

# The Vineyard

A publication of

**Myerstown United Church of Christ**

304 W Main Ave, Myerstown, Pennsylvania 17067

717.866.5252

myerstownucc@comcast.net



## *Paul's Epistle*

Summer is coming, not only the season, but the sunshine and warmth of returning to some semblance of normalcy in the wake of the progress our nation has made against the Global Pandemic which has consumed our thoughts and activities for more than a year. We are certainly not done with this calamity, with significant challenges from the huge outbreak in India, and ongoing concerns for the Third World with vaccinations as well as working our way toward herd immunity in our own nation. Still much work for many, including finding our path back to employment and more fully opening business, agriculture, and manufacturing.

Here in the Church, we have the same concerns that have existed for years. How can we open ourselves to the revival of God's presence through the Worship, Faith Formation, mission and community-building that we desire for nourishing our souls and fulfilling the call God continues to place before us?

We will focus our Worship on seeing the eternal, the sacred in our daily walk. Finding God in the most

unexpected places and times. We will do some theological re-envisioning of who we are and the message and ministries God calls us to take part in. We will celebrate Father's Day Sunday in a new and unique way, and we will close out the month with a Healing Service to prepare us for the healing work we will be involved with over the Summer and into the Fall.

I will be sharing ways we can begin to bring a new sense of mission and purpose to our congregation. I hope and pray that this will be the beginning of a meaningful conversation about how God can more fully work through our Worship, Community Building, mission and outreach and through the variety of Faith Formation opportunities we offer. So, please, if you have questions, ideas, concerns, hopes or dreams about who we are and who God is calling us to be, I would love to hear from you.

I also have dreams about meeting folks face to face over the summer. As you can imagine, this will be quite a

## **Pastoral Emergencies**

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

challenge. I am serving as your Designated Pastor at a half-time capacity. Once I plan Worship and Bible Study, prepare Sermon, Children's Sermon, Bible Study, do a few administrative tasks and attend a meeting or two, my time is used up. We will need to be very creative to find ways to meet the needs of our members who are in situations that don't enable them to attend Worship and other gatherings, so they are cared for and maintain their connection to our community. I will need the help of our members with caring hearts to help organize Cottage meetings as well

### **From UCC Homes**

Please convey our thanks as to the members of your congregation for your contribution to our Benevolent Fund. Without congregations like yours, so many people would not be able to receive the assistance they need. Helping people, reaching out a helping hand to someone who needs our concerns is what UCC Homes is all about.

### **From Roslyn Webber**

We moved our dad, Bernard Webber, from Linden Village. When cleaning out his room, we couldn't help but notice all the cards and well wishes from the care team at Myerstown UCC. Thank you so much for keeping him in your prayers.

helping to schedule Pastoral visits and Communion to those who have need of that aspect of our community faith and practice.

If we are to revive Myerstown UCC, it will require all our members to use the gifts and talents they possess and to joyously use them to serve our members and community. This past year has made it difficult for me to spend time getting to know our members, hearing your stories and exploring what gifts and talents we have to serve God and fulfill the mission God has for us in this community and around the world. What I have learned in the limited encounters I have had is that there are incredible skills that God had placed within our membership, showing me that God must have important work for us to do, and joyous experiences in store for us.

God's mission of bringing healing, wholeness and peace to our world is our mission. We don't have to change the whole world, but we can and will do our part in Myerstown and throughout Lebanon County if we answer the divine Call!

In Grace and Peace,

*Pastor  
Paul*

# Thank You



# Outreach

## Online Yard Sale??

When Stella Heim moved out of her house, she donated several items to the church. These items were all hand-made by her husband George and she wanted them to be used to support the church.

How can we market these items?  
Perhaps an on-line yard sale? Or a silent auction? If you would be willing to help with this project, contact the office.

## Renew - Strengthen the Church

The United Church of Christ uses several special offerings throughout the year to fund important projects beyond our local congregation. The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. As God calls our congregation to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in youth and young adults.

