

# 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.

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Lee Ann Kurash, editor

## *Pastor's Thoughts...*

As I begin serving Myerstown United Church of Christ in the role of Interim Pastor, I want to share a few thoughts concerning myself and also upon our work together in preparing the congregation for a permanent pastor. I do look forward to our working closely on the process of determining goals and methods for Myerstown UCC and especially for strengthening the practice of congregational polity.

A section of scripture that I consider vital for a healthy church is from James, chapter one, verses seventeen through twenty seven. Here we read, "Everyone should grow to become quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger; for human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires." In this thought we are given much to ponder for our spiritual growth.

First, be quick to listen. By this is understood being patient and not only allowing one to finish what they want to say, but also to spend time ponder and praying about what has been heard. Secondly, in being slow to speak, we are encouraged to consider carefully any and all words we might want to share with others. We must always take the time to evaluate whether our thoughts are fact or opinion, helpful or not, positive or destructive. And, third, slow to anger. Here we must pause to take into account what is meant by this translation. By anger is understood the characteristic of expressing concerns or grievances in a wrathful or vengeful manner. It does not mean you should never feel anger. Truly, there are many things in life that will be wrong and need to be addressed. But, as the Apostle Paul wrote, "When feeling angry, do not sin." The writer of James and Paul are expressing the same thought. A true mark of righteousness is learning to express our concern in a manner that offer peaceful and life affirming correction to difficulties and concerns.

I share this thought, not that I am by any means an expert in behaving in such a manner; but, as a goal to guide our work together. As I grow older, I am ever more aware of the importance of this thought to listen deeply and carefully, not just being patient until someone else finishes speaking. I also am reminded that thinking long and hard before speaking and acting is a great gift to bring to any relationship.

I hope we can all keep this passage from James clearly in mind as we go forward.

I cannot tell you how long a process it will be in selecting a new pastor. There are too many variables. But, what I intend to do is offer as much information regarding the work church Council and I are doing, and to encourage many opportunities for all members to hear and to be heard. The role of Interim pastor is to assist and to serve a congregation in preparing itself for the task of calling a new pastor. I hope you will all be an active part in this process.

Sincerely,

*Rev. Rick Lucioti*





August 6, 2018

To my church family at Myerstown UCC--how I miss you all!

It's 7 weeks today since I arrived here in Ohio...I am slowly getting settled in.

I want to thank you for all you have done for me--the 'angel' -- the Vineyard, the Fishwrapper -- and the pictures from Candy of my last "conversational" with you. I sit down and look at them often to revisit with you.

You are in my prayers as you area going through this time of transition - God is good!

Thank you and may God continue to bless you all!

Jeanette



### CAT Update from Doug Bohannon...

The CAT deadline was extended to Sunday August 12 and now we are in the waiting process for Holy Cow to complete the results of the survey by our congregation. We had 77 members complete the survey and I want to thank everyone for taking the time to complete the survey. When we receive the results of the survey, a meeting will be held to decipher the results and help us use the information to go forward in the process of hiring a new pastor for our Myerstown United Church of Christ.



## Worship Attendance

9:00 am

8/05/18	75
8/12/18	72
8/19/18	83
8/26/18	90

# September

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am Worship Service



September 2 - 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Pew Communion

Scriptures: James 1:17-27 St. Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Rev. Rick Luciotti - 'Be (coming) Love'

September 9 - 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday School begins at 10:15 am

Scriptures: James 2:1-10, 14-17 St. Mark 7:24-37

Rev. Rick Luciotti - 'Be (coming) Opened'

September 16 - 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday School at 10:15 am

Scriptures: James 3:1-12 St. Mark 8:27-38

Rev. Rick Luciotti - 'Who Are You Jesus'

September 23 - 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday School at 10:15 am

Scriptures: James 3:1-12 St. Mark 9:30-37

Rev. Rick Luciotti - 'Called to Care'

September 30 - 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday School at 10:15 am

Scriptures: James 5:13-20 St. Mark 9:38-50



Fall worship schedule: Beginning Sunday, September 9, we will continue with one worship service at 9:00 am followed by Sunday School at 10:15 am. This schedule will continue for the balance of 2018. We will have a discussion at our annual meeting in November if we want to continue with the schedule in 2019 or go back to two services.

