



# Williamsport SDA and MVCS connections

Pastor's Corner

Title: "The Missing Fork"

A regular attending church family decided to invite their pastor home for an evening meal. This faithful Christian family were excited that the pastor could make the time to come and grace their beautiful home with his presence. The best china was put out on the table along with the fancy linen napkins. They discovered the pastor's favorite food and dessert and worked hard to prepare it. Even the children looked cleaner than usual.

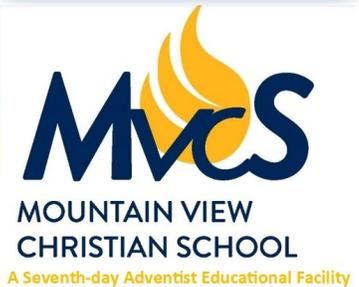
On the evening of the long-anticipated dinner appointment the family enjoyed the company of their pastor and was even amused with his dry sense of humor. The dessert was so delicious the pastor had a second portion. The evening drew long and they said their goodbyes and the family felt satisfied as they watched his car back out of the driveway.

Now came the chore of the cleanup from the dinner. The children and husband were all pressed into service. However, something rather nagging was occurring. The family of four plus the pastor had utilized five sets of about everything. But they could not find a fifth silver fork. They looked everywhere and behind everything. Then one of the children remembered that the pastor had been unusually clutching his fork. Nagging suspicion grew into a total belief that their pastor was a thief. But to publicly accuse him without proof didn't seem right. So, they invited him to dinner again with the object of watching him closely and maybe asking the question.

The second dinner appointment arrived. The conversation was more muted this time. The pastor sensed something was up and asked them if anything was wrong. The family was on edge a bit and no one said anything until the nine year-old girl asked the man of cloth, "Did you steel our fork?" The parents were both mortified and relieved the question had been asked. The pastor saw the stress in everybody's eyes and told them to follow him to the living room. He said, "When I was here about two months ago, I did something to see if you would discover the fork. While your backs were turned that evening, I slipped this fork in your nice leather Bible on the coffee table." As he spoke, he opened the Bible to the right page and sure enough the fork was still there.

We all have the greatest book ever written. When was the last time we searched for the hidden treasures of silver and gold that can be found inside.

Pastor Roy Weeden



## Contacts:

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<https://williamsportadventistchurch.org>  
<https://mvchristianschool.com/>

Church phone # **(570) 431-9338**  
MVCS phone # **(570) 231-3844**

## Recurring happenings:

- Sabbath School for all ages each Sabbath at 9:30 AM (church)
- Worship services each Sabbath at 11:00 AM (church)
- Fellowship meal—usually the 2nd Sabbath of each month after the worship service
- Prayer meeting Wednesdays at 6:30 PM (church)
- Community meal—2nd Thursday of each month at 5:30

# MVCS

We are thankful to all who work together to be a blessing to Mountain View Christian School and all that happens there.

The MVCS Board works together to prayerfully offer direction and oversight for important decisions and guidance in following a strategic plan that was created for the betterment of the school and the advancement of God's kingdom. We are grateful for three new board members who have recently accepted positions to serve. They are Jeremiah Jones, (Williamsport), Abraham Navarro, (Watsontown), and Susan Styer, (Williamsport).

Our staff includes:

- **Ms. Heidi Segar**—PreK-4 teacher
- **Ms. Susan Stoica**—K-2nd grade teacher
- **Mr. Dale Walker**—Principal and grades 3-8 teacher, (and Board member).
- **Ms. Paula Wolfe**—part-time admin, nurse, Phys Ed teacher, substitute teacher
- **Ms. Joan Fulmer**—music teacher, substitute teacher

Please continue to pray for MVCS each day. Pray for compassion, understanding, and wisdom for each of the teachers/staff. Pray for wisdom for our Board as decisions are made. And pray for each student as they share the love of Jesus with family members. We know they can be a light shining where only God knows all that is happening in the home.



They are precious in His sight!



Bless the Lord, O my soul! All that is within me, bless His holy name! (Psalm 103:1).

Our students have a multitude of reasons to rejoice in the Lord!

