

## Myerstown Church of the Brethren

December 2020

Ministry through  
Faith, Vision, and Action



### Myerstown Church of the Brethren *Scriptural Message*

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life,[a] and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.[b] 10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own,[c] and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,[d] full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son,[e] who is close to the Father's heart,[f] who has made him known.

**John 1:1-18 (NRSV)**

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Typically, the first sign of the Christmas season for me has been that thick and heavy issue of the Harrisburg Patriot News that arrived at our house on Thanksgiving Day. Most of that issue was always the Black Friday ads. As we are all aware, this Christmas is going to be anything but "typical." For one, Cathy and I have cancelled our newspaper subscription, so all those ads won't be arriving on Thanksgiving Day.

Like most of you, I am growing weary of all the chaos and atypical things that 2020 has brought us. I long for some semblance of "normal." In addition to exploding cases of COVID, this Christmas season comes at a time of social upheaval, political tension and great uncertainty as to what the future holds.

Yet that is very much what the world was like on that first Christmas. The Roman empire was seeking to expand its influence and power and political tensions were high between Rome and those rebellious Jews in the province of Palestine who refused to worship the emperor. Even within Judaism there had developed parties with widely different ideas and beliefs: Pharisees, Sadducees, Zealots and the Essenes. It wasn't a "silent night" and definitely not a peaceful time in the world to which Jesus came.

That condition of humanity, that condition of the world, however, is exactly why Jesus came. Philip Yancey, in his book *The Jesus I Never Knew* says, "One night in the cold, in the dark, among the wrinkled hills of Bethlehem...two worlds came together at a dramatic point of intersection. God, who knows no before or after, entered time and space. God, who knows no boundaries, took on the shocking confines of a baby's skin, the ominous restraints of mortality."

God, in the person of Jesus Christ, entered this world of upheaval, of chaos and atypical things and became one of us. God became human and lived among us.

This Advent season my messages will focus on the first eighteen verses of the Gospel of John. John's opening verses are all about the coming of Jesus into the world but told in a way that does not include any of those familiar parts of the Christmas story. There is no manger, no multitudes of heavenly hosts praising God, no shepherds, no Mary and Joseph. What John does give us, however, is one of Scripture's most profound statements of who Jesus is and why he came into the world.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. ...What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not

overcome it. ...And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." (John 1:1-2, 3b-5, 14 NRSV)

Two-thousand years ago Jesus, the Word, came into a chaotic, unpredictable and often violent world, not unlike the world today. Jesus became human and lived among us. Into a dark and fearful world Jesus brought life and light. He brought hope, a new kind of peace, the possibility for joy and a message of love. In two-thousand years the message has not changed.

As we face a different, atypical kind of Christmas, let us remember that the reason for our celebration has not changed. Jesus' message of hope, peace, joy and love is the message we need right now. Let's choose not to focus on the things that are atypical, inconvenient and disappointing about Christmas 2020 and choose to focus instead on the unchanging story of the One who came into the world "full of grace and truth." Let us choose to focus on the glory he has revealed to us. Let us choose to find some hope, peace, joy and love this Christmas season.

What better way for us to end this chaotic year than to celebrate Jesus, the light that has come into our darkness, a darkness that, even in 2020, cannot overcome his amazing light. May you have a blessed and joyous Christmas because of Jesus who lives among us even today.

Merry Christmas!  
Pastor Dennis

## Attendance & Offering

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

Sunday School – 0

Worship Service - 73

### Home Care

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers those living in nursing homes/assisted living homes: **Bud Brubaker, Dennis & Faye Brubaker, Orpha Doutrich, Joanne Ealy, Wilbur & Gloria Keppley, Iris Liskey, and Carl Wenger.**

**Listen to Pastor Dennis** give a midweek message by going to the MCoB web site, <https://myerstowncob.org>, by visiting the MCoB Facebook page, or by joining the MCoB email list.

### Gift Cards

The gift card order for November will be processed on Monday December 7<sup>th</sup>. Please have your orders in by Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.

