

# Myerstown United Church of Christ

The First Sunday after Christmas

December 29, 2019

Worship Time 10:00 am

## Traditional Service of the Word

Prelude *Six Variations on 'Stille Nacht'* Andreas Willscher

Prayer for Illumination

*Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus. Shine in our lives. Shine in the World now read and proclaimed, and we, children of your light, shining for all people, will follow. Amen*

Welcome & Announcements

*(will all who are able, please stand)*

\*Hymn #184                      What Child Is This?                      GREENSLEEVES  
*[the congregation may be seated]*

Responsive Reading from Psalm 148

***Piano Side of the Congregation:*** Praise the Lord across the heavens, from the heights, all you angels, heavenly being, sing praise! sing praise! Sun and moon, glittering stars, sing praise, sing praise, highest heavens, rain clouds, sing praise, sing praise. Praise God's name, whose word called you forth and fixed you in place for ever by eternal decree.

***Pulpit Side of the Congregation:*** Let there be praise: From the depths of the earth, from creatures of the deep. Fire and hail, snow and mist, storms, winds, mountains, hills, fruit trees and cedars, wild beasts and tame, snakes and birds, princes, judges, rulers, subjects, amen, women, old and young, praise, praise the holy name this name beyond all names.

All: God's splendor above the earth, above the heavens, gives strength to the nation, glory to the faithful, a people close to God. Praise the Lord!

Hymn #183                      *Once in Royal David's City*                      ARBY

Invitation to Confession

Confessing [Leader/All]

Let us pray.

**We have opposed your ways, O God. WE have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have avoided the heard truths of your prophets.**

*Silence*

Show us your mercy, O God. And grant us your salvation.

**By your light, may we see light.**

*Silence*

Pardoning and Peace

*[will those who are able please stand]*

At peace with God, let us now offer the peace of Christ to one another. May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel                      Matthew 2:13-23

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory be to you, O Lord.**

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

*"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled,  
because they are no more."*

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then

Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Christmas Story in Word and Song                      Rev. Dr. Rodney Shearer

The Offering

Offertory Music                      *Quem Pastores*                      Christophe Tambling

\*Offertory Response #196

In the Bleak Mid-Winter [verse 4]                      CRANHAM

*[the congregation may be seated]*

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

*[will those who are able please stand]*

\*Closing Hymn #179                      *Joy to the World*                      ANTIOCH

\*Sending Forth

You have seen the Savior. Go now in peace. Be the light to enlighten everyone you meet, and let your life reflect the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

Moments of Silent Meditation

Postlude                      *Toccata on 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing'*                      Andrew Gant

## Acknowledgements

We welcome **Rev. Dr. Rodney H. Shearer** once again to our worship. He is a retired elder in the United Methodist Church. He and Mary Ellen just celebrated their 53rd anniversary and are the parents of three living daughters, in-laws to three sons, and the grandparents of seven. Rod has served as a parish pastor, college chaplain and assistant professor (LVC), academic dean and assistant professor (ES in Myerstown), district superintendent in the E. PA Conference of The UMC, and has taught courses at Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem. He has served as pianist in a number of venues. The Shearers are residents of StoneRidge in Myerstown. *Thank you for your music ministry, Dr. Shearer!*

Liturgy:

The Prelude, *Six Variations on 'Stille Nacht'* by Andreas Willscher, received 3rd prize at In Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of Stille Nacht composition competition in 2018.

The hymn, *Once in David's Royal City*, was reprinted from *The New Century Hymnal*, Copyright © 1995 The Pilgrim Press. Permission is granted for its one-time use.

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Everyone is encouraged to come to the Gathering Area after worship. There will be light refreshments in honor of Lee & Mary Smith who have been so vitally active within the congregation. Lee has retired as the Church Treasurer; Mary continues to be our Historian. Please join us for this celebration of thanksgiving.

### Prayer List

Nancy Brown	Rosene Duffy	Russ Kahl
Steve Norford	James Haines	Linda Herr
Ellen Goodyear	Ruthann Snoke	Joyce Mitstifer
Ralph Woynarowski	Jewel Fessler	Linda Feaser
Bill Gracely	Rosalla Hollenbach	Joanne Frantz
Family of David Mock		Heather & Elvin Perez

## Announcements

**2019 CONTRIBUTIONS:** The last day to submit church offering to be credited in 2019 is Friday, January 3, 2020. The church is upgrading to new software the first week in January.

**2020 CHURCH ENVELOPES** have arrived. As of this printing, they are not ready for distribution. When they are ready, they can be picked up in the Gathering Area. Until they are distributed, please use a plain envelope for your offering. It is important to put your name on the envelope and write the breakdown of your giving into the usual categories: general fund, OCWM, church improvement fund.

**JANUARY 5, 2020:** There will be only **one service at 9:00 am**. Please refer to other information about the service and congregational meeting.

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED:** The Church office will be closed on Wednesday, 1 January 20. It will be open on Thursday, January 2, 2020 from 9 am to 2 pm. It will be closed the entire first week in January for staff to receive training on the new membership and finance software. It will be necessary for people to schedule an appointment for any business that needs to be accomplished. Staff will not be able to stop what they are doing to respond to questions or requests. We hope you understand the importance of the staff learning together. If there is someone who would like to take phone messages and receive information from persons who come to the office, the staff would greatly appreciate it. Please communicate with the Church Secretary or use the Communication Book on the Information Table.

**FLOWER SPONSORS** are needed for January 19th. If you would like provide flowers for either Sunday, please contact the church office.

**SIGNUP TODAY:** There are 2 new sign up sheets on the Information Table. One is for *Better Families* and the other for *Conversational*. There are also 2 Sundays this month available on the Conversational schedule. Please be attentive to these opportunities.

**COMMUNITY MEAL COORDINATOR VOLUNTEER:** We are seeking an individual or individuals to volunteer to coordinate the community meals held at Myerstown UCC in the Spring and Fall. Duties include planning the menu, shopping for food, and directing the preparation of the food. There is a large group of volunteers for this ministry who are already in place and ready to help. Please contact the church office or any member of Church Council if you are interested by January 15, 2020.

## Calendar for This Week

Today, Sunday, December 29	<b>First Sunday After Christmas</b>
8:30 am	Continental Breakfast
10:00 am	Worship, Rodney Shearer, preaching
Monday, December 30	
9:00 am - 2:00 pm	Church Office Open
Tuesday, December 31	
12:30 am - 3:30 pm	Pastoral Office Hours [preferably by appointment]
Wednesday, January 1, 2020	
	<b>Church Office Closed</b>
Thursday, January 2	
9:00 am - 2:00 pm	Church Office Open
Friday, January 3	
9:00 am - 2:00 pm	Church Office Open
Saturday, January 4	
6:30 pm	Meet & Greet in the Social Hall with the pastoral candidate, Rev Paul Cronin
Sunday, January 5	<b>Second Sunday After Christmas</b>
9:00 am	Worship; Paul Cronin preaching

## Search Committee Report:

We are excited to announce that at the Sunday, December 15 meeting, Council voted and passed unanimously to move forward in the process to hire a part-time pastor. **Rev. Paul R. Cronin** was approved in the role as a **Designated Pastor** for a three-year term and, hopefully, after three years we would be able to make it a full-time position.

Paul resides with his wife and family in Bernville, PA. Paul was ordained October 13, 1985 and his current standing is held in the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference by the PS Covenant Association. Pastor Paul is a 1976 graduate of LaRoche College with a degree in Religion/Psychology and a 1985 graduate from Lancaster Theological Seminary with a Masters of Divinity. Paul has served in five different congregations since 1983. He spent three years at United Church of Roscoe in New York, twelve years at First Congregational in Walton, NY, and twelve years at Faith Unity/New Creation UCC in Easton, PA. Paul has a lot of knowledge and experience and a few of his strengths are

church growth and size transition, preaching, children sermons and connecting with the community.

The Trial Sermon will be held on **Sunday, January 5** with one service beginning at **9:00 A.M.** Following the service, Rev. John Fureman will be leading the congregation in a vote. All active member who are present that day are invited to vote. Additionally, a "Meet and Greet" will be held on **Saturday, January 4** in the Social Hall beginning at **6:00 P.M.** Paul will be introduced and then he will share his background, experience and excitement of becoming the new part-time pastor of Myerstown United Church of Christ. We will have an opportunity for a question and answer session and will conclude the evening with light refreshments.

If Pastor Paul is voted and approved by the congregation on Sunday, January 5th, this will start the 45-day notice for Jim Yoder our current Bridge Pastor. His last day in the capacity of Bridge Pastor will be Wednesday, February 19. The starting date for Paul is set for Monday, February 3, and this will allow 2 weeks overlap with Jim and Paul for a smooth transition.

The financial package is based on Conference Guidelines and all amounts are based on 50% of a full-time pastor.

Support Package Values [in Dollars]

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Salary Basis	34,000	34,000*	34,000*
Annuity	4,760	4,760 <sup>+</sup>	4,760 <sup>+</sup>
Health, Dental, Vision	0	8,157 <sup>^</sup>	8,157 <sup>^</sup>
Social Security Offset	2,601	2,601*	2,601*
Life & Disability Insurance	<u>510</u>	<u>501<sup>^</sup></u>	<u>501<sup>^</sup></u>
Total	\$41,871	\$50,028 <sup>&lt;</sup>	\$50,028 <sup>&lt;</sup>

Legend

- \* Based on 2020 guidelines
- + Based on 14% of Basis
- <sup>^</sup> Based on 2020 rates
- <sup><</sup> Fluctuates according variables

If you have any questions, please direct them to the Search Committee or any member of Church Council.

## Welcome to Myerstown United Church of Christ

Church Office: 304 West Main Avenue, Myerstown , PA 17067-1023

Phone: 717/866-5252 myerstownucc@comcast.net

website: [myerstownuccchurch.org](http://myerstownuccchurch.org)

Kory Leppo----- 717-269-6033 ----- Council President  
 Marie Hibshman 717-343-3247 ----- Elder  
 Jim Yoder----- 252-258-4268 ----- Bridge Pastor  
 Emily Frantz----- 717-383-1147 ----- Parish Administrator  
 Mark Herr----- 717-572-7734 -Family & Community Ministry Coordinator  
 Lindy Bennetch----- Financial Administrator  
 Jim Yoder----- Church Secretary  
 Elicia Frank----- Custodian

### Worship Assistants

*Appreciation to the following who participated in today's service:*

**Organist** Mark Herr

10:00 am Service

**Open:** Mark Herr **Greeter:** Dawn Hassler  
**Worship Leader** Jim Yoder **Sound:** Bob Dash  
**Ushers** Ed & Candy Hibshman, Terry & Suzie Schott, Kenny Patrick  
**Counting Team** Ed & Candy Hibshman, Terry & Suzie Schott

Stewardship Report for Sunday, December 22 2019

General Fund	\$9,630	OCWM	\$360
Church Improvement Fund		\$270	
Attendance 8 am:	20	Attendance 10 am:	42
		Christmas Eve	97