

Pastor's Pen

April 2018

*Only Jesus has the power to save!
His name is the only one in all the world that can save anyone. Acts 4:12 CEV*



Can you forgive me for another bird story? I was bicycling the open road when a fluttering on the ground caught my eye. I stopped my bike and looked. The fluttering began again, about 10 yards off the berm. I knew it was an injured bird. Thinking it was a dove, I went closer to investigate.

When I reached the bird, I discovered it was an American Kestrel or Sparrow Hawk, one of our smaller birds of prey. My intent from the beginning was to pick up the bird and place it under a bush for safe cover. That was before I knew what kind of bird it was.

Though helplessly grounded, the little hawk gazed at me with piercing yellow eyes, opened its mouth as if to bite, and stretched out its talons. It clearly communicated it did not want rescued and I believed it. I returned to my bike to continue my evening ride but the Lord wouldn't allow me to leave the little Kestrel to its own defenses. I returned, this time with the bike, not knowing what to do next. For whenever I bent over to pick it up in my gloved hands, I got the same reception – eyes, beak, talons.

I decided to test our resolve – the bird's and mine – by letting my front bicycle tire make the introductions. I inched the tire closer and closer. More eyes, open beak and talons. But then I went for broke and called the tiny raptor's bluff: I gently put my tire right up against its beak. To my surprise, the bird surrendered. It literally lost all its bluster and went limp. It knew that I knew it couldn't save itself and needed to depend on me to get it out of its predicament.

That Sparrow Hawk reminded me of myself. I'm thinking maybe you can identify with it too. The bible says that Jesus has come to seek and save what is perishing. In fact, it says only he can get us free and clear of our sin predicament. Only Jesus can save us. There is no other means.

So many times in life we are grounded and flopping about, pretending we're in control and not wanting anyone or anything to chip away at our rough and tough exteriors. With only a little more time and a lucky break we can save ourselves, we insist. The Lord sees us, stops and draws near but we keep him at arms' length, trying to convince ourselves that things aren't really as bad as they appear. I'm so glad that Jesus isn't dissuaded by our façade and doesn't give up on us like I almost gave up on that Kestrel.

Job 11:13-15 says, *Surrender your heart to God, turn to him in prayer and give up your sins – even those you do in secret. Then...you will be confident and fearless.* (CEV) Surrender is an admission of defeat. Praise God surrender to Jesus Christ is an assurance of victory. I took that little bird and carried it to the high ground; Jesus does the same if you and I will only let him.

Pastor Joel

Picture Day

**Celebrate the Family!
A New Pictorial Directory is coming!**

It has been exactly six years since our last “picture book” church directory. If you have a copy and you’ve looked at it recently, you are aware a lot has changed in that short amount of time!!!

A brand new pictorial directory from Lifetouch Photography is being prepared for publication and we need YOU to make our directory complete! It isn’t really a family album if you’re not part of it. Why? Because YOU are part of our church family!

The dates when pictures will be taken are Thursday, Friday, Saturday, May 3rd thru May 5th, and Tuesday and Wednesday, May 8th and 9th.

***Photo sessions generally take about 55 minutes.**

We will begin signing-up for our family sessions on Easter Sunday, April 1st. Be sure you take advantage of this opportunity to be professionally photographed and celebrate the family. We look forward to seeing your smile with everyone’s smile in our brand new directory!



April Sermon Themes Announced

At the Fall Council Meeting in November, we approved a new Mission Statement for the Chambersburg Church of the Brethren. ***A family of God growing in Christ, empowered to serve.*** After Easter, we’re going to break this statement into manageable segments and explore what each one means.

- April 1st = Don't be Fooled!**
- April 8th = All in the Family**
- April 15th = Our Family is Growing!**
- April 22nd = The Power of Family**
- April 29th = Family Style – A Brethren Understanding**



It has been an exciting month at Nursery School. On March 7th, we officially changed our name to Smart Cookies Nursery School! We are looking forward to continuing to learn and grow at Smart Cookies.

