Myerstown Church of the Brethren

5 When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, 6 but the angel said, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth,[a] who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid his body. 7 Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died."

Mark 16:5-7

Address	51 West Stoever Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067
Office Phone	717-866-5517
Pastor's Study	717-866-2217
Web Page	myerstowncob.org

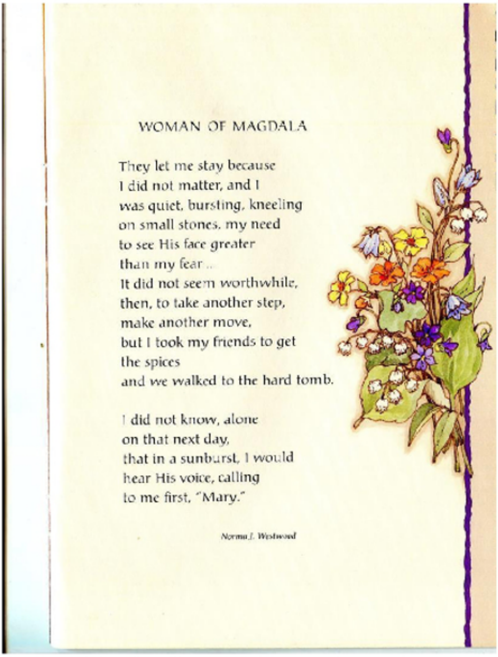
Church Email:

myerstowncob@myerstowncob.org

Myerstown Church of the Brethren

April 2016
Ministry through Faith, Vision, and Action

He is RISEN



WOMAN OF MAGDALA

They let me stay because
I did not matter, and I
was quiet, bursting, kneeling
on small stones, my need
to see His face greater
than my fear...
It did not seem worthwhile,
then, to take another step,
make another move,
but I took my friends to get
the spices
and we walked to the hard tomb.

I did not know, alone
on that next day,
that in a sunburst, I would
hear His voice, calling
to me first, "Mary."

Norma J. Westwood

AN INTRODUCTION

Let me take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Pastor John Harpold. Most call me Pastor Jack. In fact many don't know my given name is John. And that's the way I like it.

My wife Doris and I were married for 53 years at the time of her death nearly 2 and ½ years ago. Doris fought a long battle with cancer, actually two battles – the first was 21 years ago and the last started 6 years ago. She was an example of faith which was an inspiration to many. She remained upbeat no matter what she encountered. And the Lord blessed her faith.

I have three sons, four foster sons, (we were the first COBYS foster parents in 1980), four granddaughters, six step grandchildren, ten foster grandchildren and five foster great-grandchildren.

Family is very important to me and we have family gatherings as often as possible.

Concerning my ministry, I was called to the ministry from the Frederick Church of the Brethren in Frederick, Md. in 1972 and assumed my first pastorate in Thurmont, MD September 1, 1972.

The Apostle Paul said in 1 Cor. 9:16, "For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel." As the Apostle Paul I feel compelled to preach the gospel.

Paul said in Romans 1:16, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation…" Jesus told his disciples to go into the world and make disciples. That is the first purpose of preaching the gospel – making disciples. But He also told the disciples to teach them to observe all that He had commanded them.

In Ephesians 4, Paul wrote "He (Jesus) gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry.

That implies that we are in this work together, each taking our role seriously in the body of Christ. And I will do all I can to encourage you in your ministry. Together we can continue to build the Kingdom, with the Holy Spirit being our guide and source of spiritual power.

I will seek to be an effective pastor with you. I will visit the people, I will counsel the troubled, I will minister with the sick and all who may have special needs. I invite you to join with me in ministry to one another.

I want you to feel free to call on me. I will generally have office hours Tuesday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to noon. There will be exceptions for meetings and seminars which I already have scheduled.

I look forward with great anticipation to our ministry together.

