

December 2019

The Pastor's Pen...

*Arise, shine for your light has come
and the glory of the Lord shines over you.*

Isaiah 60:1 CSB



Light is a significant part of celebrating the birth of Jesus who called himself the Light of the World. We light trees, Advent wreaths, candles and any number of things to symbolize our faith in the coming light that "pierces the darkness."

November 11 was an unseasonably mild day in Chambersburg. Kathie and I took advantage of the warmer temperatures and put strings of lights on the shrubbery in front of our house, put up the annual lawn nativity, and focused the spotlights that will illuminate the Christ Child and the wreath on our front door.

We gave them a trial lighting that night to make sure all the bulbs from last year still work. However, we don't intend to display them (unlike our early bird neighbors) until Thanksgiving because that's "tradition." NO CHRISTMAS LIGHTS UNTIL THANKSGIVING. Were you raised that way too? 😊

On Saturday, November 16th, Kathie was visiting our grandchildren and drove through the little town of Ulster, PA in Bradford County. She noticed that nearly every home along the main thoroughfare was lit up and decorated for the holidays. Some of them displayed signs saying, "Praying for you, Ariaiah." "Ariaiah, we fight with you." Naturally, Kathie wondered about the Hallmark appearance of Ulster and who Ariaiah was.

It turns out that Ariaiah is a seven-year old girl from Ulster who has been diagnosed with a rare childhood disease. Her prognosis, unfortunately, is not very good. Ariaiah loves Christmas lights. And the whole community has come together around this little girl's passion, defying tradition and gaily lighting up the homes and streets of Ulster in support of her.

The disciple, John, said that in Jesus is life and the light of that life shines in the darkness. It will not be timid; it will not be hidden; it will not take "no" for an answer. (John 1:4-5) The facts are, when the Light of the World came, he upended the traditional thinking of the day, being born in a stable, announcing his presence

to a ragtag group of shepherds and living to love and serve the broken, sick and humble people that are important to God
– in other words, the Arians among us.

So maybe you might put up your decorations a little earlier than tradition warrants this year and let your light shine, as Jesus told his followers to do. And if anyone asks you why the rush, just tell them you're doing it for the Lord and for Arian this year.

Advent blessings!

Joel



Advent 2019 Sermon Titles

Dec. 1 Genesis 1:1-5

Luke 1:26-38

Let There be Light!

Dec. 8 Luke 1:5-25

I Must Have Blown a Bulb

Dec. 15 Isaiah 11:1-5

Matt. 2:1-12

That's Some Tree Topper!

Dec. 22 Luke 2:8-14

*When the Lights are On
and Somebody's Home*

Dec. 24 John 1:1-5

Luke 2:1-20

*Rearranging the Furniture
to Make Room for the Tree*

**Just LOOK at What's Available
for You and Your Family in December!**

December 1st is the First Sunday of Advent. Our theme this year is *Embracing the Light*. In addition to all the beautiful decorations we've come to enjoy, each worship service will feature someone from the Christmas Story to light our way to the manger – The Holy Spirit, Zechariah and Elizabeth, the Magi, the Shepherds and, on Christmas Eve, Mary and Joseph. We'll have wonderful music, a meditation on the Word and things for you to ponder in your hearts.

From Dec. 1 thru January 6 you can read the **daily devotional** that is written this year for the Church of the Brethren by Pastor Frank Ramirez. Copies of *Ready* (Brethren Press) will be available for you to take home free of charge, beginning Nov. 24th. A few large print editions will also be available.



Saturday, December 7th is our ***Evening in December*** (formerly Couples Night Out). Hosted by our Youth, the event kicks off at 6 PM and is wonderful night for adults and friends in our

family to enjoy a scrumptious holiday meal and great fellowship around the table. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex and BLC Lobby.



Saturday, December 14th is our Second Annual Drive Thru **Live Nativity**. You and your friends/neighbors/family can drive your car from South Fourth to Elm Avenue, enter our parking lot as directed, and view the manger scene complete with live animals, a choir and all the biblical characters – all from the warmth of your car/truck. Have a snack on us and take a picture out the window if you want to! See you there any time between 5:30-7:30 PM.



Friday, December 20th we are holding a **Longest Night Service** in our sanctuary at 6:30 PM. This time of year can be stressful. Some people are affected by the scarcity of light. Many just need to tend their spirits in the midst of holiday planning. **We have a 45-50 minute worship service planned that will allow you to renew, breathe and go into that "dark night" with the Light of the World and the hope it brings.** Come reflect, listen, engage and re-commit. You'll still have time to get some of the "last minute" things done that night.

