

Myerstown Church of the Brethren

Scriptural Message

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (NIV) For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written:

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate"

Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Address: 51 West Stoever Ave.

PO Box 61

Myerstown, PA 17067 717-866-5517

Office Phone: 717-866-5517 Web Page: myerstowncob.org

Church Email:

myerstowncob@myerstowncob.org

Myerstown Church of the Brethren

March 2022

Ministry through Faith, Vision, and Action

The Scandal of the Cross

Wednesday, March 2 is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the church season of Lent. Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing spiritual disciplines such as fasting, repentance, moderation.

It's a time set aside for reflection on Jesus' suffering, his sacrifice, death, burial, and resurrection.

The Bible does not mention the custom of Lent, however, the practice of repentance and mourning in ashes is found in 2 Samuel 13:19; Esther 4:1; Job 2:8; Daniel 9:3; and Jesus mentions mourning with ashes in Matthew 11:21. Lent grew from church tradition and the practice of a period of penitence prior to the celebration of the Resurrection was in place by the 4th century.

Our Anabaptist forefathers didn't observe Lent for several reasons: it was not a Biblical command of Christ and our salvation is a gift of God through faith, not gained through acts of deprivation or other things we might do to earn it.

However, the practice of personal examination and preparation is part of our heritage. The Brethren have always observed a time of personal examination and preparation prior to meeting for the Love Feast through things like the Deacon visits of years past. Today we gather for worship and a time of examination and preparation before we meet around the tables at Love Feast.

I do think there is value in taking some time prior to our celebration of Christ's resurrection to remind ourselves of what God has done for us in Christ, to journey to the cross with Jesus, to focus for a time on the message of the cross and of Jesus' suffering and death, and to examine ourselves as regards to our walk with Christ both personally and as a body.

The focus during the Lenten season is often on the cross. Here at Myerstown CoB we drape purple cloth over the cross in front of the sanctuary. But in this increasingly secular culture the true meaning of the cross is often forgotten.

James Emery White tells the story of a priest from South Carolina who had a couple from his parish bring to him a list of their teenage son's questions. One of them was, "What is that guy doing hanging up there on the plus sign?"

A customer inquired at the jewelry counter in a department store. "Do you sell gold crosses?" As the clerk pulled out the trays of crosses she asked, "What kind would you like, a plain one or one that has the little man on it?"

Both stories remind us that in an increasingly secular world, the cross has lost its meaning. Perhaps what is most frightening in that first story is that the parents couldn't explain to their son what that guy was doing "hanging up there on the plus sign."

But what about us? Do we really comprehend the meaning and the significance of Christ's cross?

In 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 Paul writes that the message of the cross is a stumbling block and offensive to Jews; foolishness and nonsense to Greeks (Gentiles), but also the power and the wisdom of God to others.

To proclaim that someone crucified on a Roman cross could be the Savior of the world or the Messiah is sheer madness, from a human viewpoint. Yet that is what the first Christians adamantly believed, and Paul unashamedly proclaimed – that the Savior of the world was the very same Jesus executed on the Roman cross and then raised to life.

Let's face it, God is a scandalous God. God sometimes offends our religious opinions. God doesn't conduct himself the way we think God should act, like when he used a Roman cross as a means to reveal himself and save the world.

Through Christ's cross God has destroyed the ways and the means by which humanity has sought God. Amazingly, God has called us into relationship with him through Christ's cross, that "emblem of suffering and shame."

That foolish, nonsensical cross has become the means of God's revelation, power, and salvation.

We do not get to God or find the way to knowing God through our own efforts. God has established the terms of the encounter through faith in the message of the cross. In the cross God has most clearly revealed God's own self, own power and own wisdom which is far beyond any human understanding.

The cross of Christ was and always will be scandalous; there will always be those who see it as pure foolishness and nonsense.

I like what Max Lucado says about the pivotal nature of the cross in history and in each of our lives. Christ's cross "rests on the time-line of history like a compelling diamond. Its tragedy summons all sufferers. Its absurdity attracts all cynics. Its hope lures all searchers. History has idolized and despised it, gold-plated and burned it, worn and trashed it. History has done everything but ignore it. How could you ignore such a piece of lumber? Suspended on its beams is the greatest claim in history. A crucified carpenter claiming to be God on earth. Divine. Eternal. The death-slayer. Never has timber been regarded so sacred. No wonder the apostle Paul called the cross event the core of the gospel. Its bottom line sobering: if the account is true, it is history's hinge. Period. If not, the cross is history's hoax.

