



## Paul's Epistle

Some things are just not easy to say, and as much as we try to find a soft and gentle way to say it, the results still seem a bit stark.

Since this is one of those times, I think it best to just come to the point. At the last Council meeting on September 14, I submitted my resignation as Pastor of Myerstown UCC Church. The decision was not an easy one, and there are many reasons that came into consideration. Lauren and I talked and prayed about this decision with an attempt at discerning the best

path for this congregation which has become our Family of Faith.

It is my strong opinion that the events of the last decade or so in the life of this congregation have been traumatic to the health and vitality of this community of the faithful. When a Church experiences that kind of trauma, it is important to deal with the hurt, anger, disappointment and all the other feelings associated with living through the struggles and to bring those experiences, with the connected feelings, before God and one another for healing and renewal. That is the work of an Interim Minister. Although I have had to learn all sorts of new things through this pandemic challenge, I have not had the training, nor do I think I have the spiritual gifts, for Interim work.

It is also my belief that Myerstown needs a full time Pastor during the Interim period. Not only will that individual need to plan, organize and lead experiences that lead to meaningful storytelling and healing, they will also need to lead worship, help in administration and

### 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]

provide for the needs of those who are unable to attend because of health and ambulatory issues. We have quite a few of those individuals and the challenge of providing spiritual care for them will continue to be quite time consuming.

I am not at a point in my life where I can devote myself to a church full time. Through this time of pandemic, it has become clear that I have a need to focus much of my time, energy and gifts to the ministry of being a Dad, a husband, a Grandfather and all those roles of the ministry we are called to when we have families we love and who love us. My children at home have unique and greater needs than typical children and I am clearly called, and committed to that ministry.

I have no doubt that Myerstown UCC Church has a future that God is calling you to pursue. There are spiritual needs that will not be met without this congregation actively engaged in fulfilling your calling to ministry, outreach and caring in the Myerstown community and beyond. The resources at your disposal are extensive and can be used creatively through God's guidance and direction to bring healing, hope and renewal to this Family of Faith and through that experience to bring healing, hope and renewal to many lives, families and organizations in this community and around the world.

I can say with certainty that I will not forget my experience with this Family of Faith. The challenges of this Covid 19 time have been

many, and I know I did not meet those challenges as well as I could have. We are none of us perfect, but we can continue to try in our imperfect state to share God's abundant love to the best of our ability. I do wish my children could have spent more time with the many members who have been blessings to me and to each other. Those relationships can never be replaced and leave an empty spot in each of them and in myself.

I am thankful for the time we have had together and for what you have taught me about caring and sharing, about zoom and live streaming, about masks and overcoming the obstacles placed in the way of fulfilling God's call in our lives. I am grateful for your faithfulness and tenacity and for sharing this time with us. We will continue to pray for Myerstown UCC as we trust that God will continue to work through you to the glory of God's reign.

We have not worked out the details of exactly when my time will end with you, but I am sure we will have times to bid farewell in appropriate and meaningful ways. Many thanks for your continued faithfulness!

Richest Blessings,

**Pastor Paul**



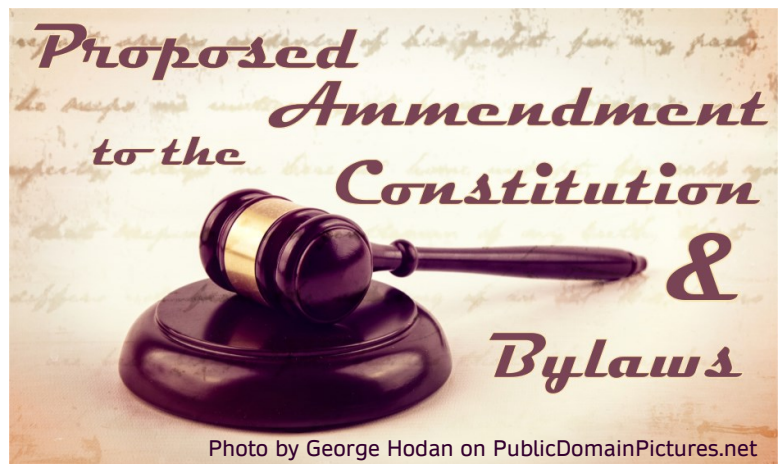
In accordance with the Constitution of Myerstown United Church of Christ, please note the following announcement.

*The Church Council of Myerstown United Church of Christ determined at a meeting held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, that the Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, November 21, 2021, immediately following the morning worship.*

Reports of committees and organizations are due to the Church Office no later than 9:00 am, Monday, 25 October 2021. All documents must be submitted in Microsoft Word 'docx' format. Reports that need to be typed by the Office Manager are due in the Church Office no later than Monday, 11 October 2021.



After receiving a request for a change to the Constitution and Bylaws, Council gathered information including advice from Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ. The following proposal will be presented at the annual congregational meeting.



Article IV, Property, Section 4.2:

Should this congregation be dissolved all its assets, property, and interest of which it shall then be possessed, including any device, bequest, gift or grant contained in any will or other instrument in trust or otherwise made before or after such dissolution, shall be *transferred to Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ or its successor.*

Upon approval of the amendment, Article IV, Property, Section 4.2 shall read: Should this congregation be dissolved all its assets, property, and interest of which it shall then be possessed, including any device, bequest, gift or grant contained in any will or other instrument in trust or otherwise made before or after such dissolution, shall be *disbursed in a manner accepted by a 2/3 vote of the voting members present at a duly called meeting of the congregation, in accordance with all existing regulations governing non-profit organizations.*



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**

from Thursday, 14 Oct through Wednesday, 20 Oct.