Sunday, December 22nd during the 8:30 AM service of worship in our sanctuary we will have our **Time of Remembrance** for those in our church family who went to the Lord since Christmas of 2018. All of the poinsettias you purchased will be fashioned into the **Tree of Life** and consecrated in this time of remembering.



And don't forget...

Tuesday, December 24th is **Christmas Eve on 4th Street**. Come at 6:30 PM and hear **seasonal sounds** from our gifted church musicians. The **family service** will begin at 7:00. Carols, story, meditation, candlelight and holy communion will all be part of our celebration of the birth of Jesus and the true Light that has come into the world. Glo sticks and a special snack will be available for young children to use during the communion and candle lighting portions of the service.

2020 Yard Sale.....

Yes, it is time to evaluate your "STUFF", as the Yard Sale will soon be here. MARK your calendars January 17 & 18, 2020 is the date!!! As you set

items aside to donate, please be sure clothing is clean and in good condition. Other items should also be clean and in good working condition, so they will provide good service to our neighbors.

Electronics, TV's, computer monitors, encyclopedias, and Textbooks should NOT be donated. (Talk to Staples to recycle your electronics (not TV's).

We will need your help!!! Yes, to donate items but also to set up and assist in the kitchen. Set up will begin Wednesday evening at 5:30 and continue on Thursday (most of the day). Help is also needed during the sale in the kitchen and to assist shoppers or be sure things are safe. Of course your prayers will also be a blessing.

Questions?? contact: Lora Bucher, Carol Koons or Phyllis Kegerreis

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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 9th-13th 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.

What's that We're Doing?

We are facing a dilemma. The audio, visual, and lighting (AVL) systems in place in the Brethren Life Center (BLC) are reaching the end of their useful life for worship and are not capable of supporting new initiatives like the live streaming of the service. For example, even with the lights completely on, it is difficult for people sitting in the PERK service to see things like facial expressions on Pastor Joel during the message. If human eyes are having trouble seeing these things, a camera has no chance.

In some cases, the necessary systems don't exist in our building today. In other cases, over the last two years we have had components fail requiring replacement. The equipment we do have in the BLC was installed 17 years ago when it was built in 2002. In 2002, VHS tapes were still the dominant video rental format, YouTube did not exist, HDTV was rare in homes, and live streaming was experimental. The first iPhone wasn't even invented until 2007. A lot has changed in 17 years!

Seeing the need for new systems, I began researching products and talking with different AVL professionals to gather options and ideas. During a site visit with one company, they asked the following question: Does the church ever see the possibility of using one worship space for both services?

Why did they ask that question? Well, this company has seen several churches invest in upgrading one of their worship spaces just to turn around a few years later and move all services to a different room, essentially wasting money. Wanting to be a good steward of our church's resources, I felt we should try to answer their question before moving in any direction.

So, I brought the question to the Music and Worship Commission. After some discussion, Music and Worship felt the question was important and forwarded it to the Board for guidance. The Board requested that Music and Worship generate a list of benefits for one worship space and a list of requirements for one space to work well for both services. The Board reviewed these lists and created an ad hoc "Feasibility Committee." This committee is tasked with recommending some next steps to the Board.

The Feasibility Committee and the Board will be working together to determine a vision and a possible way ahead. In the coming months, these ideas will be presented to the church body for discussion. We're looking forward to where this discernment process will take us!

In Christ's Love,

Cody Toms

For the Feasibility Committee:

Bo Frazer, Linda Hawbaker, Jerry Moore, Joel Nogle, Ben Stevenson, Liz Thorpe, and Cody Toms



SMART COOKIES PRESCHOOL NEWS

Happy Fall! The end of October and most of November have been very busy months for our Preschool. 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 4th, we had a visit from the Franklin County Dairy Princess. The children loved meeting a princess and learned a lot about dairy farming and made a cute craft.

On November 21st 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 Special Events

December 6th- Wear Your Mittens to school

December 9th-11th- Parent/Teacher Conferences

December 13th - Polar Express/Pajama Day

December 19th- Christmas Program

December 20th- Christmas Party/Early Dismissal

December 21st-January 1, 2020- Christmas Break

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.



Youth Events

December

- **REVOLUTION: Wednesday, December 4th, 11th, 18th 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!!
- **Youth Christmas Party** on December 18th from 6-8pm. Pizza, drinks, desserts, games and prizes!

