

Myerstown Church of the Brethren

Scriptural Message

"Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look around and see. Is any suffering like my suffering that was inflicted on me, that the Lord brought on me in the day of his fierce anger?13 "From on high he sent fire, sent it down into my bones. He spread a net for my feet and turned me back. He made me desolate, faint all the day long. 14"My sins have been bound into a yoke[a]; by his hands they were woven together. They have been hung on my neck, and the Lord has sapped my strength. He has given me into the hands of those I cannot withstand. 15"The Lord has rejected all the warriors in my midst; he has summoned an army against me to[b] crush my young men. In his winepress the Lord has trampled Virgin Daughter Judah. 16"This is why I weep and my eyes overflow with tears. No one is near to comfort me, no one to restore my spirit. My children are destitute because the enemy has prevailed." Lamentations 1:12-16

45 From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. **Matthew 27:45**

Address:	51 West Stoever Ave.
	PO Box 61
	Myerstown, PA 17067
Office Phone:	717-866-5517
Web Page:	myerstowncob.org
	Church Email:

myerstowncob@myerstowncob.org

Myerstown Church of the Brethren

February 2021

Ministry through Faith, Vision, and Action

Lament: The Language of Honesty

The book of Lamentations not one we often read. Probably the most familiar verses in Lamentations are in the third chapter, verses 22-23, familiar to many because of the hymn, Great is Thy Faithfulness: "Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

But those words are one brief moment of hope in the midst of the prophet Jeremiah's cry to God over the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of the Hebrew people to Babylon. Jeremiah is in anguish because of the situation for the Jewish people remaining in Jerusalem. As the name of the book suggests, Lamentations is a lament, Jeremiah's lament, his crying out to God over this unimaginable situation.

The city of Jerusalem measured herself by the worldly standards of wealth and prosperity. Jerusalem, God's city, the location of the Temple and center Jewish worship, "Who would have believed that an enemy could march through the gates of Jerusalem?" (Lamentations 4:12 NLT)

During these months of Lent I want to share with you some thoughts regarding the book of Lamentations and the value of lament to our Christian walk. I hope you'll join me on the journey.

As we come into the church season of Lent, we are reminded that the road to Easter took Jesus through the valley of the shadow of death. On that road he experienced the rejection of those who in one moment cried "Hosanna" and in the next were crying "crucify him;" he experienced the desertion of those disciples who were closest to him, the pain of a cruel beating, the derision of the crowd as he walked the Via Dolorosa (the way of the cross). He experienced a criminal's death as he was nailed to a Roman cross. And, most painfully, he felt abandoned by God as he cried out from that cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" The book of Lamentations is a lament, Jeremiah's crying out to God. In American Christianity I think we have largely lost the capacity to lament and our understanding of God, our growth in faith and trust in God has been hampered by its absence.

We live in a culture of individualism and self-achievement where we "pull up our bootstraps and make something of ourselves." We live in a Christian culture that focuses so much on praise, celebration and God's blessings and we're not that much unlike those 6th century BC Jews in Jerusalem who measured life by worldly standards of wealth and prosperity, who thought that nothing could ever destroy what God had given them in that "holy" city. When we do experience the unexpected; when life takes us down; when tragedy, death, suffering come into our lives, instead of being honest with God, how often we try to put on a good face and pretend everything is ok, or we try to rationalize it away. But it never goes away. Lament is a much more biblical way, a much healthier way to deal with our pain, our suffering, our questions and our anger towards God. It's to our detriment that we neglect the power of lament. Lament is very scriptural. In addition to Jeremiah's lament in the book of Lamentations, nearly 50% of the Psalms express some feelings of lament, as well as the lament of Habakkuk and Jesus' cry of lament from the cross. Lament is a form of prayer that arises out of great need, out of loss, and out of suffering. Lament recognizes the struggles of life. Lament deals with reality. Lament is honesty before God.

