



The Vineyard

A publication to encourage and motivate participation in the family of God and an aid in ministry for the members of Myerstown United Church of Christ.

January 2020 Volume 39, Issue 1

End Of the Year Blues?

Advent was such a blast for me. It took hours and hours of preparation - even though we purchased the worship design. Programs like that are written as “one size fits all.” That concept is hardly ever true in worship or ministry adaptation is required.

Something that seems to accompany the end of a celebration or an activity or even no more shopping, is a letdown. This anticlimax is something that is very common. It can lead to Seasonal Affective Disorder [SAD] which is also not uncommon.

A 16-year old, Ben Clarke wrote this for the Huffington Post in 2014.

It’s no longer the 25 of December, and so begins the empty period after Christmas. This is the time you’ll force your family to play the one game you’ll ever play with your new Scrabble set, you’ll seem to survive on rationed leftovers and hours are spent contemplating WHAT TODO. After all, the holiday you looked forward to for weeks was gone in a day, and you’re simply left remembering it through a copious amount of stocking fillers and the incessant playing of ‘Merry Christmas Everyone’ on radio stations. You may find yourself thinking, ‘What do I look forward to now?’

The new year is here, but for me, it doesn’t have the same feeling to it as Christmas. For me, Christmas conjures up images of spending quality time with the family, good tidings and presents. New Year’s is associated with awkwardly looking for a kiss at midnight and my drunk uncle Sam. Safe to say this doesn’t have the same sense of magic to it. [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/post-christmas-blues_b_4525502]

What tremendous insight for a teenager!

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Folks, who talk about these Post-Christmas Blues, often suggest that there are stages. These *stages* which I prefer to call *elements* [because they aren't sequential] resemble the traditional *episodes* of grief.

Personally, I believe that New Year's Resolutions are more likely to add to these Winter Blues. Somehow, they can set one up for failure if they are too extreme.

An article in *wikiHow* suggests several ways of coping with this *Post Holiday Syndrome*. [<https://www.wikihow.com/Cope-With-Post-Holiday-Syndrome>]

1. Expect some letdown.
2. Choose to see the benefits of post-holiday time.
3. Be gentle on yourself with respect to your New Year's Resolutions.
4. Continue spending time around people
5. Do things that give you cause to look forward to something.
6. Make healthy choices [in eating!]
7. Make this a time for getting professional help and turning around things that have been bothering you.
8. Expect to enjoy the year ahead.

I think we are well on our way as a congregation to put into practice #5

and #8.

Only days after this edition goes to press, we have the marvelous opportunity to meet, greet, and endorse a new pastor. Could there be anything more exciting to look forward to or enjoyment for the year ahead? I think not.

I look forward to beginning a transition and bringing my pastoral ministry to a close.

Truly I have enjoyed the few months I have been able to be among you again. Two greats - Billy Holiday and Ethel Waters have recordings of *Am I Blue?* I'm not sure I know which one I like better. What I do know is that I'm not blue looking into the future and moving forward for Myerstown UCC.

Let's move forward together.

Joyfully,

Pastor Jim



Search Committee Report:

We are excited to announce that at the Sunday, December 15 meeting, Council voted and passed unanimously to move forward in the process to hire a part-time pastor. **Rev. Paul R. Cronin** was approved in the role as a **Designated Pastor** for a three-year term and, hopefully, after three years we would be able to make it a full-time position.

Paul resides with his wife and family in Bernville, PA. Paul was ordained October 13, 1985 and his current standing is held in the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference by the PS Covenant Association. Pastor Paul is a 1976 graduate of LaRoche College with a degree in Religion/Psychology and a 1985 graduate from Lancaster Theological Seminary with a Masters of Divinity. Paul has served in five different congregations since 1983. He spent three years at United Church of Roscoe in New York, twelve years at First Congregational in Walton, NY, and twelve years at Faith Unity/New Creation UCC in Easton, PA. Paul has a lot of knowledge and experience and a few of his strengths are church growth and size transition, preaching, children sermons and connecting with the community.

The Trial Sermon will be held on **Sunday, January 5** with one service beginning at **9:00 A.M.** Following the service, Rev. John Fureman will be leading the congregation in a vote. All active member who are present that day are invited to vote. Additionally, a "Meet and Greet" will be held on **Saturday, January 4** in the Social Hall beginning at **6:00 P.M.** Paul will be introduced and then he will share his background, experience and excitement of becoming the new part-time pastor of Myerstown United Church of Christ. We will have an opportunity for a question and answer session and will conclude the evening with light refreshments.

If you have any questions, please direct them to the Search Committee or any member of Church Council.

If Pastor Paul is voted and approved by the congregation on Sunday, January 5th, this will start the 45-day notice for Jim Yoder our current Bridge Pastor. His last day in the capacity of Bridge Pastor will be Wednesday, February 19. The starting date for Paul is set for Monday, February 3, and this will allow 2 weeks overlap with Jim and Paul for a smooth transition.

The financial package is based on Conference Guidelines and all amounts are based on 50% of a full-time pastor.