**No Revolution on December 25th and
January 1st due to the Holidays.**



- **December 7th – An Evening in December Fundraiser!!**
(Formally known as Couple's Night Out (Dec. 8th Snow date)
 - 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.
 - Also, all youth parents are welcome to stay and help clean up after the evening is over. Thank you for all your help!!
- **December 14th – Church Live Nativity**



Revolution Presents...

The youth will be hosting an "Evening in December"
formerly known as Couple's Night Out

The night will begin on Saturday, December 7th at 6:00pm and
dinner will be served at 6:30pm in the Brethren Life Center.

Snow Date: Sunday, December 8th.

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.

Child Care is Available!

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:

*Slow Cooked Beef, Au gratin Potatoes,
Gourmet Glazed Carrots and a Dinner Roll*

Dessert:

*NY Cheese Cake with Fruit Topping
Coffee and Tea*



Dear Members,

We want to say "Thank You" for your very generous contribution of \$3,590.00 made toward the efforts of the Brethren Disaster Relief Auction. Gifts such as yours are very much appreciated. The efforts and contributions of so many persons like you are what make the Auction a success.

Disasters can occur at any time in any place. Your contribution will help to relieve suffering in this country and around the world. Again, thank you for your help.

**---In Christ's Service,
Evelyn Dehmey, Treasurer
Brethren Disaster Relief Auction**

Many thanks to my church family for the prayers, cards and visits during my hospitalization and rehabilitation.

Your thoughtfulness was appreciated. A special thank you to Pastor Joel and Liz for their many visits.

---Ray Diller

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. The proceeds will benefit Brethren Disaster Ministries.

---The Helping Hands Circle

A special thanks to Garrett Bayer for all of his work on the Smart Cookies Preschool video. We greatly appreciate your time and talent to help us.

-----The Church Staff



Our sympathy to:

The Family of Charles "Chuck" W. Holobinko Jr. following his death on Tuesday, November 19, 2019.



**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, December 6th and at The Butcher Shoppe on Saturday, December 7th beginning at 11:00 am.

Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex and sign-up for an hour.



Wednesday, January 8, 2020
Meal served at 5:30 p.m.



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.



Wednesday, December 4, 2019
Meal served at 5:30 p.m.

Menu: Pancakes, Eggs & Sausage



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

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.



CCOB FOOD BANK CHALLENGE

December

Help fill the Barrel with our
DECEMBER Challenge which is

Winter Warmth

***Our Friends at the Food Bank are
asking for:***

Hats, Scarves, Gloves, Mittens & Socks

FOR ALL AGES

FACT: The Food Bank Gives to 500 People
each month. Sooooo..... Can we help
each one keep warm this winter??????



Missions and Service Commission is
sponsoring a Mission Moment Sunday on
the second Sunday of every month.

Candleheart Ministries, Inc. will be with us
on Sunday, December 8th. Candleheart is a
life recovery program, committed to helping
persons find a better way of living.



**Ten Thousand Villages
Holiday Sale**

to benefit
CROSS Inc.

**Tuesday, December 10th
10 a.m. – 8 p.m.**

Shop at our Mechanicsburg store during this
event and a portion of the day's proceeds
will go directly to
CROSS Inc.

Wrap up your holiday shopping while
supporting your local community and
give the gift that gives twice.



HARMONY. MADE BY HAND.™
A Fair Trade Retailer.



**The Church Library has the following
new book for the month of December!**

Non - Fiction

Sacred Holidays Less Chaos, More Jesus
by Becky Kiser



Loving Hearts December Event

**December 12th – 12 Noon in
Chambersburg COB's Brethren Life
Center**

Lunch will be catered by Hickory Ridge.
Christmas music and short program as we
celebrate Christmas! RSVP by December
9th to Vivian Fisher at 717-809-0521 or
Vonnie Black at 717-263-3975.



For the Kids of Chambersburg News

The Applebee's fund raiser Breakfast
resulted in \$345.00.

Our next fundraiser will be December 15th
at Hoss's. Watch for tickets at various
places at church or see Lora Bucher or
Stacy Gray to get one. Order your favorite
meal at Hoss's and turn your ticket in when
you pay and For the Kids of Chambersburg
will get a percentage. Hope to see you
there. Remember this group raises funds to
non-profit agencies in the area who support
children.

We are also looking for new members.



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.