In our Pre-K class, Joey is thankful for his Sabbath date night and for his mommy and daddy. Flynn is grateful for mama, daddy, and his grandparents. Aariyah loves being able to go outside, the joy of reading books, and her parents. Amelia and MariKay are in Kindergarten. MariKay enjoys Fun Friday at school, swimming with family, and french fries. Amelia's blessings include her family, water, and giving something back to a friend after she has borrowed it.

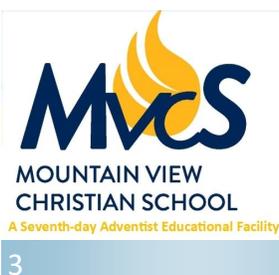
Avery is grateful for help with her homework, being able to help others clean, and time spent playing with friends. Rosie enjoys her mom and dad, her dog Simba, and her house. Sage is thankful for her mom, for food, and for everything that is good.

Myla's blessings include her school, her teachers that help students learn, and all the good things God provides.

Aralynn loves her family because they are the best, all kinds of animals—especially horses, and God because He first loved her. Jax is thankful for good people, for the world, and for time because it keeps us on track. Misha is grateful for God because He loves and cares for us, for her family with all the ways they show they care, and for her pet hamster which likes to play with her. Rebeca includes in her blessings the New Year as a time to have fun, her school because we learn a lot, and her bed for a place to sleep.

Addison is thankful for God Who died on the cross for us, for her pet which helps her to be cheerful, and for friends who help in times of need. Kalon enjoys her pets because she can care for them, her family with the way they care for her, and food which we need to live—and which is delicious. Andres is grateful for his home where all his needs are met, for his family and the way they help him, and for food because it is healthy. Mayvin includes in his list of blessings his animals which are handsome, the mutual support found in friendships, and talents that help us to be successful.

Bless the Lord, O my soul! Forget not all His benefits! (Psalm 103:2)



Seventh-Day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed and hold certain fundamental beliefs to be the teaching of the Holy Scriptures. These beliefs constitute the church's understanding and expression of the teaching of Scripture.

In this issue of our newsletter, we'll look at the doctrine of:



## FUNDAMENTAL BELIEF ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND MINISTRIES

God bestows upon all members of His church in every age spiritual gifts that each member is to employ in loving ministry for the common good of the church and of humanity. Given by the agency of the Holy Spirit, who apports to each member as He wills, the gifts provide all abilities and ministries needed by the church to fulfill its divinely ordained functions. According to the Scriptures, these gifts include such ministries as faith, healing, prophecy, proclamation, teaching, administration, reconciliation, compassion, and self-sacrificing service and charity for the help and encouragement of people. Some members are called of God and endowed by the Spirit for functions recognized by the church in pastoral, evangelistic, and teaching ministries particularly needed to equip the members for service, to build up the church to spiritual maturity, and to foster unity of the faith and knowledge of God. When members employ these spiritual gifts as faithful stewards of God's varied grace, the church is protected from the destructive influence of false doctrine, grows with a growth that is from God, and is built up in faith and love. (**Acts 6:1-7; Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:7-11, 27, 28; Eph. 4:8, 11-16; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; 1 Peter 4:10, 11.**)

### TYPES OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Just as God created each of us unique, He also gave us different spiritual gifts. When a community has a variety of spiritual gifts to work with, more can be accomplished in God's name. That's why each talent is important, no matter how other humans might regard it. God knows us better than we know ourselves, and He knows exactly which skills would be both a blessing to us and to those around us. **1 Corinthians 12:4-11** gives us a list of some of the spiritual gifts the Holy Spirit grants to people:

The gift of speaking wisdom; The gift of speaking knowledge; The gift of faith;

The gift of healing; The gift of working miracles; The gift of prophecy;

The gift of discernment; The gift of tongues; The gift of interpretation

The Bible first talks about these gifts in the context of the early church in the New Testament. This was a grass-roots movement to spread the gospel of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, and to grow the family of believers on earth. Peter and John were blessed with the ability to heal (**Acts 3:1-10**), Dorcas had the gift of charity and giving to others (**Acts 9:36-43**), and Barnabas was always ready to offer encouragement (**Acts 4:36-37**).

