


# TOWN HALL MEETING



**The Vineyard**

A publication of  
Myerstown United Church of Christ  
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## February 2022

Background by Monstera on Pexels.com

### Update for Congregation:

Church Council recently met with Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola from Penn Central Conference to discuss our search for an Interim Pastor. We requested information from her to help us understand all the different types of pastors. We will discuss these at our next Council meeting on February 9th. We would like to share this information with everyone in the congregation at an informal congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup> following worship in the Gathering Area. There will be information presented, and a time for questions and discussion. Your input is greatly valued!

The Council is also currently exploring two different options with ordained pastors who might be able to help us at Myerstown UCC. That information will also be presented and discussed at this town hall style meeting.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact a member of Council: Marie Hibshman, Lindy Bennetch, Greg Beamesderfer, Candy Hibshman, Ed Hibshman, or myself, Carolyn Williams. We look forward to this opportunity to communicate and receive input from all of you.



**Office Hours**

Monday  
Wednesday  
Friday

9 AM to 1 PM

**WORSHIP  
THIS  
MONTH**



**ATTEND**

	LiveStream	InPerson
5 Dec	14	64
12 Dec	11	35
19 Dec	12	40
26 Dec	13	30

LiveStream is the number of households viewing the service not necessarily the number of people..

**GIVE**

General Fund	\$ 23,011.00
Church Improvement	\$ 2,770.00
OCWM	\$ 2,525.00
Food Bank	\$ 145.00
HOPE Fund	\$ 20.00
Christmas Fund	\$ 540.00
Julius / Water	\$ 100.00
Technology	\$ 75.00





Council is pleased to announce that we have hired Lee Ann Kurash as our new Office Manager, beginning on January 24. Lee Ann and Council representatives have agreed that we will approach her job description with a great deal of flexibility and will evaluate her responsibilities and hours after three months. She will be working 15 hours per week with office hours from 9 am to 1 pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The remaining three hours each week will be flexible time to be used for whatever extra duties might arise. She will attend and record minutes at Council

meetings. Please be patient as we work through yet another transition.

Lee Ann previously worked at MUCC from January 2016 through May 2019. She lives in Fredericksburg with her husband, Brian, and two sons, Sam and Parker.

**New Horizons**  
**February 26**  
**2:00 PM**  
Meet at Grace UCC, 1000 S 5th Ave,  
Lebanon. Bring your favorite game.  
Dinner to be determined due to current  
COVID considerations.

**March 26**  
**1:00 PM**  
Amish dinner. 5799 Elizabethtown Rd,  
Manheim. \$20 all inclusive



- 2 Elaine Cummings  
Gloria Ebling  
Gary Underkoffler
- 3 Franklin Seifert
- 4 Arlene Fischer
- 5 Brittany Behm  
Benjamin Garman
- 6 Adaline Wolfe
- 7 Shirley Davis
- 9 David Blystone  
Katie Gehman
- 16 Shirley Houtz
- 18 Kathy Grose



- Christine Wolfe
- 19 Tina Gares  
Nicholas Goodyear  
Candace Hibshman
- 23 Jill Kinsey
- 24 Kaley Frantz

- Sara Zeller
- 26 Harold Noll
- 29 Gabriella Bicher  
Wanda Rabold

The Decorating Committee would like to thank everyone who purchased poinsettias that added colorful joy to our worship in Advent. Also, a thank you to Jared Rosen and Gabby, Gavin, and Angie Bicher for their assistance in getting the decorations in place.

The Church Office would like to express gratitude to the Decorating Committee, aka Marcia Bicher, for all the time and energy she willingly gives to enhance the aesthetic experience of all who come to the church year-round!



Thank you so much for your donation of \$660 to LCCM!



Thanks to you, Tiffany had a place to call home when she had nowhere else to go. She came to LCCM's FRESH Start Emergency Shelter & Resource Center in the fall . . . When the sale of the house she was ready to purchase fell through, she ended up staying for three months.

She eventually secured an apartment and will stay there until she finds a permanent home. Tiffany expressed her appreciation of having a warm, safe place to stay for as long as she needed it.

Every day, you help people like Tiffany. LCCM serves thousands of people each year who need food, shelter, clothing, utility assistance or some combination of those services.





