus in our Local Community**

For many years Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church (Gettysburg area) has reached out to our local citizens showing them the love of Jesus. Following is a brief summary of four of these ministries.

***Gettysburg Soup Kitchen*** - On the first Friday of each month, we bring hot casseroles and help serve them to the guests at the Soup Kitchen. We help set up, serve and clean up afterwards. Before they leave, most of the guests make sure they stop by and say thanks for a delicious, hot meal.

***Fairfield Food Pantry*** - Throughout the year we have two large boxes, one in our narthex and one in Fellowship Hall. Members and friends of Lower Marsh Creek place canned and boxed foods in the boxes. During October our narthex is decorated for fall and a major emphasis is placed on donating food to the Fairfield Food Pantry. Our desire is that none of our neighbors go to bed hungry.

***Clothes for Homeless*** - During the winter months we encourage one another to check our closets and donate coats, sweaters, scarves, and gloves to those in our community who are less fortunate than us. A large box is placed in our Fellowship Hall and about every other week volunteers empty and take the winter items to our local homeless shelter.

***Habitat for Humanity*** - Adams County Habitat for Humanity has been a long time organization Lower Marsh Creek has supported with our financial gifts, prayers and participation in the local blitz builds. Workdays are scheduled and members work at the job site or provide refreshments for the workers.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for providing so much to each of us. Help us to always be mindful of the needs of our neighbors. We pray for those in need here in Adams County. Thank you that we can share our time, talents and treasures to those around us. In Christ's Name, Amen.

Pastor: Mark Englund-Krieger (Pastor), Denise Lockwood (Clerk of Session), Sandy Burham (2019 Mission Chair)

## **Greencastle Church**

Our mission committee is very active locally and beyond. We house the Food Bank for the community and at Advent we hold an Angel Breakfast for the families of the Food Bank and also have an Angel Tree in which we provide Christmas presents for the children of Food Bank recipients. Additionally, we have Tubs of Warmth (hats, gloves, scarves) that we place in the community library for those who have none. The youth participate in the Chambersburg Project assisting those within that community with house and yard help. We provide scholarships for Kids to Krislund and graduating high school seniors. We have a Little Free Library on the church property for free books and an annual trip for the Laurel Mission in Kentucky.

### **Mt. Olivet Church**

In 2019 the Mt. Olivet Church near Hancock, MD, will receive an unexpected gift of over \$300,000.00. Their joy will be in deciding how to use it for future ministry. Also, the congregation plans to purchase land for future church growth. Because numbers are increasing and that means the church is grow in body as well as Spirit, their hope is to build their first Fellowship Hall. Please pray for this congregation's hopes and dreams for ministry

### **Market Square Church**

As a church positioned in the heart of downtown Harrisburg, Market Square has long ministered to the needs of people “on the doorstep”.

Our mission statement captures it well: *To proclaim & live the Good News of Jesus Christ by welcoming friend & stranger alike into our diverse and inclusive family of faith regardless of race or class or national origin or sexual orientation or worldly condition of any kind as we celebrate our gifts, work for justice, peace, and a sustainable environment, reach out in mission, and witness to God's transforming love.*

Surely, worldly condition of any kind includes those people, who are less fortunate and find themselves to be homeless. Several winters ago, an impromptu tent city sprang up on our sidewalk...right outside ALL our doorsteps. This presented a dilemma—while the sidewalk is technically church property, the city of Harrisburg does have requirements. Our determination was to accommodate these tents for one winter. We did have a great concern about safety—not for people coming to our church, as the people living in the tents were unendingly polite and helpful—but for the sake of the homeless. Our church building has steep roof lines, and we were concerned that no snow and ice build-up slide down off of the roof and injure someone.

After a season, we worked with the city, and informed the tent-dwellers that the next winter would not include a tent city. The good news was that almost all of the people had found permanent housing.

Fast forward to 2018. We did not leave the problem of homelessness behind. First, we gave strong support including a financial contribution to the newly developing Paxton Place which concentrates on low-income housing. The planned facility is currently being built. Second, we teamed up with Christian Churches United, responding to their initiative. We are again supporting this effort financially as well as providing space for an office in the church, as well as a part time staff person. The focus—prevent homelessness by identifying people at risk for homelessness.

