

The Vineyard

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*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/July 2019

Volume 38, Issue 6

Pastor's Thoughts . . .

Recently, eight youth completed the process of confirmation and are now full members of our congregation. I suggested on that day, and now repeat, that it is incumbent upon all members to regard these young persons as full members and to continue to teach them. The most important teaching tool is one that every member possesses and has complete control over. That is, our example. How we conduct ourselves in worship, in meetings, at activities and in our every interaction will continually provide these new members a model for how congregations function. So, this article is a call to consider fully, just how positive an example are each of us setting for them?

No one can predict just how active any new member will choose to become. But we can project a likely outcome based on how we choose to demonstrate our understanding and commitment to our faith. Many times, persons fall away because they frankly see no difference between how members of a church behave and those persons who have no church affiliation. I have heard any number of young adult's state, "Why should I participate in a church when I do not see it making a difference in how people behave."

Yes, this is sometimes an excuse. But it is an excuse that many of us all too easily provide. It has been stated that there are no politics like church politics. Too many times this is sadly true. The church is to be a shining example of how society could be, not merely a glossy reflection of how culture currently presents itself. Rather than being nonpolitical, in too many instances church is used to underscore political bias and opinion. Instead of building up one another, many examples of harsh criticism, gossip and slander dominate interactions. And, instead of learning to grow in spirit and grace, the harboring of grudges and resentments breed unhealthy competition. Finally, in place of fostering a healthy respect for one another, personal boundaries are frequently trampled.

Jesus taught and we are to choose to learn to follow his exhortations to love one another. Not conditionally, not when it is expedient, but always and in all things. Is this difficult? You bet it is. But, with God's grace and not our personal sense of entitlement, such is not only possible, it is achievable.

Will we do it perfectly? No. But, when we fall short, we can confess and not offer excuses. We can strive to make amends and we can accept apologies graciously. Most importantly, we do not need to know everything about everybody. As the Apostle's would learn, after much trial and error, 'in God's own time, all things will be revealed, whether in this life or the next.'

So, please think about these things as we go forth with our newest members. Let us provide positive reasons to be more involved and not excuses for staying away.

Sincerely,

Rev. Beck Lucetti



June 2019

Julius Muthengi Update...

Dear Beloved Friends,

Warm greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ from Nairobi. I trust this communication finds you rejoicing in God's wonderful grace. Agnes and I are always thankful to our God for being our shelter and defender in the time of storm. Indeed, as someone once said, "God is the only constant while everything else is a variable." He is a God who can always be trusted because of his very nature, and those who fully trust him cannot and will never be ashamed!

We praise God for the privilege of being his children as well as his servants. His ministry at the university is progressing well. We have just finished our January to April semester, and we are now focused on modules and short courses. It is also a busy time for us as we are preparing students for graduation scheduled for June 21st. Pray for the graduates as they finalize their research projects and theses. As you are aware, Agnes and I are also committed to ministry among our people in the village. Many of these people lack basic things in life such as food, electricity, ability to educate their children among other needs. We thank God for those of you who have not only prayed for this ministry, but also given gifts to help meet some of the needs mentioned above. That notwithstanding, we are deeply grateful from the bottom of our hearts to those who support us regularly! Such support makes it possible for us to serve God effectively here in Kenya.

As you pray for us, please ask God to provide the funds we need in order to replace our old vehicle. We thank God one of our supporting Church and one couple who sent us \$8,100 in September 2018. We still need additional \$5,000-6,000 in order to purchase another used vehicle. Prices of vehicles here in Kenya keep going up every few months! Thank you so much friends for being there for us. We pray that God will continually bless you.

Your friends in Christ,

Julius and Agnes

June

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am Worship Service



June 2— Seventh Sunday of Easter

9:00 am service

Communion by Intinction

June 9—Pentecost

9:00 am service

Congregational Meeting following the service

June 16— Trinity Sunday

9:00 am service

Father's Day

June 23— Second Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am service

June 30— Third Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am service

July

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am Worship Service



July 7— Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am service

Pew Communion

July 14— Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am service

July 21— Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am service

July 28— Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am service

Lebanon County Christian Ministries



LCCM donation request for June is instant or regular ground coffee.

Lebanon County Christian Ministries continues to operate as a help agency for Lebanon County. Several fund raisers are held throughout the year. On Saturday, March 23 the annual Lenten Breakfast was held with a sizable number attending. Four members plus a visitor represented MUCC. The next major fund raiser will involve golf and more information will be forthcoming.