May the Lord be a blessing to and through each one.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jack

Attendance & Offering

Attendance average for February 1 – February 29, 2016

Sunday School – 61
Worship Service – 148

Beginning Checkbook Balance – General Fund		$33,007.88
Income		$24,958.21
Expenses		$18,668.70
Voided Check		$ 0.00
Ending Checkbook Balance		$39,297.39
Beginning Checkbook Balance – Building Fund		$18,489.74
Income		$ 6,813.42
Expenses		$ 5,859.65
Ending Checkbook Balance	0.00%	$19,443.51
Music Fund CD	8/31/15	$12,263.42

Please remember these people in your prayers

Betty Jane Berger, Bud Brubaker,
Mary Ann Gibble, Bill Yoh, Sr.,
Mark Ziegler

Pizza Hut

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

Home Care

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

Gift Cards

The gift card order is always the first Sunday of the month. Look for your order form in the newsletter or on they bulletin board. The list of businesses is always changing. If there is a business that you would like to know about, call the church office at 866-5517 to see if those cards would be available. How many cards do you think you can use in a month's time? You don't have to give the card as a gift, you can use them yourself.

The Christian Education Commission is praying for our congregation. Has God placed a calling on your heart to work with our youth? Our church is currently in the need for Youth leaders and Sunday School teachers. Please include this need in your prayers. If God opens your heart to this opportunity, contact any of the Christian Education members.

LVBH Volunteers

The LVBH is in need of volunteers in the following areas…people who are willing to visit with our residents, read to the residents, offer wheelchair rides, or just sit and talk with the residents. They also need people who would like to fill water mugs in the Alpha and Leffler units. If you are able to give just one hour or more of your time each week, call Mary Lee Harpel at 838-5406, ext. 3186.

Attention

It's that time of year when you probably are cleaning out good but unused or unwanted items. The annual Bazaar is November 19th (mark your calendar), but we are already accepting items for the "White Elephant" table. The items are stored in the Sharing Cupboard area until November. See or call Anna Mae Snyder, Dottie Nagle or Jean Bomberger.

Lebanon Valley Brethren Home offers a Caregiver Support Group the second Thursday of every month on their Stoneback Pavilion from 2-3pm. Led by our Social Services department, the Caregiver Support Group offers an intimate setting where caregivers can share their stories, receive support through guest speakers, staff and others who may be facing similar challenges. For more information please contact our Social Services department at 717-838-5406 ext. 3502 or 3501. You can learn more about our Caregiver Support Group by logging onto our website at www.lvbh.org. Lebanon Valley Brethren Home is located at 1200 Grubb Rd. in Palmyra.

Praise Dinner

LVBH is having a sandwich and caramel popcorn sale April 23rd. If anyone would like to help or take charge of taking orders, please contact Evelina Krall at 926-5240 or 273-2460. Help is always appreciated!

LVBH Auxiliary presents “Marie Monville” on April 17th at 7:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. Marie is the widow of Charlie Monville from the Amish School House Tragedy. Admission is free, but reservations are required. Call Lucille at 717-641-4023.

Save the Date

Vacation Bible School is July 10-14, 2016. This year VBS theme is Cave Quest. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Leslie Fuhrman or Christine Blackwell.

April Wedding Anniversaries

1st	Delbert & Sandy Gassert Ken & Nancy Liskey
2nd	Aaron & Barb Zimmerman
4th	Dan & Susie Auman
12th	Roy & Barb Wenger
14th	Marty & Jill Fidler
25th	Lloyd & Kitty Wenger
26th	Leon & Eleanor Brubaker
28th	Robert & Jeannette Beisel
29th	Stuart & Debbie Wagner

The 21st Annual Praise Dinner will be held on Thursday, April 21st beginning at 6:00 PM at the Lebanon Expo. The evening includes a buffet style dinner, southern gospel music by The Taylors and an inspirational message by Rev. Mike Sigman. Tickets are $125 each or $1,250 for a table of 10 guests. Please contact Rose Walmer at 866-8403 or Molly Dubble at 866-8405 if you would like more information. All funds raised benefit COBYS Family Services, Evangelical Seminary, Friendship Community and On Fire Youth Ministry.

TEN COMMANDMENTS OF HUMAN RELATIONS

1. **SPEAK TO PEOPLE.** There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.

