

The Vineyard

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Photo of Merry Christmas banner by vickram on Shutterstock.com

Paul's Epistle

As we approach this Holiday Season many of us are asking the question "When will things return to normal?" When will we be able to see and hold the ones we love? When will we be able to enjoy a meal out with friends, laughing and joking without worries? A longing exists, especially at this time of year for a return to normalcy.

But what if that old normal is gone? What if it was never really God's intended normal?

Brian McClaren writes, "I'd like to make a proposal. If we are wise in this time, we will not go back unthinkingly to the old normal...Let's begin to dream of a new normal that addresses the weaknesses and problems that were going unaddressed in the old normal. If we're wise we won't go back; we'll go forward."

We have heard of the creation of several vaccines for this miserable virus that has altered our lives and interactions with the world around us, significantly affected our economy which means that many are impacted by the lack of income and all that means for families, children, individuals, businesses and the entire economy. We are pulling at the leash for that time when the vaccines have helped us to rid our lives of all these constrictions.

Into this reality breaks the light of the living God in the form of a tiny child. We celebrate His birth every

year. We sing the Carols, hear the stories of His birth. Maybe this year those Carols and stories will have new meaning. Perhaps, this year, we will be touched in deeper and more meaningful ways by the gift of God shared through a displaced, homeless man and woman.

As we celebrate together during this very weird year, perhaps we can keep in mind the patience we need to continue these restrictions we hate, learning the patience of Israel awaiting a Messiah. Perhaps we may also learn how to do our part to heal the divides that exist in our Nation, our World and in our own communities.

Peace to All in this Joyous Season!!!

Pastor Paul

Office Hours

Beginning November 30th, the church office will be "open" according to this revised schedule.

9:00 am to noon
Monday—Wednesday—Friday

noon to 3:00 pm
Tuesday—Thursday

The church office will be **closed**

November 26 & 27

December 25 through January 3

DECEMBER WORSHIP

Dec. 6: Second Sunday of Advent

In Person Worship & Live stream 9:00 am

Sermon: What Shall I Cry?
Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11

As the people of Israel were crying out for a Messiah, as the people of Isaiah's time were recovering from catastrophe, so are we in the midst of suffering reaching toward hope, but needing renewal after such difficult times. What does God say to our suffering and struggle for renewal?

Dec. 13: Third Sunday of Advent

In Person Worship & Live stream 9:00 am

Sermon: Presence Presents
Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The Lord promises Good News to the poor, binding up the brokenhearted, release to the captives and comfort for all who mourn. A rebuilding of the nation of Israel speak of the rebuilding for all of us, even in the year 2020!

Dec. 20: Fourth Sunday of Advent

In Person Worship & Live stream 9:00 am

Sermon: A Gift for All Ages
Scripture: Luke 1:46b-55

An unexpected gift at an awkward and unexpected time doesn't keep Mary from giving thanks for that gift, and understanding it is a gift for all the ages!

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve

In Person Worship & Live stream 6:30 pm

Sermon: Barrington Bunny
Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:11-20

It won't be the same as "normal" years, but God will still speak to us and touch us during this most blessed and beautiful of Worship experiences of the year! We will celebrate this Silent and Holy night!

Dec. 27: 1st Sunday after Christmas

Pre-Recorded Service **ONLY**

Service of Lessons & Carols

You may enjoy listening to members share the powerful lessons of the Christmas season and singing along with the Carols in the comfort of your own home. Viewing details will be available later in December—stay tuned!



Doing our part
every time we gather.

Safe & Secure

in the shelter of

God's love.





- 1 Annabel Hemperly
- 2 Teresa Wolfe
- 4 Jared Rosen
- 5 William Brown
- 6 Tyler Faust
- Stella Heim
- 7 Gavin Bicher
- Fern Patrick

- 8 Ted Batdorff
- Brian Gibbel
- 10 Rita Lentz
- 11 John Mentzer
- 15 Douglas Bohannon
- 16 Joyce Mitstifer
- 18 Helen Rabold
- 19 Beth Diehm
- 20 Travis Bicher
- Megan Thomas
- 21 Marsha Eisenhauer
- 22 Sheryl Runz
- 23 Marion Houtz
- 25 Trey Faust
- Betty Arnold
- Fritz Firestine
- 28 Richard Wartluft
- Kara Frantz
- Hetty Wengert
- 29 Gia Zimmerman
- 30 William Behney



Devotionals

Copies of the current Better Families, Daily Bread, and Upper Room can be found at the top of the steps in the church building where they usually are located.

For persons not attending worship, there are also copies in a black plastic rack located in the office vestibule on the window sill above the **PickUp Box**.



THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Dec 1 Gal 5:16-26; Eze 1; Ps 148
2 Gal 6; Eze 2-3; Ps 149
3 Eph 1; Eze 4-5; Ps 150
4 Eph 2; Eze 6-7; Isa 40
5 Eph 3; Eze 8-9; Isa 41
6 Eph 4:1-16; Eze 10-11; Isa 42
7 Eph 4:17-32; Eze 12-13; Isa 43
8 Eph 5:1-20; Eze 14-15; Isa 44
9 Eph 5:21-33; Eze 16; Isa 45
10 Eph 6; Eze 17; Isa 46
11 Phi 1:1-11; Eze 18; Isa 47
12 Phi 1:12-30; Eze 19; Isa 48
13 Phi 2:1-11; Eze 20; Isa 49
14 Phi 2:12-30; Eze 21-22; Isa 50
15 Phi 3; Eze 23; Isa 51