**\*\*If you have taken flowers home, in the cardboard carriers from Royer's Flowers, please return those carriers. We don't have any left for others to take their flowers home. They are just to borrow to get your flowers home without ruining them or your car. Please return them to the church or the office. Thank you!**



**STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**BOY SCOUT  
 TROOP 20  
 CORNER**



The Boy Scouts of Myerstown Troop 20 had an extremely busy month of August. The troop's monthly campout was held at Raystown Lake. The boys who attend the August campout participated in a lake cruise sightseeing tour departing from the Seven Points Marina on the Saturday afternoon. Anderson K. was the boy cook for the weekend. Additionally, the troop participated in the annual Myerstown Night Out activities held at the Myerstown Pool in support of our ongoing fundraising activities. Despite the serve thunderstorms that ended the event prematurely, the troop was successful in keeping everyone safe and made a little money in the process.



**Lebanon County  
 Christian Ministries**



LCCM donation request for September is canned fruit. 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.

Don't forget about all of the services that LCCM has to offer to all residents of Lebanon County. LCCM has gone through some pretty big changes and the Emergency Shelter/ Day Resource Center component is the newest addition to our list of programs. We now provide Food, Clothing, and the Fresh Start program under one roof. The overnight emergency shelter will continue to be housed at our partner churches from 8:30pm until 7:30am. The FRESH Start Resource Center is operating within LCCM during the remaining daytime hours. All of these services can be found at their 250 South 7th Street, Lebanon location. If you have a need, please call LCCM at 717/272-4400.

**Helping Others**

**IN THEIR  
 GREAT TIME  
 OF NEED**



Members of Troop 20 also attended Myerstown Night at the Reading Phillies on August 10th in support of the Sestercentennial (250th) Celebration of Myerstown. The boys supported the event by walking throughout the ballpark, collecting trash and other unwanted items during the game from fans in attendance. This activity is a regular occurrence at the Reading Phillies home games and is usually conducted by other Boy Scout troops in the Reading area. We were proud to a part of this great event! Also, on Wednesday, August 22nd, Daniel S.'s Eagle Scout Ceremony was held at the Troop 20 cabin on Halfway Drive in front of family, friends, and members of Troop 20.

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

**Troop 20 Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser**

Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>  
 from 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
 eat in or take-out  
 \$7.00 per person  
 (children under 5 eat free)

Please call the church office for tickets 717/866-5252.





## An Update from Julius Muthengi

For a number of years, we have had a relationship with Julius Muthengi, donating lamps and funds toward a well for the villages. Recently we received the following communication. Life is very different in his area of Africa and there are constant needs that we don't often think twice about. Please keep Julius in your thoughts and prayers and if you are able, consider a donation to his ministry. You can mark donations on your church envelope or put a separate marked envelope in the plate.

Charles Williams  
Council President

Date: August 20, 2018 at 3:13 AM  
Subject: Car Morning Experience

Dear Prayer Partners,  
Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ from Nairobi. I trust this brief e-mail finds you well. Agnes and I are fine in the Lord. We praise God for the privilege of being his children and servants. We praise him too for your partnership with us in the ministry of advancing God's kingdom in Africa and the world. Thank you particularly for your fervent prayers on our behalf. When I was in the US, I shared with many of you a number of needs for you to pay about. One of those needs is that of replacing our aging car, which requires approximately \$12,000! Let me share with you an experience I had this morning Kenyan time, on my way to work. The car developed problems such that I had to abruptly stop in the middle of the road! I tried to start the car but it could not work out. I called our mechanic to come so that we get the car towed to the garage. The only option I had was to walk quite a distance, carrying my laptop bag as well as other items I was taking to the office! Please pray that God will come to our help in this regard. Pray also for me as I prepare to start teaching our beloved students on Monday August 27th, 2018. Finally, pray for Agnes as she ministers to over 100 women on Friday August 24th. May God bless you.