KidNection

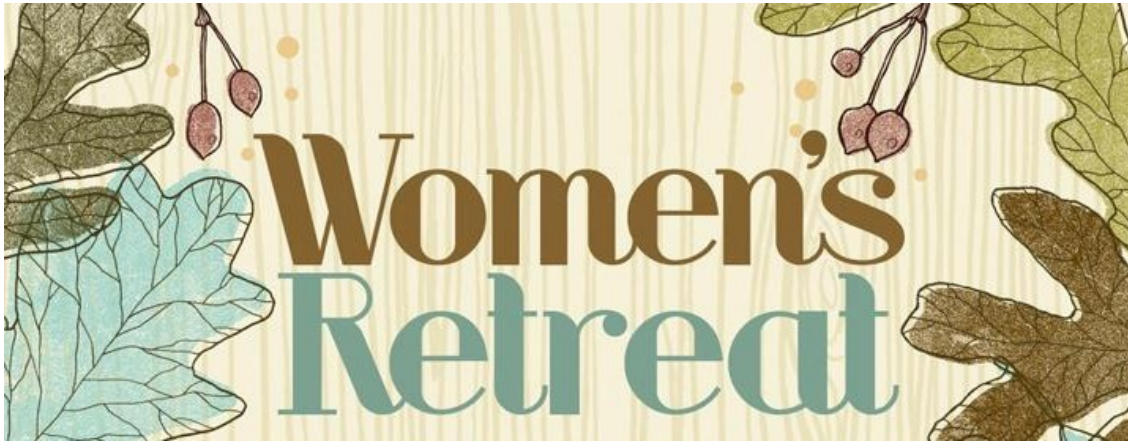
Connecting
Kids to Christ

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

KidNection: For Children Pre-K (age 4)
thru 5th grade. Come and join us on
Wednesday, December 4th from
6:00-7:00 pm. This will continue every
first Wednesday of the month. We will
be meeting in the back of the BLC and
will head to our Children's Area for

Worship, Bible Story, Games and a
Craft!

Save the Date!!



Attention Ladies!

Mark your Calendars
for our Annual Woman's Retreat.

May 15th - 17th, 2020 at Camp Eder

And we are Pleased to Announce that
our Guest Speakers are a mother and daughter team;
Ruth West and Moye Stouffer.



- 2 Pickelball at 6:30 p.m. in Brethren Life Center
- 3 Worship & Music Commission Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room
- 4 Pickelball at 9:00 a.m. in the Brethren Life Center
Mid-Week Connection - Hand Bells and Christmas Carols - Meal at 5:30 p.m.
Revolution at 6:00 p.m. in Sanctuary
KidNecton at 6:00 p.m. in back of BLC
Chancel Choir Rehearsal at 7:15 p.m.
- 5 Properties Commission Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room
- 6 Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringing at Chambersburg Sunnyway - 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.
- 7 Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringing at The Butcher Shoppe - 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.
An Evening in December at 6:00 p.m. in Brethren Life Center
SNOW DATE for An Evening in December
- 8 Pickleball at 6:30 p.m. in the Brethren Life Center
- 9 Church Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room
- 11 Pickelball at 9:00 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.
- 12 Loving Hearts Christmas Lunch at 12 noon in Brethren Life Center – Christmas Music and short program to follow
- 14 **Drive-Thru Live Nativity in Church Parking Lot – 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**
- 16 Pickleball at 6:30 p.m. in the Brethren Life Center
- 17 Helping Hands Christmas Party at 6:00 p.m. at the home of June Hawbaker
Missions & Service Commission Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room
- 18 Pickelball at 9:00 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.
- 19 Smart Cookies Preschool Christmas Program at 6:00 p.m. in Brethren Life Center
- 20 **Longest Night Service at 6:30 p.m. in Sanctuary**
- 23 Pickleball at 6:30 p.m. in the Brethren Life Center
- 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**
- 30 Pickelball at 6:30 p.m. in Brethren Life Center



- 1 **Happy New Year! – Office Closed**
- 5 **January/February Combined Newsletter Deadline**
- 6 Deacons Commission Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- 8 **Mid-Week Connection - Meal at 5:30 p.m. with Bingo!**
KidNecton at 6:00 p.m. in back of 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.
- 11 Believers Sunday School Class Making Soup and Games at 3:00 p.m. in Brethren Life Center
- 17 **Church Yard Sale – 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in Brethren Life Center**
- 18 **Church Yard Sale – 8:00 a.m. – 12 Noon in Brethren Life Center**