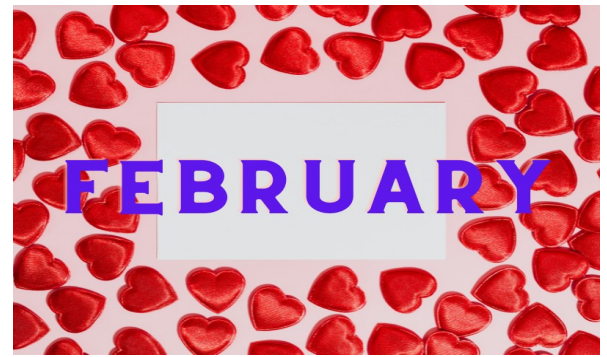


# The Vineyard

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.



February 2023

Volume 42, Issue 2

editor: Lee Ann Kurash

## *from the Pastor..* What's My "Why?"

### From the Pastor:

As we enter 2023, Emily Frantz has an important question to ask all of us: "What is my 'Why?'" If someone asked you "Why do you attend Myerstown United Church of Christ?", what would you say? Could you answer that question in a minute? How about 25 words or less? Your answer could make a difference for someone. What is your answer? Please take a few moments to reflect on Emily's important question to all of us. (BG)

+ + +

*From Emily: **I am excited to ask each of you: "Why do you attend Myerstown UCC?"***

Maybe you have thought about it. Perhaps your answer changes over time. Whatever the case, we are asking each of you to answer the question. Why is this question so important? In her LinkedIn article entitled "The Importance of Knowing Your 'Why?'" Lorena Zuleta shares five benefits of having purpose in your life.

1. **It helps you stay focused.** When you know your life's purpose, it becomes easier to focus on where you are going, what matters the most in your life, and what decisions are aligned with your goal.
2. **It makes you committed and passionate about your goals.** Having a purpose will help you find your true passion, your dream job, and commit to it. This passion will drive your life; this commitment will put you closer to reaching your potential.
3. **It gives clarity to your life.** When you have clarity, nobody can stop you. Clarity will help you shape your life accordingly with what you want to achieve, with whom you want to become. You go straight to the point because you know what your purpose is.
4. **It makes your days more fun.** When you know your purpose in life, you enjoy every second of it. You are motivated to create new ways to achieve your goals, and failure is just another way to get closer to your goals.

**It helps you develop trust.** You will see all your actions with a clear intention that will allow you to get results. You will know that these results are due to your hard work, your focus, due to the right decisions you made, and not because of luck or fortune. You will measure how much you had improved and at what point you are now; this begins to create trust in your skills and yourself.

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/important-know-your-why-lorena-zuleta>

Though her article focuses on life's purpose, these points also apply to our church life. As we enter 2023, think about your "why." Our "What's My Why" project starts soon! Through videos, audio recordings, and photos in the next month or two, we would like to hear your answers. People curious about our church need to know your "Why"!

+ Emily Frantz, Digital Media Manager, Myerstown UCC ([muccparishadmin@comcast.net](mailto:muccparishadmin@comcast.net)).

### From the Pastor:

Dear siblings in Christ, what is your answer? Not to Emily. Not to me! What is your answer to the inquiring outsider checking our website. Why do you attend here? Why do you support this church's ministry? Inquiring minds want to know! We have a story to share. By all means, share it, for Christ's sake! + Blessings, Bruce.

*Please read 'Postscript from the Pastor' on the next page*

## A POSTSCRIPT FROM THE PASTOR

**Boy Scout Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**, will be observed during our worship service. Members of our church-sponsored Troop and their adult advisors will be with us, serving as greeters and lectors.

We will enjoy a “conversational” after worship to welcome them. *Join us for this special day!*

**Ash Wednesday – February 22:** Rev. Greer will hold *two brief services* at the church: **Noon and 7:00 PM**. He is also willing to take ashes to shut-ins, by appointment. Stay tuned! *Details to be announced.*

The “**Vision Team**” has begun its work of reviewing our options for the future. Meetings are being scheduled to explore various options across the board. Details will be shared generically in *The Vineyard*, and more specifically following worship (off-line). A Town Hall meeting to discuss various options in greater detail is tentatively scheduled for May 21. Please pray for our Team.