Your friend in Christ,

Julius



# Happy Birthday



## September

- 1 - Shirley Krall, Judith Stohler
- 4 - Tyler Wentzel
- 5 - Candace Miller
- 7 - Paulie McQuate, Craig Shellhamer
- 8 - Kathy Kale
- 9 - Karen Line
- 11 - Greg Beamesderfer, Tina Derr, Ryan Leppo  
Margo McQuate, Brian Troutman
- 12 - Madeline Noonan, JoAnn Rittle
- 15 - Zaachary Laysr
- 17 - Bonita Beamesderfer, Loretta Weaver,  
Nathan Werner
- 18 - Ruth Bomberger, Joanne Ondrusek
- 19 - Ryan Clay, Larry Rabold, Autumn Schlappich
- 20 - Matthew Laysr
- 21 - Nicole Stabilito
- 22 - Luis and Ryan Rolon
- 23 - Harold Eisenhauer, Miriam Loose,  
Greg Underkoffler
- 24 - Racquel Wiczalkowski
- 25 - Sheila Hartman
- 26 - Ronald Houtz
- 27 - Jacqueline Kulp
- 28 - Derek Behm, Lisa Null
- 30 - Gloria Koller, Blaine Troutman

## Fall begins on Saturday, September 22

The **autumnal equinox**—also called the **September or fall equinox**—is the astronomical start of fall in the Northern Hemisphere and spring in the Southern Hemisphere.

The word *equinox* comes from the Latin *aequus* (equal) and *nox* (night).

During the equinox, the Sun crosses what we call the “celestial equator” (just imagine the line that marks the equator on Earth extending up into the sky) from north to south. Because of this, Earth’s two hemispheres receive the Sun’s rays about equally. The Sun is overhead at noon as seen from the equator, so at this point, the amount of nighttime and daytime (sunlight) are roughly equal to each other.

From the © ‘Old Farmer’s Almanac’

# Take note

Labor Day Monday, September 3 - the office will be closed.

Council will meet Tuesday, September 4 at 6:30 pm in the Library.

Emily Frantz will be on vacation September 10 - 16.

Strong Bones fitness classes will meet the following days: September 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, and 27 at 8:30 AM in the Social Hall. They will not meet Monday, September 3rd. Please contact Shirley Krall for more information at 717-639-4969.

Upper Room Bible study will begin meeting on Thursday, September 13 at 1:00 pm in the Library. If you have any questions, please contact Marcia Bicher at 717/866-6401.

Staff Meeting, Monday, September 17, in the Library, at 12:00 pm.

New Horizon's fellowship will have their annual shore trip from September 24 - 27.

Property Committee meeting TBA. Please watch the bulletin for the date of the next meeting.



## Volunteering for our Youth at HersheyPark

Will you consider being a volunteer at HersheyPark this year to help earn money for our Youth Group? For each hour you work, the Youth Group gets \$6. 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 give to family members.

The areas where we need volunteers 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, Special Events (Treatville during HersheyPark in the Dark), Parking Attendant (collecting parking fees and identifying passes) as guests enter Hershey Entertainment Complex, and Retail (stocking and maintaining cleanliness of shops, selling items to guests, and operating a cash register).



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 were on last year's list, please contact Candy if you'd like to remain on the list.

Volunteers must be at least 18 years old. Friends and family members are welcome to volunteer also.

Thanks!!!