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.

Worship Attendance

	8:00 am	10:00 am
5/5/19	25	58
5/12/19	21	54
5/19/19	18	89
5/26/19 (only 1 service at 9:00 am)		52



BOY SCOUT TROOP 20 CORNER

The Boy Scouts of Myerstown Troop 20 were busy again in the month of May. We welcomed nine new Boy Scouts to Troop 20 during a crossover ceremony held on April 28th with Cub Scout Pack 460 at Friedens Lutheran Church. Welcome to Sebastian, Talon, Logan Y., Braden, Riley, Lucas, Anthony, Blake, and Logan W. Each boy received a Troop 20 neckerchief, their green shoulder loops and troop calendars.

The boys of Troop 20 had plenty of opportunities for cheerful service this month. The boys placed over 600 U.S. flags on Veterans' graves in cemeteries located throughout Myerstown Borough and Jackson Township. Additionally, the troop set up its annual Memorial Day Veteran's ribbon plaque display at the Myerstown VFW Post 6076. This year's display consisted of over 300 rib-

bon plaques in honor of, or in memory of, our local Veterans.



The troop's monthly campout was held at Gettysburg National Military Park. We had ten boys and three adults attend the campout. Colin Y. was the cook for the weekend. The troop camped at Artillery Ridge Campground. The boys completed the Billy Yank 10 mile hike on Saturday and visited the Eisenhower National Historic Site on Sunday morning. We had seven boys complete the New Birth of Freedom Council, Gettysburg Heritage Trail patch. The troop has also begun our initial planning for our Spaghetti Supper to be held at the church on June 1st beginning at 4 PM. Take outs are available. For tickets, please see a Boy Scout or contact Scott, Scoutmaster at (717)-507-8804 or hentzs@comcast.net. We hope to see you there!

Troop 20 meets in the MUCC basement on Wednesdays from 6:30 – 8:00pm from November through April. The troop meets at their land on Halfway Drive from May through October. If anyone is interested in joining Boy Scout Troop 20 (grades 6-12), they may come uninvited to any Wednesday night meeting or contact the scoutmaster Scott Hentz at (717)-866-6498 or hentzs@comcast.net. If anyone is interested in joining Cub Pack 460 (grades K-5), they may contact Mike Young at (717)-376-7280. You can also visit our troop website at

www.myerstownboyscouts.org





Community Meal

Our 2018-2019 Community Meal has finished out another year!

Thanks is extended to the more than 20 persons who, throughout the six Community Meals held at our church this year, helped in so many ways. Here are just a few of the many little, but extremely important jobs:

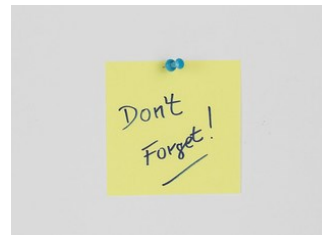
Purchasing and ordering sufficient food for the dinner; Preparation for the meal (mornings of the meal)...mixing, cooking, running out to purchase missing or short supply items, getting things ready to be heated later; Dining area set up and clean up; Coming back in the early afternoon to see that the food is placed in the ovens, warmers, etc.; Serving the food; Bringing the food to the folks at the tables; Welcoming the diners; Making the desserts and serving them at the meal; Clean up and Washing of the dishes/pots/pans/utensils and more!

Each month that we held the meal (October, November, December, March, April, and May) we served approximately 110 persons. The offerings for the meals were most generous. The regular attendees and the "newbies" expressed appreciation for the meal.

This ministry of food and fellowship that we offer to the community is just one of many such ministries throughout our region (and our country). Churches across the land have learned that ministry and sharing the faith by eating together is important in our needy towns and neighborhoods...for physical, social and spiritual nourishment. I have noticed that as many churches have ceased having covered dish meals with their members, these community meals have often replaced them.

A 20th century American philosopher has penned something that I think is appropriate as we reflect on what so many of us have had a part in doing this past year through our Community Meals. Ernest Holmes has written *"Pure religion manifests itself through acts of kindness and mercy...It unifies with all humanity and finds no great difference between saint and sinner Such a religion as this, the world of today needs, for it is sick of pretense and would like a practical demonstration of a belief in God, made manifest through good works."*

Blessings to all who have helped this year. If you have suggestions or ideas of how to make our community meals in the new year even better, don't hesitate to tell Carolyn Williams or myself, Mark H.



