



Myerstown Church of the Brethren

Scriptural Message

Titus 1:5a (NIV) – “The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished....”

Hebrews 13:5b (NIV) – “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

Ephesians 1:11 (NIV) – God “works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will....”

Romans 8:28 (NIV) – “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) - “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

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Myerstown Church of the Brethren

October 2022

Ministry through
Faith, Vision, and Action

Last spring the Monday evening Bible study group did a study of Paul's letter to Titus. I've heard Titus described as the first Interim Pastor. Paul had to move on to other ministry and he left Titus on the island of Crete to address some issues faced by the young church in that place. Titus' experience reminds me a little of my own here at Myerstown.

I remember it well! I began as your Interim Pastor on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, and by the following Sunday everything had shut down because of the COVID pandemic. As a congregation you had just gone through the departure of another pastor and now this unknown Interim (at least unknown by many at Myerstown CoB) was called by the board. At first, I got to “know” you through some online preaching from in front of my home computer screen and through some phone calls to those families the Deacons indicated to me as “active” in the church. It was a rather inauspicious start!

Now it has been two and one-half years as your Interim Pastor and we have gotten to know each other pretty well. In fact, Cathy and I feel we have gained a second church family during this time. You have and always will have a special place in our hearts. Now, assuming you extend the call to Chris Dubble to be your next pastor, my time with you will end this month and you will find yourselves as a congregation in another time of transition.

When I began as your Interim Pastor, I suspected this would be a longer interim. You had just gone through some difficult times with many families leaving the congregation and two pastors leaving within a short time. Like with Titus, it seemed there were some things “left unfinished” that needed to be addressed. Along with God's help and the capable leadership in this church, I think you are in a better place.

So, as I leave my time of service to you, I want to share some important thoughts which I hope you will take to heart.

First, God will be with this congregation at all times. God will “never leave you or forsake you.” Pastors come and go, but God will never leave us and God's presence with us is what is most important.

Know God is with you always.

Second, God is in control. God “works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will....” (Ephesians 1:11 NIV). This time of pastoral transition is not happening outside of the will of God. So, the question is not, “Who is in control?” God is in control. The question is, “Will you trust God to lead you and be with you in this time of transition?”

Third, God plans good out of this transition. Honestly, Cathy and I are going to miss you and I've already heard the same from some of you, but God has promised that he works all things together for our good. Myerstown Church of the Brethren is included in those "all things." Therefore, you can rest assured that good will come from this new thing God is doing here. That's just how awesome God is, so, we trust in all God is doing in the life of this congregation.

Fourth, the ministry of this congregation must go on. The Great Commission doesn't include any conditions, like we can take a break because we have a new pastor. Yes, there will be a time of getting used to the new pastor and his way of doing things, just like he will need to get used to your way of being church, but the work of the church doesn't stop while you get used to each other!

Well, I know goodbyes aren't always easy. I leave you knowing I am leaving you in a better state than when I arrived. That is because we have worked together, seeking God's guidance, and using the gifts of so many people here at the church. It has been because of your prayers, your hard work, and your trust in God.

As of this writing I am not sure when my last Sunday will be. Cathy and I leave Myerstown having gained new friendships, another family of faith, and wonderful memories of our time together. May God bless this congregation as you move into the future God has planned for you.

Dennis

Attendance & Offering

Attendance average for August 1, 2022 – July 30, 2022

Sunday School – 17
Worship Service – 66
Online – 12

Home Care

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers those living in nursing homes/assisted living homes: **Faye Brubaker, 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.

MCoB Email List

If you would like to join the church email list, please send your email address to info@myerstown.org

Church Board

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

Upcoming Dates to Reserve

Spiritual Enrichment

October 2nd, 3rd & 4th

Love Feast and Communion

October 2nd immediately following church service

Gospel Music Program

October 16th at 3:00 pm

Council Meeting

November 7th at 7:00 pm

Holiday Bazaar

It's that time of year when you are probably cleaning out good but unused or unwanted items. The annual bazaar is November 19th, but we are already accepting donations for the "white elephant" tables. The items can be stored in the Sharing Cupboard area.

Love Feast and Communion

Fall Love Feast and Communion will be held Sunday, October 2nd following the worship service. If anyone would be willing to babysit during the Communion service, it would be greatly appreciated. Please see any of the deacons with questions.

Pumpkin Rolls

Don't forget that the order deadline for pumpkin rolls is Oct. 2nd. Please have your order form turned into Dottie Nagle.

