



## Myerstown Church of the Brethren

### Scriptural Message

1 And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

3

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4

Blessed are those who mourn,  
For they shall be comforted.

5

Blessed are the meek,  
For they shall inherit the [a]earth.

6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for  
righteousness,  
For they shall be filled.

7

Blessed are the merciful,  
For they shall obtain mercy.

8

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
For they shall see God.

9

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
For they shall be called sons of God.

10

Blessed are those who are persecuted for  
righteousness' sake,  
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:1-10

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Myerstown Church of the Brethren

January 2019

Ministry through Faith,  
Vision, and Action

### **GROWING IN THE LORD**

As we begin a new year, I begin another new year as pastor of this church. As I look to another new year, I am anxious to see what the Lord has planned for this church! I am hopeful that we will have a good year!

Many of you have told me that you are praying for our church, and I am doing the same. I want the same thing that you want: a church that is growing in Jesus Christ, a church that reaches out to others in the name of Jesus; a church where people find new life and hope in Jesus Christ!

But in order for us to grow, as a church, we need a new focus, and a new direction. Our focus, as a church, needs to be about what the apostle Paul says in **Colossians 3:1-2** ***“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”***

I would like for us to begin the new year with this new focus of ‘setting our minds above, where Christ is.’ One way we do this is by focusing our hearts and minds on scripture, and hear what the Holy Spirit is telling us through the scriptures.

We will begin this focus with this newsletter. I have quoted below the words of Jesus taken from the Sermon on the Mount. It is the first of ten beatitudes from **Matthew 5:1-10**.

I would like for us to read and meditate on each of these beatitudes. Then answer the question that I pose. The first beatitude is about ‘being poor in spirit.’

***“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:3)*** Take some time now, and meditate on this verse.

For a person to be ‘poor in spirit’ is actually a quality that Christians need to have. It means that a person is helpless, to the point where he or she puts their entire trust in God. It is the person that the Psalmist describes in **Psalm 34:6** ***“This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.”***

If the church wants to grow in the Lord, that means each one of us must empty ourselves, empty our pride, and place our trust in God! It is a good starting point of how the church needs to grow in the Lord!

Stay tuned for the next beatitude that will be posted!  
Pastor Marty

## **Attendance & Offering**

Attendance average for November 1 – November 30, 2018

Sunday School - 51

Worship Service – 124

### **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.

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

We will be having our annual Candle Lighting Service on Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Pew Communion**

We will be having on January 13<sup>th</sup> during the worship hour.

### **Offering envelopes**

The offering envelopes for 2019 are in your mailbox. If you did not receive a set of envelopes and would like to have some, please contact Toni in the church office or Ralph and Mim Ackerman.

### **January Wedding Anniversaries**

1<sup>st</sup> David & Janet Dubble

15<sup>th</sup> Elmer & Barbara Weidman

### **If We Only Understood**

Could we but draw back the curtains  
That surround each other's lives,  
See the naked heart and spirit,  
Know what spur the action gives,  
Often we would find it better,  
Purer than we judge we should;  
We should love each other better  
If we only understood.

Could we judge all deeds by motives,  
See the good and bad within,  
Often we would love the sinner,  
All the while we loathe the sin.  
Could we know the powers working  
To o'erthrow integrity,  
We should judge each other's errors  
With more patient charity.

If we knew the cares and trials,  
Knew the efforts all in vain,  
And the bitter disappointment,  
Understood the loss and gain  
Would the grim eternal roughness  
Seem-I wonder-just the same?  
Should we help where now we hinder?  
Should we pity where now we blame?

Ah! We judge each other harshly,  
Knowing not life's hidden force;  
Knowing not the fount of action  
Is less turbid at its source.  
Seeing not amid the evil  
All the golden grains of good;  
Oh, we'd love each other better  
If we only understood.  
---Rudyard Kipling

## January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Jean Bomberger	<b>3</b> Amanda Albright Allison Behney Martin Fidler III Victoria Sanchez	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Betti Ann Varela Barbara Zimmerman
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Alessandro Fulk Gail Reppert	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Louisa Arnt Noel Gruber Jennifer Heisey Vicky Heisey	<b>10</b> Cindy Liskey	<b>11</b> Wesley Eberly Travis Gerhart Wilbur Wagner	<b>12</b> Miriam Ackerman
<b>13</b> Fern Behney Chad Carroll Mark Landis, Sr.	<b>14</b> Florence Ebersole	<b>15</b> Brent Hays Kimberly Wenger	<b>16</b> Austin Thomas Eli Wenrich	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Brittany Darone Doreen DiScullo	<b>19</b> Bonnie Deurer Dezirae Dohner
<b>20</b> Mike Koppenhaver Bonnie Rittle	<b>21</b> Diane Dubble	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Scott Wagner	<b>24</b> Kristy Laubach Jason Wohlbruck	<b>25</b> Katie Abrams Christina Bueke Travis Highman	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Lamar Fahnestock	<b>28</b> Mark Reppert	<b>29</b> Barbara Heffner John Mauser	<b>30</b> Patricia Gibble	<b>31</b> Neal Batdorf Lori DiFulvio Margaret Wenger		