2. **SMILE AT PEOPLE.** It takes 72 muscles to frown and only 14 to smile.

3. **CALL PEOPLE BY NAME.** The sweetest music to many ears is the sound of one’s own name.

4. **BE FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL.** If you would have friends, be friendly.

5. **BE CORDIAL.** Speak and act as though everything you do is pleasurable.

6. **HAVE A GENUINE INTEREST IN PEOPLE.** People like to be noticed and appreciated.

7. **BE GENEROUS WITH PRAISE, BE CAUTIOUS WITH CRITICISM.** Oversome them with goodness.

8. **BE CONSIDERATEW OF THE FEELINGS OF OTHERS.** Try walking in their shoes.

Visit our
Library

9. **BE THOUGHTFUL OF THE OPINIONS OF OTHERS.** Respect their viewpoints.

10. **BE ALERT TO GIVE SERVICE.** What counts most in life is what we do for others.

Commissions and Church Board Meeting **Date: March 15, 2016**

Meeting was called to order @ 8:05 p.m. **by Chairperson – Robert Noll**
Present were: Treasurer – Christa Bender
Present were: Secretary-Mark Landis, Sr. **Prayer by: Steve Krick**

Secretary's Report of Febuary 16, 2016 **Approved at Council Meeting February 29, 2016**

Treasurer's Report of February 29, 2016 **Approved as presented by Aye Vote**

Commission Reports & Members Present

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

Our commission had met on March 8th with Craig Smith, District Executive, and Pastor Harpold to review details of the Interim Pastor Agreement. As stated in the congregational letter, Pastor Jack will begin on Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016. Special thanks to Toni Noll for processing the letter.
We discussed the idea of having worship music prior to the service. We would like to present this to the Music Committee for their consideration.
There was discussion of having a Sunday night Praise, hymn sing, prayer and testimony service. We will work on this idea with Pastor Jack and could include Sunday night youth group.
At our March 8th meeting, Craig Smith discussed with us preliminary steps to begin the formation of our Selection Committee, which would include congregational involvement in the selection of members. We have additional questions to discuss with Craig by email.

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

We started the meeting with devotions by Leslie Fuhrman.
Plans were finalized for the breakfast on Easter Sunday after the Sunrise Service.
We are getting palms for March 20th and the youth will hand them out after the church service.
Plans were discussed for the picnic at Knoebels Park on June 11th.
Possible events were discussed for 2016:
    Shady Maple
    Sight & Sound
    Trip to NYC – possible Christmas show at Radio City Music Hall
Outreach activities discussed
    Project through COBYS
    Samaritan Purse (Operation Christmas Child)
    Christmas in July – Susan Dowhower House
    Kaitlyn Smiles

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

In preparation for the Easter Egg Hunt, we packed gift bags for the children and planned the activities for the day. It will be held this Saturday, March 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
We welcomed Lindsey Fouch and Christine Blackwell to our commission and thanked them for volunteering and look forward to board approval.

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

We welcomed Mark Landis, Jr. to our commission and recommend that Board approves his appointment to Trustee & Property.
We are planning on scheduling April 9th to take down a tree alongside of the parking lot. Anyone that would like to help that Saturday, please contact anyone on the commission.
We received a notice from Balsbaugh Insurance about a ryder on our policy concerning coverage for discrimination.
Whitey met with Yarnell about a reoccurring alarm. We believe this issue was with a bad sensor and has been resolved.
We discussed other possible summertime maintenance projects such as painting light poles, etc.

Finance and Stewardship Commission: Mark Bomberger

February 29, 2016

Year to Date Budgeted to General Fund	$45,980
Year to Date Actual to General Fund	28,226
Difference	-$17,754
Year to Date Budgeted to Building Fund	$11,786
Year to Date Actual to Building Fund	9,669
Difference	-$ 2,117

Mortgage Balance	$348,232.05
Sharing Cupboard Savings Account	$ 8,747.50
Building Fund Balance	$ 20,290.51
Music Fund CD Balance	$ 12,266.47

We reviewed Treasurer's Report.
Our commission will contact Fulton Bank for information on automatic deposit for direct tithing to church account.

