

from the pastor's pen . . .

Blinded By The Light

"What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light." John 1:3b-5 CEB

On vacation last year, I did something I rarely get a chance to do...I went to the movies. There is just something so satisfying about sitting in a theater with a huge tub of popcorn and a good movie that sends my heart to flutter. I think part of the reason I get so amped up is the darkness of the theater. When I watch movies at home, it is never completely dark. The security light from outside the garage streams into my windows. The Courthouse lights and car headlights interfere with my viewing pleasure. Even the nightlight in the bathroom sneaks timidly into my TV room. Everywhere I look, I am blinded by light.

Don't get me wrong, light is good. Yet sometimes, I confess, I would like a little less of it. I think that is the human condition. Is it not? If Jesus is the Light of the World, do we always desire nothing but Him and His righteousness? Of course, the answer should be an emphatic "Yes!", but darkness does have its own appeal, and too many times, it lures us away from Jesus. Darkness gives us a perceived sense of anonymity and privacy. Darkness provides rest for our conscious and responsible minds. Darkness even seems fun! Sometimes following the Light of the World appears so much harder than easily walking in darkness. Scripture affirms this in John 3:19-20.

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Contact Information

Pastor: Robin Baer

Parsonage: 717.485.4318

Church Office: 717.485.4815

Email: mcumc@comcast.net

Youth Director: Kelli Miller
717.816.3912

Facility Coordinator: Reta Chamberlain
717.485.5515

Website:
www.mcconnellsburgumc.com

Sunday Services

Worship: 10:00 am

Sunday School: 9:00 am
(for all ages)

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Yet, no matter how easy and convenient darkness appears to be, it is lethal to our souls. Jesus alone brings light *and life* into our souls. To enjoy the darkness is to deny the transformative, saving power of Christ in our lives. Jesus is the Light of the World! May we all be blinded by the Light this Christmas season.

Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas,
Pastor Robin



Church Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes from November meeting were not available at time of publication.



Finance Team Meeting

There was no Finance Team meeting in November.



~ Servant of the Month ~
by Reta Chamberlain

The Servant of the month for December is Dixie Heacock. Dixie is a retired teacher, having taught for 37 years in Lititz, Pa. and a substitute in Fulton County for the past 7 years. She was raised in the Methodist church and baptized in the Knobsville Methodist Church. She feels very blessed to call McConnellsburg United Methodist her home church.

The committees she serves on in our church are she oversees the Safe Sanctuary policies for the past 5 years and is an assistant with Children's Church. She also helps with church meals with funerals, first Friday, and Thanksgiving. Dixie also serves as a greeter, an usher, and helps serves communion too. Most importantly Dixie says she prays for our church daily which I hope is something all the members of the church do as well.

When asked what her favorite verse is, it's II Corinthians 5:7, "For we live by faith, not by sight". Dixie said she believes that living faith is not just believing that God exists, it is demonstrated by one's service and obedience to God.

In her spare time Dixie loves to spend time with her family, her husband George, their 2 sons and daughters-in-law and their 6 grandchildren. When she's not spending time with them you may catch her sewing or quilting which she loves to do.

Thank you, Dixie for being a part of our church family and for all you do in the church. We appreciate you!

2018	December					
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25	26	27	28	29	30	01 Love's Closet 12-2p
02 A Choir	03 SPRC Mtg-6p	04 A Choir-6p	05 Bible Study-6:30p only K Choir-5:30p Youth Group Mtg-6p	06	07 First Friday Lunch 11a-1p	08
09 K Choir	10	11 A Choir-6p	12 Bible Study-10a & 6:30p Youth Group Mtg-6p	13 A Choir-6p Finance Mtg-6:30p	14	15
16 A Choir Cantata-7p	17	18 A Choir-6p Council Mtg-7p	19 Bible Study-10a & 6:30p Youth Group Mtg-6p	20	21	22
23	24 Christmas Eve Service - 7p	25 CHRISTMAS	26	27	28	29
30 Children's Program and Pot Luck Lunch after Worship Service	31	Notes: Reminder - Love's Closet sorting & set-up happens every Monday evening 6-8 pm A Choir - Adult Choir; K Choir - Kids Choir				

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

05 – Edith Mellott
08 – Bob Vores
09 – Kya Washabaugh

14 – Norma Vores
27 – Tammy Young
29 – Allen & Joyce Cover

31 – Pastor Robin Baer
31 – Sue Nesbitt

REMINDER – For additions or corrections to the birthday & anniversary list use the Newsreel Suggestion Box at the back of the sanctuary or email the church office (address on page 1)

