

The Vineyard

MARCH

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.

March 2019

Volume 38, Issue 3

Lee Ann Kurash, editor

Paster's Thoughts...

Interestingly, the road to Jerusalem begins with acts of contrition. Is it possible, that if Peter had humbled himself instead of attempting to change Jesus' direction, that Peter would have avoided his three-fold denial of Christ? Though the question is purely speculative, it invites us to consider how we may grow in our faith and be empowered to be more loyal to Christ.

Ash Wednesday is to be the most uncomfortable day of the church year. At this juncture, we most clearly are able to see exactly who we are. In the light of the Transfiguration, our awareness of our sin is never more apparent. We know that the coming weeks will culminate in the celebration of Easter and God's declaration of our salvation. But can we fully appreciate and receive the good news if we first and foremost fail to take seriously our brokenness? Will we be able to utilize, as empowerment, the comfort of our salvation if we do not enter into the discipline of the coming season?

This is a dramatic moment in our faith walk. We stand at a crossroad of determining whether we will be full participants in the Body of Christ or mere spectators. Who we truly are, as opposed to who we want to imagine ourselves to be, is the focus of this event. We are offered the opportunity to wrestle with the finite nature of our condition, in body, mind and spirit. The illusion of being god in our own life is never more fully exposed. All of the skills and cleverness with which we attempt to manage our daily lives are revealed as inadequate. There is only one appropriate response, repent and turn completely one more to God.

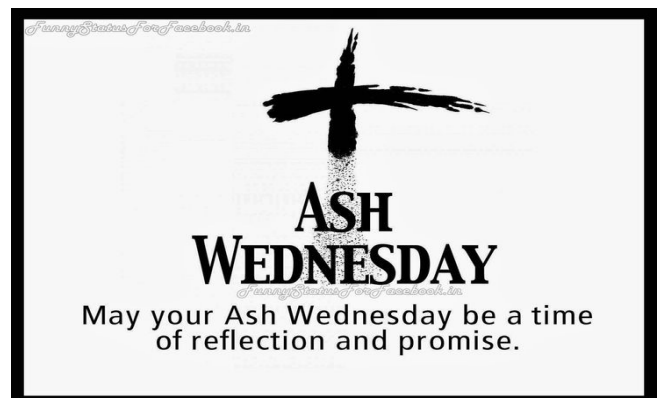
Jesus offers a pattern for this day and for our lives. With sincerity, simplicity and privately, the Lord teaches, "Present your gift, pray and place complete reliance on the things of heaven, not upon earthly treasures."

Heavenly God, may the words of the prophet Joel be upon our lips and in our hearts this day. "Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. (Joel 2:13)



Sincerely,

Rev. Rick Lucielli



In the event of Inclement Weather, delay or cancellation notifications will be sent to WGAL and WLBR in addition to our church website, and Face book page. In addition, an email will be sent to all known email addresses of those attending Myerstown UCC. WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please make sure that the Church Office has your current email address. If you do not have access to the internet and would need a phone call notification, please contact the Church Office. There will be a phone chain created for those members.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING:

The meeting began with a devotion, followed by Thanksgivings, Concerns, and Who’s Missing from our Congregation. Pastor’s report was presented along with a report and thoughts from the Interim Pastoral Assistant. Minutes from prior meeting were approved. The congregational meeting minutes must be approved by the congregation at the next congregational meeting. The Treasurer’s report was unavailable for this meeting and will be approved at the next meeting. Reports were received from Christian Education, Personnel, and Property. Highlights include: dates set for Christian Education events, Steven Fritsch will serve as Chair of the Personnel Committee who will begin reviewing all job descriptions, and an update on the front door proposal. Property is also investigating the cause of almost daily alerts being sent to Yarnell, our security system

Task groups and Ministry Teams shared reports: Community Meal, Worship Support Team, Elders/Care Team, and the Congregational Assessment Team. Highlights include the WST proposal to change worship times which was approved by Council. This information is included in full elsewhere in the Vineyard. The CAT Team will present a summary meeting to the congregation on March 17th. This is also described in detail elsewhere in the Vineyard. Kristi Fields has almost completed typing the by-laws of our congregation in order to have them reviewed by a By-laws revision group. The Council decided not to hold an Ash Wednesday service at MUCC this year as it falls during Pastor Rick’s vacation and has had low attendance in previous years. Further discussion ensued on the schedule for Holy Week services. This item was tabled until the March meeting.

