



Myerstown Church of the Brethren

*16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

Colossians 3:16-17

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

1 Chronicles 16:34

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Myerstown Church of the Brethren

November 2016

Ministry through Faith, Vision, and Action

TIME TO GIVE THANKS

Thanksgiving Day is approaching, a special day set apart for giving thanks as a nation for God's blessings upon us. We will gather as families and fill ourselves with turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, sweet potatoes and green beans, apple pie and pumpkin pie with whipped topping or a scoop of ice cream. I'm starting to get hungry just thinking about it. We will share sweet fellowship with family members (and don't forget the football game – Detroit Lions and another team who won't be at home for dinner).

While it is a special time for family gathering and thanksgiving we should be celebrating thanksgiving every day of life. For "this is the will of God." Here is just a few references about thanksgiving from the Bible.

Jonah 2:9, "But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you." These are the words of Jonah – while he was still in the belly of the big fish (whale?). Would we be ready to offer thanks in such circumstances?

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Paul wrote this as the Thessalonians were concerned about unabated persecution and the death of family members and what would become of themselves as well. Even under such circumstances they were urged to rejoice and give thanks. Some have lost loved ones in the past year. When we are in Christ we know without doubt that we will be reunited in heaven.

1 Timothy 2:1-2 "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way." November is also election time. No matter who wins the election some of us will be disappointed. But we are still encouraged to give thanks and offer our prayers for those in "high positions" even if we don't agree.

Philippians 4:4-7, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." When Paul wrote these words of encouragement and hope he was in prison, likely in Rome, waiting to be put to death. Yet the whole letter to the Philippians was full of joy.

We are likewise called to live a life of thanksgiving, rejoicing and hope. I pray that your life will be one of thanksgiving and praise for the immeasurable blessings of God, especially for the gift of life eternal.

Commissions and Church Board Meeting

Date: October 18, 2016

**Meeting was called to order @ 8:00 p.m.
Present were: Treasurer – Christa Bender
Present were: Secretary – Mark Landis, Sr.
Present were: Pastor Jack Harpold
Secretary’s Report of September 20, 2016**

by Chairperson – Robert Noll

Prayer by: Pastor Jack

Approved as presented by Aye Vote

Treasurer’s Report of September 17, 2016

Approved as presented by Aye Vote

Commission Reports & Members Present

Ministry & Evangelism Commission: Co-Chairpersons – David Dubble, Steve Krick
Nicole Hauck

Consider 5th Sunday as Youth Sunday.....youth to lead.
Need to find 5 volunteers as Advent readers: Dave & Janet Dubble, Hauck Family, Steve & Breena Krick, Youth, and one more.
The Search Committee met to discuss interview questions. They are waiting for profiles.
Praise and Worship Service – singing and testimony and prayer on March 4th.
We went over the suggestions from the congregation....church hayride, movie night and small groups.
Suggested speakers – Dale and Debbie Ziegler and their trip to Nigeria for the Sunday School hour.
We finalized the budget - \$125,105.
We reviewed the Ministry and Evangelism appointments and we need to ask those with one-year terms to renew. Nicole will type request letters.

Missions & Fellowship Commission: Co-Chairpersons – Janet Dubble, Susie Dundore
Leslie Fuhrman, Kristi Keath

Leslie opened with devotions and prayer.
Budget was finalized.
Our appointments:

- Disaster Coordinator and Team – Glenn Hassinger
- Disaster Relief Sale Rep. – Toni Noll
- Lebanon County Christian Ministries – Glenn & Lois Hassinger
- Church Directory Coordinator – Janet Dubble & Susie Dundore
- COBY’S Rep. – Jay & Brenda Lentz
- Missions Coordinator – Christa Bender

November 28th we are going to Operation Christmas Processing Center. We are going by God’s Missionary Church bus and we are partnering with Harvest Bible Chapel.
For the 2017 directory, one picture was submitted. There is a notebook in the Gathering Place for directory changes.
We are having a Souper Bowl collecting Soup for January for the Sharing Cupboard.
Caitlin Smiles Playdoh Collection – Play Doh is put in children’s bags for distribution to children in hospitals.

Christian Education Commission: Co-Chairpersons – Judy Umbenhauer
Lisa Maurer, Lindsey Dimond, Christine Blackwell

Devotions: Reflections of Autumn (and its Lone Appearance in the Bible)
By David Jeremiah

The autumn of life is a strange mixture of nostalgia, blessings, and potential. It yields the harvest of seeds we've sown throughout life and braces us for colder days to come.

When life's autumn arrives, we look back and better understand the way God led us; but we still have work to do—the best and fullest. It's a good transition time.

"Autumn" only occurs once in the Bible. In Jude 1:12, false teachers are compared to "autumn trees without fruit," implying that autumn should be a fruitful season, the most abundant of the year. How can we take advantage of the "autumn of life"?

