

Myerstown Church of the Brethren

Scriptural Message

28 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Matthew 28:1-10 (NIV)

3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

Myerstown Church of the Brethren

April 2022

Ministry through Faith, Vision, and Action

An Ending or A Beginning?

In Matthew's account of Jesus' resurrection, the two Mary's went to "look at the tomb." They were looking for some sort of closure to this chapter of their lives. Mark and Luke tell us the women came with spices to anoint Jesus' body. They came expecting to find his body and perform some final rites. What they found was totally unexpected.

Matthew's account of the women's experience is the most dramatic of the four gospels. Mark, Luke and John all have the tomb already open and the stone rolled away when the Mary's arrive. Matthew's account makes for good Hollywood special effects.

After what was probably a difficult Sabbath, on the dawn of the first day of the week the two Mary's head to Jesus' tomb. Suddenly (Matthew uses a lot of superlatives), "suddenly," he says, there is an earthquake and an angel, whose appearance was like lightning and whose clothes were as white as snow, comes down from heaven, rolls away the stone, and then sits on it.

There is one thing that doesn't happen in any of the gospel accounts, one thing you might expect to happen, but we never see it: we never see Jesus walk out of the grave! That's one thing all the gospels have in common: the tomb is already empty and Jesus is already gone. The resurrection happens in ways the world can't see. Jesus is already gone. He's already risen.

The two women came expecting an ending, but what they found was a new beginning!

As the two Mary's take in all this drama, they must be wondering, Where is Jesus? So, the angel says to them, "Don't be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen." The women wonder: where is Jesus? The angel answers, "He isn't here." And why isn't he here? "He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen."

The angel provides the answer to our biggest question about death. Following death, the death of loved ones, our own death, they – we – are not trapped in graves forever. Because Christ has been raised, we also will be raised just as he was raised.

That's what Paul is telling us in the Colossians 3 passage: "When Christ...shows up again on this earth, you'll show up, too – the real you, the glorious you." (Colossians 3:4 The Message paraphrase) Jesus' resurrection tells us that death and grief and loss are not the end. There is something more.

To show what he was telling the women was not just some wishful thinking or some fabrication, the angel invites them to "come, see the place where he lay." They had seen the stone rolled away. They had heard the angel say Jesus was raised. Now they see – there is no body in the grave. The tomb is empty. The angel only rolled the stone away so the women could see what had already happened. "He is not here. He has risen as he said."

4 When Christ, who is your[a] life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Colossians 3:1-4

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

The empty tomb is God's resurrection solution to our questions about death and also about life.

But knowing that the tomb is empty is not a complete answer to the Where is Jesus question. Emptiness can only tell us so much. And maybe "empty" is not the best word to describe the tomb. Empty implies something is missing; it is to say that the only thing we know about the tomb is that the body of Jesus is not there. Maybe a better way is to say the tomb has been "opened."

If it's an open space, that suggests there is more to discover. The open tomb invites us to "come and see." An open tomb presents us with new possibilities and opens us to this new thing God is doing. And maybe the more important question is, Where is Jesus now? In other words, Jesus' resurrection not only answers the death question, but answers the life question as well.

To answer that question, the angel says to the women, "...go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there." The angel sends the women on a mission, into the future that God has in store for them.

Jesus goes ahead of us. Jesus is not just some figure in the historic past, locked into some ancient time. Jesus is not shut up in our own personal pasts along with our sins, our wasted opportunities, our youthful idealism.

Jesus is ahead of us, in our now and in our future, in life, in death and in life.

"He is going ahead of you...." The focus is always forward. Jesus is going ahead of us. He's waiting for us up ahead, waiting for us to get moving, to follow in his footsteps, to catch up to him and do his work in the world.

Easter is the miracle of seeing an open tomb and the new possibilities that it presents for our lives. The good news of the resurrection is that we can be the people God has made us to be because Jesus has already gone ahead of us. Jesus is preparing the way. He will be there wherever "there" is when you get "there." In whatever situation you may find yourself, good or bad, Jesus is "there."

An ending or a beginning? In God's resurrection solution, the focus is always forward into the future that God has in store for us. "I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said...." "Come and see...go...and tell...he is going ahead of you...you will see him there." The grave is open; death is defeated; life has won the victory. Thanks be to God!

Have a blessed and happy Easter!

Dennis

Attendance & Offering

Attendance average for February 1, 2022 – February 28, 2022

Sunday School – 20 Worship Service – 73

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

April Wedding Anniversaries

1st Ken & Nancy Liskey

6th Joel and Linda Fahnestock

12th Roy & Barb Wenger

19th Ronald (Jack) & Faye Gray

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 Egg Hunt will be April 9th at 11:00am.