March

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am Worship Service



- March 3 - Transfiguration Sunday- Pew Communion
Sunday School at 10:15 am
Keith Miller - guest Pastor
- March 10 - First Sunday of Lent 8 am & 10 am Worship
Sunday School 8:45 am
Scriptures: Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Luke 4:1-13
Message - 'It's There'
- March 17 - Second Sunday of Lent 8 am & 10 am Worship
Sunday School at 8:45 am
Scriptures: Jeremiah 26:8-15 Luke 13:31-35
- March 24 - Third Sunday of Lent 8 am & 10 am Worship
Sunday School at 8:45 am
Scriptures: Ezekiel 33:7-20 Luke 13:1-9
- March 31** - Fourth Sunday of Lent 8 am & 10 am Worship
Sunday School at 8:45 am
Scriptures: Isaiah 43:16-21 Luke 20:9-20



Pastor Rick’s Office Hours

Office hours are subject to change.

Rev. Rick will return from vacation March 9th. Please see the bulletin for Rev. Rick’s office hours after he returns from vacation.

If you need to reach Rev. Rick, you may call him at 717/679-0001.

Please call Rev. Rick if you know of someone in the hospital or someone that needs a visit.

*Sunday, March 17
is St. Patrick’s Day*





STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Rick Luciotti, Interim Pastor (cell) 717/679-0001
 Lee Ann Kurash (cell) 717/304-1738
 myerstownucc@comcast.net
 Emily Frantz (cell) 717-383-1147
 emilyfrantz@me.com
 Mark Herr (cell) 717/572-7734
 minstrel52@hotmail.com
 Lindy Bennetch (home) 717/933-8506



Lebanon County Christian Ministries



The LCCM donation we are requesting for March are crackers: saltines or Ritz. Please place donations in the box provided in the Gathering Area. Thank you for your continuing support of this ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Williams at 717/866-9482.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 23rd, which will be the LCCM Annual Lenten Breakfast! Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast, an inspiring message and entertainment. And the opportunity to mingle and worship with friends from the surrounding community. Come and bring a friend. See Carolyn Williams for tickets.

Important Christian Education dates:

Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Sunday, April 14 during the Sunday School hour and would include (as last year) children through the youth classes.

Summer Adventure ...

**Sunday, July 7 through Thursday, July 11
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

Theme: **"Lava Lava Island...
Where Jesus' Love Flows."**

BOY SCOUT TROOP 20 CORNER



The Boy Scouts of Myerstown Troop 20 continued to stay busy in February. The troop's monthly campout was held at the Troop Cabin. February activities included our participation in Scout Sunday on February 10th. The boys served as greeters for the morning service, assisted with ushering duties and read the day's lessons. They joined the congregation for refreshments after the service.

February activities included our annual winter survival campout at the troop cabin. The boys made their own shelters from what they could find in the woods, as well as cooked their own meals over a fire. This activity allowed them to reinforce their current skills and also learn new skills in knot tying, cooking, camping, and wilderness survival. Also in February, the boys also assisted Myerstown Cub Pack 460 with their annual Blue and Gold Banquet at the Myerstown Church of the Brethren. The theme for the banquet was Winter Carnival. Additionally, one boy attended the PA Dutch Council Merit Badge College in Lancaster County.

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 Bobbie Yoder at (717)-933-5844. You can also visit our troop website at www.myerstownboyscouts.org.





Worship Attendance

	9:00 am
02/03/19	71
02/10/19	75
02/17/19	73
02/24/19	67



Community Meal Dates

Our meals served again on:

March 14, 2019

April 11, 2019

May 9, 2019

Our next meal is on March 14.

We will be serving baked chicken, mashed potatoes/gravy, green beans, roll/butter and whoopie pies for dessert.

Please join us for a good meal and great fellowship! This is a community outreach program for our church. If you can, please support it by coming to share the meal or volunteer in any way. For more information, contact Mark Herr at 717/572-7734 or Carolyn Williams at 717/866-9482. Thank you!