Which is the cross for you, hinge or hoax? Or in the words of Jesus, 'Who do you say that I am?"" (Max Lucado, The Cross, Multnomah, 1998, p. 5)

Christ's cross – foolish nonsense or the power and the wisdom of God? We all must choose. There is no ignoring it.

Dennis

Attendance & Offering

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

Sunday School – 20 Worship Service – 88

Home Care

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers those living in nursing homes/assisted living homes: *Faye Brubaker, Orpha Doutrich, Joanne Ealy, Mary Ann Gibble, 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

March Wedding Anniversaries

6th Dean & Katrina Wagner

14th Mark & Elaine Landis

30th Glenn & Lois Hassinger

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 is March 7th at 7:00 p.m.

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 \$7.00. Deadline to order and pay is March 27th. Sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Place.

Delays and closings caused by inclement weather will be announced in the following ways: email, postings on the church website and Facebook page, radio station announcements (WLBR, WDAC), TV announcements (WGAL), and phone calls. If you are not on the church's email list, go to https://tinyurl.com/MCoB-EMAIL to register. To get on the phone chain give your information to JoAnn.

ANE District Women's Spring Fellowship

Event 2022 you may register online at 222.ane-cob.org under the Calendar/Events menu. If you are unable to register online, forms are in the Gathering Place to send in.

Annual Women's Spiritual Retreat

Wednesday, March 16, 2022 9:30 am – 2:00 pm held at South Lebanon Community Church. All women are encouraged to reserve this date and invite others. Registration is due Sunday, March 6. To register call 717-273-4832 or sign-up on the church website at www.slcc.faith

CAMP SWATARA UPCOMING EVENTS

MAPLE SYRUP MAKING 101 Thursday, March 10th 6-7:30 pm Learn from tapping trees, collecting through boiling.

RSVP online: www.CampSwatara.org

PAUL BUNYAN DAY
Saturday, March 12th 8-2 pm
Help fill the wood racks!
Lunch provided
RSVP online: www.CampSwatara.org
Or call the camp office: (717) 933-8510

VOLUNTEERS CAMP FOR FREE
For the weekend
Friday, April 1 to Sunday, April 3
Email: familycamp@campswatara.org
For more information

Lebanon County Christian Ministries

Annual Lenten Breakfast is back. The event is scheduled for 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 26, 2022 at South Lebanon Community Church, doors open at 7:30 a.m. Guest speaker will be Pastor Kevin Griffin of Grace Point Church of the Nazarene, Ephrata. More information is out in the Gathering Place.

MARCH 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
			Ladies Aid 9:00 am	Women's Fellowship		
			Bell Choir 6:15 pm	Meeting 7:00 pm		
			Senior Choir 7:30 pm			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sunday School 9:00am	Praise Team 6:00 pm		Ladies Aid 9:00 am	Sharing Cupboard	Sharing Cupboard	
Worship Service 10:00 am	Council Mtg. 7:00 pm		Bell Choir 6:15 pm	10 am - 1 pm	3-6 pm	
	No Bible Study		Senior Choir 7:30 pm			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Sunday School 9:00 am	Praise Team 6:00 pm	Executive Mtg. 6:30 pm	Ladies Aid 9:00 am			
Worship Service 10:00 am	Bible Study 7:00 pm	Commission Mtg. 7:00 pm	Bell Choir 6:15 pm			
		Board Mtg. 7:30 pm	Senior Choir 7:30 pm			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Sunday School 9:00 am	Praise Team 6:00 pm		Ladies Aid 9:00 am	Sharing Cupboard	Sharing Cupboard	
Worship Service 10:00 am	Bible Study 7:00 pm		Bell Choir 6:15 pm	10 am - 1 pm	3-6 pm	
			Senior Choir 7:30 pm	Spiritual Nurture		
				Mtg. 7:00 pm		
27	28	29	30	31		
Sunday School 9:00 am	Praise Team 6:00 pm		Ladies Aid 9:00 am			
Worship Service 10:00 am	Bible Study 7:00 pm		Bell Choir 6:15 pm			
			Senior Choir 7:30 pm			
			· ·			

