



# Williamsport SDA and MVCS connections

Pastor's Corner

I am so glad that August is in the rearview mirror. Usually, with August comes my birthday, some travel, the start of school and so forth. However, this year Laura nearly lost the end of a finger, our children cannot come to live near us at this time (no grandbaby nearby) and I nearly lost my life to a stroke on my birthday. Thank you, September, for the reprieve. But in reckoning with so much the past five weeks, God has also helped me keep things in perspective. I'm glad that I am still around but it has caused me to further fine tune my accounting of life.

In John 4 is the story of the woman at the well. The disciples had gone grocery shopping and come back during His dialogue with the woman. She goes back into town to tell folks about Jesus, and the disciples come back with sacks of food to eat. In verse 31, they tell Him (Jesus) to eat. In verse 32 and 34 He responds with this: "I have food that you do not know about...My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work."

What changed? Is He no longer hungry? In Christ's case, it probably never changed. Hunger and personal need and desires were not paramount at that moment to Him. In that specific moment in time, a woman had gained the recognition that she was in front of the Promised One. Christ lived for the recognition that he had come to seek and save the lost. What's your motivation for moving through life? Wealth? Trips? Or, even just having enough to get by on in life? All of this has value, but Christ teaches us that helping people see who He really is will contain eternal value that we will experience into eternity.

In His Service,  
Pastor Roy



## Contacts:

Pastor Roy Weeden:  
641-583-5333  
rlweeden@paconference.org

Principal Dale Walker:  
272-202-1118  
dlwalker@paconference.org

Website:  
[www.williamsportpa.adventistchurch.org](http://www.williamsportpa.adventistchurch.org)

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 (this month—September 20th)
- Pathfinders—taking a break over the summer!
- 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. The Board is made up of members of Watsonstown and Williamsport churches, along with the Pastor. We are currently asking for God's guidance in bringing in a few new Board members.

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.

And also, thank God for a generous donation that came from an out-of-state, (unexpected) donor for playground equipment. We are so grateful for all who were involved in securing this gift. While the playground was part of the initial vision for the building project, this gift has allowed us to move forward with ordering a nice addition. The children will be secure in a fenced-in area where they can have access to fresh air, exercise, and fun games on new and safety-approved equipment. God is so good!

We also ask for prayers as MVCS continues to grow. Inquiries are still coming in and we pray that God grants wisdom for each decision. We appreciate your prayers and financial support.



There is so much exhilaration in each new beginning!

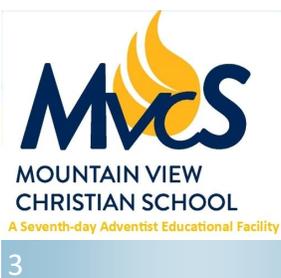
"I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. "They are plans for your well-being to give you a future and hope." (Jere. 29:11) We claim this promise as we launch into another thrilling year of God's leading and blessing at Mountain View Christian School.

Heidi Segar is blessed with three precious children named Aariyah, Flynn, and Joey. She reports that she is finding much to enjoy in guiding these students into the early stages of the learning process. She is delighted by how well her students care about each other. They are always encouraging and lifting up each other. A special part of the day is spent memorizing Bible verses. Each of the children has a perfect record in reciting these Bible gems. The most recent Scripture is Psalm 86:5—"Lord, You are kind and forgiving and have great love."

Susan Stoica has six treasured girls. There are two each in grades K, 1, and 2 who are named Amelia, MariKay, Avery, Rosie, Myla, and Sage. She indicates that the students are demonstrating they understand how essential kindness is. These students have learned about how to help a new student, the right way to take care of dogs, and how important sharing is. The best part of these early weeks has been witnessing the Kindergarteners read their first book word-for-word. She is excited to observe how creativity is forming and blossoming. Friendships for eternity are being formed.

I have eight esteemed scholars in grades 3, 4, 6, and 7. They are Aralynn, Jax, Misha, Rebeca, Addison, Andres, Kalon, and Mayvin. One special feature that is such a blessing is I have four older and four younger students. This allows for pairing an older student with a younger classmate when we do whole class activities. During one such event, each older student (pleasantly) indicated how challenging it was to be patient in waiting for the younger student to keep up the pace. These are golden learning opportunities for mastering successful life skills. It is always a joy to see students continue their journey with their Forever Friend.