Happy Birthday



March

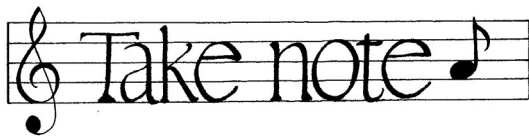
- 3 - Jennifer Kinsey, Carolyn Williams
- 4 - Calvin Beamesderfer, Melissa Gettle
- 10 - Derek Noll
- 11 - Fern Hoke, Craig Null
- 12 - Michelle Houtz, Kevin Krum, Eric Shaffer
- 14 - Linden Bennetch, Karen Leppo
- 16 - Elizabeth Rittle
- 17 - L. Patrick Krum
- 18 - Diana Eisenhauer, Dylan Stabilito
- 19 - Mel Hemperly
- 20 - Arlene Spangler, Evangeline Zimmerman
- 21 - Marcia Bicher, Charles Williams
- 22 - Carol Behney, Joshua Schlappich, Natalie Ziegler
- 25 - Katie Fields, Stephanie Weaver, Elizabeth Ditchcreek
- 26 - Katie Needham, Ben Salem
- 29 - Jean Schlappich, Justin Schlappich, Loren Ziegler



Ash Wednesday is March 6, 2019

This begins the Lenten Season.

Lenten devotionals are available on the Information Counter in the Gathering Area. There are Family Activity booklets called 'Together with Jesus' for our families with children. We also have a teen/adult devotional titled "The Saving Passion: Inspiration from Henri J. M. Nouwen." Both begin on Ash Wednesday. Don't forget to pick up one or both of these devotionals. Please see Emily Frantz with any questions.



Women’s Club of Myerstown meeting, Monday, March 4 at 7:00 pm, in the social hall.

Council will meet Tuesday, March 5 at 6:30 pm in the Library.

Strong Bones fitness classes will meet the following days: March 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, and 28 at 8:30 AM in the Social Hall. Please contact Shirley Krall for more information at 717-639-4969.

Community Meal is Thursday, March 14 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm in the social hall.

Staff meeting, Monday, March 18 at 11:00 am in the office.

Upper Room Bible study will meet on Thursdays (except Community Meal days) from 1:00 to 2:00 pm in the Library. If you have any questions, please contact Marcia Bicher at 717/866-6401.

New Horizon’s will meet Saturday, March 23rd at Quentin UCC at 11 E. Main Street, Quentin at 2:00 pm. Paul Brandt will be sharing his passion of photography and music as he presents a program showcasing God’s beautiful creation. Dinner following at Quentin Haus.

We have openings for Altar Flowers for March 10, 24 and 31st. If you would like to place flowers In Memory of or In Honor of your loved ones, please contact Betty Arnold at 717/866-5329.

Prayers and Concerns

Family Member/s

- Karen Wagner
- Ellen Goodyear
- Nancy Brown
- Pat Underkoffler
- Annamarie Behm

Friend/s

- Ralph Woynarowski - husband of Carol (Zeller)
- Suzanne Fritsch - mother of Stephen Fritsch
- Betty and Bill Gracely - parents of Margo McQuate

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.



YOUTH NEWS



ONGOING:

Gift Cards - The orders are due the

first Sunday of each month. Cards are delivered the next Sunday (or by arrangement if you will not be in worship.) It’s a GREAT way to make some money for our youth group. Order forms are on the Gathering Area Information table. Or we can mail one to you, if you are interested.



CAT UPDATE...On Sunday, March 17th at 9:00 am, the Congregation Assessment Team will speak to the congregation on the findings of the survey we completed last summer. As you can imagine, there is a lot of information from the results of that survey. The highlights and outcomes from this survey will be presented

and discussed. Some of the items are: Congregational satisfaction of doing ministry and “drivers of satisfaction” Congregational level of excitement and “drivers of energy”

Where our congregation falls in one of four quadrants in relationship to these drivers

Resolution of conflict and building trust as a congregation

Congregation identified priorities – common to age groups and unique to age groups

What it means to be a “Hearth and Home” church and more.

The Congregational Assessment Team

Doug Bohannon, Chair Emily Frantz, Fritz Firestine, Trish Garman, and Paulie McQuate



Rehearsal is on the following dates at 7:30 pm in the Music Room.

Wednesday, March 20

Wednesday, March 27

Anthem Rehearsals are in the Music Room at 8:30 am the following Sundays:

Sunday, March 24

Sunday, March 31

Please contact Emily Frantz with any questions at 717/383-1147 - cell or emilyfrantz@me.com



Love. Grow. Serve.

On Tuesday, February 5th, Church Council approved the recommendation of the Worship Support Team to change our worship schedule on a trial basis. Beginning the first Sunday of Lent, March 10th through May 19th, there will be two different styles of worship provided following this schedule:

8:00 am

Service of the Word – opening hymn, liturgy and prayers, scripture, and message, closing verse

Service will be approximately 25 minutes

Ministry volunteer will serve as a greeter

Pew Communion will be the first Sunday of the month. A ministry volunteer will assist the Pastor with preparation and serving communion.