16 Phi 4; Eze 24; Isa 52
17 Col 1:1-23; Eze 25-26; Isa 53
18 Col 1:24-2:19; Eze 27-28; Isa
54
19 Col 2:20-3:17; Eze 29-30; Isa 55
20 Col 3:18-4:18; Eze 31-32; Isa 56
21 Lk 1:1-25; Eze 33; Isa 57
22 Lk 1:26-56; Eze 34; Isa 58
23 Lk 1:57-80; Eze 35-36; Isa 59
24 Lk 2:1-20; Eze 37; Isa 60
25 Lk 2:21-52; Eze 38-39; Isa 61
26 Lk 3:1-20; Eze 40-41; Isa 62
27 Lk 3:21-38; Eze 42-43; Isa 63
28 Lk 4:1-30; Eze 44-45; Isa 64
29 Lk 4:31-44; Eze 46-47; Isa 65
30 Lk 5:1-26; Eze 48; Isa 66
31 Lk 5:27-39; Gen 1:1-2:25; Ps 1

Abbreviations:

Col [Colossians] Eph [Ephesians] Eze [Ezekiel]
Gal [Galatians] Gen [Genesis] Isa [Isaiah]
Lk [Luke] Phi [Philippians] Ps [Psalm]

Dear Members and Friends of Myerstown UCC,

With the Holidays coming and the pandemic raging, many of us are feeling isolated and disconnected from the people we care about, who add so much to our lives. Many of us are even more isolated by a variety of circumstances and need a bit of cheering in this Holiday Season (don't we all!). The Elders thought it would not only cheer those who receive cards or calls, but it may even help those who send cards and make calls to feel more connected in this time of social distancing and isolation.

We are including a list of folks who may appreciate greetings throughout the Holiday Season, and we encourage you to send a card, give a call, reminisce, pray with them...anything that might help rebuild the connections we have been missing. The love of God which we share as a Family of Faith is often communicated in simple conversations and daily or weekly contact. If you can find some time to brighten another's day, perhaps you will experience that same brightening.

If you are aware of anyone you would like to add to our list (and it could be you), please contact the Church Office and we would be happy to include name, address and phone number for any of our members who have given permission to be added to this Christmas Cheer list.

Richest Blessings at this Blessed Season

Christmas Cheer

Ruth

Bomberger

450 E. Lincoln Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067
(717) 866-3515

Russell Brightbill

8 Cottage Dr
Myerstown, PA 17067
(717) 866-3357

Gene Haag

Providence Place
24 Hikes Hollow Rd
Pine Grove, PA 17963
(717) 228-7608

Marie Heffelfinger

20 N Railroad St
Myerstown, PA 17067
(717) 866-4128

Fern Hoke

590 S. 5th Avenue, Room F415
Cedar Haven
Lebanon, PA 17042

Betty Holdren

Towne Centre
7 W Park Ave HC311
Myerstown, PA 17067

Gifford Krause

537 W Lincoln Ave
Myerstown, PA 17067
(717) 866-6471

Miriam Loose

516 E Rosebud Rd
Myerstown, PA 17067
(717) 866-5344

Arlene Miller

1125 Birch Road, Room 106
Juniper Village
Lebanon, PA 17042

Lucille Miller

7 W. Park Avenue,
W403
Towne Centre
Myerstown, PA 17067

Glen 'Bud' Mitstifer

202 Stone Ridge Village
Myerstown, PA 17067
(717) 866-3619

Joyce Mitstifer

202 Stone Ridge Village
Myerstown, PA 17067
(717) 821-1246

Joanne Ondrusek

101 Hearthstone Lane
Lebanon, PA 17042
(717) 277-5073

Kenneth Salem

Stoneridge Poplar Run
Room L37
Myerstown, PA 17067
(717) 866-3655

Jean Schlappich

520 N College St
Myerstown, PA 17067
(717) 866-6106

Barbara Shuey

1125 Birch Road Rm 217
LEBANON, PA 17042
(717) 849-1109

Ruthann Snoke

814 Kochenderfer Road
Lebanon, PA 17046
(717) 866-2755

Jean Uhrich

514 E Rosebud Rd
Myerstown, PA 17067
(717) 866-5002

Nancy VanDerHoof

7 W. Park Avenue, HC101
Towne Centre
Myerstown, PA 17067
(717) 866-3446

Bernard Webber

100 Tuck Ct., Tabor Cottage
Room 407 (Linden Village)
Lebanon, PA 17042
(717) 861-7353

David Wuori

L08 Stoneridge
Village Apartment
Myerstown, PA 17067
(717) 866-3607

Nancy Brown

39 Temple Rd
PO Box 264
Richland, PA 17087

Helen Rabold

604 N Goodwill St
Myerstown, PA 17067

Stella Heim

Juniper Village
158 Hearthstone Lane
Lebanon, PA 17042

Doris Shaak

363 Stone Ridge
440 E. Lincoln Ave
Myerstown, PA 17067



All-Church Christmas *Food Drive*

As we begin the Advent Season, you will notice Gift boxes displayed in front of the Communion Table. It is our hope that we can fill those boxes with food to deliver to local food banks. This pandemic has had a disastrous affect on many of the most vulnerable in our community, especially children. Food insecurity is rampant as we can see on the news with cars backed up for miles in lines to receive food. We can't provide for the whole nation, but we can do our part to ensure that families in

Lebanon County have the help they need to put food on the table. Here are the items needed from the LCCM wish list:

If you are able to contribute to this essential Ministry, please bring the items and place them in the Gift Boxes at the front of the Sanctuary, or bring them to the Church Office Tues. – Thurs. mornings. Let's help families in our community have the blessing of sufficient food during this difficult year!!

