

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.*



June 2022

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editor: Lee Ann Kurash

Pastor's Thoughts . . .

Dear Friends,

June promises to be a very busy month.

We recognize those of our church community who celebrate high school, technical school and college graduations. To them and their families, our best wishes as they embark on an exciting chapter of their lives.

Interim Minister Bruce begins his ministry with you on June 5th. During my tenure, I've been impressed with the congregational leadership. With Bruce's experience, your discipleship and the presence of the Holy Spirit, you will do great things in the coming year. Blessings to you.

As I complete my time with you, I thank you for the opportunity to minister with you. It's hard to believe that I've been with you since last November. I appreciate our time together. The last couple of years have been tough here at Myerstown UCC, but your faithfulness in spite of setbacks is a wonderful example of Christ's presence in your lives. May God continue to hold you close. You will continue to be in my prayers. Thank you for a wonderful 7 months.

Blessings, Pastor Keith

We welcome our new Intentional Interim Pastor, Bruce Greer, who recently moved with his wife (Dale) from Rhode Island to Maryland to be closer to their grandchildren. Ordained by the American Baptist Churches, Bruce has served three settled and thirteen interim pastorates in five states and three denominations, including the United Church of Christ.

Bruce has also served in fire department, hospital, and maritime chaplaincies. In addition, he served on the Rhode Island Critical Incident Stress Team, responding to and following traumatic incidents statewide, including *The Station* nightclub fire (100 fatalities), as well as to Ground Zero in New York just after 9/11.

Bruce and Dale are blessed with three adult children, a daughter in Tallahassee, FL and two sons, one in Baltimore, MD and the other in Louisville, KY. They are also blessed with two daughters-in-law, two granddaughters, a new grandson, and four wonderful "grand dogs." He is a lifelong New England Patriots and Red Sox fan. Just ask him!

He will have office hours beginning Tuesday, June 7 through Thursday, June 9 starting at 10:00 am. Please stop by to welcome him and say hello.

Thank You Pastor Keith!

We are so grateful for your leadership and calming presence during this time of transition. We will miss your easygoing ways and your sense of humor.

A grateful congregation

Mission Updates

Julius Muthengi

Our special missions offering for the month of June is to help support Julius Muthengi and the villagers in Kalima Kathei, Kenya, in their quest for clean drinking water, through a well which was dug in 2016. Our church donated money to help dig the well.

Before the well, the villagers had to use an unsanitary watering hole on private land that was used by both humans and animals. During the dry season, the hole would dry up and people had to pay for water.

Since the well was dug, they have had problems with the pump and the meter, and, in April, there were problems with the water not being pumped to the storage tanks. The villagers were not able to use the well for more than 2 weeks, during which time they had to go as far as 3 miles in order to access water from 2 different boreholes/wells. They also had to pay a higher rate for the water.

A new casing, damaged pipes, and cables had to be replaced at a cost of \$1,115, plus other unexpected costs. Money had to be borrowed to pay for this. In addition to the repairs, money is needed for maintenance of the well.

Each time you turn on your water faucet, please remember how blessed we are to have clean drinking water in our homes, and that there are people who need our help in order to have this necessity of life.

You can contribute any time this month by writing Water in the 'Other' space on your envelope, or if you donate using Givelify, there is an envelope for Julius Muthengi/Water.

DO TO OTHERS AS
YOU WOULD HAVE
THEM DO TO YOU.
—LUKE 6:31

FEELSLIKEHOMEBLOG.COM

Bruce and Amber Althouse

Dear Myerstown UCC.,

It is with true sincerity & utmost gratitude that we write to thank you for the generous support you graciously gave to us for our service in Kenya. Without your support and prayers, our time there could not have been possible. Your support was used to help share the gospel and the love of Christ and to positively influence the lives of many missionary children at Rift Valley Academy and was also used to help those in great need at the IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) camp in the nearby town of Mahi Mahi! They were incredibly grateful.

We are sorry that we weren't able to visit with you as we were only in the area for a very short time before moving to Alaska for work. We look forward to the day we will be able to visit with you again and share what God has been doing in all of our lives. He is so faithful!