Renewal for the Messenger is due or to subscribe it's \$14.50 a year \$27.00 for 2 years. Please contact Barb Wenger 717-866-7945 by April 3, 2022.

Women's Fellowship will be selling homemade potato filling for Easter. The cost is \$8.00/quart. Orders will be taken from March 13 through April 3. Pick-up date is Good Friday, April 15th from 9 am -11 am in the kitchen. Sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Place.

Christian Ed is looking for donations to stuff the Easter eggs for the Easter egg hunt which will be held Saturday April 9th at 11 am. Please bring donations in by Sunday April 3rd. Thank you.

Love Feast is Palm Sunday, April 10th. We will be having it right after the morning worship service.

The Sunrise Service Easter Sunday April 17th will be held at the Myerstown Park Pavilion, 7:00 AM with Chris Dubble as the speaker. Sunrise breakfast immediately following service in the New Fellowship Hall.

Coffee bar is open! If you would like to bake something for the coffee bar, please let JoAnn know. Donations are welcomed. Coffee bar will be open until May 29 when it will close for the summer and reopen Labor Day weekend. No coffee bar April 10th.

The church board is seeking your input. Forms for your comments / requests for the church board are located in the Gathering Place. Please drop your completed forms in the box in the Gathering Place.



CAMP SWATARA UPCOMING EVENTS

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

The Wenger Foundation 25th Annual Praise Dinner will take place Tuesday April 19, 2022 at 6 p.m., Lebanon Expo Center, Lebanon, PA. Price is \$125 per ticket. RSVP by April 8 wengerfoundation.org

Sign out library books in Gathering Place.

PASSION of CHRIST found in four Gospels: Matt. 26 - 27 Mark 14 - 15 Luke 22-23 John 18 - 19

Your BIBLE is a compelling story of God and His people.

God's great love affair with humanity. Many different translations of the BIBLE in your CHURCH LIBRARY.

"The Jesus You May Not Know" by David Jeremiah

"The Passion of Jesus Christ" by John Piper "Living in Christ" from Billy Graham Assoc.

Librarians

Jackie & Joyce



Commissions and Church Board Meeting Date: March 15, 2022

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

Present were: Secretary-Mark Landis, Jr. Prayer by: Dave Dubble

Present were: Pastor Dennis

Secretary's Report of February 15, 2022 Approved at March 7, 2022 council

Treasurer's Report of February 28, 2022 Approved as presented by Aye Vote

Commission Reports & Members Present

Ministry & Evangelism Commission: Chairperson – Grace Ziegler

Dave Dubble, Linda Zimmerman, Pastor Dennis

Dave Dubble, Grace Ziegler, Pastor Dennis and Linda Zimmerman are in attendance. Pastor Dennis opened in prayer.

Worship leaders are in place for the remainder of March and for April. March 20 Tim Fetzer, March 27 Evelina Krall, April 3 Kim Horn, April 17 Susie Dundore and April 24 Glenn Hassinger and a possible person in place for April 10.

We discussed having another Sunday afternoon musical and are looking for a possible date of October 16 at 3:00. We are thinking of asking local talent to participate.

We talked about a possible Men's Fellowship breakfast and decided to table it for now.

Easter Sunrise Service is planned for April 17 with the speaker being Chris Dubble.

We have scheduled a speaker for Renewal Services and it's Tim Courtright, Camp Swatara director.

We talked about having a Celebration Sunday, May 22nd to celebrate all the good things going on in our Church.

<u>Missions & Fellowship Commission:</u> Chairperson – Susie Dundore

Kim Horn, Sharon Seldomridge, Janet Dubble

Present: Susie Dundore, Sharon Seldomridge, Janet Dubble, Kim Horn

Started with prayer by Susie

- 1. Easter breakfast, planned the menu. Free will offering will go to Ukraine through Disaster relief. Sheet-up on Saturday morning at 9:00 sign-up sheet (for a count) will be placed in the Gathering Place.
- 2. We're looking into a family night at the Reading Phillies. This is through the Myerstown Vitality Partnership. The date is sometime in August. More information to come.
- 3. Creating list of invitations to be included for the Golden Age dinner. It is scheduled for first Sunday in May.

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

We finalized details of the Easter egg hunt. June 5th is Children's Day. We went over ideas for Children's Day. We are thinking of changing the ages for Children's Church.

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

- 1. We replaced and put a new LED light in room in front of church.
- 2. We need to replace float valve in ladies' room, rear of sanctuary.
- 3. Plowed snow Saturday and Sunday morning sidewalks.
- 4. The school was okayed to put a swing set playground at rear of church near dumpster tunnel with rubber mulch. Coming in the near future.
- 5. We discussed use of church facilities possible revision. We decided to table it, there hasn't been an issue before in the last 30 years. If it comes up, we will discuss with both parties at the time and come up with and agreeable solution.