We invite each of you to pray for our school, our school year, and each of us as staff members. Now you also have the opportunity to pray for each child by name. The Master Teacher promises, "I will teach you. I will watch over you and be your guide." (Psalm 32:8)



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:

## THE LORD'S SUPPER (COMMUNION)



The Lord's Supper is a participation in the emblems of the body and blood of Jesus as an expression of faith in Him, our Lord and Saviour. In this experience of communion Christ is present to meet and strengthen His people. As we partake, we joyfully proclaim the Lord's death until He comes again.

Preparation for the Supper includes self-examination, repentance, and confession. The Master ordained the service of foot-washing to signify renewed cleansing, to express a willingness to serve one another in Christlike humility, and to unite our hearts in love. The communion service is open to all believing Christians. (Matt. 26:17-30; John 6:48-63; 13:1-17; 1 Cor. 10:16, 17; 11:23-30; Rev. 3:20.)

### What is the Lord's Supper?

The Lord's Supper, celebrated today as a communion service, is an opportunity for believers to honor the gift of God in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. In doing this, the apostle Paul writes, **"You proclaim the Lord's death till He comes" (1 Corinthians 11:26, NKJV)**. The Lord's Supper follows the words of Jesus Christ during the Last Supper He ate before His crucifixion, as detailed in the New Testament gospels. He and His disciples came together to celebrate the Passover meal, in remembrance of Israel's deliverance from slavery in Egypt. This time, however, as they partook of the unleavened bread and fruit of the vine, Jesus gave new meaning to these items. And even before they ate together, Jesus demonstrated His love for His disciples and humanity by performing a servant's job. He washed His disciples' feet. By doing this, He showed an example of kindness and unconditional love.

### Symbolism of the emblems and ordinances of the Lord's Supper

The three significant parts of a Seventh-day Adventist communion service involve eating unleavened bread, drinking grape juice (fruit of the vine), and washing one another's feet. All these things are symbolic of Christ's sacrifice to save us, and the humble, servant-like example He set. These actions follow Jesus' words to His disciples, **"Do this in remembrance of Me" (Luke 22:19, ESV)**.

#### Unleavened bread—Jesus's body

The bread represents Christ's body, broken for us. Matthew writes, **"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body'" (Matthew 26:26, NKJV)**. He was standing before His disciples as He said this, communicating that this was to be a symbol of remembrance of what He was about to do. In giving His body for the world, God made a way for us to be saved from the eternal consequences of sin by believing in and accepting Jesus' death and resurrection. Why unleavened bread – because leaven in bread causes a fermenting process to take place and fermentation represents sin in the Bible. Jesus, the true, pure bread of Heaven, satisfies the deepest longings of our hearts. The true bread of Heaven is not a sandwich. It's not manna. This "true bread" symbolizes a spiritual nourishment to completely satisfy the soul hunger. Accepting Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, will fill our hearts with meaning and love. Accepting Jesus and obeying Him will give us the assurance of eternal life in heaven with Him.

#### Wine, or grape juice—Jesus blood

The fruit of the vine symbolizes Jesus' blood that was shed for us. **"This is My blood of the new covenant," said Jesus, "which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28)**. **"Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins" (Hebrews 9:22, ESV)**. As with the bread, Jesus was standing before His disciples when He made the pronouncement, **"This is My blood."**

## Was the fruit of the vine fermented or unfermented? *(cont. from previous page)*

Seventh-day Adventist Christians believe the fruit of the vine used in the Passover celebration was unfermented grape juice. After partaking of the cup, Jesus said, **“I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom” (Matthew 26:29).** Above all, considering the ways fermented wine is often condemned in Scripture, Seventh-day Adventists seek to commemorate Christ’s sacrifice for us with a clear, unclouded mind. **“Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise” (Proverbs 20:1).**

**“Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly: at the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper” (Proverbs 23:31, 32).**

As with the unleavened, unfermented bread so the wine is to be unfermented. The Wine, or Grape juice, freshly squeezed from the vine, is a fitting symbol of the perfect and pure blood of Christ, shed for the redemption of mankind.