Lament is way of dealing with our anger toward God. Lament is telling God like it is. Lament is being authentic, laying it all out there, it's being honest with God and honest about yourself. The good news is that God can take it.

We're often too scared to do that. We think, "God doesn't want to hear that kind of stuff from me. God doesn't want to hear me whine." There is a difference between whining and lament. When you're whining you turn your back on God. You dismiss God. You turn away. You deny who God is.

Lament acknowledges God; lament grabs hold of God. Lament says, "God, you say you created me. You tell me that you love me. This is what's going on inside of me." It's looking God in the eye and saying, "Help me deal with my pain. Do something about it. Why do you seem so far off?" Lament is the language of honesty with God.

In the past year we surely have experienced much of which we can lament: the virus, separation from loved ones, feelings of loneliness. Have you been honest with God?

The prayer of lament never denies God's existence. The prayer of lament never denies God's ability to intervene. Lament struggles with God's silence, but never loses hope.

The more honest we are with God in our suffering, the more honest we are with God in our praise. Read the Psalms of Lament (Psalms 10, 13, 22 and 77 are examples) and you will find that virtually every one begins with a crying out to God and ends with praise. Lament and praise; lament and joy go hand in hand because we know the end of the story (Revelation 21).

I don't know where you find yourself today. Maybe you're experiencing one of those dark nights of the soul. Maybe things are good in your life and between you and God. But even if life is good right now, I'm sure you know some who are suffering and, at one time or another, you've been there yourself.

What difference can it make in your life knowing you can cry out to God in the midst of your darkness; knowing that is what God wants you to do, knowing you can go eye to eye with God, "Turn and answer me, O Lord my God!" (Ps. 13:3 NLT)

Pastor Dennis

Attendance & Offering

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

Sunday School – 0 Worship Service - 57

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, Mary Ann Gibble, Wilbur & Gloria Keppley, Iris Liskey, and Carl Wenger.**

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.

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. Reduced price is \$8.00. If interested please see Dottie Nagle.

February Wedding Anniversaries

- 21st John & Nancy Layser
- 22nd John & Linda Zimmerman
- 25th William & Sharon Kline
- 29th Richard & Brenda Weierbach

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.

Old Directory If you would like to bring in your old directory, we can reuse the spines on them. There will be a box in the Gathering Place for you to put the directory. Thank you!

Council Meeting March 1st at 7:00 p.m. is Council Meeting

Easter Lily - 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 7th. Signup sheet is in the Gathering Place.

Tax Receipts The tax receipts for the year 2020 are in the mailboxes. Please don't forget to check your mailbox.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



God's Valentine Gift

God's Valentine gift of love to us Was not a bunch of flowers; It wasn't candy, or a book To while away the hours.

His gift was to become a man, So He could freely give His sacrificial love for us, So you and I could live.

He gave us sweet salvation, and Instruction, good and true--To love our friends and enemies And love our Savior, too.

So as we give our Valentines, Let's thank our Lord and King; The reason we have love to give Is that He gave everything.

By Joanna Fuchs

		FEBRU	ARY	2021		
Sun	Mon 1 Bible Study 7:00 pm ZOOM	Tue 2	Wed 3	Thu 4	Fri 5	Sat 6
7 Worship Service 10:00 am	8 Bible Study 7:00 pm ZOOM	9	10	11 Sharing Cupboard 10 am-1 pm	12 Sharing Cupboard 3-6 pm	13
14 Worship Service 10:00 am	15 Bible Study 7:00 pm ZOOM	16 Executive Mtg. 6:30 pm Commission Mtg. 7:00 pm Board Mtg. 7:30 pm	17	18	19	20
21 Worship Service 10:00 am		23	24	25 Sharing Cupboard 10 am-1 pm Spiritual Nurture Meeting 7pm	26 Sharing Cupboard 3-6 pm	27
28 Worship Service 10:00 am						