8:45 am

Small group ministry – including Sunday School classes, and any other ministries that may wish to meet during this time

10:00 am

Traditional worship – including children's sermon, offering, choir anthems and additional music ministry

Service will be approximately 50 – 60 minutes

Ministry volunteers will serve as greeters, ushers, worship leaders, sound technicians, communion preparation (once a month), and gathering time providers and servers.

Communion by Intinction will be the first Sunday of the month. Worship leader and ushers will assist the Pastor with serving communion

Sunday, May 26th through September 1st, we will follow a Summer Schedule with one blended worship service at 9:00 am. Communion will be the first Sunday of each month: pew communion June and August and Intinction in July.

The worship support team will meet again in May to discuss benefits and challenges of this schedule. They will look at attendance, staffing needs, feedback from congregants,

etc. and will provide a report to Council for their June meeting. A decision will be made during the summer about worship and small group opportunities for Fall 2019.

(cont'd on next column)

In addition, there will not be an Ash Wednesday service held at Myerstown UCC this year. Please contact the church office if you would like information for other worship services in the area. Church leaders are still discussing the number and time of worship services during Holy Week.

We realize that change can be challenging and that there is no way to create a perfect solution for every member of our church family. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to work towards the best solution for our congregation during this time of transition. Please direct any questions or comments to the Church Council.

Kory Leppo, Kristi Fields, Marcia Bicher, Lee Smith, Mike Ebersole, Mark Wartluft, Darryl Brown, Jim Diehm, Sue Harvey, Sally Kulp



Thank You!

Dear Members of Myerstown UCC:

Penn Central Conference has recently notified us of your 1/16/19 gift of \$1,250 from the people of Myerstown UCC, which was placed into our Benevolent Fund. Without congregations like yours, so many people would not be able to receive the assistance they need. UCC Homes' greatest area of need continues to be the securing of sufficient funding to meet the growing financial need of residents who are unable to pay for the cost of their care and who do not have access to governmental assistance programs. We are able to meet this need because of your commitment to our ministry to the elderly.

Please convey our thanks to the member of your congregation and consistory. Helping people, reaching out a helping hand to someone who needs our concern is what UCC Homes is all about. Because of your effort, it is what you are about also.

Sincerely,

Victoria Velez
Dir. of Public Relations
and Fund Development

March - April 7 2019

Worship Volunteer Schedule

March 3 Open – Cal Beamesderfer
Greeters – Ed and Candy Hibshman
Pew Communion/Ushers – Kristi Fields
Annamarie Behm
Darryl Brown
Charles and Carolyn Williams
Worship Leader - Doug Bohannon
Sound - Paulie McQuate

March 10 Open - Mark Herr
8:00 am Greeter – Shirley Krall
10:00 am Greeter - Dawn Hassler
Worship Leader - Margo McQuate
Ushers – The Rosen Family and Kenny Patrick
Sound - Paulie McQuate

March 17 Open – Marcia Bicher
8:00 am Greeter – Sue Harvey
10:00 am Greeter - Mary Smith
Worship Leader – Stephen Fritsch
Lector - Marianne Fritsch
Ushers – Marie Hibshman
Emily, Kara and Abby Frantz
Kenny Patrick
Sound - Robert Dash

March 24 Open - Fritz Firestine
8:00 am Greeter - Lindy Bennetch
10:00 am Greeters - Ted and Carol Batdorff
Worship Leader - Sally Kulp
Ushers - The Bicher family
Kenny Patrick
Sound - Robert Dash

March 31 Open - Fritz Firestine
8:00 am Greeter - Nancy Weaber
10:00 am Greeter - Annamarie Behm
Worship Leader - Paulie McQuate
Ushers - Kory and Ryan Leppo
Robert Dash
Kenny Patrick
Sound - Robert Dash

April 7 Open - Cal Beamesderfer
8:00 am Greeter - Gene Haag
Worship Leader/Communion and set-up - Wanda Rabold
10:00 am Greeters - Pat and Trudy Yeager
Worship Leader - Carolyn Williams
Lector - Darryl Brown
Communion - Ed and Candy Hibshman
Stephen and Marianne Fritsch
Ushers - Ed and Candy Hibshman
Terry and Suzie Schott
Sound - Paulie McQuate