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

The following members were present: Bob Noll, Tim Fetzer

We would like to thank everyone for their faithful giving.

Pastor's Report

February 15, 2022 – March 15, 2022

Obviously, we are into March! The temperature roller coaster is in full swing. This past Friday I enjoyed a long walk on the Lancaster County Northwest River Trail. It was a beautiful day! Saturday, we endured what I hope was this winter's last gasp as the snow and the temperatures were falling and the wind was howling. Yes, it's March in Central Pennsylvania!

Yet, there are signs of winter losing its grasp. We have crocuses blooming in our yard. I've seen daffodils in bloom in some sunny locations and there was a flock of about fifty robins in our front yard on Sunday morning.

During the last month here at Myerstown Church of the Brethren we have experienced a season of extremes as well. We have experienced a season of progress as the Search Committee is moving forward in its important task and support for the church and its ministries is good.

But we have also gone through a difficult season with the passing of some of our long-time members including Dennis Brubaker, Elaine Landis, and Ralph Ackerman. It is in these difficult seasons that we learn to appreciate one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you for the support and compassion you have shown these families.

In the next few weeks, we will experience an important season in the life of the church as we will celebrate Love Feast once again on Palm Sunday and celebrate Christ's resurrection with the Sunrise Service, Easter breakfast and worship on Easter Sunday.

It continues to be a privilege to serve as your Interim Pastor.

God bless,

Dennis

Pastoral Record for the past month:

3 Sermons prepared and 4 Sunday morning worship services planned

Elaine Landis memorial service

Hospital and home visits with Landis & Ackerman families

Phone calls to shut-ins and those with health needs

Numerous emails and texts

Sermons tentatively planned through June

Praise Team

Search Committee meeting

Sunday School session on Ethics for Congregations paper

Bible Study – study of Daniel

Newsletter and Directory articles

Upcoming Sermons:

March 20 - Power

Hebrews 9:1-28

Psalm 51:1-17

March 27 - When You're Getting Tired

Hebrews 10:1-39

James 4:4b-10

April 3 - Role Models

Hebrews 11:1-40

Mark 9:14-29

April 10 - The Finish Line (Palm Sunday, Love Feast)

Hebrews 12 & 13

Philippians 3:2-14

April 17 - Signs of Life (Easter)

Luke 24:1-12

Isaiah 65:17-25

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

We will be putting a suggestion box in the vestibule.

There is a "nonprofit security grant fund program" that Tim Fetzer became aware of. So, he applied for \$25,000 of these grant funds for exterior camera's; lighting; and advanced locksets; for here at our church.

Interests & Concerns

None

Adjournment

At 8:00 pm with prayer by Pastor Dennis.

APRIL 2022

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

APRIL 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Sunday School 9:00 am Vorship Service 10:00 am	4 Praise Team 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm		6 Ladies Aid 9:00 am Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	7	8	9
10 PALM SUNDAY Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am LOVE FEAST	-		13 Ladies Aid 9:00 am Bell Choir 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	14 Sharing Cupboard 10 am -1 pm	15 GOOD FRIDAY Sharing Cupboard 10 am -1 pm	16
EASTER SUNDAY Sunrise Service 7:00 am Breakfast 7:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	Bible Study 7:00 pm	Praise Dinner 6:00 pm Executive Mtg. 6:30 pm Comm. Mtg. 7:00 pm Board Mtg. 7:30 pm	Bell Choir 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	21	22	23
24	25 Praise Team 6:00 pm		27 Ladies Aid 9:00 am Bell Choir 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	28 Sharing Cupboard 10 am – 1 pm Spiritual Nurture Mtg. 7:00 pm	Sharing Cupboard 3 pm – 6 pm	30

Family Order Form Created: 3/22/2022 9:57:15 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
adidas \$25.00	13%		\$
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	7%		\$
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%		\$
Cabela's \$100.00	10%		\$
Cabela's \$25.00	10%		\$

Product	%	QTY	Total
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%		\$
Groupon.com \$25.00	7%		\$
11 1 1 040 00	50/		<u> </u>

D	0.1	07)	I
Product		QTY	Total
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%		\$
Red Lobster \$25.00	8%		\$
Red Robin \$25.00	8%		\$

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

Hardee's \$10.00

Total Due All Columns:

\$

Family Order Form Created: 3/22/2022 9:57:15 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
	8%	Q I I	\$
Regal \$25.00			ľ
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%		\$
Walmart \$50.00	2.5%		\$
		1	

Total Due All Columns: \$