



## I've Got the Joy!

The main reason for the late distribution of the Vineyard

has to do with the writing of this message. Usually, this pastoral message comes fairly easily and quickly. This month; not so. The closer it came to deadline, the more frustrated I became with myself.

Because of the nature of the worship design we are using, I have to get two weeks ready at a time. So I'm getting the bulletin ready for Advent 1 and putting together the liturgy for Advent 2. Since this may be a new experience for the Worship Leaders, I try to put as much comfort into their role and make notebooks for everyone.

While I'm doing that, I'm listening to the pre-recorded music and sometimes singing at the top of my lungs. That happens, of course, until my wife comes to the office door, pushes the crack wide open, steps in, gets my attention, cocks her head to one side and says, "I'm glad you're enjoying yourself. Do think you could manage to enjoy yourself just a little less?" Hint taken.

On Thanksgiving weekend, I drove to Newark [NJ] International to meet a plane. I sang for 2 hours and didn't feel one bit tired when I got there. I was fairly sure that I would not be singing all the way home!

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And I was still frustrated that I had nothing brewing for this December pastoral missive. Suddenly, like one of those “I could have had a V8” moments, I realized I had to write about Joy.

This entire Advent through Christmas Eve is about Joy. We already experienced Hopeful Joy. Next is Loving Joy followed by Unabashed Joy and then Peaceful Joy. That takes us to Christmas Eve where we encounter Incarnate Joy.

Just as we are going to be immersed in Joy on a Sunday, we need to plunge ourselves into total and complete Joy.

So my encouragement for you is to have Joy—so much Joy you have a hard time thinking about anything else. It might make your family ask you to turn it down a little. Or maybe they will want to jump into Joy with you. Who knows?

Let’s have a very blessed Advent and Christmastide.

Joyfully,

Pastor Jim



## *Prayer Requests*

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Nancy Brown  
Rosene Duffy  
Jewel Fessler  
Linda Feaser  
Joanne Frantz  
Suzanne Fritsch  
Ellen Goodyear  
Bill Gracely  
James Haines  
Rosalla Hollenbach  
Russ Kahl  
Joyce Mitstifer  
David Mock  
Steve Norford  
Heather & Elvin Perez  
Ruthann Snoke  
Ralph Woynarowski  
Family of Arlene Spangler

# Around Town

## Lebanon County Christian Ministries

The fund raising event held Nov. 21 was a success. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, two baskets containing various gift cards were auctioned and were among the highest bids. Thank you so much for your donations to a worthy ministry.

## Gift Card Fundraiser

Thank you to all who placed gift cards orders during 2019. I am pleased to report that we raised over \$700 through this simple fundraiser. A special thank you to the the Patrick, Fritsch, and Yoder families who participate just about every month! If you have any questions or are interested in participating, there is information on the Counter in the Gathering Area or contact Emily Frantz.

## Community Meal Coordinator

We are seeking an individual or individuals to volunteer to coordinate the community meals held at Myerstown UCC in the Spring and Fall. Duties include planning the menu, shopping for food, and directing the preparation of the food. There is a large group of volunteers for this ministry who are already in place and ready to help. Please contact the church office or any member of Church Council if you are interested by January 15, 2020.

# Around Town

*"Nine Lessons and Carols"*  
Friedens Lutheran Church  
Sunday, December 15th @ 4 pm  
if you would like to participate,  
rehearsals are December 12, 7 pm  
& December 15, 1:30 pm  
For more information, contact Pastor  
Robert Wallace 717-866-4910

## Healing Service

The Worship Support Team is reinstating the Healing Services. they will be held one time each quarter.

The first one will be  
January 19, 2020

The Lebanon County Choral Society  
presents their Adult Chorus and Youth Chorus in

## *Caroling, Caroling!*

Sunday, December 15, 2019, at 3:00 PM  
Myerstown United Church of Christ, 306 W. Main Avenue, Myerstown

Order tickets at:  
[www.LCCSmusic.org](http://www.LCCSmusic.org)

On Sunday, December 15 at 3:00 pm the Lebanon County Choral Society will present their winter concert, "Caroling, Caroling!" featuring the Alfred Burt Carols, here at Myerstown UCC. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.LCCSmusic.org](http://www.LCCSmusic.org) or by talking to Darryl Brown or Charles and Carolyn Williams, member of LCCS..

LCCS seeks to nurture appreciation of challenging choral music by preparing public performances that combine accessibility with high artistic standards. There is a Youth Chorus for students in grades 3 through 8, as well as, an Adult Chorus, for singers in grade 9 through adult. Neither chorus requires an audition. Singers who are interested in joining either chorus for our spring season are invited to contact the director at [adultchorusLCCS@gmail.com](mailto:adultchorusLCCS@gmail.com)

# Christmas Eve



We are partnering with Frieden's Lutheran Church to offer several opportunities for a Christmas Eve experience. All of the services include candle light and Holy Communion.

