



**Myerstown Church of the Brethren**

***Scriptural Message***

*And she brought forth her firstborn Son,  
and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths,  
and laid Him in a manger, because  
there was no room for them in the inn.*

*Luke 2:7*

*“Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”  
Luke 2:14*

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**Address**                    **51 West Stoever Ave.  
Myerstown, PA 17067**

**Office Phone**                    **717-866-5517**

**Web Page**                    **myerstowncob.org**

**Church Email:**  
**[myerstowncob@myerstowncob.org](mailto:myerstowncob@myerstowncob.org)**

Read Luke 2:1-14

My favorite Christmas show is “A Charlie Brown Christmas,” which was written by Charles Schultz in December of 1965. I grew-up watching the Charlie Brown Christmas as a child, and I even like to watch it today. The story never gets old for me.

Charlie Brown starts out by talking to Linus, and he tells Linus that he doesn’t feel happy. He knows he needs to be happy at Christmas, but he isn’t. He is depressed. So Linus tells him this: “Charlie Brown, you are the only person I know who can take a wonderful season like Christmas and turn it into a problem!”

Charlie Brown then goes to Lucy who is given him psychological help. She tells Charlie Brown that he needs involvement, and so she puts him in charge of directing the Christmas play.

Well that turned out to be a disaster! No one would listen to him, as he gave the instructions for the play. Snoopy is running around causing chaos. Lucy is insulted that she wasn’t chosen as the Christmas queen. Linus can’t give-up his blanket, and makes a scene. And everyone is just dancing to the music that Schroeder is playing on his piano.

Finally, Charlie Brown loses it, and gives up! And he yells out to the top of his lungs: “ISN’T THERE ANYONE WHO KNOWS WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT?” And Linus comes up and says, “sure, I know what Christmas is all about.” And Linus gets on the front stage and reads from the Bible, Luke’s account of the birth of Jesus Christ. (If you haven’t read it, read it now)

Charlie Brown’s Christmas tells us about how we act, during the season of Christmas. Some of us want “involvement” with Christmas. Some of us are sad at Christmas. Some of us try and do the “right thing” because it’s Christmas, but it ends up being a disaster!

That can only mean one thing: That we don’t know the real meaning of Christmas, which is the birth of our Savior, and that birth is the GOOD NEWS!

My prayer is that all of us will come to know the true meaning of Christmas this season! Hope to see you in church!

Pastor Marty

## December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am  Praise Team and Youth Christmas Caroling	<b>4</b> Praise Team 7:00 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	<b>7</b> Book Study 6:00 pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Women's Fellowship Christmas Breakfast 9:00 am – 11:00 am
<b>10</b> Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	<b>11</b> Praise Team 7:00 pm	<b>12</b> Pizza Hut Day	<b>13</b> Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	<b>14</b> Sharing Cupboard 10-1 Book Study 6:00 pm Spiritual Nurture Mtg. 7:00 pm	<b>15</b> Sharing Cupboard 3-6	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Sunday School 9:00 am Children's Program Worship Service 10:00 am Christmas Drama	<b>18</b> Praise Team 7:00 pm	<b>19</b> Executive Mtg. 6:30 pm Commission Mtg. 7:00 pm Board Mtg. 8:00 pm	<b>20</b> Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	<b>21</b> Book Study 6:00 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am  Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm	<b>25</b> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">                         MERRY                          CHRISTMAS                     </div>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Sharing Cupboard 10-1	<b>29</b> Sharing Cupboard 3-6	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am						

## December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Jeanette Hartman	2 Ralph Ackerman
3 Jacke Dohner	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Linda Zimmerman	11	12	13 Jason Fuhrman	14	15	16
17 Paige Thomas	18	19	20 Glenn Hassinger Megan Thomas	21	22	23 Julia Wenger
24 Iris Liskey	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Kathryn Miller	<b>Notes:</b>					

## Attendance & Offering

Attendance average for October 1 – October 31, 2017

Sunday School - 56

Worship Service – 135

Beginning Checkbook Balance – General Fund		\$29,425.40
Income		\$15,679.44
Expenses		\$19,591.74
Voided Check		\$ 0.00
Ending Checkbook Balance		\$25,513.10
Beginning Checkbook Balance – Building Fund		\$13,235.06
Income		\$ 5,439.10
Expenses		\$ 5,859.65
Ending Checkbook Balance	0.00%	\$12,814.51
Music Fund CD		\$12,284.91

### 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 and June Swisher.

### 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.

### 2018 Church Directory

Contact Toni in the church office for any changes to the 2018 directory.