## Prayers and Concerns

Bud and Joyce Mitstifer

Sandra Gillie

The family and friends of Ralph Winters

Lori Wagner - friend of Margo McQuate

Suzanne Fritsch - Stephen Fritsch's mother

Libby Saille - family member of Marianne Fritsch

Kathy Grose

Karen Wagner

Barbara Winters

Merle Hirschman - friend of Sandra Gillie

Larry Eisenhauer

Richard Craig - friend of Sandra Gillie

Pat Underkoffler

Michele Bergman - niece of Margo McQuate

Mildred Hammar

Betty and Bill Gracely - parents of Margo McQuate

Glenn Bicher

Nancy Brown

John and Ruthann Snoko

Lori Hull - friend of Suzie Upton

Donald Snyder



## Monday, September 3 is Labor Day

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

Today Labor Day is no longer about trade unionists marching down the street with banners and their tools of trade. The original holiday was meant to handle a problem of long working hours and no time off. Although the battle over these issues would seem to have been won long ago, this issue is starting to come back with a vengeance, not for manufacturing workers but for highly skilled white-collar workers, many of whom are constantly connected to work.

If you work all the time and never really take a vacation, start a new ritual that honors the original spirit of Labor Day. Give yourself the day off. Don't go in to work. Shut off your phone, computer and other electronic devices connecting you to your daily grind. Then go to a barbecue, like the original participants did over a century ago, and celebrate having at least one day off from work during the year!

## YOUTH NEWS

### ONGOING:

**Gift Cards** - Earn money for your youth account by sending gift card order forms to your family and friends. 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.



**Sunday School** - Begins Sunday, September 9th at 10:15 am. There is a high school class, held in the Parish House Youth Room, on the 2nd floor, there is a Pre-Confirmation class led by Ellen Goodyear and there is a Confirmation class led by Pastor Rick Luciotti, held in the 'Confirmation' classroom.

Lastly, the staff and leaders of Myerstown UCC have been trying some new things. We are very interested in the opinions of the youth and the parents. Please let me know your feedback about the changes in worship such as one service, the time and what your ideas are for the fall. Please let me know what you think about the addition of Second Sunday Sharing, special music and more opportunities for different kinds of worship provided by having communion once per month. Your input is crucial as we move forward trying to make our church the best it can be!

Blessings!  
Emily



**Rehearsals are on the following dates  
at 7:30 pm in the Music Room.**

Wednesday, September 5  
Wednesday, September 19

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

Sunday, September 9  
Sunday, September 23

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

## BE IN THE KNOW...

### Communication and Technology Updates

**Newspaper Announcements:** Please look for our weekly announcements in the Lebanon Daily News in Saturday's Religion Briefs section. If there is something specific that you would like to see added to our announcement (like an upcoming event for your group) please notify the church office.

**WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE!** Please visit us at [www.myerstownuccchurch.org](http://www.myerstownuccchurch.org) for the latest information and updates about our church. While it continues to be a work in progress, we have worked hard to get this important piece of our communication up and running. In the News Tab there is a place to sign-up for specific mailing from the church. Please take a moment to check it out. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact Emily Frantz at emilyfrantz@me.com or 717-383-1147.

### Social media:

Facebook @myerstownunitedchurchofchrist  
Instagram @muccyouth  
Twitter @myerstownucc

**Updated Equipment:** A new projector, AV cart, is now available for use. Our next item to update will be a speaker system to be used indoors and outdoors, as well as with the projector during worship or other events. Please contact Emily Frantz with questions. If you would like to use the equipment, contact the church office to reserve.

**Photographers Needed:** If you enjoy taking pictures and would be willing to take some pictures of our church and church family during worship, fellowship, and special events, please contact Emily Frantz. We are working to keep adding updated pictures onto our website. Thanks!

For any questions about the Communication or Technology updates, please see Emily Frantz.



## Community Meal

A Community Meal group has met to determine the future of the Meal. What has been decided is that the meals will be served on Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13., Mar. 14, Apr. 11 and May 9. Note there will be no meals in Sept., Jan. and Feb.

The meals will be served from 4 PM to 6 PM. Note that this is a change in time. There will be notices sent to local publications regarding the changes and notices will be in the church bulletins and on the MUCC web site. If you know persons who regularly attend the meals please share the information. 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. The Meal has been an ongoing community outreach of our church for about 8 years and we hope it can be continued. Please consider supporting this mission by volunteering your assistance.

