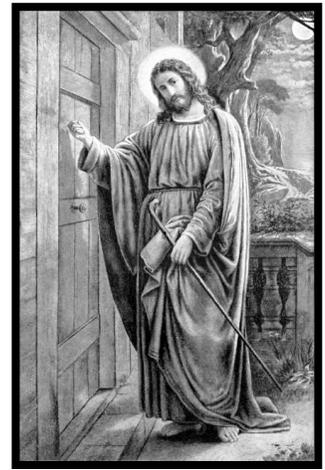


Pastor's Pen

December 2018

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. Isaiah 60:1 NIV*



No family that “keeps Christmas” has the exact same tradition. I think it’s safe to say, however, that many homes in our area are beginning the annual holiday transformation. Decorations are coming out of hiding. Trees are going up. We are getting ready for something. What?

When I was a boy, my parents gave our house a thorough cleaning just before Thanksgiving. They knew the dusting and vacuuming would become more difficult with the obstacle course of decorations. They also knew the time to do these chores in December would become limited. And there was *no way* we were going to entertain guests in a “dirty and disheveled house!” My parents even went to the trouble of dusting each ornament that came out of the attic boxes so that our tree made a perfect presentation.

Kathie and I plan to spend part of my vacation getting our own home ready. The traditions we pull out of our boxes will help us recall Christmases past and create new memories we’ll make this year. We want our home to be inviting to family and friends. But, over the years, it has become far more important to us that our home is ready to welcome and entertain Jesus, not the Joneses.

From 1851-1853 the British artist, William Holman Hunt, worked on a painting of Jesus standing before a large wooden door at night with a lantern in his hand. He called the painting, “The Light of the World.” Luke 2:7b and Revelation 3:20 were his inspiration: *She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn and I stand at the door and knock; anyone who hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in.* Holman Hunt wanted the viewer to think about the way Jesus, our Light, is welcome. Years later an American painter, Warner Sallman, created a similar painting that hangs in many churches today. Both Hunt and Sallman painted the door without a knob: it can only be opened from the inside.

Jesus wants to be our guest and make *our* home *his* home. Is that what we are preparing to do? There’s nothing wrong with wanting things to appear decent and orderly. And December is surely beautiful. Sometimes, though, I wonder if all the external appearances of our traditions are only there to mask the disorder and dishevelment of our hearts.

Picture Jesus at my door and yours some night this Advent. He wants to come in and spend Christmas with us. Will we hear him knock? Will we take the time to answer? Will we stay quiet and keep the lights low so he thinks we’re not home? And if we do open our door, will he feel welcome? Will we invite in whatever he brings?

Prayer

Welcome, Lord! I want you to be first priority. Let us spend some quality time together.

Make your home in my heart and in all places of my life. Amen. Joel



Saturday, December 8th, in our church parking lot from 5:30 to 7:30.

This is an all new take on a beloved tradition.

There will be live animals, a live baby Jesus and all your favorite Christmas cast.

We're hoping this ministry will bless both the church family as well as the Chambersburg community. Enter Elm Avenue via South Fourth. You'll be directed into the lot to view the Nativity. You will then continue through our lot and exit to Elm and onto South 6th Street to get you home.

Bring your family and tell your friends.

In case of inclement weather, the event will be canceled but we are hopeful! 😊

Sign-Up Sheets in the Narthex

*We as a church, our vision is to be a **Family of God Growing in Christ, Empowered to Serve.***

Advent Small Group Study

Pastor Joel will be leading a small group/Bible study on our Advent Theme, *All I Want for Christmas*. The study is based on a book by James Moore. It will meet in our sanctuary during the Sunday School hour on December 2nd, December 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th. Anyone, any age is welcome to attend.

Ad-vent (ad'vent´) *n.* [Latin > *ad-ventus*, waiting < Greek > *parousia*, official visit, presentation, arrival.] **1** a resetting of the clock for the Christian year **2** a SECOND COMING of hope and new beginnings **3** a season of preparation for the birth of our Savior **4** a time of waiting and expectancy, as a mother awaiting her unborn child **5** the 28 days preceding Christmas, used to reflect upon and rethink priorities **6** a period of self-examination that leads to repentance of sin and restoration of relationships.

Even though the stores and the television commercials are marching us right to the 25th of December, in the church we don't get to the manger without first going through Advent.