CHILDREN'S CHURCH		
DATE	12.02	Lindsay Newman Jamie Schetrompf
	12.09	Holly Stambaugh Vicki Gordon
	12.16	Penny Shives Jody Hann
	12.23	Tracey Fletcher Brandon Fletcher
	12.30	NO Children's Church

NURSERY		
DATE	12.02	NEEDED
	12.09	Sherrri McClain
	12.16	NEEDED
	12.23	Deb & Bryan Fletcher
	12.30	NO Nursery

Please see **Kelli Miller** if you can fill any of the vacancies shown for this month or if you have questions about what is required to be a helper, teacher, or nursery volunteer.

DECEMBER SCREEN SCHEDULE		
DATE	12.02	Dave Gourley
	12.09	Kelli Miller
	12.16	Dave Keaton
	12.23	Jeron Fletcher
	12.30	Dave Gourley
	01.06	Kelli Miller

2019 McCONNELLSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Staff Support Team (SPRC)

2019 *George Heacock
Jim DeShong
2020 Dianne Stenger
Teresa Carter
2021 Penny Shives
Yvonne Garland

Administrative Team (Church Council)

*Chairperson - Penny Shives
Recording Secretary - Leanne Pollock
Lay Leader - Jeremy Fletcher
Rep. to Annual Conference - Penny Shives
Trustee Chair - Helen Overly
Trustee - Greg Gordon
Finance - Rick Buterbaugh
SPRC - George Heacock
Children & Youth - Kelli Miller
Member at Large - Reta Chamberlain
Member at Large - TBD
Member at Large - Violet Culler
Member at Large - Deb McGarvey
Member at Large - Kate Mellott
Member at Large - Mont Chamberlain
Member at Large - Nancy Cordell

Finance Team

Chairperson - Rick Buterbaugh
Representative from Trustees - TBD
Church Council Chair - Penny Shives
Envelope Coordinator - Nancy Shafer
Treasurer - Sheila Bivens
Endowment Chair - Sam Metz
SPRC Chair - George Heacock
Member at Large - Ellis Yingling
Member at Large - Tim McGarvey
Member at Large - Bob Vores
Financial Secretary - Sam Metz
Head Counter - Norma Vores
Secretary - Norma Vores
Auditor - Gary Shives
Auditor - Greg Gordon

Trustee Team

2019 Deb Buterbaugh
Mont Chamberlain
Gary Shives
2020 Greg Gordon
Eugene Stenger
Kerry Randler
2021 TBA
Pam Ott
*Helen Overly

Endowment Team

*Chairperson - Sam Metz
Council Chair - Penny Shives
Trustee Chair - Helen Overly
Pastor - Robin Baer
Member at Large - Judy Shade

Worship Team

*Chairpersons - Leanne Pollock
Ruth Reeder
Adult Choir Director - Denny Benedick
Worship Arts - Kelli Miller
Lay Leader/HIS - Jeremy Fletcher
Prayer Ministry - Kate Mellott
Communion Steward - Nancy Richards
Communion Steward - Cindy Glessner
Member at Large - Nancy Shafer
Member at Large - Justin Miller
Member at Large - Jim & Sharon DeShong

Communications Team

Web Site Maintenance - Pam Ott
Newsletter - Nancy Cordell
Social Media - Nancy Cordell
Social Media - Kelli Miller
Social Media - Justin Miller
Social Media - Sheila Bivens

Miscellaneous Positions

Membership Secretary - Sheila Bivens
Membership Auditor - Joyce Cover
Alternate to Annual Conference -
Historian - Ruth Reeder
Small Group Coordinator - Jim DeShong
Safe Sanctuary Coordinator - Dixie Heacock
Love’s Closet Coordinator - Sam Metz
Sunday School Secretary - Joan Kling
Holiday Plants Coordinator - Glenda Shafer

Staff

Pastor - Robin Baer
Office Manager/Treasurer - Sheila Bivens
Children, Youth, & Young Family - Kelli Miller
Music - Denny Benedick
Music - Jeff Mills
Music - Carla Helman
Janitor - April Harmon
Janitor - Joan Kling
Facilities Coordinators - Reta/Mont Chamberlain
Kitchen Coordinator - Deb McGarvey