Pastor Report

No Report

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Motion, second and aye vote approved the appointments of:
Mark Landis, Jr. on Trustee & Property Commission
Christine Blackwell on Christian Education Commission
Lindsey Fouch on Christian Education Commission.

Interests & Concerns

2 persons from the Board will be available after Church in the Gathering Place to answer questions and provide information related to the Church.

If you notice some area that needs cleaning, put a note in the Trustee & Property mailbox. Whitey will put in custodian's mailbox.

Adjournment

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

~ April 2016 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
3 Bonnie Lackey	**4** Sandy Gassert Kathy Heisey Ruth Heller Emily Hibshman Sheila Messersmith	**5** Austin Chatfield Dalton Ebersole	**6**
10 James Mease Abigail Umbenhauer	**11** Cory Burke Kimberly Shutter	**12** Gary Brown Todd Eckert Erlene Wagner	**13** Bonnie Mease Megan Spangler Glenn Rambler Gail Wolf
17 Diane Dubble Paul Heller	**18** Clair McClure Mikayla Walmer	**19** Ruth Saul Lois Sheetz	**20** Lisa Liskey Sage Sherk John Zimmerman, Sr.
24 Bruce Behney Carol Daubert Beth Perry	**25** Kurt Forry Tyler Penrose Abrielle Miller	**26** Robert Long William Singer James Smith	**27** Sheri Daubert

April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Seth Dimond	2 Bonnie Gerhart Zachery Sullivan
3 Hand Chimes 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	4 Junior Choir 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:00 pm	5	6 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	7	8 Timothy Frederick Molly Hoffer	9 Gerald Houtz Brock Miller Ryan Mogel
10 Hand Chimes 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Youth Mtg. 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	11 Junior Choir 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:00 pm	12 PIZZA HUT DAY	13 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	14 Leon Brubaker Jessica Houtz Madison Miller	15 Bonnie Hays Travis Kisler Michael Risser	16 Harvey Berger Sabrina Heller Jeremy Herr Mark Landis, Jr. Victoria Lengel Craig Reppert
17 Hand Chimes 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	18 Junior Choir 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:00 pm	19 Executive Mtg. 6:30 pm Commission Mtg. 7:00 pm Board Mtg. 8:00 pm	20 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	21	22 Jenifer Fetzer Ryan Krall Emalyn Walmer	23 Luke Carroll Tamara Carroll Grace Dubble Sara Koppenhaver Scott Schaetzle
24 Hand Chimes 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Youth Mtg. 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	25 Junior Choir 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:00 pm	26	27 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	28 Kathy Dubble Payton Fuhrman Charisma Meyers Kelly Shutter	29 Carter Dubble George Heller III	30 Whitney Hoover Duey Peiffer

Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	**2**
7	**8**	**9**
14 Sharing Cupboard 10-1	**15** Sharing Cupboard 3-6	**16**
21 Wenger Foundation Praise Dinner	**22**	**23**
28 Sharing Cupboard 10-1 Spiritual Nurture Mtg. 7:00 pm	**29** Sharing Cupboard 3-6	**30**

2016 Mission Trip---Dominican Republic—July 23-29, 2016

ANTICIPATION

Did you know that a group of 16 people from our Church family are travelling to the Dominican Republic this summer for a short-term mission trip? It is fascinating to see that half of the group is made up of young people involved with the Myerstown COB Youth Group! They are Abby & Ali Bender, Tori Mauer, Taylor Hauck, Weston Fouch, Amanda Houser, Austin Thomas, and Noelle Eberly.

The “grown-ups” in the group are Christa and Andy Bender, Lisa Mauer, Deb Eberly, Anissa Mogel, Nicole Hauck, Lindsey Fouch, and Seth Dimond. (Editor’s Note: It will soon be Mr. & Mrs. Diamond!)

What motivates people to invest time, effort and money to go on a trip like this? Here are some of the things that members of the group said.

