

Welcome to Myerstown United Church of Christ

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

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

website: myerstownuccchurch.org

If you are visiting, we welcome you!

Kory Leppo, Council President 717-269-6033

Marie Hibshman, Elder 717-343-3247

Emily Frantz, Parish Administrator 717-383-1147

Mark Herr, Family and Community Ministry Coordinator 717-572-7734

Lindy Bennetch, Financial Administrator

Elicia Frank, Custodian

Beverly Asroff, Church Secretary

WORSHIP LEADERS & ASSISTANTS

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

Supply Pastor: Rev. John Esbenshade
Organist: Mark Herr
Choir Director: Emily Frantz
Open Church: Mark Herr
8:00 am Greeter: Shirley Krall
Worship Leader: Wanda Rabold
10:00 am Greeter: Sara Zeller
Worship Leader(s): Margo McQuate
Ushers: Marie Hibshman, Bob Dash, Charles and Carolyn Williams, Kenny Patrick
Sound: Paulie McQuate
Counting Team: Marie Hibshman, Kathy Grose, Charles and Carolyn Williams
Flowers: In loving memory of Helen Brightbill's September 10th birthday by son, David and wife, Cindy, and grandchildren, Rebekah and Nicholas

Stewardship Report for Sunday, August 25, 2019

Offerings:	General Fund	\$ 3,504
	Our Church's Wider Mission	\$ 380
	Church Improvement Fund	\$ 1,025
	Total Attendance:	56

Myerstown United Church of Christ

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2019

Worship Time 10:00 am

Service of the Word

Prelude *Partita on Lift High the Cross* Charles Callahan

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship (Leader/All)

We come with praise for the wonderful works of God.

Even before we speak, God knows us completely.

Like clay in the hand of the potter, we are shaped into vessels of divine will.

We come with praise for the wonderful works of God.

(will all who are able, please stand)

*Opening Hymn

Lift High the Cross

#287

(please be seated)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Leader/All)

Holy God, like children long indulged, we are quick to presume your pardon, your sanction of the way we live. We turn away from neighbors in need, sharing fragments that remain only after our cravings have been met. Merciful Maker, you created us for better use; remake us now.

Where we are distorted re-center and reshape us, bring us low and raise us up. Then fire our hearts until we shine with your glory and find our place in your purpose. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

A Word for Children

Scripture Readings

A Reading from the Old Testament Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

This is where the reading of the Old Testament ends.

A reading from the Epistles Philemon 1:1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your

Worship Support is at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 9th and will meet in the Green Classroom near the rear elevator.

The next **Search Committee Meeting** is on Monday, September 9th at 6:30 pm in the library.

The Elders are meeting at 10 am in the library on Monday, September 9th.

The Upper Room Bible Study Group will begin Thursday, September 12th, from 1 to 2 pm. All are welcome. If there are any questions, please call Marcia Bicher at 717-866-6401.

There will be a **special meeting of the congregation** on Sunday, September 15th following the 10 am service for the purpose of hiring a Bridge Pastor.

Prayer List

Family Member/s
Vicki Kleinfelter

Long-Term Prayer Concerns

Family Members

Rosalla Hollenbach — mother of Trudy Yeager
Joanne Frantz — mother-in-law of Emily Frantz
Ralph Woynarowski — son-in-law of Sara Zeller
Nancy Brown
Ellen Goodyear
Ruthann Snoke
Joyce Mitstifer

Friends

Larry Eisenhauer
David Mock — friend of Ed and Candy Hibshman
Family and Friends of Heidi Shyda
James 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
Heather and Elvin Perez — friends of Marianne Fritsch

September 15th – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- Open Church:** Marcia Bicher
- 8:00 am Greeter:** Lindy Bennetch
- Worship Leader:** Sally Kulp
- 10:00 am Greeter:** Dawn Hassler
- Worship Leader(s):** Steve and Marianne Fritsch
- Ushers:** Kory and Ryan Leppo, Robert Dash, Kenny Patrick
- Sound:** Robert Dash
- Counting Team:** Lois Werner, Sara Zeller, Sally Kulp



