

Myerstown Church of the Brethren Scriptural Message

9 For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's[a] will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. 11 May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled[b] you[c] to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son. 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.[d] The Supremacy of Christ 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; 16 for in[e] him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He himself is before all things, and in[f] him all things hold together. 18 He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Colossians 1:9-23 (NRSV)

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Myerstown Church of the Brethren

November 2020 Ministry through Faith, Vision, and Action

What's God Up To?

In 1970, a large number of Callery Pear trees were planted at the site of the original World Trade Center in New York City. Each spring their branches brought blossoms that brightened that world of concrete and asphalt. On 9/11/2001 the trees were buried beneath the rubble of the fallen twin towers.

In October of 2001 a clean-up worker found one tree smashed and burned between blocks of concrete. The tree was decapitated with almost all its branches broken off down to the trunk, which was charred, and its roots broken, but there was one living branch that had survived the trauma.

Most thought the tree was unsalvageable. Clean-up workers at Ground Zero persuaded a Parks Department employee to give the tree a chance so it was sent to a nursery in the Bronx. There nursery workers removed the dead, burned tissues, trimmed the roots and planted the tree in deep rich soil. The tree survived and the nursery workers gave it the name "Survivor."

In spring 2010 disaster struck the tree once more as a powerful storm with nearly 100 mph winds ripped it out of the ground. Again, the workers tried to salvage the tree. They partially lifted the tree, packing the roots carefully in compost and mulch. For a long time, they gently sprayed it with water to minimize shock in the hope the tree would survive. A few weeks later they set "Survivor" completely upright.

In 2011, on the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attack, "Survivor" was incorporated into the 9/11 memorial, planted near the footprint of the South Tower. The tree was intentionally planted so the traumatized side of the tree faced the public.

Some people complained that the tree spoiled the symmetry of the memorial, being a different species than the trees which had been incorporated into the memorial and still showing signs of the trauma of the attack. But on the tenth anniversary when the memorial site was opened to survivors and family members of those killed in the attack, many of them tied blue ribbons onto "Survivor's" branches. The Survivor Tree today serves as a reminder that, even out of the most difficult of circumstances, can come beauty, joy and life. As we know all too well in 2020, what happened to the Survivor Tree can happen to us. Sometimes our world comes crashing down on us. Life gets messy and we wonder if we can survive.

We all want and maybe even expect a nice orderly, coherent life. When life gets incoherent, when our world seems to disintegrate, we also can become uprooted; our coping mechanisms can go into hiding; we wonder if we're going to survive.

In his letter to the Colossian church Paul tells the believers that he is praying they might be "strengthened with all [God's] glorious power" so they will be prepared to "endure everything...," but not just endure. He prayed that they would have the power to endure with patience, and, in the midst of patient endurance, to "joyfully give thanks to the Father."

Is Paul totally out of touch here? In the midst of chaos and incoherence of life; in the midst of pain and suffering, to patiently endure it and to do so with joy and thanksgiving?

Julia Dray tells of an experience she had with her four-year-old daughter, Mary, while driving the beltway around Washington, DC. It was a typically unbearably hot and humid August afternoon in Washington. Julia was already late for an appointment, both she and Mary were tired and thirsty, and traffic had come to a complete standstill. There was no relief in sight, just a highway packed with cars stretching as far as she could see through the exhaust and haze.

Julia says she finally cried out in frustration (breaking her family's strict rule about using the Lord's name in vain), "Oh my God! How long is this going to go on? What am I going to do?"

Julia says she continued to rant and pound the steering wheel until she heard this quiet 4-year-old voice from the back seat.

"If you didn't sound so angry with him, mom, you could probably hear him better."

In the midst of a pandemic and increasing cases of COVID-19, in the midst of our frustration that Thanksgiving is going to look different this year (and Christmas too), maybe we need to take four-year-old Mary's advice to stop complaining and start listening, because we do have a choice in how we react when life crashes down on us and becomes chaotic and incoherent.

We can choose to whine and complain, to even blame God, or we can choose to turn to God and find the strength God gives to "endure with patience." And, if Jesus is truly who we say we believe he is, and we actually start to live as if he is who we say we believe he is, we can get to the point where we can even experience joy and can give thanks to the Father.

