

Welcome
Back
We Missed You

JULY 2020

The Pastor's Pen...

*There's a gathering of spirits, there's a festival of friends.
And we'll take up where we left off when we all meet again.*

The Gathering of Spirits by Carrie Newcomer ©2002

By now you've heard the word that our Church Board unanimously approved the regathering of our beloved congregation. Of course, for the time being, there are some "new normals" in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone. Nevertheless, we are back in God's holy house and, as the Psalmist wrote,

"Better is one day in Your house than a thousand days anywhere else."

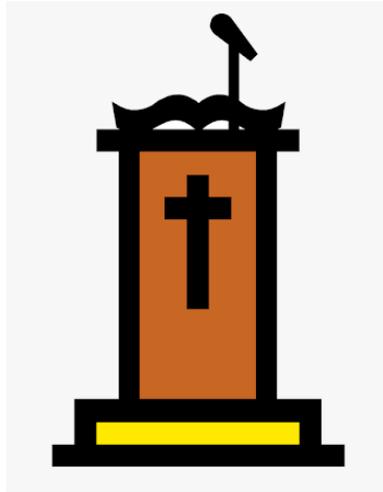
Psalm 84:10

I am very eager to be with all of you again. Most of you haven't seen me since my sudden brain surgery in Hershey in February. Thanks to our God and the power of your prayers, I am blessed to report I am 150% with no remaining side effects!

Beginning Sunday, July 5th and continuing for the foreseeable future we will once again have two services of worship at Fourth Street – 8:30 a.m. in our sanctuary and 10:45 a.m. in our Brethren Life Center. Please carefully read the Regathering Letter that was sent to you and do your absolute best to be faithful to all the guidelines. **For the time being there will be no Sunday School hour, no in-house youth or children's ministries and no Coffee Corner.**

The coronavirus has affected all of us in various ways. Some of us are glad Franklin County has gone green and we're ready to be out and about with commonsense precaution. But others of us, for any number of reasons, still have concerns about being in public and we're more comfortable staying in our homes for now. As your pastor, I respect and we respect whatever decision you make. One way or the other, I'll see you soon!

Pastor Joel



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

Pastor Joel's sermon series continues on *The You Have Heard It Said of Jesus*.

"You have heard it said..." was a saying of rabbis in Jesus' day. It was an introduction to the teaching of the Law and literally meant, "This is the way this law is interpreted – this is what it means."

Jesus was clear that he did not come to abolish God's Law but to fulfill or complete it. Jesus came to authenticate the interpretation of the Law and to give the Law a broader, deeper understanding of the way God intended it.

Six times in Matthew 5 he said, "You have heard it said... **but I say to you...**"
Joel's sermon series looks at the Law and then at Jesus' clarification of it.

July 5 – *Do Not Swear Falsely*
Matthew 5:33-37

July 12 – *Eye for Eye and Tooth for Tooth*
Matthew 5:38-42

July 19 -- *Love Your Neighbor and Hate Your Enemy*
Matthew 5:43-48

July 26 -- Pastor Joel on vacation. Pastor Tim Monn, preaching.

August 2nd –*The One Sin That is Crueler Than the Grave (and It Will Surprise You)*
Pastor Joel, preaching

Zoom Book Study led by Ali Toms

Ali Toms will be leading a Zoom Book Study beginning Wednesday, July 22nd at 6:30 p.m.

The book is entitled "Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism." It is written by Drew Hart, an Assistant Professor of Theology at Messiah College.

You will need to download a ZOOM app on your tablet, laptop, or smart phone. Each Wednesday morning a link will be sent to your email inbox.

If you want to participate, you may reserve your spot by calling Carol at the church office before July 22nd **717-264-6957**.

When: July 22, 29; August 5, 12, 19, 26
6:30 p.m.



July

- **Virtual Youth Group: Wednesday, July 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th 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!
- Events for this summer will be determined when church is back in session.



Summer Office Hours – Beginning on Friday, June 5, 2020 and for each Friday thereafter our church office will close at 12 noon.
Regular Friday hours will resume on Friday, September 11, 2020

Chambersburg Church of the Brethren Virtual Vacation Bible School!



What an Experience! God was so good through this time of taking our Vacation Bible School Ministry, Virtual! He had this planned from day one!

Our theme, Rocky Railway- "Jesus' power pulls us through," was a great message for us as we treaded into new waters. But, the experience was incredible and God's plans shined through this whole experience. God has shown us his power can do unbelievable things.



As the Christian Education Commission met about VBS, there were a lot of things that went through our minds.

1. No, we will not have an in-person VBS this year.
2. Do we want to do something virtual?
3. Will kids want to do something virtual when they just finished school?
4. How will we make this exciting?
5. Will we get 5 kids or 100?
6. What about the fun VBS crafts and experiments? How do we get those to the kids?
7. How will we let others know about a virtual experience?

But these obstacles didn't stop us! We trusted in God and Jesus pulled us through!

We decided to make a Take-Home Pack that had Bible lessons, Imagination Station activities, snacks, crafts, coloring pages, Bible buddies, and much more! We wanted to transition this VBS to a Family oriented experience. There were special options for parents to get creative with their kids: through fun snacks, crafts, questions and a scripture search.

Here is what the kids learned that week!

Monday's Bible Point: Jesus' power helps us do hard things! *Trust Jesus!*
Tuesday's Bible Point: Jesus' power gives us hope! *Trust Jesus!*
Wednesday's Bible Point: Jesus' power helps us be bold! *Trust Jesus!*
Thursday's Bible Point: Jesus' power lets us live forever! *Trust Jesus!*
Friday's Bible Point: Jesus' power helps us be good friends! *Trust Jesus!*





Here are some fun facts about this year's Virtual VBS

- We filled and handed out 95 of Take-Home Packs to children who were 4 years old thru 5th grade.
- Our VBS videos were posted on our Facebook page and our church website.
- We had over 150 views per day on our Facebook page.
- Over 60% of our 95 students were new to our Vacation Bible School program.
- We had children that participated in 4 other states other than PA.