**MCoB email list** - join by sending your name and email address to [info@myerstowncob.org](mailto:info@myerstowncob.org)

### December Wedding Anniversaries

13<sup>th</sup> Dennis & Faye Brubaker  
23<sup>rd</sup> Carl & Margaret Wenger

**Commissions and Church Board Meeting**

**Date: November 17, 2020**

**Meeting was called to order: @ 7:30 pm**

**by Chairperson: David Dubble**

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

**Prayer by: Kim Horn**

**Present were: Pastor Dennis Garrison**

**Secretary's Report of October 20, 2020**

**Approved at November 2, 2020 council meeting**

**Treasurer's Report of October 31, 2020**

**Approved as presented by Aye Vote**

**Commission Reports & Members Present**

**Ministry & Evangelism Commission:** Chairperson – Grace Ziegler  
David Dubble, Linda Zimmerman, Pastor Dennis

Grace opened the meeting with prayer.

Dave had contacted Piercing Word about scheduling a date. We would get back to them to see if they are available Sunday afternoon March 14 for the program at 3:00.

The pulpit will be filled for December when Dennis will be away and we'll discuss the schedule for 2021 at our next meeting.

We have worship leaders scheduled for the remainder of the year.

We discussed the amount we should be paying visiting ministers. It was agreed we would pay them a flat fee of \$150. We also decided we should offer our moderator for his service at council meetings that same amount of \$150.

We decided Grace will remain as our chairperson and Linda will continue as secretary.

Grace Ziegler & Linda Zimmerman both agreed to another 3-year term. They were both approved by motion, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & aye vote.

Approval to pay visiting minister and moderator \$150 was approved by motion, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and aye vote.

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

1. Reviewed 2021 church directory & made corrections.
2. Christmas tree in gathering place. We will decorate with socks, men's, women's, children sizes.
3. Decorating the church for Christmas. Everyone is welcome. Plan for Saturday November 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.
4. Board meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup> our commission will provide refreshments.
5. Operation Christmas Child boxes were submitted today, electronically. We had a total of 110 boxes.

Susie Dundore was approved for a 3-year term; and to be chairperson; by a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and aye vote. July 27 will be the July board meeting due to a conflict with Bible School. This was approved by motion, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and aye vote.

**Christian Education Commission:** - Chairperson – Christine Blackwell

Children’s Christmas Program is coming along well.

VBS – will be held July 18-22 – Christine Blackwell and Linda Zimmerman will be coordinating it if we have it.

We have received a resignation letter for Mim Ackerman.

We need a motion to remove Melissa Wilson from our commission.

Looking for two people to fill our commission.

Acceptance of Mim Ackerman resignation letter approved by motion, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & aye vote.

Removal of Melissa Wilson from this commission due to inactive status was approved by motion, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and aye vote.

**Trustee and Property Commission:** – Chairperson – George Nagle

Dale Houtz, Mark Landis, Jr., Ken Gross

1. Tightened church pew.
2. Replaced 3 bulbs in sign out front.
3. Put new washer in kitchen sink.
4. Replace door seal – gym door – seal was from H&M Glass
5. Window replacement in kitchen has been put on hold until further funds are available.
6. Fixed commode in boy’s restroom, replaced flapper it was leaking, 10-31-2020.
7. Replaced valve in girls’ room it was sticking, new tank seal.
8. Replaced bulbs in hall lights.
9. We had a noisy circulator in furnace room. It was cheaper to replace it then repair it.
10. Worked on refrigerator roof, hopefully it is fixed.
11. Blatt & Meyers are working on lights in sanctuary.
12. Farmer Boy AG asked to store cookies in the Sharing Cupboard freezers until 1<sup>st</sup> week in December when they have their open house.

Due to the continuing spike in COVID-19 cases, the Fellowship Hall Committee recommends that there will be no additional/new facility rentals until further notice. Already approved rental applications will be monitored as COVID-19 guidelines are updated. This will be reviewed at future monthly board meetings.

**Finance and Stewardship Commission:** – Chairperson - Bob Noll

Tim Fetzer

## **Discussion Items:**

We are looking into closing the Building Fund checking account and putting into General Fund where it would be tracked separately.

BOLD Accounting has submitted the PPP Loan Forgiveness application to Fulton Bank. We received notice from Fulton Bank that it was approved for full forgiveness and submitted to the SBA for final approval.

Jay Lentz has agreed to serve on our Commission with church board approval.

Time Fetzer & Glenn Hassinger have agreed to serve a second term on our commission with church board approval.

