

## Myerstown Church of the Brethren

May 2020

Ministry through  
Faith, Vision, and Action



### Myerstown Church of the Brethren

#### Scriptural Message

21 After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. 3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing."

They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and [a] immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. 4 But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?"

They answered Him, "No."

6 And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

#### John 21:1-6

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#### Read John 21:1-17

John doesn't tell us how long it was after Jesus' resurrection, but he does tell us the disciples had gone to Galilee as he had instructed them to do. They were by the Sea of Galilee sometime during those 40 days between the Resurrection and Jesus' ascension into heaven. I'm sure those were days of emotional ups and downs for them. There were times Jesus appeared to them and times they were alone confused and wondering what all of what had been happening meant for their lives.

It was during one of those times when Jesus wasn't with them that their emotions may have taken over that they turned to what was familiar; what was "normal." They decided to go fishing.

In these weeks of self-distancing and confinement to home I'm sure all of us are looking forward to getting back to "normal." But we are being told, although the stay-at-home orders may be lifted, until there is a vaccine for Covid-19, life will not be "normal."

I came across this posting on Facebook. Maybe some of you have seen it also. I have not seen an acknowledgment of an author. I think it gives us much to think about as we look to what is coming next. May it challenge your thinking as it did mine.

#### I PRAY WE DON'T GO BACK TO NORMAL

1. I pray that the next time a friend grabs me and pulls me in for a hug, I actually take the time to appreciate the gift of their embrace.
2. I pray that when school resumes and people are dropping kids off, they take the time to thank the staff for the amazing gift that they give to our community.
3. I pray that the next time I'm sitting in a crowded restaurant I take the time to look around at the smiling faces, loud voices and thank God for the gift of community.
4. I pray that the next time I'm standing in church listening to the voices of praise and worship that I take a moment to thank God for the gift of congregation.
5. I pray that the next time I see a person or situation that needs prayer, I hope I pray as passionately and fervently as I have these past few weeks.
6. I pray that when I am at the grocery store that I take a moment to thank God that He provides us with the necessities of life and the amazing people who work so hard to keep us supplied.
7. I pray that I never again take for granted the ability to hop in the car and visit a friend, go to the mall, go to a gathering, etc.

So, truth is, I don't want things to return to the way they once were. I pray that we take the lessons and challenges of the past few weeks and create a new normal.

My goal is to pray more, love harder and truly appreciate the daily abundance of blessings that were so easily overlooked just a mere few weeks ago.

Be Blessed Today!  
Dennis

## Attendance & Offering

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

### 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, Wilbur & Gloria Keppley, Dennis & Faye Brubaker & Carl Wenger.

### Gift Cards

The gift card order is Friday May 1<sup>st</sup>. Please have your order in by then. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### May Wedding Anniversaries

6<sup>th</sup> Mike & Greta Koppenhaver  
7<sup>th</sup> Seth & Lindsey Dimond  
10<sup>th</sup> Scott & Lori Martin  
16<sup>th</sup> Justin & Trisha Hocker  
28<sup>th</sup> Ken & Joyce Wagner

**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.

**We would like to thank Trent Dohner** for his generous donation of printing and supplying 1500 envelopes for our church office. Thank you Trent!!!

**Sign up to receive information via email.** To be added to a group receiving email notifications from the church, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/rl93bpu>

Fill in your name and email address then click Submit.

Copies of the **Newsletter, Bulletin or Pastor Dennis' sermon** are in the Gathering Place at church.

**ATTENTION** It's that time of year when you probably are cleaning out good but unused or unwanted items. The annual **Bazaar** is November 21<sup>st</sup> (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 SERMONS & SCRIPTURES**

**April 26:** *Life as a Stranger*

1 Peter 1:13-23; John 17:13-23

Theme: *We are citizens of a different kingdom.*

**May 3:** *Abundant Life, Not a Life of Abundance*

1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

Theme: *Abundant life is not something we can earn, achieve or buy. Abundant life is a gift.*

**May 10** (Mother's Day): *Consider the Ketchup Bottle*

1 Peter 3:13-17; John 14:15-21

Theme: *Our lives need to be transparent so others can see Christ in us.*

**May 17:** *The Way of Suffering*

1 Peter 4:12-19; Matthew 16:24-26

Theme: *In Christ Jesus you have a Savior who knows what you're going through, especially when you suffer for following in his steps.*

**May 24:** *"Why are you standing here staring into heaven?"*

Acts 1:6-14; Luke 24:44-53

Theme: *The church is the community within which and through which God's kingdom is coming into being.*

