



November 2020

The Pastor's Pen...

Give thanks with a grateful heart.

I saw a wonderful meme on Facebook the other day – **The three hardest things to say are:**

1. I was wrong
2. I need help
3. Worcestershire Sauce

I *thought* you might like that too...

When I was a freshman at Penn State I had an Educational Psychology class that met twice a week. A one-hour per week “lab” was also a requirement.

At the end of the hour, each student had to write a one-page paper that summarized the class reading assignment for that week. The papers were returned with a checkmark at the top whenever class reconvened.

My roommate took the lab with me. He was certain that no one was actually reading the papers. One day, in the middle of his page, he wrote, *Does anyone ever read this?* then he finished the assignment. He continued this prank for more than a month. Believe it or not, five weekly papers were returned with a checkmark before somebody made a comment on his hidden question!

Of all the things I get to do as your pastor, the only thing I do with some trepidation is write my Pastor's Pen. I have this secret fear – call it suspicion – that it really isn't read. And if it IS read, my fear is that it won't be meaningful for you. For as long as I can remember, I have always fought the temptation to include my roommate's question in the middle of my article just to see if anyone catches me!

Assuming you ARE reading this, I just want to say that, in the U.S., November is the month for returning thanks – thanks to our family, thanks to our neighbors and friends, and most especially thanks to the Lord.

One of the things I've learned from reading and teaching the Book of Revelation is how important worship is in God's Word. Worship is central to John's vision. The angels, the elders, the four living creatures, the saints frequently fall before God and return thanks, giving Him all the praise and glory He deserves.

I need to be better at counting my blessings instead of my problems. And I need to make it a habit to give thanks with a grateful heart. Psalm 103 checkmarks the blessings that come from the Lord:

- He forgives our sins
- He heals our sicknesses
- He redeems our lives
- He crowns us with love and compassion
- He satisfies us with good things
- He executes justice

And that's only the beginning! Are you intentional about thanking the Lord? May I suggest we write a page of blessings and praises in a journal or tablet this Thanksgiving? No one but God will read it. But I just think it might help me to write him a "love note" and get it out during December whenever I feel underappreciated and overwhelmed. I will be blessed and so will the Lord!

By the way, thank you for reading this; thank you for allowing me to be your shepherd; thank you for all the support you show to both Kathie and me: and thank you for four wonderful years!

Pastor Joel



The 2020 Congregational Council Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 22 at 9:30 am (replacing the Sunday School hour) in the Sanctuary. We will follow social distancing protocols for the safety of all who are in attendance. Please bring a pen or pencil to mark your ballots as they will not be distributed at the meeting.

Packets for the meeting will be distributed by e-mail or regular mail by November 8th.

Given the unusual circumstances associated with COVID, church members who do not feel comfortable attending the meeting in person will be given the opportunity to vote for new Board members, confirm annual conference and district conference delegates and vote on the 2021 budget by absentee ballot. On Thursday, November 19, Carol Wingert and a Board member will be at the church from 5-7 pm to distribute and collect ballots. To vote, you will drive into the parking lot behind the church and remain in your car. You will be handed two ballots per member. After marking the ballots, you will place them into separate, closed boxes, which will not be opened until Sunday morning when the other ballots are counted.



What's coming from the pulpit in November?

Mighty Men and Women of Valor in These Uncertain Times

The biblical story of how a man named, Gideon, rose to the occasion in the midst of great adversity is relevant to those of us who need a little backbone to face the tumult of COVID, elections, China and just about everything that unnerves us.

Discover how the LORD literally reinvented one man's faith and helped him become victorious in life.

October 25 – *Who Me?* Judges 6:1-24

November 4 – *Misplaced Loyalties* Judges 6:25-32

November 11 – *A Good Fleecing* Judges 6:33-40

November 18 – Jamie Rhodes will bring the Word

November 25 – *Convinced and Convicted* Judges 7:9-23



Because of the ongoing need for social distancing, our fall Love Feast was not held on World Communion Sunday.

However, we still observed and celebrated communion at both of our services of worship, using TRUEVINE prefilled communion bread and cups. The individually packaged and personal "cracker" and juice which were available at each of our welcome tables made it safe and easy to have communion together at the appropriate point in worship.

The eucharist went so well we have made the decision to use prefilled bread and juice for our upcoming Christmas Eve service on December 24th.

In order to ensure our safety and effectively maintain social distancing, we will host two (2) services on Christmas Eve. You will have a choice of attending our new 5:00 p.m. family-friendly service, featuring carols, holy communion and candle lighting OR you may attend our traditional 7 p.m. service which will also celebrate Christ with communion and candle lighting. Come, worship Jesus, the newborn King!!



