

# 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

It is becoming increasingly difficult to find good news to celebrate and lift up. In the midst of celebrating the end of this awful pandemic, we have seen a resurgence of spread, in large part due to the Delta variant, but also the reluctance of many, too often with the support of political leaders with no medical training or knowledge. Although the worst hospitalization rates are in several southern states, we know it is only time before the same things happen closer to home.

As one of my mentors reminded me recently, we who are preachers are called by God to "Comfort, comfort my people" Isaiah 1a. Later on in that same chapter the chronicler says

### Pastoral Emergencies

In the event of an emergency requiring pastoral support, please contact Pastor Paul directly

by phone [610.217.9717]  
or email  
[muccpastor@comcast.net]



**You who bring good news to Zion,  
go up on a high mountain.  
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,  
lift up your voice with a shout,  
lift it up, do not be afraid;  
say to the towns of Judah,  
Here is your God!"  
Isaiah 40:9**

And this is the task that is set before us...to find, and share, the Good News of our own moment in history with those who are living it with us.

So what is the Good News when we are so aware of tragedy? Flooding in Tennessee, wildfires throughout the western states, the tragedy occurring in Afghanistan, Haiti facing destruction, again, and the list could go on and on. It might cause us to wonder 'Where is God in all of this?' The relevance of Isaiah in our own time is pretty spectacular, especially when combined with what we are told in the writings of the early Christian Church.

We know, through Christ, that God is with us. God is with the us who are in hospitals struggling for life, God is with the us who are wearily caring for the sick and dying, God is with the us who are so nervously awaiting news of the health of our loved one we can't see or visit. God is with the us who have lost homes from fire or flood, with fire-fighters and first responders who are exhausted, but still doing what they can to save others.

God is with the us that are facing devastation in Haiti, wave upon wave in a country with so few resources to address that devastation. God is with the us in Afghanistan, so demoralized by conflict and death and now seeing so many hopes and dreams go up in a puff of smoke. God is with the us that are trying their best to find a way out for those in danger along with safe harbors for them.

God is with us in the best of times and doesn't desert us in the worst of times. God is comforting, helping, aiding, strengthening, giving that cup of water, providing shelter, and joining the us in shedding tears while looking for hope to grow out of despair. We who are the Body of Christ can do no less. It isn't easy, we want to close our eyes and pretend, but God invites us to join with God-with-us in loving and caring for all God's children.

Your Fellow Servant in Christ,  
Paul

# Office Hours

Monday: 9:00 am to noon  
 Tuesday: noon to 3:00 pm  
**Wednesday: By appointment**  
**Thursday: By appointment**  
 Friday: 9:00 am to noon

The Church Office  
 will be **closed** on  
 Monday, 3 Sep 21,  
 in celebration of  
**Labor Day.**



## Happy Birthday

- 1 Shirley Krall
- Judith Stohler
- 5 Stella Driscoll
- 7 Paul McQuate
- 8 Kathryn Kale
- 9 Karen Line
- 11 Gregory Beamesderfer
- Ryan Leppo
- Margo McQuate
- 12 Marlene Bowman
- 15 Mark Herr
- 17 Bonita Beamesderfer
- Loretta Weaver
- 18 Joanne Ondrusek
- 19 Larry Rabold
- 21 Jessica Behm
- 23 Miriam Loose
- Patrick Yeager
- 26 Ronald Houtz
- 27 Jane Fuhrman
- Jacqueline Kulp
- 28 Derek Behm
- 30 Gloria Koller

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I trust this e-mail finds you being sheltered by God's amazing grace. Agnes and I are thankful to God for his goodness and faithfulness to us and our family. We praise him too for the ministry he has entrusted to us both at International Leadership University, and also among our com-



munity in the village. As I indicated in my earlier com-

munication, our first semester classes will start in the first week of August, 2021. Pray that God will prepare us, particularly as we usher in new students. Pray also for our people in

the village who are struggling to make ends meet. Thank you so much for your financial and prayer support.

We are particularly thankful for the funds we recently received towards provision of solar lamps to our people in the village. Just today, Agnes distributed solar lamps to a group of women in our community. Attached please find a photo of jubilant ladies after they received the precious items. They shouted for joy, lifting their hands to God for such provision! They prayed for us and also for the donors! God bless you beloved for your partnership with us in the ministry of advancing the kingdom of God in Africa and the world. May God continue blessing you and the work of your hands. Be assured of our prayers.