Today, we might have a strong knowledge of medicine, resources we can share, or simply a kind word to offer when others need it. All these things are examples of spiritual gifts God has granted us.

Some people have a gift for offering wisdom and knowledge, whether it be through public speaking, writing, or mass media to reach people across the world. Those gifted with great faith can share it with others, helping them through a spiritual struggle. Others have a talent for healing, either physically or emotionally. One person might be skilled at working with teenagers while another is good at leading projects and delegating tasks.

All these things are God-given gifts which are best used for the good of others, not just ourselves. The best way to honor God with the talents we have is to use them the way He asked us to.

### IDENTIFYING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

While there are many different spiritual gifts, the Bible tells us that each of these separate gifts have equal value in God's eyes (**Romans 12:3-8**).

But how do we know what gift God has given us? And how can we know how He wants us to use it?

The Holy Spirit is the one who empowers us with gifts, and He is ready to guide us in their proper use, if we ask. A heartfelt prayer for God's guidance is always the first step. After asking God for guidance with our spiritual gifts, it's a good idea to spend some time in reflection. What about your personality and behavior patterns might reveal some hidden or overlooked strengths?

As we pray daily, God may bring us into situations that help us discover the ways we're gifted.

We can also turn to trusted sources to help us on our journey as well. One idea is to ask the advice of those who are close to God, who we trust, and who know us well. They might be able to point out things we excel at that we might have missed on our own.

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But overall, we must keep our eyes open and be ready to hear God's voice. If someone needs help, we should be ready to lend a hand. The simple act of stepping in and helping someone can reveal the skills God gave us.

### THE USE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

It's clear from Scripture and Christ's example that our spiritual gifts are most effective in the service of God and others. So how do we make the most of our spiritual gifts? How can we be sure we're using them the right way? We are called to use our spiritual gifts to the best of our ability to strengthen the church and further Christ's mission.

There are innumerable ways to spread the good news about who God is and how much He loves us—whether by teaching others and evangelizing, or by showing them through acts of service and healing.

Whatever method we use, the key is to remember who we're working for, and that we aren't put on this earth to serve ourselves, but to serve others.

### CAN A PERSON LOSE THEIR SPIRITUAL GIFT?

Our spiritual gifts can be a key component in our growth in Christ, and it only makes sense that we're supposed to use them responsibly. But what if we don't? What happens when we put our spiritual gifts toward selfish ambition, or choose not to use them at all?

In Matthew 25, Jesus told a parable about a master who had three servants. The master was going on a journey and wanted to make sure his money would be in good hands. To the first servant, he entrusted five "talents," or units of money. To the second servant he gave two talents. To the third, he gave one. Then he went away. While he was gone, the first two servants immediately set to work, putting their master's property to use. The servant with five talents made five more. The servant with two talents made two more. But the servant who had been given one talent went out, dug a hole, and buried his master's money. When the master returned, he called his servants to him to find out what they'd done with his property while he was gone. The first two servants came and presented themselves before him, showing their master how they had made good use of what he had given them, and the master praised them as "good and faithful servants." Then the third servant explained that he knew the master stern and he didn't want to disappoint anyone or mess things up. So, since he didn't want to lose the property, he buried the one talent so nothing would happen to it.

The master was angry and rebuked the servant for being wicked and lazy. Then he took the servant's talent away and gave it to the one whom he had entrusted with five talents.

Just like the servants in the story, we've all been entrusted with God-given talents and skills. It's up to us to make good use out of them, and God will help us along the way. But if we sit on them, refusing to discover how God might use us, we might as well not have the gift at all.

Our spiritual gifts come from God. If we take our talents, our spiritual gifts, and use them wisely, we are being good stewards of the gifts God gave us. But if we misuse our talents, by spending them selfishly or hiding them away, then we're being just as lazy as the wicked servant. If that's the case, God may take our spiritual gifts and give them to someone who will use them. But it's our choice. If we choose to use our spiritual gifts the way God calls us to, we can end up being an incredible blessing.