Our commission would like to again thank everyone for their faithful giving.

Approval to close the Building Fund checking account approved by motion, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & aye vote.

Jay Lentz has agreed to serve on this commission.

Tim Fetzer has agreed to another 3-year term on this commission.

Glenn Hassinger has agreed to another 3-year term on this commission.

These 3 were approved by motion, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & aye vote.

## **Pastor's Report**

I am sure most of us are aware of the significant increase in COVID cases in our area and in the nation within the past month. Prior to this past week, Cathy and I knew of a few people who were dealing with the virus, but our family had been spared. Then I got a call on Monday the 16th that my mother had tested positive and was being moved from the Royer Greenhouse at Londonderry Village to Leffler Care. Our son, Peter, informed us he was off for two weeks from work at Bayer because he had to have a COVID test, and then we learned our niece, her husband and his family all had tested positive. Fortunately, Peter's test came back negative and my mother has not developed any obvious symptoms, however, the move has been stressful for her.

After all of this, I decided it best to move our Monday evening Bible study back onto Zoom. We will meet again on Zoom on November 23 and then take a break until January 4 and then re-evaluate. Also, in view of the uptick in virus cases it was decided to postpone starting the Senior Choir until the virus situation improves.

When I was hired as your interim pastor back in March, I was planning to take one Sunday a month off to honor a commitment I made to the organist at Spring Creek to give her a Sunday off. Spring Creek didn't go back to live worship until September, so I have only been taking the Sunday since then. I will not be doing that in 2021.

It has been a privilege and a joy to serve as your interim pastor these past eight months. I look forward to continuing in this role as long as you need/want me. Your support for the church and your efforts to keep it moving forward are greatly appreciated. There have been some stories this past week offering hope that we may be turning the corner to more "normal" times by mid-2021. Let's hope and pray that will be so.

As we come into the holiday season, I pray you will be safe and be blessed.

**Pastoral Record for the past month:**

3 sermons and planning for 4 worship services  
4 mid-week messages  
4 Bible study sessions  
Phone calls to members or families of members  
Numerous emails and texts  
Planned sermons through December  
Executive, Ministry & Evangelism Commission, Board meetings  
Newsletter article  
Bell Choir

**Upcoming Sermons:**

November 22: Remember the Lord Your God Deuteronomy 8:11-18

**Advent 2020:**

November 29 (Advent 1): In the beginning... John 1:1-5

December 6 (Advent 2): True Light (David Stauffer – he will give the sermon title, but this is his theme and scripture) John 1:6-9

December 13 (Advent 3): He Gave Power to Become Children of God John 1:10-13

December 20 (Advent 4): The Word Became Flesh John 1:14-15

Christmas Eve Service: God the Only Son John 1:16-18

December 27: Perseverance Matthew 2:1-12

**Unfinished Business**

None

**New Business**

None


**Interests & Concerns**

It was mentioned how meaningful and informative the pastors Bible studies have been.

**Adjournment**

8:05 pm with prayer by Pastor Dennis.

# DECEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Ralph Ackerman	3 Jackie Dohner	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Linda Zimmerman	11	12
13 Jason Fuhrman	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Glenn Hassinger	21 Decatur McClure	22	23 Owen Dimond Julia Wenger	24 Iris Liskey	25 HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS 	26
27	28	29	30	31		



# DECEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Bell Choir 6:15 pm	3	4	5
6 Worship Service 10:00	7	8	9 Bell Choir 6:15 pm	10 Sharing Cupboard 10-1 Spiritual Nurture Mtg. 7:00 pm	11 Sharing Cupboard 3-6	12
13 Worship Service 10:00 <b>Children's Christmas Program</b>	14	15 Executive Mtg. 6:30 pm Commission Mtg. 7:00 pm Board Mtg. 7:30 pm	16 Bell Choir 6:15 pm	17	18	19
20 Worship Service 10:00	21	22	23 Bell Choir 6:15 pm	24 Sharing Cupboard 10-1 <b>Christmas Eve Service 7pm</b> 	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i> 	26
27 Worship Service 10:00	28	29	30	31		

**Family Order Form**

Created: 3/20/2020 11:09:39 AM

**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:

\$
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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%		\$				

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