This year, our Advent team has chosen the *All I Want for Christmas* and it will have nothing to do with two front teeth! In this time of personal reflection and preparation, what do you really want to happen when you get to the manger? If God, who gave his only begotten Son, would send something along with him for you to open on Christmas morning, what would it be? In our four weeks in worship and Christmas Eve, here is what I'm going to focus on in our sermon time:

December 2: *Connection* – time spent with people who genuinely care
December 9: *Purpose* – a reason of living
December 16: *Serenity* – knowing everything is going to be okay
December 23: *Time* – just one moment more
December 24: *Relationship* – a deeper relationship with Jesus and one another

All worship services will be at 8:30 in the sanctuary, and 10:45 in the BLC.



Christmas Eve will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a music recital in our sanctuary, followed by a family-friendly traditional candlelight service at 7:00.

Our Christmas Eve service will be a family-friendly service, filled with carols and special music, a children's story, the preaching of God's Word, Holy Communion and, of course, the traditional candle lighting. Plan to bring your friends and family to celebrate the birth of Jesus together.

Message: *What Does God Want for Christmas?*

Camp Eder's 8th Annual Christmas Tree Festival

Friday and Saturday, December 7 & 8 / 5 pm- 9 pm

Cookies and Cocoa & Bake Sale

Kids Activities

Beautiful Decorated Trees

Holiday Music

Lights in the Woods

Live Christmas Message Painting with Dave Weiss

Luminaries in Honor of Those We Love

Turkey Dinner Meal & Soup (per donation)



Friday ONLY: Horse Drawn Carriage Rides By Carriages of the Capital

Saturday ONLY: Messiah College Piano & Violin Duet

Free and Open to the Public

Camp Eder, 914 Mt. Hope Road, Fairfield, PA

www.campeder.org



Shippensburg Church of the Brethren
Savvy Seniors Trip - May 3, 2019

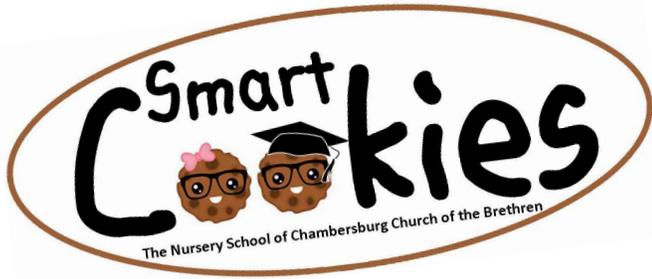
The Shippensburg Church of the Brethren is inviting anyone interested to their planned trip to Museum of the Bible in Washington, D. C. on Friday, May 3, 2019.

A \$20.00 deposit per person is required by December 7th, 2018 to hold your seat.

See the Bible come to life with a Hebrew Bible Walk-Through from Genesis to Revelation (lots of times and places to sit), see the World of Jesus of Nazareth and The New Testament Theater.

Cost is \$55.00 per person, excluding the gratuity for the bus driver. We will be traveling on Wolf's Bus Lines. The cost includes round trip transportation (from Shippensburg COB) and admission to the Museum of the Bible. Meals would be on your own.

Reservation forms are available in the Narthex.



SMART COOKIES NURSERY SCHOOL

Happy Fall! The end of October and most of November have been very busy months for our Nursery School. We have been continuing to learn our letters, numbers, shapes, and colors. We have been learning about Moses and significant times in his life. We have been discussing Thanksgiving and being thankful for what we have.

On October 31st, we had our Harvest Festival/ Halloween Party. The students had a great time dressing up and going around to different stations to collect treats. The Teacher Assistants did a great job working with them on a craft, playing a game, or telling a story. We all enjoyed a pizza party at lunchtime.

On November 9th, we took a field trip to the Franklin Firehouse. The students got to see what a firefighter looks like dressed in full gear, go inside fire trucks, and learn about fire safety. On November 19th, we had our Sharing Meal. The class performed a song for their parents and listened to the story "Stone Soup". Thank you again to all the assistants that came in to help us prepare, set up, and serve at the Sharing Meal. Everyone had a great time.

The students are now preparing for their Christmas Program. They are very excited for the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. We are looking forward to having a great December and a fantastic New Year.

We wish you all a happy and healthy Thanksgiving! We also wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Amy

December Events

- 4th- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 6th- National Mitten Day
- 17th- Nursery School Christmas Program 6:00 PM
- 21st - Polar Express Day/Early Dismissal at 12:30 PM
- Dec. 22nd- Jan 2nd- No School-Christmas/New Year Break

Youth Events

December

Note:

Due to the winter season, Please be advised that if Chambersburg Area School District is closed or is dismissed early due to weather conditions, REVOLUTION will NOT be in session.



