



The Pastor's Pen...

May 2020

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105 ESV

In keeping with the current CDC regulations, it would appear that we will be continuing our Sunday worship online for the foreseeable future. Starting Sunday, April 26th, Pastor Joel will be bringing the message every Sunday. He is planning a series about the "one anothers" of the New Testament. You will find the dates and specific topics for this discussion below.

BTW... Don't forget that if you do not own a smart phone or a computer and are unable to watch and interact with our worship online, each service/message is recorded on a DVD format. If you want the services mailed to you, please call Carol in our church office and she will send them to your home. [717-264-6957](tel:717-264-6957)

April 26 – *Love One Another*

Luke 10:25-28; John 13:34-35

May 3 – *Submit to One Another*

Ephesians 5:15 & 21; 22-28

May 10 -- *Forgive One Another*

Colossians 3:12-17

May 17 -- *Encourage One Another*

I Thessalonians 5:11

May 24 – *Accept One Another*

Romans 15:1-7

May 31 – *Carry One Another's Burdens*

Galatians 6:1-5

The following was part of Pastor Joel's 4/16 meditation that was posted on Facebook as an encouragement to the church and to the online community.

I waited patiently for the LORD;
He turned to me and heard my cry.

He lifted me out of the slimy pit,
out of the mud and mire;

He set my feet on a rock
and gave me a firm place to stand.

He put a new song in my mouth,
a hymn of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear
and put their trust in the LORD.

Psalm 40:1-3

Psalm 40 begins with someone in trouble. They've somehow lost their footing and fallen into a sticky situation – what the psalmist describes as a place of “mud and mire.” Have you ever had the tires of your vehicle stuck in the mud? You put the transmission in DRIVE and tried going forward then you put it in REVERSE and tried backing up, but all you did was throw mud and “spin your wheels.”

That is the psalmist's predicament. He is stuck. He's “in it with both feet.” And it doesn't take too much imagination or misuse of the Scripture to conclude that, if something doesn't happen soon, he's going down for the count.

Have you ever been “between a rock and a hard place?” Have you ever been stuck? Do you feel stuck right now? The psalm assures us that we have someone watching over us – a Rescuer. He sees the difficulties and perils we face. He hears us when we cry out for help. And he will trudge through the mud and the mire, to save us and reestablish our footing on very solid ground.

So if you're wondering today if you're ever going to get out of the house; if you're worried about what you'll do if a virus sets your feet in cement; if you've made some bad choices that put you in some sticky situations, here is what can you do?

1. **Cry out to the LORD** – Find a prayer closet and honestly pour your heart out to him. James the brother of Jesus said, “Humble yourself before the Lord and he will lift you up.” **James 4:10**
2. **Swallow your pride** – Confess you’re in over your head and reach out your hand for his inevitable mercy. Paul, the great leader of the early church said,

“God demonstrates His own love for us in this: that while we were still *mired* in sin, Jesus Christ came to our rescue. **Romans 5:8**
3. **Praise him for what he has done**, what he *is* doing, and what he has *yet* to do so that in these uncertain times other people will hear your song and put *their* trust in the LORD too.

Keep the faith, brothers and sisters. And keep reaching out. It makes all the difference!

Pastor Joel



May

- **Virtual Youth Group: Wednesday, May 6th, 13th and 20th at 8:00pm.** Come and join us for a game, a youth devotional, small groups, and great connection! Jamie sends out a new Zoom-link each week to invite youth to this meeting. If you would like to participate, please reach out to Jamie by Wednesday, 1-Hour prior to the start of youth group OR sooner!
- **Youth Sunday: On May 17th, 2020** the youth will be hosting an Online service. Please plan to join in as we strive to bring God’s word in a new and exciting way.
- Events for this summer will be determined when church is back in session.

Did You Know?

A church member donated homemade masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19. If you need a mask, please contact the church office at 717-264-6957 and we will arrange for you to drop by and get one.

The staff are enjoying their fun, creative masks and trying to keep each other 6 feet apart!



Brethren Bits

National Youth Conference, a once-every-four-years highlight for the Church of the Brethren, drew more than 1,800 youth and advisors to Colorado for a week of inspiration, learning, and growing together. The '18 conference was filled with two worship services a day, small group time, workshops, service projects, recreation, and hiking in the Rockies. Several young people from Brethren groups in other countries were able to get visas to attend NYC. Whatever their home district or country, the crowds of youth were "Bound Together: Clothed in Christ." NYC will convene again in the summer of '22.

