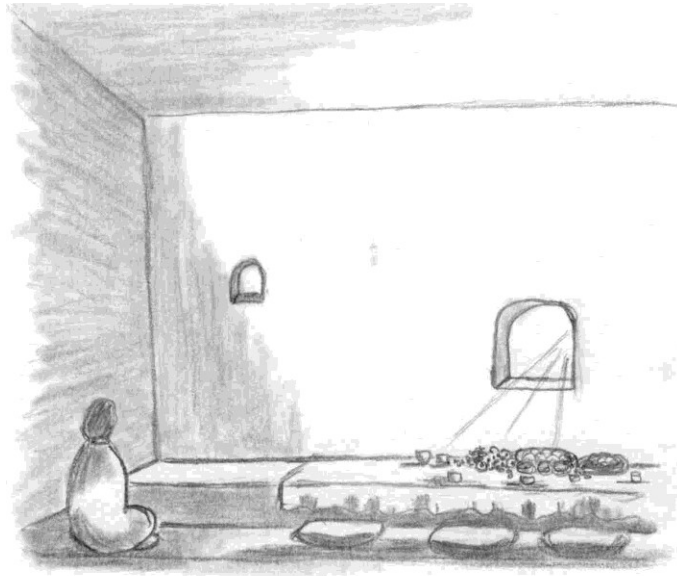


FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 21st, 2025



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

REV. SAMUEL J. LEISTER, PASTOR

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
(717)-436-6213

PASTOR EMAIL: mlcsleister@gmail.com

OFFICE EMAIL: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

WEBSITE: mlcmifflintown.org

*Teach God's Grace through Fellowship,
Study, Service & Witness*

TODAY'S INTRODUCTION: As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059
Church Office: 717-436-6213

Rev. Samuel Leister

Bob St. Clair

Slone Smith

Andrea Cameron

Bob St. Clair

Carter Ehrisman & Thea Beward

Zeb Berry, Paige Martin & Ella Harris

Linda Leister & Bethanie Beward

Don & Barb Geedey

Jen Hutchinson

Pastor

Organist/Pianist

Organist/Pianist

Choir Director

Lector

Acolytes

Communion/Offering Presenters

Altar Guild

Offering Counters

Manna Bread Baker

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 21, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PREPARATION

CHIMES

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

[Please use the prelude as a quiet time to prepare yourself for worship.]

* BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C Amen.

P Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

P Merciful and loving God,

C we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

P Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of + Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C Amen.

GATHERING

* GATHERING HYMN

"You Servants of God"

#252 Green Hymnal

* GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

C And also with you.

* KYRIE ((C-Sung)

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the
unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the
Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

* HYMN OF PRAISE (“Lord God, Heavenly King” – In Unison)

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,

we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (Spoken)

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)

P Let us pray...

C God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

WORD

FIRST READING.....Amos 8:4-7

⁴Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, ⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, ⁶buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat." ⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM:Psalm 113 (**responsively**)

¹Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD.

²Let the name of the LORD be blessed, from this time forth forevermore.

³From the rising of the sun to its going down let the name of the LORD be praised.

⁴The LORD is high above all nations, God's glory above the heavens.

⁵Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high,

⁶but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?

⁷The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

⁸enthroning them with the rulers, with the rulers of the people.

⁹The LORD makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children.

Hallelujah!

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

SECOND READING.....1 Timothy 2:1-7

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone,

²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be

saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God; there is also one mediator

between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶who gave himself a ransom for all—this was

attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not

lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (In Unison)**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Alleluia.

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

* GOSPEL.....Luke 16:1-13

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 16th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (Sung)

¹Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' ⁵So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' ⁷Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' ⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (Sung)

CHILDREN'S SERMON
SERMON

Pastor Leister
Pastor Leister

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Son of God, Eternal Savior"

#364 Green Hymnal

* APOSTLES' CREED (In Unison)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

* PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

(The congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord from their pews at whatever level of physical contact with which they are comfortable).

ANTHEM

OFFERING PRESENTATION

* SUNG OFFERTORY (“Create in Me”)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

* OFFERING PRAYER

P Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

MEAL

* COMMUNION DIALOGUE (from Isaiah 55)

P Let us give thanks to the Lord.

C For through these gifts he comes to feed us.

P All you who are thirsty, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, receive bread, and eat.

C Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and eat.

P Let us come to his table with joy,

C for we come as God’s invited guests!

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

C Through him, with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

*** LAMB OF GOD (Sung)**

C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(If you desire, you may take a gluten free wafer located on the oak pedestal on the step in the front of the chancel).