- **REVOLUTION:** Come and join us for Worship, a youth message, small groups, games and great food! Don't forget to bring a friend and your Bible!
 - **December 5th**- Normal Youth Group
 - **December 12th** – Normal Youth Group
 - **December 19th** – Christmas Party
 - **December 26th** – No Revolution, due to Christmas Holiday.
- **Couple's Night Out!** The youth will be hosting a Couple's Night Out for couples and individuals of all ages. The night will begin on **Saturday, December 1th at 6:00pm (Snow Date: Sunday, December 2nd)**. Our special dinner will be served at 6:30pm in the Brethren Life Center. This fundraiser will be going towards 2022 National Youth Conference!
 - All youth who will be participating in this fundraiser will need to wear...
 - Boys: black pants with a black or white button down shirt (tie would be great!)
 - Girls: black skirt or pants and a white or black top (colorful scarf would be great!)
 - All youth will need to be at the church to help finish setting up the tables and helping with food prep by 5:00pm.
 - If any youth are interested in helping with food prep on Friday, November 30th at 4:00pm that would be a BIG help!! Please Let Jamie know that you will be showing up early to help.
 - Also, all youth parents are welcome to stay and help clean up after the evening is over. Thank you for all your help!!
- **Youth Christmas Party:** During Revolution (December 19th at 6:00pm), we will be having a Christmas party! We will be having Games, Pizza and Desserts! Come and join us as we celebrate Christmas!!



Revolution Presents...

The youth will be hosting a Couple's Night Out for couples and individuals of all ages.

The night will begin on Saturday, December 1st at 6:00pm and dinner will be served at 6:30pm in the Brethren Life Center.

Snow Date: Sunday, December 2nd.

There will be a reservation signup sheet in the BLC lobby and narthex. All participants must reserve their seats for this event. There is no set cost for this event but donations will be accepted at the end of the dinner. All donations will be going toward National Youth Conference 2022.

This will be the second year that we will be having Child Care. If you are interested in Child Care, please note that on the signup sheet. There is a fee of \$10 per child for this service.

Our Menu

Appetizer:

*Holiday Punch
Cranberry Turkey Pinwheels
Little Franks
Cheese Kabobs*

Salad:

Mixed Greens with Feta Cheese, Cranberries, Glazed Pecans with a Drizzle of Sweet and Sour Dressing

Main Course:

*Glazed Baked Ham, Au gratin Potatoes,
Roasted Vegetables and a Dinner Roll*

Dessert:

*Red Velvet Cake Roll
Coffee and Tea*



A special thanks to all who helped to make candy! Without your help, we could not do this. Thank you to all who ordered candy. We used over 300 lbs. of chocolate; dipped over 4,000 peanut butter balls; 720 chocolate covered pretzels, and over 500 boxes of candy! The proceeds will benefit Habitat for Humanity & Brethren Disaster Ministries.

---The Helping Hand Circle

We would like to thank our congregation for all the prayers, cards, and all the kind words to me and my family during the illness and passing of Ronald Hughes. The Pastors Joel & Liz were excellent at comforting and being there for us. We are truly blessed to be in this caring church. May God continue to bless all of us.

---Jane Hughes Family

Rhonda Deshong Family

Wendy Shanholtz Family

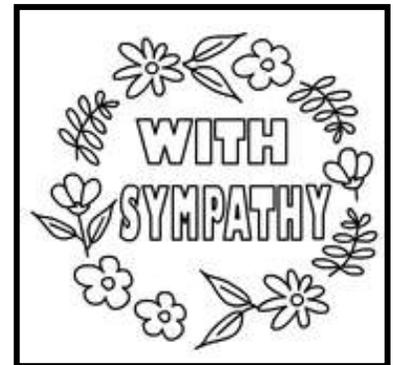


Thank You for your Habitat for Humanity focus.

Thanks so much to all those that participated and contributed to the Habitat for Humanity "little yellow house" fundraiser throughout the month of October. You all took the banks home and returned with \$2,200.32 in coins, bills and checks! This money along with the funds raised by the other 12 plus Chambersburg partnership churches will help with providing a home for our neighbors at 158 and 162 S Fourth Street.

An additional special thank you to the dozen volunteers who helped clean up at the build on October 6th. Habitat coordinators and the residents were impressed by all the time and hard work contributed.

---Thank you all for your Service Attitudes, Missions and Service Commission



Our Sympathy to:

Roy and Jeanne Monn and Family following the death of Roy's sister, Alice Louise Jones, on Sunday, November 18, 2018.

Betty Jane Hughes; Rhonda and Gary Deshong; Wendy Shanholtz and Families following the death of their husband and father, Ronald L. Hughes on Saturday, October 27, 2018.

