

Welcome to Myerstown United Church of Christ

Church Office: 304 West Main Avenue, Myerstown , PA 17067-1023

Phone: 717/866-5252 myerstownucc@comcast.net

If you are visiting, we welcome you!

Rev. Rick Luciotti, Interim Pastor

Emily Frantz, Temporary Pastoral Assistant/Youth Director

Mark Herr, Organist/Christian Education Coordinator

Lindy Bennetch, Financial Secretary

Elicia Frank, Custodian

Lee Ann Kurash, Church Secretary

Our website: www.myerstownuccchurch.org

WORSHIP LEADERS & ASSISTANTS

Appreciation to the following people who assisted with today's service:

9:00 AM	Open the church Greeter:	Bill and Betty Arnold Gene Haag
	Lector/Liturgist:	Margo McQuate
	Ushers:	Jeff Rosen Abby Frantz Kara Frantz Kenny Patrick
	Sound Technician:	Robert Dash
	Counting Team:	Ed and Candy Hibshman Terry and Suzie Schott
	Flowers	In Honor of Violet and Howard Mohn's 78th Wedding Anniversary.



We invite you to join us for light refreshment and conversation in the Gathering Area following today's service. Hosted today by Trudy and Pat Yeager.



Myerstown United Church of Christ

306 West Main Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067-1023
717-866-5252

Worship Time: 9:00 AM

November 25, 2018

Reign of Christ the King

Prelude

Now Thank We All Our God

Johann Cruger
arr. Kristin Campbell

- Sarah Wagner, violin; Ruth Ann Arnold, piano

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us sing with joy to the Lord;

Congregation: Let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation,

Leader: Let us come before him with thanksgiving;

Congregation: And extol him with music and song.

Leader: For the Lord is the great God;

Congregation: The great king above all gods.

*Hymn of Gathering

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

#342

Call to Confession

Lord, of our own accord we are not worthy to enter your house. But, only say the word and your servant will be healed. Thus, let us confess our need of reconciliation to God and neighbor.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty and most merciful God, our Creator, Redeemer and King. We have been created in your image, but we have spoiled the perfectness of your model. Being invisible in the eyes of the oppressor, we have forgotten that we are highly visible in your eyes. In failing to help our loved ones, we have sinned against you. Acknowledging our shortcomings and brokenness, we confess our wretched nature, come to you for forgiveness, and give your name the praise. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

In spite of our tendency to pull apart, in spite of our tenacity to our old ways, our loving God continues to call us back together again, showing us the true nature of forgiveness. God does not keep score of our wrongs, or measure how far we have wandered. God welcomes us, like a mother scooping up her lost children, like a father embracing his prodigal offspring. As we are welcomed home, we are encouraged to learn from that forgiveness as God offers it to us in Jesus Christ, our hope and our home.

A Word for Children

Scripture Readings

The Old Testament Lesson is 2 Samuel 23:1-7

The Last Words of David

23 Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, son of Jesse, the oracle of the man whom God exalted, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the favorite of the Strong One of Israel: 2 The spirit of the Lord speaks through me, his word is upon my tongue. 3 The God of Israel has spoken, the Rock of Israel has said to me: One who rules over people justly, ruling in the fear of God, 4 is like the light of morning, like the sun rising on a cloudless morning, gleaming from the rain on the grassy land. 5 Is not my house like this with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. Will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire? 6 But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away; for they cannot be picked up with the hand; 7 to touch them one uses an iron bar or the shaft of a spear. And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

All who are able please stand for the reading of the Gospel

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John

All: Glory to you, O Lord!

The reading is recorded in chapter 18:33-37

33 Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" 34 Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" 35 Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" 36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." 37 Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

One: Here ends the Gospel Reading. It is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Special Music *Amazing Grace* arr. Catherine McMichael
- Jennifer Blystone and Sarah Wagner, violins; Ruth Ann Arnold, piano

The Message - Garrett Book



Prayer List

Family Member/s

Karen Wagner

Ellen Goodyear

Kenny Patrick

Nancy Brown

Glenn Bicher

friends and family of Donald Snyder

Marcia Bicher

Friend/s

Ella Ream - friend of Ed and Candy Hibshman

Lori Hull - friend of Suzi Upton

Richard Ruf - grandpa of Angie Bicher

Jewel Fessler - friend of Kathy Grose

Suzanne Fritsch - mother of Stephen Fritsch

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.



Announcements (cont'd)

Calendar:

November 28 – Journey to Christmas: Following the Star 6 pm

December 2 – Worship with Communion by Intinction 9 am

Journey to Christmas: Following the Star hosted by Melanie Bennetch’s Sunday School class in the Library.

December 5 – Journey to Christmas: Angelic Announcements 6 pm

December 9 – Worship: Healing Service, Choir 9 am

Journey to Christmas: Angelic Announcements hosted by Melanie Bennetch’s Sunday School class in the Library.

December 12 – Journey to Christmas: The Trio to Bethlehem 6 pm

December 16 – Worship: (Sarah on organ) 9 am

Journey to Christmas: The Trip to Bethlehem hosted by Melanie Bennetch’s Sunday School class in the Library.

December 19 – Journey to Christmas: Shepherds, Wise Men and a King 6 pm

December 23 – Worship: Choir 9 am

Journey to Christmas: Shepherds, Wise Men and a King hosted by Melanie Bennetch’s Sunday School class in the Library.