We are praying for you and we are so grateful for your love and support for us!

With Much Love,

Bruce and Amber Althouse



Lebanon County Christian Ministries



Wish List for the month of June

- ~ Summer Pajamas for boys and girls
- ~ Sheets
- ~ Men's boxers
- ~ 3X/4X Men's shirts
- ~ Toilet Paper
- ~ Laundry Detergent

Lebanon County Christian Ministries continues to operate as a help agency for Lebanon County.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Remember that besides food and clothing, other services are available at LCCM. If you have a need, please call LCCM at 717/272-4400.

Mission Updates

Julius Muthegi cont'd

Dear Ministry Partners,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ from Nairobi. I trust this e-mail finds you being sheltered by God and his amazing grace. I always thank God for your partnership with us in advancing his global kingdom. Agnes and I are grateful to God for being there for us as we continue fulfilling his purposes for us. Indeed, it is a joy to know that no matter what challenges we face in life, God is able to take us through. As we pray for each other, we are persuaded that God hears and answers the prayers of his people.

Let me give you a few updates on God's ministry, and also share some prayer requests. God's ministry at International Leadership University is progressing well. Between May and the end of July, we have several courses going on by way of modules. Our new academic year will start in August, and end in December, 2022. Due to unavoidable circumstances, our graduation was moved from June to November, 2022. Please pray that all will go well for the glory of God. In addition to teaching, our faculty are also engaged in research and publishing. For your information, one of my journal articles will be coming out of the press soon. The title is, "An Understanding of Dreams and Visions based on the Pentateuch and its implications for the Church in Africa." I am also working on another paper, as well as updating my 2015 book on the "Providence of God."

I would like to share a few things regarding our village ministry. As we indicated about two years ago, due to covid-19 restrictions in the country, we decided to limit face to face meetings. Regarding men's meetings, we thought it wise for me to engage the men remotely. We also share foodstuffs with them when the Lord provides the resources. However, this happens occasionally because of limited resources. Let me add that, the women's meetings are continuing on a monthly basis, but in two small groups (25, 35 women). Please pray for Agnes as she will be ministering to the women on Friday May 27th, 2022. She will also be preparing a meal for them, and also giving them a packet of corn flour to take home.

Prayer requests:

1. For God's enabling us to continue faithfully ministering to his people, both the students at the university, and also people in our village.

2. For funds to enable us to deliver the services God has entrusted to us.

3. For God to provide funds to repay the amount we borrowed for repairs at the borehole (well), in April 2022.

4. For provision of additional support to cover additional expenses due to taking care of our unemployed son and daughter.

5. For provision for funds towards solar lamps.

Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support.

Your role in our lives and ministry is greatly appreciated.

May God continually pour his abundant blessings upon you.

Your friends in Christ,

Julius and Agnes



Volunteering at HersheyPark

Are you interested in being a volunteer for our church?

For each shift you work (usually 3-5 hours long), you get a 1-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 e-mail address. She will e-mail 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 Hershey. You may not contact them yourself. Candy will get back to you to let you know if you are scheduled.

June

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am Worship Service

June 5th– Pentecost Sunday

9:00 am Worship with Communion

Scriptures: John 14:15-18

Message: 'New Beginnings'

Graduate Recognition

Rev. Keith Tussing

Rev. Bruce Greer

guest musician Thomas Kissinger

June 12– Trinity Sunday

9:00 am Worship

Scriptures: Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

Message—'The Hard Work of Hope'

Rev. Bruce Greer

June 19- Second Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am Worship

Rev. Bruce Greer

June 26– Third Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am Worship

Rev. Bruce Greer



June

- 1 Sarah Wagner
- 4 Phyllis Keith
- 8 Noah Blystone,
Rachael Ebersole,
Greg Ebling
- 9 Stephanie Bohannon
- 10 Kristi Ryland
- 11 Braeden Bohannon
- 15 Faye Louser,
Patricia Sattazahn
- 20 Mary Gerhart
- 21 Ernest Firestine
- 22 Russell Kahl and
Glenn Runz
- 26 Trudy Yeager
- 27 Tricia Garman
Suzi Upton
- 28 Joseph Shaak
- 29 Olivia Runz

Jim Berger's birthday was on May 19th. It was omitted in the May Vineyard. Happy Birthday Jim!



