

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.*



September 2019

Volume 38, Issue 8

Council Update...

At the service on 8/25, a special congregational meeting was announced for Sunday 9/15. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss and vote on a proposal to hire a "Bridge Pastor". The "Bridge Pastor" concept was initially discussed by the Elders to help with visitation of members who are unable to attend. This idea was proposed to Council and discussed at our August meeting. Following discussions the past few weeks, we are hoping to have a proposal to review and vote on at the September Council meeting. If we arrive at an agreement, this will be presented to the congregation on 9/15 for your consideration.



A basic outline of the proposal would be to hire Jim Yoder to serve as our "Bridge Pastor" beginning in October. We would likely handle the agreement similar to the one we previously had with Pastor Luciotti. The term of the agreement would be for 6 months and then be renewable as per the congregation's consent. The total amount of hours per week is still being discussed. If approved, Pastor Yoder would preach one Sunday in October and two in November. The remaining Sunday's would continue to be covered by supply pastors. Pastor Yoder would offer a minimal amount of office hours each week. The bulk of his time the first few months would be focused on visitation of shut-in members and those struggling to attend regularly. In December, Pastor Yoder will likely offer a sermon series and possibly a corresponding bible study to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the song "Joy to the World". The Council and the Elders would meet later this year to discuss how to proceed for January, February and March.

The Elders have instituted a plan for members to "adopt" a shut-in. This program is working well, however they are concerned that these members do not have an opportunity for visits from a Pastor. During our time with Pastor Luciotti, he had difficulty finding hours each week in his schedule for regular visitations. This will be a constant challenge with a part-time Pastor. With this in mind, we are trying to limit the amount of hours spent on preaching and office hours at least for the first few months to catch-up on visitations and hopefully establish a regular rotation.

The concept of a "Bridge Pastor" has been endorsed by both the Search Committee and the Elders. We feel this would serve the congregation well over the coming months as the Search Committee continues their work. I look forward to presenting this proposal on 9/15. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Kory L. Leppo



Community Meal a “Happening” for our members and the wider Myerstown Community

Summer is nearly over and fall is facing us head-on. Will it be cooler than this summer? We'll just have to wait and see! Regardless of the weather outside...it will be comfortable and the smells will be tantalizing as we once again hold our Thursday (2nd Thursday of the month) Community Meals in our Social Hall. Last year we had 30 folks from our church helping in the preparation, serving, and cleanup for this important ministry to our community as we served approximately 120 persons each month. This year, we will be hosting the meal three times in the (October/November/December) and three times in the spring (March/April/May). This is a ministry for everyone! Some in our church family think that is for non members. However, it is an opportunity to 1.) eliminate the need to cook one evening, 2.) meet couples, individuals, and families from our town that may be strangers to us, 3.) meet friends and eat together, 4.) reach out to others with the love of Christ as we eat together. In the Gospels, food and eating together wasn't just relegated to the Last Supper, but occurs many times...the Wedding Feast at the beginning of Jesus' ministry...the 5 Loaves and 2 Fish...where people came to hear the "Sermon on the Mount", while eating in the home of the Pharisee, eating with Mary and Martha, and perhaps most important for our Community Meal, when Jesus, after the resurrection was tending a fire and cooking fish to serve the distraught disciple fishermen after the crucifixion when he asked Peter three times..."Do You Love Me?". Peter answered "Yes" and Jesus said three times..."Feed My Lambs". We are feeding "Lambs" with our Thursday meals....old, middle aged, young....lonely, happy, inquirers, friends, and strangers. Join in the serving our community this way. If you are interested and have not helped in the past, speak with Mark Herr or Carolyn Williams, or Candy Hibshman (or any one who has helped with this in the past. Our tentative menu for the fall and spring is as listed here.

