



A publication of
Myerstown
United Church of Christ
304 West Main Avenue
Myerstown, Pennsylvania 17067

Paul's Epistle

March arrives, and with it the yearly promise of renewal. Spring...the promise that green will come again, flowers will bloom, days will get longer, and warmer and life will return all around us.

It is no wonder that Easter is associated with the springtime changes that burst into our consciousness at this time of the year. It is especially meaningful as we anticipate more vaccinations leading us toward that time when this global pandemic is vanquished, and we create a new normal that includes embracing, sharing closeness with family and friends, caring for the lonely, the financial struggling. We hope and dream for reopening and renewal of businesses, especially small businesses which are the backbone of our community.

It is so easy to become complacent...taking for granted the wonder of life, the gift of family and

friendship, the wonders of the world and its fruitfulness...all gifts of the God who loves us. We who have lived through 2020 will hopefully live in gratitude and appreciation of the blessings which surround us every single day!

But even as we recover and emerge from this strange and horribly imprisoning time, we will be faced by the need to offer times of mourning, of grieving, of healing and of celebrating our release. It will also be a time of great need: emotional, spiritual, physical and financial. The need to protect ourselves, each other and especially the most vulnerable in our communities have led to job losses, business losses, and most painfully losses of loved ones.

The community which surrounds us will be in greater need, and under greater stress than any other period in most of our lifetimes. We will be needed because the Church is a source on healing, strengthening and empowering, because we are servants of the most high God. May the Holy Spirit strengthen and empower us to be daring and creative servants.

In Service to the King,

Pastor Paul

Pastoral Emergency

In the event of an **emergency requiring pastoral support**, please contact Pastor Paul directly by phone [610.217.9717] or email [muccpastor@comcast.net].

LET LOVE FLOW - OGHS 2021

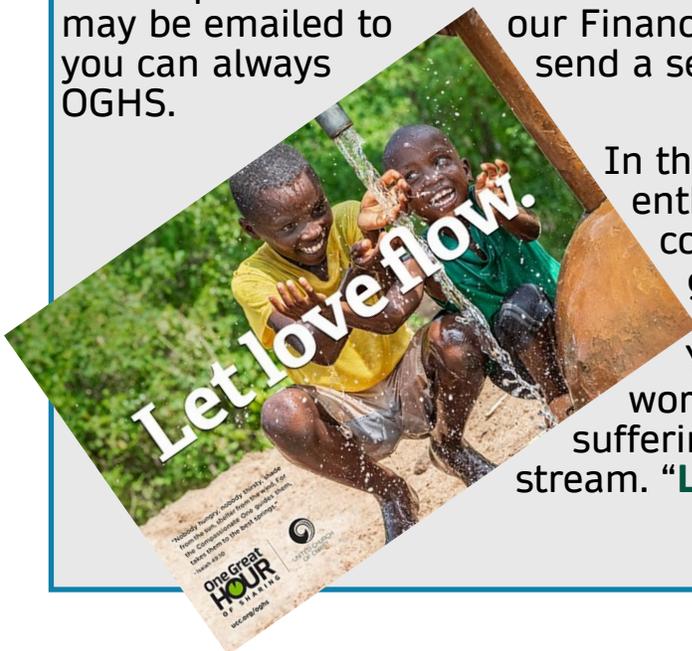
One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the program through which the United Church of Christ that supports relief in times of disaster and provides aid to struggling communities world wide. One thing that the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us is that national boundaries don't stop the spread of disease. Our well-being is bound, inextricably, to that of neighbors close to home and those half-way around the world. The COVID-19 pandemic is added to the list of disasters such as deadly wildfires, hurricanes, earthquakes, and wars that create critical needs for long term assistance. In the midst of despairing moments, the UCC is able to offer hope.