Rick Ashcraft and Family following the death of his son, Matthew R. Ashcraft on Thursday, October 25, 2018.



Library News - December

Slow down and take time to read one of your Christmas favorites from our library shelves.

“Merry Reading from the Library Staff”☺

Chambersburg Church of the Brethren
invites you to:

Mid – Week Connection
Wednesday, January 2, 2019
Meal served at 5:30 p.m.

Menu: BBQ Sandwiches



Come join us for our BINGO night!

260 South Fourth Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201
717-264-6957

Mid-Week Connection's purpose is connecting our Brethren family to the community through fellowship and service.

KidNecton

**Due to the winter season,
Please be advised that if
Chambersburg Area School District is
closed or is dismissed early due to
weather conditions,
KidNecton will NOT be in session.**

KidNecton: For Children Pre-K (age 4) thru 5th grade. Come and join us on **Thursday, December 13th**, and will continue every 2nd Thursday of the month. We will be meeting in the Brethren Life Center for Worship, Bible Study, Games, and a Craft!!

Chambersburg Church of the Brethren
invites you to:

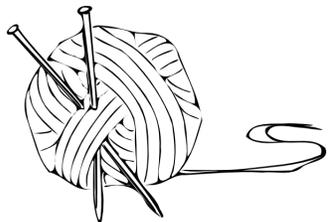
Mid-Week Connection
Wednesday, December 6, 2018
Meal served at 5:30 p.m.

Menu: Roast Beef, Mac-n-Cheese, Dessert



**Selections from
Chambersburg Church
of the Brethren
Chancel Choir and Christmas Carols**

Mid-Week Connection's purpose is connecting our Brethren family to the community through fellowship and service.



KNIT FOR KIDS

We just received a "thank you" from **Knit for Kids**. We recently sent 16 hats and 10 blankets.

So far this year, they have shipped handmade item(s) to Afghanistan, Bosnia, Burundi, Chicago, Costa Rica, Dallas, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Bronx, NY, Niger, Pacific Northwest, Swaziland and Zambia.

We are currently in need of hats, gloves/mittens and school-aged children's blankets knit, crochet or fleece (size 36 in. by 42 in.). Of course, you can continue to send in your handmade sweaters! We are always in need of sweaters.

Questions?? Contact Linda Gorman at 717-375-4183 or ruglady@comcast.net.



Serving Our Neighbor (S.O.N.)

Your continued support of donations for serving our neighbors deserves a Thank YOU! It has been a great success throughout the year as we have collected and gave out many items at our monthly Midweek program.

During December and January, we will be collecting: hats, gloves/mittens and scarves for men, women and children. These donations will be given out at both January and February Midweek nights. As always we appreciate your help in Serving Our Neighbors with these generous donations



For The Kids News

Until December 8, 2018 you can view and bid on a 3 foot decorated Christmas Tree at the Festival of Trees Chambersburg. You will find Trees at the following businesses: The Garage Studios, The Foundry, Gartenberg Jewelry, Kristtany Tea, Another Man's Treasure, Here's Looking at You, Merle Norman Cosmetic Studio, The Gift Enclosure, Toy Box Gifts & Wonder, Pompy's Best View Barber Shop, The Falafel Shack, and Molly's Pitcher Waffle Shop.

For the Kids has supplied the Tree and the Business has decorated it. You can view each and make a bid if you like. The top bidder will receive a call on December the 8th.

All funds raised will be given to non-profit agencies that support children in our area. We are looking for new members. Talk to Lora Bucher or just join us at our next regular meeting on January 14, 2019 at 5:30. We meet at Perkins Restaurant on LWE.

--Lora Bucher



VOLUNTEER BELL RINGERS NEEDED!

Ring a bell...help change a life

Salvation Army Red Kettle Project

Missions and Service Commission is sponsoring an opportunity to serve and share with the Salvation Army. Our congregation will again ring the bell for the Red Kettle Project at the Chambersburg Sunnyway on Friday and Saturday, December 14th and December 15th from 11:00 am to 7:00pm. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex and sign-up for an hour.



Franklin County Jail Ministry Holiday Family Connection

For those incarcerated, the upcoming holiday season offers promises of despair and guilt. They have disappointed their families. Their separation adds to their sense of failure. To overcome these dreary promises with the joyful promises of God, the Franklin County Jail Ministry is creating the Holiday Family Connection.

During the days just prior to Christmas, when an inmate's child visits, the inmate will be able to tell their child there is a gift waiting for them that the child can choose. In this way the parent will have the joy of providing a gift for their child.

You can help this happen.



