Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church Messenger - November 2026

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A Letter from the Pastor

Dear Church family,

Ecclesiastes teaches us that "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." After more than eight years, my season serving Clen-Moore will be coming to a close at the end of November.

It has been an incredible journey in many ways. Only God could have orchestrated the circumstances that led me to serve as co-pastor alongside Rev. Aaron Christy for the first five years. When he departed, my sense of call to Clen-Moore remained firm, even if we had some growing pains navigating that new season together.

It will probably come as no surprise to many of you that more recently I have wrestled with my sense of call. When I requested a sabbatical, the intent was to hit the reset button and ground myself in the Lord's call upon my life and our ministry together. I did not go looking for another church, and I resisted the thought of leaving. But the sabbatical became a process of discernment, and that process has led me away from Clen-Moore.

There is no need to point fingers or lay blame anywhere. I have not been a perfect pastor. I have led to the best of my ability, and I have tried to love and serve you every day I have been here. I have certainly fallen short at times, and I am grateful for both Christ's grace and for yours. The simplest way I can put it is that the call that brought me here changed significantly three years ago, and I do not believe I am the right fit for the next season of Clen-Moore's life. God is not finished with this congregation, and I am excited to see what he has in store for you.

It reminds me of the ministry of Moses. I am neither worthy nor claiming to be on his level, but he led the Israelites through the wilderness to the edge of the Promised Land, and someone else carried them in. I think the image holds true for all of us: we can only carry things so far before someone else picks up the torch. Whoever that is will carry it further and better than I could.

My final Sunday with you will be November 29, and I am committed to doing all I can over the next month to make the transition as smooth as possible. Part of my discernment has been praying for your next pastor long before you knew you would need one. I mean that. I want the absolute best for Clen-Moore, and sometimes that means stepping away to make room for another.

I will begin serving Neshannock Presbyterian Church in New Wilmington in mid-December. For those who desire it, I intend to remain friends. Certain ministry boundaries will need to be drawn for the sake of both churches, but that does not negate the genuine relationships we have built over the last eight years.

If you would like to talk, whether to ask questions, share a thought, or simply say goodbye, please reach out. I welcome the opportunity to connect while my time here draws to a close. I'll do my best to make time for everyone, though I realize it may be difficult to fit in every conversation in just a month, so please don't wait too long to contact me.

Finally, I would ask for your prayers for our family during this transition, just as we will be praying for Clen-Moore in the months ahead. Clen-Moore is the only church our children have known or remember, and we would humbly welcome your prayers for them especially.

With gratitude and love in Christ,

Michael

Upcoming Events

Date	Events
Sunday, November 1st	Communion during worship
Tuesday, November 3rd	Bible Study/9:30am M&M Meeting 6:00pm Admin. Meeting 7:00pm
Sunday, November 8th	Deacons Meeting after worship
Tuesday, November 10th	Bible Study 9:30am Session Meeting 7:00pm
Thursday, November 12th	Staff Meeting 10:00am
Tuesday, November 17th	Bible Study 9:30am Meals for Mom's 10:00am Presbytery Meeting at New Wilmington Presby. 6:30pm
Saturday, November 21st	New Castle Christmas Parade 6:00pm
Sunday, November 22nd	Decorate for Christmas/Lunch for the helpers after worship Christmas Around the World shoeboxes are due today Messiah Practice3:00pm
Monday, November 22nd	Messiah Practice 7:00pm
Monday & Tuesday Wednesday	**Office Hours are: 9:00am to 4:00pm (lunch 11:30am – 12:15pm Office Hours are: 9:00am to 12:00pm**
Thursday & Friday	**Office will be closed**
Tuesday, November 24th	Prayer Breakfast at The YMCA at 7:45am/Program 8:00-9:00am No Bible Study
Sunday, November 29th	Reception for Michael after worship Messiah performance at Clen-Moore Church at 3:00pm

Looking Ahead: December 2026

Sunday, December 6th / Communion

Sunday, December 13th / Cookie Walk after worship

Friday, December 18th / Dress rehearsal for Christmas program and dinner 5:30pm to 7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 20th / Children's Christmas program during worship

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November 2026 — Additional News & Announcements

Events

New Castle Christmas Parade

When: Saturday, November 21st at 6:00pm

Where: Downtown New Castle

Details: Clen-Moore Church will once again be building a float with this year's parade theme being "America 250". Our float will be titled "Rooted in Faith – United in Freedom – America 250." We need helping hands and willing hearts to bring this float to life! There is a job for you whether it be assisting with construction or decorating or walking in the parade to hand out candy. We will also be collecting candy beginning on Sunday, November 1st. Collection baskets can be found in the Welcome Area, Narthex, and the circle drive. Please consider donating to help spread Christmas cheer throughout the parade route and to help share the joy of Christmas with our community. Contact person is Janice McConnell #724-333-6001.

Church Decorating

Attention all of you love to decorate for Christmas! We will be decorating our beautiful church and sanctuary on Sunday, November 22nd, after church. We can use all able-bodied men, women, and children who would be available for a little awhile after the service. People will be there to give directions so don't be concerned if you've never helped in the past. Many hands make light work, as they say! A light lunch will be served to all who stay to help. Please mark your calendars and join us as we "deck the halls"!

Share the Joy of Christmas Around the World!

