



Myerstown Church of the Brethren

Scriptural Message

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Micah 5:2 (NRSV)

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah[a] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23 "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

Matthew 1:18-23 (NRSV)

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Myerstown Church of the Brethren

December 2021

Ministry through
Faith, Vision, and Action

How many of you have heard of Coffeetown, Ono, Green Point, Millbach, Branchdale or Ringtown? They are all small dots (some not even small dots!) on the map in Lebanon and Schuylkill counties.

Bethlehem, "one of the little clans of Judah," was one of those little dots on the Judean map. When Jesus was born the local population of Bethlehem probably included more sheep than people, although on that night its human population had increased significantly with all the former residents arriving.

Yet out of this small seemingly insignificant village would "come forth...one who is to rule in Israel." That's not something unusual, significant people coming from insignificant places and backgrounds. Think of Abraham Lincoln's story, going from being born in a log cabin on the frontier to becoming President at one of our nation's most trying times, or Milton Hershey, born on the family farm along what is now US route 322 when the area where he would build his factory and town was just corn fields.

It wasn't the first time a ruler in Israel came from Bethlehem. Bethlehem was the hometown of Israel's most famous king, David, and this new ruler who was to come from Bethlehem was going to be greater than David.

This little village of Bethlehem and the events which occurred on that one particular night we celebrate on December 25 has been sentimentalized in pictures (a sleepy little village with a magnificent star shining down on it) and in songs ("O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.")

My guess is, that night in Bethlehem when Jesus was born was probably anything but still and silent. A census decreed by Caesar Augustus in Rome sent all those folks whose family origin was in Bethlehem back to the village to be registered to pay taxes. I can imagine people grumbling about all the traffic. You see all those pictures of Mary and Joseph travelling alone, Mary on the donkey and Joseph walking. Most likely it didn't happen that way. Most likely they traveled in a caravan for protection from robbers.

There is a good chance there were some others like Mary and Joseph unable to find room at the inn. There were probably people grumbling about having to pay taxes to those evil Roman conquerors and animals demanding food and water. Can you hear it? I doubt it was anything but a silent night in Bethlehem and its residents and weary travelers in anything but a deep dreamless sleep.

When the One who was to rule Israel was born, he came into the midst of all that disruption and unrest and noise. We've so sentimentalized that night and we forget that Mary cried out from the birth pains like any other human mother. Jesus cried out as any newborn baby would, leaving the warmth and security of his mother's womb for the cold and noise of the world.

But when he came, something extraordinary, something beyond anyone's imagination happened. "...the hopes and fears of all the years" met in that little village of Bethlehem. Heaven and earth met in the person of a little baby born in a stable in a seemingly insignificant village.

The Apostle John described this meeting of heaven and earth saying, "The Word became flesh and lived among us..." Some of the carols we'll be singing during this season attempt to describe it as well: "word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;" "veiled in flesh the God-head see, hail the incarnate Deity, pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Immanuel."

Matthew quoted the words of the prophet, Isaiah, "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," then explained that Emmanuel means "God with us."

What does it mean for us that "the Word became flesh and lived among us," that the baby born in Bethlehem is "God with us?" For one thing, it means that God knows our situation, because he became human just like us. Becoming one of us, God knows what human life is like. It means God affirmed his love for humanity by becoming human. It means we know what God is like because God is like Jesus.

It has been said "...the best way to export an idea is to wrap it up in a person." (Halford E. Luccock). That's what God did. God wanted us to know love so he showed us what love looks like in a person - Jesus. God wanted us to know mercy so he showed us mercy in a person - Jesus. God wanted us to know his intention and purpose for us – so he showed us in Jesus.

God wrapped up everything he wants us to understand about who he is and who we are and how he desires us to live and it's all there in Jesus. It's all wrapped up in a person who happens to be God with us.

The "hopes and fears of all the years" were met when heaven and earth met in a baby born in Bethlehem. We'll never fully understand the mystery of "God with us. We'll never fully understand how God acts. But what we do know is that God wants us to be like Jesus, sharing hope, love, peace and joy with a hurting world. In that little town of Bethlehem "the hopes and fears of all the years" were met in a tiny baby who is "God with us." Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace.

