



Myerstown Church of the Brethren

Scriptural Message

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:7

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Matthew 6:16-18 *“Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. “But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”*

February 14 is Ash Wednesday, which is the first day of Lent. This is the first day of a forty-day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter, which will be on April 1 this year.

Many people in the Christian Church choose to fast for this period of Lent. However, fasting should be an individual choice between that individual and God. Fasting should never be forced, or expected from each church member. But if fasting is a way for you to be drawn closer to God, than do it!

Jesus gives us some guidelines about fasting in **Matthew 6:16-18**. In this passage, Jesus is speaking out of His own experience as a Jew. For Jews, fasting was a serious matter!

Fasting for the Jews was on the “Day of Atonement.” And there was one particular verse from **Leviticus 16:31** where the Jews took this verse literally: During their fast they were to “**afflict their souls**”. That meant that when the Jews fasted, they mourned! In fact when they fasted, they would go out to the towns, and Jerusalem and let people know they were fasting. They would walk through the streets with their hair all messed-up, their clothes would be sloppy. “They even went the length of deliberately whitening their faces to accentuate their paleness.” (William Barclay, Biblical Commentator)

This is why Jesus tells us that when you fast, don’t appear to others that you are fasting! Instead, fast so that God will see your fasting! And He “**will reward you openly.**” (**Matthew 6:18**)

I always say to be creative with your fasting. Whatever you need to do to become closer to God, do it! If that includes spending an extra half hour in prayer, do it! If that includes reading a special devotion on fasting, do it! If that includes cutting out T.V. or your I-Phone for a day, do it!

Always remember the reason you are fasting: It is for the Lord’s sake! Look forward to seeing you in church!
Pastor Marty.

Attendance & Offering

Attendance average for December 1 – December 31, 2017

Sunday School - 64

Worship Service – 142

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.

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.

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.

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.

Tax Receipts

The tax receipts for the year 2017 are in the mailboxes. Please don't forget to check your mailbox.

Council Meeting

March 5th at 7:00 p.m. is Council Meeting.

Londonderry Village

Londonderry Village Auxiliary presents "Singing Cedars from Lebanon" on Sunday, February 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the DiMatteo Worship Center.

Easter Lily

It is time to order your Easter Lily. The plants will be in 6 inch pots and have 5-6 blooms and the cost is \$6.75. Deadline to order and pay is March 4th. Sign the sheet on the bulletin board.

Spaghetti Supper

We are having a Spaghetti Supper on Feb. 17th to benefit the Youth. Price is \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 6-10 and under 5 is Free. Karl Hausman will provide entertainment and we will be serving from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

February Wedding Anniversaries

7th Harvey & Betty Berger
21st John & Nancy Layser
25th William & Sharon Kline

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Mens Bible Study 6:00 pm	2	3
4 Hand Chimes 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Youth Super Bowl Party	5 Praise Team 7:00 pm	6	7 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	8 Sharing Cupboard 10-1 Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Mens Bible Study 6:00 pm	9 Sharing Cupboard 3-6	10
11 Hand Chimes 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	12 Praise Team 7:00 pm	13 PIZZA HUT DAY	14 Londonderry Village Service 7:00 pm	15 Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Mens Bible Study 6:00 pm	16	17 Spaghetti Dinner 5:00 – 7:00 pm
18 Hand Chimes 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Youth Meeting 6:00 – 8:00 pm	19 Praise Team 7:00 pm	20 Executive Mtg. 6:30 pm Commission Mtg. 7:00 pm Board Mtg. 8:00 pm	21 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	22 Sharing Cupboard 10-1 Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Mens Bible Study 6:00 pm Spiritual Nurture Mtg. 7:00 pm	23 Sharing Cupboard 3-6	24 Youth Snow Tubing
25 Hand Chimes 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	26 Praise Team 7:00 pm	27	28 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm			

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Brandon Burke Darryl Daubert Clark Heisey Jessica Singer Brett Wenger	2 Seiarra Burke Robert Fasnacht Faye Pagan	3 Elias Hogeland Grant Hogeland
4 Peggy Fox	5 Marissa Chatfield Ruth Firestine Amanda Ream	6 Donald Hickernell Charlette Singer Derek Thomas	7	8 Hannah Arnt Brett Lentz Marcie Yoh	9 Sonja Smith Ashley Schucker	10 Eric Hartranft Eric Layser Taryn Miller-Bell
11 Jasmyn Burke Lynnea Weaver Corey Wenger	12 Debra Arnold Evelna Krall Jackson Leonard	13	14 Jennifer Chatfield Barbara Leshner	15 Sandra Tripp	16 Justin Hocker Roland Smith	17 Aiden Miller Barry Spangler
18 Verna Forney Gavin Speraw	19 Tammy Gruber Wyatt Stehr Jose Torres	20 Dean Ebersole, Jr. Mary Hartranft	21 Lori Hassinger Aaron Sullivan	22 Christopher Johns	23 Cameron Fuhrman Earl Liskey Ryan Liskey Sheila Meyers	24
25 Abby Bender Betty Jane Berger Jackson Liskey Nathan Sherk Ardell Smith Clara Wenrich	26 Andy Bender Paul Buccholz John Hays Danielle Perry Catherine Schott	27 Jean Barnhart Joseph Levensgood, Jr. Peter Potena	28 Dean Ebersole Dick Forney	Notes:		

