



Myerstown Church of the Brethren

Scriptural Message

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:28-31 (NRSV)

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43:18-19 (NRSV)

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Myerstown Church of the Brethren

January 2021

Ministry through
Faith, Vision, and Action

A New Thing in 2021

Many of us, myself included, are not sad to see the year 2020 gone, however, it's not like passing from December 31, 2020 to January 1, 2021 will suddenly make everything we didn't like about 2020 disappear. The Coronavirus won't suddenly go away, although there is hope some things will be different in 2021. We'll still be wearing masks and social distancing for some time. The divisive politics of our nation will still be in the news. Life will go on and along with it those ups and downs we all experience.

We just got through the season of Advent when we lit candles symbolizing God's gifts of hope, peace, joy and love. Hopefully, even with all the challenges of 2020, you were able to experience during this season some hope, some peace, some joy and love. Just as the challenges of 2020 will not disappear in one day, so too the gifts God has given us in Jesus don't disappear now that Christmas is over. God does not "faint or grow weary." His "grace upon grace" (John 1:16) is still ours each and every day.

In spite of all its challenges, there was some good that took place in 2020, like the thousands of people who stepped up to help others at hospitals and food banks. Most of those volunteers will remain nameless to most of us, yet what they did and will continue to do makes a difference.

I recently received an email Christmas card from a business I frequent. It is adapted from some words of Charles Swindoll and reminds me that, even though Jesus birth was unbeknownst to most people, something momentous and world-changing had occurred.

Swindoll says, "Take the year 1809. The international scene was tumultuous. Napoleon was sweeping through Austria; blood was flowing freely. Nobody then cared about babies. But the world was overlooking some terribly significant births. For example, William Gladstone was born that year. He was destined to become one of England's finest statesman. That same year, Alfred Tennyson was born to an obscure minister and his wife. The child would one day greatly affect the literary world in a marked manner. On the American continent, Oliver Wendell Holmes was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts. And not far away in Boston, Edgar Allan Poe began his eventful, albeit tragic, life. It was also in that same year that a physician named Darwin and his wife named their child Charles Robert. And that same year produced the cries of a newborn infant in a rugged log cabin in Hardin County, Kentucky. The baby's name? Abraham Lincoln. If there had been news broadcasts at that time, I'm certain these words would have been heard: "The destiny of the world is being shaped on an Austrian battlefield today." But history was actually being shaped in the cradles of England and America.

Similarly, everyone thought taxation was the big news when Jesus was born. But a young Jewish woman cradled the biggest news of all: the birth of the Savior." As we go into a new year, we can have some hope, not just in some promising vaccines, but in our God who is unchanging, who continues to do "a new thing."

As we enter a new year, let's take to heart the words of the prophet, Isaiah, who urges us to make "the former things" a memory because God is going to continue doing new things. We just need to have our eyes and ears open to what God is doing. Something new will "spring forth" in 2021. Watch for God's "new thing."

As we enter into a new year, let us remember that, in the midst of the inevitable ups and downs of life, God "does not faint or grow weary." God understands our predicament, "his understanding is unsearchable."

When life throws you a curve in 2021, remember, "He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless." When you feel faint and weary, remember, "those who wait for the Lord shall

renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

May the hope, peace, joy and love of the Christmas season continue in your hearts and minds as we move into a new year. Even when the things of our lives and this world seem to be the "same old same old," remember, God is still doing a "new thing." Watch for it. My prayer is that in 2021, you will watch and wait for the Lord who can renew your strength. May you "mount up with wings like eagles," may you "run and not be weary."

May God bless you with a Happy New Year!

Pastor Dennis

Attendance & Offering

Attendance average for November 1, 2020 – November 30, 2020

Sunday School – 0

Worship Service - 61

Home Care

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

Gift Cards

The gift card order for January will be processed on Monday January 4th. Please have your orders in by Sunday January 3rd. 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

We still have pumpkin rolls available. If interested please see Dottie Nagle.

January Wedding Anniversaries

- 1st David & Janet Dubble
15th Elmer & Barbara Weidman

Candle Lighting/Memorial Service

We will be having our annual Candle Lighting Service on Sunday, January 3rd, for loved ones that passed away during the year 2020. Please notify JoAnn in the church office at 717-866-5517 if you desire to light a candle during this service. A family member(s) is encouraged to light the candle.



Bread and Cup Communion is on Sunday, January 10th, at the 10:00 am service.

The offering envelopes for 2021 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.

Commissions and Church Board Meeting

Date: December 15, 2020

Meeting was called to order: @ 7:30 pm

by Chairperson: David Dubble

Present were: Secretary – Mark Landis, Jr.

Prayer by: Janet Dubble

Present were: Pastor Dennis Garrison

Secretary’s Report of November 17, 2020

Approved as presented by Aye Vote

Treasurer’s Report of November 30, 2020

Approved as presented by Aye Vote

Commission Reports & Members Present

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

We opened our meeting with prayer.

