



## Myerstown Church of the Brethren

### Scriptural Message

12 *"Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;*

13 *and rend your hearts and not your garments."* Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

14 *Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God?*

— Joel 2:12-2:14 ESV

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### CELEBRATION OF LENT

(Adapted from Upper Room Article)

Lent is a season of the Christian Year where Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God. It's the forty days before Easter. Lent excludes Sundays because every Sunday is like a little Easter. Basically, it's about one-tenth of a year (like a tithe of time).

At Jesus' baptism the sky split open, the Spirit of God, which looked like a dove, descended and landed on Jesus, and a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, My Beloved, with whom I am pleased." Afterward, as told in Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus was sent into the wilderness by the Spirit. Where he fasted and prayed for 40 days. During his time there he was tempted by Satan and found clarity and strength to resist temptation. Afterwards, he was ready to begin his ministry.

(Speculation)

Maybe Jesus needed some time with God to sort through the major changes happening in his life. Maybe he needed to get away from family, friends and the familiar routine in order to see God (and himself) more clearly. Perhaps he wanted some intentional time with God as he searched for direction and answers like you. Like Jesus, we may need to take some serious time to pray and listen for God.

Are you searching for something more? Tired of running in circles, but not really living life with direction, purpose or passion? It's pretty easy to get caught up in the drama of classes, relationships, family, and work. Our lives are filled with distractions that take us away from living a life with Christ. We try to fill the emptiness inside us with mindless TV, meaningless chatter, stimulants, alcohol, too many activities or other irrelevant stuff. We run away from life and from God.

Lent is a great time to "repent" -- to return to God and re-focus our lives to be more in line with Jesus. It's a 40 day trial run in changing your lifestyle and letting God change your heart.

Some Christians use Lent as a time of intentional prayer. You can pray while you walk, create music or art as a prayer to God, or savor a time of quiet listening. All can be ways of becoming more in tune with God.

Christians from many different traditions celebrate Lent. How will you use the time to grow closer to God?

Time for a reality check. All that is mentioned here should be the focus throughout the year. Everyday should be time for repentance, prayer, seeking a closer walk with Jesus. Notice the description as a "trial run in changing your lifestyle and letting God change your heart."

It is a time for starting a year-round transformation in our lives.

## **Attendance & Offering**

Attendance average for January 1 – January 31, 2017

Worship Service – 145

### **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.

### **Pizza Hut**

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

### **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.

### **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.

### **Annual Conference**

If anyone is interested in being an alternate delegate for Annual Conference, please notify Bob Noll. Annual Conference is in Grand Rapids, Michigan June 28<sup>th</sup> through July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Easter Lily**

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to order your Easter Lily. Cost is \$6.50. Deadline to order is March 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Camp Swatara**

The following are spring weekends (Grades 1-3: March 17-19, Grades 7-9: March 17-19, and Grades 4-6: March 24-26). There is information about summer camps, family camps, and other camp activities in the Gathering place. If you have any questions, see Mike or Crystal Liskey.

### **Council Meeting**

March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. is Council Meeting

### **March Wedding Anniversaries**

6<sup>th</sup> Dean & Katrina Wagner  
14<sup>th</sup> Mark & Elaine Landis  
17<sup>th</sup> Stan & Karen Eckert  
24<sup>th</sup> Bill & Judi Fulk  
30<sup>th</sup> Glenn & Lois Hassinger

### **Women's Fellowship**

Please note that the general women's fellowship meeting to be held on March 2<sup>nd</sup> will be changed to March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Save the date for 2 important events: March 24<sup>th</sup> is P.M.S. night for all the ladies. Yes you read that correctly. Popcorn, movie, and snacks night for the ladies of the church. Please bring an appetizer to share and arrive at 6:00. Movie will start at 7:00 after a short time of fellowship.

April 30<sup>th</sup> is our Mother/Daughter Tea. We will begin by 12:45 and have a light lunch and then entertainment afterwards. Hope to see everyone there. More details to follow.

### **Messenger Renewal**

Time for Messenger Renewal or for first time subscribers to sign up. Cost for 1 year is \$14.50 and 2 years is \$27.00. If you are a first time subscriber, cost is \$7.50 a year. Please contact Barb Wenger by March 12th at 717-866-7945.

## Pastor's Weekend

We have come up with a schedule of events for the weekend that the potential new pastor will visit. Please try to make as many as you can!

