

Myerstown United Church of Christ

First Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2020

Worship Time 10:00 am

Whoever You Are
Wherever You are on Life's Journey
You are welcome here!

Gathering Music *If You But Trust in God to Guide You* Johann Walther

Welcome & Announcements Paul Cronin

*Choral Call to Worship

*Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!*

*Call to Worship Kristi Fields

L: We have gathered in the presence of God our creator,
who sets before us the ways of life and death.

P: **We have gathered in the presence of Jesus the Christ, who calls us to
accept the cost of discipleship that we may know its joy.**

L: We have gathered in the presence of the Spirit, who sustains us in trial
and rejoicing.

All: **In our living and in our dying,
we belong to God.
In the shadow of God's wings,
we sing for joy.
Let us worship God.**

*Hymn of Praise #473 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

*Greeting One Another with the Peace of Christ

Children's Sermon **Saying NO!!**

*(following the Children's Sermon, children may return
to sit with their parents or move to the Nursery)*

Call to Confession Paul Cronin

Time of Confession [in unison]

Kristi Fields

**We confess, gracious God, that You lead us out of the land of slavery;
yet when the journey is hard, we long to return to the comfort of our chains.
You speak to us through your prophets,
telling us how our rebellion hurts and angers you;
yet we harden our hearts and close our ears.
You come to us in Jesus,
revealing your love for all people
and suffering pain of us;
still we do not turn
in love and obedience to you.**

**We do that which we ought not to do,
and we leave undone those things we ought to do.**

**Speak the word, O God,
and we shall be made free.
Forgive us,
receive us,
and give us courage to serve you
with renewed hearts and wills;
through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Paul Cronin

Listening for God's Word

Epistle Lesson

Romans 5:12-19

Darryl Brown

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned — sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will

those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Gospel Chorus

Holy Ground

*We are standing on holy ground,
and I know that there are angels all around.
Let us praise Jesus now;
We are standing in his presence on holy ground.*

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 4:1-11

Paul Cronin

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Hymn of Preparation 128 *Spirit, Working in Creation [verse 3]*

Sermon

When in Doubt

Prayers of Pastor & People

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.

Offering Our Best to God

Invitation

Offertory

Prayer

Giuseppe Verdi

*Offertory Response

*Summoned by the God who made us rich in our diversity,
gathered in the name of Jesus, richer still in unity:
Let us bring the gifts that differ and, in splendid, varied ways,
sing a new church into being, one in faith and love and praise.*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Order for Holy Communion

Invitation

Kristi Fields

This table is open to all who confess Jesus as the Christ and seek to follow Christ's way. Come to this sacred table not because you must, but because you may. Come not because you are fulfilled, but because in your emptiness you stand in need of God's mercy and assurance. Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence and to pray for a spirit.. Come to this table, then, sisters and brothers, as you are. Partake and share. It is spread for you and me that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to join the people of God's new age.

Greeting

L: God be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: **We lift them to God.**

L: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

P: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Communion Prayer

Paul Cronin

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing.

We thank you for revealing your will for us in the giving of the law and in the preaching of the prophets.

We thank you especially that in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, born of Mary, to live in our midst, to share in our suffering, and to accept the pain of death at the hands of those whom Jesus loved.

We rejoice that in a perfect victory over the grave you raised Christ with power to become sovereign in your realm.

We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church by which your work may be done in the world and through which we share the gift of eternal life.

With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name:

**Holy, holy, holy God
of love and majesty,
the whole universe speaks of your glory,
O God Most High.**

Words of Institution

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine, and bless us that as we receive them at this table, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things.

Sharing the Elements

Come, for all things are ready.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Kristi Fields

Let us give thanks together.

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*Hymn of Parting #252 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

*Sending Forth

*Song of Sending

Shalom, my friends, shalom, my friends, shalom, shalom.

Shalom, my friends, shalom, my friends, shalom, shalom.

