



Pastor's Pen

January/February 2019

*Wait for the Lord;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord.* Ps. 27:14

If you were in worship on January 6th, then you heard some of this already. I notice things. I notice Christmas decorations. I noticed this year during December that one home in Chambersburg had one of those lighted nativity scenes – the kind that was common in the 60's and 70's. There were Mary and Joseph side-by-side; I'm remembering an angel and some shepherds too. What I particularly noticed about this nativity, however, was that the baby Jesus was missing!

At first, I thought the homeowners didn't put Jesus in the manger scene intentionally, opting to put him out on the lawn on Christmas Eve. I did that once when I was a pastor at Gettysburg: I set up the sanctuary nativity, and each week I added more characters to the scene but kept the baby Jesus in the box until Christmas Eve.

I thought surely this lighted Jesus would appear on Monday night on my way to our Christmas Eve service. As I rounded the corner I was eagerly expecting to see him. To my surprise, Mary and Joseph and an angel stood as silent sentries still waiting for the Lord to show up. As far as I know (we went out of town Christmas morning and didn't come home until Thursday night), this baby Jesus never did arrive for Christmas. Did someone steal him earlier in the month? Was he vandalized or in an otherwise state of disrepair? I don't know.

Two lessons came out of this nativity: the first thing I learned is the importance of waiting. I know Mary and Joseph were only made of plastic; still, their gaze never left the place where the manger should have been. They were in a constant state of readiness. Sometimes I drop my guard and miss the wonderful things that Father intends to do in my life. Sometimes I find myself giving up whenever I think Jesus is a no-show. I need to do more of that the Psalm says – “be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.”

But a second thing that crossed my mind as I looked at this Christmas decoration sans God's only begotten Son is this: What if, for some reason, Jesus hadn't come? As the poet, Ann Weems, has said, if Jesus doesn't come, there is no Bethlehem star, no Wise Men searching, no angels singing. If Jesus doesn't come, there is no shepherd rejoicing, no reconciliation for the Prince of all Peace, no goodwill toward others, no Wonderful Counselor. If Jesus doesn't come there is no conquering temptation, sin and death; there are no miracles, no sight to the blind or new flesh for the leper. There is no walking on water, no leap of faith and nothing to catch us when we are drowning. Most important of all, if Jesus doesn't come, there is no cross, no forgiveness of sin, no hope for eternity.

I don't know about you, but I'm so glad he came. And maybe next year the homeowners will have what we're all waiting for.

Prayer

Lord, regardless of what external factors may tell me, I believe in my heart that you will show up and bring clarity and calm to whatever circumstance I face. In fact, I believe you are already here. And so I wait expectantly for you to make your manger in my heart. Amen.

Joel

Brethren Bits

The Church of the Brethren is growing in surprising ways, with seeds blowing across the world. The Great Lakes region of Africa (Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo) is seeking a holistic gospel of peace and reconciliation. Outreach there includes agricultural projects, trauma healing workshops, and church constructions. At the same time, interest grows in Venezuela, where groups are attracted to Brethren beliefs and practices. And Dominican Brethren who planted the church in Spain have now started a group in London. A new statement on global mission is guiding the development of these autonomous Brethren bodies, who are seeking mutual encouragement, sharing resources, and supporting each other's efforts.

Being in community is an essential part of the gospel for Brethren.

We work things out in big gatherings like Annual Conference, where we can greet brothers and sisters face to face, and we also meet across the miles through MESSENGER magazine and many forms of online media. We travel far from home to serve others, and while we're serving we also grow together in faith. When one part of the body suffers because of a natural disaster or violence, the whole body suffers. We meet in conferences like Mission Alive to learn what the church looks like in different places and to deepen our commitment to Christian witness. We gather in community because we believe that is what God calls us to do.

District wide men's event

Saturday – February 23, 2019

MAN 2 MAN Workshop

Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren
301 Gale St. Mechanicsburg, PA

Living as a Man of Christ in Divisive Times

Guest Speaker: Larry Dentler
Pastor at Bermudian COB

7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Registration

8:10 – 8:55 Welcome and Session I

9:00 – 9:50 Breakfast

10:00 – 12 noon Sessions 2 & 3

\$16.00 Registration Fee

Checks payable in advance to SOPA District
6035 York Rd. New Oxford, PA 17350

If you would like to attend, see Joel
for a registration form.