		FEBR	UAR	(202	1	
Sun	Mon 1 Brandon Burke Darryl Daubert Clark Heisey Jessica Singer Brett Wenger	Tue 2 Seiarra Burke	Wed 3	4 4	Fri 5 Ruth Firestine	Sat 6 Donald Hickernell Charlette Singer Derek Thomas
7	8 Hannah Arnt Brett Lentz Marcie Yoh	9 Sonja Smith	10 Eric Hartranft Eric Layser Taryn Miller-Bell	11 Jasmyn Burke Lynnea Weaver Corey Wenger	12 Evelina Krall	13
14 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY	15 Sandra Tripp	16 Justin Hocker	17 Aiden Miller Barry Spangler	18 Verna Forney Gavin Speraw	19 Wyatt Stehr Jose Torres	20 Dean Ebersole, Jr. Mary Hartranft
21 Lori Hassinger	22	23 Cameron Fuhrman Earl Liskey Ryan Liskey Sheila Meyers	24	25 Jackson Liskey Clara Wenrich	26 Paul Buccholz John Hays	27 Jean Barnhart Joseph Levengood, Jr. Peter Potena
28 Dean Ebersole Dick Forney						

Commissions and Church Board Meeting	Date: January 19, 2021
Meeting was called to order: @ 7:30 pm	by Chairperson: David Dubble
Present were: Secretary – Mark Landis, Jr.	Prayer by: Jay Lentz
Present were: Pastor Dennis Garrison	
Secretary's Report of December 15, 2020	Approved as presented by Aye Vote
Treasurer's Report of December 31, 2020	Approved as presented by Aye Vote

Commission Reports & Members Present

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

In attendance were Dave Dubble, Pastor Dennis, Grace Ziegler and Linda Zimmerman.

Grace Ziegler opened our meeting with devotions.

Dave reported that as of now the Piercing Word program is still planned for Sunday, March 14th from 3-4pm.

Worship leaders are scheduled for the two remaining Sundays in January and Grace is contacting others for the Sundays in February.

We voted to continue our sponsorship of our donation to the Rescue Mission. We asked Grace to contact someone at the Rescue Mission to present a short message on a Sunday to explain their program.

We talked about the possibility of an Easter Sunrise Service depending on COVID19 restrictions and possibly opening it up to the community. We also discussed the speaker whether we get someone in our congregation or a guest minister.

Missions & Fellowship Commission: Chairperson – Susie Dundore

Tammy Landis, Sharon Seldomridge, Janet Dubble, Kim Horn

In attendance: Susie Dundore, Tammy Landis, Sharon Seldomridge, Janet Dubble, and Kim Horn.

- 1. Sock tree 184 pairs of socks were donated to ELCO School District.
- 2. Directory update Final proofreading is being done. Directories will be printed and distributed by the end of January.
- Easter Breakfast after sunrise service; we'll have to have individual servings such as breakfast casserole cut in squares & placed in individual containers, fruit, donuts, muffins in individual bags, milk and juice containers.

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

In attendance: Christine Blackwell, Brenda Lentz, Walter Sattazahn, Cindy Sattazahn.

Talked about combining Adult Sunday School classes in the sanctuary starting 1st Sunday in March.

Working on where to put everyone for Sunday School for the children.

We have the children's church schedule up until the end of April.

We need to confirm teachers for children & adult Sunday School.

Discussed whether to have Easter Egg Hunt on March 27th. Needs more discussion and research.

Brenda Lentz has agreed to serve on this commission for 1 year. She was approved by motion, 2nd, and aye vote.

<u>**Trustee and Property Commission**</u>: – Chairperson – George Nagle

Dale Houtz, Mark Landis, Jr., Ken Gross

- 1. We are getting 5 chairs; 2 tables for income tax people. They are going to start February 15th.
- 2. We got sweeper repaired \$49.00.
- 3. The school would like to know if they could have Martins Water install a water purifier for drinking water for Myerstown water.
- 4. REACH School will pay part of the snow plowing bill \$115.00.
- 5. I replaced a light switch in Sharing Cupboard.
- 6. We had Bachman Roofing check roof in Gathering Place. They reported it's a good roof, no leaks. Spots on ceiling tile are from condensation on heating ducts.