### The “ordinance of humility,” or footwashing

The foot-washing service follows Jesus’ words and actions in **John 13: “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you” (vs. 14, 15, ESV).** The disciples were taken aback at Jesus performing this humble service for them, which was normally considered a servant’s job. But in washing the feet of His disciples, Jesus gave us an example of true greatness.

During a communion service, most Adventist churches provide bowls, water and cloths for a ceremonial foot-washing called the “Ordinance of Humility.”

This is a special time of fellowship, of putting aside differences in status, or position, serving our brothers and sisters in the faith, and making our hearts right with each other and God.

### Does the Communion Service take the place of the Passover?

Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper to commemorate our deliverance from the burden of sin. It is the *new covenant service* that continues the solemn celebration of the Passover.

Jesus and His disciples stood at the crossroads of two religious systems. For thousands of years, offerings of animals for sacrifice at the temple (Leviticus 6) represented a future event—what would happen to Christ. As innocent and perfect as a lamb, Christ came to make the ultimate sacrifice.

After His death, there was no more need for animal sacrifices. Our Lord Jesus came to earth to live a sinless life and be the perfect Sacrifice. He won the victory! He bore humanity’s ultimate consequences and made it possible for anyone to choose salvation through faith in Him. During this last supper with His disciples, Jesus gave us an example. He broke bread and shared the fruit of the vine with His disciples and asked them to remember the sacrifice He was about to make for them—for all of us.

The Passover was a reminder of the deliverance of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery. The Lord’s Supper is a reminder of our personal deliverance from the slavery of sin. We have been redeemed, not with gold or silver, but **“with the precious blood of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:18, 19).**

### Preparing for a communion service

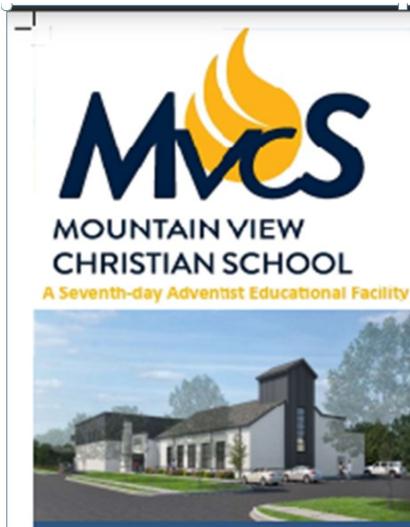
For a meaningful commemoration of Jesus’ sacrifice, Seventh-day Adventists follow the Apostle Paul’s guidance in 1 Corinthians 11 to prepare our hearts with self-examination (vs. 27). He cautions that **“whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord” (1 Corinthians 11:27, ESV).** While this verse feels stern, all Paul is pointing out is that this is a consecrated time of reflection to take seriously. **“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.”** he continued in verse 28. Communion is the perfect time to be thinking about how we can grow in Christ and best honor Him with our lives. If we’re living in faith of what Jesus did and continues to do for us and we follow Him by doing as He said, He counts us as worthy. He wants us to joyfully celebrate the Lord’s Supper. It’s a privilege to be part of this proclamation. Jesus, our Savior, has given the opportunity for salvation to every person. By His perfect life, His sacrificial death, and His resurrection, we are invited to come to His table, experience His love, and be saved for eternity.



#### Come, Holy Spirit

Pentecost 2025 is a movement inviting Seventh-day Adventists in North America to collectively hold over 5,200 proclamation events throughout the year 2025.





**Make a Difference with Your Taxes**  
Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program

**Who Can Participate?**  
Businesses, individuals and couples in Pennsylvania with state income tax liability. Minimum donation: \$1,500. Maximum donation: \$750,000.

**Choose how your taxes are spent**  
We give your taxes to the state when you could keep them in your community? Participating in EITC allows this. You receive 90% of your donation back as a refund on the state income tax credit. This

**4 Easy Steps**

**Step 1: Sign Up**  
Sign a simple donation letter to Pledge Forms with MVCS (This is not a formal contract, it merely outlines the process of securing your state tax credit)

**Step 2: Send Your Gift**  
We request your donation check after your tax credits are approved by the state (generally 30-60 days from pledge)