## January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	<b>3</b> Bible Study 6:00 pm Women's Fellowship Mtg. 7:00 pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Hand Chimes 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Memorial Candle Lighting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>PIZZA HUT DAY</b>  Music Mtg. 7:00 pm	<b>9</b> Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	<b>10</b> Sharing Cupboard 10-1	<b>11</b> Sharing Cupboard 3-6	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Hand Chimes 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Bread and Cup Communion	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Executive Mtg. 6:30 pm Commission Mtg. 7:00 pm Board Mtg. 8:00 pm	<b>16</b> Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Hand Chimes 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	<b>24</b> Sharing Cupboard 10-1	<b>25</b> Sharing Cupboard 3-6	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Hand Chimes 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	<b>31</b> Bible Study 6:00 pm Spiritual Nurture Mtg. 7:00 pm		

**Commissions and Church Board Meeting**

**Date: December 18, 2018**

**Meeting was called to order @ 8:08 p.m.**

**by Chairperson – Janet Dubble**

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

**Prayer by: Pete Contra**

**Present were: Pastor Marty Moyer**

**Secretary’s Report of November 20, 2018**

**Not Approved Due to No Quorum Present**

**Treasurer’s Report of November 30, 2018**

**Not Approved Due to No Quorum Present**

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

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

The Ministry and Evangelism Commission met on Monday, December 17, 2018. In attendance was Dave Dubble, Grace Ziegler, Bob Noll and Pastor Marty. Pastor Marty opened our meeting with prayer.

It was decided that the Children’s story will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday’s of the month starting in January 2019.

We discussed the pastor survey that was approved by Church Board. A list was completed of who will receive a survey. A cover letter will also be attached. They will be mailed out and also a self-addressed stamped envelope will be included for them to be mailed back. A collection box will also be made available for those who do not want to mail them back. All surveys will be returned to the Ministry Commission to be evaluated. A signature or name on them is optional.

We completed our appointments for 2019 and are looking to maybe add additional ushers.

The upcoming Christmas Eve program is progressing well.

It was discussed that the night of Gospel Music to be held on March 9, 2019, start at 6:00 p.m. We currently have approximately 7 music groups and are looking for a few more.

Chris Smith has agreed to do our Spiritual Renewal services to be held on October 6th through October 9th, 2019. This will also include Love Feast to be held on October 6, 2019.

After no further business the meeting was adjourned by prayer by Pastor Marty.

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

We reviewed the church directory

Update on the refreshments for Live Nativity.

Received a resignation letter from Megan Thomas from our commission.

Jason Ruth has designed the cover for the 2019 church directory

We are happy with the response of our hat, glove and scarf donations on the Christmas tree in the Gathering Place which will be donated to the Sharing Cupboard.

**Christian Education Commission:** - Co-Chairperson – Leslie Fuhrman  
Jessica Singer, Christine Blackwell

The Children’s Christmas program went very well and we are reviewing plans for next year.

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

We replaced dusk to dawn light at Sharing Cupboard with a LED light.  
Looking into polishing the floor in the Gathering Place on Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>.

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

### **Pastor Report**

Sermons: 2 (no sermon for the Sundays of the Children’s Program and the Christmas Cantata)

Home Visits: 14

Hospital Visits: 3

Attempted Visits: 2

Funerals: 1 Larry Miller

Funeral Visitations: 1

Anointings: 1

Church Commission Meetings Attended: Church Board.

Vacation Days Used: 3 (over Thanksgiving)

Sick Days Used: 0

## Church Activities Attended

- Myerstown C.O.B. Christmas Caroling, December 2
- Community Christmas caroling, December 15 (drove the "On Fire Ministry" Bus)
- Christmas Decorating in the church, December 1
- Pastor's Support Breakfast
- Assisted in Teaching S.S. for the youth on December 9

## Upcoming Sermons:

December 23: "Good Things Are Coming!" Micah 5, Luke 1

December 30: "Twelve Year-Old Scholar!" Luke 2:41-52

Christmas Eve Service: ( I will have a short message)

## **Unfinished Business**

None

## **New Business**

Ken Gross has agreed to serve on Trustee and Property Commission starting in 2019.

## **Interests & Concerns**

Pete Contra and Don Mitchell from the Atlantic Northeast District came and spoke with us on Conflict Resolution and Church Revitalization.

## **Adjournment**

Pastor Marty closed in prayer at 8:30 p.m.