

The Vineyard

A publication to encourage and motivate participation in the family of God and an aid in ministry for the members of Myerstown United Church of Christ.



April 2022

Volume 41, Issue 4

Lee Ann Kurash, editor

Pastor's Thoughts...

It's a pleasure to be ministering with you as your Bridge Pastor. When Emily called in November and mentioned that another minister had given her my name, she apologized for emailing me and asked if I might be available for leading worship occasionally. Neither of us thought it would lead to a Bridge Pastor position during the transition period. I am not sure how long I will be with you, but you've been so welcoming that I am pleased to be your minister. I will be working approximately 12 hours per week. I will be here on Sunday for worship and education classes. To begin I expect to be at the church on Tuesday but my office hours will be flexible depending on the week and what is happening at church. I am looking forward to getting to know you and your desires for the future of Myerstown UCC. Together we will carry out the Lord's work here in Myerstown, Central PA and throughout the world.

As we move through the Lenten Season, there are interesting worship experiences planned. On April 3rd, we will have Victoria Velez from UCC Homes bringing us the morning sermon.

For April 10th, Palm Sunday, we will have a special Jazz Worship featuring The Buzz Jones Quintet. We've enjoyed their worship previously and look forward to celebrating the beginning of Holy Week with their inspirational words and music.

On Easter Sunday, April 17th, we are exploring how we might celebrate holy communion as we did prior to Covid. Of course it will depend on whether or not there is a resurgence of the virus.

During this most difficult time it is good to pause, remember, and trust in the God who promises guidance, forgiveness and hope for today and the future. Please join us via the internet or in person at the church as we lift up the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Tussing



Maundy Thursday
April 14, 2022 at 7:00 pm
Friedens Church has invited us
to worship with them

Mission Corner: Julius Muthengi Update

Dear Friends at Myerstown UCC,

Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I trust this e-mail finds you rejoicing in God's amazing grace. Agnes and I want to assure you that we are as always committed to praying for you as the Lord enables us to do so. We are also assured of your constant and fervent prayers as we serve God through training leaders of integrity at International Leadership University, as well as ministering to our community in the village. As I shared earlier, our classes started back in January, 2022. I praise God for the students he has entrusted to me to teach and mentor. In my course on Old Testament Poetic and Prophetic Books, things are moving on well. Praise God for his enabling and work of grace demonstrated in his ministry day by day. Praise God for the wonderful meeting Agnes had with the women on Friday, February 25th, 2022. She also had a small group of women for fellowship last week. Pray for one of our neighbors Irene who is also part of our ministry who has been battling liver cancer for quite some time. Her husband Peter has been facing great financial challenges due to his wife's medical bills.

Thank you so much beloved for your willingness and commitment to stand with us in the Lord's ministry. Your role in advancing God's global kingdom cannot be underestimated! Indeed, God alone knows your sacrifice and he will reward you in ways only he knows how to. We acknowledge with humble and sincere hearts your support contribution of \$175, received through Grace Community Church in the month of March, 2022. May the God of all grace, wisdom and power continually bless you abundantly. Thank you once again.

In Christ,

Julius and Agnes

One Great Hour of Sharing

When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go visit you? The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' (Matthew 25:38-40)

It has been our tradition at Myerstown UCC to collect donations for One Great Hour of Sharing on Palm Sunday. With so many members giving electronically and perhaps only once a month, we are encouraging contributions throughout Lent. There are special OGHS envelopes available in the office and the pews in the sanctuary. Or simply add your donation to your offering envelope, write OGHS behind "Special", and note the amount on the line. If you give with Givefely, there is now a OGHS 'envelope' which will be available until Easter.



Lebanon County Christian Ministries



LCCM's April Wish List includes the following items:

- Toilet Paper
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Laundry Detergent
- Paper Towels

As always, your donations are helping our local community! Thank you!

April

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am Worship Services unless noted

April 3 Fifth Sunday in Lent

9:00 am Worship (no communion)
Victoria Velez/UCC Homes, guest speaker
Breakfast with the Bible
10:00 am Adult Bible Study
10:00 am Council meeting

April 10 Palm Sunday

*10:00 am Worship Service
The Buzz Jones Quintet leading worship
Mark Herr, Homily
Easter Egg Hunt following worship
Gathering Time following worship to meet
and greet the Buzz Jones Quintet

April 14 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm

Friedens' Church has invited us to worship

April 17 Celebration of the Resurrection

9:00 am Worship service (with communion)
Rev. Keith Tussing, preaching
10:00 am Adult Bible Study

April 24 Second Sunday of Easter

9:00 am Worship Service
Rev. Keith Tussing, preaching
10:00 am Adult Bible Study



Need Pastoral Care?

Rev. David Swift continues to serve our congregation by visiting any member in need of pastoral care. This includes patients in the hospital, residents of care facilities, persons who are confined to their homes, or anyone experiencing a difficult situation. If you, or anyone you know, would benefit from a visit with Rev. Swift, please call 717/866-5252. In the event of an emergency, call 717/306-6319. This number is to be used only for urgent pastoral needs. You may also leave a message, but this phone is not able to accept text or email messages.



Staff Contact Information

Emily
muccparishadmin@comcast.net

Mark Herr
muccmusic@comcast.net

Deb Spencer
muccfinance@comcast.net

Lee Ann Kurash
myerstownucc@comcast.net



A Palm Sunday Jazz Service

The Buzz Jones Quintet
Susan Hochmiller, vocals

Sunday, April 10, 2022
10:00 a.m.