Thursday, March 2nd - 6:00-7:00 pm Meeting with the Youth

7:00 pm Ice Cream Social with  
Congregation

Friday, March 3rd - 7:00 pm Question and Answer Session with  
congregation, followed by light refreshments.

Saturday, March 4th - 8:00 am Breakfast with Executive  
Committee and Deacon Board at church

6:00 pm Praise and Worship Service

Sunday, March 5th - 9:00 am Combined Sunday School hour led  
by potential Pastor

10:00 am Worship Service with Candidate  
preaching, followed by congregational vote

\*Carry-In Meal after church

**Commissions and Church Board Meeting**

**Date: February 21, 2017**

**Meeting was called to order @ 8:05 p.m.**

**by Chairperson – Robert Noll**

**Present were: Secretary – Mark Landis, Sr.**

**Prayer by: Pastor Jack**

**Present were: Pastor Jack Harpold**

**Approved as presented by Aye Vote**

**Secretary's Report of January 17, 2017**

**Treasurer's Report of January 31, 2017**

**Approved as presented by Aye Vote**

**Commission Reports & Members Present**

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

Pastor Jack prayed to open meeting.

April 9<sup>th</sup> Teen Challenge will be here.

Ron Brubaker will preach April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We are meeting February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. for Praise and Worship Service to

Finalize the order

Make bulletin

Find someone for sound booth

Walk around w/microphone during the testimony

Nursery?

Announcements put in Merchandiser and WLBR.

We made a motion for a Special Council Meeting following morning worship on March 5<sup>th</sup> for balloting of the Search Committee's pick for pastor. This was approved by aye vote.

We need to find a person to speak at the Sunrise Service.

Search Committee – Salary and benefit package is available. Toni will fold the salary package and insert in bulletin of February 26<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a transition team - 2 search committee members and 1 outside

There will be a Pastor's wife support

Teen Challenge asked if there will be a meal after the service, but they are okay if we don't. Love Feast is that day, so we will not have a meal, but we will take a Love Offering.

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

Devotions by Leslie Fuhrman

We discussed arrangements for snacks on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> Question and Answer session for new pastor.

There will be chips, pretzels, punch, lemonade. Everyone is bringing snacks.

Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> Praise & Worship will be baked goods and punch.

Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> is the carry-in meal.

We discussed Easter breakfast. Food and we will set-up on Saturday. We will put in bulletin starting March 19<sup>th</sup> and sell tickets March 26<sup>th</sup>, April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

There was a motion to give proceeds from breakfast to VBS.

This was approved by aye vote.

We discussed Go Beyond Week of service and try to promote.

Calendar of Events 2017:

Christmas in July on July 25<sup>th</sup>

Rally Day on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>

Good Neighbor awards in June

**Christian Education Commission:** Co-Chairperson – Linda Zimmerman  
Lindsey Dimond, Christine Blackwell, Jessica Singer, Lisa Maurer

Linda opened our commission in prayer.  
Easter gifts for the children.  
    planting flowers. 33 kids with the youth.  
Easter egg hunt. April 8th?  
Creating goodie bags during March meeting?  
Ask for donations from the congregation for candy, put announcement in the bulletin.  
craft from oriental trading. Lisa will look into it.  
snacks during the craft.  
Bible School for 2017 will be June 25- June 29. 99% sure that they will do the Camping theme. Jess and Leslie had attended the bible school meeting at J.O.Y.  
Need a kickoff Sunday to get the kids excited. Date will be determined in the future.  
Have a list of substitutes for Sunday school. Put an announcement in the bulletin to ask for subs. For the children's classes.  
May 13 down at Ephrata Church of the Brethren to find out what is needed to be current on the clearances.  
Ask Toni to print out a list of who has clearances so we can see who does not.  
June 5th children's day. Contact "This Way Up"  
Linda will contact Piercing Word to see about getting them for Rally Day.

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

We fixed a light problem. We replaced an electric eye on the roof that controls the lights in car port, sign.  
We have been comparing gas and electric bills from 2015 to 2016 from January to December with a savings of \$5,500 for electric and \$2,708 for gas.

**Finance and Stewardship Commission:** Chairperson - Andrew Heisey, Mark Bomberger, Glenn Hassinger

Reviewed the Treasurer's Report  
Financial Transaction Review completed.  
    Motion and Second and aye vote to approve the review.

## **Pastor Report**

Since my last report (November 15, 2016):

I prepared and delivered 15 Sermons.

