

Myerstown United Church of Christ

Third Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2020

Worship Time 8:00 am

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

Gathering Music *Slane* Gilbert Martin

Welcome & Announcements Paul Cronin

*Call to Worship Wanda Rabold

L: In this season we worship remembering Jesus' death in love for us and all people.

P: Lent is a time of tears.

L: But out of our tears, joy is born - the joy of sin forgiven, hope reborn, and life restored.

All: We stand in awe of the God who brings joy out of tears, and life out of death. Let us worship with joyful abandon! Amen.

*Hymn of Praise #27 *God of Creation, All Powerful*

*Greeting One Another with the Peace of Christ

Call to Confession Paul Cronin

Prayer of Confession [in unison] Wanda Rabold

We surround ourselves with crosses, O God; yet we confess that we shrink back from the awareness that your glory is revealed in the criminal's cross of Jesus Christ. Help us to know your presence wherever there is suffering in our world. Forgive our despair or discouragement and empower us to be bearers and channels of Your hope that does not disappoint. We ask this in Jesus; name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon Paul Cronin

Listening for God's Word

Hebrew Scripture Lesson Exodus 17:1-7 Wanda Rabold

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but

there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Epistle Lesson Romans 5:1-11 Paul Cronin

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Sermon **Hope Does Not Disappoint**

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.

*Hymn of Parting #433 *O Christ, the Same*

*Sending Forth

*Postlude *Clonmel [We Praise You With Our Minds]* David Paxton

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.

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Prayer List

|                             |                    |                            |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Nancy Brown                 | Steve Norford      | James Haines               |
| Suzanne Fritsch             | Ellen Goodyear     | Ruthann Snoke              |
| Bill Gracely                | Ralph Woynarowski  | Jewel Fessler              |
| Linda Feaser                | Rosalla Hollenbach | Joanne Frantz              |
| The family of Janet Elliott |                    | The family of Rosene Duffy |

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COVID-19: The MUCC Leadership has been in conversation about how we might respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. As part of that conversation we are meeting concerning ways to adjust our Communion distribution on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter. We will keep you informed and would appreciate any expertise you may have. If you could share your thoughts in an email or in the communication book, that would be greatly appreciated. For this Sunday, we will have hand sanitizer at all three entrances to the Sanctuary, as well on the Communion Table for the Worship Leasers to use. Please use the Sanitizer before and following the Service. We would also encourage distance during the passing of the Peace, without contact. Let's be creative and see who still passes the peace of Christ in Spirit, but without physical contact. Our God reigns, even over Viruses.

Announcements

CHILDREN'S TIME DOWNSTAIRS: Children who are going downstairs after the Children's Sermon are ask to gather at the piano and go downstairs together.

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.** Note: Easter flowers cannot be added to a contribution statement.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING offering will be received next Sunday. Envelopes are included with the bulletin this week. Please write your name and/or your envelope number on it. You can also use the Other line on your regular offering envelope.

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 this 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 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 tomorrow morning, March 16th. 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.

Worship Assistants for March 22, 2020

8:00 am Service **Open Church:** Fritz Firestine
Greeter: Terry, Teresa, & Christine Wolfe **Worship Leader:** Wanda Rabold
 10:00 am Service **Sound:** Bob Dash
Greeters: Terry & Suzie Schott **Worship Leader:** Charles & Carolyn Williams
Children's Choir/Nursery Attendants: Emily, Kara, & Abby Frantz
Ushers: Ed & Candy Hibshman, Terry & Suzie Schott, Kenny Patrick
Counting Team: Ed & Candy Hibshman, Terry & Suzie Schott
Flower Sponsor: Larry & Marsha Eisenhauer

Invest in Futures! Give to OGHS!

W **GREAT HOUR**
OF SHARING

 **UNITED CHURCH**
OF CHRIST

Calendar for This Week

Today, Sunday, March 15
 8:00 am Brief Worship
 8:45 am Small group meetings & Prayer Team [Prayer Room]
 9:30 am - 9:50 am Chime Choir [Music Room]
 10:00 am Worship
 11:00 am Personnel Committee [Library]

Monday, March 16
 8:30 am Strong Bones [Social Hall]
 9:30 am Staff Meeting
11:00 am - noon Church Office Open

Tuesday, March 17
 9:00 am - noon Church Office Open
 10:30 am - noon Leb Assoc Ministerium [Christ Church, Annville]
 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Pastor Paul on site*

Wednesday, March 18
 9:00 am - noon Church Office Open
 6:30 pm Scouts [Social Hall]
 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 19
 8:30 am Strong Bones [Social Hall]
 9:00 am - noon Church Office Open
 9:30 am - 1:30 pm Pastor Paul on site*
 1:00 pm Women's Bible Study [Library]

Friday, March 20
 9:00 am - noon Church Office Open

Saturday, March 21
 1:00 pm New Horizons [Light's Victorian Farmhouse]

Sunday, March 22
 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. Please contact the church office to schedule an appointment.



Facebook: Myerstown United Church of Christ



Instagram: @myerstownucc



Twitter: @myerstownucc

Instagram



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:

8:00 am Service

Greeter: **Open Church:** Fritz Firestine
 Nancy Weaber **Worship Leader:** Wanda Rabold

10:00 am Service

Greeters: Rosen Family **Sound:** Bob Dash
Worship Leader: Sally Kulp
Ushers: Jeff, Holly, Hannah, Jared & Leah Rosen, Kenny Patrick
Children's Choir/Nursery Attendants: Emily, Kara & Abby Frantz
Counting Team Sara Zeller, Sally Kulp

Stewardship Report for Sunday, March 8, 2020

General Fund	\$5,027	OCWM	\$860
Church Improvement Fund			\$380
Attendance 8 am:	12	Attendance 10 am:	65