

Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church

The Messenger—July/August 2026

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Dear Church Family,

As I return from sabbatical and we settle back into the rhythms of life together at Clen-Moore, I thought it might be helpful to share a bit about my typical schedule and the best ways to connect with me. I'm not sure I've ever made this officially clear — and even if I have, it's been a while, so a reminder seems worthwhile!

My regular working days are Monday through Thursday. Fridays are my day off, which helps compensate for the evenings and weekends that ministry regularly calls for. Because the church office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, I make it a priority to be in the building on those days, though visits and meetings may occasionally take me out. Mondays and Wednesdays I typically work from home or another quiet space, focused on the deeper work of study, prayer, and sermon preparation. You are always welcome to stop in and find me — I genuinely enjoy those spontaneous moments — but if you want to make sure we can connect face to face, it's always best to reach out ahead of time. You can call or text my cell at 412-559-3525, or email me at michaelclenmoore@gmail.com. And of course, emergencies and urgent matters don't follow anyone's calendar — please never hesitate to contact me when something can't wait.

But more than the practical details, I want to share the deeper reason this feels important to name right now. Sabbatical has rekindled something in me — a renewed and genuine desire to invest in the relationships that make us a congregation rather than simply a crowd. Pastoring is, at its heart, a relational calling, and it is one I feel both gifted and called to in a way I don't take lightly. I do my best to stay attentive to the needs of our flock, to notice who might be struggling, and to reach out. But the invitation runs both ways. If you are walking through something difficult, carrying a burden, longing for conversation, or simply want to catch up — please reach out. Don't wait for me to find you first. I mean that more than I can adequately say in a newsletter.

At the same time, I want us to remember what we are together, not just in our individual relationships with me, but as a community of faith. When the writer of Hebrews urges us not to neglect meeting together, the reason given is striking: it is for *encouragement* — to stir one another up toward love and good deeds, to remind each other who we are and whose we are. The goal was never simply to occupy the same room on Sunday morning. It was to be genuinely present to one another in ways that build up and sustain our faith for the long road.

My hope and prayer for this summer season is simple: that we would do exactly that. That we would meet together — in homes and over coffee, in the fellowship hall and on front porches, before and after worship, in planned gatherings and unplanned conversations. That we would ask after one another, pray for one another, and take seriously the gift of belonging to the same family of faith. Seek me out — and seek one another out. The summer is a gift, and so is this community.

Bless and be blessed,
Michael

UPCOMING Events

July

Wednesday, July 1st through Saturday, July 4th Michael will be off

Thursday, July 2nd Softball vs. Grace at COG Field 1 @6:00pm
Softball vs. Family Life at COG Field 3 @7:30pm

Sunday, July 5th Prayer Team in Library 9:00am
Coffee House 9:00am
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 10:30am
No Children's Church until September

Tuesday, July 7th Softball vs City Church Lackawannock @6:00pm

Thursday, July 9th Softball vs. Genesis at COG Field 2 @6:00
Softball Bye @7:30pm

Sunday, July 12th Worship/Communion at Apple Castle 10:30am
(Bring a lawn chair)

Saturday, July 18th Softball Tournament

Sunday, July 19th Prayer Team in Library 9:00am
Coffee House 9:00am
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship with Gabe Danko 10:30am

Tuesday, July 21st Promise of Life Mother's Group 10:00am

Friday, July 24th—Sunday, July 26th Float Trip

Saturday, July 25th Softball Tournament Rain Date

Sunday, July 26th Prayer Team in Library 9:00am
Coffee House 9:00am
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship with Rev. G. Richard Vogeley D. Min 10:30am

August

Sunday, August 2nd Pray Team in Library 9:00am
Coffee House 9:00am
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 10:30am

Tuesday, August 4th M&M Meeting 6:00pm
Admin Meeting 7:00pm

Sunday, August 9th Prayer Team in Library 9:00am
Coffee House 9:00am
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 10:30am

Tuesday, August 11th Session Meeting 7:00pm

Thursday, August 13th Staff Meeting 10:00am

Sunday, August 16th Pray Team in Library 9:00am
Coffee House 9:00am
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 10:30am


Tuesday, August 18th Promise of Life Mother's Group 10:00am

Sunday, August 23rd Prayer Team in Library 9:00am
Coffee House 9:00am
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 10:30am

Sunday, August 30th Prayer Team in Library 9:00am
Coffee House 9:00am
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship with Rev. G. Richard Vogeley D. Min 10:30am

Looking Ahead:
Sunday, September 13th Rally Day


Deadline for September is August 21st




Just a reminder to the congregation that there is an AED available in the event of a cardiac emergency. It is located on the wall just outside the sanctuary . There also are 3 LifeVac devices in case of a choking emergency. These are located upstairs in the children's department, and in both the upstairs and downstairs kitchens. First aid supplies are located in the kitchens and the Welcome Center, as well as in the upstairs children's area.