Christ commanded that we go into all the world to share the gospel. And, that includes the world on our doorstep.

Please pray for: The Revs. Thomas Sweet and Kelly Wiant (Pastors), Elder Donna Wenger

***Market Square, cont.***

(Chair, Mission and Stewardship), Nancy Sheets (Clerk of Session and Ministry Support Administrator), Cheryl Goode (Director of Children's Education), Tyler Canonico (Minister of Music), John Goode (Sexton), Michelle Sheaffer (Financial Administrator), and Robert Garrett (Building Manager).

**Pine Street Church - Expanding Mission through Support of the Adult Learning Center at Pine Street**

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

The Adult Learning Center (ALC) at Pine Street Presbyterian Church is a community outreach mission program that serves the greater Harrisburg area. Pine Street’s call to create the ALC arose from a mission survey among Pine Street members in 2013 and a subsequent partnership with Tri-County OIC who, since 1965, has offered educational courses and other training to adults in Dauphin County.

The ALC opened in October, 2014, by providing individualized education to adult students wanting to improve competencies in basic math, reading, English language study, and basic skills before enrolling in a formal GED classroom-based program. ALC services have expanded to include opportunities for students who are ESL (English as a Second Language)/ELL (English Language Learner) learners. The ALC is located at Downtown Daily Bread, also a ministry of Pine Street, in the Boyd Building across from the church. It is equipped with a computer lab and instructional areas designed to assess each participant’s educational level and academic progress, as well as to accommodate students in settings and configurations that facilitate student-centered teaching and learning. Textbooks, computer software, and other necessary instructional materials are provided free of charge.

As educational levels and goals differ among students, so do their successes. In the past four years, the ALC has celebrated the success of many students, including four who recently passed the GED exam!

The ALC needs many volunteers and educational resources. Contact Dr. Kathleen White, Director of the Adult Learning Center at Pine Street, at (717) 963-7444 or e-mail [kwhite@tricity.org](mailto:kwhite@tricity.org).

Let Us Pray - Heavenly Father, thank you for words of encouragement. Help us to act upon your call for us to serve others and to offer encouragement and love to all who use their time and talents to help others in need. Amen.

Pine Street Staff: Dr. Russell C. Sullivan, Jr., (Pastor), Brett A. Terry (Minister of Music & Worship), Anne E. Guenin (Director of Downtown Daily Bread/Church Administrator)

## Derry Church - Enriching Mission Partnerships

Effective churches understand the value of developing a clear vision and strategy for funding mission partners. Additionally, this vision/strategy should be congruent with the church's culture and core values. One must ask, "What is the congregation excited about and how can we build on that existing enthusiasm?" The Derry Presbyterian Church (Derry) Mission and Peace Committee (M&PC) has spent the last year analyzing its' efforts related to mission partners and projects. Derry is unique because of its' commitment to its' mission partners.

In order to strengthen and nurture the relationships with its' mission partners, the M&PC concluded that Derry should:

1. Narrow the focus of the M&PC to reflect Derry's core values: Women's Issues, Homelessness, Feed the Hungry, Education of Children, Access to Healthcare, Refugees, Community Outreach, and Elder Care.
2. Reduce the number of mission partners we support in order to strengthen relationships and emotional connections
3. Increase financial support to mission partners (when possible) in order to help our partners be more effective in their work.

Each month, a member of the M&PC writes an article for the E-News letter that shares that month's core value and/or special offering. The article identifies the core value, discusses why it's a key mission value for Derry, and then outlines ways Derry lives out that value in its' mission by sharing about some of the mission partners and projects. Derry also invites a speaker from one of the missions it supports in that core value area to share briefly stories about that mission's work. Derry presents them with a check in the worship service so that the congregation is an active participant in the process. Derry also finds ways to communicate the core value and mission each month through Facebook videos, Sunday school classes, and other outlets. Finally, Derry organizes hands-on activities each month ranging from things done at mission sites, to physical item drives, to things that can be done at Derry.

The goal is for Derry's practice to align with its' culture and theology so that Jesus is the center of everything it does!