Have a blessed and merry Christmas!
Dennis

Attendance & Offering

Attendance average for October 1, 2021 – October 31, 2021

Sunday School – 20
Worship Service – 78

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 Gible, Gloria Keppley, and Iris Liskey.***

Gift Cards

The gift card order is always processed ***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.

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

December Wedding Anniversaries

13th Dennis & Faye Brubaker

2022 Directory - Any changes in the Church Directory for 2022, notify JoAnn or a Mission & Fellowship commission member.

Children's Christmas Program will be on December 12th.

Christmas Eve Service


The Christmas Eve Service will be Friday, December 24th at 7:00 pm.

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.



DECEMBER 2021

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

DECEMBER 2021

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

Commissions and Church Board Meeting

Date: November 16, 2021

Meeting was called to order: @ 7:30 pm

by Chairperson: Dave Dubble

**Present were: Brenda Lentz, substitute
for Mark Landis, Jr.**

Prayer by: Linda Zimmerman

Present were: Pastor Dennis Garrison

Secretary's Report of October 19, 2021

Approved as presented at council meeting

Treasurer's Report of October 31, 2021

Approved as presented by Aye Vote

Commission Reports & Members Present

Ministry & Evangelism Commission: Chairperson –
Dave Dubble, Linda Zimmerman, Pastor Dennis

Linda opened with prayer and Dave Dubble, Pastor Dennis and Linda Zimmerman were in attendance. Our chairperson, Grace Ziegler wasn't able to attend.

The Music program held this past Sunday seemed to be a success and appreciated by all. The offering received was decided to be donated to the Sixth Street playground to help with their activities.

Ralph Miller has been contacted and agreed to fill the pulpit on January 2nd. Pastor Dennis will also need someone to take his place on February 20th as he will be on vacation.

Forming the search committee was discussed.

Missions & Fellowship Commission: Chairperson – Susie Dundore
Kim Horn, Janet Dubble

Present: Susie Dundore, Janet Dubble, Kim Horn. Susie opened with prayer.

1. Susie received a letter from ELCO asking if we want to donate \$150 for Dutchway gift cards for needy families. We discussed and recommend we contact ELCO and tell them to refer families to the Sharing Cupboard.
2. Snacks will be served at December board meeting.
3. Update - Operation Christmas Child total of 53 boxes, about 30 were virtually ordered. Children's Church kids packed 11 boxes. Women's Fellowship matched 40 boxes. Christian REACH School donated 60 boxes!
4. 160 items donated to Harvest Home – went to Sharing Cupboard. 71 families came for Thanksgiving meals.
5. Londonderry Village – a copy of the Londonderry Village Auxiliary history will be in the library. Estate sale will now be by appointment only. The appointments will be on Mondays & Tuesdays. Contact information will be in the bulletin.
6. Working on the 2022 directory.

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

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

Background check reminders sent out to those that are due.

Gavin will be leader of the Children’s Program.

December 12th is the Children’s Christmas Program.

We are looking to fill our empty commission seat.

We are looking to have the children meet for games once a month or once every other month here at the church.

Trustee and Property Commission: – Chairperson – George Nagle
Ken Gross

1. The two dusks to dawn lights at rear of church are not working. I contacted Nate Martin at the school he is an electrician.
2. Wentling’s Plumbing fixed loose commode in girls’ room by the gym, repaired commode at quilting room.
3. Stove in kitchen burners igniter was replaced.
4. New heat and air unit at front room, south, was replaced.
5. The school inquired about using the sanctuary for their Christmas program on December 23rd at 10:30. The congregation is invited to attend.
6. Talked about taking yellow tape off pews in sanctuary. They will be removed.
7. The motion to approve the Reach School using the sanctuary for their Christmas Program was made, second and approved.

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

The following members were present: Time Fetzer, Jay Lentz, Glenn Hassinger.

