



Myerstown Church of the Brethren

Scriptural Message

46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:46-47

9 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

Luke 22:19

35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

John 6:35

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THE LOVE FEAST

Question: "What is a love feast?"

Answer: A love feast or agape feast was a fellowship meal eaten by Christians in the early church. There is biblical evidence for the practice of these communal meals, during which Christians gathered not just for the sake of sustenance and socializing, but for the sake of fellowship (Acts 2:46–47; 1 Corinthians 11:17–34). The term love feast appears in the Bible in the book of Jude. The author of the epistle is talking about false teachers who come into the believers' fellowship, pretending—they are wolves in sheep's clothing. These false teachers are described as "blemishes at your love feasts" (Jude 1:12). The ESV calls the pretenders "hidden reefs," pointing up the dangerous nature of false teachers and their potential to shipwreck Christians.

Hippolytus of Rome and Tertullian both wrote about communal meals, though Hippolytus does not use the term agape but calls the meals simply "love feasts." In some traditions, these meals became associated with other rituals, such as the Eucharist. It is possible that the term agape feast fell out of usage because it became associated with certain abuses that were taking place during the feasts—including gluttony and favoritism, which Paul addresses in 1 Corinthians 11:17–34. However, Christians have always practiced communal meals of various kinds. Communion, or the Lord's Table, is an ordinance that Jesus gave the church, commanding that we partake of the bread and the cup in remembrance of Him. This was done in the early church at the love feasts (Luke 22:19). In the context of 1 Corinthians 11, it is clear that Paul equates communal meals with remembering Christ in this way, and that is one of the reasons why abusing the communal meal was so offensive (1 Corinthians 11:20–34).

Today, love feasts are still observed by the Moravians, Church of the Brethren, Old German Baptists, Dunkard Brethren, and some other denominations. In some cases, the fellowship includes a foot-washing ceremony, a meal, and the observance of communion. Some house churches have attempted to revive the practice of the love feast, though it is not always called a love feast. Sharing a meal can have spiritual significance because of the Last Supper that Jesus ate with His disciples, where He taught them to serve one another. Food brings nourishment, and wine brings gladness (Psalm 104:15; Ecclesiastes 9:7), and they can be symbols of the free gift of Christ, who is the bread of life and the giver of joy (John 6:35; Romans 14:17).



We live in unprecedented times. It seems change is happening around us by the hour. All of us have been dealing with daily changes to our lives because of the covid19 virus, store closings, social distancing, and now for you here at Myerstown Church of the Brethren, a sudden pastoral change.

At the Church Board meeting on March 17, 2020, I was called to serve as your Interim Pastor. Ministering to a congregation in such turbulent times is necessary, but it is complicated now by those other issues which don't allow our meeting together. Our discussion at the board meeting focused partly around how I can reach out to you as we begin this journey together. Let me begin by introducing myself to you.

My name is Dennis Garrison. Ministry is a second career for me. After thirty years of teaching middle school music, most of those in the Derry Township (Hershey) School District, I "retired" to take the position of Pastor of Special Ministries at the Spring Creek Church of the Brethren in Hershey. My call to ministry began in the 1980's and led to licensing at Spring Creek in 1983 and ordination in 1990. I served in various part-time capacities before joining the staff full-time in 2002. In early 2008 I was called to the role of Senior Pastor at Spring Creek and served until my retirement on January 1, 2018. I most recently served as Interim Pastor at the Akron Church of the Brethren from August 2019-May2020. My theological training included the Atlantic Northeast District Reading Course, courses at Lancaster Seminary, Evangelical Seminary here in Myerstown, and courses through the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center at Elizabethtown College.

My wife Cathy and I met during our freshman year at college and were married July 1, 1972. We have three grown children: Andrew who is married to Tara, Peter who is married to Katie, and Erin who lives with us. Three grandchildren and a step-granddaughter complete our family.

As I begin this journey with you as your interim pastor, I want to offer some words of encouragement and hope. In Numbers 27, God tells Moses his time as the leader of God's people is coming to an end. Moses had done the work to which God had called him and now it was time for a new leader. So Moses asked God to appoint this new leader, one who would "guide the people" that they would not be "like sheep without a shepherd."

In response, God directed Moses to lay hands on Joshua and commission him as the one who would lead the people into God's promised future. *The work of God is bigger than any one individual and any one generation.* We see that affirmed in the opening verses of the book of Joshua as God commissions Joshua for the work of leadership: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:19 NIV) Let us not forget that God is with us each moment and each day. Live in this assurance and live in His love.