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 3:9, For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

Let's Pray

Mission is more than God's people obediently serving him. Missions is God at work. Let us remember that if he isn't working in and through his people to accomplish his purposes, nothing eternal is getting done. Amen.

## **Christ Presbyterian Church, Camp Hill**

For many years, we have participated in the Noon Meal program, run by Lebanon County Christian Ministries. Every third Friday, we prepare and serve luncheon meals, prepared at LCCM's facility, to about 90 persons. This provides hot meals to persons who might otherwise not have access to healthy meals.

An extension of our ministry with the Noon Meal, in conjunction with Lebanon County Christian Ministries, is the collection of food for the Food Bank that is also directed by LCCM. Each month we announce a different food that is included on the Food Bank wish list. Members of our church family provide these food items and once a month they are delivered to LCCM. The monthly food designation has helped to increase our donations to this cause. Our participation in the Noon Meal and the Food Bank is a way that we serve in our community.

We are also involved in a ministry that serves in various parts of the world. Samaritan's Purse does a special project for children at Christmas. Our church family lovingly calls it the "Shoebox Project". Operation Christmas Child delivers shoeboxes filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items to children in the United States and over 100 other countries throughout the world. Children receive a shoebox and also receive a book about Jesus written in their own language. In most locations, a 12 week bible study is offered to children to help them learn more about Jesus.

Our church family starts by donating items to fill the boxes. We begin the donations in August when many school items are on sale. In early November, we have a shoebox packing party to fill the shoeboxes. We encourage all ages to help in this tangible gift of God's love to children around the world. Samaritan's Purse provides stories of children and families and communities that have been transformed by God's love received in a shoebox. Notes of friendship and love are drawn or written to include in each shoebox. Since 2008, our church family has been sending 55-65 shoeboxes to Samaritan's Purse each year. Since 1993, Samaritan's Purse has delivered more than one hundred million shoeboxes. For more information, visit [samaritanspurse.org](http://samaritanspurse.org)

We also sponsor several support groups. US TOO provides support for men with prostate cancer while Compassionate Friends provides support for parents who have lost a child. We have sponsored both groups for a number of years.

We also, in support of LCCM, collect gently used and new mens outerwear and socks during the Christmas season. LCCM then distributes this clothing to needy individuals.

## **McConnellsburg United Church**

Hands and Feet of Hope (HFOH) is a week-long mission work camp designed for local teens and adults. During the second week of June, youths from all over Fulton County come to the camp to take on construction projects in the community for our elderly, disabled or disadvantaged neighbors. During their week-long stay at the camp, youth participants learn and perform skills such as safety repairs, fixing water damage, building handicap-accessibility ramps, building and fixing roofs, and painting under the instruction of the adult volunteers.

*Love's Closet*, in which we participate, is an outreach program that was started by the McConnellsburg United Methodist Church in 2012. It has since evolved and now is run jointly by several local churches. Its mission is to serve those in need in our community by providing free clothing, personal hygiene items (such as shampoo & deodorant), laundry detergent, etc. Distribution occurs monthly.

MUPC hosts a *Soup Night* that is free of cost and open to the entire community on Wednesday night beginning in February and continuing for nine weeks. It is very well attended by the community and church members alike. Various committees and boards as well as the boy scouts take turns hosting soup night.

## **Lost Creek Church**

For several decades the Women of the Church held a Holiday Craft Bazaar at the end of October to raise funds for mission support. All the crafts were homemade and the women were very creative. In recent years, however, the interest in craft bazaars seems to have decreased. Instead, more people are selling products from home and are looking for opportunities to put their products out for public display. So the women decided to transform their craft bazaar into a vendor market. They started with a smaller vendor market in the summer as a fund raiser for repairs to the church's grand piano. They sought the help of a friend, Jessica Mast, who was both a vendor and had coordinated vendor markets previously. She helped them plan the layout in the fellowship hall, contacted vendors she knew, and showed the women how to advertise. For the summer event, they asked vendors to donate a percentage of their sales to the church. The "GRAND Summer Shopping Spree" did not attract as many customers as they had hoped, but it laid the foundation for an even bigger event in October.