November

- **Youth Sunday School Class:** Each Sunday at 9:30-10:30am, we will be meeting in the Youth Room located in the Brethren Haus. Hope to see you there!
- **Youth Group:** We will continue each Wednesday of month; November 4th, 11th, and 18th. We will not be meeting on November 25th due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. If anything changes, we will notify all youth and parents ASAP.

What will be expected? The youth will wear masks as they enter the church building. Then they will sign in at the welcome desk, get their temperature checked and will wash their hands in the restrooms. Then they can head to the gym for a group activity.

For the month of November, we are dedicating it to Getting Back to Normal Youth Group!

We will be having normal youth group! Get ready for some great games, message, small groups, snacks and table games! We will be taking all the COVID Precautions that we are already doing as we enter into a normal youth group setting. Please bring your Bible and a friend to join us as we uncover new things that God has in store for us.

- **Youth Modified Lock-In:**

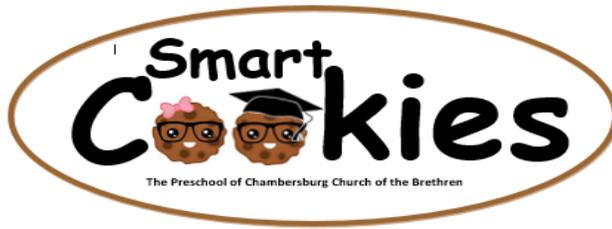
Friday, November 20th from 6:00pm - 1:00am
Activity Fee: \$35.00



This November we will have our annual Youth Lock-In. This year, it will be modified due to COVID-19. We will be having dinner here at the church when all the youth arrive at the church. We will then load up on a School Bus and will be going to Sky Zone in Hagerstown for their Glow Jump. Afterwards, we will go to Lincoln Lanes in Chambersburg for a Glow Bowl. The Snack Bar will be open at the bowling alley, if you are interested in buying any concessions, please bring extra money. Skyzone and Lincoln Lanes has stressed that they have taken great lengths to be COVID cautious.

- Masks are required when on the buses and entering and walking around in each building.
- Sky Zone is allowing people to not wear masks when jumping, but if a teen chooses to wear a mask, that is fine.
- Lincoln Lanes is allowing teens to take off their masks when bowling and eating, but will need to wear them when walking around.

If you are interested, please fill out the permission slips and hand in fee to Jamie by November 11th.



SMART COOKIES PRESCHOOL NEWS

October is usually a busy and active month for our preschoolers, but due to a positive COVID test, the school has been shut down for 2 weeks. When we return we will continue learning about autumn, apples, pumpkins, scarecrows, fire safety, and lots of other exciting things. Our students will learn about how pumpkins grow and complete a pumpkin investigation. They have learned how to dial 911 in case of a fire, the importance of firefighters and what they do, and learned “Stop, Drop, and Roll”. We even had a fire drill. We also have been learning rhyming, colors, and different math skills.

We will be finishing up our program called Soccer Shots at the end of October. The class has been learning soccer skills like control, toe touches, pull backs, etc. and about determination, team work, etc. This is a really great program that we all enjoy.

On Friday, October 30th, we will be having our harvest festival. The students are looking forward to trick or treating around the church.

November Special Dates

- 11th- No School-Veteran’s Day
- 19th- Smart Cookies Preschool Sharing Meal
- 25th- 12:30 Early Dismissal for Thanksgiving
- 26th-December 1st - No School- Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 2nd- Preschool Reopens





Smart Cookies Preschool is pleased to report a profit of \$1625 from our Chicken-Bar-B-Que.

With the help of all of you, this has been our most successful Bar-B-Que to date.

This committee is so grateful for the love and support we receive from each of you. Your generosity has been very beneficial to our program and we thank you.

---Smart Cookies Committee

Thank you everyone who sent prayers my way during my health issues last month. I am doing better, but still have some blood pressure and diabetes issues.

God Bless each of you.

---Fern Shank (Janice Valentine's sister)

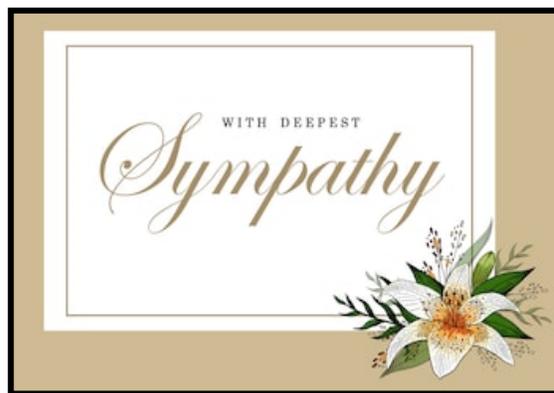
NewsLetter
DEADLINE

Deadline for December Pastor's Pen is Sunday, November 15, 2020.

