



Myerstown Church of the Brethren

Scriptural Message

25For I know that my Redeemer[a] lives, and that at the last he[b] will stand upon the earth;[c] 26and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in[d] my flesh I shall see God.[e] 27whom I shall see on my side,[f] and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

Job 19:25-27

22The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.[a] his mercies never come to an end; 23they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 24“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

Lamentations 3:22-24

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Myerstown Church of the Brethren

April 2021

Ministry through
Faith, Vision, and Action

Lament: The Language of Hope

During this Lenten season and leading up to Easter I've been sharing some thoughts on prayers of lament and Jeremiah's lament over the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of the Israelites to Babylon. Lament, recall, is crying out to God in times of physical, emotional or spiritual pain and suffering. Lament is a "language," a way of praying to God in such times. From Jeremiah's lament I've shared about two of the "languages" evident in Lamentations, the languages of honesty and humility. Lament is complete honesty with God and with others. Humility is understanding who we are in relationship to God. For this month's newsletter, lament as a language of hope. Within the prayer of lament, hope is always present. We might not always feel hopeful, but as we read the prayers of lament in the Psalms and elsewhere in scripture, hope is always present. Hope is always present in lament because God is always present. A prayer of lament envisions the potential of renewal and restoration because God is faithful. While I was pastor at Spring Creek one of the members came to me and shared a lot of what was happening in his life. Through a series of illegal actions by a former business partner this individual found his business and his reputation as a businessman ruined. He was basically bankrupt with no prospects for any future work. He was suffering emotionally wondering how he could provide for his family; he was suffering spiritually, asking God all those "why" questions; he was suffering physically, as is often the case when we are emotionally and spiritually drained. He asked me to assemble a group of men to meet with him for prayer and to help him discern a direction for his life in light of his current situation. Through that experience I learned several lessons about lament. First, I learned about the power of lament. When life throws its worst at us; when we are suffering; when we're overwhelmed with guilt or shame, we need to cry out to God. Thinking we can handle it all to ourselves, we will exhaust ourselves; we'll run out of energy; we'll easily get to the point where we will want to quit and resign ourselves to "that's just the way it is, there's nothing I can do." Fear and depression will take over our lives. We need to pray prayers of lament because within lament, hope is always present. The loss of hope is what makes pain and suffering unbearable. Prayers of lament are prayers of hope because they express the belief that God hears our prayers and will answer. The prayer of lament acknowledges that the source of all hope and mercy is God. Second, I've learned that lament is a journey. I don't recall exactly how many times we gathered to pray with my friend, maybe four or five times plus numerous times when he and I met together personally or exchanged texts and emails. Through it all, we journeyed together as he poured out his lament to God and to us, vulnerable before God and these brothers in Christ. We were on a journey with him and with one another. On that journey there were times when there were more questions than answers. There were times when he was at the bottom of the pit and times when he could see no way out. There were times when we prayed hard and it seemed answers weren't coming. But in it all, we all maintained the hope that God would work for his good. Lament is a construction project of sorts. I am reminded of Paul's words in Philippians 2:12-13 – "continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you to will and to act according to his good purpose." This whole journey of lament is part of working out our salvation. In the message I did for the February newsletter, I mentioned that sometimes people feel that if we cry out to God, complain to God about our situation or in any way question God that we are somehow disrespecting God. Third, I have learned that, in the prayer of lament, God is never disrespected nor is God's sovereignty questioned. God is present in the

prayer of lament. God is the focus of the prayer of lament. The prayer of lament acknowledges that God is in control. The prayer of lament expresses the expectation that God will hear and will act in response to our prayer. And in that expectation is the hope that is within the prayer of lament. A fourth lesson, the journey of lament requires patience. It requires waiting on the Lord. Patient waiting does not mean moping around and “hoping” God will do something, rather it is patient work! While lament requires patient work, lament never quits believing God is listening and will supply an answer. It is living out the principle and the promise Jesus gave us in Matthew 7:7-8: “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.” Recall the story of Job who lost his family, his wealth, and his health. His “friends” tried to help him make sense of it all, but Job just couldn’t accept their reasoning. Job expressed the hope that is within lament when, even in his pain and confusion he was still able to find his hope in God:

“For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;
and after my skin has been thus destroyed,
then in my flesh I shall see God,
whom I shall see on my side,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

My heart faints within me!” (Job 19:25-27 NRSV)

The book of Lamentations is an unfinished story. The prayer of Jeremiah and the Israelites was that God would restore the city and their own fortunes to what once was, that God would “give back the joys” they once had. One day a little more than five hundred years later an itinerant Jewish rabbi rode into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey. He was greeted with crowds of people laying their cloaks on the road before him, waving palm branches and shouting and singing, “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven!”