*Postlude "March" from the Occasional Oratorio GF Handel

Acknowledgements

The altar flowers are sponsored in memory of Harvey & Kit Nitrauer by the family.

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Prayer List

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

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Announcements

LCCM LENTEN BREAKFAST: This annual breakfast buffet will be held on Saturday, March 28th, in the Cedar Crest Middle School cafetorium. The speaker is Steve Sabol, community pastor of Lifeway Church, Lebanon. Musical entertainment is by Celebrate Recovery Praise Team band, Church of the Good Shepherd, Lebanon. Tickets are \$15; please contact Carolyn Williams for tickets. The last day to order tickets is Friday, March 20th. Seating is limited, and no tickets will be sold at the door. Please consult the bulletin board in the Gathering Area for additional information. This is a unique opportunity to experience ecumenical worship within Lebanon County. Remember: **no tickets sold at the door.**

SINGERS & RINGERS:

Singers: Children of all ages are needed to help us with a special part in the choir anthem for Palm Sunday (4/5.) Rehearsals will be held from 9:30 - 9:45 am on Sundays, March 8 and April 5th AND/OR Sunday March 22 at 11 am. You do not need to attend all rehearsals to sing.

Ringers: 4 youth tone chime ringers are also needed. Rehearsal time will be

set based on the availability of the youth. Please sign-up on the information counter, contact the church office, or Emily Frantz. muccparishadmin@comcast.net. Thank you!!

PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED: One adult and youth helpers are needed for February 23 and every Sunday in March from 8:45 am - 9:30 am. Materials provided. Extra youth are needed in March to help in the Primary classroom also. Please consider helping this ministry to grow. Sign-up available online or on the Information Counter.

Worship Childcare Help Needed: Every Sunday in March from the Children's Message (approximately 10:15 am) until the end of worship (approximately 11 am). Sign-up available online or on the Information Counter.

NAME TAGS: Thanks to everyone who patiently waited to get a name tag and proudly wear it. An excellent suggestion was made to keep the name tags on during the Conversational. That's the time most of the socializing and getting to know each other happens. Also, **if it's too crowded at the Name Tag table**, please put your name tag in the Name Tag bin. It will find its way back to the correct location.

GIFT CARD ORDERS need to be placed today. It's simple: Complete the form; write a check; put the form in the wooden box.

BULLETIN INFORMATION: Announcements and other information to be included in the weekly bulletin need to be submitted to the Church Office by 9 am on a Tuesday morning. It is preferred that the information be sent electronically to myerstownucc@comcast.net. The Communication Book on the Information Table is another possibility. Please write or print legibly.

VINEYARD INFORMATION: Information to be included in the newsletter needs to be submitted to the Church Office by 9 am on the 20th of the month. It is preferred that the information be sent electronically. The Church Office requests that each committee or task group provide a one-paragraph summary of the most recent meeting. In order to keep everyone informed, a monthly calendar will be added to the Vineyard. Consequently, all groups are asked to send meeting dates for March immediately.

COMMUNITY MEALS return in March. They are held the second Thursday of each month [March, April, May]. Meal preparation begins at 9:00 am; serving at 4:00 pm. More hands are always welcome. Specifically, individuals are needed to assist with clean up. **NOTE:** Originally the April meal was scheduled for the third Thursday due to Maundy Thursday on the second Thursday. The community meal and the Maundy Thursday service will **both** be held on April 9th. More details to follow.