Support Package Values [in Dollars]

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Salary Basis	34,000	34,000*	34,000*
Annuity	4,760	4,760 ⁺	4,760 ⁺
Health, Dental, Vision	0	8,157 [^]	8,157 [^]
Social Security Offset	2,601	2,601*	2,601*
Life & Disability Insurance	<u>510</u>	<u>501[^]</u>	<u>501[^]</u>
Total	\$41,871	\$50,028 ^{<}	\$50,028 ^{<}

Legend

- * Based on 2020 guidelines
- + Based on 14% of Basis
- ^ Based on 2020 rates
- < Fluctuates according variables

Around Town

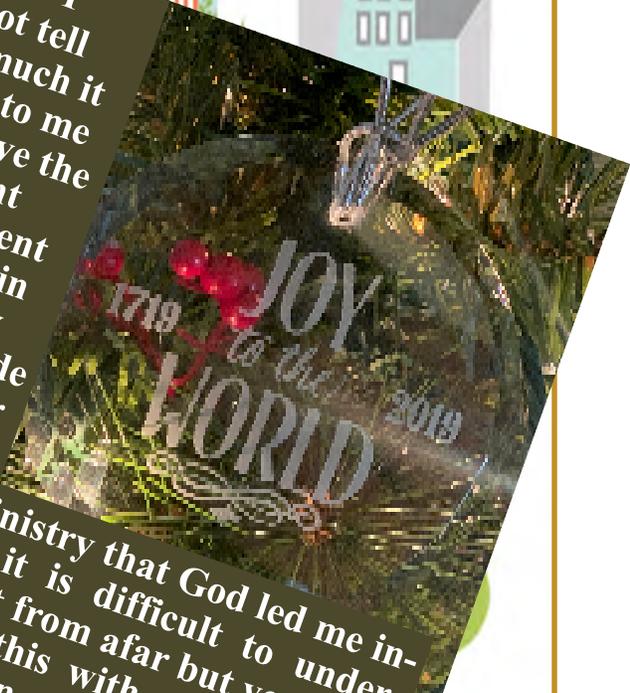
thank
you
very
much

Dear Frank
Words cannot express the warmth and joy
I felt from all of you. The Advent. What
an experience!
Thank you also for the cards and
Lorrie's presence. It has been such
a blessing. *Jim*

To my special church family
Merry Christmas
A time for which
few special people to our lives
they are family remembered,
cherished, and loved
today and all year through.
Love,
Janette Miles
It was wonderful to
see many of you in July!



James - I cannot tell how much it meant to me to receive the ornament gift you sent me. I was in tears of joy and gratitude for you, your church, and
and for this ministry that God led me into. Sometimes it is difficult to understand the impact from afar but your gesture of sharing this with me made me feel so involved in your world and the ministry of your church. I am in awe of this connection from afar that seems so very close-at-hand. Here is a photo of the ornament on my tree. I will treasure it always. Thank you.
Peace & Passion, Marcia McFee, PhD



Around Town



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October 30, 2019

Myerstown United Church of Christ
306 West Main Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your gift in support of the ministry of theological education at Lancaster Seminary.

Your gift provides support for Lancaster Seminary's mission "to educate and nurture leaders to join God's redemptive and liberating work so that all creation may flourish." We seek to bring a gifted and dedicated faculty, committed and called students, and supporting churches, organizations, and friends into a vibrant community of faith.

The support you provide with your prayers and your gifts opens the doors for our students' education, opens their minds to learning, and opens their hearts to serving.

In Christ,

Elizabeth Bennett
Vice President of Operations and Finance

Received: 10/30/2019 \$250.00 *Annual Fund

Thank you so much!



Dear Myerstown United Church of Christ,

My sincere thanks for your silent auction donation, the proceeds of which will assist many people in Lebanon County with basic needs.

We are happy to report the Benefit Dinner was a great success, was enjoyed by everyone and we also raised some much needed funds for those who are hungry and in need of shelter.

God Bless and thanks again for your support of this important Ministry.