From the 2020 Annual Report of the Church of the Brethren



4/2/20

We, the Camp Eder Board, are excited about a new hire, and a restructuring of our current employees that will help Camp Eder move into the future for God's glory. We are happy to introduce Dennis Turner (Denny) as our Co-Director/Maintenance Manager. Denny is a hard worker, and will fit very well with the team. In addition to Program Director, Mike Kovacs will also now serve as Co-Director. Thaddeus Smith is our Hospitality Supervisor, and serves faithfully in the kitchen as well. The board also has now outsourced our finances in an effort to secure your donations to Camp Eder, which are desperately needed in order to continue sharing the Gospel with children for winters and summers to come! Did you know that it takes around \$25,000 a month to keep camp going? The coronavirus is affecting Camp as well, as groups cancel, and we lose money that we were expecting to come in. Would you please consider making a donation to camp today? We so very much love helping children experience life outdoors, and grow in their faith as well. We truly believe Camp Eder is a wonderful place for that to happen. We humbly request you to pray about making a donation, and we promise you that it will be put to good use, for the advancement of His Kingdom. Thank you for your support. We appreciate it, and we covet your prayers as well as we make tough decisions during this unprecedented time in this world.

--In Christ, The Camp Eder Board

Summer is right around the corner and we need your help to make it a success! Every year Eder makes summer camp possible for all families through our scholarship fund. Last summer we supported over 40 campers and gave them the opportunity to come to Camp and hear the life changing message of the Gospel. It's churches like you that make this possible for kids to come to camp. Because of COVID-19 we have lost crucial spring time business that sets us up for summer to make our program possible. We would greatly appreciate any support you could send us at this time to help us to continue our mission and spread the message of Christ to all kids and people who come to Eder.

-Mike Kovacs

**Attention Ladies.....We are hoping to reschedule the Women's
Retreat for Fall 2019**

Look for New Dates Coming Soon

POSTPONED

MAY 15TH - 17TH

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Theme: "Legacy of Love"

AT CAMP EDER

Speakers are a
mother/daughter
team:
Ruth West and
Moye Stouffer



SMART COOKIES PRESCHOOL NEWS

Smart Cookies Preschool closed due to COVID-19 for the rest of the school year. Although the kids and teachers are sad to not be in school each day, we are enjoying our times at home with our families. Mrs. Amy has sent home optional assignments to keep our students busy. She has sent home insect activities, Easter activities, An At-Home learning calendar which has a bunch of daily activities, and many other assignments.

Mrs. Amy is looking ahead to a brand new school year. We already have 11 students enrolled for our 2020-2021 school year. Preparation for a new school year has begun. The classrooms and preschool areas have been cleaned and sanitized thoroughly. I am now beginning to formulate schedules, activities, field trips, etc. We also hope to have the Soccer Shots program again in September.

Mrs. Amy McNeil



Chambersburg Church of the Brethren Invites you to Vacation Bible School:



Save the Date!!

June 15^h thru 19th, 2020

9:00AM till 11:30AM

Ages 4 thru 5th Grade

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

*Pre-Registration Appreciated



Each year we mention how your “Love of Children” and your “Love of Chocolates” benefit our “Smart Cookies” program. This year, however, your love has almost DOUBLED. We raised \$1,300 for the Preschool and this committee is very appreciative of your support.

Thank you!

---Smart Cookies Preschool Committee

To my Church Family, Mackenzie, Elliott, and I want to thank each of you for your prayers, cards, texts, and phone calls during Megan’s fight with cancer. They helped sustain us through many dark days and will continue to do so in the future. Also thanking Pastor Joel for traveling to Saxton to perform a wonderful graveside service. Again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

---Mimi Kelly, Mackenzie, and Elliott



Our sympathy to:

Mimi Kelly and Family following the death of her daughter, Megan A. (Kelly) Miller, on Sunday, April 5, 2020.



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 May we are collecting boxed meals and canned meats to give away in June. We suggest non-frozen or refrigerated boxed meals, tuna or other canned meats, hearty stews, mac and cheese, hamburger or tuna helper, etc.



**19th Annual Don Gordon
Memorial Golf Outing
Saturday, June 13th, 2020**

There will be a shotgun start at 8:30 am
Caledonia Golf Club,
9515 Golf Course Road
Fayetteville, PA 17222
(Please note new location this year)

The cost is \$40 per person
payable that day.

Lunch will be served following golf.
Please sign up in the narthex.



**For the Kids of
Chambersburg**

For the Kids of Chambersburg Taste of the Valley will be rescheduled due to the social restrictions currently in place. All restaurants have been contacted and are willing to go with another date as they will be wanting everyone to know they are still available.

Please, watch for the new date. Tickets are available from Lora Bucher or Stacy Gray.

---Lora Bucher



**Time For A Summer Tune Up
for Christians!**

1. Adjust your lights so others may see your good works.
2. Set your timing so as to be at the meetings on time.
3. Align your directions so that you may stay on the straight and narrow.
4. Adjust the brakes on your tongue.
5. Anti-freeze your heart and be fervent in spirit. Above all things, love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind.



The Loving Hearts Committee has decided to cancel all events for the remainder of the year. The Committee cares very deeply for this group and feel this would be in their best interest. The risk is too high and we are not taking any chances.