Please submit all information to the church office.

Change of Phone Number

Please take note that Cinda Frey has a new telephone number. It is 510-417-8293. Mark it in your church 2020 Directory.



Our sympathy to:

*Donna and Gary Russell and Family;
Loretta and Kirk Funk and Family;
following the death of their brother,
Thomas S. "Tom" Danzberger, Jr. on
Wednesday, October 14, 2020.*

*Margaret and John Diller and Family
following the death of Margie's sister-in-
law, Brenda K. Benedict on Monday,
September 28, 2020.*

Congratulations to Deborah Austin,
*Professor of Chemistry at Wilson
College in Chambersburg.*

*Deb was awarded The Donald F. Bletz
teaching award at the college's Virtual
Academic Awards Ceremony in May.*



*Ben Bard is currently in Menno-Haven.
His family invites you to send him a card
of cheer while he is rehabilitating.*

His address is:

Ben Bard

*Menno Haven Rehab
2055 Scotland Avenue
214 Coastal Way
Chambersburg, PA 17201*



Orders will be taken for Burgundy Poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary and Brethren Life Center during December 20th Worship.

Cost is \$8.75. Additional order forms are available in your church mailbox, Narthex and BLC lobby. Orders with payment must be returned by Sunday, November 15, 2020. Boxes are provided in the Narthex and BLC Lobby for your orders.

Clip and return the order form below.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS

Poinsettias will be placed for Sunday Worship on December 20, 2020.

Orders **MUST** be returned by Sunday, November 15, 2020.

Please place your order in the boxes provided in the Narthex and the BLC Lobby.

Payment in full is expected when you place your order.

The price is: **Burgundy Poinsettia** – 6-inch pot with 5 to 7 blooms - \$8.75

Number of 6-inch pots _____ Total (cash) _____ (check) _____

Name _____

Phone # _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Given by _____

Placed in (circle one)

Sanctuary

Brethren Life Center



Fall Sunday School Classes

It is time for us to regather our Adult Sunday School Class. We will continue to meet at 9:30-10:30am in the Sanctuary. There will only be one class at this time. We ask you to keep the current guidelines that are in place during our normal worship services. This is a time for us to deepen our relationship and knowledge of Jesus! We hope you will join us!

November 1st we will be regathering our Youth Sunday School located in the Brethren Haus Youth Room. Children's Church is still temporarily closed.



Brethren Bits

THROUGH INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES

Brethren deepened their understanding of justice by engaging in Dikaios and Discipleship, a bus tour to learn about the impact of race in Cincinnati. That paved the way for the church to study indigenous issues thru a Native American Challenge.

THE OFFICE OF PEACEBUILDING AND POLICY

arranged for leaders of EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria, to speak with key people in Washington, D.C., about the crisis in Nigeria. Staff joined members of the Haitian Church of the Brethren in Miami in a witness for justice for immigrants.

BRETHREN VOLUNTEER SERVICE

sent volunteers far and wide to foster peace and justice and respond to human need. In a statement on gun violence, the Mission and Ministry Board called the church to reclaim its "saltiness."

From the 2020 Annual Report of the Church of the Brethren



Don't forget to Turn back your clocks

Daylight Saving Time will officially end at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 1, 2020. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before retiring Saturday night or you will be an hour early for church in the morning!

Gospel Echoes Team
Banquet
www.gospelechoes.com
Chambersburg Mennonite Church
 1800 Philadelphia Ave. | Chambersburg, PA

Harvest Team
 Mercy Road Team

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020
6:30 pm

Tickets Required: Tickets Adults: \$10.00
Children Age 4-10 \$5.00 3 & Under Free

Please check Gospel Echoes Facebook / website for pending local restrictions
 A freewill offering will be received for the ministry!!

For Tickets Call:
 Royce & Cheryl Martin | 717.530.9643 • Glenn & Fannie Kuhns | 717.263.0968
 Peter & MaryAnn Zucconi | 717.532.9691 • Dan & Louann Lehman | 717.377.1579

Sharing Christ In Prison

WHAT: Mid-Week to Go.....

WHEN: Wednesday, November 4th between 5:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

WHERE: Chambersburg COB

Meal delivered to your car!
First come-first served basis.