In Mark 4:35 Jesus invites his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side" of the lake. There was somewhere Jesus wanted them to go and there was something they needed to do on the other side. What they found was in that time of transition from one side of the lake to the other they would face some challenges. Times of transition and change are rarely without challenges. For the disciples that day there were two: a violent storm and something about Jesus that both amazed and confused them. Getting to the other side certainly meant the boat ride, but it also meant dealing with a torrential downpour and a dead calm. Sometimes the hardest part of the process of transition and change is accepting reality and just getting into the boat. If the disciples knew there was going to be a storm, they may never have gotten into the boat.

The storm wasn't the destination, but it was part of the pathway to the destination. And, if you read this story carefully, you notice that, while the disciples feared they might drown in the storm, what really "terrified" them was what Jesus said and what happened when he spoke. He "rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind died down and it was completely calm."

For we here at Myerstown Church of the Brethren there are two promises in this story: first is that *there is something for us on the other side* – some work to do, some blessing to be experienced - and Jesus wants us to go there with him. And second, that *getting to the other side will have some challenges, but Jesus is with us on the journey*, in the transition and will be with us on the other side.

As we move forward together I challenge you to keep these three things in mind. (1) The work of God at Myerstown Church of the Brethren is bigger than any one individual. (2) God's work is not done here. Jesus has something for us on the other side. (3) Getting to the other side will have some challenges, but Jesus is with us on the journey and will be with us on the other side.

Right now we are in the midst of the challenges. I urge you to get in the boat and begin this journey together. God has something in mind for you. Let's work together as we seek the new work God has planned for you on the other side.

Blessings!
Dennis

Attendance & Offering

Attendance average for February 1, 2020 – February 29, 2020
Sunday School – 32
Worship Service - 90

Home Care

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers those living in nursing homes/assisted living homes: Orpha Doutrich, Joanne Ealy, Jeannette Hartman, and Iris Liskey.

Gift Cards

We will continue the gift card orders in spite of this virus. If you would like to order please call JoAnn in the office or stop by the office. Monday-Friday 8am-12pm. Orders can also be mailed to the church at:

**Myerstown COB
PO Box 61
Myerstown, PA 17067**

I would need your order by Friday April 3rd.

Pizza Hut

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

Offering envelopes

If you did not receive a set of envelopes and would like to have some, please contact JoAnn in the church office or Ralph and Mim Ackerman.

As we are all settling into a new normal life for now, let's remember to keep our church and church family in our prayers. Even though our doors are not open for service on a Sunday morning, we still have a financial responsibility. If you would like to continue your weekly tithing, please feel free to mail your offering envelope to the church office. The mailing address is:

**Myerstown Church of the Brethren
P O Box 61
Myerstown, PA 17067**

Or if you want to stop by the church, we will have a box right inside the door. JoAnn would have to buzz you in. Office hours are M-F 8am-12pm.

Sign up to receive information via email.

To be added to a group receiving email notifications from the church, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/r193bpu>

Fill in your name and email address. Then click Submit.

Love Feast is Sunday April 5th at 6:30 p.m.

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 11th at 2pm. All children are encouraged to come and bring a friend to this fun-filled event. It is open to the public as well and snacks will be provided afterwards.

Candy The Christian Ed Commission is looking for donations of candy to fill the plastic eggs for the Children's Egg Hunt on April 11th. Please put candy in box in the Gathering Place.

Easter Sunrise Service is Sunday April 12th at 7:00 a.m. at the park. No breakfast will be served at this time.

ATTENTION It's that time of year when you probably are cleaning out good but unused or unwanted items. The annual Bazaar is November 21st (mark your calendar), but we are already accepting items for the "White Elephant" table. The items can be stored in the Sharing Cupboard area.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN MAY

Golden Age Dinner May 3rd

Mother Daughter Brunch May 9th

Chicken Barbecue - Wednesday May 20th

SAVE THE DATE – Vacation Bible School July 19-23. This year's theme is "All Aboard" Rocky Railway Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through. Any questions or if you would like to volunteer see Christine Blackwell or Linda Zimmerman.

April Wedding Anniversaries

- 1st Ken & Nancy Liskey
- 6th Joel and Linda Fahnestock
- 12th Roy & Barb Wenger
- 25th Lloyd & Kitty Wenger
- 26th Leon & Eleanor Brubaker
- 28th Robert & Jeannette Beisel

Commissions and Church Board Meeting

Date: March 17, 2020

Meeting was called to order @ 7:35 p.m.

by Chairperson: David Dubble

Present were: Secretary: Mark Landis, Jr.