## February Outreach

Last fall we were blessed to hear a passionate message from Bruce Althouse and our teen “Breakfast with the Bible” class enjoyed a dynamic lesson led by Bruce and his wife Amber. They had just completed a bike ride across the United States. They stated in a newsletter that “One of the things we were doing on our journey was praying about what God wanted us to do next. While on our ride, we received that answer!” Africa Inland Mission International (AIM) contacted them with an urgent need for staff at Rift Valley Academy in Kenya. AIM’s mission is to help establish Christ-centered churches throughout Africa.

Before they left the US at the end of December, Amber reported that they had received good financial support but not enough to cover everything they would need. They also may consider staying longer than the January-April term as originally planned.

So our February outreach appeal is support for Bruce and Amber Althouse. Let’s show them how much we appreciate the message they brought to us and the work they are now doing. When you donate, attach a note that it is intended for the Althouse Mission.

Some additional information on AIM - AIM missionaries are spreading the gospel to areas in Africa that are somewhat remote. The Rift Valley Academy is a boarding school for students whose parents are doing this work. Without access to a quality education for their children, many missionaries in Africa would have to leave the field. In correspondence with Candy and Ed Hibshman, Julius Methenge shared that, when he was young, he worshipped at a church sponsored by AIM and his youngest daughter is a graduate of the Rift Valley Academy. Bruce and Amber will be teaching high school algebra and elementary computer science as well as serving as dorm parents for 22 high school-age boys. Sounds like material for another inspiring message when they return to Myerstown!





# ANNUAL LENTEN BREAKFAST

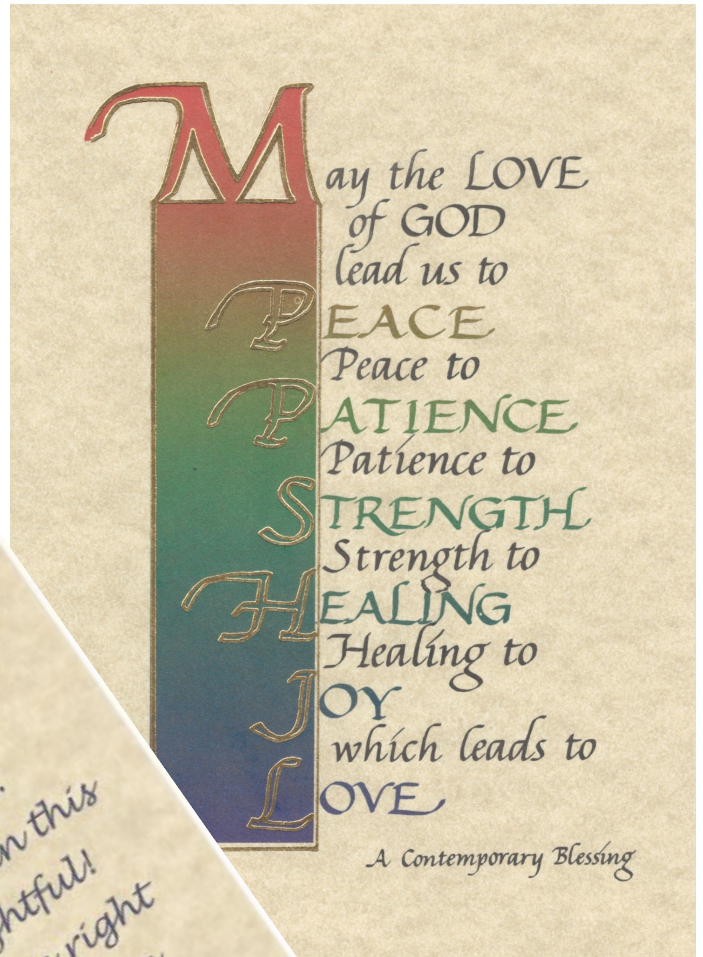
26 MARCH 22 8 A.M. \$15



## SOUTH LEBANON COMMUNITY CHURCH

### TICKET SALES END 17 MARCH 22

More information on the Bulletin Board.



Dear Friends,  
It has been my privilege  
to work among and for  
you in different capacities.  
As this congregation finds  
itself in transition, it seems  
best that I move forward  
in a different direction.  
Working with Lee Ann this  
week has been delightful!  
I believe it is also the right  
time for her to re-engage  
with you.

Many blessings,  
Jim