



Myerstown Church of the Brethren

Scriptural Message

25 “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; 26 men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.” 29 Then He spoke to them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. 30 When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. 31 So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. 32 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. 34 “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. 35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Luke 21:25-36

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Myerstown Church of the Brethren

December 2018

Ministry through Faith,
Vision, and Action

Read Luke 21:25-36

If you would ask anyone what Christmas means to them, I doubt that they would say, “*The Coming of Jesus Christ With Power and Glory.*” Instead, they would say, “*The Coming of Santa Clause to my House!*”

But the Biblical Message of Christmas begins with “*The Coming of Jesus Christ.*” That is the meaning of the word “*Advent; The Coming of Jesus.*” Advent is a time of preparation and reflection in anticipation of Christmas, the celebration of Christ’s birth.

The church observes four Sunday’s of the Advent season. Four candles on the Advent wreath are light for each of the four Sunday’s of Advent. Each Sunday of Advent has a different theme of Love, Joy, Hope, and Peace.

When we look at the Biblical Text for the season of Advent, we see that it focuses on The Coming of Jesus Christ. Christmas is more than the Christmas traditions, which all of us observe. It is all about the Coming of our Savior to a lost and sinful world. It is a time when we examine our hearts before God.

Jesus talks about the “*Coming of the Son of Man,*” and He tells us to “***take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.***” (Luke 21:34)

Christmas is the time of the year when many people have hearts that are “*weighed down.*” We might feel the burden of Christmas shopping. Some people have depression at Christmas time because of the “*cares of this life.*” What is the answer to these burdens during the holidays?

Jesus tells us to “***watch and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.***” (Luke 21:36)

As we approach the season of Advent, think on these things that Jesus tells us. Watch, and be aware of your own heart before God. May we focus our hearts and minds on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as we celebrate His arrival.

Have a Blessed Advent Preparation Season! Pastor Marty.

Attendance & Offering

Attendance average for October 1 – October 31, 2018

Sunday School - 32

Worship Service – 121

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, Nettie Krall, Mary Lineweaver, Iris Liskey, and Clara Miller.

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.

Children's Christmas Program

The Children's Christmas Program will be during the Worship hour on Dec. 9th.

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.

2019 Directory

Any changes in the Church Directory for 2019, notify Toni or a Mission & Fellowship commission member.

Christmas Eve Service

The Christmas Eve Service will be Monday, Dec. 24th at 7:00 p.m.

Save the Date

Women's Fellowship Christmas Breakfast will be December 8th from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. at Cedar Grill Restaurant. This year we are doing something a bit different. Everyone will be ordering from the menu and paying themselves. Bring a \$1.00 gift for our gift exchange. For more information contact Jess Singer.

Secret Sister

We will be revealing ourselves to our Secret Sister at the Christmas Breakfast. In January we will again pick names for the Secret Sister.

Candle Lighting/Memorial Service

We will be having our annual Candle Lighting Service on Sunday, January 6th for loved ones that passed away during the year 2018. 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 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.

Decorate the Church

Christmas decorating will be December 1st at 2 pm. Come help get the church ready for the Christmas season! All ages are welcome. Please bring a snack to share.

Live Nativity

Live Nativity will be December 24th at 6 pm. There will be caroling and then fellowship afterwards in the Gathering Place. If you and your family would like to be a part of the Live Nativity, please let Rachel Moyer know. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place for anyone who would like to bring cookies, brownies, etc. for the fellowship afterwards. Hot cocoa will be provided.

Mortgage Debt Reduction

If you would like to contribute any amount toward the reduction of the church's mortgage debt, please make your check out to **Myerstown Church of the Brethren** and indicate on both the check and on your envelope that it is **for DEBT REDUCTION**. This campaign will run through the end of December. Thank you for your help!

We will be decorating a Christmas in the Gathering Place with hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves for children and adults until December 23rd. These items will be given to the families who come to the Sharing Cupboard.

Cookie Exchange

Women's Fellowship will be having a cookie exchange on Tuesday, Dec. 11th at 7:00 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!

December Wedding Anniversaries

13th Dennis & Faye Brubaker
23rd Carl & Margaret Wenger

Commissions and Church Board Meeting

Date: November 20, 2018

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

by Chairperson – Janet Dubble

Present were: Secretary – Mark Landis, Jr.

Prayer by: Pastor Marty

Present were: Pastor Marty Moyer

Secretary's Report of October 16, 2018

**Approved as presented at Council Meeting
October 29, 2018**

Treasurer's Report of October 31, 2018

Approved as presented by Aye Vote

Commission Reports & Members Present

Ministry & Evangelism Commission: Co-Chairperson – David Dubble,
Robert Noll, Pastor Marty

The Ministry Commission met on Monday, November 19, 2018 with Dave Dubble, Bob Noll, Grace Ziegler and Pastor Marty. We met in Grace's home due to her not being able to meet on Tuesday, November 20, 2018.