**May 31** (Pentecost Sunday): *Power for Living in a Hostile World*

Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-16:15

Theme: *We live in a God-drenched world.*

### **Upcoming Bible Study** (through Zoom)

April 27: Of Stories and Songs

Psalm 137:1-6

May 4: Heads in the Sand

Jeremiah 28:1-17

May 11: Greater Things

Haggai 2:1-9

May 18: Rebuilding

Ezra 1:1-5

Nehemiah 1:1-11

May 25: Piece by Piece: Finding Our Place in God's Story

Nehemiah 3, 4, 5 & 6

Ephesians 2:19-22

### **"I'm Not Lucky, I'm Blessed"**

I'm not lucky, I'm blessed. I don't know about you. Don't call me lucky, call me blessed. There's a difference between the two. Luck comes around from time to time. Blessings are there every day. They're staring you right in the face. Luck is something people seek to find. Blessings automatically come your way. Luck is something that happens by chance. Blessings are God's works. They're a part of his plan. Blessings are things that you carry with you. They're there every single day. Lucky is something that comes along, but then it goes away. Blessings are things that are permanent. Luck is something that is temporary. Blessings are things which are heaven sent.

**Commissions and Church Board Meeting**

**Date: April 21, 2020**

**Meeting was called to order: none due to Covid 19 by Chairperson: David Dubble**

**Present were:**

**Prayer by:**

**Present were:**

**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**

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

Upcoming special events for April and May are canceled.

If the COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed, Pastor Dennis will be unavailable for these Sunday's;

- May 17 - Currently planning to be preaching at MCoB
- June 21
- July 5 - Annual Conference
- July 19
- August 16
- September 20
- October 25
- November 15
- December 6

Pastor Dennis has given a listing of upcoming sermon titles and programs he is in the process of planning. These include an online Bible study / fellowship time, Love Feast, and a "Bring a Friend Sunday" in the fall.

The proposal to have a sign for church events placed along route 501 was rejected by the land owner.

We are looking for a special blessings for the coming months. We have two great events scheduled for the fall: The Ministers Quartet (November 8 at 7 PM) and the Spiritual Renewal Series (October 4-7) with Pastor James Bauer.

The commission wishes to thank Pastor Dennis for his efforts to communicate with all members of the congregation in these unusual times. We also wish to thank him for providing not only Sunday services but also mid-week connections with the congregation via email and the church website.

Pastor Dennis has finalized the planning for an online Bible study titled **By the Rivers of Babylon**.

- Apr 27, 2020 07:00 PM
- May 4, 2020 07:00 PM
- May 11, 2020 07:00 PM
- May 18, 2020 07:00 PM
- May 25, 2020 07:00 PM
- Jun 1, 2020 07:00 PM
- Jun 8, 2020 07:00 PM

The study will be held by the online application Zoom. More information will follow via a church email.

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

Several congregation members continue to make cotton facemasks for donation to Londonderry Village, Wellspan, as well as for any member of the congregation who makes a request for them. Thank you to all those who have made, and continue to make use of their talents to sew these masks.

We have been blessed to be able to keep The Sharing Cupboard opened to serve the community on its scheduled dates. The food supply is stable and up to 50 or more families have been served each 2-week period. Easter hams were purchased and distributed to families on April 9 and 10. A local businessman donated \$600 of candy that was delivered by Smith’s Candies and was distributed to the families. Thank you to all of the many volunteers that give of their time to work in The Sharing Cupboard.

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

No Report Available

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

Lois Wealand the cleaning person was laid off temporarily because of no activity in the church.

We had a water leak in the roof at the walk-in refrigerator. We found the leaks and patched them.

We have Triangle Refrigeration doing services on heat and air conditioning in spring and fall. They discovered leaks in one evaporator coil in sanctuary. It needs to be replaced. It is out of warranty. A new coil will cost \$17,150 installed. It has a 1 year warranty.

We have lawn care innovations mowing again this year.

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

Our commission has been doing weekly offering deposits and are looking at ways to minimize our expenses during these trying times.

It was decided that with no longer holding church services and activities there was no need for custodial services at this time. We will resume back when things open up again.

We would like to thank everyone for your continued support by either mailing or dropping off your offerings.

### **Pastor's Report**

**March 17 – April 15, 2020**

Needless to say, this has been an unusual time for us all, and an especially unusual and challenging time to begin as your Interim Pastor. I have been working from home, but intend to move my workspace to the Pastor's Office at the church when stay-at-home restrictions are lifted.

I have appreciated the support and help from David & Janet Dubble, JoAnn Houtz, Barb Heffner, Earl & Cindy Liskey and probably one or two others I am forgetting for assistance in setting up recording of services, emails, helpful information about the congregation, etc.

As long as large gatherings are prohibited, we will continue to meet and worship via the Internet. I don't want to seem pessimistic, but I read recently that in the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918 churches were closed anywhere from 12-18 months. Hopefully that will not be the case for us now. I am so looking forward to meeting you all in person and working together to move the church forward. One of the biggest frustrations for me during this difficult time has been the inability to visit in hospitals, nursing homes and with you in your homes. Pastoral care, like medical care right now, has been done over the

phone or electronically through email or text. While we are fortunate to have these technologies enabling us to stay in touch during this time, I miss being able to be present with those who are experiencing all those difficult issues in life. I want to be available to you, so don't hesitate to call, text or email.