This month, we have been learning about community workers. We have learned about doctors, veterinarians, dentists, construction workers, and supermarket employees. For the rest of the month we will be learning about fire fighters and post office workers. We went on field trip to Giant Supermarket, where the students were taught about healthy eating, how to brush their teeth, and about lobsters. We also went to the Marion fire station and learned about fire safety.

Looking ahead into April, the children will be learning about insects, spring, Easter, the senses, plants, and continuing on in learning the alphabet and numbers. We have a trip planned to attend Voila Creative Arts Center. I will be ordering some caterpillars and we will watch them turn into butterflies and also we will begin learning about plants.

We have an Open House scheduled for April 19th from 4:30-5:30 PM. If you know anyone who has a 3-4-year-old, please invite them to attend.

April Events

- 1st- Easter Sunday
- 2nd- NO School for Easter holiday
- 20th- Trip to Voila Children's Creative Art Center
- 22nd- Earth Day
- 27th-30th- No School- Spring Break





Youth Events

April

- **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!!
 - April 4th - Normal Youth Group
 - April 11th - Normal Youth Group
 - April 18th - Youth Service Day
 - April 25th - Youth Service Day
- **Spring Retreat:** On April 13th the youth will arrive at the church at 6:30pm and will be picked up on Saturday April 14th at 9:00pm at the church. We will be doing a service project and then heading to SkyZone for some fun! Most importantly we will be deepening our relationship with Jesus through worship, dynamic messages and small groups.

**Come and join us for this unforgettable and life changing event!
All Permission Slips are due by April 4th, 2018.**



Attention All Parents and Youth!

National Youth Conference Meeting
for all Parents and Youth on April 17th, 2018 at 6:30pm.
Please plan on attending this informational meeting
to learn more about this awesome trip.

If you are not able to attend the meeting, please let Jamie know ASAP!

Chambersburg Church of the Brethren Women's Retreat

May 18 & 19, 2018

This Spring our Topic will be *She Laughs Without Fear - “Discover ways to break free from fear, manage anxiety, and live a joy-filled life.”*

- ♦ Are you or someone you love struggling with fear or anxiety?
- ♦ Do you long for the ability to live a joy-filled life and laugh without fear of the future?

Then come be a part of our women's retreat - as our guest speaker, Diane Swan, helps us learn how to experience freedom from the effects of this negative emotion, and live a life overflowing with the joy and peace of the Lord.

During this retreat you will gain essential understanding of the true source of our fears, the cycle that makes anxiety grow, and the biblical principles and skills that set you free.

All this while having lots of laughs, fun, and times of spiritual refreshing! This will be a retreat you won't want to miss!

Overnight Cost: \$135.00
(includes 1-night stay, 4 meals, snacks, & guest speaker cost)

Saturday Only Cost: \$65.00
(includes 3 meals, snacks, & guest speaker cost)

Deadline Registration: Tuesday, May 1, 2018
Check Payable to:
Chambersburg Church of the Brethren

Brochures with registration information are available in the Narthex,
Brethren Life Center Lobby and Church Office.
Deadline Registration: Tuesday, May 1, 2018



Then Sings My Soul

Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.
Chambersburg Church of the Brethren Sanctuary

Come join us for an afternoon of celebrating music that inspires the soul to sing! Featuring the musicians of the Chambersburg Church of the Brethren with selections from the hand bells, Chancel Choir, 4th Street Brass, organ/piano duets, and hymns for all to sing.

Admission to the program is free. A freewill offering will be taken to support the ministries of the Salvation Army. Following the celebration of music will be a time of fellowship and refreshment.

Parking is located behind the church off Elm Avenue and across from the front entrance of the church on 4th Street.

We hope you will spread the word and join us for an afternoon of praising God through music!