Volunteers are needed to answer the phone and take messages. Office support is needed for Friday, the 15, Monday, the 18th, and Tuesday, the 19th.

# Office Hours



- 1 Brittany Hartman
- 3 Lee Smith
- 4 Lois Werner
- 8 Marianne Boltz
- 9 Louise Seifert
- 12 Wanda Miller
- 12 Holly Rosen
- 12 Terry Schott
- 12 James Yoder
- 13 Amber Beamesderfer
- 16 Lindy Bennetch
- 16 Bryson Runz
- 17 Ronald Baum
- 20 Dallas Noll
- 22 Tina Beamesderfer
- 24 Debra Arnold
- 24 Lynne Risser
- 24 Kenneth Salem
- 28 Mason Bennetch



Myerstown UCC will be offering a Sunday School class for all interested adults. This class will begin on Sunday, October 3, 2021. Each class session will begin at approximately 10:00 am., and conclude at 10:45 am. Our class will meet in the room at the end of the first floor corridor in the church referred to as the Adult Classroom.

The focus of this class will be based on Pastor Paul's scripture passages for that particular Sunday as well as any thoughts concerning his message that day.

We hope you will join us,  
 Marie Hibshman and Jim Diehm

Original posted on the Bulletin Board





In September we received contributions for Becca Sauder, a music therapy student who is putting her education on hold to spend 9 months in Honduras. She will be serving God at La Finca de las Ninos, a home for children. 1.1

As of 22 September 2021, the congregation's generosity to this mission project was \$1,085.00 as 22 September 2021. An update will follow.



The outreach focus for October is 'Scouting for Food!'

Scouting for Food is a national ongoing annual program of the Boy Scouts of America, begun in 1985. The program involves collecting items for local food banks. It is organized at the local level throughout the country. Scouting for Food is a project rooted in the very foundation of the Scouting movement and its dedication to implement the Scout Slogan and do a good turn daily. All items collected in support of Myerstown Troop 20, Pennsylvania Dutch Council, will be donated to the Lebanon County Food Bank which is administered by Lebanon County Christian



\*\*\*The plastic bags provided for the congregation collection are leftover from past years and any collection information and dates on the bags should be disregarded.\*\*\*

Ministries. The boys and leaders of Troop 20 thank the members of the congregation for their support of Scouting for Food 2021.



# October Worship

**October 3:**

## **World Communion Sunday**

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

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Sermon: In a Perfect World**

**Scripture: Genesis 2:18-24  
Mark 10:2-16**

The life and the world God intended for us at the beginning of Creation experienced an alteration through the breaking of the covenant humanity held with our Creator. Our task is to do the best with the hand we are dealt.

**October 10: Access Sunday**

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

**Sermon: Access for All!**

**Scripture: Mark 10:17-31**

The challenge for the church today is to understand the barriers keeping seekers away from a meaningful relationship with God and preaching the power of God to overcome those barriers.

**October 17:**

## **Children's Sabbath Sunday**

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

**Sermon: Greatness is Service**

**Scripture: Mark 10:35-45**

The Church, the Body of Christ, the earthly expression of the Kingdom of God, exists to serve the world which surrounds it. Jesus set the example; to serve and not to be served.

**October 24: Reconciliation Sunday**

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

**Sermon: The Blind Shall See**

**Scripture: Mark 10:46-52**

Blind Bartimaeus was absolutely clear about what he wanted and needed from Jesus, and he wouldn't let anyone stop him from expressing his deepest desires. What is keeping us from serving God more fully, and are we willing to bring that need before the God who can free us to live more fully?

**October 31: Reformation Sunday**

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

**Sermon: Giving It Up For God**

**Scripture: Ruth 1:1-18**

Ruth was willing, insistent even, about giving up the past life she had for an unknown life committed to her new family and to the God they served. As we continue our own journeys with God, what things of the past must we give up that are keeping us from the abundant life God intends for us and the sharing of that abundant life with those who are living in darkness and struggle? How can we continue the commitment of the Reformation?



# New Horizons

11-14 October  
Trip to Ocean City, Maryland



## Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction!

Thursday, 18 November 2021

Single Ticket Cost: \$25

Lebanon Area Evangelical Free Church  
600 Shepherd Street  
Jonestown, Pennsylvania

*Complete details are on the Bulletin Board in the Gathering Area.*

# Attendance & Giving

## AUGUST

"August" courtesy of niigata-toyota.co

		Attendance		Giving	
		LiveStream	InPerson		
1 Aug	19	46	General Fund	\$ 17,519.00	
8 Aug	14	32	Church Improvement	\$ 565.00	
15 Aug	17	40	OCWM	\$ 445.00	
22 Aug	20	26	Food Bank	\$ 30.00	
29 Aug	21	33	HOPE Fund	\$ 15.00	
			Julius M Ministry	\$ 400.00	
			Memorial	\$ 96.00	
			Technology	\$ 45.00	

*LiveStream is the number of households viewing the service.*

*Gift Card Orders*

due Monday,  
4 October 21

*Chancel Flowers*

Flower sponsors  
needed for every  
Sunday in October