Every child deserves to experience the joy of Christmas! Here at Clen-Moore, we love our kids and strive to share the love of Jesus with each of them. We also have a heart for children around the world who need to know that they are loved.

This year, we are partnering with Operation Christmas Child to send shoeboxes filled with gifts, love, and the message of the Gospel to children around the globe.

Showboxes are now available at each entrance. Packing instructions and gift suggestions are provided inside each box.

Please return all filled shoeboxes by Sunday, November 22, 2026.

Thank you for sharing your love, spreading the joy of Christmas, and helping children everywhere experience the love Jesus.

Contact Mary Earl or Janice McConnell (724-333-6001) with questions.

Events

SAVE THE DATE! COME CELEBRATE "JUST A LITTLE CHRISTMAS" WITH US!

THE CLEN-MOORE YOUTH CHRISTMAS PLAY PERFORMANCE WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2026, IN FELLOWSHIP HALL DURING WORSHIP. A CUPCAKES AND COCOA RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW THE PERFORMANCE.

AUDITIONS WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026, IN FELLOWSHIP HALL DURING WORSHIP FOR CHILDREN THIRD GRADE AND UP. CHILDREN K THROUGH GRADE 2 AND UP MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE PLAY CHOIR.

PLAY REHEARSALS WILL BE HELD EVERY SUNDAY DURING WORSHIP COMMENCING NOVEMBER 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 13TH.

DRESS REHEARSAL AND DINNER WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18TH FROM 5:30 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M. IN FELLOWSHIP HALL.

PLEASE CONTACT NANCY NATALE, 724-344-5259, FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO VOLUNTEER TO ASSIST WITH THE PERFORMANCE.

Christmas Cookie Walk

The Christmas cookie walk is coming back this year! The date for the cookie walk is Sunday, December 13th in the Parlor after worship. Have your cookies in the Parlor by 10:00am before worship.

The packets will be ready for pick up on Sunday, November 29th and Sunday, December 6th in the Narthex. Inside the packets are instructions about baking and packaging your cookies, 4-6 on a plate depending on the size. There will be labels for you to put the name of the cookie and if they have nuts in them. Also, there will be a free-will offering, on the day of the cookie walk, which will go to the Dominican. If you have any questions, you may contact Sandy Kelty at 724-656-1407.

Collection

Blessing Box Collection for November 2026

Canned Chicken
Stuffing - box
Instant Mashed Potatoes
Flour
Corn - can
Macaroni and Cheese – box
Gravy - packets
Toilet Paper
Shampoo
Hair Conditioner
Green Beans - can
Noodles - bag

Mission Spotlight

Blessing Box – November 2026

There are a least 35 powerful verses about feeding the poor in the Bible.

A project that was suggested at VBS one year ago has expanded to feeding people weekly. So far, we have been able to fill the Blessing Box at least three times a week on average. This has been thanks to church members and occasional donations from people in the neighborhood. However, more often than not, the box is empty within 24 hours.

If you feel moved to donate, you can bring items into the welcome area. You may also put your donations in the box itself. The box is located on Albert Street between the church and the New Castle Christian Academy. All donations are greatly appreciated.

You do not have to follow the monthly list. If you are shopping and see bargains, you can donate those to the box.

"The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor." Proverbs 22:9

CCAP – November 2026

The Church Community Assistance Program (CCAP) is led in a volunteer capacity by Father Denny Blauser, former vicar of Trinity Episcopal Church. In connection with funding from the Carolyn Knox Foundation, Father Denny helps connect folks in our community to resources for food, utility and rent assistance, among other needs of those in dire situations. The Knox Board has certain restrictions on how the money can be used. Our support helps with needs that "fall between the cracks" of funding requirements. This also allows Pastor Michael to refer out calls from those seeking help to the program, which is better equipped at connecting the need with the resource.

Health Ministry

Tips for Practicing Gratitude

"Did you know that practicing gratitude and focusing on the positive things in life can become a habit to improve your health? The best way to form a mindset of gratitude is to incorporate it throughout the day by;

1. Writing it down- take time to write down something that went well. Dedicate a notebook for recording these things so you can reflect on them later.

2. Hitting pause- we often say 'thanks'; the next time you say it, stop and pinpoint what you are thankful for.

3. Redirecting your thoughts- you may feel negative or frustrated during the day. When that happens, step back and shift your focus to a positive aspect of the situation.

4. Sharing your gratitude- send a quick note telling someone why you are thankful for them."

Scripture: "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise,
Give thanks to Him, and bless His name." (Psalm 100:4)

(Taken from uclahealth.org)
September 2026

Session & Staff

Jen Conrad
Janice McConnell
Stephen Cowher
Taylor Lubinski
Christy Litrenta
Sam Plyler
Marissa McCarren
Cindy Lyons
Elinore Snyder
Ed Conti
Nancy Natale
Bill Nesbit
Tom Reynolds

Pastor	Rev Michael Spicuzza (412) 559-3525 (cell)
Organist	Jane Karski
Office Administrator	Terri Nystrom (724) 654-6657
AV Technician	Gabe Danko
Custodian	Charlie Antonelli
Nursery / Pre-K Worker	Sally Mescall

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday from 9:00am to 4:00pm / Friday from 9:00am to 12:00pm / Lunch 11:30am to 12:15pm

Deadline for next month's Messenger is November 20th