

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.*



April 2023

Volume 42, Issue 4

editor: Lee Ann Kurash

from the Interim Pastor.. *“Joy Comes in the Morning”*

“Easter has less to do with one man’s escape from the grave than with the victory of seemingly powerless love over loveless power. ...What is the Easter message? That resurrection has overcome crucifixion, that there is more mercy in God than [there is] sin in us; that Christ’s work in this world is never in vain...” (William Sloan Coffin)

The first Christians lived in a world dominated by power and privilege, rigid religion and inflexible social order; in a world of violence, poverty, slavery, sexism, famine, disease, social alienation, and political chaos. Sound familiar? They struggled to be faithful after Jesus’ died, in the decades and centuries following the first Easter. They also suffered for Christ’s movement. Thank God, that was not the end of the story. It was the beginning instead.

The Easter story invites us to consider what novelist Mary Gordon called “...a love so unlikely, [a love] so improbable, [a love] so extreme, that nothing could stop its flourishing; nothing could cause it to wither and fade.” Nothing! Not empire. Not establishment. Not evil. Not death. Not even religion! Nothing!

The love of the Risen Christ never fails and his hope never dies, even in the face of loveless power. The resurrection is not an academic exercise in theology. It is not a creedal statement to be memorized and recited in church services. It is not a doctrine to defend against cynics and skeptics, doubters and deniers. No! Resurrection is an existential experience; it is the power of God and not just a Sunday School story.

As Jesus hung humiliated on a Roman cross, such love seems powerless against loveless power. But that’s not the case at all. Love wins! Love wins every time, over the long haul. Just look at history and you will see again and again that the proverbial glass is at least half-full. Love always wins! 3,000 years ago, the Psalmist wrote, “Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.” These words are just as powerful now as they were then.

That is why we are bold to gather every Easter to sing through the darkness with the light of joy. That is why we are bold to sing: “Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth her song begin! Let all the world keep triumph, and all that is therein! Let all things seen and unseen their notes in gladness blend, for Christ the Lord hath risen, our joy that hath no end.”

With the Psalmist and all people of faith ever since, we cry out with joy to God:

You have turned our mourning into dancing;
And have taken off our sackcloth and clothed us with joy,
So that our souls may praise you and not be silent.
O Lord, our God, we will give thanks to you forever.

(Psalm 30:11-12)

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!
Grace and Peace, Bruce Greer, Interim Pastor

FROM THE PULPIT IN APRIL, 2023

(Underlined = passage[s] receiving primary emphasis.)

PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 2

“Courage Test”

Rev. Greer

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11;

Matthew 21:1-11

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 9

“Hope Test”

Rev. Greer

Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4;

John 20:1-18.

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER – APRIL 16

Guest preacher—Rev. Joel Risser

Rev. Greer assisting in worship.

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER – APRIL 23

Guest preacher – Rev. Keith Tussing

(Rev. Greer on vacation)

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER – APRIL 30

Guest preacher – Rev. Keith Tussing

(Rev. Greer on vacation)

****PLEASE NOTE: REV. GREER AWAY ON VACATION
APRIL 19—MAY 3****

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY

April 2nd – Worship at 9:00 A.M.

No communion. “Conversational” after worship.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 6th – Worship at 7:00 P.M.

The Lord’s Supper and Service of Tenebrae

EASTER SUNDAY

April 9th – Worship at 9:00 A.M.

Celebrating Easter Communion

Join us!

SAVE THE DATE – SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH

AFTER WORSHIP

**All-Church Town Hall Meeting—“The Future of
Our Church”**

**The Vision Team will present its
recommendations.**

REV. GREER’S SCHEDULE

Bruce is usually in Myerstown Sundays (8A-Noon), Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. He works at home in Baltimore on Mondays (feel free to contact him there). The “Pastor’s Day of Rest” is Friday. The Church Office will be advised of any changes to his schedule. Drop by to say “Hello!”

Bruce’s Contact information:

Email: revbgreer@gmail.com

Cell: 617.599.6305

(calls, texts, 24/7)



Don't forget! Our Indoor Easter Egg Hunt will be held Palm Sunday, April 2nd, 2023, immediately after worship! Please invite children up to age 12. Lots of fun and 'thousands' of eggs expected!



Troop 20's Spaghetti Fundraiser Dinner is Saturday, April 15, 2023, from 4:00 to 6:30 pm. This is take-out only, containers provided. Please come out and support our scouts. Tickets are \$9.00 and may be purchased in the church office. Please call the church office at 717/866-5252 for more information.

“VISION TEAM” UPDATE

April 2023 Vineyard

The “Vision Team” continues to meet twice a month and will continue to do so in preparation for our next open forum with the congregation: a ***Town Hall Meeting on Sunday June 4th after worship.*** Since January they have read a variety of materials and interviewed individuals with pertinent expertise or experience, both at and in between their meetings.

The Team’s goal is to identify the most viable options for our church’s future: from closing and disbanding, to continuing “as is,” to exploring a time-limited creative opportunity, and everything in between, all pros and cons considered. Informal, exploratory conversations with other nearby churches have begun. All agree that we can’t continue “as is” for much longer.