In the last year, investments in technology allowed many United Church of Christ congregations to enhance their online worship services. Other funds enabled

new and renewing churches to grow their communities, one in a gentrifying neighborhood, others on a college campus and a town square. COVID-19 grants empowered 50 churches to better serve their neighbors and their congregants gathering virtually during the pandemic. All of these ministries were supported through gifts to Strengthen the Church.

Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.

We will be accepting donations to Strengthen the Church during the Month of June. You can contribute to this ministry by designating STC on the "special" line on your offering envelope or by attaching a note to a mailed donation. Look for the STC option on Givelify, as well.. your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.



**June 6: Communion Sunday**  
In Person & Live Stream 9 am  
**Sacrament of Holy Communion**  
Sermon: With Jesus' Eyes  
Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1  
Mark 3:20-35

**June 13: Re-Envisioning Sunday**  
In Person & Live Stream 9 am  
Sermon: From Tiny Seeds  
Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17  
Mark 4:26-34

# June Worship

**June 20: Father's Day Sunday**  
In Person & Live Stream 9 am  
Sermon: Grace for Fathers  
Scripture: Mark 4:35-41

**June 27: Healing Sunday**  
In Person & Live Stream 9 am  
Sermon: Drive Bones Live!  
Scripture: Mark 5:21-43



## New American Flag



*Thank you to Carol & Bill Behney for replacing the American flag displayed in front of the church property. The flag is given in memory of Carol's father, Carl Rabold.*

Photo by Karolina Grabowska on Pexels.



Cedar Haven #3  
590 S 5th Ave  
Lebanon 17042

Photo by Athena on Pexels.



- Sarah Wagner 1
- Phyllis Keith 4
- Noah Blystone 8
- Rachael Ebersole
- Greg Ebling
- Stephanie 9
- Bohannon
- Kristi Ryland 10
- Donna Zeller
- Braden 11
- Bohannon



- 15 Faye Louser
- Patricia Sattazahn
- 20 Mary Gerhart
- 21 Ernest Firestine
- 22 Russell Kahl
- Glenn Runz
- 26 Trudy Yeager
- 27 Tricia Garman
- Suzanne Upton
- 28 Joseph Shaak
- 29 Olivia Runz

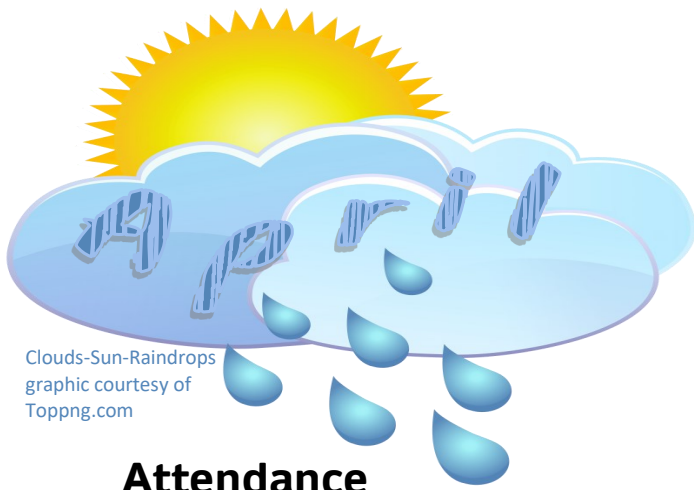


- 1 Romans 8
- 2 Romans 9:1-29
- 3 Romans 9:30-10:21
- 4 Romans 11:1-24
- 5 Romans 11:25-36
- 6 Romans 12
- 7 Romans 13
- 8 Romans 14
- 9 Romans 15:1-13
- 10 Romans 15:14-33
- 11 Romans 16
- 12 Mark 1:1-20
- 13 Mark 1:21-45
- 14 Mark 2
- 15 Mark 3:1-19
- 16 Mark 3:20-35
- 17 Mark 4:1-20
- 18 Mark 4:21-41
- 19 Mark 5:1-20
- 20 Mark 5:21-43
- 21 Mark 6:1-29
- 22 Mark 6:30-56
- 23 Mark 7:1-13
- 24 Mark 7:14-37
- 25 Mark 8:1-21
- 26 Mark 8:22-9:1
- 27 Mark 9:2-50
- 28 Mark 10:1-31
- 29 Mark 10:32-52
- 30 Mark 11:1-14