**Rumors! Rumors!** It has come to my attention from a few of you that rumors may be circulating around the area that our church is closing. The answer is simple: “No! But we will soon consider our viable options for the future.” Please ask any inquirers to pray for us!

## FROM THE PULPIT IN FEBRUARY

Rev. Greer will be preaching

(Underlined = passage receiving primary emphasis.)

**5th SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY – FEBRUARY 5**

**\*\*SCOUT SUNDAY\*\***

“Salt and Light”

Isaiah 58:1-12 and Matthew 5:13-20

**6th SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY – FEBRUARY 12**

“Then and Now”

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; Matthew 5:21-37

**TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 19**

“Going Up and Coming Down”

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 99;

2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

**1st SUNDAY IN LENT – FEBRUARY 26**

“Into the Wilderness”

Exodus 15:19—17:7, 32:1-35; Matthew 4:1-11

## 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](mailto:revbgreer@gmail.com)

Cell: 617.599.6305

(calls, texts, 24/7)



## STORM CANCELLATIONS

Worship cancellations due to winter weather will be announced via email blasts, Facebook page posts, and on our church office voice mail. Please call Rev. Greer (617.599.6305) or Marie Hibshman (717.343.3247) if you have further questions or concerns.



Dear Myerstown UCC,  
Happy New Year and thank you for your recent donation to Lebanon County Christian Ministries. Generous gifts from donors like you provide the financial support needed to continue our mission ‘to share the love of Jesus by providing emergency food, clothing, shelter and personal sustainability.’  
Your support plays a key role in the success of our programs. There is no way to fully express our gratitude for your loyalty  
We are so appreciative of your very generous support of \$3,185 to help ensure our community doesn’t go without shelter and food. We look forward to continuing partnership with you.

Sincerely,  
Bryan D. Smith, Executive Director

# JULIUS MUTHENGI

## MISSION MOMENTS

### Subject: Prayer and Ministry Update

Dear Ministry Partners,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I trust all is well with you by the grace of God. Agnes and I are thankful to God for his faithfulness and goodness towards us and our family. As we shared with you earlier, God's ministry at the university is progressing well. We had a colorful graduation on Saturday, November 19th, 2022! We praise God for those who graduated, and are now engaged in the service of our God. We also thank God for the village ministry, especially among the women and needy families. Agnes has made great progress in ministering to needy ladies, both by sharing God's word with them, as well as foodstuffs. We are also involved in helping families to pay school fees for their children. Indeed, God is good and we thank him.

We are sending you some photos of our recent graduation ceremony, as well as the women's meeting held on Friday, November 25th, 2022. Please continue praying for the Lord's ministry as we serve him here in our own country. We are also requesting prayers regarding the well. Since Monday this week, the pump has not been able to pump water. Lord willing, the technicians will be lifting the pump tomorrow, in order to ascertain the cause of the problem. We hope the issue will be sorted out, although we do not know what the cost will be. We are trusting God to provide funds for us to set up an account for the maintenance of the well, going forward. Please pray for this urgent need. . . We wish you a Merry Christmas and a blessed new year 2023!

Your friends in Christ,  
Julius and Agnes



### Subject: Re: BOREHOLE SERVICE WORKS

The repair and installation of the needed items was \$3,700. We borrowed the funds in order to save the situation. Currently, the pump is working but there are issues with the solar controller, which is now being checked. For now, the pump is using electricity alone but the situation has been unstable. The technician is attending on this matter.

Our family is generally okay. We have sent various e-mails to all our friends on the situation of our daughter Joey who has been hospitalized for 12 days. We do not know when she will be discharged. Also, last week we informed you and others of sudden death of the father- in-law of our daughter Eunice last week.

Thanks.

In Christ, Julius

### Julius Muthengi, Ph.D.

Professor of Biblical & Theological Studies/Intercultural Studies  
International Leadership University, Kenya

"Africa's greatest need is not economic or material in nature. Rather, it is that of transformed lives. . . men and women who are daily being renewed by the power of the Gospel and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. . . who treasure the Word of God, and are being captivated by its enduring power. This is a fundamental truth of Christianity whose value is as relevant today as it was centuries ago!"