BIG IDEAS –

THE NOT-SO-BIG CHURCH

by Wendy Mc Fadden

This is a brand new book published by Brethren Press. It is based on the Church of the Brethren video report which premiered at the 2018 Annual Conference. This video was shown during our morning worship services in mid-July.

This pocket-sized book, wonderfully illustrated by Crighton Berman, appeals to all ages and helps give insight as to who the Brethren are and what our ministry is about. A copy of McFadden's book will be placed in our library for you to check out.

A Child-Parent Dedication Service
will be held during the 10:45 P.E.R.K.
service on Sunday, January 20th.
If you would like to have your child(ren)
dedicated, please talk with Pastor Joel.

SERMON SERIES THROUGH LENT
Jesus - Man on a Mission
A study of the Gospel of Mark



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

- **KidNnection:** For Children Pre-K (age 4) thru 5th grade. Come and join us on Thursday, February 14th, and will continue every 2nd Thursday of the month. We will be meeting in the BLC for Worship, Bible Story, Games and a Craft!!

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

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Summit Health along with the Mental Health Association of Franklin and Fulton Counties is offering a Suicide Prevention workshop for area church members on Tuesday, January 29 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at First Lutheran Church; 43 West Washington Street; Chambersburg, PA 17201. Questions? Contact First Lutheran 717-264-2015.



SMART COOKIES NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Happy Winter! December has been a very busy month for our Nursery School. We have been continuing to learn our letters, numbers, shapes, and colors. We also have started to learn about syllables, writing our names, and graphing. In December, we learned about the Birth of Jesus. For January and February, we will be looking at the lives of Ruth, David, and Daniel.

On December 17th, we had our Christmas Program. The students did a great job performing “The ABC’s of Christmas”, singing Christmas Carols, etc. They also had a visit with Santa Claus, which everyone enjoyed.

On December 19th, we had our Polar Express/Pajama Day. We wore our pajamas to school, took a ride on the Polar Express, had chocolate milk and cookies, watched the “Polar Express” movie, and did many other exciting activities.

On December 21st we had our Christmas Party and gift exchange. After a very busy week before Christmas we all enjoyed our break.

For January we have 2 field trips to look forward to! The month of February we will be busy celebrating the 100th Day of School, Valentine’s Day, Groundhog Day, and Dr. Seuss’s birthday.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Amy

January Events

- 9th- Field Trip to Wilson School of Gymnastics and Dance
- 21st- No School-MLK Jr. Day
- 25th- Field Trip to Coyle Library

February Events

- 2nd- Groundhog Day
- 11th- 100th Day of School
- 13th- Valentine’s Day Party
- 15th-18th- No School
- 25th-March 1st- Read Across America/Dr. Seuss Week



Youth Events

January/February

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: Wednesday, January 16th, 23rd, and 30th at 6:00pm till 8:00pm.** 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!!
- **Yard Sale Set Up:** We will set up during our Revolution Time (Wednesday 16th) at **6:00 to 8:00pm**. This event will help with our Youth Fundraising for our future events.
- **Yard Sale Clean Up:** We will be cleaning up on Saturday 19th. We will be meeting in the BLC at 12:00pm for lunch and will begin to clean up shortly afterwards. If any youth parents are interested in helping, it would be greatly appreciated!

February

- **REVOLUTION: Wednesday, February 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th at 6:00pm till 8:00pm.** Come and join us for Our New Workshops! Afterwards will be having games and great food! Don't forget to bring a friend!
- **Winter Slam:** We will be meeting at the church on Friday February 1st at 5:30pm and will be returning on Sunday February 3rd at 2:30pm (**time correction**). Please fill out the following information attached with activity fees by January 16th.
 - Winter Slam Parental Permission Slip
 - Hidden Valley Snow Tubing Release and Waiver Agreement
 - Activity Registration
 - Fee for Hidden Valley Activity

Brethren Disaster Ministries Program Volunteer and Construction Assistant needed for Puerto Rico Disaster Response

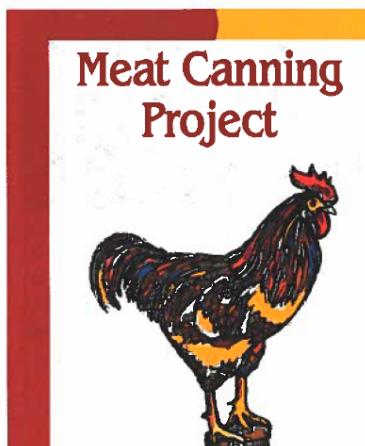
Two Spanish and English-speaking long-term volunteers or contract workers are needed to support the Brethren Disaster Ministries project in Puerto Rico, starting in 2019. These are exciting and critical roles necessary for the home rebuilding project in PR to continue.