Prayer by: David Stauffer

Present were: Moderator David Stauffer

Secretary's Report of February 18, 2020

Approved as presented at March 2 Council Meeting

Treasurer's Report of February 29, 2020

Approved as presented by Aye Vote

Commission Reports & Members Present

Ministry & Evangelism Commission: Chairperson – David Dubble,
Linda Zimmerman, Moderator David Stauffer,
Dennis Garrison

Dave Dubble presided over the meeting with Linda Zimmerman, Moderator David Stauffer and Dennis Garrison in attendance.

Piercing Word program that was scheduled for this past Sunday was postponed and we have been in contact with them to reschedule.

Love Feast scheduled for April 5; Glenn Hassinger will preside over it.

Easter Sunrise Service, scheduled for April 12 will go on as planned but the breakfast has been cancelled.

We as a commission met with Dennis Garrison as a possible candidate for interim pastor to fill in the absence of Pastor Marty since his resignation.

The commission recommends that Dennis Garrison be approved as interim pastor.

Missions & Fellowship Commission: Chairperson - Janet Dubble
Kim Horn, Tammy Landis, Sharon Seldomridge

Present were Janet Dubble, Tammy Landis, Sharon Seldomridge, Kim Horn. Devotions by Janet.

Discussed Easter morning breakfast will probably be cancelled due to coronavirus. If able to have Sunrise Service, might bring in donuts and juice. (Maybe have Sunrise Service a little later? 7:30?)

We'll wait and see status of coronavirus in regard to Mother's Day celebration and Golden Age dinner.

Clothing give away in Autumn. Tammy contacted Richland COB on how they do their similar event. It is a lot of work and they collect donations all year. Won't be able to hold the event this year, maybe next year or thinking about partnering with a local church!

Sharing cupboard – concerns about coronavirus and sanitary habits. Sharing Cupboard will remain open – new routine is as follows: 2 families inside at a time, sanitize carts and surfaces, then 2 more families will come in, sanitize, 2 more families, etc.

Christian Education Commission: - Chairperson – Christine Blackwell
Cindy Sattazahn, Walter Sattazahn

Members present: Christine Blackwell, Walter and Cindy Sattazahn.
Easter Egg Hunt April 11, at 2 pm. Worked on finalizing details and talked about possibly having to cancel.
Children’s Church on back burner for now and continue with Children in the pews.
Talked about Children’s day options.
Linda Zimmerman will be helping Christine with VBS.

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

Present were George Nagle, Dale Houtz, Mark Landis Jr.
Triangle Representative did the summer checks on units, filters.
The Christian School is ready to sign the lease for the school. Pending borough Approval.
We have 2 items minor repairs on the building.

Finance and Stewardship Commission: - Chairperson Bob Noll, Tim Fetzler,
Glenn Hassinger

The Finance & Stewardship Commission met with the following members present: Bob Noll, Tim Fetzler

Our Commission feels that the Building Fund not be closed out.

Approval to keep Building Fund as it stands now and not eliminate it was given by motion, second, and aye vote.

New Business

Pastor Marty has given his resignation effective March 9, 2020. Approval to accept his resignation was given by motion, second, and aye vote.

Dennis Garrison introduced himself to the church board. The Ministry and Evangelism Commission felt he would be a good fit as an interim pastor for our congregation. The board then voted to hire Dennis as our interim pastor with a motion, second, and aye vote. The actual agreement will follow.

Grace Ziegler is looking to start a visitation group in our congregation. She will work with the deacons on this project.

Policy #13 and policy #22 stated the same basic items. Approval to eliminate policy #13 was given by motion, second, and aye vote.

Discussion and approval to move forward with informational letter to congregation explaining events on resignation of Marty and hiring of Dennis Garrison as interim pastor.

Adjournment

Prayer by Dennis Garrison at 8:35 pm.