-Prof. Julius Muthengi-



# Lebanon County Christian Ministries

## February Wish List

We are in need of winter clothing for all.

We are in dire need of the following personal care items

- ~ size newborn 6 and 7 diapers
- ~ shampoo
- ~ deodorant
- ~ body wash
- ~ tissues
- ~ shaving cream
- ~ feminine hygiene products
- ~ laundry detergent
- ~ paper towels
- ~ conditioner
- ~ toilet paper
- ~ bar soap
- ~ disposable razors

### Current Wish List

- ~ oatmeal variety pack
- ~ Chunky/Progresso soups (ready made—no Water added)
- ~ chicken broth
- ~ whole grain products
- ~ pancake mix
- ~ cooking oils
- ~ Jello/pudding
- ~ mayonnaise
- ~ mustard
- ~ 24 oz. tomato sauce
- ~ cold cereal
- ~ baked beans
- ~ bagged pasta
- ~ canned potatoes
- ~ gravy
- ~ ketchup
- ~ instant brown rice

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.



Myerstown Troop 20 meets Wednesday evenings from 6:30—8:00 pm in the social hall. Please contact Scott Hentz 717/507-8804 for more information.

## FEBRUARY OUTREACH

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) is a line item on our MUCC budget and an important mission of the local churches. We will be talking about this mission over the next several weeks so that we understand where the donations go and how they are used.

In the national setting of the UCC there are four Covenanted Ministry partners who are supported by gifts to OCWM. The first, The Office of General Ministries, houses the President and General Minister who serves in many ways to establish what it means to be a faithful, vital and healthy church. Conversations take place in many settings such as conference boards, local churches, seminaries, and Mission Planning Council. Also this office manages the every two year planning for General Synod where delegates and visitors from UCC churches all over the country and churches outside the U.S. gather to worship together, and discuss and vote on proposed resolutions presented before the body of the church. With the growth of social media our presence is growing and each year there are increased numbers of visitors to the UCC website. Do you know that the UCC emails a Daily Devotional written by various pastors throughout the country. The devotions are interesting and thought provoking. Try them. Stay tuned for more OCWM information. C. Williams



### Important!

Myerstown Women's Club meeting on Monday, February 6th at 7:00 pm in the social hall.

Office hours the week of February 6th are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Property meeting Wednesday, February 8th

Council Meeting Tuesday, February 14th in the Library at 6:30 pm



## February

- 2—Elaine Cummings, Gloria Ebling,  
Gary Underkoffler
- 3—Franklin Seifert
- 4—Arlene Fischer
- 5—Brittany Behm, Benjamin Garman
- 6—Adaline Wolfe
- 7—Shirley Davis
- 9—David Blystone, Katie Gehman
- 16—Shirley Houtz
- 18—Kathy Grose, Christine Wolfe
- 19—Tina Gares, Nicholas Goodyear,  
Candy Hibshman
- 23—Jill Kinsey
- 24— Kaley Frantz, Sara Zeller
- 26—Harold Noll
- 29—Gabriella Bicher, Wanda Rabold



### **From Rev. Greer -- A Prayer for Lent**

O God, there is no gift worthy of Christ,  
Save for life and love itself.  
Strip us of every pretension as we ponder the cross  
And call us to sacrifice for the greater good,  
As Jesus did.  
This we pray in his courageous  
And compassionate name.  
Amen.

(Written by Bruce Greer)



### ***WE ARE WHERE YOU ARE!***

***PLEASE  
LOOK FOR  
US!***



[www.facebook.com/  
myerstownunitedchurchofchrist](https://www.facebook.com/myerstownunitedchurchofchrist)

<https://>



<https://twitter.com/myerstownucc>



[https://www.instagram.com/  
myerstownucc/](https://www.instagram.com/myerstownucc/)

[https://www.youtube.com/  
channel/UCRDGqMFCollc92  
-uGCEsUQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRDGqMFCollc92-uGCEsUQ)



@myerstownucc2072