

The Messenger

From the Pastor's Desk: Giving Thanks in All Circumstances

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:17-19)

These words of the apostle Paul show that for the Christian, thanksgiving is not relegated to a specific circumstance or season but is rather an outlook on life. We do have many things to be thankful for no matter the circumstance, even in uncertain economic times.

In a pastor's journal Dan Busby, the President of the Evangelical Alliance for Financial Accountability wrote, "While offerings remained relatively steady for many churches over

the past three years, this year many churches are seeing a reduction in giving"

This is certainly true for Clen-Moore. Currently we are running a \$34,000 deficit. Without an increase in giving the leadership of the church will have to make some difficult decisions. Currently we are reducing non-essential expenses until there is a clearer picture of how the year will finish out.

Clen-Moore is blessed because so many of you give generously to the work of the church. However a significant percentage of people do not give to the church at all.



We know that everyone has different circumstances that affect their ability to give. I am asking that everyone prayerfully consider their giving to the church.

While the current times are cause for concern and call for a response, we should remember the words of Paul, *"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

Pastor Chris

Nursery Worker Needed

Clen-Moore has an immediate opening for a person to work in the nursery on Sunday mornings, from 9:00 a.m. until the end of

morning worship (approximately 11:30 a.m.)

Qualified persons must have or be able to ob-

tain the necessary clearances. If you are interested, please contact the church office: (724) 654-6657.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Mission Spotlight | 2 |
| Audit Committee Report | 2 |
| Youth News | 3 |
| Health Team | 3 |
| In Memoriam | 4 |
| | 5 |
| November Helpers | 6 |
| Calendar | 7 |
| Poinsettias | 8 |

NOVEMBER SERMONS & WORSHIP:

- **November 1**
1 Timothy 6:6-10
- **November 8**
1 Timothy 6:17-19
- **November 15**
Stewardship Dedication
Psalms 23
- **November 22**
Jeremiah 23:1-7
- **November 29**
First Sunday of Advent;
Communion
Luke 21:25-36

October Mission Spotlight: Dominican Republic Mission

With each weeklong visit the mission group makes to Sabaneta de Yasica, Dominican Republic, we are sharing in an ongoing cross-cultural, Christian mission partnership that was begun by other churches in western Pennsylvania over twenty years ago.

Our partnership supports the ministry of the La Iglesia Evangelica Dominicana, which was founded by Presbyterian and Methodist missionaries around 1922. Per Rev. Jo Ella Holman, Regional Liason for the Caribbean Presbyterian Church, USA, "Currently, there is only one PC(USA)



presbytery that is working consistently and over the long-term with the IED and that is a cluster of congregations in Shenango Presbytery, in Pennsylvania."

During the month of November, we will be presenting information to the congregation of Clen-Moore about the mission partnership including: an overview of the mission part-

nership areas, the success of the Christian school scholarship program in Sabaneta, and how to become involved and what to expect on this exciting and life changing adventure. We will also welcome Laurie Occhipinti, a cultural anthropologist and professor at Clarion University of Pennsylvania on November 15 to discuss her perspective on the Dominican Republic Mission through her eyes and personal experiences as mission trip interpreter.

'Give glory to the LORD; exalt the name of the LORD, the God of Israel, in the islands of the sea.' ~ Isaiah 24: 15

Stewardship and Finance Committee

September 30, 2015

Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church
220 Clen-Moore Blvd
New Castle, PA 16105

Re: 2014 Audit

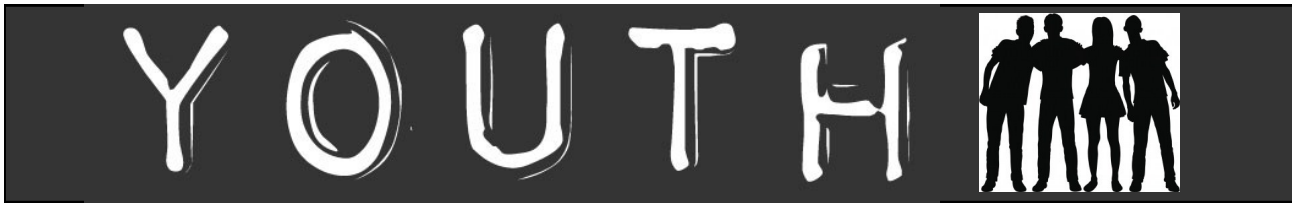
On September 23, 2015, the 2014 Audit Committee consisting of Carol Caparoula, Bill Nesbitt, and Jennifer Conrad, met to review the 2014 financial records of Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church. The review included a random check of the fund balances, a review of accounts payable checks, including requests and receipts, a review of weekly deposit records with deposit slips, and a review of fund transfers and interest earned. We also reviewed payroll records, tax payments, and year-end W-2's on a test basis.