### **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 do you think you can use in a month? You don't have to buy a card to give away, you can use them yourself.

### **Susan Dowhower House**

There is a need for new or gently used adult hats, scarves, socks and gloves/mittens for the Susan Dowhower House. We will have a tree in the Gathering Place where you can hang them and will be collecting them from Dec. 3rd through Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Live Nativity**

There will be a Live Nativity before our Christmas Eve Service. Come at 6:00 p.m. to see the Christmas Story acted out. Afterward there will be hot chocolate and cookies in the Gathering Place. Please sign up if you are able to donate cookies. If you would like to be a part of the Live Nativity or have any questions, please contact Rachel Moyer.

### **Cantata/Drama**

The Senior Choir and some members of the church will be doing the cantata/drama titled "Lord of Light, Prince of Peace" on Dec. 17th during the worship hour.

### **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.

### **Install the New Church APP on your smart phone to:**

- view and listen to recorded services
- see important documents like the weekly bulletin, monthly newsletters, board and commission reports, sermon notes, and more
- get information about upcoming events
- get notifications for upcoming events
- receive notification of cancellations and rescheduled events

The APP is FREE to use. Go to <http://myerstowncob.org/church-app/> to get the download link and installation instructions. See David or Janet Dubble if you have any questions.

### **Children's Christmas Program**

The Children's Christmas Program will be during the Sunday School hour on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Directory Changes**

If you have any changes, updates, deletions, etc. for the 2018 church directory, please notify Toni in the office.

### **Candle Lighting/Memorial Service**

We will be having our annual Candle Lighting Service on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> for loved ones that passed away during the year 2017. Please notify Toni in the church office at 866-5517 if you desire to light a candle during this service. A family member(s) is encouraged to light the candle.

### **Christmas Eve Service**

The Christmas Eve Service will be Sunday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

### **Secret Sister**

Women's Fellowship is doing the "Secret Sister" program. If you would like to be a secret sister to someone during the year 2018, please get a packet in the Gathering Place. Fill out the paper and return to Jen Fetzer or Leslie Fuhrman by Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>. We will be picking names on Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Pumpkin Rolls**

There are pumpkin rolls still available for sale. If you would like to purchase any for yourself or a gift, please contact Dottie Nagle or Toni in the church office.

### **Prayer List**

The Deacon body proposes to wipe clean and restart the prayer list as listed in the bulletin each Sunday as of January 1, 2018. We will keep the present list as is until December 31, 2017. We are asking that the members of the congregation contact Toni or Pastor Marty with names that should remain or be added to this list.

#### December Wedding Anniversaries

13<sup>th</sup> Dennis & Faye Brubaker

23<sup>rd</sup> Carl & Margaret Wenger



**Commissions and Church Board Meeting**

**Date: November 21, 2017**

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

**by Chairperson – Robert Noll**

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

**Prayer by: Pastor Marty**

**Present were: Pastor Marty Moyer**

**Secretary's Report**

**Approved as presented at October Council**

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

**Approved as presented by Aye Vote**

### **Commission Reports & Members Present**

**Ministry & Evangelism Commission:** Co-Chairperson – David Dubble, Grace Ziegler

We discussed the Spiritual Revival services and what we can do to improve it. We will plan for a service for October 7-19, 2018.

The Youth will be in charge of the Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> worship service.

We discussed preparing "An Inspirational Night of Music" with groups from different churches presenting. Tentative date – September 9<sup>th</sup>.

We discussed holding another Praise & Worship Service on March 18, 2018. We will plan a similar program as we had in 2017.

Will ask Bill Litman to fill the pulpit on July 8<sup>th</sup> as Pastor Marty will be attending Annual Conference.