Myerstown United Church of Christ
306 West Main Ave., Myerstown, PA 17067
717.866.5252

Hersheypark Volunteer Opportunities

Are you interested in being a Hersheypark volunteer for our church?

For each shift you work (usually 3—5 hours long), you get a one day pass to the park, including free parking. Occasionally, 2 or 3 passes are offered for a shift. This is great to use for yourself or to give to family members.

In addition, our church gets \$8 for every hour you work.

The areas where we volunteer are 1) Food and Beverages in Hersheypark and in the Giant Center, 2) Games, 3) Attractions (rides) and 4) Ushering at Giant Center and Hersheypark Stadium.

If you are interested in being put on the volunteer list, please email Candy Hibshman at ehibshman1@comcast.net with your name, phone number and email address. She will email you whenever she gets a request from Hershey for volunteers. If you are interested in working a shift, CALL her at 717/468-3563. She will contact You may not contact them yourself. Candy will get back to you to let you know if you are scheduled.

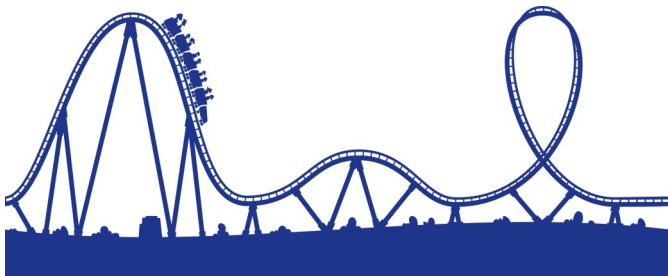


April 4 Myerstown Women's Club meeting 7:00 pm in social hall.

April 9 Troop 20/Myerstown Rec Board FREE Pancake Breakfast prior to Community Egg Hunt in social hall. Please contact the Rec Board for more information.

April 23 **New Horizons 2:00 pm at Pine Grove Movie Theater, located at 213 S. Tulpehocken St., in Pine Grove. Comedy movie is a 2021 release 'Queen Bees.' Cost is \$5. Popcorn, candy and drinks are extra. Pay your own at the theater. Donna can park your car. There are no steps into the movie but there are steps to the restrooms on the lower level. Eat at Red Lion Café 697 DeTurksville Road, Pine Grove.

April 30 Troop 20 Spaghetti Dinner
3:00 - 6:30 pm Cost \$9.00
Take-Out only Parking Lot Pick-up Presales only. Please see one of the scouts or leaders of Troop 20. If you need contact information, please call the office at 717/866-5252.



**New Horizons is an opportunity for fellowship for single adults, sponsored by the Parish Life Committee of the Lebanon, Penn Central Conference, United Church of Christ. For additional information please contact Donna Eberly 865-0163, Danny Dishong 865-7320 or Dolores Wolfe 644-2755 or 867-1807.

Help for Ukraine

While our outreach focus during Lent continues to be One Great Hour Of Sharing, the following is part of an email received from the UCC national headquarters:

Responding to the tragedy of war in Ukraine, the United Church of Christ is appealing for support for refugees and for elderly and other vulnerable people who are displaced within Ukraine and unable to leave. As a member of the ACT Alliance*, UCC support is being targeted to people most in need through humanitarian relief partners with a history of working in the region. Aid also is being extended through Hungarian Reformed Church Aid, the relief agency of the Reformed Church in Hungary. The UCC's long-term relationship with the Reformed Church is held through the Europe and Middle East Office of Global Ministries.

Gifts made to UCC Ukraine Relief Fund will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people. It also will help refugees and asylum seekers from African, Middle Eastern and other countries who had sought refuge in Ukraine and now are twice displaced, as well as other citizens of more than 125 countries living in Ukraine.

Uniting in prayer, action, and giving, we stand as a people of faith in love and compassion with the people of Ukraine and all who are affected, and with our global partners who are welcoming those driven from their homes.

All donations will be deposited into the International Disasters Fund designated for "Ukraine Relief." Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need. You can donate through MUCC by attaching a note to your envelope or by using the Ukraine designation on Givelify. You can also donate directly by mailing a check made payable to the **United Church of Christ PO BOX 71957 Cleveland, OH 44194**. Please be sure to note „Ukraine Relief Fund“ on your check in the memo section.

*ACT Alliance is the largest coalition of Protestant and Orthodox churches and church-related organizations engaged in humanitarian, development and advocacy work in the world, consisting of more than 130 members.



April Birthdays

- 6 Helen Lausch, Arlene Linn
- 7 Marie Hibshman
- 9 David Winters
- 10 Eleanore Schnoke
- 11 Dustin Noll
- 12 Donald Uhrich
- 15 AnnaMarie Behm
- 16 Erin Harris
- 17 Michael Ebersole
- 19 Angela Bicher, David Rittle. Leah Rosen
- 25 Susan Herr
- 27 Elwood Schnoke



Pray that God's Spirit and power will fill the church. ([Ephesians 3:16-19](#))

Dear God,

Fill us with the power of your Holy Spirit this day. Fill us with your joy, your wisdom, and with constant reminders that Your Presence will go with us, and you will give us rest. Thank you that you came to give new life, peace, hope, and joy to your children. Thank you that your power is made perfect in our weakness. We know that you are with us, and you fight for your people. We believe that it's not by might, nor by power, but by your Spirit that you make a difference in our world. We choose to trust you today and to recognize the authority of who you are in our lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Myerstown UCC
304-306 W. Main Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067