- 1 Samuel 17:1-54
- 1 Samuel 17:55-18:30
- 1 Samuel 19
- 1 Samuel 20
- 1 Samuel 21-22
- 1 Samuel 23-24
- 1 Samuel 25
- 1 Samuel 26
- 1 Samuel 27-28
- 1 Samuel 29-31
- 2 Samuel 1
- 2 Samuel 2:1-3:1
- 2 Samuel 3:2-39
- 2 Samuel 4-5
- 2 Samuel 6
- 2 Samuel 7-8
- 2 Samuel 9-10
- 2 Samuel 11-12
- 2 Samuel 13
- 2 Samuel 14
- 2 Samuel 15
- 2 Samuel 16
- 2 Samuel 17
- 2 Samuel 18
- 2 Samuel 19
- 2 Samuel 20-21
- 2 Samuel 22
- 2 Samuel 23
- 2 Samuel 24
- 1 Kings 1

- Psalms 62
- Psalms 63
- Psalms 64
- Psalms 65
- Psalms 66
- Psalms 67
- Psalms 68
- Psalms 69
- Psalms 70
- Psalms 71
- Psalms 72
- Daniel 1
- Daniel 2:1-23
- Daniel 2:24-49
- Daniel 3
- Daniel 4
- Daniel 5
- Daniel 6
- Daniel 7
- Daniel 8
- Daniel 9
- Daniel 10:1-21
- Daniel 11:1-19
- Daniel 11:21-45
- Daniel 12
- Hosea 1:1-2:1
- Hosea 2:2-23
- Hosea 3
- Hosea 4:1-11a
- Hosea 4:11b-5:4

**THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**  
*June*  
*2027*  
**THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**



## Giving

General Fund	\$ 13,967.00
Church Improvement	\$ 1,365.00
OCWM	\$ 925.00
Food Bank	\$ 120.00
Initial	\$ 10.00
Julius M Ministry	\$ 100.00
Memorial	\$ 100.00
OGHS	\$ 2,339.00

## Attendance

	LiveStream	InPerson
4 Apr	23	40
11 Apr	24	25
18 Apr	22	30
25 Apr	21	25

**LiveStream** is the number of households not an actual number of people

### New Horizons Gathering

The Lebanon Association Parish Life *New Horizons* group will gather on June 26th for the Middletown Train Ride. The train leaves at noon; attendees are encouraged to be there at least 30 minutes prior. Dinner will be at the Brownstone Restaurant.

## Council Meeting Summary

After opening devotions and a time of reflection, Church Council spent a great deal of time reviewing the financial and attendance reports. Moving into correspondence and business items, the Council voted to re-open the church to outside groups. All requests should go through the Church office for communication and consistency. An adult "Sunday School" class will be starting as we continue to move towards re-opening. Additional business included a review of the inactive member section of the by-laws and corrections to the corresponding letter template. At the request of the church staff who only receive financial reports at the beginning of a new month, the church council will now meet on the second Tuesday of each month to allow time for preparation of reports. Additional reports from the Pastor, Parish Administrator and committees included information about in-person visits, the newest technology upgrade bid, and summer worship. Continued searches are taking place for sound system volunteers and technology interns. The website updates were presented. Property (need for new chairperson, mowing and kitchen issues) and Benevolence updates (Julius Muthengi and Strengthen the Church) were given. If you have any questions, please contact any member of Church Council.