Commissions and Church Board Meeting

Date: January 23, 2018

Meeting was called to order @ 8:04 p.m.

by Chairperson – Robert Noll

Present were: Secretary – Mark Landis, Jr.

Prayer by: Pastor Marty

Present were: Pastor Marty Moyer

Secretary’s Report of December 19, 2017

Approved as presented by Aye Vote

Treasurer’s Report of December 31, 2017

Approved as presented by Aye Vote

Commission Reports & Members Present

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

We approved Steve Krick and David Dubble as co-chairpersons.

Briefly discussed ideas for board retreat.

Evelyn Dick will have a program during the Sunday School hour on May 20th. Grace Ziegler will offer housing.

For Easter Sunrise Service Steve Krick will be the speaker.

Gave approval to Women’s Fellowship to pursue having a program presented by “Piercing Word”.

Tentative plans for a praise and worship night on Saturday, October 6th.

Talked about a fall program of music provided by musicians from surrounding churches. Tentative date of Saturday, September 15th.

Missions & Fellowship Commission: Co-Chairperson – Janet Dubble, Susie Dundore
Linda Zimmerman

Meeting was opened with prayer by Susie Dundore.

We reviewed the most recent update to the 2018 church directory.

We are still in need of a COBY’s representative and a Londonderry Village representative.

There is an auxiliary meeting at Londonderry Village Worship Center on Saturday, February 3rd at 9:00 am.

Janet Dubble will attend as a representative from MCoB.

The names on the mailboxes will be updated in the next week or two.

The chairpersons for 2018 will be Susie Dundore and Janet Dubble.

We started preliminary planning for the Easter breakfast. We will make an announcement (and put in bulletin) for donations of breakfast casseroles. We will put a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place.

Tickets will go on sale from March 4th through 25th.

Christian Education Commission: - Christine Blackwell, Jessica Singer
Lindsey Dimond, Melissa Wilson

Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, March 24th at 10:00 am. We will start with a story, egg hunt and then have a small meal with craft time. We will ask for donations to fill the plastic eggs.

Leslie Fuhrman and Jess Singer are chairpersons for Bible School, which will be held June 24th through 28th. They will attend the Bible School presentation hosted by J.O.Y.

We discussed Easter gifts. Talked about chocolate crosses or something with a message. We will look again next month.

Leslie Fuhrman agreed to be on our commission filling the vacancy.

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

Thank you to everyone that helped to clear sidewalks of snow during the snowfalls.

Repaired circulator for heating system.

Replaced bulb in dusk to dawn light in parking lot. Thank you to Earl Liskey for getting the lift to replace the bulb.

Would appreciate if everyone would help to conserve fuel and electric by turning off lights when not in use and turning down heat when leaving the area.

George Nagle will remain as commission chairperson.

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

Andrew Heisey will remain as commission chairperson.

Pastor Report

Sermons: 5 (extra sermon at the Christmas Eve candlelight Service)

Bread & Cup Communion: January 14

Home Visits: 8

Hospital Visits: 15

Attempted Visits: 3

Church Commission Meetings Attended: Spiritual Nurture, Music Committee.

Church Activities Attended: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Live Nativity Scene, Youth Community Luncheon, Church Soup Luncheon, Men's Bible Study, Senior Choir Practices, Youth Sunday on December 31.

No vacation or sick days used for period.

Men's Bible Study Began on Thursday, January 18, 6p.m: Studying the book of Genesis.

Upcoming Schedule

Church Board Retreat: Forthcoming

Upcoming Sermon Series: We will be looking at what our "outer mission" of the church looks like. Beginning on February 4th.

Ash Wednesday: February 14. First Sunday of Lent is March 18th. Love Feast & Communion on March 25. Easter Sunday, April 1.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Leslie Fuhrman has agreed to serve on Christian Education Commission.

Janet Dubble has agreed to continue to serve as Church Board Vice Chairperson.

Both were approved by the Board through a motion, 2nd and aye vote.

Interests & Concerns

Appreciation was expressed for the phone church app.

Discussion on meeting for the church board retreat day.

Adjournment

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