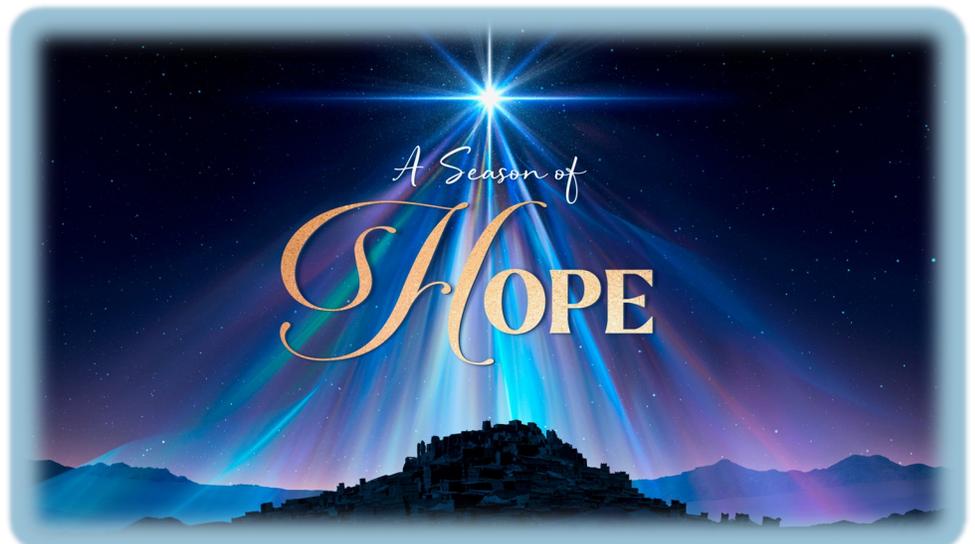
Scripture makes it clear time and again that God is the ultimate gift-giver (**Luke 11:13**). He knows us better than we know ourselves, and He wants us to be a blessing to the world. The thought of possessing God-given abilities may seem intimidating, as if we're afraid we might use our gifts the wrong way. Fortunately, however, God is the guide for our spiritual gifts. Since it is the Holy Spirit that empowers us with these abilities, we don't have to worry about our own insecurities or limitations. God can use a willing person for amazing things, simply because they have faith in Him.

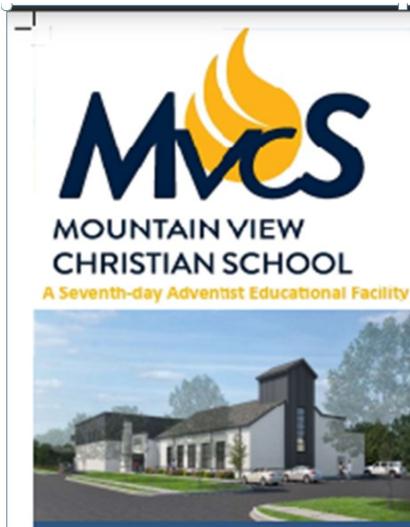
***"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10, ESV).***

### Plan now to attend!

On December 20th at 7:00 PM the choir will be presenting the cantata **"Hope in a Manger"**.

We invite you to join with us, and invite others to remember and celebrate Jesus' birth. "The long – awaited Savior, Hope in a Manger, the hope of the ages forever, always!"





## Marvelous Feet



Taken for granted, used and abused, and squeezed into stylish, but uncomfortable shoes, our feet are simply marvelous.

The human foot is one of the most complex structures in the body. It has more than 100 moving parts that include 28 bones, 33 joints, 19 muscles, over 100 tendons and ligaments, and more than 200,000 nerve endings. Absorbing impact and bearing the entire weight of the body, all of these moving parts work together so that our feet can perform their important, primary functions—enabling us to walk, run, and maintain balance.

Because the foot's structure is so complicated, it is prone to injury, including traumatic and repetitive use injuries such as sprains, strains, torn ligaments, broken bones, tendonitis, and diseases and disorders such as arthritis, fallen arches, bunions, corns, plantar fasciitis. These injuries, diseases, and disorders do not only cause pain, but can also significantly impair quality of life and lead to loss of mobility.

### Did You Know?

The pinky toe is of little value, and those who were born without or lost one or both pinky toes notice very little effect on or change in their activities.