Pastor’s Report

You can tell by the number of announcements in the bulletin for upcoming events that we are into that busy season of the year and not just for me, but for the whole church: pumpkin rolls, a gospel music concert, a

bazaar, apple dumplings, Harvest Home, and probably some I'm missing. All of those in addition to the usual church activities of worship, Bible study, Sunday School, Sharing Cupboard, choir, bell choir, praise team and more.

In addition, there are individuals giving time to maintaining the building, installing the new technology equipment, giving time to the work of commissions and the board and I could go on. I think you get the idea. Myerstown Church of the Brethren is a busy place!

Key to all of this, however, is for all of us to remember why and for whom we are doing all this: not to our glory, but to God's glory.

Looking ahead, the season of Advent begins on Sunday, November 28 and our musical groups are working on seasonal music. Shortly we will be planning the annual Christmas Eve service. On the second Sunday of Advent, December 5, we will celebrate the baptism of Charlette Singer.

Cathy and I look forward to the arrival of our son, Andy and his family, from the Netherlands on December 23 and staying until January 6. Thanks to the Ministry and Evangelism Commission for allowing some time off while they are here.

May God bless this congregation as it continues to move forward into the future God has prepared for you.
Dennis

Pastoral Record for the past month (October 20 – November 16, 2021):

4 sermons and planning for 4 worship services

4 Bible study sessions (in person and online)

Phone calls to members or families of members with health concerns

Numerous emails and texts

Sermons planned through Christmas

Executive, Ministry & Evangelism Commission, Board meeting

Deacon meeting

Newsletter article

Meeting with Charlette Singer in preparation for baptism (Dec. 5)

Playing piano for the Praise Team

Gospel Concert on November 14

Attended Council Meeting on November 1

Upcoming Sermons:

November 21 – (Thanksgiving Sunday) - First Things; Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Colossians 3:12-17

November 28 (First Sunday in Advent) - Getting Ready; Matthew 24:42-44, Romans 13:11-14

December 5 (Second Sunday in Advent) – A Question We're Afraid to Ask; Isaiah 11:1-10; Isaiah 35:1-10
Matthew 11:2-11, Romans 15:4-13

December 12 (Third Sunday in Advent) – Children's Christmas Program; (no sermon)

December 19 (Fourth Sunday in Advent) – Who Is This Child? Matthew 1:18-25, Romans 1:1-7

December 24 (Christmas Eve) – Emmanuel, God with Us; Matthew 1:18-25

December 26 – Handling Our Inheritance; Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:15-20

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

It was discussed about having December Board Meeting because it will be Christmas week. It was decided to meet as scheduled.

Interests & Concerns

Dave gave an update on all the sick individuals and how appreciated we are for all they do. Everything for the sound system has been ordered not every thing has arrived.

