



Myerstown Church of the Brethren

Scriptural Message

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted[a] by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” 4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’[b]” 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’[c]” 7 Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’[d]” 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” 10 Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’[e]” 11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Matthew 4:1-11

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Read Matthew 4:1-11

February 26, marks the first day of Lent, which is Ash Wednesday. Then we have 40 days until Easter.

For many people, the first day of Lent means they will give-up something they like for Lent. This is taken from the example in the Bible where Matthew records Jesus being tempted by satan in the desert for 40 days.

But I believe many people today, do not know exactly how Jesus was tempted by satan, and what that means for Lent. The first temptation was physical hunger. Jesus told satan “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” (Matt. 4:4)

Many people look at this and say that they need to give-up food. That might be good, however, I believe it is better to do what Jesus says and ‘live on the Word of God.’ Make God’s Word more of a priority for Lent this year.

In my sermons that I preach each Sunday, I have always made it a priority to use scripture as my main resource. Some would call this ‘expository preaching,’ where preachers give their messages straight out of the Bible. Make the Word of God your priority during the season of Lent.

The second temptation of Jesus was the temptation to not rely on God for His sustenance. Satan told Jesus to just jump off a cliff because God will save you! Just be a miracle worker for yourself! But Jesus told satan “It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’ (Matt. 4:7)

We are not miracle workers for God. Instead, we are to trust God day to day. The Bible says faith in God is “the evidence of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1) Strengthen your faith in God, during Lent, by trusting Him with the things that we cannot see and know for sure.

The third temptation of Jesus was to always put God first in your life, above the worldly attractions. The devil told Jesus that He could have “all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.” But Jesus told him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only shall you serve.” (Matthew 4:10)

This is probably the most important temptation of all! How are we putting God first in our lives? What things are we putting ahead of God in our lives?

This is where we need confession. During this season of Lent, let us confess anything to God where we have neglected Him, and put something higher than Him. Make this season of Lent a season of true repentance and confession, and may we always make our Lord our highest priority!

Hope to see you in church.

Pastor Marty

Attendance & Offering

Attendance average for January 1, 2020 – January 31, 2020

Sunday School – 27

Worship Service - 94

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

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. You can buy your groceries or gas for your vehicles.

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

The offering envelopes for 2020 are in your mailbox. 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.

Council Meeting

March 2nd at 7:00 p.m
Council packets are in the gathering place.

New 2020 directories are in your mailboxes. A big thank you to everyone who helped assemble the 2020 directories.

March Wedding Anniversaries

6th	Dean & Katrina Wagner
14th	Mark & Elaine Landis
30th	Glenn & Lois Hassinger

Atlantic Northeast District WOMEN'S SPRING FELLOWSHIP is taking place at Mountville COB on March 7, 2020. More information and sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Easter Lilies – 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 10th. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

COBYS is celebrating 40 years. Thursday, March 12, 2020, noon & 6:30 pm, Middle Creek Church of the Brethren. If you would like to go you can contact Rebekah Hamilton at 717-656-6580 ext. 161 or at rebekah@cobys.org by March 2. More info on our bulletin board.

The MCoB Handbell Choir will be participating in the 15th Anniversary Central Pennsylvania Handbell Festival on Saturday, March 14, 2020, at the Lebanon Area Evangelical Free Church, 600 Shepherd Street, Jonestown. There will be 14 choirs directed by David M. Harris, the Artistic Director of the world famous Raleigh Ringers. A concert will be performed and open to the public at 4:00 P.M. Admission is free. A free-will offering will be collected to benefit Music for Everyone, located in Lancaster. Please join us for this amazing musical experience.

March 15 - 7PM - Piercing Word presents "Passion: The Musical" Experience the last supper, trial, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ through Piercing Word's musical presentation of the Easter story. Utilizing a modern-day, urban concept, this performance includes passages from all four gospels and original music with scripture lyrics!

Financial support needed: Sponsors are needed for the March 15 program presented by Piercing Word, Passion: the musical. Please consider being a sponsor by indicating the amount you wish to sponsor on your offering envelope or by contacting a member of the Ministry and Evangelism commission for more information. Any amount will be greatly appreciated.

Annual Women's Spiritual Retreat Wednesday, March 18, 2020 to be held at South Lebanon Community Church. For more information please see the flier on the bulletin board.

Camp Swatara – Spring Weekend at Camp Swatara is March 27th through 29th and is for grades 1 through 8. If you are interested in this weekend at camp, check the website at www.CampSwatara.org

Just a reminder 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. Christian Education asks for the congregation to help in providing snacks and candy.

Easter Sunrise Service is Sunday April 12th at 7:00 a.m. at the park. We will be serving breakfast afterwards.

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 Rachel Moyer or Christine Blackwell.