We are asking for churches and individuals to purchase either a sports ball (soccer ball, football, etc.) or stuffed animal. Gifts should be less than \$15. Gifts may be dropped off at Salem United Brethren Church, 4349 Letterkenny Road, Chambersburg (263-4123) December 10-14, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Do Not Wrap the Gifts.
(Please, no used toys)

The chaplain and jail staff will oversee the distribution. If you have questions, contact Chaplain Isaac Burkholder at the Jail, 264-9513, ext. 21663.



Church Yard Sale

**Dates: Friday, January 18, 2019
Saturday, January 19, 2019**

Place: Brethren Life Center

**Time: Friday: 9:00 AM thru 3:00 PM
Saturday: 8:00 AM thru 12 noon**

Please **DO NOT** bring the following items for the Yard Sale: Electronics, televisions, computers, computer monitors, encyclopedias, and textbooks.

Items can be brought to the church Monday through Thursday the week of the sale. Please make sure clothing is clean and in good condition and that other items are in good working order and will provide good service to our neighbors.

Drop Off
January 14-17 (M-TH) 9 AM - 3 PM
January 16 (W) 5 PM - 8 PM

We need your help on Wednesday and Thursday (January 16 and 17) to set the items on the tables and Friday and Saturday to assist shoppers or help in the kitchen. Please prayerfully consider helping to make this another successful Yard Sale.

Professional Artists Series
at Cross Keys Village

Hershey Handbell Ensemble
Saturday, December 15, 7:00 P.M.
Nicarry Meetinghouse



Save the Date!!



Attention Ladies!

Mark your Calendars
for our Annual Woman's Retreat.

May 31st – June 2nd, 2019 at Camp Eder

Guest Speaker to be Announced Soon!!

Reminder of our church office hours

8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. – Monday thru Friday - 12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Closed for lunch



DECEMBER

- 1 Couple's Night Out at 6:00 p.m. in Brethren Life Center
- 2 SNOW DATE for Couple's Night Out
- 3 Pickleball at 6:30 p.m. in the Brethren Life Center
- 4 Worship & Music Commission Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room
Christian Education Commission Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Library
- 5 Pickleball at 8:30 a.m. in the Brethren Life Center
Mid-Week Connection Meal at 5:30 p.m. – Christmas selections from Chancel Choir and Christmas Carols
Hand Bell Rehearsal at 6:00 p.m.
Revolution at 6:00 p.m. in Sanctuary
Chancel Choir Rehearsal at 7:15 p.m.
- 6 Table Games at 1:00 p.m. in Brethren Haus
- 8 **Drive-Thru Live Nativity in Church Parking Lot – 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**
- 9 Searchers Sunday School Class Christmas Dinner at home of John & Margie Diller
- 10 Church Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room
Pickleball at 6:30 p.m. in Brethren Life Center
- 11 Missions & Service Commission Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room
Helping Hands Circle Christmas Party at the home of Margie Diller at 6:00 p.m. Bring a finger food!
- 12 Pickleball at 8:30 a.m. in Brethren Life Center
Revolution at 6:00 p.m. in Sanctuary
Hand Bell Rehearsal at 6:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal at 7:15 p.m.
- 13 Loving Hearts Christmas Luncheon at 12 Noon in Brethren Life Center
Table Games at 1:00 p.m. in Brethren Haus
KidNecton at 6:30 p.m. in the Brethren Life Center
Believers Class Prayer Group at 7:00 p.m. in Brethren Haus
- 14 Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringing at Chambersburg Sunnyway - 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringing at Chambersburg Sunnyway - 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Smart Cookies Nursery School Christmas Program at 6:00 p.m. in Brethren Life Center
- 19 Pickleball at 8:30 a.m. in the Brethren Life Center
Revolution Christmas Party at 6:00 p.m. in Brethren Life Center
Hand Bell Rehearsal at 6:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal at 7:15 p.m.
- 20 Table Games at 1:00 p.m. in Brethren Haus
- 24 **Christmas Eve Worship – Pre-Service Music 6:30 p.m. – Worship 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**
- 25 **Merry Christmas!! – Office Closed**
- 26 **Merry Christmas!! – Office Closed**



- 1 **Happy New Year! – Office Closed**
- 2 **Mid-Week Connection - Meal at 5:30 p.m. with Bingo!**
- 3 Properties Commission Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room
- 6 **January/February Combined Newsletter Deadline**
- 10 KidNecton at 6:30 p.m. in Brethren Life Center & Mini-Fellowship Hall
- 18 **Church Yard Sale – 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in Brethren Life Center**
- 19 **Church Yard Sale – 8:00 a.m. – 12 Noon in Brethren Life Center**