4:00 pm

Friedens Lutheran

Children-Family Service

6:30 pm

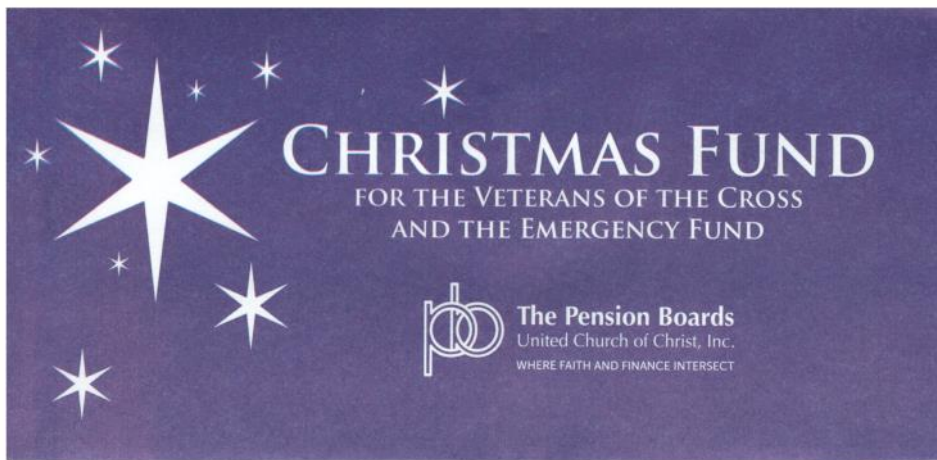
Myerstown UCC

Service of Incarnate Joy

11:00 pm

Friedens Lutheran

Traditional Service



## Offering



Please use the purple Christmas Fund offering envelopes.

## Personnel Update

Mark Herr has resigned from the Family and Community Ministry (formerly Christian Education Coordinator) position at Myerstown UCC. We thank him for the time he spent in that position over the past few years. The future of this position is being considered by Council and Personnel. No worries - he is staying on as our Worship Music Coordinator and Organist.

## Angel Tree Ministry

One of the ways our congregation reaches out with the love of Christ to those in need is through our "Angel Tree" ministry. Today is last day to bring in Angel Gifts. The Angel Tree is another way for us to support Lebanon County Christian Ministries.

Many thanks to those who have taken time to participate this year. LCCM is appreciative of all the ways that we support the variety of ministries they have.



*From*

*Julius & Agnes  
Muthengi*

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Church. I trust all is well with you as you anticipate

celebrating 2019 Christmas. Agnes

and I are thankful to God for his goodness and faithfulness. The purpose of this e-mail is first to remind you that God willing, Agnes and I will be celebrating our 43rd wedding anniversary on Wednesday December 11th, 2019. Praise God with us for that far, he has brought us! Secondly, we are requesting you to pray for our niece (my late brother's daughter) who was admitted at the hospital two weeks ago, suffering from liver infection. For the last three days she has been in a comer (unable to eat, talk or even recognize anybody). We are like parents to her because both her parents are diseased. God bless you beloved.

Your brother and sister in Christ,  
Julius and Agnes



## DECEMBER 1

8 am: Open: Cal Beamesderfer Greeter: William & Betty Arnold  
 Worship Leader: William Arnold  
 Communion Servers: Jackie Shaak, Wanda Rabold

10 am Greeter: Sara Zeller Worship Leader: Charles & Carolyn Williams Sound: Paulie McQuate  
 Usher & Advent Wreath: Jeff, Holly, Hannah, Jared, Leah Rosen, Kenny Patrick  
 Communion: Ed & Candy Hibshman, Steve & Marianne Fritsch

Counting Team: Ted & Carol Batdorf, Darryl Brown

## DECEMBER 8

8 am Open & Greeters & Worship Leader: William & Betty Arnold

10 am Greeter: Ted & Carol Batdorf Worship Leader: Margo McQuate Sound: Paulie McQuate  
 Usher & Advent Wreath: Travis, Angie, Gabby, Gavin Bicher, Kenny Patrick  
 Counting Team: Marie Hibshman, Kathy Grose, Charlie & Carolyn Williams

## DECEMBER 15

8 am Open: Marcia Bicher Greeter: Lindy Bennetch  
 Worship Leader: Wanda Rabold

10 am Greeter: Ed & Candy Hibshman Worship Leader: Steve & Marianne Fritsch  
 Sound: Bob Dash Usher: Marie Hibshman, Darryl Brown Bob Dash, Kenny Patrick  
 Advent Wreath: David, Jen, Noah, and Jacob Blystone  
 Counting Team: Lois Werner, Sara Zeller, Sally Kulp

## DECEMBER 22

8 am Open: Fritz Firestine Greeter: Nancy Weaber  
 Worship Leader: Sally Kulp

10 am Greeter: Terry & Suzie Schott Worship Leaders: Kristi Fields, Darryl Brown  
 Sound: Bob Dash Usher: Kory & Ryan Leppo, Bob Dash, Kenny Patrick  
 Counting Team: Ed & Candy Hibshman, Terry & Suzie Schott  
 Wreath Lighting: Jeremy, Gia, Camilla, & Beckett Zimmreman

## DECEMBER 24

6:30 pm Open: Mark Herr Greeter: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sound: Bob Dash.

Usher & Communion Server: Steve & Marianne Fritsch  
 Wreath Lighting: Emily, Kara, & Abby Frantz

## DECEMBER 29

10 am Open: Ed & Candy Hibshman Greeter: Dawn Hassler  
 Worship Leader: James Yoder Sound: Bob Dash  
 Usher: Ed & Candy Hibshman, Terry & Suzie Schott  
 Counting Team: Ed & Candy Hibshman, Terry & Suzie Schott

## JANUARY 5

8 am Open: Cal Beamesderfer Greeter: Shirley Krall  
 Worship Leader: Wanda Rabold  
 Communion Servers: Jackie Shaak, Sue Harvey

10 am Greeter: Jim & Beth Diehm Worship Leader: Margo McQuate  
 Sound: Paulie McQuate  
 Usher: Travis, Angie, Gabby, Gavin Bicher, Kenny Patrick  
 Communion: Susie Wartluft, Travis, Angie, Gabby, Gavin Bicher  
 Counting Team: Ted & Carol Batdorf, Darryl Brown