Finance and Stewardship Commission: – Chairperson - Bob Noll

Jay Lentz, Glenn Hassinger

The Building Fund checking account has been closed & the funds were put in General Fund & will be tracked separately.

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

Pastor's Report

December 15, 2020 – January 19, 2021

As we enter 2021, a year we were all hoping would bring brighter and better days, the events in our nation and the news about the COVID pandemic and vaccine roll-out has been discouraging. Yet, as followers of Jesus, we know who holds the future and we trust that God is working in this world for our good. Sometimes that is difficult to see, but we are called to trust in God's unfailing word.

In that spirit, the church continues forward. We continue to meet for worship, we continue to serve our community through ministries like the Sharing Cupboard, we seek alternative ways to meet through technology for Bible study, the church leadership is committed to moving forward the work of the church, and we continue to support and encourage one another. Our mission as God's people in Myerstown has not stopped. We have been blessed.

In our weekly Bible study, we are finishing the book of Hebrews. Some of my favorite verses in Scripture are Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV): "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

As we move forward into 2021 let us run the race before us with perseverance, fixing our eyes on Jesus that we may not grow weary or lose heart. God has plans for Myerstown Church of the Brethren. Let us trust that God is leading us and, as we remain faithful, God will bless the ministry of this church. Dennis

Pastoral Record for the past month:

5 sermons and planning for 5 worship services 5 midweek messages 3 Bible study sessions (Continuing online) Recorded Christmas Eve service Candle lighting memorial service Pew Communion January 17 Phone calls to members or families of members Numerous emails and texts Sermons planned through Easter Executive, Ministry & Evangelism Commission, Board meetings Newsletter article

Upcoming Sermons:

January 24: **Jesus, Our Forgiver;** Psalm 103:8-12, Mark 2:1-12 January 31: **Jesus, Our Teacher;** Psalm 119:105-112, Mark 4:1-20 February 7: **Jesus, Our Prophet and Messiah;** Mark 6:1-6, 8:27-33 February 14: **The Fragrance of Love;** Mark 14:1-11 February 21: **The Message of the Cross;** 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 February 28: **The Scandal of the Cross;** 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

We are continuing to look at improving our audio/visual systems here at Myerstown Church of the Brethren.

A technology committee has been formed. The committee is comprised of those that work in the sound booth, and Charlie Krall will serve as a consultant. The formation of this committee was approved by motion, 2^{nd} , and aye vote.

Interests & Concerns

Adjournment

8:15 pm with prayer by Pastor Dennis.