APRIL 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	2	3	4
5 PALM SUNDAY Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Love Feast 6:30 pm	6	7	8 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	9 Sharing Cupboard 10 am -1 pm	10 Sharing Cupboard 3 pm -6 pm	11 Easter Egg Hunt 2 pm
12 EASTER SUNDAY Sunrise Service 7:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	13	14 PIZZA HUT DAY	15 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	16	17	18
19 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	20	21 Executive Mtg. 6:30 pm Commission Mtg. 7:00 pm Board Mtg. 7:30 pm	22 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	23 Sharing Cupboard 10 am – 1 pm	24 Sharing Cupboard 3 pm – 6 pm	25
26 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	27	28 Wenger Praise Dinner	29	30 Spiritual Nurture Mtg. 7:00 pm	31	

April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Seth Dimond	2	3 Jaycee Hoglund Bonnie Lackey	4 Kathy Heisey Ruth Heller
5	6	7	8 Molly Hoffer	9	10 Jackson Hoffer Abigail Umbenhauer	11 Cory Burke
12 Gary Brown Todd Eckert Erlene Wagner	13 Megan Spangler	14 Leon Brubaker Jessica Houtz	15	16 Harvey Berger Jeremy Herr Mark Landis, Jr. Craig Reppert	17 Diane Dubble	18 Claire McClure Brenda Weierbach
19 Ruth Saul Lois Sheetz	20 John Zimmerman, Sr.	21	22 Jenifer Fetzer	23 Luke Carroll Tamara Carroll Grace Dubble Sara Koppenhaver	24 Bruce Behney Carol Daubert Beth Perry	25 Tyler Penrose
26 William Singer James Smith	27 Sheri Daubert	28 Payton Fuhrman Charisma Meyers	29	30		

Family Order Form

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Myerstown Church of the Brethren/PA

The following is a list of gift cards that can be purchased as a fundraising project for the building fund. All orders must be placed by the first Sunday of each month. Thank you for your purchase.

Name	Customer #
Check #	Order Date

Product	%	QTY	Total	Product	%	QTY	Total	Product	%	QTY	Total
Ace Hardware \$100.00	4%		\$	Buffalo Wild Wings@ \$10.00	8%		\$	Foot Locker \$25.00	8%		\$
Ace Hardware \$25.00	4%		\$	Buffalo Wild Wings@ \$25.00	8%		\$	GameStop \$25.00	3%		\$
adidas \$25.00	13%		\$	Build-A-Bear Workshop \$25.00	8%		\$	Gap \$25.00	14%		\$
Advance Auto Parts \$100.00	7%		\$	Burger King \$10.00	4%		\$	Giant Food Stores \$100.00	4%		\$
Advance Auto Parts \$25.00	7%		\$	Cabela's \$100.00	10%		\$	Giant Food Stores \$25.00	4%		\$
Aeropostale \$25.00	10%		\$	Cabela's \$25.00	10%		\$	Giant Food Stores \$50.00	4%		\$
Amazon.com \$100.00	2.25%		\$	Carrabba's Italian Grill \$25.00	8%		\$	Groupon.com \$25.00	7%		\$
Amazon.com \$25.00	2.25%		\$	Carter's \$25.00	10%		\$	Hardee's \$10.00	5%		\$
AMC Theatres \$25.00	8%		\$	Cheesecake Factory \$25.00	5%		\$	Home Depot \$25.00	4%		\$
AMC Theatres Single Ticket \$10.00	10%		\$	Children's Place \$25.00	12%		\$	Icing \$10.00	9%		\$
AMC Theatres Single Ticket \$12.00	10%		\$	Chili's Grill & Bar \$25.00	11%		\$	IHOP \$25.00	8%		\$
American Eagle@ \$25.00	10%		\$	Chipotle Mexican Grill \$10.00	10%		\$	iTunes \$15.00	5%		\$
American Girl \$100.00	9%		\$	Chuck E. Cheese's \$10.00	8%		\$	iTunes \$25.00	5%		\$
American Girl \$25.00	9%		\$	Claire's \$10.00	9%		\$	J. Crew \$25.00	13%		\$
Applebee's \$25.00	8%		\$	Cold Stone Creamery \$10.00	11%		\$	JCPenney \$100.00	5%		\$
Applebee's \$50.00	8%		\$	Cracker Barrel \$10.00	8%		\$	JCPenney \$25.00	5%		\$
Arby's \$10.00	8%		\$	Cracker Barrel \$25.00	8%		\$	Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores \$25.00	6%		\$
AutoZone \$25.00	8%		\$	CVS Pharmacy \$25.00	6%		\$	Kmart \$25.00	4%		\$
Banana Republic \$25.00	14%		\$	Dairy Queen \$10.00	3%		\$	Kmart \$50.00	4%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$10.00	8%		\$	Darden Restaurants \$25.00	8%		\$	Kohl's \$100.00	4%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$25.00	8%		\$	Dick's Sporting Goods \$25.00	8%		\$	Kohl's \$25.00	4%		\$
Bass Pro Shops \$100.00	10%		\$	Disney \$100.00	3%		\$	Krispy Kreme@ \$10.00	8%		\$
Bass Pro Shops \$25.00	10%		\$	Disney \$25.00	3%		\$	L.L.Bean \$100.00	16%		\$
Bath & Body Works \$10.00	12%		\$	Domino's \$10.00	8%		\$	L.L.Bean \$25.00	16%		\$
Bath & Body Works \$25.00	12%		\$	Dunham's Sports \$25.00	8%		\$	Lands' End \$100.00	15%		\$
Bed Bath & Beyond \$25.00	7%		\$	Dunkin' Donuts \$10.00	3%		\$	Lands' End \$25.00	15%		\$
Best Buy \$100.00	4%		\$	Dunkin' Donuts \$25.00	3%		\$	Long John Silver's \$10.00	8%		\$
Best Buy \$25.00	4%		\$	Eat'n Park \$10.00	9%		\$	Lowe's \$100.00	4%		\$
Bob Evans Restaurants@ \$10.00	10%		\$	Eat'n Park \$25.00	9%		\$	Lowe's \$25.00	4%		\$
Boscov's \$25.00	8%		\$	Express \$25.00	10%		\$	Marshalls \$25.00	7%		\$
Boston Market \$10.00	12%		\$	Famous Footwear \$25.00	8%		\$	Men's Wearhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
Buca di Beppo \$25.00	8%		\$	Finish Line \$25.00	10%		\$	Michaels \$25.00	4%		\$
								Nike \$25.00	12%		\$
								Old Navy \$25.00	14%		\$