Your friends in Christ,  
Julius and Agnes



## Opportunity for Mission

It is frequently reported that a significant portion of immigrants crossing into the US from Mexico originally lived in Honduras. How difficult must their lives have been to attempt such a dangerous journey! Rebecca Sauder is a student of Emily's who is pausing her college career to spend 9 months on a mission trip there. Perhaps we can help make things just a little bit better for some children in Honduras by supporting Rebecca. Put donations into the offering basket or send to the office with an attached note designating Rebecca's mission. It would be really helpful if she could get help before she leaves in mid September. The following is the letter she sent to her friends asking for assistance and explaining her calling.

Dear Friends and Family,

I hope this letter finds you well! As many of you know, this past year I began college at Elizabethtown College, majoring in music therapy, with the plan to graduate in 2024 with my bachelor's in music therapy. But as many of you also know, sometimes God has different plans for our lives.



In February of 2021, a friend of mine named Alaina contacted me about an opportunity to travel to Honduras to work in an orphanage on a 9-month missions assignment. At that time, I had already made plans for the coming fall semester, so dismissed the idea without putting much thought into it.

Over the past few weeks, God has been opening doors left and right and nudging me to take this opportunity through coming in contact with many people working at Camp Hebron this summer who have traveled to Honduras and through a speaker who talked about God's use of "detours" in our lives to draw us and others closer to him. This challenged me to take some time and truly listen to God and pay attention to the ways he may be speaking to me. And as I began to take this time, I felt that this opportunity is exactly where God wants me to be this coming year.

This is an exciting decision that feels a little bit crazy to me, but I am trusting in God's provision and spending a lot of time in prayer. I will be leaving in mid-September and returning in May, with a trip home over Christmas for a few weeks. My role will be working as an assistant in an orphanage founded by Evangelistic Missionary Crusades Inc. called La Finca de Los Niños in La Valle de Angeles, Honduras.. You can find out more at [www.emcinternational.org](http://www.emcinternational.org). It's a busy place with lots of children to love and care for. In addition to spending time interacting with and caring for the children, I hope to lead Bible Studies and play lots of music with them!

My lodging will be provided by the orphanage, but some food and transportation costs, as well as supplies, will need to be covered by my own funds. My fundraising goal is \$3,000. We have been encouraged to make a donation to the orphanage to cover our lodging and assist them in their ministry, so approximately \$800 - \$1,000 will be going directly to the orphanage as a payment for housing and a donation. About half of the remaining amount will go towards transportation, including bus fares, plane tickets, and other transportation needs. The rest will be for supplies, groceries, health coverage, visas and other necessities throughout our stay there.

So as I move into the next few months, finishing my work at camp and preparing for this journey, I would greatly appreciate any prayers for Alaina and me as we seek God's wisdom and share his love with these kids. Any financial support that you are willing or able to give would also be greatly appreciated as I begin purchasing tickets and supplies for this trip. Checks may be payable to Rebecca Sauder and given to me or my mother, Doris Sauder, or sent to 72 Linda Avenue, Lancaster PA 17602. Any funds that are not utilized for my expenses will be donated directly to the orphanage at the end of the year.

I hope to send some newsletters or set up a blog as I find out more information and leave for the trip, but I ask for continued prayer as the final decisions and plans are made.

Thank you all!  
**Rebecca Sauder**

## SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

**September 5: Labor Day Sunday**

*In Person Worship & Live stream 9:00 am*

Sacrament of Holy Communion

**Sermon: The Bread of Life**

**Scripture: John 6:24-35**

While Pastor Cronin is on vacation, we will hear from our guest speaker and be led in the central Sacrament of our faith on this Labor Day weekend. On this national holiday weekend we can honor and give thanks for the many essential workers who have made significant sacrifices during this global pandemic.

**September 12:**

**Faith Formation Sunday**

*In Person Worship & Live stream 9:00 am*

**Sermon: Wisdom's Rebuke**

**Scripture: Proverbs 1:20-33**

The Church has the challenging but exciting task of sharing the wisdom that has been passed down through centuries with children, Youth, and those new...and old, to our faith. We will be celebrating restarting our faith formation classes in these challenging times.

**September 19: Just Peace Sunday**

*In Person Worship & Live stream 9:00 am*

**Sermon: Just Peace – The Children**

**Scripture: Mark 9:30-37**

Just Peace is a mark of Christian Community and a direction we should be aware of and advocating. This passage from Mark's Gospel gives us some clarity of what it means to be supportive of God's desire for Just Peace to be an important aspect within and between nations.