**Step 3: Receive Tax Forms**  
We will send you a K-1 Donation

**Step 4: Receive Tax Credit**  
You receive your own refundable

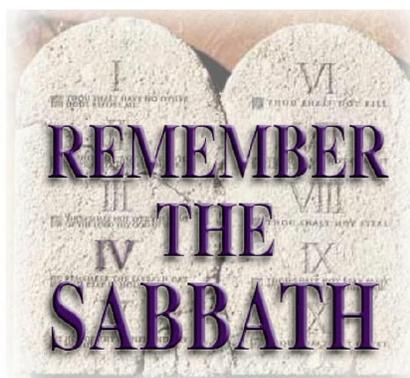
# Join the Choir

The choir will soon be starting practice for our Christmas Cantata. Please let Sandy Spencer know if you are interested in joining.  
slspencer620@gmail.com/570-279-6192

**Choir membership depends on:**

- A member does not need to read music but following others and “carrying a tune” is helpful.
- Commitment to make as many practices as possible.
- According to the church manual, a choir member should be a member of an SDA church.

Choir practices will be on Sabbath afternoons after worship and a light lunch or after fellowship meal. We are planning to have the Christmas cantata on December 20th at 7 PM. Practice CD’s will be available for each part. Tentative start date for practices is October 4th.



## HERITAGE SABBATH—SEPTEMBER 20TH

Join us for a day of celebrating the gift and beauty of the Sabbath that God has given humanity for relationship and enjoyment. Elder Shawn Shives, VP of Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be the featured speaker. All are invited and we especially welcome those who we’ve not seen in some time. Invite friends and family! A fellowship meal will follow the service.

# September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11 Community Meal 	12 MVCS Grandparents' Day	13
14	15 Church Board Mtg. 6:30	16 MVCS Board Mtg. 6:30	17	18	19	20 Heritage Sabbath 
21 MVCS Move-a-thon 	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 SS Teacher Training—BMA	29	30				

**Heritage Sabbath** on September 20th. Plan now to join us as we celebrate the beauty of the Sabbath.  
 Guest speaker, Elder Shawn Shives.  
**Pentecost 2025: Revelation Today**  
 October 10th—November 8th  
 All dates except Mondays and Thursdays.

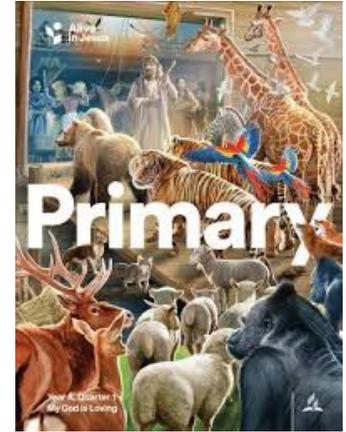
# October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Pizza & Praise 6-8 	4 Choir practice 1:30—3 	
5	6	7	8	9 Community Meal 	10	11 Fellowship Meal 
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Choir practice 1:30—3 
19	20 Church Bd Mtg 	21 MVCS Board Mtg. 6:30	22	23	24	25 Choir practice 1:30—3 
26	27	28	29	30	31	

# Alive in Jesus Children's SS Teacher Training – September 28

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Pennsylvania Conference Mission & Evangelism Center  
2359 Mountain Rd, Hamburg, Pa.



Beginners (birth to three years), Kindergarten (four to six), and Primary (seven to nine) Sabbath School teachers and assistants are invited to the free “Alive in Jesus” training, featuring the new Sabbath School curriculum developed by the General Conference Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department that seeks to nurture the spiritual life of children and youth from the time they are babies until they are 18 years of age.

## Fall Women's Retreat – September 19-21, 2025

Laurel Lake Camp

76 Lodge Rd, Rossiter, Pa.

**Known, Loved, and Called:** *Embracing the God Who Sees, Cherishes, and Sends Us*



We all long to be seen, to be understood, to be truly loved, and to know our lives matter. If you've ever felt unseen, unappreciated, or unsure where you fit, this weekend is for you. Come be reminded that God knows you—every joy, every fear, every dream. He loves you, not for what you do, but simply for who you are. And He's calling you to live boldly and with purpose, no matter your age, your abilities, or what season you're walking through. You are His chosen daughter—and He's inviting you into a relationship more beautiful and life-changing than you can even imagine. We can't wait to see you there!

### Williamsport, PA Seventh-day Adventist Church

PO Box 3454  
410 East Southern Ave.  
S. Williamsport, PA 17702  
Phone: 570-431-9338

Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5