The program “Piercing Word” is scheduled for March 15. With the world condition right now, we decided not to advertise until January.

We scheduled worship leaders till the end of January.

We discussed the issue of the possibility of going viral as we did in the spring. As of now we felt we should continue as we have been as long as the congregation feels comfortable worshipping here.

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

Working on church directory for 2021.

Eleven-year-old boy – foster home admitted to a trauma center. Our commission donated a basket of goodies for him.

Christmas card will be signed for the Principal of the Christian School.

Sock tree is getting full. Will be given to ELCO.

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

Working to fill 2 seats in Christian Education.

Working on Children’s Church schedule.

We are looking for Sunday School Teachers.

Christmas program went well.

Looking into new material for Children’s Church.

Trustee and Property Commission: – Chairperson – George Nagle

Dale Houtz, Mark Landis, Jr., Ken Gross

1. Blatt & Meyers has completed changing the lights in the sanctuary to led lights; should save on electric. They are supposed to use ¼ of electric as the old ones.
2. We got some new door hold kick downs for some doors.
3. REACH School would like to have another room if we would have one available. We said the room next to Library could be used, we recommend an additional \$200 per month.
4. We need to check wet spot ceiling in Gathering Place.

The Board approved by motion, second, and aye vote to allow REACH Christian School to use an additional Sunday School room next to Library for \$200.00 per month.

Finance and Stewardship Commission: – Chairperson - Bob Noll

Jay Lentz, Tim Fetzer

We received notice that the SBA has approved the application for full forgiveness of the PPP Loan.

Bob Noll will continue as Chairman for 2021.

We would again like to thank everyone for their faithful giving.

Pastor's Report

November 17, 2020 – December 15, 2020

As I write this the news of today is a mix of good news and bad news. The good news is that the first COVID-19 immunizations are being administered in our country today. The bad news is that the case numbers keep climbing and hospitals are being overwhelmed. We have had several of our church members experience the virus in the last month. Fortunately, none have required hospitalization. Let's continue with safe practices and, hopefully, this time next year life will be getting back to some semblance of normal.

In the past month we have had to curtail several activities here at the church because of the virus, including the Bell Choir and the Wednesday morning quilters. Understandably, with the increasing numbers of COVID cases, Sunday morning worship attendance has dropped off significantly. I appreciate how the congregation has taken safe practices here at the church seriously. This has enabled us to continue to offer live worship on Sunday mornings.

As we come to the end of a difficult year, I want to thank the congregation for welcoming Cathy and I into the Myerstown Church family. More importantly, your continued support and dedication to this congregation throughout this difficult year is to be commended. As we move into a new year, I urge your continued support for the church as, with God's help, we move forward together as a church.

May God bless you with a wonderfully different kind of Christmas and a happy and hopeful 2021.
Dennis

Pastoral Record for the past month:

3 sermons and planning for 4 worship services
4 midweek messages
1 Bible study session (Taking a break until January 4)
Phone calls to members or families of members
Numerous emails and texts
Planned sermons through Easter
Executive, Ministry & Evangelism Commission, Board meetings
Newsletter article
Planned for a recorded Christmas Eve service

Upcoming Sermons:

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

Christmas Eve Service (Recorded): *God the Only Son* John 1:16-18

December 27: *Perseverance* Matthew 2:1-12

January 3 (Memorial Service): *Heaven is for Real* Isaiah 66:1-2, Revelation 21:1-7

January 10 (Pew Communion): *Jesus, Our Healer* Psalm 103:1-5, Mark 1:21-34

January 17: *Jesus, Our Forgiver* Psalm 103:8-12, Mark 2:1-12

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Interests & Concerns

Dave & Janet Dubble have been attending webinars to improve the technology here at church. Our system is outdated; has various issues; and some of the issues are irreparable with our outdated system.

Adjournment

With prayer by Pastor Dennis @ 8:15 pm.