Upcoming Events

- **KidNnection:** For Children Pre-K (age 4) thru 5th grade. Come and join us on **Thursday, April 12th**, and will continue every 2nd Thursday of the

month. We will be meeting in the BLC for Worship, Bible Story, Games and a Craft!!



Greetings in the Name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:

We wish to thank you for contributing to our Annual Fund Raiser with your contribution of \$800.00 from your yard sale proceeds for our 2018 Summer Enrichment Program. Your donation shall assist us with providing a comprehensive nutrition, educational enrichment, character building, and recreational program for the children residing within the Borough of Chambersburg, and Franklin County. Again, we thank you very much for your financial assistance you have afforded us.

**----Sincerely Yours, J. V. Jones,
President, Board of Directors**

Jean and I have been blessed to be part of a Church Family that knows how to take care of each other. Your prayers have been part of the healing process, mentally and physically. Many acts of kindness, visits, meals, cards, and many more were appreciated. To get back to church after five months of absence was so overwhelming; we missed you greatly. A special thank you to Pastor Joel for his visits. As Paul said to the Philippians, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of YOU." YOU have touched us deeply, and will always be remembered by the way you have cared for us. Jean and I are aware we are not the only ones in our Church

family hurting. We pray every day for those who need God's special touch.

--Nelson and Jean Wengert

Thank you to all those that donated baked goods that were used as Bingo prizes for our March Midweek Connection. This is just another example of how you all always come through when asked. I am sure the winners enjoyed taking home some of the best our congregation has to offer.

Thanks so much,

Sean Scott

Midweek Connection Committee

Thank you to everyone who supported our Gertrude Hawk fundraiser. Your love of chocolate and your love of children enabled us to raise \$500 for our Smart Cookies program.

--The Smart Cookies Nursery School Committee



Congratulations to:

Adam and Lisa Bricker on the birth of a daughter, Elizabeth Alice Bricker on Thursday, March 8, 2018. She weighed 9 pounds 6 ounces.

Proud grandparents are Larry and Lana Bricker.

Proud great-parent is Dean Bricker.

**Finances at a Glance
March 18, 2018**

Sometimes we are so busy adding up our troubles that we forget to count our blessings.



Early in the year, the church board was approached by Texas Roadhouse about participating in a fundraising event at their restaurant. The church board has decided to participate. In an effort to continually support the nursery school program, the board has decided that all proceeds from this fundraiser will be donated to *Smart Cookies*, our nursery school program. Please consider eating at Texas Roadhouse any Sunday in April. Just show them this flyer or your church bulletin for a portion of you check to return to the church.



FUNDRAISING NIGHT!

TEXAS ROADHOUSE

Chambersburg Church of the Brethren

April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
11am - 9PM

10% Donation Night

Support this cause by presenting this invitation to the listed Texas Roadhouse® location and Texas Roadhouse® will donate 10% of your total food purchases to the fundraiser!

Call AHEAD SEATING (717) 263-5003 255 Walker Rd. Chambersburg

Chambersburg Church of the Brethren invites you to join us for:

Mid-Week Connection

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

Meal served at 5:30 p.m.

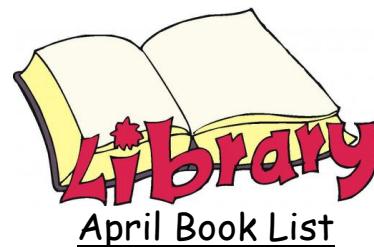
Menu: Chicken Tenders, Green Beans, Potato Salad and Ice-Cream

*Come join us for:
Good Food and Friendly Conversation!*



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.



DVD

Priceless- Inspired by True Stories

Fiction

The Bishop's Family by Suzanne Woods Fisher

The Imposter

The Quieting

The Devoted

The Path Finders- by Lori Benton
The Wood's Edge



A Flight of Arrows

2018 Southern PA District Women's Spring Luncheon

This year's Southern PA District Women's Spring Luncheon will be held Saturday morning, April 28, 2018 at Newville Church of the Brethren, 16 Carlisle Road, Newville, PA.