Bryan D. Smith
Executive Director

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

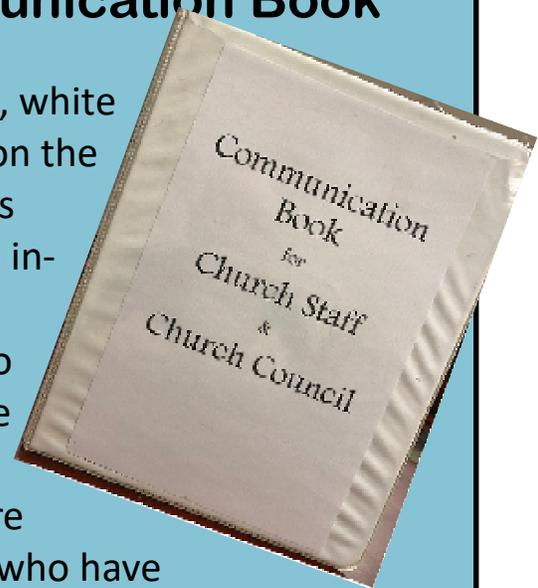
The first one will be
January 19, 2020

Prayer Requests

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

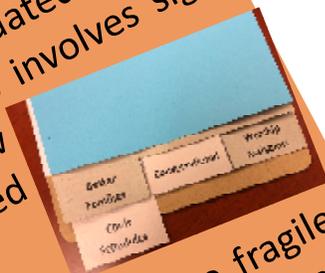
The Communication Book

In November, a small, white notebook appeared on the Information Table. Its purpose is to provide information to and ask questions of staff. Too often those who have participated in worship in the chancel are not as alert as those who have worshiped in the nave. The Communication Book is designed so that no one forgets what has been said or asked. The Church Secretary checks the book on a Monday morning and distributes the information accordingly to others. The book has been used on several occasions successfully. Let's use it some more!



Information Table Updates

Gradually, the Information Area is being updated. One of the first changes involves sign-up sheets and schedules. A new clip-board has been placed there. The tabs show where a particular list is located. These tabs are fragile at the moment. Hopefully, they can be stronger. Lift the tab, use the list below it and then return what you have lifted to the top of the clipboard.



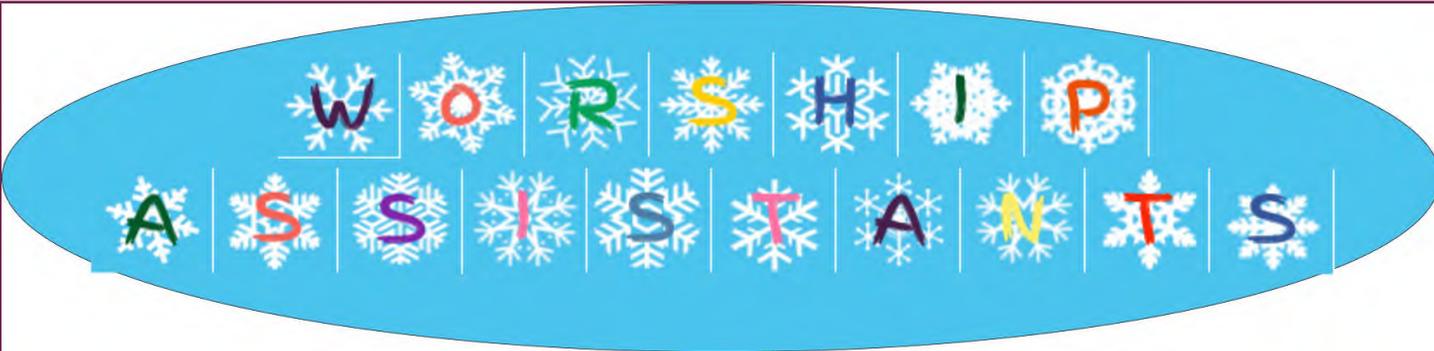
Fire Safety

The church kitchen has one again passed its annual fire safety inspection. The kitchen doors should remain closed whenever the kitchen *is not in use*. Although not mentioned specifically, it seems that the serving closure should also be closed.

The same is true for classroom and hallway doors.



Fire Safety image used with permission. <https://www.atlantictraining.com/blog/fire-extinguisher-safety-free-stock-photo/>



9:00 am
Open:
 Cal Beamesderfer



8 am
Open:
 Marcia Bicher
Greeter:
 Lindy Bennetch
Worship

Greeter, Worship Leader, Communion
Server Members of the Search Committee
Counting Team
 Ted & Carol Batdorff, Darryl Brown

Leader: Wanda Rabold
10 am Greeters: Ed & Candy Hibshman
Worship Leaders: Steve & Marianne Fritsch
Sound: Bob Dash
Ushers: Kory & Ryan Leppo, Bob Dash,
 Kenny Patrick



8:00 am:
Open:
 Mark Herr

Greeter: Shirley Krall
Worship Leader: Jim Yoder
10:00 am: Greeter: Jim and Beth Diehm
Worship Leader: Margo McQuate
Sound: Paulie McQuate
Usher
 Travis, Angie, Gabby, & Gavin Bicher,
 Kenny Patrick

Counting Team
 Lois Werner, Sara Zeller, Sally Kulp



8 am
Open:
 Fritz Firestine
Greeter:
 Nancy Weaber

Worship Leader: Sally Kulp
10 am Greeter: Terry & Suzie Schott
Worship Leader: Kristi Fields, Darryl Brown
Sound: Bob Dash
Ushers: Ed & Candy Hibshman,
 Terry & Suzie Schott, Kenny Patrick
Counting Team: Ed & Candy Hibshman,
 Terry & Suzie Schott



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

Communion Servers:
 Ed & Candy Hibshman,
 Steve & Marianne Fritsch
Sound: Paulie McQuate
Usher: Travis, Angie, Gabby, Gavin Bicher,
 Kenny Patrick

10 am Greeter: Jim & Beth Diehm
Worship Leader: Margo McQuate

Counting Team:
 Ted & Carol Batdorff, Darryl Brown