DISTRIBUTION

["At the Chancel Rail"] – come forward by the CENTER aisle; take a communion cup from the table by the front pew. Approach the altar to partake, then move to the chancel rail to pray. Then, return to your seat using the left or right SIDE aisle]. (Fellowship cups are available for those who wish to remain in your seat for communion).

*** COMMUNION BLESSING**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

*** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

SENDING

*** BLESSING**

P The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, + bless you now and forever.

C Amen, Amen, Amen. (Sung)

* SENDING HYMN

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

#294 Blue Hymnal

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Kate Swailes

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Ella Harris & Paige Martin

NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Thea Beward, Carter Ehrisman & Silas Smith

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Linda Leister & Bethanie Beward (9/8/25 – 9/28/25)

SEPTEMBER COLLECTION COUNTERS:

Today: Don & Barb Geedey

28: Cynthia Smith & Larry Goss

WELCOME TO ALL!

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit in the guest book provided in the Narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the Pastor. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Thank you for worshipping with us.

VISITORS ARE INVITED TO COMMUNE with us if they are baptized, and if with us in our faith, they trust Jesus' promise of the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of Denise Hower by family.

JUST A THOUGHT – J. I. Packer, Canadian Christian Theologian (b. 1926): There is nothing irrational about believing that God who made the world can still intrude creatively into it.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS **THURSDAY NOON**.

PRAYER CHAIN – If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Pastor Leister at mlcsleister@gmail.com.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for **one month**. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact the church office at 436-6213 or mlchurchoffice@gmail.com. If you have anyone who is a “last minute” addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for any requests for building usage. There are a lot of activities and some coordination is needed so events are not “overbooked” in any specific areas of the church (this also applies to church groups who meet in the church). Please contact the office at 436-6213 or email mlchurchoffice@gmail.com for any changes or requests.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY NEEDS OR CONCERNS, please contact Pastor Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Pastor Leister know. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at mlcsleister@gmail.com.

WEIS AND GIANT GIFT CARDS are available to purchase from the Disciples Class. This is a very important outreach ministry that helps neighbors in need in our own community. We thank each and every one for continued support of this very worthwhile project.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! During our October 5th morning worship service, we will recognize both Blanket Sunday and World Communion Sunday. Be sure to mark this special date on your calendars now and plan to attend worship on October 5th.

THE NEXT VOTER’S ASSEMBLY will be held on Sunday, September 28th following the worship service. Business: reports of minutes of the boards.

SEPTEMBER’S “MISSION OF THE MONTH” at Messiah will be for Central Juniata EMS. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to CJEMS to continue assisting in the effort to serve the needs of our community. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This is just one way in which we can continue to extend our mission in Christ’s love beyond the walls of our church building.

NEW ALTAR GUILD & OFFERING COUNTER SCHEDULES are being organized for “Year A,” which runs from Sunday, November 30th, 2025 (First Sunday of Advent) through Sunday, November 22nd, 2026 (Christ the King Sunday). If you would like to join the Altar Guild or help in the baking of Manna Bread for communion or would like to volunteer a few Sundays a year to help count the morning offerings, please let Slone Smith or Bob St. Clair know as soon as possible. Thanks to all those who serve.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF MESSIAH – As the Executive Director of PPC and on behalf of all of the board members, we would like to discuss a very delicate topic.

It was decided at our last PPC meeting that we would decrease our benevolence from \$12,000 per year to \$6,000 per year. We did this with heavy hearts. This decision was made because in the past several months up to and including the present time, we are running in the red. It is hard to ask our congregation to try to dig deeper into their pockets. We ask that you please pray about your giving and pray about the future of Messiah. We, as a congregation, have always moved forward on behalf of our church. So, I am asking each and every one of our members to please do their best to help our church continue and grow and be able to support everyone of our members and missions into the future.

Prayerfully yours,
Marylou Hazard, Messiah PPC Executive Director

REMINDER: **Please have all information to be placed in the newsletter** to Bob at stclairbjr@gmail.com or the church office at mlchurchoffice@gmail.com by the deadlines which are listed monthly in the newsletter.

IF YOU HAVE ANY NEWS OR UPCOMING EVENTS, please contact Sheree Goss at 717-436-9613 or email her at msgoss@gmail.com.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Friday – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWS:

WE WILL BE COLLECTING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR SCHOOL KITS:

--161 blue or black ball point pens (NO gel pens)

--32 (2½ inch erasers)

--12 pencil sharpeners

--51 packs of 16-24 crayons

--15 rulers with inches and centimeters

--147 (70-80 sheet college-rule 8x10½ notebooks)

THE NEXT WELCA MEETING will be Thursday, October 9th at 1:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. All women of Messiah are invited to attend.

