

Myerstown Church of the Brethren

November 2022

Ministry through
Faith, Vision, and Action



Myerstown Church of the Brethren

Scriptural Message

Acts 2:42-47 NIV

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

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Greetings from Pastor Chris

Monday October 17th I started here at Myerstown Church of the Brethren. On first day I was excited and nervous to be starting a new chapter in my life. As I was sitting in my office I was thinking, what does it mean to be part of God's church? When I was here Acts 2:42-47 came to mind. Luke was writing to the early church about fellowship of the believers. The early church devoted themselves to the gospel of Christ. They became close as a family, in support of each other. Verse 46-47 "every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their numbers daily those who were being saved." After reading this passage, I realized that is what Jesus is calling us to do. We need to be in fellowship together as a church family and support each other in love.

My family and I are so excited to be here with you at Myerstown church. We have been so grateful, to be here with such a welcoming church body. I am so grateful for Pastor Dennis and his willingness to help me in this transition. Pastor Dennis has been such a great example of what a true leader in Christ's church is. Toni as the church secretary is such a great resource for me here at Myerstown and I want to thank her for all of her help so far. I am so excited to be on this journey with everybody and to see what Jesus has in store for us in the future here at Myerstown church.

Attendance & Offering

Attendance average for September 1, 2022 – September 30, 2022

Sunday School – 18
Worship Service – 82
Online – 35

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.

White Elephant

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.

2023 Church Directory

Please give Toni any new or updated information for the 2023 Church Directory before the end of November.

Council Meeting

Council meeting is on November 7th at 7:00pm.

Apple Dumplings

Apple Dumpling baking will take place on Thursday November 17th, starting at 8:00 am. All willing helpers are needed. Thank you!

Soup

If anyone is willing to make chicken noodle soup for the bazaar, please let Toni Noll know. Thank you!

Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, November 19th is quickly approaching. The hours are 8:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m. for the bazaar. We appreciate all baked goods, candy, etc. Your items can be dropped off anytime between 9:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Friday the 18th. We have a lot of good cooks and bakers, so let's make this the best year ever! Contact Ruth Saul with any questions about baked goods. Please plan to come out and support this event. We will have pumpkin rolls and apple dumplings available, also egg sandwiches for breakfast and soup, hot dogs and barbeque for lunch. P.S. Don't forget to check out the "White Elephant" tables!

Christmas Poinsettias

It is time to order your Christmas Poinsettia. 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 Nov. 13th. Sign the sheet in the Gathering Place.

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child Collection Week is November 14-21. Options this year will again include packing boxes, which will include a \$10 shipping fee, or online boxes (\$25 fee). Watch for boxes and other details in The Gathering Place later this month.

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship is looking for someone to take responsibility for sending out cards to members of the church for sympathy, get well, milestone birthdays, etc. Cards and stamps will be provided. Cards need to be written out, signed, addressed, and mailed. Anyone that is interested, please notify any member of the Women's Fellowship Board: Leslie Fuhrman, Kim Wenger, Janet Dubble, Dottie Nagle.

Pastor Chris Installation

Pastor Chris' Installation Service will be held on Sunday, November 20. This is a very exciting time for our church, so we will celebrate with a Fellowship meal immediately following the service. The meal will be provided by the Transition Team and the Missions and Fellowship Commission. Congregation members will be asked to provide a dessert. Look for 2 signup sheets in The Gathering Place: one for those that will be attending the meal, and a second for those that wish to provide a dessert.

November Wedding Anniversaries

- 6th Jason & Leslie Fuhrman
Mark & Tammy Landis
- 9th Bud & Mary Lou Wagner
- 11th Landis & Anna Kupp
Bill & Nancy Wenrich
- 21st Gregory & Kim Horn

Commissions and Church Board Meeting

Date: October 18, 2022

Meeting was called to order: @ 7:30 pm

by Chairperson: David Dubble

Present were: Secretary - Mark Landis, Jr.

Prayer by: Linda Zimmerman

Present were: Pastor Chris Dubble

Secretary's Report of September 20, 2022

Approved as presented by Aye Vote

Treasurer's Report of September 30, 2022

Approved as presented by aye vote

Commission Reports & Members Present

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

The meeting opened with prayer by Dave Dubble.

Worship leaders are in place for October 23 – Kim Horn and October 30 – Mark Landis, Sr. Pastor Chris said he would like to see more input from the worship leaders instead of a structured plan as to what to use each Sunday.