October 10

Vegetable Soup
Hamburger Bar-B-Cue
Potato Chips and Pickles
Dessert/Coffee and Tea

November 14

Spaghetti Pie
Salad/Dressing
Italian Bread
Dessert

December 12

Roast Turkey
Mashed Potato Filling
Rolls
Green Beans
Dessert...Christmas Cookies

March 12

Ham
Noodles with Browned Butter
Broccoli Salad
Dessert/Coffee and Tea

April 16 (3rd Thursday due to Holy Week)

Baked Chicken
Filling
Cranberry Salad
Dessert

May 14

Swiss Steak/Potatoes
Green Beans
Corn Bread
Dessert/Coffee

Meals are held in our church Social Hall from 4 pm to 6 pm, on the second Thursday of the month (except for April due to Holy Week being the Second Thursday).

Music in our Worship.... a series

When in our Music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride, it is as though the whole creation cried, Alleluia! (#7 in Worship & Rejoice)

With those words by the 20th century poet, I begin a series to help us understand and appreciate how important Music is as a part of our weekly worship. This first “installment” is about what a hymn is and why we sing them as a part of our worship each week. In future months I will focus on the responses we sing at worship times such as the offering, after the benediction, etc. Next will come an article on the place and value of the choir and the anthem offerings that they prepare and sing for the gathered congregation. The role of the organ and other instruments will make up the fourth piece in the series.

First, what is a hymn? Simply, it is a poem that is set to music that we sing together. The marriage of the text and tune, not only helps us to remember the hymn, but it is a way in which we learn of our faith (think “Jesus Loves Me” (#437) and our testimony in honor and praise of the One who created us. Just imagine simply speaking the words of “Amazing Grace”. That one hymn, written after the conversion of an 18th slave ship captain, is known and sung by Christian, non-Christians, agnostics and even atheists, especially at end-of-life times. It is a perfect match of words and music.



What makes your favorite hymn “resonate” with you? It’s not just the words and not just the music. It’s both together. And, when we sing hymns together we are telling together, a story. Hymn

singing as a congregation is perhaps the last place where people of different ages, sexes, and interests combine their voices in song. In previous times, communities sang together as did fraternal organizations, school assemblies, clubs and more. Did you know that when a group of people share in singing the same piece of music, their heartbeats beat in synch with each other?

Hymns frequently have a powerful story behind their having been written. “When Peace Like a River” (#428) was written out of the tragic loss of most of the author’s family. A similar story of loss is the origin of the hymn “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” (#500). Today many newer songs were created to sell and market, (and make money) to a larger audience and they have little personal life story. This was also true in the 19th century when hymns became a great way to sell songbooks (e.g. “Shall We Gather at the River” (#522)). Even so these hymns and songs resonate with many of us and they become a part of our lives’ stories.

What is your favorite hymn...why is that so? As nations have “National Anthems” even denominations have a “national faith anthem? Think “A Mighty Fortress” for Lutherans and “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” for Methodists. Even specific churches have a theme hymn. What is our congregation’s theme/favorite hymn? I’m still looking into this. For me, my favorite hymn is “How Can I Keep From Singing” (#424). Take some time (maybe during the prelude!) and look at the wonderful lyrics/poems in our hymnal. How do they speak to you? What is their story...when were they written, who composed the music, etc. If you have access to the internet, look up the history and “story” of specific hymns on the site” www.Hymnary.org. Old and new hymns are new when we sing them each time in worship....Words and music are just ink on a page until we bring them to life by our singing. *Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love....in our prayers and our sharing and our singing!*

Boy Scout Troop 20, Myerstown PA

September 2019

The Boy Scouts of Myerstown Troop 20 are winding down with our summer activities. The troop's monthly campout for August was held at the troop cabin. The boys who attend the August campout participated in our annual Dutch oven cook-off. The Dutch oven cook-off began at 1pm on Saturday and included 22 entries. Cub Scouts from Cub Pack 460 at Friedens Lutheran Church also participated in the cook-off. Winners were Ezra K. (1st), Braden E. (2nd), and Mr. Bewley (3rd). A Court of Honor was held Saturday afternoon, where the boys received their merit badges from summer camp, rank advancements, and other summer camp patches and awards. Colin Y. was the master-of-ceremonies for the event.