Jessica also helped the women plan their fall event. They invited vendors from the summer sale back, but also advertised for vendors on Facebook and received a variety of applications. This time they charged vendors a set fee for a space rather than ask for a percentage of the sales. They also invited vendors to share their products on the Facebook event page. The women sold their famous soups and baked goods, and provided a lunch stand. The event was supposed to have vendors indoors and out, but the rainy weather prevented that. Still, the Fall Fest Vendor Market was a great success. Lots of people came to shop. The vendors were pleased to be able to showcase their products, and the Women of the Church raised over \$2,000 for mission support. Plans are already underway for next year's event.

***Lost Creek, cont.***

Please pray for: Graham Fowler, Pastor; Cheryl Booker, Music Director; Thad Swinehart, Youth Director

Let us pray: Loving God, thank you for opportunities to bring people in our communities together, for friends who help us, and for the generosity of neighbors who help us support missions near and far. AMEN

**McCoysville Church**

Several members in our congregation have been taking care of their aging parents. They've been learning about home health care, short term and long term nursing home care, and the financial issues involved in providing these services. They knew that other people in our community were also facing these issues, but helpful information is not always readily available. So the congregation has decided to host a series of presentations on planning for elder care. A local nursing home put us in touch with a lawyer who specializes in Elder Care Law and financial planning. He was glad to provide a free seminar for our community. So we picked a date in August and started advertising. We put up posters, made an event page on Facebook, shared the information with local churches and newspapers, and told our friends. The lawyer asked us to have everyone register in advance. We were hesitant to do this because we wanted the event to be "open to everyone." However, we took his advice and asked people to register by phone, email, or on Facebook. We were glad we did. We were planning to host about 10 or 15 people. We ended up with more than 30. So we set up more tables and chairs and made sure we had plenty of refreshments. The lawyer provided a very informative presentation on financial planning and offered to schedule free consultations for those who attended. We were grateful for the opportunity to provide this service to our neighbors in the county, and we are looking forward to hosting our next seminar.

Please pray for: Graham Fowler, Stated Supply Pastor and Patricia Henry, Clerk of Session

Let us pray: Loving God, thank you for your help and guidance as we seek to care for members of our families, and for the opportunities you give us to share our knowledge and resources with others. AMEN

## Mechanicsburg Church (MPC)

Following a shortened worship service on “More People Caring” Sunday, Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church members served their local community in the following ways.

Cookies were collected, bagged, and provided to Carlisle Truckstop Ministries to hand out to truckers. A bible verse was inserted in each bag which was decorated by the Vacation Bible School kids.

A variety of health items were gathered, an assembly line was created, and kits were assembled and delivered to Health Ministries in Harrisburg.



Members work on a project during More People Caring Sunday

The choir provided music at Vibra Life Nursing Home engaging residents in song.

Brunch meals were prepared in the church’s kitchen; then delivered and served at LOOPS in Harrisburg.

A group went to CROSS to prepare a lunch and a dinner meal for residents.

A highway cleanup project along Rt. 114 that the church has been doing for 15+ years where trash was picked up, bagged and picked up by PENNDOT.

The Property and Maintenance Committee painted the car stops, white lines, and directional markers in the church parking lot, as well as power-washing a portion of the building.

Greeting cards were prepared to be sent to each of the four mission co-workers that MPC supports.

Our mission calling is “to minister to others setting our feet in Christ’s footprints”.

Our Prayer: Gracious Lord, we see the hardships others face and – because of your example – we joyfully share our gifts of time, talent, and treasurers. We ask your help for all who struggle daily with the basic necessities of living. You inspire us to do more. As you showed compassion and mercy for the poor, the weak, and the sick, we strive to set out feet in your footprints. Amen

MPC Staff: Pastors Kathryn Johnston and Mark A. Allio; Educator Cathay Snyder; Music Director Mark McKeever; Office Manager Jennifer Arndt; Administrative Assistance Connie Sutton; Treasurer: Don Hopper and Playful Beginnings Pre-School Director Karen Taylor

## Silver Spring Church

Silver Spring Presbyterian Church has been worshipping near James Silvers' Spring since 1734. Today it is a vibrant congregation that is working to become intentionally inter-generational. In 2018, the church's youth group did a **Backyard Mission Trip**, which involved youth and adults from the congregation working together for a few days of local mission.