Gospel Music Program Oct. 16th at 3:00 pm

Those participating are:

Bell Choir
Yeater Sisters
Britta Armstrong – Instrumental
Dona Roland – Accordion
Evelina Krall – Guitar and Singing
Mixed Quartet
Lisa & Sheree – Duet
Rev. Paul Brubaker – Piano

Praise Team

Practice will begin on Oct. 10th at 6:00 pm

Spiritual Enrichment

Spiritual Enrichment - Plan to attend our upcoming Enrichment Services held October 2nd - 4th, 2022 where together we will consider renewal, transformation, and rest in a time and season that has been tentative, shifting, and challenging. Camp Swatara's Executive Director, Tim Courtright, is anticipating a sweet time of discovery as we explore and experience the character and nature of God through the truths of His Word.

2023 Directory

If you have any changes or additions for the upcoming 2023 directory, please notify Toni in the church office or anyone on the Missions and Fellowship Commission.

October Wedding Anniversaries

18th Bruce & Cindy Behney
20th Earl & Cindy Liskey
24th Andrew & Jaime Heisey

OCTOBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 District Conference
2 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Love Feast & Communion	3 Spiritual Enrichment Service 7:00 pm	4 Spiritual Enrichment Service 7:00 pm	5 Ladies Aid 9:00 am Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	6	7	8
9 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	10 Praise Team 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm	11	12 Ladies Aid 9:00 am Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	13 Sharing Cupboard 10 – 1	14 Sharing Cupboard 3 – 6	15
16 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Gospel Music Program 3:00 pm	17 Praise Team 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm	18 Executive Mtg. 6:30 pm Commission Mtg. 7:00 pm Board Mtg. 7:30 pm	19 Ladies Aid 9:00 am Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	20 Women's Fellowship Mtg. 7:00 pm	21	22
23 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	24 Praise Team 6:00 pm	25	26 Ladies Aid 9:00 am Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	27 Sharing Cupboard 10 – 1 Spiritual Nurture Mtg, 7:00 pm	28 Sharing Cupboard 3 – 6	29
30 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	31 Praise Team 6:00 pm					

OCTOBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Joanne Ealy	3 Ellie Dietrich	4	5 George Nagle	6 Toni Noll	7 Nancy Layser Kyle Wagner	8
9	10	11	12 Kim Horn	13 Brittany Ceresini Crystal Liskey	14	15 Erin Dietrich Matthew McClure
16 Robert Ebersole	17	18 Nova Dietrich Ryan Larsen	19	20 Ryan Lentz	21 Tammy Landis	22
23 Jason Behney	24	25 Katrina Wagner	26	27 Bob Noll Heather Wenrich	28 Kathy Krall Nancy Hartman	29 Dale Houtz Sandy Lentz
30	31 Eleanor Brubaker					

Commissions and Church Board Meeting

Date: September 20, 2022

Meeting was called to order: @ 7:30 pm

by Chairperson: David Dubble

Present were: Secretary - Mark Landis, Jr.

Prayer by: Walter and Cindy Sattazahn

Present were: Pastor Dennis Garrison

Secretary's Report of August 16, 2022

Approved as presented by Aye Vote

Treasurer's Report of August 31, 2022

Approved as presented by aye vote

Commission Reports & Members Present

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

The meeting opened with prayer by Grace.

Worship leaders in place are Sept. 25th – Mark Landis, Jr.,
October 2nd – Bob Noll
October 9th – Evelina Krall
October 16th – Kim Horn.

Volunteers are needed for October 23rd and October 30th.

Grace contacted all those signed up for the music program to be held on October 16 at 3:00 pm. For our Spiritual Renewal Service on October 2nd, 3rd and 4th we will have Tim Courtright as our speaker. He will be here to preach Sunday morning with Love Feast following the worship service with assistance from our congregation. There will be no service for Sunday evening, but we are hoping for good attendance on Monday and Tuesday evening.

We discussed where we would like the offering to go from the music program as well as our renewal services. We would like to support something locally and we are looking to the Women's Prison Aftercare Ministry, which is a part of Jubilee Ministries, which most of us are familiar.

Missions & Fellowship Commission: Chairperson – Susie Dundore
Kim Horn, Janet Dubble, Sharon Seldomridge. Tammy Landis

Operation Christmas Child through Samaritan's Purse is November 14th through 21st as national collection week. We can do virtual boxes or bring actual boxes. We will ask Women's Fellowship to match the number of boxes collected and to help fund boxes that will be assembled in Children's Church.

Janet purchased instant church directory program. It is an online church directory to be accessed through an app. We want to organize a committee to work on the directory. Hard copies can be printed.

Talked about the reception for Dennis and Cathy on October 16th.

Christian Education Commission: -

Cindy Sattazahn, Walter Sattazahn, Brenda Lentz

We are covered for Sunday School teachers, but would like to have additional teachers for each class to give the teachers a break.

We are discussing when we can get together to clean the Sunday School rooms.

We were talking about the Christmas program.

Trustee and Property Commission: – Chairperson – George Nagle

Mark Landis Jr., Ken Gross, Dale Houtz

The rubber mulch at swing set is complete.