Adjournment

Family Order Form

Created: 11/26/2021 9:39:30 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%		\$	Burger King \$10.00	4%		\$	Giant Food Stores \$50.00	4%		\$
Advance Auto Parts \$100.00	7%		\$	Cabela's \$100.00	10%		\$	Groupon.com \$25.00	7%		\$
Advance Auto Parts \$25.00	7%		\$	Cabela's \$25.00	10%		\$	Hardee's \$10.00	5%		\$
Aeropostale \$25.00	10%		\$	Carrabba's Italian Grill \$25.00	10%		\$	Home Depot® \$25.00	4%		\$
Amazon.com \$100.00	2%		\$	Carter's \$25.00	10%		\$	Icing \$10.00	9%		\$
Amazon.com \$25.00	2%		\$	Cheesecake Factory \$25.00	5%		\$	IHOP \$25.00	8%		\$
AMC Theatres \$25.00	8%		\$	Children's Place \$25.00	12%		\$	J. Crew \$25.00	13%		\$
AMC Theatres Single Ticket \$10.00	10%		\$	Chili's Grill & Bar \$25.00	11%		\$	JCPenney \$100.00	5%		\$
AMC Theatres Single Ticket \$12.00	10%		\$	Chipotle Mexican Grill \$10.00	10%		\$	JCPenney \$25.00	5%		\$
American Eagle® \$25.00	10%		\$	Chuck E. Cheese's \$10.00	8%		\$	Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores \$25.00	6%		\$
American Girl \$100.00	9%		\$	Claire's \$10.00	9%		\$	Kmart \$25.00	4%		\$
American Girl \$25.00	9%		\$	Cold Stone Creamery \$10.00	11%		\$	Kmart \$50.00	4%		\$
Applebee's \$25.00	8%		\$	Cracker Barrel \$10.00	8%		\$	Kohl's \$100.00	4%		\$
Applebee's \$50.00	8%		\$	Cracker Barrel \$25.00	8%		\$	Kohl's \$25.00	4%		\$
Arby's \$10.00	8%		\$	CVS Pharmacy \$25.00	6%		\$	L.L.Bean \$25.00	16%		\$
AutoZone \$25.00	8%		\$	Darden Restaurants \$25.00	8%		\$	Lands' End \$100.00	15%		\$
Banana Republic \$25.00	14%		\$	Dick's Sporting Goods \$25.00	8%		\$	Lands' End \$25.00	15%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$10.00	8%		\$	Disney \$100.00	3%		\$	Long John Silver's \$10.00	8%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$25.00	8%		\$	Disney \$25.00	3%		\$	Lowe's \$100.00	4%		\$
Bass Pro Shops \$100.00	10%		\$	Domino's \$10.00	8%		\$	Lowe's \$25.00	4%		\$
Bass Pro Shops \$25.00	10%		\$	Dunham's Sports \$25.00	8%		\$	Marshalls \$25.00	7%		\$
Bath & Body Works \$10.00	12%		\$	Dunkin' Donuts \$10.00	3%		\$	Men's Wearhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
Bath & Body Works \$25.00	12%		\$	Dunkin' Donuts \$25.00	3%		\$	Michaels \$25.00	4%		\$
Best Buy \$100.00	4%		\$	Eat'n Park \$10.00	9%		\$	Nike \$25.00	12%		\$
Best Buy \$25.00	4%		\$	Eat'n Park \$25.00	9%		\$	Old Navy \$25.00	14%		\$
Bob Evans Restaurants® \$10.00	10%		\$	Express \$25.00	10%		\$	Olive Garden \$25.00	8%		\$
Boscov's \$25.00	8%		\$	Famous Footwear \$25.00	8%		\$	OshKosh \$25.00	10%		\$
Boston Market \$10.00	12%		\$	Foot Locker \$25.00	8%		\$	Outback Steakhouse \$25.00	10%		\$
Buca di Beppo \$25.00	8%		\$	GameStop \$25.00	3%		\$	Panera Bread \$10.00	8%		\$
Buffalo Wild Wings® \$10.00	8%		\$	Gap \$25.00	14%		\$	Panera Bread \$25.00	8%		\$
Buffalo Wild Wings® \$25.00	8%		\$	Giant Food Stores \$100.00	4%		\$	Papa John's Pizza \$10.00	8%		\$
Build-A-Bear Workshop® \$25.00	8%		\$	Giant Food Stores \$25.00	4%		\$	PetSmart \$25.00	5%		\$
								Pizza Hut \$10.00	8%		\$
								Qdoba Mexican Grill \$25.00	7%		\$

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

Total Due All Columns: \$

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Red Lobster \$25.00	8%		\$	Walmart \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Red Robin \$25.00	8%		\$	Walmart \$50.00	2.5%		\$
Regal \$25.00	8%		\$	Wawa \$25.00	1%		\$
Regal Premiere e-Ticket \$10.50	10%		\$	Wendy's \$10.00	6.5%		\$
Rite Aid \$25.00	4%		\$				
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	4.5%		\$				
Starbucks \$25.00	4.5%		\$				
Stop & Shop (NOT TOPS) \$50.00	4%		\$				
Subway Restaurants \$10.00	4.5%		\$				
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%		\$				
TGI Fridays \$25.00	9%		\$				
The Home Depot® \$100.00	4%		\$				
The Home Depot® \$25.00	4%		\$				
Under Armour \$25.00	11%		\$				

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\$