Today we might wonder where God is in all that is going on in the world and in our country right now: a pandemic, divisive politics, wildfires, etc.

What is God up to? As one of my favorite contemporary theologians, N.T. Wright, puts, "God is setting the world to rights.

What is God up to? Paul said it this way: "At the right time [God] will bring everything together under the authority of Christ – everything in heaven and on earth."

When our lives are shaped by what God has revealed to us about the future; when we live now in the strength and the power that is ours in Christ and, holding tightly to the promises that are ours in Christ, we are survivors.

This Thanksgiving, may you be strengthened with all God's glorious power so that you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father. Amen.

Dennis

Attendance & Offering

Attendance average for September 1, 2020 – September 30, 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.

Gift Cards

The gift card order for November will be processed on Monday November 2nd. Please have your orders in by Sunday November 1st. 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.

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.

MCoB email list - join by sending your name and email address to info@myerstowncob.org

November Wedding Anniversaries

- 6th Jason & Leslie Fuhrman Mark & Tammy Landis
- 9th Bud & Mary Lou Wagner
- 11th Landis & Anna Kupp Bill & Nancy Wenrich
- 14th Matt & Karen Sanchez
- 18th Leroy & Kathryn Hartranft
- 21st Gregory & Kim Horn
- 23rd John & Joan Mauser

Council Meeting November 2nd at 7:00 pm.

2021 Directory

If you have any changes for the 2021 directory please notify JoAnn or a member of the Missions & Fellowship Commission before the end of the year.

Senior choir practice will start on Wednesday November 4th at 7:30 pm. Anyone interested in singing is invited to attend.

Operation Christmas Child

This year, our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox project will be done online. We can still help to share God's love with children even in this time of limited contact. Pick up a form in The Gathering Place and make your gift selections. Return it with a payment of \$25 to JoAnn or any member of the Missions and Fellowship Commission by November 8. The Commission members will enter your choice on the Samaritan's purse website and they will pack your shoebox and send it for you. As an added incentive, for any box that is created by a member of the congregation, Women's Fellowship will donate another box!

Ministers of Music with Bob Kettering is November 8th at 7:00 pm.

Apple Dumplings

The ladies are making apple dumplings on Thursday, Nov. 19th at 8:00 a.m. All help is greatly appreciated.



ATTENTION

Our annual bazaar is Saturday, November 21st, the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Mark your calendar now to keep the date open! Tables will be available to rent for \$10 for your crafts, etc. If you have items for the "White Elephant" tables, they can be stored in the Sharing Cupboard area until the bazaar. Baked goods, candy, etc. will be accepted on Friday, November 20th. **Soup Needed** – If anyone is willing to make a batch of soup for the bazaar, please see Toni Noll.



Christmas Poinsettias

It is time to order your Christmas Poinsettia. The plants will be in 6 inch pots and have 5-6 blooms and the cost is \$7.00. Deadline to order and pay is Nov. 22nd. Sign the sheet on the table out in the Gathering Place.

Christmas Breakfast

Women's Fellowship is looking into having the Christmas breakfast at Cedar Grill Restaurant again. Due to COVID-19 we are checking to see if it will be possible.

Happy Birthday!

The children of Mary Jane Smith would like to honor her with a card shower in celebration of her 90th birthday on November 28th, 2020. Birthday cards can be mailed to: 1407 Oak Street, Apt 103, Lebanon, PA 17042.

Commissions and Church Board Meeting Date: October 20, 2020

Meeting was called to order: @ 7:40 pm by Chairperson: David Dubble

Present were: Secretary – Mark Landis, Jr. Prayer by: Linda Zimmerman

Present were: Pastor Dennis Garrison

Secretary's Report of September 15, 2020 Approved as presented at Aye Vote

Treasurer's Report of September 30, 2020 Approved as presented by Aye Vote

Commission Reports & Members Present

Ministry & Evangelism Commission: Chairperson – Grace Ziegler

David Dubble, Linda Zimmerman, Pastor Dennis

Opening devotions by Linda Zimmerman.