December 24 – 6:30 pm, Worship with Orchestra, Choir, Service of Lessons and Carols

December 30 – Worship 9 am: (Garrett Book preaching)

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

Offertory

Give Thanks

Henry Smith
arr. Jeff Bennett

- Jennifer Blystone, violin ; Ruth Ann Arnold, piano

*Offertory Response

*Christ, the Eternal Lord
(verse 1)*

#335

*The Nicene Creed (inside back cover of the hymnal)

*Closing Hymn

Jesus Shall Reign

#341

*Benediction

*Congregational Response

We Will Glorify

#337

Moments of Meditation (seated)

Postlude

Finale

Gilbert M. Martin

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**Today :** Garrett Book, leading worship Sarah Wagner, guest organist;  
Jennifer Blystone and Ruth Ann Arnold, guest musicians  
Sunday School at 10:15 am

**\*\*Reminder Advent Gift Bags – Today, November 25th**, following worship, in the Gathering Area, youth group and congregants will be making simple ornaments and decorating and assembling (lotion, snacks, tissues, etc.) 25 gift bags to deliver to MUCC members on our care list. All are welcome to join us.

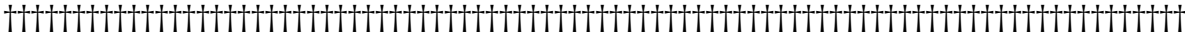
**Next Sunday: December 2 First Sunday of Advent**

Worship at 9:00 AM  
with Communion by Intinction  
Sunday School 10:15 am

Open Church - Cal Beamesderfer  
Greeters: Bill and Betty Arnold  
Communion: Marie Hibshman, Robert Dash,  
Emily Frantz and Marcia Bicher  
Lector: Darryl Brown  
Liturgist: Kristi Fields  
Ushers: Kristi, Katie and Andrew Fields  
Kenny Patrick

**Coming up: December 9 - Second Sunday of Advent**

Worship at 9:00 AM  
Sunday School at 10:15 am



**Announcements**

**Upper Room Bible study meets each Thursday from 1:00 - 2:00 pm in the Library**, with the exception of the 2nd Thursday of the months, when the Community Meal is being served. Please check the bulletin for updated information. You may also contact Marcia Bicher at 717/866-6401.

**LCCM donation item for the month of December** is flour and instant or ground coffee. Please place donations in the box provided in the Gathering Area. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Williams at 717/866-9482.

The Elders will take turns being 'on-call' as listed in the following schedule:

**November 25 - December 1 Carolyn Williams 717/866-9482**  
**December 2 - December 8 Stephen Fritsch 610/406-7166**

If someone is hospitalized or has other needs, one of the elders could visit or assist in contacting Rev. Rick. Elders are also planning to visit shut-ins and offer communion to them. We could certainly use help. If you are not comfortable doing communion, would you be willing to make some visits, asking members what they need and telling them that the elders and Rev. Rick Luciotti are available?

**Rev. Rick's office hours this week and next:**

**November 27 8:00 am - 12:00 pm**                      **No office hours November 29**

We are in need of someone willing to unlock the church on the second Sunday of each month. The church needs to be unlocked at 8 a.m. If interested, please contact Kristi Fields or Lee Ann in the church office. Thanks for the consideration!

**The Angel Tree is up and decorated. Please pick an angel card and purchase the item that is listed on the card, bring it back unwrapped and in a bag along with the Angel tag. Gifts should be placed at the base of the tree in the Conversational area. Thanks for your continued support of this ministry.**

**Announcements**

**Community Meal:**

The Community Meal **will be served on Dec. 13, Mar. 14, Apr. 11 and May 9.** Note there will be no meals in, Jan. and Feb. **The meals will be served from 4 PM to 6 PM.** Note that this is a change in time. Mark Herr will be actively helping with the preparation along with a group of volunteers., as has been done in the past. If you have never helped and would be willing to help prep, cook or serve in several ways, please see Mark Herr or Carolyn Williams. Please consider supporting this mission by volunteering your assistance.

**As has been our tradition, we are requesting Christmas cookies for the December Community Meal.** If you are willing to donate at least 3 dozen cookies, please sign-up on the form on the Information Counter in the Gathering Area. Cookies can be dropped off in the kitchen between December 8th and December 13th. Thank you for your donations!

**Advent materials** are available on the Information Counter in the Gathering Area. For children and families, there are activity calendars, filled with Scripture verses, activities, thought starters and Advent images for every day of Advent. Each mini-meditation helps children focus on the coming Savior. For youth and adults there is a daily devotion called Living the Gospel Life. The daily devotions in this pocket-sized booklet highlight the message and themes of being sent, demonstrating faith in action and being mission-minded. These themes are applied each day of Advent to the activities and schedules associated with preparing our hearts, souls and minds to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

**Advent small groups** are forming to discuss the DVD series Journey to Christmas. Travel to the Holy Land with five people---a messianic Jew, a First Nations woman, a poet, a Christian radio personality, and an agnostic lawyer---as they discover the true meaning of Christmas. Commentary from Bible experts, stunning photography, and an engaging reality-show format bring to life the culture, places, and people surrounding the nativity. Groups will be held on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm and Sunday mornings in the Library. Melanie Bennetch's Sunday school class is hosting this DVD series.

**Rescheduled CAT meeting for Council, Elders, CAT Team and staff with David Miron on Monday, December 10 at 6:00 pm in the social hall.**

**Gift cards - orders are due 12/2 and will be distributed 12/9. All proceeds benefit the youth projects and activities.** At this time of year, cards are available in low denominations such as \$5 cards for Starbucks, Panera, and Barnes and Noble and \$10 cards for Amazon, Applebee's, CVS, Olive Garden/ Longhorn, Outback, Red Lobster, Target and Walmart. These make great gifts for mail carriers, teachers, care providers, etc. Please consider picking up an order form from the Information Counter. Contact Emily Frantz with any questions.

\*\*Please see calendar on the following page for our upcoming services and special Advent DVD series.