Pastor Marty led us in prayer.

We talked about the program by "The Piercing Word" that was presented. All comments about program were positive. Maybe we have them again and do a different program.

We talked about possible participants for the Gospel Music night being held on March 9, 2019.

Discussed possible speakers for Love Feast and Spiritual Renewal being held on October 6 through October 9, 2019. Also discussed how to encourage better attendance.

We discussed the agenda for Christmas Eve service to be held on December 24, 2018.

Discussed the possibility of having a membership meal and have the member invite a friend or family to attend also. Would also have a program after the meal. Will discuss this with the Missions and Fellowship Commission.

Worked on our commission appointments for 2019 and suggestions on who might also be willing to serve on our commission.

Missions & Fellowship Commission: Co-Chairpersons – Susie Dundore, Janet Dubble
Kim Horn, Linda Zimmerman

Christmas Eve Service starts at 7:00 pm. Rachel was here to discuss a Live Nativity that will start at 6:00 pm.

We will have snacks and hot chocolate. We will put an ad in the Merchandiser and in the bulletin.

We will be decorating the church on December 1st at 2:00 pm. Anyone attending is asked to bring a snack to share with the group.

We will be putting up a Christmas tree in the Gathering Place to collect hats, scarves, gloves and mittens for adults and children for the Sharing Cupboard families. We will be collecting until Dec. 23rd.

December board meeting (December 18th) we will provide snacks and drink.

Glenn and Lois Hassinger are willing to be the contact for Lebanon County Christian Ministries. We still need someone to be the contact for COBY'S.

We will be going to Mennonite Central Committee Work Center on March 30th from 9:00 am till 12 pm.

Christian Education Commission: - Co-Chairpersons – Leslie Fuhrman, Lindsey Dimond
Jessica Singer

Children’s Christmas Program will be Sunday, Dec. 9th during the worship hour. We handed out CD’s to all the children and we will be practicing during the Sunday School hour every week leading up to the program.

Megan Thomas asked to step down as treasurer with Paige for the Youth. Christian Education asked Matt Sanchez to be added to the account as another leader. Matt agreed to be added to the account. Pastor Marty agreed to be listed as a substitute teacher for the Sunday School classes if needed.

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

We cleaned snow off the sidewalks.

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

Women’s Fellowship has agreed to purchase a new copier for the church.

Pastor Report

Sermons: 3 (extra sermon for Londenderry Village on Oct. 31)

Home Visits: 3

Hospital Visits: 2

Attempted Visits: 2

Anointings: 1 (Grace Ziegler)

Funerals: 1 (Mary Lineweaver)

Funeral Visitations: 1 Mary Lineweaver Family

Church Commission Meetings Attended: Church Board and Council Meetings, Music Committee Meeting, Spiritual Nurture Meeting.

Vacation Days Used: 0

Sick Days Used: 0

Church Activities Attended

-Community Thanksgiving Service, Poplar Run Home, November 18. Offering went to Sharing Cupboard. (monetary and food items)

-Annual Bazaar (short visit)

-Pot Pie Dinner, on November 10

-Pastor's Support Breakfast

-Led Worship at Londenderry Village on October 31

-Attended the "Compelling Vision" district meeting at Palmyra C.O.B. on November 10.

Upcoming Schedule

Thanksgiving Break: Gone Wednesday Through Friday, November 21-23.

Upcoming Sermons:

November 25: "Behold, He Is Coming" Revelation 1:4-8 (working on upcoming sermons for Advent)

Unfinished Business

The Mortgage Debt Reduction Campaign to happen by end of December 2018 is continuing to move in a good direction.

Pastoral Evaluation Forms should be coming out early in the new year.

We are still looking into acquiring a favorable lease for the Christian based school requesting to use our facility.

New Business

None

Interests & Concerns

None

Adjournment

Pastor Marty closed in prayer at 8:45 p.m.

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Chime Choir 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	3	4	5 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	6 Bible Study 6:00 pm	7	8
9 Chime Choir 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Children's Program	10 Praise Team 6:00 pm	11 Pizza Hut	12 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	13 Sharing Cupboard 10-1 Bible Study 6:00 pm Spiritual Nurture Mtg 7:00 pm	14 Sharing Cupboard 3-6	15
16 Chime Choir 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	17 Praise Team 6:00 pm	18 Executive Mtg. 6:30 pm Commission Mtg. 7:00 pm Board Mtg. 8:00 pm	19 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	20 Bible Study 6:00 pm	21	22
23 Chime Choir 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	24 Christmas Eve 7:00 pm	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27 Sharing Cupboard 10-1 Bible Study 6:00 pm	28 Sharing Cupboard 3-6	29
30 Chime Choir 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	31					

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Jeanette Hartman
2 Ralph Ackerman	3 Jackie Doher	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					