November 1^{st} will be a luncheon after church. It will be catered and care will be taken to protect us with social distancing – it will be by donation and any donations over & above the cost of the meal will be donated to the Church of the Brethren Disaster Relief – as there was no auction this year.

On November 8th the Ministers of Music will be here @ 7:00 pm.

We will contacting the group Piercing Word about dates for a Sunday morning service.

Susan Eikenberry will fill the pulpit on November 15th and David Stauffer on December 6th when Pastor Dennis is away.

We discussed appointments for the coming year and we worked on the budget.

<u>Missions & Fellowship Commission:</u> Chairperson – Susie Dundore Tammy Landis, Sharon Seldomridge

We agreed to donate \$150 to ELCO School District Family Fund.

We were undecided about doing Harvest Home this year.

We have 30 boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

We are looking over next year's church directories.

<u>Christian Education Commission:</u> - Chairperson – Christine Blackwell Cindy Sattazahn, Walter Sattazahn

Songs for the Christmas Program on December 13^{th} are:

Away in the Manger Twinkle Twinkle Little Star Jingle Bells Joy to the World We wish you a Merry Christmas

Christine Blackwell's term is up at the end of the year. She agreed to do another year.

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

- 1. Fixed leaky roof of walk-in refrigerator.
- 2. Thanks to Doug from Golden Equipment Company for sweeping the parking lot and Doug, our neighbor for painting the lines. Also, church members, who donated the paint and coordinated the project.
- 3. We are replacing sconce lights in sanctuary with LED lights that should last about 25 years and consume 25% of the amount of electric. Blatt & Myers will do this project.
- 4. We increased our budget \$3235 total; for the gas, water, sewer, electric.

<u>Finance and Stewardship Commission:</u> – Chairperson - Bob Noll Tim Fetzer

Pastor's Report

September 15, 2020 – October 20, 2020

As always, I am appreciative of those who have stepped up to staff the Children's Church program and to those who have served as worship leaders, provided music, and as technical assistants on sound and

projection. I am pleased to see all of you respecting social distancing and wearing masks according to our reopening guidelines. As we get into the winter months and the holiday season it is important that we don't get lax in this regard.

We had what both Jim Bauer and I felt was a successful Spiritual Renewal series. Thanks to brother Jim, those who provided music and those who attended. We averaged 40+ each evening including some children and some guests.

Fortunately, the number of persons in the congregation being hospitalized has been small. When possible, I am trying to connect on the phone. Please notify me when a family member or you become aware of a member of the church who is hospitalized so I can make contact with them.

The Revelation Bible study has been completed and on October 12 we started another study on the book of Hebrews. We will continue meeting up to Thanksgiving then take a break until after Christmas.

There has been some interest expressed in getting Sunday School and choir going again. These will both require more discussion on how we handle these activities.

Pastoral activity since August 18:

4 sermons/worship services

4 mid-week messages

3 Bible study sessions

Spiritual Renewal services

1 graveside service (Jeanette Hartman)

Phone calls to members or families of members

Numerous emails and texts

Planned sermons through December

Executive, Ministry & Evangelism Commission, Board meetings

Newsletter article

Provided music ministry with Cathy

Upcoming Sermons:

October 25: Pulpit Supply (James Rhen) November 1: Keep Calm and Have Hope

Luke 21:25-36

November 8: What's God Up To?

Colossians 1:11-23

November 15: Pulpit Supply (Susan Eikenberry) 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 sermon title but this will be 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

- 1. Approval of new budget for 2021 to present to council was approved by motion, second, and aye vote.
- 2. Our Fellowship Hall Committee will no longer be cooking or serving at banquets. Our approved catering service for this will be Country Kitchens. To allow this we needed to make changes in the policies #56 62. These were approved by motion, second, and aye vote.

Interests & Concerns

None

Adjournment

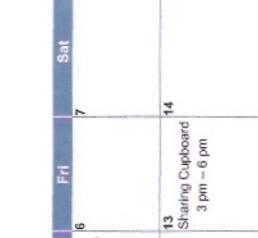
8:30 pm with prayer by Pastor Dennis.