Program Volunteer: The right person will provide Spanish and English translation that supports the project by communicating with the clients we serve, the local church and other partners. The volunteer/contractor will be part of the project leadership team providing support to short term volunteers, coordinating the volunteer household, transporting volunteers to the airport, and providing administrative support for the project. This role can also be shared by the right married couple. Ideal start would be February 2019.

Construction Assistant: The right person will provide Spanish and English translation that supports the project by communicating with the clients we serve, vendors, volunteers and other partners. The volunteer/contractor will be part of the project leadership team providing translation, completing construction work, coordinating materials, and transporting volunteers as needed. Ideal start would be January 2019.

A minimum term will be 4 months for both positions, but a longer term is preferred.

For Position Descriptions for the roles, please contact Carol in the Church Office. For more information please contact Jenn Dorsch-Messler 410-635-8737 or jdorsch-messler@brethren.org



Meat Canning Project 2019

The 2019 Meat Canning, sponsored by Southern PA District and Mid-Atlantic Districts of the Church of the Brethren, will be held 7 days in April. Chambersburg Church of the Brethren will need six volunteers to go on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 and Tuesday, April 30, 2019. Please consider volunteering on those days. If you can help, please contact Jerry Moore.



Thank You to all who ate at Hoss's Steak and Sea House on Sunday, November 18th to benefit our Smart Cookies Nursery School. We raised \$207.24 plus \$30.00 in donations. We appreciate your support!

--Smart Cookies Nursery School Committee

I just wanted to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, and assistance during my recent illness. I am in remission again and so appreciate my church family for all they do. I do ask for your prayers for my daughter, Megan (many of you know her children Mackenzie and Elliott). She was recently diagnosed with lung cancer. I sincerely appreciate you keeping her in your daily prayers.

--Mimi Kelly

A note of appreciation for all efforts of those involved in orchestrating the "Live Nativity." As I was standing there watching the faces of the spectators weaving through our parking lot, a thought crossed my mind - "Wouldn't it be great if we were known in the community as the church that has the 'Live Nativity' each year?"

Thank you to each of you.

--Linda Remson

Thank you to all those who donated the gift cards and money to be given out to attendees at December's Midweek Connection on December 5th. Over 50 gift cards were handed out that evening. An ongoing thank you for your continued generosity of our S.O.N program. You are truly serving our neighbors.

Thanks so much,

---Midweek Connection Committee

I want to thank the church for the beautiful poinsettia that the Moore's gave me.

Bless you all.

--Mabel Hawbaker

Wishing everyone a New Year full of God's Love and Grace. Thank you's to: All those wonderful people who have made our Christmas and year bright - The Nativity group, Choir, Band, Groups that sing, cards sent and love displayed. For being our prayer warriors. God has blessed us. Our Church family and Friends, we love you.

--Bob & Gail Appenzellar

A very warm and heartfelt thank you to everyone who, through prayer and participation, helped make our Drive Through Live Nativity a successful ministry! Those of you who served as actors, set luminaries, helped direct traffic, prepared and served the snacks in the kitchen, photography, organized the costume changes or constructed the barn and scene all came together for one awesome two hours and God was glorified. A special thanks to Bro. Joel Nupp for providing our nativity with the animals we all enjoyed.

---Pastor Joel

Thank you to all the volunteers for their diligent work in both decorating and tearing down over the Christmas season. May God bless your willingness to serve Christ and our church.

--The Christmas Committee

A special thanks to all those who participated in the Salvation Army Red Kettle Project bell ringing at Sunnyway Market on December 14 and 15. This is for both bell ringers and contributors. Sixteen church members generously donated an hour or so of their time over the course of that Friday and Saturday. An additional thank you to all those who visited and contributed while our church members were there. During that time \$294.46 was donated on the 14th and \$1500.08 was donated on the 15th. For a total of \$1794.54. This was all greatly appreciated as the funds raised will go a long way in helping the Salvation Army serve the community. This will help change lives.