The foot is divided into three parts:

#### Forefoot

The forefoot is comprised of 21 bones: the phalanges, metatarsal bones, and sesamoid bones.

The phalanges (toes) consist of 14 bones. The big toe has two bones, and the remaining four have three bones each.

The metatarsal consists of five long bones extending from the base of each toe to the midfoot. The metatarsal bones in the big toe have a vital role in forward motion, while the remaining four metatarsals provide stability.

The sesamoids are two pea-shaped bones embedded in a tendon running below the first metatarsal bone at the bottom of the foot. These bones stabilize and reduce stress on the tendon.

#### Midfoot

Seven tarsal bones help form the arch of the foot. Five of these bones are found in the midfoot. These five are called distal tarsal bones—distal, meaning the little toe side of the foot.

The navicular bone is a C-shaped bone in the heel that articulates (hinges) the five tarsal bones.

The cuboid bone is cube-shaped and sits next to the navicular bone. It is immovable and supports the arch of the foot. Three cuneiform bones—the medial, intermediate, and lateral—are highly mobile and make up the actual arch of the foot.

#### Hindfoot

There are only two bones in the hindfoot. Collectively, they are called the proximal tarsal bones—proximal, meaning the big toe side of the foot. They transmit the weight of the entire body to the foot. These tarsal bones are the calcaneus (the heel bone) and the talus (an ankle bone that sits near the calcaneus and between the tibia and fibula).

While the foot provides a solid foundation on which the body stands, the toes have the crucial job of helping the foot to maintain balance by helping with weight distribution and providing the necessary push forward (propulsion) during activities like walking and running. They anchor the body to the ground and contribute to the foot's shock absorption. All ten toes are essential, but the big toe is the powerhouse. It bears most of our body weight with a weight-bearing capacity double the nine other toes combined.

**“But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold. My foot has held fast to His steps; I have kept His way and not turned aside.” Job 23:10, 11**

Thank you, Lord, for our marvelous feet.

# November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Choir Practice 1:30-3 
2	3	4	5	6 	7	8 Fellowship Meal 
9	10	11	12	13 Community Meal	14	15 Choir Practice 1:30-3 
16	17 Church Board 6:30	18	19	20	21	22 Choir Practice 1:30-3 
23	24	25 MVCS Thanksgiving Dinner / School Board 6:30	26 MVCS Thanksgiving Break	27 	28	29

# December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Choir practice 1:30-3 
7	8	9	10	11 Community Meal and MVCS Christmas Program	12	13 Choir practice 2- 3:30 
14	15 Church Board 6:30	16	17	18	19 Choir practice 7-8:30 	20 7:00 PM Christmas Cantata 
21	22 MVCS Christmas Break	23 School Board 6:30	24	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31	32 		

December 7, 2025 2:00-4:00 pm  
Pennsylvania Conference Mission & Evangelism Center  
2359 Mountain Rd, Hamburg, Pa.

## Christmas Tea - December 7

Join us for our annual Christmas Tea, "Threads of Grace: Women Woven into the Story of Jesus," and an afternoon of inspiration, fellowship, and celebration on Sunday, December 7, 2:00-4:00 pm, at the Pennsylvania Conference Evangelism & Mission Center, 2359 Mountain Rd, Hamburg, Pa. We'll trace the threads of three remarkable women—Rahab, Ruth, and Mary—whose stories of rescue, redemption, and promise are woven into the lineage of Jesus. Discover how God takes the broken and unexpected pieces of life and weaves them into His perfect plan, leading us to the greatest gift of all—Christ, our Savior. Bring your daughters, moms, sisters, and friends for this special break from the craziness to remember what the season is all about.



## Young Adult Retreat - December 12-14



Camp Hebron Retreat  
957 Camp Hebron Rd, Halifax, Pa.

Get ready for a weekend that will challenge, inspire, and prepare you for what God wants to do in your life! Join us December 12-14, 2025, at Camp Hebron for our annual young adult retreat. With powerful worship, meaningful messages, and time to connect with friends, you'll discover what it means to live with purpose and to brace for the impact God is calling you to make in the world.

Don't miss this chance to grow deeper in your faith and community.

Williamsport, PA Seventh-day  
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