

Myerstown United Church of Christ

Second Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2020

Worship Time 10:00 am

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

Gathering Music *Jesus, Priceless Treasure* Paul Manz

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 Margo McQuate

L: We gather this day to worship our God,
whose words and ways challenge us.

P: God invites us to lose our selfishness to find ourselves.

L: God calls us to be fools in the world to show forth the wisdom of Christ.

P: God urges us to empty ourselves to discover life's fullness.

L: **God bids us to be obedient to a divine will
so we might know true freedom.**

**All: We come to worship our Creator seeking
to have our faith challenged into growth.**

**We root our faith in worship, seeking to find nourishment
for our spirits in this growing season of Lent.**

*Hymn of Praise #287 *Lift High the Cross*

*Greeting One Another with the Peace of Christ

Children's Sermon **The Important Things**

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

Call to Confession Paul Cronin

Prayer of Confession [in unison] Margo McQuate

O God, there are many things that stand between us and the life you intend us to lead. Like frozen ground holding back a bulb's expression of life, these things subdue spirits struggling to bloom.

A lack of courage chills the ground of our being and prevents our challenging the cold grip of injustice.

A snow-covering of indifference keeps problems out of sight and makes us believe there is no life below the surface.

A sense of self-importance allows the inactivity of faith and permits us to be content without growing into the world. As we worship, God, thaw us out. Through all the chill of self-importance, indifference, lack of courage, we feel the life-giving warmth of your love. Help us to bloom as persons nourished by that love. In the name of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Assurance of Pardon Paul Cronin

Listening for God's Word

Hebrew Scripture Lesson Genesis 12:1-4a Margo McQuate

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

Gospel Chorus #654 *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 John 3:1-17 Paul Cronin

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart

from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Hymn of Preparation #270 *O, How He Loves You and Me*

Sermon **From Above**

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 Margo McQuate

Offertory *In God, My Faithful God* Georg Boehm

*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 Dedication

Margo McQuate

O God, through the offering of these gifts may we become a more open people . . .

open-minded in hearing your Word and Wisdom,

open-hearted in healing a broken world,

open-handed in heeding your call for charity and enacted love.

With thanks for all good gifts, we present a portion of our substance and the whole of ourselves. Amen.

*Hymn of Parting # 66 *To God Be the Glory*

*Sending Forth

*Song of Sending

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

*Postlude

Fugue in a Minor

Johann Sebastian Bach

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Marianne & Steve Fritsch for providing refreshments during the Conversational time following the service. Please stop in, enjoy some nourishment, and fellowship with others. Also, please wear your name tag and then put it on the turnstile before you leave.

Prayer List

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

Announcements

EASTER FLOWERS: The order form for Easter flowers is included in the bulletin. There are additional copies on the Information Table. **Orders cannot be accepted after Sunday, March 22nd.**

COMMUNITY MEAL: The first Spring meal is on Thursday this week. Food preparation begins at 9 am and serving at 4 pm. Help is needed with both the morning and evening of Thursday. If you have never helped, you would be warmly welcomed (maybe even at the stove!). Please speak with Carolyn Williams or Mark Herr.

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.**

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: All children are invited to participate in our Palm Sunday anthem: Sing Hosanna! Rehearsals will take place on Sundays, March 15 and 22 in the Music Room following the children's sermon in 10 am worship. The dress rehearsal with the chimes and adult choir will be Sunday, April 5th at 9:30 am. Please contact Emily Frantz for more information.

PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED: One adult and youth helpers are needed for March 22nd & 29th and all of April 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.

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 15th 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 has been added to the Vineyard. Consequently, all groups are asked to send meeting dates for April as soon as you can.

Worship Assistants for March 15, 2020

8:00 am Service

Greeter: Nancy Weaber

10:00 am Service

Greeters: _____

Open Church: Fritz Firestine

Worship Leader: Wanda Rabold

Sound: Bob Dash

Worship Leader: Sally Kulp

Nursery Attendants: _____

Ushers: Jeff, Holly, Hannah, Jared, & Leah Rosen, Kenny Patrick

Counting Team: Sara Zeller, Sally Kulp

Flower Sponsor: Darryl & Carol Brown and Janet Yocum



Calendar for This Week

Today, Sunday, March 8

8:00 am Brief Worship
 8:45 am Small group meetings.
 8:45 am Prayer Team [Prayer Room]
 9:30 am - 9:50 am Chime Choir [Music Room]
 10:00 am Worship

Monday, March 9

8:30 am Strong Bones [Social Hall]
 9:00 am - noon Church Office Open

Tuesday, March 10

9:00 am - noon Church Office Open
 9:30 am Piano Tuning [all day]
 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Pastor Paul on site*
 6:30 pm Transition Team [Library]

Wednesday, March 11

noon - 3:00 pm Church Office Open
 6:30 pm Scouts [Social Hall]
 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 12

8:30 am Strong Bones [Social Hall]
 9:00 am - noon Church Office Open
 9:00 am Community Meal Prep
 9:30 am - 1:30 pm Pastor Paul on site*
 4:00 pm Community Meal

Friday, March 13

9:00 am - noon Church Office Open

Saturday, March 14

Sunday, March 15

8:00 am Brief Worship
 8:45 am Faith Formation Groups
 8:45 am Prayer Team [Prayer Room]
 10:00 am Worship
 10:15 am Children's Choir [Music Room]

*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.

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

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: Mark Herr

Greeter: Nancy Weaber **Worship Leader:** Wanda Rabold

10:00 am Service

Greeters: Ed & Candy Hibshman **Sound:** Paulie McQuate

Worship Leader: Margo McQuate

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

Nursery Attendants: Emily, Kara, & Abby Frantz

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

Stewardship Report for Sunday, March 1, 2020

General Fund	\$4,347	OCWM	\$185
Church Improvement Fund			\$615
Attendance 8 am:	23	Attendance 10 am:	62