Thank you,

---Missions and Service Commission



Our Sympathy to:

Lois Black and Family following the death of her brother, Harry D. Black, Jr. on Tuesday, December 18, 2018.

The Family of Cora S. Crunkleton following her death on Tuesday, December 11, 2018.

Betty Jane Hughes and Family following the death of her brother Garnet Reasner, Jr. on Tuesday, December 11, 2018.

Chambersburg Church of the Brethren
invites you to:
Mid – Week Connection
Wednesday, February 6, 2019
Meal served at 5:30 p.m.

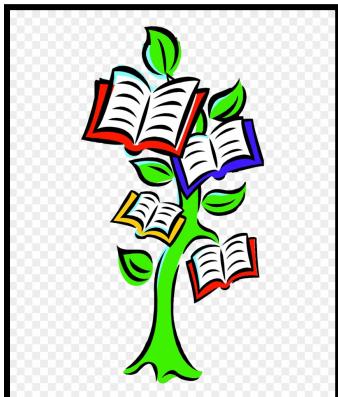
**Menu: Pizza, Carrots & Celery with Dip,
Ice-Cream**



Acts 1:18 Youth Ministry
Chambersburg Baptist Church

Christian skit called *Mirror, Mirror*
directed by Pastor Neil.

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



January Library News

Fiction

Sweetbriar Cottage by Denise Hunter
Across The Blue by Carrie Turansky
The Weaver's Daughter by Sarah Ladd
Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate

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

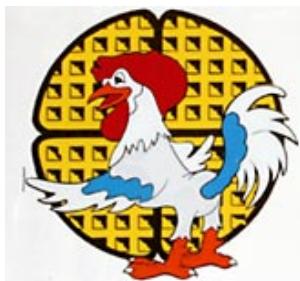


Chili Cook Off
Saturday, February 23, 2019

All are welcome to bring a crock pot full of your favorite chili or just come and enjoy taste testing. During this fellowship event, we will vote who has the best original, hottest and weirdest chili! The people who win will receive an award.

All toppings, paper products, dessert and drinks will be provided by the church.

**Chambersburg Church of the
Brethren**
**260 South Fourth Street,
Chambersburg**
717-264-6957



Chicken & Waffle Dinner

**March 16, 2019
(Snow Date March 23, 2019)**

4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**Free-Will Offering
To Benefit
Southern PA District Meat Canning**

No reservations needed



Serving Our Neighbor (S.O.N.)

Serving Our Neighbors (S.O.N.) will be collecting during the month of February non-perishable breakfast items such as cereal, breakfast bars and oatmeal packets. Place all items in the blue collection containers and we will distribute at the March and April Mid-Week meal.



For The Kids News

Icefest brings the ARTFEST. Again it will be at the OLD Jail. Get out of the cold and watch local artists create their art. Then come back around 4 and bid on your favorite piece. Be careful taking it home as it may still be wet. You will love it for years to come.

Also, coming up is the Taste of the Valley! - April 2 is this year's date--lots of food and items to bid on. Lora Bucher will have tickets soon. We of course will accept nice items for our Silent and Oral Auctions. (Please inform Lora ahead of time.)

Come for a nice, fun & yummy evening.

--Lora Bucher

Can you help?

Ride to Church Needed

Fern Bosserman who lives at The Towers, 200 North Main Street, Chambersburg is looking for a ride to the 10:45 a.m. worship service on Sundays. If interested in providing her transportation, please contact the church office at 717-264-6957.

CHURCH NEWS

Helping Hands Circle 2018 Accomplishments

The Helping Hands Circle members completed several outreach projects and fund raisers for the church and the community last year. Among the accomplishments:

- Assembled 20 care packages and mailed to college students
- Prepared 54 hygiene kits and delivered to Church World Service for distribution
- Visited 16 church members who are shut-ins and delivered goodie bags
- Made 50 pillows delivered to the hospital for women recovering from breast cancer surgery
- Baked and delivered 88 bags of cookies for the Truck Stop Ministry at Christmas
- Prepared and served a banquet for 100 people for the Susquehanna Valley Ministry
- Supported Cross Keys Village Annual Barbeque and the Brethren Disaster Relief Auction with monetary donations.
- Made and sold LOTS of boxes of candy that benefitted Habitat for Humanity and the Brethren Disaster Relief Fund. Each entity received over \$1,290 from the candy sales.
- Hosted a craft night that raised \$180 for the Brethren Disaster Relief Fund.