And God’s answer to the cries of the people centuries earlier (God’s answer to our cries) was revealed. God’s answer is Jesus the Christ, the Messiah. The people had waited, not always patiently, not always faithfully, but their hope was fulfilled in Jesus. I don’t know what is happening in your life right now, what struggles you are facing or what pain you’re bearing. But what I have learned is that you won’t find peace and healing on your own. You need to allow yourself to be vulnerable; to cry out to God; to cry out with good Christian brothers or sisters who won’t judge you for whatever it is that is causing your pain. Find the prayer of lament; go on that journey with God; engage in the work that the journey requires; never quit believing God will supply an answer; trust that through this journey God can produce for you a glory that far outweighs your troubles, a glory that will last forever.

Lamentations points us to the work of Jesus Christ, to hope, restoration and joy. Hope is alive because Jesus is alive! Even in his lament, Jeremiah knew this hope that was to be found in God. He was able to say:

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”

May you be able to say the same.

Pastor Dennis

Attendance & Offering

Attendance average for February 1, 2021 – February 28, 2021

Sunday School – 0
Worship Service - 63

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, and Iris Liskey.***

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

April Wedding Anniversaries

1st Ken & Nancy Liskey
6th Joel and Linda Fahnestock
12th Roy & Barb Wenger
25th Lloyd & Kitty Wenger
28th Robert & Jeanette Beisel

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!

Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 am at the fish dam pavilion across the street.

Easter Sunrise Breakfast will be at 7:30 am following the Sunrise Service on April 4th. There will be no ticket purchase required this year, but you are asked to sign up on the sheet in The Gathering Place if you are planning to attend so we have an accurate count for food preparation. A free will offering basket will be placed at the breakfast to help to cover costs. The food prep and serving will be handled by members of our congregation. Safety measures will be observed.

"I Feel It In The Air" by Edna Reed

I know it's Easter time again, I feel it in the air. The breath of spring with woodsy tang, And new life everywhere. And spring glides on with magic touch O'er mountain side and glen; And wakens all the sleeping plants for Easter time again.

The brooklets leap from rock to rock, As if in joyful play; The flowers peep from darkened tombs To welcome Easter Day. The birds are swinging on the boughs, And trill in ecstasy; They seem to show the world's great joy of Easter mystery.

Why should we dread the thing called death? It's just an open door, Where all within is love and peace And joy forever more. "Because I live, you too shall live, "We hear the Savior say. Let's consecrate our lives anew, On this glad Easter Day.

Easter Love" by Joanna Fuchs

On Easter we celebrate love, love coming down from heaven, love blanketing the earth in a transforming embrace; unique and infinite love, giving more than we can imagine for us, to cleanse our sin, a perfect sacrifice, Lamb of God, the walking, talking Word. He is teacher, role model, friend, this God in human form, dying, then rising from the dead, proving all who believe will also rise to have eternal life, with Him, Lord of all. Oh, Happy, Happy Easter!



Commissions and Church Board Meeting

Date: March 16, 2021

Meeting was called to order: @ 7:30 pm

by Chairperson: David Dubble

Present were:

Prayer by: Tim Fetzer

Secretary's Report of February 16, 2021

Approved as presented: At March 1, 2021 council meeting

Treasurer's Report of February 28, 2021

Approved as presented by Aye Vote

Commission Reports & Members Present

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

Dave Dubble, Grace Ziegler, Pastor Dennis and Linda Zimmerman were in attendance. Linda opened the meeting with prayer.

We discussed the Piercing Word program and we as a commission were very pleased with the program and participation considering the Covid situation right now.

We discussed the upcoming Easter Sunrise Service and it seems to be coming together. Pastor Dennis will lead and Earl & Cindy Liskey will help with the music.

Worship leaders are scheduled for the remainder of March and for April with the exception of April 11.

We discussed speakers for our renewal services in October and Pastor Dennis gave us some suggestions.

Grace presented to the commission a possibility of a mission project for the Church. Blessings of Hope located in Leola packages supplies for disaster relief and would welcome volunteers. We would like the opinion of the board members before we proceed further.

We will again give our donation to Lebanon Rescue Mission.

The commission continues to monitor the status of COVID 19 protection measures, specifically the wearing of masks at programs and services. We concluded that, for the present, the church's position on mask wearing should continue as a demonstration of our concern and respect for each other.

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

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

1. Easter Breakfast – set up Saturday (April 3) at 9:00am. Discussed menu and how we're going to serve in a safe manner

2. Looking at "Blessings of Hope" as a possible mission day. This is in Leola it's a warehouse that packs food for needy families. It was decided to look into this further. Susie Dundore & Grace Ziegler will get more information.