Anyone interested in more information may contact Nancy Book, Nancy Wozniak or Debbie Reynolds.)

Scripture: "For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand,



CPR & AED



**NOT SO YOUTH GROUP ANNUAL
CAMPING & RIVER FLOAT TRIP**

Date: Saturday, July 25th
Where: Clear Creek State Park

Plan to meet at Clear Creek beach area at 11am. We will organize and carpool to our launch site. Clear Creek Picnic Pavilion 1 (right next to beach) is reserved for Clen-Moore all day. We will meet back here for a picnic and cookout around 4pm. Feel free to bring a dish or dessert to share.

Anyone who would like to camp that weekend must reserve a spot on your own. There are a number of camper, tent, and cabin sites available in Clear Creek and Cook forest area.

**Contact Sam Plyler 724-971-7088 or
Courtney Plyler 724-761-6934 with questions.**



All are invited to join in for a 2 hour horseback ride on Friday, July 24 to kick off the Church Float Trip weekend in Clarion! Cost is \$75 plus tax for a beautiful guided ride through forested areas with church friends. If you are interested in signing up, please contact Tina Nesbitt by June 30 at (724)730-5904 so that we can secure a reservation!

Mark your calendars for worship and Communion at Apple Castle on Sunday, July 12th at 10:30am. There will not be a picnic following the service. Remember to bring a lawn chair.



5 STAR GLOBAL MINISTRIES

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Today we are officially launching our Christmas in July Amazon Wishlist Campaign! With Amazon Prime Days running from June 23–26, many of the items on our wishlist are available at special discounted prices over the next few days.

As we move into Phase 3 of our Christmas in July campaign, our goal is to collect enough supplies to provide 300 children in Haiti with a hygiene and protein kit inside their Christmas backpack.

We are seeking to collect:

- * 300 tubes of toothpaste
- * 1,200 Toothbrushes
- * 300 men's deodorants
- * 300 women's deodorants
- * 600 bars of soap
- * 300 washcloths
- * 300 bottles of lotion or containers of baby powder
- * 300 regular-sized jars of peanut butter
- * 1,500 cans of chicken or tuna

These supplies will allow us to provide every child receiving a backpack with essential hygiene items and much-needed protein. We also hope to assemble 100 Hospital Blessing Bags for families with hospitalized children. Each blessing bag will include toothpaste, a toothbrush, soap, a washcloth, lotion, and deodorant. Along with a blessing message and prayer printed to give encouragement to the family. These bags will be used throughout the year.

Would you prayerfully consider purchasing one or two items from our Amazon Wishlist while these products are discounted during Prime Days? Every item purchased helps us move one step closer to blessing another child or family.

CLICK HERE FOR PRIME WISHLIST (https://us.list-manage.com/o_qrq8X_2z1?e=ffb8e21e95&c2id=02d079ed15b028c3ede87f31dcc8ec65)

July 2026

Cereal	Instant Pudding-box
Instant Potatoes	Shampoo
Flour	Rice Sides-packets
Tea Bags	Hair Conditioner
Salt/Pepper	Facial Tissues



August 2026

Jello-box	Variety Pack Oatmeal-box
Toilet Paper	Ramen Noodles
Spaghetti Sauce	Body Soap
Pasta	Cake Mix
Scalloped Potatoes-box	Frosting



A Note from the Elders

If you have been following the Mission Bonanza news, I have more exciting news to report. Just to refresh your memory, part of the Bonanza project allocates \$1,000 to each elder who can donate part or all to a need of their choosing. In this, the third article, I will tell you about more of the good works happening using Bonanza money.

Elder Ed Conti originally connected with the Kozial family when he attended the spaghetti dinner benefit for Kenny at Clen-Moore Church. Kenny, you may recall, was the three year old little boy suffering from leukemia who has since passed away. Ed says as his reason for donating, *"I guess I just wanted for us to continue our support for this family and keep them in our thoughts and prayers as they continue to deal with their tragic loss."* I agree with Ed. It's important that they know we are not just a temporary band aid. Clen-Moore wants to be a constant dependable resource for them.

Elders Marissa McCarren and Taylor Lubinski chose to use their Mission Bonanza money to support two families in need in Youngstown. Ed Conti felt moved to donate a portion of his bonanza money as well. Marissa is a 3rd grade teacher in Youngstown and became aware that several of her students were in difficult situations. Both families live in poverty with 3 children in one house and 4 children in the other. The parents often have trouble meeting the children's basic needs. Using the money from the Bonanza has allowed Marissa and Taylor to buy clothing and hygiene products for the families. But the best part is the 4 beds they purchased so that each child will have a place to sleep at night. Until now the kids slept on the floor, some with air mattresses, some without. Marissa, Taylor and some of their friends spent a whole day setting up the bedrooms. Both families are extremely grateful to Clen-Moore and to Marissa, Taylor, and Ed for choosing to help them with their Mission Bonanza money.