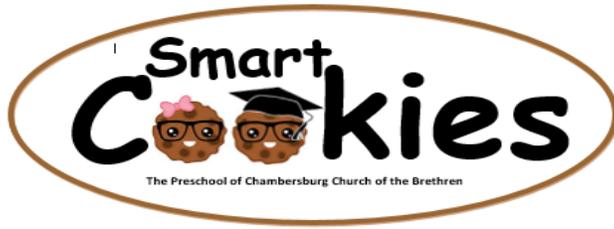
Thank you so much for all the people who helped pull all of this together!

- Nicholas Wingert - helped host the opening and closing of each day
- Ali Toms - Put all the videos together and posted them on our FB page and website
- Kathie Nogle - Taught the Bible Story each day
- Linda Hawbaker and Carol Wingert - Helped fill our take-home packs
- Marsha Smith and Linda Hawbaker - Helped with our take-home bag Pick-up.
- Christian Education Commission - being creative in revamping VBS to a Virtual experience
- Church Board and Staff for their support in this NEW idea



What a Great Year!





SMART COOKIES PRESCHOOL NEWS

This is the end of an unusual school year. We didn't get to have any of our usual May activities, including graduation. We hope to have a little end of the year celebration once the church reopens.

During July and August, we will be preparing for the upcoming school year. We can't wait to meet our new students. We currently have 11 students enrolled for the 2020-2021 school year.

August/September Events

August 31st - Smart Cookies Preschool Orientation (6:30 PM)

September 8th - First Day of School for 5-day students

September 9th - First Day of School for 3-day students



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Smart Cookies Preschool is looking for volunteers to help in the classroom. You can volunteer for a full- day (9:30 AM-2:30 PM) or you can volunteer for ½ of the day (9:30 AM-12:00 PM or 12:00 PM-2:30 PM). If you are interested in volunteering, please let Carol Wingert know.



*To My Church Family,
Thank you for all of the cards, prayers,
and phone calls following the death of
my brother, Floyd Fisher.
God Bless all of you, I appreciate each
one of you.*

---Vivian Fisher

*Thank you to our church family for the
prayers, calls, and cards following the
death of our mother and grandmother,
Betty P. Wingert on May 16, 2020.
We are greatly appreciative of your kind
and supportive words.*

**---Jere, Carol, Nicholas, Samuel
Wingert**



*The Family of Charlotte (Mabel)
Hawbaker would like to invite you to
help celebrate her 95th Birthday on
July 30, 2020.*

*Cards can be addressed to:
Mabel Hawbaker
5956 Lincoln Way West
St. Thomas, PA 17252*



Our sympathy to:

*Vivian Fisher and Family following the
death of her brother, Floyd E. Fisher on
Wednesday, June 10, 2020.*

*Janice Mullan and Family following the
death of Janice's daughter, Paula
Marnin of Maine; on Friday, June 12,
2020.*

*John and Carol Van Horn and Family
following the death of John's brother,
Dr. Ben F. Van Horn, Jr. on Monday,
June 15, 2020.*

*Cards can be mailed to:
Harriet Van Horn
79 Oak Circle
Newville, PA 17241*

*Doris Diller Family; Kim and Bo Frazer
Family; John and Margaret Diller Family;
James and Mabel Diller Family following
the death of their husband, father and
brother, Ray Horst Diller on Thursday,
June 25, 2020.*

*Karen Wagner and Family following the
death of her husband, Richard L.
Wagner on Saturday, June 27, 2020.*



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

There will be a shotgun start at 8:00 am
at the **Postponed until a later date**
Fayetteville Golf Club,
15 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.



Brethren Bits

Taking part in a **Church of the Brethren work camp** may look mostly like physical labor, but participants are exercising their spiritual muscles too. In 2018, work campers focused on the interconnectedness of loving both God and people, using devotions based on 1 John 4:19-21.

Project sites were mostly around the US, but also as far away as the Dominican Republic and Berundi. Young people dug holes, cleaned up brush, painted, prepared meals and led vacation Bible school. All the while they were putting their faith into action and showing God's love through acts of service.

From the 2020 Annual Report of the Church of the Brethren



Taste of the Valley has been cancelled.
If you bought tickets and were not
contacted, please let Lora Bucher know.

SATURDAY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY WITH HABITAT!

One of the most common requests we get from volunteers is for opportunities to volunteer on a Saturday. So here it is, the elusive Saturday Volunteer Opportunity! This is a big request, we need SIXTEEN (16!) people to help with our Faith Build project on Saturday, July 18th. The job site is located at [140 Ritchie Road, Fayetteville, PA 17222](#) and we will be working from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We need:

- Eight (8) people who are experienced and comfortable with working on putting sheathing on the roof.
- Eight (8) more people with or without experience to help hang windows and doors.

This is an urgent need, we are worried that we will not have enough participants on this day, and to continue with the next steps, we must get everything done on this day. Can you please come out to help?

In addition, there is a lot that must be accomplished prior to the 18th so that the roof can be put on. Steve will be leading crews through the days ahead of this to get everything prepared. Please stay on the lookout for weekday volunteer opportunities, or reach out directly to Steve to see how you can help.

PLEASE RSVP for the 18th as soon as you can by emailing steve@habitatfranklinpa.org. RSVP is extremely important for this event because we need to ensure that we have enough people. AGAIN, **PLEASE RSVP** to steve@habitatfranklinpa.org