Youth Sunday – Youth did a fantastic job. Reminder to consider the "Adopt a Youth" program.

Reorganization for November: Will need a secretary and chairperson.

Appointments: We revised our appointments and Sunday School class listing for the policy book.

We are in continued need of Sunday School teachers. Please prayerfully consider serving.

Children's Program: Judy will check with the children in the elementary classes to see what they would like to do so that they can help with the planning and prep.

We will have a Children's – Happy Birthday, Jesus Breakfast Party – Sunday morning during Sunday School hour – breakfast, gifts, craft and a special message.

Christian Education – Lindsey Dimond will stay on – still need another member.

Budget was finalized and confirmed with our treasurer.

Trustee and Property Commission: Chairperson – George Nagle
Dale Houtz, Mark Landis, Jr., Charlie Krall

As we reported in previous meetings the cooling unit for the Kid Zone & Kid Zone kitchen needs to be replaced. The current unit works for heating only. We are looking to start a special fund to solicit money for the project. We would need to have enough money in the fund by Spring 2017 in order to have air conditioning in that area for next summer.

We received an estimate from Triangle Refrigeration of \$22,000.00 to replace and update the system. We are asking for board approval to start a special fund for members of the congregation to donate funds to replace air conditioning in Kid Zone.

This was approved by motion & aye vote.

We finalized our budget for 2017.....we reduced our budget by \$5,500.00.

Finance and Stewardship Commission: Chairperson - Mark Bomberger, Andrew Heisey
Treasurer – Christa Bender
Board Chair – Robert Noll

Pastor Report

I prepared and delivered 2 Sermons.

Led Bible study 2 times.

Along with the choir we led Mid-Week service at LVBH.

Attended District Conference – (half)

Attended Board meeting, and Spiritual Nurture meeting.

Visitation includes the following: June Swisher, Mary Lineweaver, Nancy Moyer, Harvey and Betty Jane Berger, Kathryn Miller, Bud and Eleanor Brubaker, Bill and JoAnn and Jeanette Hartman, Carl and Allison Kline, Joanne Ealy, Clara Miller, Kathryn Miller, June Swisher, Larry and Nancy Miller, Nancy Torres (Lan Gen Hosp).

I enjoyed brief visits with folks at Myerstown COB Pizza Hut Evening.

The second men's breakfast was held at Dutchway, October 15. We talked about the possibility of doing some ministry for members of the church and maybe some outreach beyond. We will be meeting again on November 12 for breakfast and further planning. We are going to call some leadership to start planning for the Men's work. I am also looking at Men's Bible studies and support group. I am excited about the possibilities.

I took 8 Days of vacation in September.

Average work week – ?.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

1. A couple years ago, it was approved by council not to have Board Meetings in July and December. The By-Laws Article VI Item 2 was changed to reflect this.

By motion and aye vote, it was approved to reinstate the July and December meetings,
And to change By Laws Article VI Item 2 to read:

The Church Board shall meet monthly. Special meetings of the Church Board may be called by the Board Chairperson.

2. With not having a Nominating Committee, the Church Board is nominating the following members to the following positions or commissions:

Board Chairman – Robert Noll
Church Clerk – Mark Landis, Sr.

Commissions
Ministry & Evangelism - 1.

Christian Education – 1. Lindsey Dimond
2.

Trustee & Property – 1. Dale Houtz
2. Mark Landis, Jr.

Finance & Stewardship - 1. Andrew Heisey
2.

Nominating Committee – 1. 3 year
2. 3 year
3. 2 year
4. 1 year

This was approved by motion & aye vote.

The total 2017 budget was approved by motion and aye vote.
The breakdown of each budget will be presented at Church Council.

Interests & Concerns

None

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by aye vote at 8:30 p.m.

November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Quilting 9:00 am	2 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	3	4	5
6 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	7 Council Meeting 7:00 pm	8 Quilting 9:00 am PIZZA HUT DAY	9 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	10 Sharing Cupboard 10-1 Youth to New York City	11 Sharing Cupboard 3-6	12
13 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	14 Praise Team 7:00 pm	15 Quilting 9:00 am Executive Mtg. 6:30 pm Commission Mtg. 7:00 pm Board Mtg. 8:00 pm	16 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	17 Bake Apple Dumplings 8:00 am	18	19 Holiday Bazaar 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
20 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	21 Praise Team 7:00 pm	22 Quilting 9:00 am	23 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	24 HAPPY THANKSGIVING	25 Sharing Cupboard 3-6	26
27 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Youth Mtg. 6:00 – 7:30 pm	28 Praise Team 7:00 pm Baltimore to pack Christmas Boxes	29 Quilting 9:00 am	30 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	Notes:		

Attendance & Offering

Attendance average for September 1 – September 30, 2016

Worship Service – 161

Home Care

Let's remember in thought and prayer those living in nursing homes/assisted living homes: Arlene Crouse, Orpha Doutrich, Joanne Ealy, Florence Ebersole, Mary Lineweaver, Iris Liskey, Clara Miller, Kathryn Miller, Nancy Moyer, June Swisher and David Wenger.