Elder Tom Reynolds whose wife, Debbie, and daughter Brianna Hill are very involved with the Promise of Life Network led by Savannah Danko. The group ministers to expectant and new mothers who need support. Tom chose to help using some of his Bonanza money. This is how he explains why and how he chose to donate:

"Our April Mom's Group showered a Promise of Life client. A mother of 3 girls, the youngest is a baby girl who has Down syndrome and was in the hospital in Pittsburgh following heart surgery. Mom had to stop working to be with the baby. Happily, the baby is coming home at 5 months old for the first time. The sisters are 3 and 4 years old, so we continue to pray for baby Amelia and her family to have a smooth transition with 3 very young daughters.

Many other items such as diapers, wipes, canned foods, homemade chicken soup, taco dinners, cereal, breakfast casserole, eggs, homemade bread, and Christian inspirational materials were donated and delivered by Savannah and Brianna.

From Savannah later that day:

"The mom was so thankful and had tears in her eyes as we prayed for her and delivered her food. Her children were so sweet and kind!"

At our June session meeting, Tom read a thank you note from the mom. In it she said that the whole experience made her "feel special", probably something that doesn't happen to her very often.

In conclusion, I hope you find our excitement contagious. We elders have found unexpected rewards; rewards we would like to share. We invite you, church members, to give us your feedback, advice, and involvement. My hope is that, depending on budget, we can do it every year. We want you to be part of this rewarding process. Watch for more Bonanza news next month. God bless!

Elinore Snyder, Clerk of Session on behalf of the elders of Clen-Moore

MISSION SPOTLIGHT JULY/AUGUST 2026

July—Dominican Republic



"The only way you're going to reach places you've never gone is if you trust God's direction to do things you've never done."—Germany Kent

During the week of March 14-21, 2026, Christine Spicuzza, Amy Ball, Nora Ball, and Tina Nesbitt set out with a group of 28 Dominican Republic partnership participants to do things we've never done! Each of us chose to go beyond our comfort zones in an effort to fulfill God's purposes for us and for those we served that week. Needless to say, He did not disappoint! We came home with full hearts and enthusiasm for more. As newcomers, Amy and Nora dabbled in exploring the various components of the mission, Christine became an official Spanish translator for the group AND created a fabulous blog and social media posts of our week for those at home to follow along. For the first time, the rehabilitation team of which Tina is a part consisted of enough PTs, OTs, and our speech therapy/audiologist to provide both in-home visits AND clinic-based services! God is so good!

Members of the Clen-Moore congregation have travelled to the area with the mission group since 2007, fundraisers have been conducted for dire medical and constructional/housing needs of community members, annual financial support has been provided for Christian school and university scholarships, and countless prayers have been offered for our brothers and sisters in Christ in Sabaneta throughout the years.

During the 2026 trip, we held medical clinics, provided physical therapy services in the medical clinics, ventured near and far on home therapy and medical visits, provided audiology services, held Bible school for the local teenagers, assisted with construction of the third floor classrooms of the Christian school, and fellowshiped with our Dominican friends during shared meals and in church activities. Contact Pastor Michael, Tina Nesbitt, or Christine Spicuzza if you're curious about the trip (3/6-3/13/27) or other ways to get involved in this meaningful partnership.

P.S. Look in your postal mail in the upcoming weeks for scholarship sponsorship opportunities for next school year!

August—ARISE

ARISE in New Castle is a non profit organization dedicated to providing leadership initiatives that contribute to ending physical, sexual and emotional violence.

ARISE offers free and confidential programming for survivors and their loved ones. These include programs for domestic violence, elder abuse and sexual assault as well as programs for victims of other serious crimes. Services include emergency shelter, advocacy, and counseling for youth and adults. Educational programs such as safety planning, anti bullying workshops, peer support groups and art/music therapy are all offered for children.

ARISE collaborates with other organizations such as the New Castle Prism Initiative to provide affirming LGBTQIA+ support groups.

ARISE serves all people and does not discriminate based on gender, identity or expression, orientation, race or religion.

Upcoming activities include a Teen Summer Camp in July for clients 13 years and older. In October, ARISE joins the American Foundation Suicide Prevention "Out of the Darkness" walk. November is Domestic Violence Awareness month. The Christmas gift and winter gear drive begins in the fall.

Currently, ARISE is in need of donations of cleaning supplies and bedding.

ARISE makes available a variety of volunteer opportunities including clerical work, maintenance and repair, staffing of the 24 hour hotline, client services and fundraising.

ARISE offers a 24/7 confidential hotline at 724-652-9036.

ARISE strives to increase community awareness and understanding of violence and abuse and takes meaningful steps toward a safer and healthier future for everyone.