The troop also held a 50 Mile Hike from Sunday, July 28th to Friday, August 2nd. Three boys and five adults trekked on the Appalachian Trail from the Delaware Water Gap south to Route 309. A resupply event was conducted in the afternoon of Tuesday, July 30th at the Smith Gap Road parking lot to provide more food, water and clean clothes to all of the participants. We also collected trash and any unwanted gear at this time. In the near future, this group will be completing the required 10 service hours in support of a conservation project in order to complete all the requirements for the coveted Boy Scouts of America 50 Mil-er Award.

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)-507-8804 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.

MYERSTOWN UCC FALL CHOIR SCHEDULE September - October 2019

Rehearsals are on the following Wednesdays at 7:30 pm in the Music Room: 9/11, 9/25, 10/9, 10/23

Anthems will be rehearsed in the Music Room at 9:40 am and sung in 10:00 worship on the following dates: 9/15, 9/29, 10/13, 10/27

Please sign up on absentee chart on the desk in the choir room if you know you are unable to attend one of these services/rehearsals.

Emily Frantz
717-383-1147
emilyfrantz@me.com



Worship Volunteer Schedule

September 2019

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

September 1—Communion (pew)

Open—Cal Beamesderfer
Greeter—Pat and Trudy Yeager
Worship Leader—William Arnold
Usher—Annamarie Behm, Kenny Patrick
Communion Servers—Annamarie Behm, Suzie Wartluft, Marie Hibshman, Wanda Rabold
Sound—Robert Dash
Counting Team—Ed and Candy Hibshman, Terry and Suzie Schott

September 8

Open—Mark Herr
8 am
Greeter—Shirley Krall / Worship Leader—Wanda Rabold
10 am
Greeter—Sarah Zeller
Worship Leader—Margo McQuate
Ushers—Ed and Candy Hibshman, Terry and Suzie Schott, Kenny Patrick
Sound—Paulie McQuate
Counting Team—Marie Hibshman, Kathy Grose, Charles and Carolyn Williams

September 15

Open—Marcia Bicher
8 am
Greeter—Lindy Bennetch / Worship Leader—Sally Kulp
10 am
Greeter—Dawn Hassler
Worship Leaders—Steve and Marianne Fritsch
Ushers—Kory and Ryan Leppo, Robert Dash, Kenny Patrick
Sound—Robert Dash
Counting Team—Lois Werner, Sarah Zeller, Sally Kulp

September 22

Open—William and Betty Arnold
8 am
Greeter—William and Betty Arnold / Worship Leader—William Arnold
10 am
Greeters—Ted and Carol Batdorf
Worship Leaders—Charles and Carolyn Williams
Ushers—Marie Hibshman, Emily, Kara and Abby Frantz, Kenny Patrick
Sound—Robert Dash
Counting Team—Carol and Ted Batdorf, Darryl Brown, Marie Hibshman

September 29

Open—William and Betty Arnold
8 am
Greeter—Sue Harvey / Worship Leader—William Arnold
10 am
Greeters—Terry and Suzie Schott
Worship Leader—Doug Bohanon
Ushers—Ed and Candy Hibshman, Terry and Suzie Schott, Kenny Patrick
Sound—Robert Dash
Counting Team—Terry and Suzie Schott, Ed and Candy Hibshman



Prayer List

Family Member/s

Vicki Kleinfelter

Long-Term Prayer Concerns

Family Members

Nancy Brown

Ellen Goodyear

Ruthann Snoke

Joyce Mitstifer

Friends

David Mock — friend of Ed and Candy Hibshman

Family and Friends of Heidi Shyda

Rosalla Hollenbach — mother of Trudy Yeager

Jane Haines — friend of Ed and Candy Hibshman

Suzanne Fritsch — mother of Stephen Fritsch

Bill Gracely — 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

Joanne Frantz — mother-in-law of Emily Frantz

Heather and Elvin Perez — friends of Marianne Fritsch

*Please call the church office at 717-866-5252
with any and all prayer concerns.*

*Feel free to leave a message if Bev does not answer
and she will follow up to ensure accuracy on the listing of concern.*

