



# The Grape Vine

Volume 2 No.8

August 19 2020

**August 23**

**Summer Outdoor Worship & Livestream**

**9:00 am**

## Worship This Week

**Text Romans 12:1-8**

**“ Mirror, Mirror  
On the Wall ”**

God’s love transforms. It makes New Creations of those who are touched by that Love, and who accept and embrace God’s gracious gift. This passage from Romans describes how that transformation opens us to see ourselves in new and empowering ways.



Betty Christi had a fall and injury and could use some cheer. Let’s shower her with some cards and support. Her address is:

77 Arbor Drive  
Myerstown PA 17067

## Looking Ahead

**August 30th**

Text:

**Romans 12:9-21**

Sermon:

**“ Community That Transforms ”**



# Birthdays

## August

## September

22 Marie Heffelfinger  
23 John Diehm  
Doris Shaak  
24 Glenn Derr  
29 Bob Dash

1 Shirley Krall  
Judith Stohler  
7 Paulie McQuate  
8 Kathryn Kale  
9 Karen Line  
11 Greg Beamesderfer  
Ryan Leppo  
Margo McQuate  
12 Marlene Bowman  
15 Mark Herr  
17 Bonita Beamesderfer  
Loretta Weaver

NOTE: If your birthday is **not listed**, please contact the church office and provide the month, day and year. Shhh! We won't tell anyone the year - honest!



Erin [Shaffer] and Blake Harris welcomed **Raegan Elizabeth** August 11th at 11:39 am! She was a grand total of 6 lbs 11 oz and 19 3/4 in long. Everyone is doing well! Congratulations on your precious little blessing

# Givelify

For information about how to contribute through Givelify, type this web address into your browser or click on the Givelify icon on the Grape Vine email message.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_VCbR3ZOBs0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_VCbR3ZOBs0)

Dear Members & Friends of Myerstown UCC

The Summer of 2020 is winding down as so many in our nation face difficult decisions about how to safely reopen schools, how to deal with sports in High Schools, Colleges, and professional leagues. Churches are still struggling with how to faithfully continue the ministries they are called to, including Worshiping the God who loves and guides us, caring for the needs of the most vulnerable, feeding the hungry, caring for the lonely and providing spiritual nourishment and growth to diverse people of all ages.

Our own Re-opening Committee has wisely, I think, made the decision to continue as we have for the last couple months in providing a safe, socially distanced outdoor Service of Worship, while restricting indoor meeting until we see the results of how children, youth, teachers and support staff going back to school affects the spread of Covid 19.

Many of us have lived through the Sixties, watched a man walk on the Moon, watched a President assassinated, watched a President resign, watched the Berlin Wall come down, watched, in tears, as the Twin Towers fell. I somehow feel that the year of the Pandemic has affected our nation, our world, and our minds and spirits more powerfully than any of those prior events.

One of the marks of the impact of my Ministry on each of the Congregations I have been privileged to serve has been the building of community, that Christian Community we call Koinonia. That kind of community is where we come to love and trust one another enough to be open and honest in ways that improve our connections with each other and with God, while facilitating the transformation God seeks to work in us that heals our wounds, reveals our gifts, allowing them to blossom, and reminds us that we are blessed to walk in the Light of God, daily. As I have struggled during this pandemic to create ways to help us build that kind of community, I think I have found a path that might help.

In this strange and challenging time, it seems to me that it could be a wonderful thing to ground ourselves individually, as families and as a Family of Faith by beginning a journey, for the next year, of together reading through the Bible in a year.

In the next Grapevine, along with being posted on our website and available on Sundays at worship will be September's list of daily readings. We encourage you to read them at a regular time every day (yes, I know how families can be and that with a busy family it is tough to set aside a time that always works). If you live alone, why not call someone and read them together over the phone or via facetime.

We will also be offering a weekly Zoom meeting for those of you who have access to a computer, and perhaps room for a few folks in person that do not have access, to discuss, ask questions, share insights as well as share how God speaks to us through the Bible.

Many people have the goal of reading through the bible in its entirety on their Bucket List. Here is your chance to cross that one off, learn and grow through interaction with one another and with our Lord, and perhaps find some peace, guidance, hope and support as we continue to face the challenges of the times in which we live.

My prayers continue to surround you all on a daily basis, and I pray that each of us will prayerfully consider this exciting journey together. I will warn you, though, that you will be surprised (a talking donkey??), angered, dismayed, confused, blessed, moved to tears, and will never be able to watch a Hollywood movie about the Bible in quite the same way again!

God's Richest Blessings,

Pastor Paul