Abby shared that while they go to help the Dominican people, the whole trip becomes a “reality check” for the group. The local folks have so little, yet they are happy and strong in their faith. It makes her appreciate what she has, and how she really doesn’t need a lot of “stuff” that doesn’t mean anything. Abby and Ali are both really excited to go back to see the children they connected with on previous trips.

The local community they are helping does not have running water. Weston is convinced he will take shorter showers AFTER he gets home! He knows he will appreciate things more after the trip.

Noelle is really excited to go---“can’t wait!” There is a contagious enthusiasm when you talk with any of the youth about the trip. Tori said she is also eager to help people, especially after she had been on the Youth Group trip to Brooklyn last year. She is sure this will be a life-changing trip.

Austin also expressed his desire to help, just like when he is volunteering for the Fire Company.

Taylor, along with several others, lovingly coaxed her Mom that they HAD to go, especially after seeing the report from last year's trip.

CONNECTION

For many of the group, this is the second or third time to travel to this impoverished area. Amanda shared that she is anxious to return a third time and reconnect with the kids who participated in the Vacation Bible School and the Sports Ministry. It is amazing to hear how connected their group was with the local children, even though there is a language barrier. Many of the children are not involved with the church, but they were happy to participate in the sports and Bible School. Perhaps this will help them eventually connect with the church.

Amanda shared how these trips have helped her grow spiritually. She is now more open and serious about her faith, and she knows that God is guiding her as she moves forward in her life.

COMMUNICATION

The group is dependent on the translator, since no one is fluent in Spanish. Nicole shared that she really has a heart for the children and their families. "Only God can show them" we care, without words, through our love and actions.

CONTENTMENT

It is obvious that the local people are very happy with the little that they have. There is still joy!

Anissa said that one of the simple things that impressed her from the last trip was how the children played with bottle caps. As a result, several of the group were planning to take marbles and small gifts to give away. She also said she was always a member of the "clean your plate club," but now she is worse! She recognizes that we complain and take things for granted. The people they met and worked with last year didn't have simple things like shoes, yet they are happy.

COMMITTMENT

It is obvious that the parents in the group want to share this growing experience with their children, to see how God uses it to impact their lives. That is powerful motivation! For Deb, this is a life-long desire to go on a mission trip, ever since she skipped a chance to go to Ecuador when she was in high school. After accompanying the Youth to Brooklyn last year, she was convinced that she and Noelle could go and serve and make a difference.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

Lindsay and Seth are also excited for this trip with Weston as a family! Seth, who had been on a short-term mission trip to Africa four years ago, shared that ultimately, this trip is about the ***Great Commission:***

Matthew 28: 18-20 (Jesus said to His disciples,)

All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore, GO and MAKE DISCIPLES of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Christa and Andy know that it will be a very busy week for the group. In the mornings, they plan to complete the bathroom building project that was started last year. (The local church/ community had no money to complete it, so it stands the same as they left it last year.)

There will be a food distribution project for local families, with details to be figured out with

Praying Pelican, the organization that oversees the trip. There will also be Vacation Bible School and sports/ play time.

YOUR PART?

Most of us will be comfortably at home while the group travels, sleeps on the floor, eats strange food and seeks to serve and communicate God's language of love. So what can we do?

1. ***PRAY*** Take the list of missionaries/ travelers and ask God to give each one—
   Wisdom.--James 1:5 If any one lacks wisdom, ask the Father who gives liberally!
   Love to Share--Romans 5:5 The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts.

   Protection—Psalms 91:11-12 He shall give his angels charge over thee to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.
2. ***CONNECT*** Find someone on this list and ask questions about their plans. They are excited, eager to go, and ready to tell you about it!

3. ***PARTNER*** The Apostle Paul had loyal folks who partnered with him in his missionary travels as recorded in the New Testament. Did you know that if you invest in God's service through a missionary, you get the same blessings and rewards of that missionary? God understands that each of us can be a missionary through our prayers and our money. Pray about partnering with the group. You will be blessed!

Stay tuned for more information and announcements regarding the trip. Let's rally around our missionaries and show them our loving support!