- Summer adventure is coming! Get your registration and photo release forms into the office as soon as possible.
- New Horizon's Union Canal Tunnel trip and Dinner will start at Heisy's Diner at 1:00 pm.

- Christian Education will meet Sunday, June 2, following the service.
- The Personnel Committee will meet Sunday, June 2, following the service in the Library.
- Council will meet on Tuesday, June 4 at 6:30 pm in the Library.
- The PCC Annual Meeting will be held Friday and Saturday, June 7 and 8.
- There will be a Congregational Meeting following the conclusion of the 9:00 am service on Sunday, June 9.
- Strong Bones fitness classes will meet the following days: June 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27 at 8:30 AM in the Social Hall. Please contact Shirley Krall for more information at 717-639-4969.
- Upper Room Bible study will meet on Thursdays from 1:00 to 2:00 pm in the Library. If you have any questions, please contact Marcia Bicher at 717/866-6401.
- Staff Meeting, Monday, June 17th at 11:00 am in the office.
- The Worship Support Team will meet at 6:30 pm on Monday, June 24.
- Council will meet Tuesday, July 2 at 6:30 pm in the Library.
- Summer Adventure will be held from July 7-11 from 6:00 pm- 8:00pm. The final program is Thursday, July 11, starting at 7:00 pm.



We have started the process of trying to update our contact information for our members. If you could please email myerstownucc@comcast.net with a current email, address, phone numbers (cell and home) and birthday that would be greatly appreciated.

Highlights from the May council meeting:

The meeting was held on Tuesday, May 7 at 6:30 pm. Minutes and treasurer reports were reviewed and approved. Thanksgivings and concerns about members were expressed. Staff reports followed including the letter from Pastor Luciotti regarding his intent not to renew his current contract as interim. His final day will be [July 31, 2019](#). The resignation of Secretary Lee Ann Kurash was also announced as follow-up to an email that had been sent. Committee reports were next. Action taken was taken to approve the Compensation and Personnel Matters for Salaried Employees, the Compensation and Personnel Matters for Non-Salaried Employees, and the Performance Review document and a Vacation/Leave Request Form as requested by personnel. The Secretary job description was approved and three other job descriptions were handed out to be reviewed at the next meeting. The personnel committee also recommended the hiring of Katie Fields to be the temporary secretary. Salaries were discussed and set. Office hours will be [Monday – Friday, 9 am – noon](#) and the secretary will work [8 am – noon](#). Personnel committee is in need of additional members. Property Committee continues to address the needs of our old building and property. Elders and Care Team are working with Emily and Pastor to update our members in care list and to develop an organized tracking system. Mark Herr will head up the Worship support team effective immediately, along with input from Pastor Rick.

There is continued need for a Treasurer to fill the vacancy. A group needs to be created to address this issue. We also need to solidify church legal council. Potential search committee members were discussed. The church profile will be reviewed at a special council meeting prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting. Membership group created a membership list update handed out by Sue Harvey. Council members were asked to review the list and bring input to the next meeting. Reminder that the summer schedule [begins on May 26th](#) with one service [at 9:00 am](#). Council will meet on Sunday, May 19th at 11:00 a.m. Meeting concluded with prayer and was adjourned.

Church council held a brief meeting on Sunday, May 19th after the worship service. At this meeting, council approved job descriptions for Worship Music Coordinator/Organist, Choir Director and Financial Administrator. Also approved was the draft of the church profile, and the first five members of the search committee: Doug Bohannon, Chair, Travis Bicher, Donald Brown, Susan Harvey, and Wanda Rabold. A congregational meeting will be held after the [June 9th](#) worship service to discuss the profile. The profile is available electronically by contacting the church office. Hard copies are available (one per family please) at the church office and on the Information Counter in the Gathering Area of the church.

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Worship Support Team Update

The Worship Support Team met on Tuesday, May 28 during which we evaluated the worship times (8:00 am and 10:00 am worship services with Sunday School/Small Groups meeting at 8:45 am). Further discussion and a recommendation for the fall will be finalized at our next meeting to be held on Monday evening, July 24. Any thoughts on times of Worship/Small Groups would be welcomed before the next meeting. If you would like to share your thoughts, speak with Mark Herr – Worship Support Team Staff Coordinator. Time during the meeting was also spent reviewing the many different worship task responsibilities.