**Missions & Fellowship Commission:** Co-Chairperson – Janet Dubble, Susie Dundore  
Leslie Fuhrman, Megan Thomas, Kim Horn

We discussed the 2018 Directory. Still need representatives for COBY'S and Londonderry Village. Rachel Moyer attended our meeting and discussed doing a Live Nativity on Christmas Eve from 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. and then to have hot chocolate in the Gathering Place before the Christmas Eve Service would start at 7:00 p.m. For the Live Nativity we would read the Christmas Story from the Bible and possibly have the choir sing a song or 2.

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. All are invited to help and this will be put in the bulletin. We will start to decorate at 2:00 p.m. and then have pizza and drinks which will be provided. We are asking for snacks or desserts.

There is a sign-up sheet for cookies for Christmas Eve. Our commission will supply the hot chocolate.

We are not going to Baltimore to pack Operation Christmas Child boxes this year.

We will supply refreshments for the December board meeting.

We will collect for the Susan Dowhower House. There will be a tree in the Gathering Place to place gently used scarves, mittens, gloves, hat and socks. Collection will be from Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> through Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>.

We are planning to do "Souper Bowl" in January. This will be discussed further next month. Collecting canned goods from Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> through Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>.

Trunk or Treat pictures will be electronically sent to participants.

The Church app is available and information is in the bulletin on how to download.

Susie Dundore has created "A Short History of Myerstown Church of the Brethren"

**Christian Education Commission:** Chairperson – Linda Zimmerman, Christine Blackwell  
Lindsey Dimond, Jess Singer, Melissa Wilson

The Children's Christmas Program will be Dec 17<sup>th</sup> during the Sunday School hour. There will be songs and reading of the Christmas Story.

We are going to move the kindergarten children down to join the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class.

Previewed devotions for Christmas gifts for toddler, school age and teens.

J.O.Y. gift cards for teachers. Christine Blackwell will make cards.

We approved the appointments for 2018.

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

Whitey has been locking the doors and checking to see that all lights are turned off after church on Sunday's.

Who is going to be responsible?

Cleaning sidewalks during snow?

Everyone should take more responsibility on turning off lights (before leaving church) in hallways, Sunday School rooms, Gathering Place, etc.

Question about locking door going into the Youth Center during church service, since the children are in the youth area for Children's Church.

Keven Wenrich is the new outside janitor.

Kauffman's Chicken Bar-B-Q called to inform us if we are doing the bar-b-q in May the usual date of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in May is not a good time for them, so we scheduled it for the following Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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

No changes to the budget.



## **Pastor Report**

Sermons: 2 (revival speaker preached on November 50

Home Visits: 9

Hospital Visits: 9

Attempted Visits: 3

Anointings: Ruth Dundore

Funeral Visitation: For John Nauman, Sharon Kline's stepfather

Brethren Class Teachings: 3

Church Activities Attended: Community Thanksgiving service on November 19 at Stoneridge, Community Ministerial Meeting on Nov. 2, Brethren Area Minister's Fellowship in Lebanon, Attended Music Committee meeting for Christmas Eve Service, Church Council Meeting on October 30.  
No vacation or sick days used for period.

Brethren Classes: I have concluded my classes on Brethren Biblical Beliefs. Classes included were Love Feast and Communion, The Authority of the Bible, Anointing and Laying on of Hands, Church Government, The Peace Witness, and Brethren and Creeds.

-Want to begin Bible Study : More information forthcoming.

-Looking for families or individuals who want to participate in the "Reading of the Advent Candle" for the four Sundays of Advent, during worship. I will prepare all the readings.

### Upcoming Schedule

-Short two day vacation for Thanksgiving break. Leave Wednesday, November 22, return on Friday, November 29.

## **Unfinished Business**

None

## **New Business**

Policy #60; Page 1 – Hot buffet for between 251 to 350 people changed to 251 to 300 people – choice of one meat only. This is to lower maximum people from 350 to 300.

Approved by motion, second and aye vote.

## **Interests & Concerns**

None

## **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by aye vote at 8:35 p.m.