Family Order Form

Created: 12/24/2020 10:40:44 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
adidas \$25.00	13%		\$	Build-A-Bear Workshop® \$25.00	8%		\$	Giant Food Stores \$100.00	4%		\$
Advance Auto Parts \$100.00	7%		\$	Burger King \$10.00	4%		\$	Giant Food Stores \$25.00	4%		\$
Advance Auto Parts \$25.00	7%		\$	Cabela's \$100.00	10%		\$	Giant Food Stores \$50.00	4%		\$
Aeropostale \$25.00	10%		\$	Cabela's \$25.00	10%		\$	Groupon.com \$25.00	7%		\$
Amazon.com \$100.00	2.25%		\$	Carrabba's Italian Grill \$25.00	10%		\$	Hardee's \$10.00	5%		\$
Amazon.com \$25.00	2.25%		\$	Carter's \$25.00	10%		\$	Home Depot® \$25.00	4%		\$
AMC Theatres \$25.00	8%		\$	Cheesecake Factory \$25.00	5%		\$	Icing \$10.00	9%		\$
AMC Theatres Single Ticket \$10.00	10%		\$	Children's Place \$25.00	12%		\$	IHOP \$25.00	8%		\$
AMC Theatres Single Ticket \$12.00	10%		\$	Chili's Grill & Bar \$25.00	11%		\$	J. Crew \$25.00	13%		\$
American Eagle® \$25.00	10%		\$	Chipotle Mexican Grill \$10.00	10%		\$	JCPenney \$100.00	5%		\$
American Girl \$100.00	9%		\$	Chuck E. Cheese's \$10.00	8%		\$	JCPenney \$25.00	5%		\$
American Girl \$25.00	9%		\$	Claire's \$10.00	9%		\$	Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores \$25.00	6%		\$
Applebee's \$25.00	8%		\$	Cold Stone Creamery \$10.00	11%		\$	Kmart \$25.00	4%		\$
Applebee's \$50.00	8%		\$	Cracker Barrel \$10.00	8%		\$	Kmart \$50.00	4%		\$
Arby's \$10.00	8%		\$	Cracker Barrel \$25.00	8%		\$	Kohl's \$100.00	4%		\$
AutoZone \$25.00	8%		\$	CVS Pharmacy \$25.00	6%		\$	Kohl's \$25.00	4%		\$
Banana Republic \$25.00	14%		\$	Dairy Queen \$10.00	3%		\$	Krispy Kreme® Doughnut Corporation \$10.00	8%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$10.00	8%		\$	Darden Restaurants \$25.00	8%		\$	L.L.Bean \$100.00	16%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$25.00	8%		\$	Dick's Sporting Goods \$25.00	8%		\$	L.L.Bean \$25.00	16%		\$
Bass Pro Shops \$100.00	10%		\$	Disney \$100.00	3%		\$	Lands' End \$100.00	15%		\$
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Bath & Body Works \$10.00	12%		\$	Domino's \$10.00	8%		\$	Long John Silver's \$10.00	8%		\$
Bath & Body Works \$25.00	12%		\$	Dunham's Sports \$25.00	8%		\$	Lowe's \$100.00	4%		\$
Bed Bath & Beyond \$25.00	7%		\$	Dunkin' Donuts \$10.00	3%		\$	Lowe's \$25.00	4%		\$
Best Buy \$100.00	4%		\$	Dunkin' Donuts \$25.00	3%		\$	Marshalls \$25.00	7%		\$
Best Buy \$25.00	4%		\$	Eat'n Park \$10.00	9%		\$	Men's Wearhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
Bob Evans Restaurants® \$10.00	10%		\$	Eat'n Park \$25.00	9%		\$	Michaels \$25.00	4%		\$
Boscov's \$25.00	8%		\$	Express \$25.00	10%		\$	Nike \$25.00	12%		\$
Boston Market \$10.00	12%		\$	Famous Footwear \$25.00	8%		\$	Old Navy \$25.00	14%		\$
Buca di Beppo \$25.00	8%		\$	Finish Line \$25.00	10%		\$	Olive Garden \$25.00	8%		\$
Buffalo Wild Wings® \$10.00	8%		\$	Foot Locker \$25.00	8%		\$	OshKosh \$25.00	10%		\$
Buffalo Wild Wings® \$25.00	8%		\$	GameStop \$25.00	3%		\$	Outback Steakhouse \$25.00	10%		\$
				Gap \$25.00	14%		\$	Panera Bread \$10.00	8%		\$

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

Total Due All Columns: \$

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Name	Customer #
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Product	%	QTY	Total	Product	%	QTY	Total
Panera Bread \$25.00	8%		\$	Tanger Outlets \$25.00	8%		\$
Papa John's Pizza \$10.00	8%		\$	Target \$100.00	2.5%		\$
PetSmart \$25.00	5%		\$	Target \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Pizza Hut \$10.00	8%		\$	Target \$50.00	2.5%		\$
Pottery Barn \$25.00	8%		\$	Texas Roadhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
Qdoba Mexican Grill \$25.00	7%		\$	TGI Fridays \$25.00	9%		\$
Rainforest Cafe \$25.00	9%		\$	The Home Depot® \$100.00	4%		\$
Red Lobster \$25.00	8%		\$	The Home Depot® \$25.00	4%		\$
Red Robin \$25.00	8%		\$	Under Armour \$25.00	11%		\$
Regal \$25.00	8%		\$	Walgreens \$25.00	5%		\$
Regal Premiere e-Ticket \$10.50	10%		\$	Walmart \$100.00	2.5%		\$
Rite Aid \$25.00	4%		\$	Walmart \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Sam's Club \$100.00	2.5%		\$	Walmart \$50.00	2.5%		\$
Sam's Club \$25.00	2.5%		\$	Wawa \$25.00	1%		\$
Sears \$100.00	4%		\$	Wendy's \$10.00	6.5%		\$
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%		\$				
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%		\$				

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Total Due All Columns: \$