MARCH 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Judy Umbenhauer	2 Linda Fahnestock Breianna Heller Abigail Hostetter Kayla Laubach	3 Jed Dietrich	4 Karter Fetzer	5
S Orpha Doutrich	Robert Ebersole Kendalynn Fetzer Linda Krall	8 Walter Sattazahn Karen Hamilton	9 Kenneth Wagner	10	11 Jasmine Dohner Nancy Wenrich Jason Umbenhauer	12
13	14 Carey Krall	15 Aisnley McClure	16 Bill Rager	17	18	19 Landis Kupp
20	21 Mary Lou Wagner	22	23 Amber Hartranft	24	25	26
27	28	29 Jason Krall	30 Kevin Wenrich	31 Casey Krall		

Commissions and Church Board Meeting Date: February 15, 2022

Meeting was called to order: @ 7:30 pm by Chairperson: Dave Dubble

Present were: Secretary-Mark Landis, Jr. Prayer by: Tim Fetzer

Secretary's Report of January 18, 2022 Approved as presented by Aye Vote

Treasurer's Report of January 31, 2022 Approved as presented by Aye Vote

Commission Reports & Members Present

<u>Ministry & Evangelism Commission:</u> Chairperson – Grace Ziegler

Dave Dubble, Linda Zimmerman

Dave Dubble, Grace Ziegler and Linda Zimmerman are in attendance. Grace opened the meeting in prayer.

Worship leaders are in place for the rest of February. February 20 – Katrina Wagner; February 27 – Kim Wenger; March 6 – Bob Noll; March 13 – Kevin Wenrich; March 20 – Tim Fetzer and March 27 – Evelina Krall.

We discussed planning the Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday April 17th. Grace suggested a possible speaker and will contact him and we will contact Earl Liskey about the music and Dave asked the Missions and Fellowship Commission about the breakfast.

Spiritual Renewal Services are scheduled for Oct, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and we discussed possible speakers. Since communion is scheduled for October 2nd we will have Spiritual Renewal Sunday October 2, Monday October 3 and Tuesday October 4th.

We discussed a possible Music Program and plan to think more about it till next meeting.

<u>Missions & Fellowship Commission:</u> Chairperson – Susie Dundore Kim Horn, Janet Dubble

Present: Janet Dubble, Kim Horn, & Susie Dundore.

- 1. Mailbox labels are printed, we will reorganize and place labels on mailboxes in the next few weeks.
- 2. Janet downloaded information about sponsoring an Afghan family. Our church doesn't have the resources, manpower, finance etc. to fully sponsor a family. We will look into supporting a local church that is already moving forward in sponsoring an immigrant family.
- 3. Easter Sunrise Service will be held on Easter, we discussed Easter breakfast. We will serve food in a safe way. There will be a sign-up sheet to get an idea of how many people will be attending. No tickets will be sold. We will collect a free will offering money will support VBS.

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

Saturday April 9th will be the Easter egg hunt. We need to check with JoAnn if the church is available.

We will ask the congregation for donations of candy to stuff the eggs with. We went over details for the Easter egg hunt. We want to coordinate with the Myerstown Easter egg hunt.

We are working on options for Vacation Bible School.

There were a lot of people with more questions about the small gatherings of small groups.

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

- 1. We ordered a new 5-ton unit for kitchen for heat & air. It will take 12 weeks to get it.
- 2. We got some tables & chairs for tax people for Tuesdays. They were brought up from the gym.
- 3. We replaced tiles in Gathering Place that were stained.
- 4. We had 2 new dusks to dawn lights put up at rear parking lot, and placed wall pack and a photo sensor on the 2 lights on east side of church building which were not working.
- 5. We had some carpet repairs east door sanctuary and foyer of gym.
- 6. We replaced bulbs in floor lights at the cross in sanctuary.
- 7. I took a sweeper to Rays Vacuum to get repaired.

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

The following members were present: Bob Noll, Tim Fetzer

Our commission did the annual review of the financial transactions for the year 2021. We found no errors to report.

A revised budget was sent to Bold Accounting based on line items being increased from council meeting held in January.

The budget line items for the district, general brotherhood & outreach have been paid completely based on January board meeting request.

We are still on the plus side of the actual giving to the budget even with the cancelation of Sunday January 9th. We would like to thank everyone for their faithful giving in making this possible.

Pastor's Report

January 18, 2022 – February 15, 2022

During this past month as I looked out my office window to the pond across the street, I saw people ice skating and when I had some evening meetings, I noticed lights were placed so people could skate in the evening. That brought back some memories of outdoor skating on several ponds close to my parent's house when I was growing up. It also reminded me how cold it was this past January!