The theme for the 2021 OGHS offering, **Let Love Flow**, is based on verses from Isaiah 40. ***Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty, shade from the sun, shelter from the wind, For the Compassionate One guides them, takes them to the best springs.*** This appropriately highlights how often providing a sustainable source of clean water is a high priority project supported by OGHS funds. When water comes to a village everything changes. Having clean water nearby means that women in Nicaragua don't have to spend their whole day walking to the source, so they might have other opportunities for vocational growth. Children in Kenya no longer spend their days carrying heavy buckets, so they can go to school instead. Because of past generosity through OGHS many communities were better prepared to meet the challenges presented by COVID-19. Because of projects supported by OGHS more people were equipped with improved sanitation and access to safe water for hand washing. When you share your gifts to OGHS, you "Let Love Flow". Your generosity ensures that, even in the midst of uncertainty, the transforming power of love reaches those who need it most.

We will be gathering contributions to OGHS throughout Lent. Simply add your donation to your offering envelope, write OGHS behind "Special", and note the amount on the line. If you contribute through Givelify, there is now a OGHS "envelope" which will be available until Easter. Questions about electronic giving may be emailed to our Finance Manager at muccfinance@comcast.net. Or you can always send a separate check to the office clearly marked for OGHS.

In the past the Myerstown UCC family has enthusiastically supported OGHS and when you continue to give generously, you continue to give life—in the form of water and so much more—to people in need around the world. You continue to build on the dream of a world in which there is no thirst, no hunger, no suffering... just the abundance of life in a living stream. **"Let Love Flow."**



Lent

Lent graphic from Shutterstock.com

Mar. 7: Third Sunday in Lent
In Person Worship & Live stream 9:00 am
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Sermon: A Path for a Fool
Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17
I Corinthians 1:18-25

Over against the rationality of the Ten Commandments is Paul's expressions of the "foolishness" of the Cross. Our Lenten journey helps us to hear that the foolishness of God is greater than our greatest wisdom.

14: Fourth Sunday in Lent
In Person Worship & Live stream 9:00 am
Sermon: Lifted Up
Scripture: Numbers 21:4-9
John 3:14-21
Moses lifted an image as directed by God to bring healing and protection to the Israelites. We can look to the Cross of Christ, a symbol of Jesus' loving sacrifice for us, to find healing and protection as well as a way of life.

Mar. 21: Fifth Sunday in Lent
In Person Worship & Live stream 9:00 am
Sermon: A New Way of Life
Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34
John 12:20-33
Living our lives in loving relationship with God is to offer up to the Lord our time, energy, hopes and dreams, and to trust God to trust God to make a path for us that makes all our communities places of peace and reconciliation. In imitation of Christ we find our true vocation and joy.

Mar. 28: Palm Sunday
In Person Worship & Live stream 9:00 am
Sermon: Beachwalk Parade
Scripture: Mark 11:1-11
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
It's sometimes difficult to follow through and remain faithful to the truth we know deep in our hearts. There are voices all around us, seemingly quite reasonable, but the true voice is always speaking in that still small voice of calm and directs us in paths that deepest and most meaningful truths.

March Worship

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR
MAR
2021
THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

1	Mt 9:1-17	Lev 3-4	Pro 20
2	Mt 9:18-38	Lev 5-6	Pro 21
3	Mt 10:1-25	Lev 7-8	Pro 22
4	Mt 10:26-42	Lev 9-10	Pro 23
5	Mt 11:1-19	Lev 11-12	Pro 24
6	Mt 11:20-30	Lev 13	Pro 25
7	Mt 12:1-21	Lev 14	Pro 26
8	Mt 12:22-50	Lev 15-16	Pro 27
9	Mt 13:1-23	Lev 17-18	Pro 28
10	Mt 13:24-58	Lev 19	Pro 29
11	Mt 14:1-21	Lev 20-21	Pro 30
12	Mt 14:22-36	Lev 22-23	Pro 31
13	Mt 15:1-20	Lev 24-25	Ecc 1:1-11
14	Mt 15:21-39	Lev 26-27	Ecc 1:12-2:26
15	Mt 16	Num 1-2	Ecc 3:1-15
16	Mt 17	Num 3-4	Ecc 3:16-4:16
17	Mt 18:1-20	Num 5-6	Ecc 5
18	Mt 18:21-35	Num 7-8	Ecc 6
19	Mt 19:1-15	Num 9-10	Ecc 7
20	Mt 19:16-30	Num 11-12	Ecc 8
21	Mt 20:1-16	Num 13-14	Ecc 9:1-12
22	Mt 20:17-34	Num 15-16	Ecc 9:13-10:20
23	Mt 21:1-27	Num 17-18	Ecc 11:1-8
24	Mt 21:28-46	Num 19-20	Ecc 11:9-12:14
25	Mt 22:1-22	Num 21	Song 1:1-2:7
26	Mt 22:23-46	Num 22:1-40	Song 2:8-3:5
27	Mt 23:1-12	Num 22:41-23:26	Song 3:6-5:1
28	Mt 23:13-39	Num 23:27-24:25	Song 5:2-6:3
29	Mt 24:1-31	Num 25-27	Song 6:4-8:4
30	Mt 24:32-51	Num 28-29	Song 8:5-14
31	Mt 25:1-30	Num 30-31	Job 1