The Circle meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Mini-Fellowship Hall at 6:30 pm. We welcome any ladies of the church who would like to join. The first meeting of the year will be January 15 to plan 2019's activities. Contact Linda Hawbaker or Carol Wingert for more information or for questions.



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.

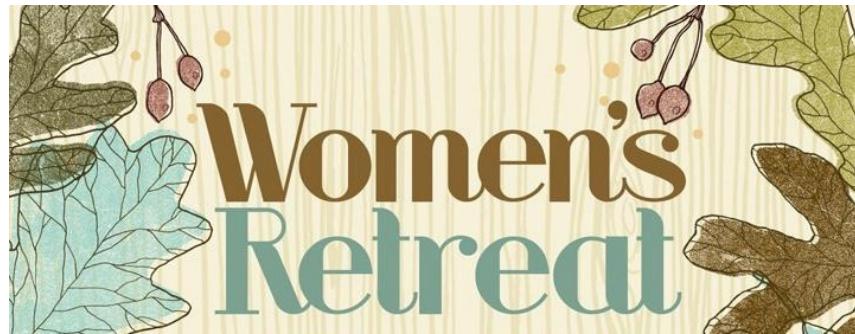
Items can be brought to the church Monday through Thursday the week of the sale. Please make sure clothing is clean and in good condition and that other items are in good working order and will provide good service to our neighbors.

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

If you need help getting your items to the church call Don Berger at 717-377-4641 to arrange pick-up.

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.

Save the Date!!



Attention Ladies!

Mark your Calendars
for our Annual Woman's Retreat.

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

Guest Speaker is Leslie McKee from
Chambersburg.

Our topic is “Leaving Our Mark”

*We are taking a look at how our lives imprint or
leave a mark on those
within our realm of influence.
What is your legacy you will leave behind?*

Registration coming this March!



- 14 Deacons Commission Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room
 Pickleball at 6:30 p.m. in Brethren Life Center
 15 Helping Hands Circle Planning Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in MFH
 16 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.
 17 Table Games at 1:00 p.m. in Brethren Haus
18 Church Yard Sale from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in BLC
19 Church Yard Sale from 8:00 a.m. until 12 Noon in BLC
 21 Pickleball at 6:30 p.m. in Brethren Life Center
 23 Pickleball at 8:30 a.m. in the 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.
 24 Table Games at 1:00 p.m. in Brethren Haus
 28 Pickleball at 6:30 p.m. in Brethren Life Center
 30 Pickleball at 8:30 a.m. in the 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.

- 1-3 Youth Winter Slam at Hidden Valley Ski Resort**
 4 Pickleball at 6:30 p.m. in Brethren Life Center
 5 Worship & Music Commission Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room
 Christian Education Commission Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Library
 6 Pickleball at 8:30 a.m. in Brethren Life Center
Mid-Week Connection at 5:30 p.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.
 7 Table Games at 1:00 p.m. in Brethren Haus
 11 Pickleball at 6:30 p.m. in Brethren Life Center
 Church Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room
 13 Pickleball at 8:30 a.m. in the 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.
 14 Table Games at 1:00 p.m. in Brethren Haus
 KidNect at 6:30 p.m. in Brethren Life Center & Mini-Fellowship Hall
17 Special Offering for District Meat Canning
Deadline for March Newsletter
 18 Pickleball at 6:30 p.m. in Brethren Life Center
 19 Helping Hand Circle Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in M.F.H.
 Missions & Service Commission Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room
 20 Pickleball at 8:30 a.m. in the 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.
 21 Table Games at 1:00 p.m. in Brethren Haus
23 Chili Cook-Off at 5:00 p.m. in Brethren Life Center
24 Special Offering for District Meat Canning
 25 Pickleball at 6:30 p.m. in Brethren Life Center
 Smart Cookies Nursery School Committee Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room
 27 Pickleball at 8:30 a.m. in the 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.
 28 Table Games at 1:00 p.m. in Brethren Haus