LVBH Volunteers

The LVBH is always in need of volunteers. Did you that that every other month some lady's from the church go to the home to play BINGO with the residents? Contact Anna Mae Snyder if you would like to help.

Pizza Hut

We are continuing to have Pizza Hut Day the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Look for the paper in the newsletter or on the bulletin board.

Gift Cards

The gift card order is always the first Sunday of the month. Look for your order form in the newsletter or on the bulletin board. The list of businesses is always changing. How many cards to you think you can use in a month? You don't have to buy a card to give away, you can use them yourself.

Directory Changes

It is not too early to notify Toni in the church office of any changes for the 2017 directory.

Cookie Exchange

Women's Fellowship will be having a cookie exchange on Dec. 15th at 6:30 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place. We need to know how many are attending so everyone knows how many cookies to make. Each person will be going home with ½ dozen cookies from each person in attendance. Hope to see you there!

Operation Christmas Child Service Project Update

Our church has been approved to participate as volunteers at the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center in Odenton, Maryland. We did get our first choice date of Monday, November 28 from 10-2:00. We were assigned 40 slots. There are still a few spots left and you still have time to sign up in The Gathering Place. Please note that the minimum age for participants is 13. If you have questions, see a member of the Missions and Fellowship Commission.

Walk and Talk with Jesus Progress

Will we make it to Bethlehem by Christmas? As of Tuesday, October 18th, we have traveled almost 2000 miles! Only 3835 more miles to go! We are now in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Keep on walking and praising our wonderful God!

Bazaar News

Our annual church bazaar will be held on Saturday, Nov. 19th, the Saturday before Thanksgiving. We will be accepting your baked goods, candy, etc. all day Friday the 18th from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please plan to come out for food, shopping and fellowship. Don't forget to check out the LARGE "White Elephant" area which is very popular! Hope to see you there!

Council Meeting

Mark your calendar for November 7th at 7:00 p.m. and come to Council Meeting.

Christmas Shopping

Have you started Christmas shopping? Did you know that you can purchase gift cards from the church and then use them to buy your Christmas gifts? You can also pay your Kohl's charge by using a Kohl's gift card. Giant Food Store cards make a great gift, or you can purchase them and use it yourself for your groceries. Like to go out for dinner, why not look over the gift card list and decide where you might want to eat this month? The possibilities are endless and by purchasing gift cards, you are helping the church.

Apple Dumplings

The ladies are making apple dumplings on Thursday, Nov. 17th at 8:00 a.m. All help is greatly appreciated.

Directory Changes

If you have any changes for the 2016 directory, please contact Toni in the church office.

Christmas Poinsettias

It is time to order your Christmas Poinsettia. The plants will be in 6 inch pots and have 4-8 blooms and the cost is \$6.50. Deadline to order and pay is Nov. 20th. Sign the sheet on the bulletin board.

Help Caitlin's Smiles raise 30,000 cans of PLAY-DOH!

MCoB members can put smiles on children in the hospital by donating PLAY-DOH to Caitlin's Smiles. Caitlin's Smiles is dedicated to sharing smiles and laughter with children facing chronic or life threatening illnesses. Founded in 2004 in memory of Caitlin Hornung, the non-profit organization distributes arts and crafts kits to hospitals, giving kids an outlet for creativity and the means to heightened feelings of self-worth. Children are provided with "Bag of Smiles" packages through the Creative Arts Care Program. These packages promote activities such as drawing, creative writing and sculpting. Hospital staff distributes the packages while the children are in the hospital. Please consider adding one or more cans of PLAY-DOH to the table in The Gathering Place by November 20 to help us to beat our goal of 100 cans. <http://www.caitlins-smiles.org/>

Pumpkin Roll pick is Nov. 9th from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Community Thanksgiving Service

There will be a community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday evening, Nov. 20th at 7:00 p.m. at Stoneridge Poplar Run Theater.

November Wedding Anniversaries

- 6th Mark & Tammy Landis
Jason & Leslie Fuhrman
- 9th Bud & Mary Lou Wagner
Dwayne & Tammy Motter
- 11th Bill & Nancy Wenrich
Landis & Anna Kupp
- 18th Leroy & Kathryn Hartranft
- 21st Gregory & Kim Horn
- 23rd John & Joan Mauser
Trent & Michelle Dohner
- 28th Woody & Louise Graby