Abbreviations: Mt [Matthew], Lev [Leviticus], Num [Numbers], Pro [Proverbs], Ecc [Ecclesiastes], Song [Song of Solomon]



Shamrock border on ClipArtSuggest.com

March devotional books are here. They are on the window sill in the office entrance and at the top of the stairs outside the nave.



Azaleas, Lilies & Mums

will adorn the chancel and nave on Easter morning. Order forms will be located with the Dupper Room and Daily Bread devotionals beginning Sunday, 28 February 2021. It is not mandatory to use an order form.

Checks should be payable to Myerstown UCC with Easter

Azaleas [pink, red, white]	8.00 @
Lilies [6" pot]	\$ 6.75 @
Mums [lavender, yellow, white]	\$7.00 @

Flowers on the memo line.

Flower photos from unsplash.com



Please note: Flower orders must be **in the church office** no later than 10 am on Monday, 15 March 2021. There is **no grace period**. For questions, please call Marcia Bicher [717.866.46.01].

Easter Flowers

Kirchenwald Nawakwa

From Anne Rankin, PCC Outdoor Ministry Liaison.
**Calling All College-Aged
Young Adults!**

There may be snow on the ground and you may be knee-deep in school work, but it is not too early to start planning for how you will spend the warmer summer months!

No matter where you are in your thoughts about what to do this summer, applications are now being accepted for summer staff positions at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa, facilitated by the Lutheran Camping Corporation.
More information can be found at www.lutherancamping.org/employment
Or contact the church office by email to receive a forward of the original message sent by Penn Central Conference.

Church Plants



The church plants are in need of a caretaker. The current person says that there are no **green** thumbs in her body and that other **green** thumbs disappear when she is nearby!

We need someone who is willing to explore her or his **green** thumb on our plants. It is preferred for the person to come to the church so that the plants can continue to adorn our worship space.
Contact the church office if you are interested in seeing exactly how **green** your thumb is.

PS: Plants don't complain!

Think Summer!
Think Fun!
Think Summer Camp Fun!

March Birthdays

12 Ronald Louser
Eric Shaffer

14 Linden Bennetch
Karen Leppo

16 Betty Rittle

17 Pat Krum

18 Diana
Eisenhauer

3 Jennifer Kinsey
Carolyn Williams

4 Calvin Beamesderfer
Sally Ann Shaak

10 Derek Noll

20 Eva Zimmerman

21 Marcia Bicher
Charles Williams

22 Carol Behney

25 Katie Fields

29 Jean
Schlappich

Shamrock graphic
from toppng.com



Pot of Gold photo
by Sharon McCutcheon
on unsplash.com

Gift Cards

How about a
pot of gold
for your favorite

Irish-person?



Gift card orders can be given to the office any time during the month. They are usually processed during the week after the first Sunday.

Also, it's time to update the gift card order list. Not all stores / restaurants are available. Contact the church office with the name of a retail store to request it be added to our list.