Make Checks Payable To: *Myerstown Church of the Brethren*

Total Due All Columns:

\$

Family Order Form

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Myerstown Church of the Brethren/PA

The following is a list of gift cards that can be purchased as a fundraising project for the building fund. All orders must be placed by the first Sunday of each month. Thank you for your purchase.

Name	Customer #
Check #	Order Date

Product	%	QTY	Total	Product	%	QTY	Total
Olive Garden \$25.00	8%		\$	Stop & Shop (NOT TOPS) \$25.00	4%		\$
OshKosh \$25.00	10%		\$	Stop & Shop (NOT TOPS) \$50.00	4%		\$
Outback Steakhouse \$25.00	8%		\$	Subway Restaurants \$10.00	6%		\$
Panera Bread \$10.00	8%		\$	Supercuts \$25.00	8%		\$
Panera Bread \$25.00	8%		\$	T.J. Maxx \$25.00	7%		\$
Papa John's Pizza \$10.00	9%		\$	Taco Bell \$10.00	5%		\$
PetSmart \$25.00	5%		\$	Talbots \$25.00	13%		\$
Pier 1 Imports \$25.00	9%		\$	Tanger Outlets \$25.00	8%		\$
Pizza Hut \$10.00	8%		\$	Target \$100.00	2.5%		\$
Pottery Barn \$25.00	8%		\$	Target \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Qdoba Mexican Grill \$25.00	7%		\$	Target \$50.00	2.5%		\$
Rainforest Cafe \$25.00	9%		\$	Texas Roadhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
Red Lobster \$25.00	8%		\$	TGI Fridays \$25.00	9%		\$
Red Robin \$25.00	8%		\$	The Home Depot \$100.00	4%		\$
Regal \$25.00	8%		\$	The Home Depot \$25.00	4%		\$
Regal Premiere e-Ticket \$10.50	10%		\$	Under Armour \$25.00	11%		\$
Rite Aid \$25.00	4%		\$	Walgreens \$25.00	5%		\$
Ruby Tuesday \$25.00	8%		\$	Walmart \$100.00	2.5%		\$
Sam's Club \$100.00	2.5%		\$	Walmart \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Sam's Club \$25.00	2.5%		\$	Walmart \$50.00	2.5%		\$
Sears \$100.00	4%		\$	Wawa \$25.00	1%		\$
Sears \$25.00	4%		\$	Wendy's \$10.00	6.5%		\$
Sears Auto Service Center \$100.00	4%		\$				
Sears Auto Service Center \$25.00	4%		\$				
Sheetz \$100.00	3%		\$				
Sheetz \$25.00	3%		\$				
Shutterfly \$25.00	9%		\$				
Speedway \$25.00	4%		\$				
Staples \$100.00	5%		\$				
Staples \$25.00	5%		\$				
Starbucks \$10.00	7%		\$				
Starbucks \$25.00	7%		\$				
Stop & Shop (NOT TOPS) \$100.00	4%		\$				

Make Checks Payable To: *Myerstown Church of the Brethren*

Total Due All Columns:

\$