Worship Assistants for March 8, 2020

8:00 am Service

Greeter: Nancy Weaber

10:00 am Service

Greeters: Ed & Candy Hibshman

Nursery Attendants: _____

Ushers: Travis, Angie, Gabby, & Gavin Bicher, Kenny Patrick

Counting Team: Marie Hibshman, Kathy Grose, Charlie & Carolyn Williams

Flower Sponsor: _____

Open Church: Mark Herr

Worship Leader: Wanda Rabold

Sound: Paulie McQuate

Worship Leader: Margo McQuate

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## Calendar for This Week

Today, Sunday, March 1

8:00 am Brief Worship with Holy Communion  
8:45 am Small group meetings.  
8:45 am Prayer Team [Prayer Room]  
10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

Monday, March 2

8:30 am Strong Bones [Social Hall]  
9:00 am - noon Church Office Open  
7:00 pm Women's Club [social hall]

Tuesday, March 3

9:00 am - noon Church Office Open  
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Pastor Paul on site\*  
6:30 pm Church Council [Library]

Wednesday, March 4

9:00 am - noon Church Office Open  
6:30 pm Scouts [Social Hall]  
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, March 5

9:00 am - noon Church Office Open  
8:30 am Strong Bones [Social Hall]  
9:30 am - 1:30 pm Pastor Paul on site\*  
9:30 am Piano tuning [all day]

Friday, March 6

9:00 am - noon **World Day of Prayer**  
Church Office Open

Saturday, March 7

Sunday, March 8

8:00 am Brief Worship  
8:45 am Faith Formation Groups  
8:45 am Prayer Team [Prayer Room]  
10:00 am Worship

\*On site for Pastor Paul means that he plans to be here. Those are also the times that he will be scheduling meetings. It is always preferred to make an appointment if you want to meet with him. Please contact the church office to establish the visit.

## OGHS MISSION MOMENT



**To you and me, these may look like ordinary peanuts. But to the people in Piremeka's village in India, the peanuts are an investment into their futures.**

## Not Just Peanuts

In a community that's far from any town, 3 sisters planned to change their community with peanuts. Sarthia, Piremeka, and Vishaathana explained that it had only rained in their community in India a few times over the last year causing a severe water shortage.

Piremeka and husband began the dream of a better life for their family. They heard about programs that provided small loans to people. They sought a loan to help them open a little store.

The store—the only of its kind for miles—carried groceries and items you would find in any corner store. They had bread, milk, oil, and candy. However, the store didn't provide a profit that would give the family better opportunities, and there certainly wasn't enough money remaining to invest in their community.

So Piremeka and her sisters came up with a different plan. They planned to make a better life for themselves and for their community. They applied for loans to become peanut farmers.

The sisters were very wise in their new business. They held on to their peanuts for just the right time to get the best price for their harvest at market. They learned if they would plant peanuts for 2 or 3 harvests and then allow the land to rest, they would reap a bigger harvest. They learned to protect their investment.

The sisters and their families used peanut farming to raise enough money to ultimately build wells on their property. Where they lived, their gardens, animals and livelihoods were all affected by the water shortage. By building three wells in their small community, they would change the flow of the water, bringing water into the community where all could benefit.

What looks like just peanuts, became a life sustaining adventure.

## 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)

Paul Cronin-----610-217-9717 -----Designated Pastor  
Kory Leppo-----717-269-6033 -----Council President  
Marie Hibshman 717-343-3247 -----Elder  
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:** Marcia Bicher

**Greeter:** Lindy Bennetch **Worship Leader:** Wanda Rabold

**Communion:** Jackie Shaak, Sue Harvey

**10:00 am Service**

**Greeters:** Ted & Carol Batdorff **Sound:** Paulie McQuate

**Worship Leaders:** Kristi Fields, Darryl Brown

**Ushers:** Doug, Stephanie, & Braden Bohannon, Kenny Patrick

**Communion:** Doug, Stephanie, & Braden Bohannon, Dave & Jen Blystone

**Nursery Attendants:** Camilla Zimmerman

**Counting Team** Ed & Candy Hibshman, Terry & Suzie Schott

### Stewardship Report for Sunday, February 16, 2020

General Fund \$2,467 OCWM \$200

Church Improvement Fund \$380

Attendance 8 am: 12 Attendance 10 am: 66

Ash Wednesday 15