Jill Davis will present "Squaring up Fitness" according to the Gospel of Dr. Luke." Brenda Line will be sharing her gift of music, performing her own arrangements, praise and worship as well as some well-known Brethren hymns. Both ladies live in the Newville area and are so full of love for the Lord.

Registration/refreshments begins at 9:00 a.m. with lunch at noon ending the program. Menu includes Soup, salad, sandwich and dessert. Cost is \$10.00 per person and deadline for registration is April 16, 2018.

Brochures with registration information are available in the Brethren Life Center Lobby and Narthex. The church will be registering as a group and transportation will be provided in the church vans.

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For Tickets and Information, call the
Ministry Office at 717-385-7932
(Check the Bulletin Board in the Narthex
for more information).

Serving Our Neighbor (S.O.N.)



Many thanks to everyone who has been supporting our S.O.N. collections. The recipients continue to express their gratitude for the help. In April and May we are collecting boxed meals and canned meats to give away in May and June. We suggest non-frozen or refrigerated boxed meals, tuna or other canned meats, hearty stews, mac and cheese, hamburger or tuna helper, etc.

Bible Study



Pastor's Bible Study Coming in May/June

Six Wednesdays in a row starting May 16th
6:30-7:30 in the Mini Fellowship Hall

**Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry
2018 Spring Dinner Concert**
May 5, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.
First Church of God, 2089 Newville
Road, Plainfield, PA 17081
Cost is \$12 per ticket (Deadline for ticket
orders is April 25, 2018).
Featuring *George Jumper*

The New Testament books of James and Jude
Registration will begin April 29th.



- 1 **HAPPY EASTER (April Fool's Day)**
2 Pickleball at 6:30 p.m. in Brethren Life Center
3 Worship & Music Commission Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room
4 Puzzle & Tables Games at 1:00 p.m. in the Brethren Haus
Mid-Week Connection at 5:30 p.m. in Brethren Life Center – “Good Food and Conversation”
Revolution at 6:00 p.m. in Sanctuary
Hand Bell Rehearsal at 6:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal at 7:15 p.m.
9 Pickleball at 6:30 p.m. in Brethren Life Center
11 Pickleball at 8:30 a.m. in Brethren Life Center
Puzzle & Tables Games at 1:00 p.m. in the Brethren Haus
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 KidNection at 6:30 p.m. in Brethren Life Center & Mini-Fellowship Hall
13-14 Youth Spring Retreat 6:30 p.m. Friday until Saturday at 9:00 p.m. in the Church
15 Camp Eder Sunday – Presentation during Children’s Church
16 Pickleball at 6:30 p.m. in the Brethren Life Center
Church Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room
17 Helping Hands Circle Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Mini-Fellowship Hall
National Youth Conference Parent/Youth Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room
18 Pickleball at 8:30 a.m. in Brethren Life Center
Puzzle & Tables Games at 1:00 p.m. in the Brethren Haus
Revolution at 6:00 p.m. – Service Project Night
Hand Bell Rehearsal at 6:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal at 7:15 p.m.
19 Meat Canning at Christian Aid Ministries, Ephrata – 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Loving Hearts Luncheon and Craft Show at 12 Noon in Brethren Life Center
Smart Cookies Nursery School Open House from 4:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.
22 Newsletter Deadline for May
23 Pickleball at 6:30 p.m. in Brethren Life Center
25 Pickleball at 8:30 a.m. in Brethren Life Center
Puzzle & Tables Games at 1:00 p.m. in the Brethren Haus
Revolution at 6:00 p.m. – Service Project Night
Hand Bell Rehearsal at 6:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal at 7:15 p.m.
26 Stewardship Commission Meeting in Conference Room at 7:00 p.m.
28 Southern PA District Women’s Conference, Newville COB from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
30 Pickleball at 6:30 p.m. in Brethren Life Center