Based on our examination and opinion, the records for 2014 appear to be in proper order.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Conrad

2014 Audit Committee



K.F.C./FlipSide

Sunday, November 1st - Hide-N-Seek Games in the church from 5:00 - 7:00 PM. We will meet in the Youth Room and share in a Bible Study, Prayer, and snacks. Then we will spend the rest of the evening playing types of Hide-N-Seek games. Bring a friend and a flashlight!

Sunday, November 15th - FAMILY TURKEY BOWLING AND DINNER

Youth will square off against parents in this Family Turkey Bowling event. We will share a catered dinner together, give thanks to the Lord, and then let the competition begin! 4:00-6:30PM in Fellowship Hall and use the circle drive parking lot.

C.2G.S. (7th-12th Grade Sunday School)

We will discuss the difficult topic of other religions and the occult and their impact in our

American culture, how they have infiltrated the church and deceived Christians, why we need to be aware of it, and how far is too far when getting involved in certain practices that are related to other religions and the occult.

This is a very serious topic and will be treated as such. Parents are free to discuss any questions that you might have with me about what is being taught and how it will be presented.

Health Ministry

Dates to Remember:

November 3 - Health Team serving lunch at Feed My Sheep Outreach Ministries.

November 15 - Blood pressure screening, 8:30am, prior to church breakfast in Fellowship Hall.

November 17 - Blood pressure screening for PrimeTimers at Clen Moore: 9:00am.

Here is a prescription for Thanksgiving Day:

Thanksgiving is a day for THANKS - a day in which we remember other moments of the year that make our present rich and our future bountiful.

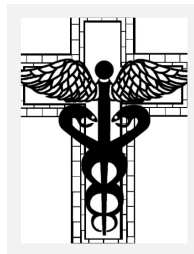
Thanksgiving is a day for JOY -

a day in which we can share the gift of warm laughter and smiles.

Thanksgiving is a day for PEACE - a day to reach out to each other and know that all the people of the earth are God's children.

Thanksgiving is a day for PRAYER - a day to praise God "for the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the Love, which from our birth, over and around us lies." Amen.

May God bless you this month!



Coffeehouse

We are looking for volunteers to host the Coffeehouse on Sunday mornings. You would only be responsible for serving once every 7 or 8 weeks.

If you would be willing to serve in this ministry, please call Sandy Kelty: (724) 656-1407, or the church office: (724) 654-6657.



Baptism



The Sacrament of Infant Baptism was administered to Charlotte Elaine Anderson, daughter of Erik and Kali (Davies) Anderson on Sunday, September 27th. Grandparents are Bob & Barb Davies.

Coupon Project

Attention Coupon Clippers—and Users!

The Mission & Evangelism Committee introduced a couponing project a couple of years ago. We have no idea if the project is a success, but the number of expired coupons thrown out each month indicates very few participants.

This project will end December 31, 2015, unless positive feedback from the congregation indicates a need to keep it. Please direct comments to Esther Drane.

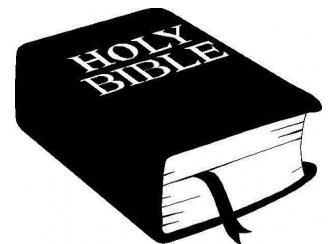
In Memoriam

- Mildred "Mid" Branscome - October 8, 2015.
- Linda Gattey - October 15, 2015.
- Maxine Blasdell - October 19, 2015.
- Memorial gifts to the Opening Doors Campaign were given in memory of Martha Robinson by: Marjorie Nicholas, David & Judith Matthews, Robert & Barbara Waller, Karyn Mueller, Wilhelm & Peggy Maier, Margaret Downing, David & Barbara VanHorn.
- A Memorial gift to the Caring Friends Ministry was given in memory of Mary Lou Fullwood by Gail Keffer.
- A Memorial gift to the Caring Friends Ministry was given in memory of Martha Robinson by Gail Keffer.