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

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

We are reviewing the clearances. Sunday School is going well. We will postpone vacation Bible School for this year. Discussed budget for Right Now Media. Children's day is June 6. We are working on the children's program. We discussed graduate recognition.

Trustee and Property Commission: – Chairperson – George Nagle
Dale Houtz, Ken Gross

1. We had a leak in the roof in JoAnn's office. Roof repaired by Bachman Roofing.
2. Triangle Refrigeration did the air condition filters, checks.
3. Triangle worked on walk-in freezer.
4. I want to thank Dean Wagner for adjusting thermostats in sanctuary for Sunday church during my recovery.
5. Thank you, Doug Swonger Construction, for working on hall door.
6. We approved request for the church match of \$5,000.00 for the technology upgrades.

There was a motion & second that the church will match the grant dollars that are approved from the Brethren denomination for the technology upgrade. Motion carried.

Finance and Stewardship Commission: – Chairperson - Bob Noll
Tim Fetzer, Jay Lentz, Glenn Hassinger

In the coming months our commission will be looking to do a financial review of all auxiliary accounts of the church. This is based on policy #067.

The Treasurer's report is correct with 1 exception. The February E-tithe was not pulled. We are discussing with BOLD Accounting & Fulton Bank as to why it was not done. We would like to again thank everyone for their faithful giving.

Pastor's Report

February 16, 2021 – March 16, 2021

As I begin my second year as your Interim Pastor it is good to see things beginning to get "back to normal." Sunday School has begun meeting and the church building is opening to more activity during the week. This is good!

I look forward to experiencing the Easter Sunrise Service. Ministry and Evangelism has asked me to share the message and Earl and Cindy Liskey and I will be doing some special music for that service. Palm Sunday will include pew communion as we will not be having Love Feast due to COVID, but hopefully we will be able to have Love Feast in the fall.

I will be getting my second COVID vaccine shot on March 17 so I am planning at the beginning of April to make myself available for home visits for those who are shut in or have not been able to attend.
Dennis

Pastoral Record for the past month (January 19, 2021 – March 1, 2021):

- 4 sermons and planning for 5 worship services
- 5 midweek messages
- 5 Bible study sessions (Continuing online)
- Phone calls to members or families of members
- Numerous emails and texts
- Sermons planned through Easter
- Executive, Ministry & Evangelism Commission, Board meetings
- Deacon meetings
- Newsletter articles

Upcoming Sermons:

- March 21: The Peace of the Cross; Colossians 1:9-23
- March 28: The Victory of the Cross; (Pew Communion) Colossians 2:8-15
- April 4 (Easter): The Glory of the Cross; 1 Corinthians 15:12-26

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Interests & Concerns

None

Adjournment

Prayer by Pastor Dennis. Motion & second to adjourn – motion approved.

APRIL 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Seth Dimond	2 GOOD FRIDAY	3
4 HAPPY EASTER Kathy Heisey Ruth Heller	5	6	7	8 Molly Woloszanski	9	10 Jackson Hoffer Abigail Umbenhauer
11	12 Erlene Wagner	13	14 Jessica Houtz	15	16 Harvey Berger Sabrina Heller Mark Landis, Jr. Craig Reppert	17 Paul Heller Grace Ziegler
18 Claire McClure Brenda Weierbach	19 Ruth Saul Lois Sheetz	20 John Zimmerman, Sr.	21	22 Jenifer Fetzer	23 Grace Dubble	24 Bruce Behney Carol Daubert
25	26 William Singer	27	28 Payton Fuhrman Charisma Meyers	29 George Heller III	30	

APRIL 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 GOOD FRIDAY	3
4 EASTER SUNDAY Sunrise Service 7:00 am Breakfast 7:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	5 Bible Study 7:00 pm In person & ZOOM	6	7 Ladies Aid 9:00 am	8 Sharing Cupboard 10 am -1 pm	9 Sharing Cupboard 3 pm -6 pm	10
11 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	12 Bible Study 7:00 pm In person & ZOOM	13	14	15	16	17
18 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	19 Bible Study 7:00 pm In person & ZOOM	20 Executive Mtg. 6:30 pm Comm. Mtg. 7:00 pm Board Mtg. 7:30 pm	21 Bell Choir 6:30 pm	22 Sharing Cupboard 10 am – 1 pm	23 Sharing Cupboard 3 pm – 6 pm	24
25 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	26 Bible Study 7:00 pm In person & ZOOM	27 Wenger Praise Dinner	28 Bell Choir 6:30 pm	29 Spiritual Nurture Mtg. 7:00 pm	30	

Family Order Form

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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: \$

Family Order Form

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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
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:

\$