ON “GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS” SUNDAY, 2 quilts were knotted, 3 more dog beds were stuffed, and 63 school kits were filled. Thanks to everyone who helped.

CONVENTION REPORT – Our symod filled 200 period packs with leftover items distributed to local shelters.

THE THANKOFFERING SPEAKER for November 9th will be Ann Supplee/DeLauter Youth Center.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA PURPOSE STATEMENT

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER

CANNED BEETS, CANNED POTATOES, CANNED PINEAPPLE, SPAM,
SHAMPOO, OVER-THE-COUNTER COLD AND PAIN MEDICINES,
DISHWASHING SOAPS, LAUNDRY SOAP AND
SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND BACKPACKS WHILE THEY ARE ON SALE.

*WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS AND GIFT CARDS.

P.O. BOX 44, 114 N. MAIN ST., MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
PHONE: 717-436-9718 HOURS: TUES. 9-12 & 1-5, SAT. 9-12

*PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY.
(CONTACT PERSON: GLENDA FULTZ). Email jcfp122017@gmail.com
Website: www.jcfoodpantry.com

Our vestibule is open 24 hours a day to receive donations. Cash, checks, or gift cards may be deposited in the vestibule's mail slot. *Non-perishable foods and non-food items may be dropped off at any time in our vestibule. Please deliver perishable foods only when someone is available to receive them. Thank you!

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -8:45 a.m., Confirmation Class in the sanctuary.
-10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.
-1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Delta Kappa Gamma in Fellowship Hall.
- Monday:** -6:30 p.m., The Knitters in Junior Church Room.
-7:00 p.m. AA in Youth Area.
-7:00 p.m., Juniata County Clearing House Annual Meeting at Cedar Grove Brethren in Christ Church Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -10:30 a.m., Bible Study in Library.
- Wednesday:** -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
-5:00 to 8:00 p.m., Lion's Club Zone Meeting in Fellowship Hall.
-7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in sanctuary.
- Friday:** -NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.
- Sunday:** -8:45 a.m., Confirmation Class.
-10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.
-Voter's Assembly following worship service. Business: reports of minutes of the boards.
-Worship & Music Committee Meeting following worship service.

PRAYER LIST

Joedy Arnold
Linda Bahorik
Melissa Bargo
Jeremy Barnes
Ryan Barr
Bill Book
Andrea Cameron
Evitt Campbell
Deb G. Chambers
Nathan Clark
Kenton Cohenour
Jean Compton
Scott & Heather Compton
Bill Conn
Stacy Couture
Kim Dumais
Freda Durio
Cathy Dysinger
Renee Dzikowski
Kevin Fetterhoof
Neil Fisher
Bentley Fulkroad
Kristen Gaisor
Terri Gayer
Deb Geedey
Josslyn Geedey

Marilyn Gilbert
Sheree Goss
Amanda Gregg
Fred Gross
Mark Harvey
Bill Heck
John (Pat) Henry
Karen Henry
Sawyer Henry
Nox Hepburn
Nancy Howell
Annie Ingle
Michael 'Doc' Johnston
Guy Kerstetter
George King
Jesse Kint
Paul Lingenfelter
Cecilia Miller
Curt Miller
Larry Miller
Shirley Miller
Marlin Milliken
Claire Mummah
Linda (Kerchner) Parks
Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine
Cheryl Pinkerton

Betty Ranck
Keith Ranck
Dave Reed
Diane Rowles
Greysley Rowles
Kelley Rusenko
Arlene Shearer
Lowell Shearer
Wyatt Shellenberger
Gail Sherman
Althea Smith
Dave Smith
Jennifer Smith
Barry Strawser
Kenton Stuck
Vicki Suoja
Amy Swartz
Molly Ulsh
George Varner
Roscoe Warner
Sandy Wert
Todd Wert
Kathy Whitesel
Jim & Heidi Woltman
George Zimmerman
Linda Zimmerman

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

--Jane Marhefka – Brookline Manor, 2 Manor Blvd., Room 221, Mifflintown, PA 17059
--Ray Bramm – Honaman House, 58 Honaman House Dr., Apt. 108, Thompsonstown, PA 17094
--Ruth Cisney – Honaman House, 58 Honaman House Dr., Apt. 112, Thompsonstown, PA 17094
--Ona Stoner – William Penn Nursing Home, 163 Summit Dr., Lewistown, PA 17044