Daily Bible Readings

1. Lamentations 1, 2; Proverbs 31:10-31; *Revelation 4*
2. Lam. 3; *Rev. 5*
3. Lam. 4, 5; *Rev. 6*
4. Daniel 1, 2; *Rev. 7*
5. Dan. 3, 4; *Rev. 8*
6. Ezekiel 33, 34; *Rev. 9*
7. Eze. 35, 36; *Rev. 10*
8. Eze. 37, 38; *Rev. 11:1-14*
9. Eze. 39, 40; *Rev. 11:15-19*
10. Eze. 41, 42; *Rev. 12*
11. Eze. 43, 44; *Rev. 13*
12. Eze. 45, 46; *Rev. 14*
13. Eze. 47, 48; *Rev. 15*
14. Dan. 5, 6; *Rev. 16*
15. Dan. 7, 8; *Rev. 17*
16. Dan. 9, 10; *Rev. 18*
17. Dan. 11, 12; *Rev. 19*
18. 2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Ps. 137; Ezra 1-3
19. Ezra 5:1-2; Haggai 1:1-15; Ezra 4:1-5; Hag. 2:1-9; *Rev. 20*
20. Zechariah 1:1-6; Hag. 2:10-23; *Rev. 21*
21. Ezra 5:3-6:14; *Rev. 22*
22. Zech. 1:7-6:8
23. Zech. 6:9-15, 7, 8; Ezra 6:15-22, Ps. 111, 112, 96
24. Ps. 100, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118
25. Zech. 9-14
26. Esther 1-3; *Matthew 1*
27. Est. 4-6; *Matt. 2*
28. Est. 7-10; *Matt. 3*
29. Ezra 7, 8; *Matt. 4*; Ps. 91
30. Ezra 9, 10; *Matt. 5:1-26*



Why Do We Want What We Already Have? *by Ben Sternke*

Sometimes we want to be like other people, even if those people are miserable. The allure of being part of the crowd inebriates us against our better judgment. Most of the time we hate standing out.

This is what happened to the Israelites when Samuel got old and his sons dropped the leadership ball. “They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice” (1 Sam 8:3).

WE WANT A REAL RULER!

Apparently in response to this leadership succession failure, “all of Israel” gathers together to deliver their verdict to Samuel:

You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.

Samuel knows this won’t be good for Israel, so he prays. The Lord tells him to listen to the people and appoint a king, but to also warn them about what having a king will mean.

The king will conscript your young men for his army. He will take men to plow his fields and make the weapons of war. He will take women to be perfumers and bakers and cooks. He will take the best of your land and give it to his attendants. A tenth of your harvest will belong to him.

He will take, he will take, he will take... and **“you yourselves will become his slaves.”**

The people refuse to listen:

We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.

GETTING WHAT YOU ASK FOR

The Israelites dream of what a king “like the other nations” will do for them. Someone to lead us and go out before us. Someone to fight our battles.

They don’t think it through all the way. The king is only one man. The way he fights for you is to conscript your sons into his army. The way he leads you is to require a tenth of your harvest.

You think the king will serve you, but you will become his slaves.

Ironically, you’ll get exactly what you asked for: a king “like the other nations.” One who exploits and plunders his own people.

WANTING WHAT YOU ALREADY HAVE

The second, more tragic, irony of this story is that **what they want in a king is exactly what they already have in the Lord.**

The Lord *actually does* lead them and go before them. He *actually does* fight their battles for them. They *already have* a king who leads them like a shepherd, a ruler who serves them.

They are pining for something they already have!

But they can’t see it when Samuel’s sons go off the rails, so they insist on getting a king “like the other nations.”

And they get one. They get Saul, a disaster of a king, filled with jealous rage and self-preserving justification.

They reject their God who can actually lead them and choose a human king who can’t.

MAKING MUD PIES IN A SLUM

How many times do we do this? We long for what can never satisfy us. We think a new relationship or a new circumstance or a changed situation will be the “thing” that gives us what we really need.

Van Morrison sang it for us:

When will I ever learn to live in God?

When will I ever learn?

He gives me everything I need and more

When will I ever learn?

We dig around in the trash for that which is abundantly available to us.

As C.S. Lewis said in [*The Weight of Glory*](#),

It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

Where do *you* look for “a king like the other nations?” Where is it you tend to focus when feeling needy or lonely?