Until the Team has more definitive information, they can’t answer specific questions. Be patient! It’s simply a matter of not having enough information to speak factually. Stay tuned for more reports. Meanwhile, please pray for the Team: Lindy Bennetch, Travis Bicher, Doug Bohannon, Bill Brown, Lee Ann Kurash, and Charlee Redick, led by Interim Pastor, Bruce Greer.



Six Hours One Friday by Max Lucado

An excerpt from the book:

“What do these six hours signify? They claim to be the door in time through which eternity entered man’s darkest caverns.

They mark the moments that the Navigator descended into the deepest waters to leave anchor points for his followers.

For the life blackened with failure, that Friday means forgiveness.

For the heart scarred with futility, that Friday means purpose.

And for the soul looking into the tunnel of death, that Friday means deliverance.”



To Myerstown United Church of Christ:

On behalf of the Borough Council of Myerstown, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for your charitable contribution of \$1,000 to the Borough. This donation will be put to work immediately funding essential services, infrastructure improvements, recreation area maintenance, and programs to improve the quality of life for Myerstown residents, including those who are elderly and with disability.

Thank you, again, for your kind donation and for supporting our beautiful community of Myerstown!

Sincerely,

Kristie B. Grier
Admin Assistant
Myerstown Borough



Myerstown Troop 20 meets Wednesday evenings from 6:30—8:00 pm at their cabin, beginning the first Wednesday in April. Please contact Scott Hentz, Scoutmaster, at 717/507-8804 for more information.

Lebanon County Christian Ministries

April Wish List

We are in need of the following personal care items

- ~ size 5, 6 and 7 diapers
- ~ mouthwash
- ~ men's & women's deodorant
- ~ body bar soap
- ~ disposable razors
- ~ feminine hygiene products
- ~ adult diapers, size xl and xxl
- ~ toilet paper
- ~ face bar soap

Current Wish List

- ~ canned pineapple in fruit juice
- ~ 24 oz. jars/cans tomato sauce
- ~ low sodium soup
- ~ instant brown rice and whole grain blends
- ~ salad dressing
- ~ Bisquick (heart smart preferred)
- ~ ketchup

Lebanon County Christian Ministries continues to operate as a help agency for Lebanon County.

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.

LCCM 2023 EVENT SPONSORSHIP GUIDE

Golf Tournament - May 12, 2023

Lebanon Valley Golf Course
\$75 per golfer (\$300 per foursome)
Online registration at lccm.us
Proceeds benefit all programs at LCCM

Hurdles to Housing—August –September

This 30-day fundraiser is a peer-to-peer event happening over the course of a 30-day period. Individuals and teams can complete challenges on their own time to raise funds.

To raise awareness of homelessness and funds for FRESH Start Emergency Shelter.

For information on any of these events, please contact Dan Trimble 717/272-4400 x211.

LENTEN OUTREACH

One Great hour of Sharing

As we come to the end of our Lenten journey and look toward Easter, let us remember the Lenten outreach that we have focused on during this time: One Great Hour of Sharing. As Christians we are called by God to help those in need and needs may encompass many situations. As we look around our world today there are so many needs that we are never able to meet. However, we do have an opportunity now to make at least a small difference in many crisis situations facing our world today. Remember that in the March Vineyard we were reminded that OGHS was actually formed 50 years ago. It is an ecumenical offering with nine denominations participating. Let us be as generous as we can as we join with others in this special monetary way to make a difference in lives. Together we can do this! God be with each of us as we prayerfully consider our part.

C. Williams



Every gift makes a difference
in the life of someone
who deserves God's love and support.



Important!

Myerstown Women's Club meeting on Monday, April 3rd at 7:00 pm in the social hall.

Council Meeting Tuesday, April 11th in the Library at 6:30 pm.

Troop 20 Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser Saturday, April 15th from 4:00 to 6:30 pm.



April

6—Helen Lausch

Arlene Linn

7—Marie Hibshman

9—David Winters

10—Eleanor Schnoke

11—Dustin Noll

12—Donald Uhrich

17—Michael Ebersole

19—Angela Bicher

David Rittle

Leah Rosen

25— Susan Herr

27—Elwood Schnoke



EASTER PRAYER

April 2023

O Risen Christ,

Before sending her as the first witness to Your resurrection glory, You revealed to the grieving Mary The breadth, the length, the height, and the depth Of your steadfast love

With the simple message: "Do not be afraid."

Resurrect in all of us a bold love that overcomes fear And sends us to recount what You have done through

Words of comfort, catalyzing witness,

And love of neighbor, to the glory of Your holy name.

Amen.



WE ARE WHERE YOU ARE!

***PLEASE
LOOK FOR
US!***



<https://www.facebook.com/myerstownunitedchurchofchrist>

<https://twitter.com/myerstownucc>



<https://www.instagram.com/myerstownucc/>

[@myerstownucc2072](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRDGqMFCollic92-uGCEsUQ)