Family Order Form

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							Custome	er #			
Check #							Order D	ate			
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	4%		\$
Advance Auto Parts	7%		\$	Cabela's \$100.00	10%		\$	\$25.00 Giant Food Stores	4%		\$
\$25.00 Aeropostale \$25.00	10%		\$	Cabela's \$25.00	10%		\$	\$50.00			
Amazon.com \$100.00	2.25%		\$	Carrabba's Italian Grill \$25.00	10%		\$	Groupon.com \$25.00	7% 5%		\$ \$
Amazon.com \$25.00	2.25%		\$	Carter's \$25.00	10%		\$	Hardee's \$10.00 Home Depot® \$25.00	5% 4%		ъ \$
AMC Theatres \$25.00	8%		\$	Cheesecake Factory	5%		\$	Icing \$10.00	4 /° 9%		φ \$
AMC Theatres Single	10%		\$	\$25.00 Children's Place \$25.00	12%		\$	IHOP \$25.00	3 % 8%		↓ \$
Ticket \$10.00 AMC Theatres Single	10%		\$	Chili's Grill & Bar \$25.00	11%		¢ \$	J. Crew \$25.00	13%		Ψ \$
Ticket \$12.00			,	Chipotle Mexican Grill	10%		¢ \$	JCPenney \$100.00	5%		\$
American Eagle® \$25.00	10%		\$	\$10.00				JCPenney \$25.00	5%		\$
American Girl \$100.00	9%		\$	Chuck E. Cheese's \$10.00	8%		\$	Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft	6%		\$
American Girl \$25.00	9%		\$	Claire's \$10.00	9%		\$	Stores \$25.00 Kmart \$25.00	4%		\$
Applebee's \$25.00	8%		\$	Cold Stone Creamery \$10.00	11%		\$	Kmart \$25.00	4% 4%		ъ \$
Applebee's \$50.00	8%		\$	Cracker Barrel \$10.00	8%		\$	Kinar \$50.00 Kohl's \$100.00	4%		φ \$
Arby's \$10.00	8%		\$	Cracker Barrel \$25.00	8%		\$	Kohl's \$25.00	4%		φ \$
AutoZone \$25.00	8%		\$	CVS Pharmacy \$25.00	6%		\$	Krispy Kreme®	4 /° 8%		φ \$
Banana Republic \$25.00	14%		\$	Dairy Queen \$10.00	3%		\$	Doughnut Corporation \$10.00	0 %		φ
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	8%		\$	L.L.Bean \$25.00	16%		\$
Bass Pro Shops \$100.00	10%		\$	\$25.00 Disney \$100.00	3%		\$	Lands' End \$100.00	15%		\$
Bass Pro Shops \$25.00	10%		\$	Disney \$25.00	3%		э \$	Lands' End \$25.00	15%		\$
Bath & Body Works	12%		\$	Domino's \$10.00	8%		э \$	Long John Silver's \$10.00	8%		\$
\$10.00 Bath & Body Works	12%		\$	Dunham's Sports	8%		\$	Lowe's \$100.00	4%		\$
\$25.00 Bed Bath & Beyond	7%		\$	\$25.00 Dunkin' Donuts \$10.00	3%		\$	Lowe's \$25.00	4%		\$
\$25.00				Dunkin' Donuts \$25.00	3%		Ф \$	Marshalls \$25.00	7%		\$
Best Buy \$100.00	4%		\$	Eat'n Park \$10.00	9%		Ψ \$	Men's Wearhouse	8%		\$
Best Buy \$25.00	4%		\$	Eat'n Park \$25.00	9%		Ψ \$	\$25.00 Michaels \$25.00	4%		\$
Bob Evans Restaurants® \$10.00	10%		\$	Express \$25.00	10%		¢ \$	Nike \$25.00	12%		\$
Boscov's \$25.00	8%		\$	Famous Footwear	8%		¢ \$	Old Navy \$25.00	14%		\$
Boston Market \$10.00	12%		\$	\$25.00				Olive Garden \$25.00	8%		\$
Buca di Beppo \$25.00	8%		\$	Finish Line \$25.00	10%		\$	OshKosh \$25.00	10%		\$
Buffalo Wild Wings® \$10.00	8%		\$	Foot Locker \$25.00	8%		\$	Outback Steakhouse	10%		\$
Buffalo Wild Wings®	8%		\$	GameStop \$25.00 Gap \$25.00	3% 14%		\$ \$	\$25.00 Panera Bread \$10.00	8%		\$

Make Checks Payable To: Myerstown Church of the Brethren



\$

Family Order Form

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							0	Customer
Check #							(Order Dat
Product	%	QTY	Total	Product	%	QTY	Tota	al
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%		\$	1				
Stop & Shop (NOT TOPS) \$50.00	4%		\$	1				
Subway Restaurants \$10.00	6%		\$	1				
Supercuts \$25.00	8%		\$	-				
T.J. Maxx \$25.00	7%		\$	-				
Taco Bell \$10.00	5%		\$					
Talbots \$25.00	13%		\$	-				