This fall the church began a new program, **SPARK!**, which is an opportunity for all ages to learn about faith alongside one another and from each other.

For many years, the church has put together an annual **Fall Faire** which raises money for mission. Its **ROAR** (Reach Out and Rebuild) Team continues to go to multiple sites around the Eastern U.S. each year, and several congregation members serve faithfully at **Downtown Daily Bread**. In 2019 the church hopes to expand its vision for local mission and engage more fully with its neighbors and the community.

Please keep the congregation of Silver Spring in your prayers as they seek to discern where God is calling them at this time.

## Upper West Conococheague Church

The Presbyterian Church of the Upper West Conococheague in Mercersburg, PA maintains an active mission outreach to the local community. In the Fall, Deacons provide and fill Backpacks with required school supplies for (30) Elementary School children for the School Nurses to distribute. In December, the Deacons partner with local Ministerium



Gathering at Brindle Estates & Terrace Senoir Living

churches to provide clothing, shoes and Winter coats, hats and gloves for Tuscorora School District Elementary and Middle School children. Last year (60) large Santa Bags were provided for those most in need.



Backpacks made for School Children

In Summer and Winter, the Presbyterian Women hold events at the Senior Housing of Brindle Terrace or Brindle Estates.

### **Lower Tuscarora Church**

Church members serve the local community by volunteering at the Juniata County Food Pantry and helping with the Central PA World Hunger Association's turkey canning project. Our congregation helps the youth in our community by supporting the Paul Delauter Youth Center, Juniata County Christian Release Time, and Krislund Camp. In addition, our Vacation Bible School is attended by many of the local youth

### **Middle Spring Church**

The churches of Shippensburg routinely offer community meals for those who live with food insecurity and for those who seek fellowship because they live alone. On almost every week night, Saturday mornings, and some Sunday lunches, one or another of the "in-town" churches will host a meal. A calendar of all the meals is produced and distributed by Shippensburg Produce and Outreach (SPO), Shippensburg's healthy food and produce food bank.

If you've visited Middle Spring PCUSA you know we are NOT one of the in-town churches. Many who attend the community meals come on foot and Middle Spring is just a bit too far out of town to host a meal for this important feeding ministry. Middle Spring already has many ministries that involve food – we are Presbyterian after all! Our deacons have an active Care and Share ministry which provides meals for Middle Spring members in times of need (and sometimes their parents and neighbors) and we also provide many volunteers for SPO. The time seemed ripe for expanding, but we weren't sure how. Fortunately, the Spirit had something in store for us!

Some of the in-town churches that have traditionally offered meals, no longer have the volunteer base to staff them. One in particular was faced with having to give up at least one of the meals they host. Through contacts and conversation between church members at Middle Spring and one of our United Methodist Church in-town neighbors, it came to light that Middle Spring's Deacons and Service Ministry were praying about and looking for ways to participate more in the feeding ministries in Shippensburg. Those conversations led to an invitation to volunteer at Christ United Methodist to assist serving a meal there. This joining together has been a blessing for both churches and an answer to prayer for both. We now have a way to be more involved in "in-town" ministry and the Methodist church didn't have to give up serving a meal to a group of people whom they've grown to care for and love. More churches have approached Middle Spring about supplying volunteers...the Spirit calls anew!

**Please pray** for all who struggle with food insecurity and also loneliness. The community meals often meet both of these needs for participants. Also hold in prayer the churches in Shippensburg that serve meals regularly and our two food pantries: Christ UMC, Messiah UMC, Memorial Lutheran, St. Andrew's Episcopal, Grace UCC, Oasis of Love, Prince St. Church, First Church of God, Middle Spring PCUSA, Kings Kettle, and Shippensburg Produce and Outreach.

**Waynesboro Church**

The Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro has installed a Pastoral Nominating Committee, and they have begun their work. Throughout the year, three parades pass in front of our building. On those days our congregation reaches out to the community by distributing beverages and a post card invitation about upcoming events to those who come. Also, we have a baby shower for Pregnancy Ministries, Hat and Mitten tree for children, as well as, a school supply drive.