I received 4 new bulbs for the gym lights. We need 2 to replace and 2 spares at a cost of \$325.97.

We paid \$2,000.00 toward the renovations of the boy's restroom at the school.

Triangle is working on the fall maintenance.

Replaced a light fixture near the kitchen at ladies restroom.

There is a new copier in the new library.

Finance and Stewardship Commission: – Chairperson – Bob Noll

Tim Fetzer, Jay Lentz

We have completed Policy #71.....For Use of Building Fund Monies. We are looking for board approval and then have church council approve.

We will be working on the church budget for 2023 to be ready for October board meeting for approval and then council.

We would like to thank everyone for their faithful giving.

Policy #71 was approved by a motion, 2nd and aye vote.

We will now take this to council for approval.

Pastor's Report

August 16, 2022 – September 20, 2022

As the writer of Ecclesiastes says, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." (Ecc. 3:1 NIV) As my season with you is coming to an end, I want to express heartfelt thanks for the privilege of serving as your Interim Pastor, for new friendships made, and for becoming Cathy's and my second church family. You will always hold a special place in our hearts. We will come back to visit from time to time!

After meeting with the Search Committee on Monday the 19th, it looks like my last Sunday preaching will be October 16 with Chris Dubble potentially beginning on October 17. Chris and I had breakfast together last week and are planning to get together again following the vote on the 25th. I am planning to stay on until the end of October as needed to help Chris get acclimated (board may need to approve that I assume).

Cathy and I will be traveling to Florida from September 25 to October 2. Because Cathy was suffering from Shingles over the time of our anniversary, this will be our anniversary trip. We'll be staying with good friends, Bob and Libby Kettering, in St. Augustine.

Since we will be on a plane heading home on Sunday morning, October 2, I had originally asked Glenn Hassinger to lead the Love Feast service following worship, but because of his health issues, Chris Dubble has agreed to be present and provide any leadership needed. Tim Courtright will be doing the meditations and leading the communion. Keep Glenn and Lois in your prayers. I will take care of shut-in communions in the first week or two of October.

Keep the Search Committee as they (assuming a positive vote for Chris on the 25th) now become a transition team and keep Chris Dubble in your thoughts and prayers as he prepares to become your next pastor.

It has been a privilege to serve as your Interim Pastor.

God bless,
Dennis

Pastoral Record for the past month:
5 Sermons prepared
5 Sunday morning worship services planned
Hospital and immediate health needs
Phone calls to shut-ins and those with health needs
Numerous emails and texts
Sermons planned through October 16
Board and Commission meetings
Newsletter article

Upcoming Sermons (Transitions Series):

September 25 – Chris Dubble Preaching and Vote (Dennis & Cathy in Florida)

October 2 – Spiritual Enrichment – Tim Courtright, speaker
Love Feast

October 9 – God's in Charge
2 Kings 2:1-15
Mark 4:35-41

October 16 - Handing Over the Reins
John 3:22-30
1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Approval to allow Toni Noll to reduce her work hours from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm was approved by a motion, 2nd and aye vote.

Technology Report Update

Enhancements continue for the live stream studio:

- Two new volunteers have come forward to work in the A-V booth
- Charlie Krall has installed a new amplifier which controls the audio outside of the sanctuary
- Recently purchased are a matrix (which will allow up to eight live streams to different parts of the church) and one new and 3 re-placement wireless access points
- Considering placing a monitor in the Gathering Place which will be connected to the live stream
- Two new Epson PowerLite projectors are ordered
 - Total cost - \$8100

Respectfully submitted: David Dubble

Search Committee Update

In the most recent meeting of the search committee particular attention was paid to final plans for the pastoral candidate weekend, September 24 and September 25. Final arrangements for the Meet and Greet (September 24. 3-5 PM) were completed. The majority of the food for the Meet and Greet will be supplied by congregation members. Search committee members will be setting up tables and chairs in the fellowship hall prior to the event. Name tags will be made available for all attending. Pastor Chris will introduce himself and there will be a time for question and answer and casual conversation.

Also discussed during the meeting was the transition team. If the vote on September 25 is in favor of hiring Pastor Chris a transition team will be assembled. Everyone from the search committee volunteered to be involved with the transition team. Anyone else from the membership who would be interested in being part of the team is asked to contact any of the search committee members. It is expected that members of the congregation will be involved in transition activities. It is important for the entire congregation to be involved in welcoming Pastor Chris and helping him to become comfortable and familiar with our church.

Respectfully,
David Dubble

An event Promotion Form will be available to publicize various activities within the church.

Linda Zimmerman is asking for a volunteer to take over as Camp Swatara Rep.

Interests & Concerns

None

Adjournment

At 8:10 pm with prayer by Pastor Dennis.