**September 26:**

**AIM Sunday**

*In Person Worship & Live stream 9:00 am*

**Sermon: Your God Reigns!**

**Scripture: Isaiah 52:7-10**

As we celebrate American Indian Ministries Sunday we will share the passage used at the 1986 Dakota Association Mission Conference, as well as hearing about Native American Ministries, struggles and changes over the years. In many ways, our faith is connected to the culture from which we spring, and the worldview that culture inspires.



**Address Change**

Miriam Loose  
UCC Homes  
550 East Main Street  
Annville, Pennsylvania 17003-1311





# Troop 20 Spaghetti Dinner



Saturday  
11 Sep 21  
4 to 6:30 pm  
Take-Out Only

To purchase tickets,  
call Scott Hentz  
717.507.8804.

We would like to express  
our deepest gratitude to  
the members of Myerstown  
U.C.C., with special thanks  
to Pastor Paul Cronin and  
Jim Toder, for all the  
prayers, thoughtfulness,  
kind words, and support  
in connection with  
Vernon's illness and passing.

*Thank you for  
your words of sympathy,  
your voice of concern,  
your gesture of caring  
and the love you offer.*

The Family of  
Vernon M. Wolfe, Sr.



THANK YOU



The flowers on the  
Communion Table during  
August worship services  
came from the gardens  
of Melanie Bennetch  
& Marie Hibshman.  
Many thanks for  
the beauty in  
our chance.



**Gift Card Orders**  
 due Tuesday,  
 7 September 21

**Church Outside Doors**

For better fiscal responsibility, an effort is being made to keep the doors in the church building closed when a room is not in use. If a door is left open, the air circulation from a hallway may affect the room temperature which then signals the thermostat. Both the room and the hallway get cooled or heated. Some doors do not close completely by themselves; give them a nudge!



# New Horizons

The Lebanon Association Parish Life New Horizons group will not be meeting in September.

There are two events scheduled for October.

## 11-14 October

⇒ Trip to Ocean City, Maryland

## 23 October

- ⇒ Dutch Apple Dinner Theater
- ⇒ Momma Mia
- ⇒ Cost \$58.00
- ⇒ Money due 20 September

For more information and/or to make reservations, please contact

Dolores Wolfe  
 at (717) 867-1807

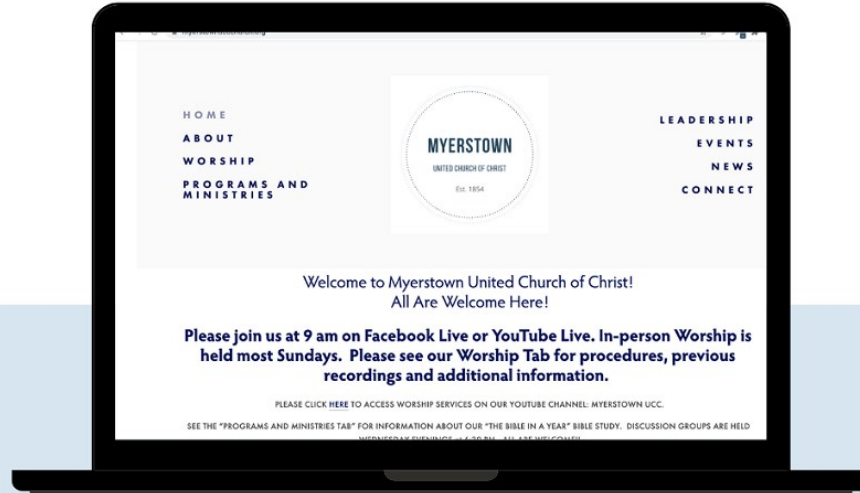
	Attendance	
	LiveStream	InPerson
4 Jul	14	41
11 Jul	13	37
18 Jul	14	36
25 Jul	16	45

LiveStream is the number of households viewing the service.

Giving	
General Fund	\$ 12,603.00
Church Improvement	\$ 605.00
OCWM	\$ 520.00
Food Bank	\$ 120.00
HOPE Fund	\$ 20.00
Julius M Ministry	\$ 25.00
Memorial	\$ 433.37
Technology	\$ 25.00

# New Website

Well, actually an old website ... we have returned to [www.myerstownucc.org](http://www.myerstownucc.org) - Please visit us there!



[WWW.MYERSTOWNUCC.ORG](http://WWW.MYERSTOWNUCC.ORG)