The Gospel Music Program this past Sunday was a success with a good attendance. We decided to schedule it again next year and are looking to Sunday, October 15th at 3:00 pm.

Renewal Service held the beginning of October wasn't well attended. We will be looking for a date for 2023 and are thinking about holding it the week prior to Love Feast. We are also looking for suggestions for speakers and it will be called Spiritual Enrichment Service.

We discussed the possibility of having a Men's Prayer Breakfast and we are looking for suggestions from Church Board.

We discussed having a Children & Adult Program in the spring and the possibility of having Chris Ivey, a Christian Juggler.

We also discussed having a Men's Choir from Harmony Christian Fellowship.

Missions & Fellowship Commission: Chairperson – Janet Dubble
Tammy Landis

Kim Wenger joined us to discuss lunch on Nov. 20th. We will have a sit-down meal with desert buffet provided by church members. A sign-up sheet will be in the Gathering Place.

We discussed packing actual boxes for Operation Christmas Child or doing online boxes. We want to involve the children in packing the boxes. We will ask Women's Fellowship if they will match whatever the congregation donates and if they will pay for the shipping costs.

We will have a reception for Dennis & Cathy on October 30th.

Cereal drive for the Sharing Cupboard was 95 boxes of cereal. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Remind the congregation to give updates to Toni for 2023 directory.

Reviewed budget for 2023 and it was approved.

Appointments will get final approval for representative appointments.

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

We discussed getting the children together for an activity night.
We are working on getting choir coordinators.
We talked about Christmas skits.

Trustee and Property Commission: – Chairperson – George Nagle
Mark Landis Jr., Dale Houtz

We had a 20 foot ladder available and we installed 2 new lights in the gym.
The Reach Christian School is getting their own mailbox.

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

We have completed the proposed church budget with the dollar amounts furnished by each commission.
We would look for Board approval and then to be presented to Church Council for approval.
The year to date budget vs. actual giving continues to grow to the negative side. It is hoped that we can reverse this trend and end the year on a positive side.
We again would like to thank everyone for their faithful giving.

Proposed budget for 2023 approved by motion, 2nd and aye vote. We will now seek council approval.

Pastor's Report

September 20, 2022 – October 18, 2022

First, just an update on the Garrison household. Our daughter, Erin, has recovered from COVID well and will be going back to work on Friday. I am feeling better each day and must keep reminding myself that I am fortunate that my symptoms have not been worse. Cathy so far has managed to stay well. We hope to be at Myerstown on Sunday if I test negative at the end of the week. Thanks for all the prayers!

I have to say it once again – thanks for the privilege of serving as your Interim Pastor. It has been a good 2 ½ years! It's a little crazy how it began and ended, but we can roll with whatever comes because we know who is on the journey of this life with us!

The past month has been busy with some of the usual activities of the church year including the Spiritual Enrichment series with Tim Courtright and the fall Love Feast. I really enjoyed getting to know Tim and his excitement about the work at Camp Swatara. I had put off taking home communions until Pastor Chris arrives so we could make those visits together. Hopefully we can accomplish that next week.

As I shared this past Sunday in my Zoomed message, I also have been focused on trying to prepare a smooth transition for Pastor Chris. We have met several times. I hope to be back next week for the last session of the Bible study on prayer and to assist in those home communions.

Looking back, God has blessed our journey together. As a congregation you have healed significantly from some past difficulties and are in a good place to move into what I think is an exciting future God has in store for you. Keep in mind those things I mentioned in this past Sunday's message as challenges and opportunities which are before you. Remember the church is a community where you all have a role to play in moving into the future.

Cathy and I have been blessed by being with you and getting to know you individually and as a congregation. We will be back to visit as we are able.

I leave you with these words of Paul: "Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. Do not scoff at prophecies, but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good. Stay away from every kind of evil.

Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 NLT)

In Christ,
Dennis

Pastoral Record for the past month:
2 Sermons prepared
4 Sunday morning worship services planned
Spiritual Enrichment services planned with Tim Courtright
Love Feast planning
Multiple conversations with Chris Dubble to discuss transition
Hospital and immediate health needs addressed as needed
Phone calls to shut-ins and those with health needs as needed
Numerous emails and texts
Board and Commission meetings
Newsletter article

Pastor Chris' Report

It has been a great pleasure working so far with pastor Dennis. Last Monday I came in and met with him, and went over some important stuff I should know. On Wednesday he went over the church, and some of the history with me. Pastor Dennis has been gracious enough to be willing to go with me to visit the people that were not able to attend love feast, and do communion with them. I am trying to schedule appointments with each of them so him and I can visit with them.