For this first month of my time as Interim Pastor:

4 sermons/worship "services" prepared and recorded (2 from home and 2 recorded at the church)  
Introductory message and 3 mid-week emailed messages.  
Phone calls to all but 1 or 2 active members as indicated by Earl & Cindy Liskey.  
Phone calls to 2 members who have lost loved ones.  
Phone calls to 1 member hospitalized.  
Phone call to church family with a family member (and church member) diagnosed with the Covid-19 virus.  
Phone conversation with Laura Hamilton regarding the work she had done with the church.  
Numerous emails and texts with Dave Dubble.  
Toured the church and visited with volunteers at the Sharing Cupboard.

### **Upcoming Schedule:**

Working on setting up a Zoom Bible study / fellowship time – watch for information.  
Planning sermons through May 31 (Pentecost Sunday).  
Scheduling a time for Love Feast when it is safe for us to meet together once more.  
Scheduling a "Bring a Friend Sunday" in the fall.

### **Upcoming Sermons:**

April 17: Believe!  
1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31  
Theme: Faith and doubt

April 26: Life as a Stranger  
1 Peter 1:13-23; John 17:13-23  
Theme: We are citizens of a different kingdom.

May 3: An Abundant Life, Not a Life of Abundance  
1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10  
Theme: Abundant life is not something we can earn, achieve or buy. Abundant life is a gift.

May 10 (Mother's Day): Consider the Ketchup Bottle  
1 Peter 3:13-17; John 14:15-21  
Theme: Our lives need to be transparent so others can see Christ in us.

May 17: The Way of Suffering  
1 Peter 4:12-19; Matthew 16:24-26  
Theme: In Christ Jesus you have a Savior who knows what you're going through, especially when you suffer for following in his steps.

May 24: "Why are you standing here staring into heaven?"  
Acts 1:6-14; Luke 24:44-53  
Theme: The church is the community within which and through which God's kingdom is coming into being.

May 31 (Pentecost Sunday): Power for Living in a Hostile World  
Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-16:15  
Theme: We live in a God-drenched world.

# MAY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3 NO</b> Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am  <b>Golden Age Dinner cancelled</b>	4	<b>5</b> Music Committee Mtg. 7:00pm <b>cancelled</b>	6	<b>7</b> Women's Fellowship Mtg. 7:00pm <b>cancelled</b>	8	<b>9</b> <b>Mother/Daughter Brunch cancelled</b>
<b>10 NO</b> Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am  <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b>	11	<b>12</b> <b>PIZZA HUT DAY</b>	13	<b>14</b> Sharing Cupboard 10-1	<b>15</b> Sharing Cupboard 3-6	
<b>17 NO</b> Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	18	<b>19</b> Executive Mtg . 6:30 pm Commission Mtg. 7:00 pm Board Mtg. 7:30 pm	<b>20</b> <b>KAUFFMAN'S CHICKEN BARBECUE cancelled</b>	21	22	23
<b>24 NO</b> Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	<b>25</b>  <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	26	27	<b>28</b> Sharing Cupboard 10-1  Spiritual Nurture Mtg. 7:00 pm	<b>29</b> Sharing Cupboard 3-6	30
<b>31 NO</b> Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am						



# MAY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Dixie Gasper Crystal Leahy Shelby McClure Wesley Stehr
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Lori Fox	<b>6</b> David Dubble Pat Schott Gwen Wenger	<b>7</b> Kitty Wenger	<b>8</b> Jason Burke Verna Grosteffon Eric Laysen, Jr.	<b>9</b> Kathryn Hartranft Cate Liskey Wilma Mauser Brad Reppert Pam Sunday
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Sara Behney Corrine Hankins John Laysen Philip Potena Stuart Wagner	<b>12</b> Beckett Albright James Krall	<b>13</b> Dennis Hartranft	<b>14</b> Jami Freed Brenda Lentz	<b>15</b> Dorothy Nagle Blake Shirk	<b>16</b> Jeanette Beisel
<b>17</b> Stanley Eckert Brianna Hoglund	<b>18</b> Dennis Brubaker Mike Leahy	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Joanne Fahnestock Janet Post Carl Wenger Daniel Whitman	<b>21</b> Ken Gross Declan Shelly	<b>22</b> Julie Haring Claire Moyer Roarke Singer	<b>23</b> Dennis Seldomridge
<b>24</b> Bryson Brown Jay Lentz	<b>25</b> Isaiah Hostetter	<b>26</b> Jennifer Hostetter	<b>27</b> Sara Hartranft Findley McClure	<b>28</b> Dennis Dieffenbach	<b>29</b> Faye Brubaker Debbie Wagner	<b>30</b> Anna Mae Kupp Linda Smith Lois Yoder
<b>31</b> David Beisel Frank DiScuillo						