Nurture Team:

Lay Leader - Jeremy Fletcher
Hospitality and Care - Jody Hann
Hospitality and Care - Sharon DeShong
Hospitality and Care - Justin Miller
Prayer - Kate Mellott
Prayer - Tina Reeder
Christian Ed/Sunday School - Leanne Pollock
Christian Ed/Sunday School - Nicole Fletcher
Children - Kelli Miller
Visitation - Pat Horton
Visitation - Wendy Darrell

Missions Team:

Cindy Glessner
*Kelli Miller
Greg Gordon
Kate Mellott
Jeremy Fletcher
Sam Metz
Dinah Chamberlain
Wendy Darrell
Rick and Sharon Tedesco
Nicole Wilson

Outreach Team

Joye Reeder
Kate Mellott
Justin Miller
Jeremy Fletcher
*Reta Chamberlain
Wendy Darrell
Lois Souders

Lay Leadership Team

*Pastor Robin
Pat Horton
Jeremy Fletcher
Leanne Pollock
Kelli Miller
Kate Mellott

Fundraising Team

Penny Shives
Helen Overly
Deb McGarvey
Greg Garland
Jody Hann
Denny Richards
Sharon DeShong
Kim Benedick
Tina Gress
Others TBA

*Denotes Team Leader

This list of McConnellsburg UMC Leadership for 2019 was presented and approved during Annual Church Conference, held November 7, 2018.

Pray for the church leadership
to be discerning of

God’s vision

for this church

Where there is no vision, the people perish.
Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

If you have followed along with this reading plan since January – CONGRATULATIONS – you’ve have read through the entire bible! May God bless your efforts and give you new wisdom and enlightenment. If you would like a copy of the complete 52-week reading schedule please see Nancy Cordell.

Thy word
is a LAMP
unto my feet
and a LIGHT
unto my path.
Psalm 119:105

2018 Reading Plan

✓	Week	Dates
	49	Dec 2-8
	50	Dec 9-15
	51	Dec 16-22
	52	Dec 23-Dec 29

Week 49

- o Esther 7-10; Revelation 3
- o Ezra 7-10; Psalm 97; Rev 4
- o Nehemiah 1-3; Rev 5
- o Neh 4-6; Psalm 98; Rev 6
- o Neh 7-9; Psalm 140; Rev 7

Week 50

- o Neh 10-13; Revelation 8
- o Malachi; Psalm 2; Rev 9
- o Job 1-3; Psalm 29; Rev 10
- o Job 4-7; Psalm 99; Rev 11
- o Job 8-11; Rev 12

Week 51

- o Job 12-14; Psalm 100; Rev 13
- o Job 15-17; Rev 14
- o Job 18-20; Psalm 141; Rev 15
- o Job 21-23; Psalm 101; Rev 16
- o Job 24-27; Rev 17

Week 52

- o Job 28-30; Revelation 18
- o Job 31-33; Psalm 102; Rev 19
- o Job 34-36; Rev 20
- o Job 37-39; Psalm 103; Rev 21
- o Job 40-42; Psalm 150; Rev 22

HELP NEEDED

We are in need of an Assistant Facilities Coordinator to help Mont and Reta Chamberlin when they are unavailable. Basically, it entails answering calls about renting our facility and then coordinating set up per the needs of the renter. This is not a paid position but an important service to our Church. For further information, see Mont or Reta. Your prayerful consideration will be greatly appreciated.

SPRC Committee

This & That

Rev. Jason R. Mackey, Director of Connecting Ministries and Administrative Services, Susquehanna Conference, will be joining us on December 16. During the Sunday School hour (in the adult class) he will be talking about “A Way Forward” - the United Methodist policies on whether to ordain LGBT clergy or officiate same-sex marriages. All are welcome to attend. During the worship service he will speak on discipleship.



The Children’s Christmas program will be presented during the worship service on December 30. Watch the bulletin for upcoming announcements of rehearsals.



REMINDER – 5th Sunday Pot Luck Lunch will be held in the Faith & Life Center on December 30, after worship service.



The McConnellsburg St. Paul’s Lutheran Church has invited our choir to present the *Southern Gospel Songs* cantata at their church (220 N. 3rd St.) on December 9 at 2:00 pm. If you missed it when it was done at our church on October 21st, or if you’d just like to hear it again, mark your calendar to join them on the afternoon of the 9th!