June 9th - August 4th Worship Volunteer List

Church worship instructions:

When two worship leaders are listed they should decide between themselves who will read scripture, lead liturgy, or assist with communion.

The first name listed on each usher team is responsible for all head usher duties such as ringing the bell, retrieving handicapped signs, lighting and extinguishing candles, locking doors, etc.

The first name listed on each communion team is responsible for preparing the elements.

If you can not serve on any assigned task, please try to find a substitute before calling the office.

June 9

Open - Mark Herr

Greeter - Ed and Candy Hibshman

Worship Leader - Bill Arnold

Ushers - Kory and Ryan Leppo, Robert Dash,
Kenny Patrick

Sound - Paulie McQuate

Count - Marie Hibshman, Kathy Grose, Charles and
Carolyn Williams

June 16

Open - Marcia Bicher

Greeter - Ted and Carol Batdorf

Worship Leader - Sally Kulp

Ushers - Doug, Stephanie, Braden Bohannon,
Kenny Patrick

Sound - Robert Dash

Count - Lois Werner, Sarah, Zeller, Sally Kulp

June 23

Open - William and Betty Arnold

Greeter - Sara Zeller

Worship Leader - Wanda Rabold

Ushers - Kristi Fields, Annamarie Behm, Darryl Brown,
Kenny Patrick

Sound - Robert Dash

Count - Steve and Marianne Fritsch, Terry and Suzie
Schott

June 30

Open - William and Betty Arnold

Greeter - Marcia Bicher

Worship Leaders - Steve and Marianne Fritsch

Ushers - Travis, Angie, Gabby, Gavin Bicher,
Kenny Patrick

Sound - Robert Dash

Count - Ed and Candy Hibshman, Terry and Suzie
Schott

July 7 - Communion - Pew

Open - Cal Beamesderfer

Greeter - Shirley Krall

Worship Leader - William Arnold

Communion Servers - Jackie Shaak, Wanda Rabold,
Sarah Zeller, Betty Arnold

Ushers - Marie Hibshman, Emily, Kara, Abby Frantz,
Kenny Patrick

Sound - Paulie McQuate

Count - Ted and Carol Batdorf, Marie Hibshman, Dar-
ryl Brown

July 14

Open - Mark Herr

Greeter - Lindy Bennetch

Worship Leader - Kristi Fields

Ushers - Jeff, Holly, Hannah, Jared, Leah Rosen,
Kenny Patrick

Sound - Paulie McQuate

Count - Marie Hibshman, Kathy Grose,
Charles and Carolyn Williams

July 21

Open - Marcia Bicher

Greeter - Sue Harvey

Worship Leader - Carolyn and Charles Williams

Ushers - Travis, Angie, Gabby, Gavin Bicher, Kenny Patrick

Sound - Bob Dash

Count - Lois Werner, Sarah Zeller, Sally Kulp

July 28

Open - Bill and Betty Arnold

Greeter - Bill and Betty Arnold

Worship Leader - Wanda Rabold

Ushers - Ed and Candy Hibshman, Terry and Suzie Schott

Sound - Bob Dash

Count - Ed and Candy Hibshman, Terry and Suzie Schott

August 4 - Communion - Intinction

Open - Cal Beamesderfer

Greeter - Terry and Suzie Schott

Worship Leader - Margo McQuate

Communion Servers -

Ushers -

Sound - Paulie McQuate

Prayer List

Family Member/s

Joyce Mitstifer

The family and friends of Karen Wagner

The family and friends of Barbara Winters

Suzie Wartluft and her family with the death of her mother

Long-Term Prayer Concerns

Family Members

Nancy Brown

Ellen Goodyear

Lee and Mary Smith

John and Ruthann Snoke

Friends

Suzanne Fritsch - mother of Stephen Fritsch

Betty and Bill Gracely - mother and father of Margo McQuate

Dennis Palm - former ScoutMaster of Troop 20

Katie Long—friend of Phyllis Keith

Linda Feaser— friend of Kathy Grose

Jewel Fessler— friend of Kathy Grose

Suzie Wartluft's contact number is 717/866-5490. Please call this number with any and all prayer concerns. Feel free to leave a message if Suzie does not answer and she will follow up to ensure accuracy on the listing of concern. The updated list will be called into the church office by 9:00 am each Wednesday morning. Feel free to contact Suzie with any questions or concerns