Woman's Fellowship

Bell Chair 6:15 pm Senior Chair 7:30 pm

1 Worship Service 10:00 am | Council Mtg 7:00 pm

Mtg 7:00 pm

3 pm - 6 pm

Sharing Cupboard

10 am - 1 pm

Senior Choir 7:30 pm

Bell Choir 6:15 pm

9

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Ministers of Music 7:00 pm Worship Service 10:00 am

Bob Kettering

HOLIDAY BAZAAR 8 am - 1 pm

20

9

Bell Choir 6:15 pm

Executive Mtg. 6:30 pm

16 Bible Study 7:00 pm

Worship Service 10:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am

Commission Mtg. 7:00 pm Senior Chair 7:30 pm

Board Mtg. 8:00 pm

28

27 Sharing Cupboard

26

25

24

23 Bible Study 7:00 pm

22 Worship Service 10:00 am

30 Bible Study 7:00 pm

29 Worship Service 10:00 am

3 pm - 6 pm

THANKSGIVING

HAPPY

		NOVE	OVEMBER 2020	202	0	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Randy Wagner	2 Linda Strobel	е	4	5 Kathryn Gibble Greg Hom	9	7 Lloyd Wenger
œ	6	-10	-	12	13	14 Lindsey Dimond Leslie Fuhrman
15 Gloria Brandt	91	17	60	19 Sharon Kline	20 Richard Daubert Phyllis Hickernell Jeff Laubach Nancy Younker-Torres	24
22	23	24 Tim Fetzer	25 Lois Hassinger	26 Ruth Dundore John Hunsicker	27 Sherri Weaver	28 Robert Krall Grant Liskey Mary Jane Smith
59	30 Carl Hartman					

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	
Ace Hardware \$100.00	4%		\$	
Ace Hardware \$25.00	4%		\$	
adidas \$25.00	13%		\$	
Advance Auto Parts \$100.00	7%		\$	
Advance Auto Parts \$25.00	7%		\$	
Aeropostale \$25.00	10%		\$	
Amazon.com \$100.00	2.25%		\$	
Amazon.com \$25.00	2.25%		\$	
AMC Theatres \$25.00	8%		\$	
AMC Theatres Single Ticket \$10.00	10%		\$	
AMC Theatres Single Ticket \$12.00	10%		\$	
American Eagle® \$25.00	10%		\$	
American Girl \$100.00	9%		\$	
American Girl \$25.00	9%		\$	
Applebee's \$25.00	8%		\$	
Applebee's \$50.00	8%		\$	
Arby's \$10.00	8%		\$	
AutoZone \$25.00	8%		\$	
Banana Republic \$25.00	14%		\$	
Barnes & Noble \$10.00	8%		\$	
Barnes & Noble \$25.00	8%		\$	
Bass Pro Shops \$100.00	10%		\$	
Bass Pro Shops \$25.00	10%		\$	
Bath & Body Works \$10.00	12%		\$	
Bath & Body Works \$25.00	12%		\$	
Bed Bath & Beyond \$25.00	7%		\$	
Best Buy \$100.00	4%		\$	
Best Buy \$25.00	4%		\$	
Bob Evans Restaurants® \$10.00	10%		\$	
Boscov's \$25.00	8%		\$	
Boston Market \$10.00	12%		\$	
Buca di Beppo \$25.00	8%		\$	

Product	%	QTY	Total
Buffalo Wild Wings® \$10.00	8%		\$
Buffalo Wild Wings® \$25.00	8%		\$
Build-A-Bear Workshop \$25.00	8%		\$
Burger King \$10.00	4%		\$
Cabela's \$100.00	10%		\$
Cabela's \$25.00	10%		\$
Carrabba's Italian Grill \$25.00	8%		\$
Carter's \$25.00	10%		\$
Cheesecake Factory \$25.00	5%		\$
Children's Place \$25.00	12%		\$
Chili's Grill & Bar \$25.00	11%		\$
Chipotle Mexican Grill \$10.00	10%		\$
Chuck E. Cheese's \$10.00	8%		\$
Claire's \$10.00	9%		\$
Cold Stone Creamery \$10.00	11%		\$
Cracker Barrel \$10.00	8%		\$
Cracker Barrel \$25.00	8%		\$
CVS Pharmacy \$25.00	6%		\$
Dairy Queen \$10.00	3%		\$
Darden Restaurants \$25.00	8%		\$
Dick's Sporting Goods \$25.00	8%		\$
Disney \$100.00	3%		\$
Disney \$25.00	3%		\$
Domino's \$10.00	8%		\$
Dunham's Sports \$25.00	8%		\$
Dunkin' Donuts \$10.00	3%		\$
Dunkin' Donuts \$25.00	3%		\$
Eat'n Park \$10.00	9%		\$
Eat'n Park \$25.00	9%		\$
Express \$25.00	10%		\$
Famous Footwear \$25.00	8%		\$
Finish Line \$25.00	10%		\$