Hear the good news today that Christ is your sufficiency. He is all. He is infinite joy. In him are eternal pleasures.

How can you turn your attention toward Christ today, refusing to be so easily pleased?

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Chris Weichman, Pastor
 Aaron Christy, Director of Youth & Family Ministry
 Church Organist, Dr. Jane Karski
 Director of Choirs, Kathryn Bressler-Mansell
 Church Treasurer, Dennis Richards

Substitute Treasurer, Sharon Esposito
 Church Secretary, Kathy Barkley
 Church Custodian, Charles Antonelli
 Sunday Custodian, Clarence Jenkins

THE SESSION

Rev. Chris Weichman, *Moderator*
 Gail Keffer, *Clerk of Session*

2017

Debbie Book
 Jen Conrad
 Tom Mansell
 Don Nicolls
 Seth Plyler

2016

Clarence Jenkins
 John Karmecy
 Gail Keffer
 Janice McConnell
 Nancy Natale

2015

Sharon Esposito
 John Meyers
 Tom Rapp
 Jim Reese
 Bob Sholler

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

2017

Bob Davies
 Sandy Kelty
 Cheryl Pilch
 Barb Richards
 Bob Turner, *Moderator*

2016

Nancy Book
 Jackie Bush
 Gene DeCaprio
 Brenda Matas
 Eleanor McConahy

2015

Evelyn Genkinger
 Jen Hardisky
 Sarah Plyler
 John Purdy
 Margie Tinstman

October Mission Disbursements

\$4,000 - Lawrence County Youth Ministries

\$1,000 - Steve & Brenda Stelle

Messenger Memo



The deadline to submit articles for the December *Messenger* is Monday, November 9.

Sign up to receive *The Messenger* via email; go to ClenMoore.org/newsletter.

October Helpers

Hospital Visitation Elders

1 Tom Rapp, Bob Sholler

8 John Meyers, Jim Reese

15 Jen Conrad, Janice McConnell

22 Tom Mansell, Clarence Jenkins

29 John Karmecy, Gail Keffer

Deacons of the Month

Brenda Matas, Cheryl Pilch

Van Driver

John Purdy (724) 928-1785

November 2015

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|------------------------------|---|--|---|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 10:30AM Worship 11:45AM Deacons, Parlor 5-7:00PM KFC/FlipSide | 5:45PM BBBS | 9:30AM Prime Timers, Parlor 7PM Buildings & Grounds, Parlor | 6:30PM Walk Aerobics (meet in Parlor) 7PM Women's Bible Study, Parlor | 6PM Christian Ed., Library 6PM Handbell Rehearsal 7PM Choir Rehearsal | | |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 10:30AM Worship | <i>Messenger</i> Deadline | 9:30AM Prime Timers, Parlor 6PM Mission & Evangelism, Conf. Room 7PM Stewardship & Finance, Library | 6PM Worship & Music, Library | 6PM Handbell Rehearsal 7PM Choir Rehearsal | | |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION SUNDAY 8:30AM Fellowship Breakfast & BP Screening 10:30AM Worship 4-6:30PM KFC/FlipSide | 5:45PM BBBS | 9AM BP Screening, Parlor 9:30AM Prime Timers, Parlor 7PM Session, Parlor | 6:30PM Walk Aerobics (meet in Parlor) 7PM Women's Bible Study, Parlor | 6PM Handbell Rehearsal 7PM Choir Rehearsal | | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 10:30AM Worship 6PM Community Thanksgiving Worship, Highland Presbyterian | | 9:30AM Prime Timers, Parlor | | THANKSGIVING DAY <i>Church Office Closed</i> | <i>Church Office Closed</i> | |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |
| COMMUNION; 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10:30AM Worship | | | | | | |

Clen-Moore Presbyterian
Church

220 E. Clen-Moore Blvd.
New Castle PA 16105

Phone: 724-654-6657

Email:

clenmoorechurch@gmail.com



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clenmoorechurch

www.clenmoore.org

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New Castle, PA
Permit # 45

Address Service Requested

Christmas Poinsettias

Clen-Moore is once again offering poinsettias for purchase during the Christmas season.

The deadline to place an order is **Tuesday, December 1.** Cost is



\$9.50 per plant; payment is due with your order.

Order forms will be printed in the November bulletins, or you may call the Church Office: (724) 654-6657.