

# 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.*



May 2019

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## *Pastor's Thoughts . . .*

Myerstown UCC is preparing to begin the process for calling a new pastor. And, it is correct that the congregation develop criteria for just qualities a new pastor will possess. It is also important to invest some time and energy in assessing what traits a congregation will be displaying to the incoming pastor.

This is referred to as 'Congregational Boundary Awareness'. Simply stated, this is understanding and behaving in a manner mindful of what responsibilities each member of the congregation has to each other, to the new pastor and to the congregation.

The most important, from my perspective, aspect of this concept is for each member to understand and respect that congregations have policies and procedures, and to take appropriate committees any and all concerns and ideas. Too many times, a member with a concern or idea, attempts to express or act upon such matter independent of a congregations' stated procedures for governance. The result is always confusing, and many times produces a degree of conflict. Frankly, when a pastor is called, they expect members will respect this boundary.

My point here is this, when any member has a concern, direct it to the leader of the congregation tasked with coping with such matters. Do not take upon oneself to 'straighten things out'. And, strive to present concerns in a constructive manner. Recall always what St. Paul taught, "When angry, do not sin."

Along this line, recall always that many days a pastor's schedule changes with the blink of an eye. A death, a sudden hospitalization or any number of unexpected matter arise and call the pastor away from their schedule. Thus, any number of tasks become delayed.. Seek always to place yourself in the situation and ask, "would I not want the pastor to attend to my emergency, if and when it happens to me?"

Another goal to keep in mind, participate in congregational meetings. Striving for consensus is how a healthy congregation is best cultivated. There should only and ever be meetings that are in accordance with by-laws and policies. There should never be cloak room discussions or unofficial sub-groups talking about how things should be. Such back round gatherings only sew discord. Too many times discussions about church matters outside the framework a congregation has established promote incomplete information, gossip and rumor. Again, St. Paul says, "We are to grow up, mature in Christ." Any behaviors outside the boundary a congregation has set for itself is bound to disrupt community.

These are but a few thoughts regarding a congregations' call to be community. The church is to be a place of hospitality and support. Let be so among yourselves.

*Sincerely,*

*Rev. Rick Lucitti*

# Julius Muthengi Update...

Dear Prayer Partners,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ from Nairobi. I trust this brief e-mail finds you rejoicing in the wonder of God's amazing grace. Agnes and I are grateful to God for his goodness and faithfulness. We praise him too for your partnership with us through prayer and financial support. Please know that we do not take these for granted! As the subject of this communication indicates, I am requesting prayer for key areas in our lives and ministry. First, over a week ago our Vice Chancellor here at International Leadership University asked for a meeting between me and him. When we met, he informed me that he wanted me to consider joining his administration once again as Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs! This was a great surprise to me because I had not thought of such a request. . . After some minutes of silence, I told him to give me three to four days to pray, consult with my wife Agnes and our children. Finally, I accepted the request and the new responsibilities start today! Please pray for me and the university because this is indeed, a mammoth task, but with God's help it is possible. Pray also for our financial situation which has been difficult in the last one year. Also, pray for our country Kenya which is experiencing one of the worst droughts and famine in the recent past. God bless you.

In Christ's service,

Julius



*Mother's Day is Sunday, May 12*

# May

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:00 am and 10:00 am Worship Services



**May 5 – Third Sunday of Easter**

**Confirmation Class Bake Sale  
after each service**

Pew Communion at 8:00 am

Small Groups/Sunday School 8:45 am

Communion by Intinction at 10:00 am

Scriptures: Psalm 30 John 20:1-19

Message – ‘The Way Forward’

**May 12 – Fourth Sunday of Easter/Mother’s Day**

8:00 am Service of the Word

Small Groups/Sunday School 8:45 am

10:00 am Traditional Service

Scriptures: Psalm 23 John 10:20-30

Message - ‘Life-giving Acts’

**May 19 – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

8:00 am Service of the Word

Small Groups/Sunday School 8:45 am

10:00 am Traditional Service

Scriptures: Psalm 148 John 13:31-35

**May 26 – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**First Sunday of Summer Worship**

**at 9:00 am**

Guest Pastor



### Rev. Rick’s Office Hours

\*\*Office hours are subject to change.\*\*

**Tuesdays and Fridays in May**

**8:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Rev. Rick’s cell number

717/679-0001



**MYERSTOWN UCC STAFF:**

Rev. Rick Luciotti, Interim Pastor  
(cell) 717-679-0001

Emily Frantz, Parish Administrator  
(cell) 717-383-1147  
emilyfrantz@me.com

**CHURCH OFFICE: 717-866-5252**

**myerstownucc@comcast.net**

Lindy Bennetch, Financial Administrator

Mark Herr, Organist and CE Coordinator

Elicia Frank, Custodian

**Boy Scout**

**Troop 20**

**Corner**



The Boy Scouts of Myerstown Troop 20 were active in the month of April. Twelve boys completed their work on the Traffic Safety merit badge. The boys conducted a variety of learning events this month in preparation for our spring backpacking trip on April 26th - 28th on the Appalachian Trail. They reviewed their skills in backpack cooking, how to pack a backpack, Leave No Trace, and how to handle bears during the hike should the situation would arise. Additionally, we had 2 new scouts join the troop from Pack 439 at Kochenderfer's Church in Lebanon, PA. Welcome Gabe and Donovan! The boys also conducted their spring Adopt-a-Highway clean up on ELCO drive.

The troop's monthly campout consisted of a backpacking trip on the Appalachian Trail from Hawk Mountain Road to PA Route 309. The boys honed their skills for camping, hiking, cooking and Leave No Trace during the hike. On Friday night the group stayed near the Eckville Shelter and on Saturday night, they stayed in the area of the Allentown Hiking Club Shelter in the established campsites. The troop always leaves the wooden shelters open as a courtesy for any through hikers that they might meet on the trail. The boys used small camp stoves and campfires to prepare most of their meals. A good time was had by all!

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](http://www.myerstownboyscouts.org)



**Lebanon County Christian Ministries**



**LCCM donation request for May is bottled salad dressings.**

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
4/7/19	21	41
4/14/19	23	75
4/18/19	(7pm service—17)	
4/21/19	42	95
4/28/19	17	49



**Our last Community Meal for the season is on Thursday, May 9. Please join us!!!!**

**We will be serving hamburger barbecue on a roll, baked beans, macaroni salad, applesauce and brownies.**



Our final rehearsal is scheduled on THURSDAY, May 15th at 7:30 pm in the Music Room. We will rehearse at 9:40 am on Sunday, May 19 and sing in worship at 10:00 am.

Please contact Emily Frantz with any questions at 717-383-1147 or [emilyfrantz@me.com](mailto:emilyfrantz@me.com)



Myerstown Women's Club meeting is elsewhere this month.

Council will meet for a brief meeting Sunday, May 19, at 11:00 am in the Library.

Strong Bones fitness classes will meet the following days: May 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23 and 30th 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, except the Thursdays of the Community Meal. If you have any questions, please contact Marcia Bicher at 717/866-6401.

Staff Meeting, Monday, May 20 at 11:00 am in the office.

Property Committee meeting is Wednesday, May 29 at 6:30 pm in the Library.

New Horizons single adult fellowship will meet Saturday, May 25 at 2:00 pm for Miniature Golf—Games and dinner at Kaufmann's Bar-B-Q in Bethel.

## Prayer List

### **Family members**

Lee and Mary Smith

Joyce Mitstifer

Bill Upton

The family and friends of Karen Wagner

The family and friends of Barbara Winters

### **Friends**

The family and friends of Fran Shenk—neighbor of the Frantz's

### **Long-Term Prayer Concerns**

#### **Family Members**

Ellen Goodyear

Nancy Brown

#### **Friends**

Suzanne Fritsch - mother of Stephen Fritsch

Betty and Bill Gracely - mother and father of Margo McQuate

Dennis Palm - former ScoutMaster of Troop 20

Evelyn Rudy -friend of Ed and Candy Hibshman

Katie Long—friend of Phyllis Keith

Joanne Frantz—mother in law of Emily Frantz

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



## *Volunteer at HersheyPark*

Will you consider being a volunteer at HersheyPark this year to help earn money for our Youth Group and Community Outreach? For each hour you work, the Youth Group gets \$6.00. For each shift you work (3 to 5 hours long), you get a 1 day pass, including free parking, to HersheyPark. Occasionally, 2 or 3 passes are offered for a shift.. This is great to use for yourself or to give to family members.

The areas we volunteer are Food and Beverage in HersheyPark and in the Giant Center, Games, Guest Experiences, at the HersheyPark/Zoo America bridge, Ushering at Giant Center and HersheyPark Stadium, and Attractions and Rides.

If you are interested in being on the volunteer list, please call Candy Hibshman, Volunteer Coordinator, at (717)468-3563 and give her your email address and phone number. She will email you whenever she gets a request for volunteers. If you are available and interested, call her and she will contact Hershey. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old. Friends and family members are welcome to volunteer also. If you were on last year's list, please contact Candy if you'd like to stay on the list. Thanks!!

## Highlights from the April council meeting:

Myerstown UCC Council Meeting was held Tuesday, April 2, 2019 6:30 pm with 11 in attendance. After the meeting was called to order, opening prayer was followed by devotions.

Both the minutes and financial report were reviewed, discussed, and approved. The issue of accuracy in our membership roles was discussed in regard to the number of members we need to report for dues, software programs, church envelopes, etc. Discussion about the importance of finding a new Treasurer as soon as possible. Thanks to Lindy Bennetch for handling all the finances while this position is vacant. The meeting continued with discussion of thanksgivings and concerns.