Product	%	QTY	Total
Foot Locker \$25.00	8%		\$
GameStop \$25.00	3%		\$
Gap \$25.00	14%		\$
Giant Food Stores \$100.00	4%		\$
Giant Food Stores \$25.00	4%		\$
Giant Food Stores \$50.00	4%		\$
Groupon.com \$25.00	7%		\$
Hardee's \$10.00	5%		\$
Home Depot \$25.00	4%		\$
Icing \$10.00	9%		\$
IHOP \$25.00	8%		\$
iTunes \$15.00	5%		\$
iTunes \$25.00	5%		\$
J. Crew \$25.00	13%		\$
JCPenney \$100.00	5%		\$
JCPenney \$25.00	5%		\$
Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores \$25.00	6%		\$
Kmart \$25.00	4%		\$
Kmart \$50.00	4%		\$
Kohl's \$100.00	4%		\$
Kohl's \$25.00	4%		\$
Krispy Kreme® \$10.00	8%		\$
L.L.Bean \$100.00	16%		\$
L.L.Bean \$25.00	16%		\$
Lands' End \$100.00	15%		\$
Lands' End \$25.00	15%		\$
Long John Silver's \$10.00	8%		\$
Lowe's \$100.00	4%		\$
Lowe's \$25.00	4%		\$
Marshalls \$25.00	7%		\$
Men's Wearhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
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:

\$

Myerstown Church of the Brethren/PA

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Name	Customer #
Check #	Order Date

Product	%	QTY	Total
Olive Garden \$25.00	8%		\$
OshKosh \$25.00	10%		\$
Outback Steakhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
Panera Bread \$10.00	8%		\$
Panera Bread \$25.00	8%		\$
Papa John's Pizza \$10.00	9%		\$
PetSmart \$25.00	5%		\$
Pier 1 Imports \$25.00	9%		\$
Pizza Hut \$10.00	8%		\$
Pottery Barn \$25.00	8%		\$
Qdoba Mexican Grill \$25.00	7%		\$
Rainforest Cafe \$25.00	9%		\$
Red Lobster \$25.00	8%		\$
Red Robin \$25.00	8%		\$
Regal \$25.00	8%		\$
Regal Premiere e-Ticket \$10.50	10%		\$
Rite Aid \$25.00	4%		\$
Ruby Tuesday \$25.00	8%		\$
Sam's Club \$100.00	2.5%		\$
Sam's Club \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Sears \$100.00	4%		\$
Sears \$25.00	4%		\$
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%		\$

Product	%	QTY	Total
Stop & Shop (NOT TOPS) \$25.00	4%		\$
Stop & Shop (NOT TOPS) \$50.00	4%		\$
Subway Restaurants \$10.00	6%		\$
Supercuts \$25.00	8%		\$
T.J. Maxx \$25.00	7%		\$
Taco Bell \$10.00	5%		\$
Talbots \$25.00	13%		\$
Tanger Outlets \$25.00	8%		\$
Target \$100.00	2.5%		\$
Target \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Target \$50.00	2.5%		\$
Texas Roadhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
TGI Fridays \$25.00	9%		\$
The Home Depot \$100.00	4%		\$
The Home Depot \$25.00	4%		\$
Under Armour \$25.00	11%		\$
Walgreens \$25.00	5%		\$
Walmart \$100.00	2.5%		\$
Walmart \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Walmart \$50.00	2.5%		\$
Wawa \$25.00	1%		\$
Wendy's \$10.00	6.5%		\$

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