On Monday Toni and I met together and discussed the bulletin, and a variety of other things. I am so grateful for her willingness, and her knowledge to guide me here at Myerstown church. I also met with several other people from the congregation. I am so excited to see so many people stepping up for this exciting transition!

Sunday praise and worship night with such a wonderful experience. It was awesome to see the great turn out of people from this congregation, and others congregations. I would like to thank everyone who was involved, with the planning of such a wonderful outreach.

With moving forward in this journey together as a family in Christ, I am so excited to see the plans that Jesus has in store for us here at Myerstown Church!

In Christ,
Pastor Chris Dubble

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Remove references to salaries that can be found in the policy book for various positions was approved by motion, 2nd and aye vote.

Mark Landis, Sr. was voted on to fill the vacancy position on the Ministry & Evangelism Commission by a motion, 2nd and aye vote

Suggestions keep coming into the suggestion box in the vestibule; and the board continues to look into these suggestions and ideas.

Pastor Chris brought up Bible study times and schedules. He is looking into continuing the Bible study classes.

Transition Team Update

The vote by the congregation to call Pastor Chris as our minister was an overwhelming 99% in favor. The vote to approve of the financial package for Pastor Chris was also 99%.

Pastor Chris began his employment with a Myerstown Church of the Brethren on October 17.

Upcoming events with Pastor Chris:

- Pastor Chris's first sermon
- October 23
- Board and Deacon breakfast with Pastor Chris
- October 29 at 8 AM. At the Country Fare restaurant
- Pastor Chris's installation service followed by a fellowship meal
- November 20

Policy Book Revisions

The board approved revisions to the policy descriptions pertaining to paid employees to have any reference to specific salary amounts removed from those policies. The policies affected are:

- Church Secretary
- Senior Choir Director
- Custodian
- Outside Custodian
- Organist
- Bell Choir Director
- Part-time Maintenance
- Treasurer

Technology Report Update

The recording and broadcasting capabilities of the audio-visual technologies installed in the church are being used continuously. In addition to live streaming and recording services the technology provided an opportunity for home-bound Pastor Dennis to present the morning sermon from his home on October 16.

Recently one of the old pieces of equipment, a video splitter, failed. Charlie Krall replaced it with a different model that works very well.

We were notified that the new projectors have shipped.

The AV team is growing. Two new operators are in training.

Communication has begun with the Church of the Brethren Faith in Action Committee to guide us in developing an extension of our grant of 2021. The goal of this grant will be to extend the outreach of our ministries utilizing the technology that has already been put into place, and to improve the experience of those persons attending in the church through the installation of improved projection devices and networking capabilities.

The AV staff relies on feedback from the viewers to help improve the product that is being saved and broadcast. Please give observations and suggestions to any member of the AV team.

Interests & Concerns

None

Adjournment

At 8:20 pm with devotions and prayer by Pastor Chris

NOVEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Randy Wagner	2 Linda Strobel	3	4	5 Kathryn Gibble Greg Horn
6	7 Lloyd Wenger	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Lindsey Dimond Leslie Fuhrman	15 Gloria Brandt	16	17 Erin Umbenhauer	18	19 Sharon Kline
20 Phyllis Hickernell	21	22	23	24 Tim Fetzer HAPPY THANKSGIVING	25 Lois Hassinger	26 John Hunsicker
27 Sherri Weaver	28 Robert Krall Mary Jane Smith	29	30 Carl Hartman			

NOVEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	3 Woman's Fellowship Mtg 6:30 pm	4	5
6 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	7 Council Mtg 7:00 pm	8	9 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	10 Sharing Cupboard 10 – 1	11 Sharing Cupboard 3 – 6	12
13 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	14 Praise Team 6:00 pm	15 Executive Mtg. 6:30 pm Commission Mtg. 7:00 pm Board Mtg. 7:30 pm	16 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	17	18	19 HOLIDAY BAZAAR 8 am – 1 pm 
20 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Pastor Chris Installation and Fellowship Meal	21 Praise Team 6:00 pm	22	23	24 HAPPY THANKSGIVING 	25 Sharing Cupboard 3 – 6	26
27 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	28 Praise Team 6:00 pm	29	30 Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm			