

Myerstown United Church of Christ

Third Sunday After the Epiphany

January 26, 2020

Worship Time 8:00 am

Brief Service of the Word

Prelude *Blessed Jesus, At Your Word* Johann S Bach

Silent Preparation for Worship

As we remember our baptism into the life and death of Jesus, we acknowledge of our faith as a mystery: Christ came, to show us God's love; Christ was baptized, inviting us into the waters of life; Christ died, to fulfill all righteousness; Christ was raised, to set us free from death; Christ will come to take us by the hand and never let go. We will open our hearts and souls to the presence of God during out time together this day. Amen.

Welcome & Announcements

(will all who are able, please stand)

WE GATHER TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

*Remembering Our Baptism [Leader/All]

Baptized to begin lives of faith,
We would witness to all you do in our communities, in our midst, in our world.
Baptized to serve,
We would speak up for the voiceless, we would bring justice to those who have none.
Baptized to speak,
We would heal, and not hurt; we would bless, and not curse.
Baptized to do what is right,
We would not play favorites, but treat each as your Beloved.

*Invocation

Let us pray as one.
God of life and new life, you are splendid and strong! Your voice thunders above the sound of loud waters. You sit enthroned above the floods of life. As Jesus heard you speak to him in his baptism, may we also hear you calling us your beloved, through Jesus Christ, your son, our brother. Amen.

*Hymn #123

Fairest Lord Jesus
(the congregation may be seated)

CRUSADER'S HYMN

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

We try to stop Jesus from coming into our lives, Patient God, for we know how disruptive he can be. He wants us to preach the gospel with our lives, but we prefer to complain how hard that is to do. He wants us to do what is right, yet wrong-doing comes so easily for us. He would like us not to give up until justice is done, but we just don't seem to have the time.

We confess because we know we need to be forgiven by you, Glory and Grace. Bathe us in the life giving waters of your mercy so we can come up from the water, ready to do good for others, to give you all the praise, to learn justice, grace, and hope from your Servant, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

We are God's Beloved.
We delight God's heart.
Let us believe this good news.
The Spirit of God rests upon us, anointing us with mercy and peace. Thanks be to God! Amen.

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

[will those who are able please stand for the reading of the Gospel]

*Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray. Still speaking God, may your words from scripture be to us as if the heavens are opening, and we see your Spirit descending on us like a dove, revealing your word for us as your beloved daughters and sons. Amen.

*A Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 3:13-17

Hear the good news of Jesus Christ as remembered by Matthew in verses 13 through 17 of chapter 3.
Praise be to you, O Christ.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

This is where the reading ends. It is the gospel of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

[the congregation may be seated]

Homily

One Big Happy Family

WE TAKE GOD'S WORD INTO THE COMMUNITY

*Sending Forth

Baptized, let us go to live in faith.

We will bring healing to the broken and offer God's joy to those who grieve.

Baptized, let us go to serve.

At the side of Jesus, we will serve the hungry, we will give shelter to the homeless.

Baptized, let us go to be a voice.

We will echo the Spirit of calling for peace, we will never stop speaking against injustice.

Baptized, let us go to do what is right.

Finding you, God in Community, Holy in One, waiting for us to join you beside all your Beloved children.

*Benediction

*Recessional #243 *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise* ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

*Personal Meditation

*Postlude *St Anthony's Chorale* Franz Josef Haydn

Acknowledgements

The altar flowers are sponsored in loving memory of Doris E Schott & Stephen Schott, by Terry, Valerie, & Stacy.

The flowers last week were sponsored by Jean Gerheart in loving memory of Sara Harding, her daughter.

Some of the liturgy for this service has been reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies: Day of Epiphany*. Thom Schuman. <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2020/01/liturgy-with-communion-for-january-12.html>; from Book of Worship © 1986 by permission of the United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership; and by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2013.

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## Prayer List

|                    |               |                       |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Nancy Brown        | Rosene Duffy  | Suzanne Fritsch       |
| Steve Norford      | James Haines  | Linda Herr            |
| Ellen Goodyear     | Ruthann Snoke | Bill Gracely          |
| Ralph Woynarowski  | Jewel Fessler | Linda Feaser          |
| Rosalla Hollenbach | Joanne Frantz | Heather & Elvin Perez |
| Grace Brightbill   | Erin          | Sarah                 |

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Information Table Sign Up Board

There are multiple needs and opportunities waiting for you to accept. We are thankful for those who have offered their time, energy, and financial support.

BETTER FAMILIES: February, May, June, July, August, September, November, December. The cost is \$10; it can be added to "other" on the offering envelope. Please specify which month.

CONVERSATIONAL: February **2**, 16, 23. Light refreshments are perfect!

FAITH FORMATION HELPERS: Youth and adults needed for the entire month of **February**. These people are needed from 8:45 am until 9:30 am.

NURSERY ATTENDANTS: Youth and adults needed for the entire month of **February**. These people are needed from 10 am to the end of worship.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Sponsors needed for February **2** and 23. Please contact Betty Arnold [717.866.5329] directly to sign up. There is no sheet on the Information Table.

Announcements

WELCOMING PASTOR PAUL-THANK YOU: Appreciation to everyone who responded so eagerly last week after both services.

WELCOMING PASTOR PAUL-PART A: In order to make it as comfortable as we can for Pastor Paul to get to know us, we are going to make a picture-directory for him. Following both services this morning, we ask everyone to come to the Gathering Area and have your picture taken. Look for the *Photo Booth*.

WELCOMING PASTOR PAUL-PART B: So that Pastor Paul can connect with us better on a Sunday morning, we are revitalizing the around-the-neck name tags. This way he will be able to see our names and faces together. His first Sunday with us is February 8th.

BIRTHDAY RECOGNITION in the Vineyard is coming back by popular demand. While you are waiting to have your picture taken, please look at the "Birthday Clipboard." Only people who add the birthdate to this list will be included. We must have the month, day and year. While adding your birthday, please check and correct the other information; the line on the right is to correct addresses.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK: The Worship Support Team meets on Monday night at 6 pm; the Property Committee meets on Wednesday night at 6:30 pm. Both meetings are in the Library. Both groups have extremely important agenda items. If you are unable to attend contact the church office.

FOUR CHAPLAIN'S RUN and walk will be held this coming Saturday, February 1st. This is the seventh annual event and is held at Evangelical Seminary, 121 S College St, Myerstown. Registration for both the 4 mile and 1.5 mile run/walks can be made on the Internet at www.evangelical.edu or at 9:00 am on site. The event begins at 10:00. All proceeds support tuition for military chaplain students. Some of the people in the Chaplain's ministry program at the seminary are from the UCC.

HARTMAN CENTER LOVE OFFERING: On February 16th we will take a love offering in support of Hartman Center. There is some information posted on the bulletin board next to the Information Table about the ministry. There are also some envelope labels for your convenience. You can also write Hartman Center on your regular church envelope to make a contribution.

ARE YOU WILLING TO HELP GROW OUR CHURCH? The Children and Youth Ministry Team is excited to announce growth and new opportunities to rebuild our ministries for young people. Curriculum has been ordered for a new class which will involve preschool students (ages 3, 4, and 5). We are looking for volunteers to help with this class beginning ASAP. Our youth are already volunteering to be teachers/helpers; it would be wonderful to have an adult to

oversee these young people. You can sign-up for one week or as many as you like! Our Primary Class (K – 2nd grade) will continue to be taught by a rotation of Marcia Bicher with Jackie Shaak helping and Stephanie Bohannon with youth helpers. Our Middler Class (Grades 3 – 6) will continue to be taught by Ellen Goodyear. Confirmed youth have received an email asking for their help to make this a success. The goal is to create a new class for the youth beginning in Fall 2020. If you are willing to be part of this growing opportunity, please sign-up on the Information Counter or contact the church office or Emily Frantz for an email link.

Liver Transplant Needed for Kiersten Sweigart

Kiersten is a beautiful, intelligent, sweet, 21 year-old who is currently a Junior in Nursing School and is excited to become a Registered Nurse. In 2013 she was diagnosed with Crohn's disease and then Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis (PSC). PSC is a progressive disease of the liver and gallbladder. Kiersten is in need of a liver transplant. Live donor transplant is a life-saving procedure where a donor gives a lobe of his/her liver to a recipient. If someone donates a portion of their liver, it will return back to full-size. We are looking for healthy individuals that have O+ or O- blood to possibly be her life saving donor. Kiersten's family are not a match. Might you be the one? Please contact:

Amy Wildasin, BSN, RN Living Donor Coordinator, Department of Transplant Surgery
717-531-6092; 800-525-5395 awildasin@pennstatehealth.psu.edu

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**Worship Assistants for February 2, 2020**

8:00 am Service **Open Church:** Cal Beamesderfer  
**Greeter:** Sue Harvey **Worship Leader:** Wanda Rabold  
**Communion Servers:** Jackie Shaak, Sue Harvey  
10:00 am Service **Sound:** Paulie McQuate  
**Greeters:** Jim & Beth Diehm **Worship Leader:** Margo McQuate  
**Ushers:** Travis, Angie, Gabby, & Gavin Bicher, Kenny Patrick  
**Communion Servers:** Ed & Candy Hibshman, Steve & Marianne Fritsch  
**Counting Team:** Ted & Carol Batdorff, Darryl Brown

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Calendar for This Week

Today, Sunday, January 26

8:00 am Brief Worship
 8:45 am Small group meetings.
 8:45 am Prayer Team [Prayer Room]
 10:00 am Worship with the Sacrament of Baptism
 Installation of Church Council during worship

Monday, January 27

8:30 am Strong Bones [Social Hall]
 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open
 6:00 pm Worship Support Team [Library]

Tuesday, January 28

10:30 am Lebanon Assoc Ministerium, Salem, Campbeltown
No Pastoral Office Hours

Wednesday, January 29

9:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open
 6:30 pm Property Committee [Library]
 6:30 pm Scouts [Social Hall]

Thursday, January 30

8:30 am Strong Bones [Social Hall]

Friday, January 31

9:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Saturday, February 1

Sunday, February 2

8:00 am Brief Worship with the
 Sacrament of Holy Communion
 8:45 am Faith Formation Groups
 8:45 am Prayer Team [Prayer Room]
 10:00 am Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion

CHURCH STAFF EMAIL: The church staff with the exception of the custodian have church email addresses. It is preferred that you begin using them rather than their personal email addresses.

	Pastor	muccpastor@comcast.net
	Parish Administrator	muccparishadmin@comcast.net
	Church Office / Secretary	myerstownucc@comcast.net
	Financial Administrator	muccfinance@comcast.net
	Organist/Worship Music Coordinator	muccmusic@comcast.net

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

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 ----- Organist / Worship Music 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

8:00 am Service

Open Church: Fritz Firestine

Greeter: Nancy Weaber **Worship Leader:** Sally Kulp

10:00 am Service

Greeters: Terry & Suzie Schott **Sound:** Bob Dash

Liturgist Kristi Fields, **Lector:** Darryl Brown

Ushers Ed & Candy Hibshman, Terry & Suzie Schott, Kenny Patrick

Counting Team Ed & Candy Hibshman, Terry & Suzie Schott

Stewardship Report for Sunday, January 19, 2020

General Fund	\$2,596	OCWM	\$100
Church Improvement Fund			\$95
Attendance 8 am:	12	Attendance 10 am:	38