Highlights from the Pastor's report included updates on improving communication with our local care facilities and the suggestion of completing an audit since one has not been completed in quite some time. Attendance at both worship services was also discussed. Highlights from the Parish Administrator's report include the request for a membership task group and updates to technology – specifically the loss of all of our electronic files from the secretary's computer. Plans for future back-up were presented. Council voted to create a membership task group to come into compliance with our active and inactive members as outlined in the by-laws.

Reports were presented from Christian Education, Personnel, and Property committees. The revised Custodian job description was presented and approved. Property updates include the office porch, painting church and Parish House exterior and the repairs to the columns. The update to the front entrance has been tabled at this time.

Task Group and Team reports were presented from Elders/Care Team, Worship Support Team, Community Meal, Congregational Assessment/Church Profile Team, and By-laws. The profile is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way completed with hopes of a first draft to be presented to council at next meeting. The by-laws team is working to simplify and streamline our current by-laws. Doug Bohannon has agreed to lead the Nominating Committee to begin seeking members for 2020.

### Approved motions:

By-laws change for Search Committee - A motion to approve the proposed amendment that the search committee shall be comprised of no less than 5 members of the congregation and no more than 8 was passed by Council and will now be presented to the congregation for approval and vote in near future. (Note: This was presented at the April 14th Congregational meeting and approved by the congregation.)

Inclement weather policy: A motion to approve the inclement weather policy as written was made and approved.

Church insurance is still being reviewed. Kory Leppo and Pastor Rick will meet to write the letter for our church to obtain legal counsel on an as needed basis. Pastor Rick announced the Confirmation Project will benefit the Muthengi ministry by hosting a bake sale on 5/5/19. Confirmands will also be available to help with yard work for a donation.

Names were generated by council to form a search committee. Council President Kory Leppo and Vice-President Kristi Fields will be the contact people. The meeting was adjourned following a closing prayer.



## May Birthdays

1 - LaMae Reed, Amy Troutman,  
Stephanie Wolfe

3 - Stephen Wagner

4 - Perry Schlappich

6 - Chad Hackman

8—Greg Ebling

9— Gifford Krause

11 - Brenda Baum, Andrew Fields.

Suzie Schott

13 - Kelly Clemens, Michelle Rothermel,

Jeremiah Zimmerman

14- Linda Davis, Douglas Reich, Mark Wartluft

15—Patti Keath

17—Juan Borrero

18 - Jason Weaver

19 - James Berger

20 - Matthew Berger, Dawn Hassler

Larry W. Hibshman

21 - Larissa Miller

22— Claire Keener, Mandy Gettle

23 - Cathy Ryland

24—David Wuori, Brian Zeller

27—Rebecca Miller, Delaney Houtz,

David Risser

28—Warren Bennetch

30—Samantha Salem



Effective May 3, 2019, LeeAnn Kurash has resigned from her position as Church Secretary. We wish her well in all of her future endeavors. The Church Council has approved the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to hire Katie Fields as a temporary Church Secretary. Please be patient with all of the staff as we work through this transition. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Rick or Emily Frantz.

# May 12th - June 2nd 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.

## May 12

Open—Mark Herr

8:00 am Greeter—Gene Haag

10:00 am Greeters—Suzie Wartluft

Annamarie Behm

Worship Leaders—Kristi Fields and Donald Brown

Ushers—Marie Hibshman

Emily, Kara and Abby Frantz

Kenny Patrick

Sound—Paulie McQuate

Counting—Marie Hibshman, Kathy Grose  
Charles and Carolyn Williams

## May 19

Open—Marcia Bicher

8:00 am Greeter—Sue Harvey

10:00 am Greeters—Jim and Beth Diehm

Worship Leaders—Paulie and Margo McQuate

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

Sound—Robert Dash

Counting—Lois Werner, Sally Kulp,  
Sarah Zeller

## May 26—Summer Schedule

### 9:00 am Worship

Open—Bill and Betty Arnold

Greeters—Terry and Suzie Schott

Worship Leaders—Carolyn and Charles Williams

Ushers—Kristi Fields, Annamarie Behm,  
Darryl Brown, and Kenny Patrick

Sound—Robert Dash

Counting—Ed and Candy Hibshman,  
Terry and Suzie Schott

## June 2

Open—Cal Beamesderfer

Greeter—Dawn Hassler

Worship Leader—Doug Bohannon

Ushers—Ed and Candy Hibshman,

Terry and Suzie Schott, Kenny Patrick

Steve and Marianne Fritsch

Communion (Intinction)—Ed and Candy Hibshman,  
Terry and Suzie Schott, Kenny Patrick

Stephen and Marianne Fritsch

Sound—Paulie McQuate

Counting—Ted and Carol Batdorff, Marie Hibshman,  
Darryl Brown