Thank you to those who bought Easter flowers, helping to decorate the Sanctuary for Easter worship. It was beautiful!

The Decorating Committee



New Horizons will not meet in the month of June. New Horizons is an opportunity for fellowship for single adults, sponsored by the Parish Life Committee of the Lebanon Penn Central Conference, UCC. For additional information, please contact Donna Eberly (865-0163), Danny Dishong (865-7320) or Dolores Wolfe (644-2755 or 867-1807)



June 14th is Flag Day

First day of Summer is
Tuesday, June 21st

CONGRATULATIONS 2022 GRADUATES!!!



Gabby Bicher

I will be graduating from ELCO High School on June



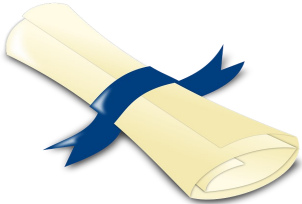
7th. In high school, I am part of National Art Honor Society, Quill & Scroll, and helped with the organization of a Lead for Change Project. Outside of school I attended dance classes at Generation Dance for 11 years, for the last 5 years I also assisted at dance by teaching a class of younger students. I have also volunteered with a special needs dance class. In the fall I plan to attend West Chester University in the Exploratory Studies Program

Gracie Adams is graduating from ELCO HS and has been attending the pastry Program at Lebanon CTC. Gracie is going to Nationals in June for the baking competition there and has been accepted for an internship with The Hershey Company.



Bohdan Adams

attended the MASCPA (Manufacturing Assoc. of S. Central Pa) and acquired his State Journeyman's Papers in Machine Technology. He is working at I. Auman Machine.



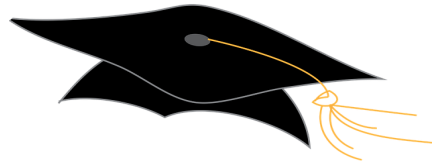
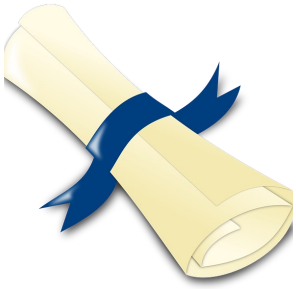
Kara Frantz will be graduating from Conrad Weiser High School on June 5th. Kara was a senior and junior class officer. She was part of the Mini-Thon Leadership committee and FBLA secretary. She was a four year starter and two-year captain of the varsity field hockey team. She also was in the National Honors Society and Spanish Club. Kara will be attending Eastern University to major in business administration while continuing to play field hockey. At Eastern she will be part of the Leadership Fellows Program. She would like to thank the congregation for all the support and love over the years.

Katie Fields graduated from Penn State University with a degree in Health Policy and Administration. She has a job at Highmark Blue Shield in Pittsburgh.

Andrew Fields is graduating from ELCO High School in June and starting a job in the electrical technology field.



CONGRATULATIONS 2022 GRADUATES!!!



Taryn Hibshman, granddaughter of Ed and Candy Hibshman, graduated from University of Florida with a BS in Biology. She will be attending the University of Toledo Medical School.



Cameron Hoover, grandson of Ed and Candy Hibshman, graduated from Penn State University with a BS in Middle Level Education (Grades 4-8). He will be teaching in the State College area.

Delaney (Laney) Hoover, granddaughter of Ed and Candy Hibshman, will graduate from Lower Dauphin High School. She will be attending Kutztown University to study Digital Arts.



Logan Saunders, grandson of Terry and Suzie Schott, son of Steven and Emily Saunders, graduated from Manheim Central School district and is going to Shippensburg University to play football and major in Business.

Unison Prayer for Graduates

Gracious God, in your will our lives are lived, and by your wisdom truth is found. We pray for graduates who finish a course of study, and now move on to something new. Take away anxiety or confusion of purpose; and give them a confidence in the future you plan, where energies may be gathered up and given to neighbors in love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.