But when the weather is cold like it has been, life often slows a bit. I don't know if it is because of cold weather, but the life of the church seemed to have slowed a bit this past month. That is good, because we all need to enjoy some restful times on occasion.

Yet, there were some important things happening in the life of the church, like the approval of the search committee and the beginning of their work, there were meetings still being held, Bible study still meeting, quilters gathering on Wednesdays, the Sharing Cupboard still serving our community and some new technology was being tried in the sanctuary. Church life continued, but for some reason it seemed a little more relaxed this past month. Maybe it was the cold weather, or maybe it was the lack of any major crises in the life of the church, or maybe it was just me!

I will not be with you for the February meeting as I will be in Florida with the Ministers of Music quartet where we have several concerts planned. Craig Luckenbill will fill the pulpit on February 20. Thanks again for the time off!

As we move into March, the season of Lent begins on March 2, Ash Wednesday. I have a feeling things will pick up in the next month or so! The Deacons will make a decision about Love Feast at their February meeting, Palm Sunday and Easter are later this year on April 10 and 17.

Keep the work of the Search Committee in your prayers as they do their work on behalf of the congregation. Pray for the committee, but also pray that God is working in the heart of the one to be called as Myerstown CoB's new pastor. I continue to be blessed in my time as your Interim Pastor.

God bless, Dennis

Pastoral Record for the past month:

4 Sermons prepared and 4 Sunday morning worship services planned 1 anointing service 1 counseling session Phone calls to shut-ins and those with health needs Participated in Nancy Torres' funeral service Numerous emails and texts Sermons tentatively planned through June Executive, Ministry & Evangelism Commission, Board meetings Praise Team Bible Study – study of Daniel Newsletter and Directory articles

Upcoming Sermons: Continuing with the Book of Hebrews

February 20 - Pulpit Supply - Craig Luckenbill preaching February 27 - Run Boldly; Hebrews 4:14-5:10; Psalm 62 March 6 - Train to Win; Hebrews 5:11-6:20; Mark 9:2-8 March 13 - Confidence; Hebrews 6:19-8:13; Joel 2:1-2, 12-14

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

The live streaming of our Sunday morning services is going very well. A huge **thank you** to all who have helped to make this happen.

The surveys from the congregation have started coming in for the search committee to use. The committee has a goal to have all information submitted to the district by mid-March.

Interests & Concerns

None

Adjournment

At 8:05 pm with prayer by David Dubble.

Family Order Form Created: 2/24/2022 8:55:45 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

- .	۵,	OTV	I
Product	%	QTY	Total
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%		\$
Amazon.com \$25.00	2%		\$
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%		\$
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%		\$
Buffalo Wild Wings® \$10.00	8%		\$
Buffalo Wild Wings® \$25.00	8%		\$
Build-A-Bear Workshop® \$25.00	8%		\$
Burger King \$10.00	4%		\$

Product	%	QTY	Total
Cabela's \$100.00	10%	Ψ	\$
·			
Cabela's \$25.00	10%		\$
Carrabba's Italian Grill \$25.00	10%		\$
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%		\$
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%		\$
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%		\$

Product	%	QTY	Total
Groupon.com \$25.00	7%		\$
Hardee's \$10.00	5%		\$
Home Depot® \$25.00	4%		\$
Icing \$10.00	9%		\$
IHOP \$25.00	8%		\$
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%		\$
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%		\$
Olive Garden \$25.00	8%		\$
OshKosh \$25.00	10%		\$
Outback Steakhouse \$25.00	10%		\$
Panera Bread \$10.00	8%		\$
Panera Bread \$25.00	8%		\$
Papa John's Pizza \$10.00	8%		\$
PetSmart \$25.00	5%		\$
Pizza Hut \$10.00	8%		\$
Qdoba Mexican Grill \$25.00	7%		\$
Rainforest Cafe \$25.00	9%		\$

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

Total Due All Columns:

\$

Family Order Form Created: 2/24/2022 8:55:45 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
Red Lobster \$25.00	8%		\$
Red Robin \$25.00	8%		\$
Regal \$25.00	8%		\$
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%		\$
Walmart \$100.00	2.5%		\$
Walmart \$25.00	2.5%		\$

Product	%	QTY	Total
Walmart \$50.00	2.5%		\$
Wawa \$25.00	1%		\$

Make Checks Payable To: Myerstown Church of the Brethren Total Due All Columns: \$