Announcements

WORSHIP TIMES - Church Council has set worship times for 8:00 am and 10:00 am beginning today. Small group meetings such as adult Bible studies, teen classes and childrens classes, etc. will meet in between the two services at a time conducive to each class. 8:00 am will be a brief Service of the Word including one-two hymns, limited liturgy, scripture, and message. The 10:00 am service will be a traditional liturgical service. Communion will continue to be the first Sunday of each month; pew at 8:00 am and intinction at 10:00 am. If you have any questions please speak to Mark Herr or a members of the Worship Support Team or Church Council. Invite a friend!

FREE RIVER ROCKS - The white river rocks in the flower beds on the rear East side of the church are being removed due to multiple incidents of vandalism throughout the past year. If you are interested in giving them a good home, please contact any member of the Property Committee or the church office for more information.

CHOIR MEMBERS please take note of the rehearsal schedule for September and October: Wednesdays at 7:30 (9/11, 9/25, 10/9, 10/23) in the music room. Anthems will be rehearsed at 9:40 am (music room) and sung on 9/15, 9/29, 10/13, and 10/27 at 10 am service. Please put your name on the absentee chart if you will miss any of these dates.

GIFT CARDS will be distributed today!

The **LCCM item needed for the month of September** is canned Sloppy Joe mix. Thank you for your continued support!

September 18th is Ruth Bomberger’s 90th Birthday! Join the celebration by sending a card to 450 E. Lincoln Avenue, Myerstown, 17067.

consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

*A Reading from the Gospels Luke 14:25-33

Will those who are able please stand.
Hear the good news of Jesus Christ recorded by Luke in the 14th chapter.

Glory be to you, O lord.

Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

The lesson ends here. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(please be seated)

Message *In Christ* Rev. John Esbenshade

Hymn *Now in the Days of Youth* next page

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of our Savior

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 *O God, Thou Good God* Sigfrid Karg-Elert

*Response *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* (verse 1) #581

*Prayer of Thanksgiving (Leader/All)

God of all creation, your claim on us is total; your desire for us, complete. We cannot follow Christ from a comfortable distance. Yet we ask that you use what we place on your altar. Keep sending your Spirit into our hearts, until we yield all that we love and all that we fear to your holy purpose. We pray in the name of Jesus, who gave his life out of love for the world. Amen.

*The Apostles' Creed (on the inside back cover of the hymnal)

*Closing Hymn *Be Thou My Vision* #502
(will all who are able, please stand)

*Benediction

*Response *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* (verse 1) #344

Moments of Meditation (seated)

Postlude *Movement 3 from Sonata 2* August Reinhard

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The hymn, *Now in the Days of Youth*, is in public domain and reprinted from https://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Now_in_the_Days_of_Youth/score/

Now in the Days of Youth

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth. Ecc. 12:1 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. 1 Tim. 4:12

1. Now in the days of youth, When life flows fresh and free,
 2. Teach us wher-e'er we live, To act as in Thy sight,
 3. Teach us to love the true, The beau-ti-ful and pure,
 4. Spir-it of Christ, do Thou Our first bright days in-spire,

Thou Lord of all our hearts and lives, We give our-selves to Thee;
 And do what Thou wouldst have us do With ra-di-ant de-light;
 And let us not for one short hour An e-vil thought en-dure;
 That we may live the life of love And loft-i-est de-sire;

Our fer-vent gift re-ceive, And fit us to ful-fill,
 Not choos-ing what is great, Nor spurn-ing what is small,
 And give us grace to stand De-cid-ed, brave, and strong,
 And be by Thee pre-pared For lar-ger years to come;

Through all our days, in all our ways, Our heav'n-ly Fa-ther's will.
 But tak-ing from Thy hands our tasks To glo-ri-fy them all.
 The lov-ers of all ho-ly things, The foes of all things wrong,
 And for the life in-ef-fa-ble, With-in the Fa-ther's home.

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