Along with the choir we conducted mid-week service at LVBH.

I led Bible study 6 times. We are starting a new series in Bible study called The Journey – A One-Year Intentional Plan for Discipleship.

Attended Board meetings, and Spiritual Nurture meeting.

Visitation includes the following: Mary Lineweaver, David Wenger, Nancy Moyer, Paul Wentzel, Iris Liskey, Harvey and Betty Jane Berger, Bob and Kathryn Gible, Bill and Joanne Rager, Jeanette Hartman, Walter Sattazahn, Brenda Mishoe, Pat Schott, Mike and Kristal Leahy, Michael Hughes, and Michael Snyder. There may have been some that I forgot.

Men's breakfast was held recently at Dutchway restaurant.

Average work week – ?.

## **Unfinished Business**

None

## **New Business**

There was a request for members to vote absentee and proxy votes. There was a motion, second and aye vote to make policy #066 to read:

Absentee ballots and proxy votes will be not permitted and counted at Council Meeting.

Mark M. Landis, Sr. has submitted his resignation as Church Clerk as of March 5<sup>th</sup>. With Council's approval, Mark M. Landis, Jr. will fill the unexpired term of Mark M. Landis, Sr. as Church Clerk.

The Board approved this by motion and aye vote.

## **Interests & Concerns**

It was recommended to have an activity calendar for persons to check on scheduled items.

## **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by aye vote at 9:00 p.m.

To: Robert Noll, Church Board Chairperson

February 21, 2017

I submit my resignation as Church Clerk as of March 5, 2017.

Thank

Mark M. Landis, Sr.



## March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Nicholas Achey Randy Burke Judy Umbehauer Sherri Yermalovich	2 Linda Fasnstock Breianna Heller Abigail Hostetter Kaya Laubach	3	4 Karter Fetzer James Gibble Seth Wagner
5 Kristi Keath Lori Martin	6 Orpha Doutrich Kay Flory Maggie Reichard Jeff Stehr	7 Robert Ebersole Tyler Gruber Linda Krall Michael Krall Randy Light	8 Ali Bender Jason Books Rosa Espenshade Karen Hamilton George Heller IV Walter Sattazahn	9 Kenneth Wagner	10	11 Jasmine Dohner Jason Umbehauer Nancy Wenrich
12 Winston Lackey, Jr.	13	14 Sophia Brown Carey Krall Lonna Lackey Robert Perry	15 Joshua Jenkins Emma Liskey Ainsley McClure	16 Martin Fidler Bill Rager	17 Sara Gantxz Leroy Hartranft Emma Umbehauer	18 Tim Dubble
19 Landis Kupp	20 Michael Leshar Edward Swisher	21 Scott Bomberger Mary Lou Wagner	22 Emily Leshar Philip Leshar Audrey Motter	23 Amber Hartranft Macey Schwalm	24 Branden Keath	25 Brian Penrose
26 Beth Faehling	27	28	29 Dan Bell Jason Krall	30 Angela Martin Jaren Rambler Kevin Wenrich	31 Adam Fox Casey Krall	Notes:

## March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Bell Choir 6:15 pm Prayer Mtg. 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Praise and Worship Night 6:00 pm
<b>5</b> Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Youth 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	<b>6</b> Council Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Bell Choir 6:15 pm Prayer Mtg. 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	<b>9</b> Sharing Cupboard 10-1  Women's Fellowship Mtg. 7:00 pm	<b>10</b> Sharing Cupboard 3-6	<b>11</b> Youth Movie Night
<b>12</b> Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	<b>13</b> Praise Team 7:00 pm	<b>14</b> Pizza Hut Day	<b>15</b> Bell Choir 6:15 pm Prayer Mtg. 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Youth 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	<b>20</b> Praise Team 7:00 pm	<b>21</b> Executive Mtg. 6:30 pm Commission Mtg. 7:00 pm Board Mtg. 8:00 pm	<b>22</b> Bell Choir 6:15 pm Prayer Mtg. 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	<b>23</b> Sharing Cupboard 10-1	<b>24</b> Sharing Cupboard 3-6  Women's Fellowship P.M.S. Movie Night 6:00 pm	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	<b>27</b> Praise Team 7:00 pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Bell Choir 6:15 pm Prayer Mtg. 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	<b>30</b> Spiritual Nurture Mtg. 7:00 pm	<b>31</b>	<b>Notes:</b>