

The
Season
of
Lent



March 2021

The Pastor's Pen...

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Everyone who comes after me must deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me." Mark 8:34 JFN

When I read Jesus' teaching above, two words always come to my mind: sacrifice and surrender. Jesus surrendered his life on the cross as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

During the season of Lent, many of us surrender or give up something to remind us of his ultimate sacrifice. Although what we deny ourselves pales in comparison to Jesus' giving up his own life, it does help us keep solidarity with him.

I read an article in the February 2021 issue of *Country Living* – [Here's What to Give up for Lent](#). If you have been feeling you'd like to try this discipline but are still wondering what to surrender, here is a list (in no particular order) for your consideration:

Gossip	Binge Watching	Speeding
Coffee	Clutter	The News
Desserts & Sweets	Single-Use Plastic	Overscheduling
Alcohol	Staying Up Late	Swear Words
Soda	Online Shopping	Skipping Exercise
Snacking	Impulsive Spending	Gaming
Dining Out	Being Late	Bad Posture
Negativity	Social Media	Meat

I was visiting with a retired minister who was reading his former church's March newsletter when he noted there was not one mention of Lent in any article. "I think St. James has given up Lent for Lent!" he said in jest.

There's no rule on the church books that states we *must* give up something or we're not true members. But Jesus is very clear that we must practice the discipline of self-denial and surrender or we're not true disciples.

Whatever you choose to surrender, may it be a decision that proves to be a blessing in your spiritual journey this spring.

Pastor Joel



Some of you have asked if we will celebrate the Love Feast on Palm Sunday as is our practice.

We want you to know that it is on our “radar;” however, the deacon body will not meet and make a decision until Tuesday, March 2nd.

We have not held our Love Feast service since October 2019 because of concern for social distancing and the general safety and wellbeing of our church family.

We appreciate your patience as we prayerfully ponder what to do. If it is decided to postpone Love Feast, we will hold bread and cup communion at both services on Palm Sunday morning.

Look for an online and in-person announcement on Sun. March 7th.



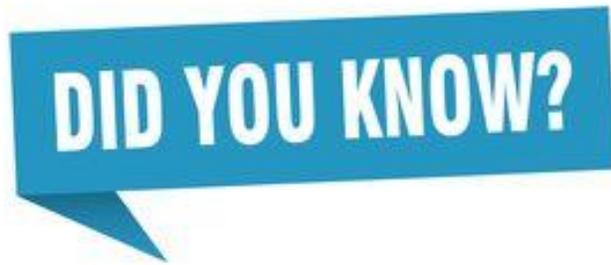
**VIRTUAL
HYMN
SING**

**PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 28 AT 3:00PM**

Facebook Live and Website
www.chamcob.org

The Virtual Hymn Sing on March 28 at 3:00 p.m. will include many of your favorite hymns. How do we know this? Because we are asking for your assistance in selecting them! How can you help? By emailing, calling, or writing down your favorite hymn and giving them to Liz Thorpe. There will be a box available on Sunday morning in the Narthex and the BLC lobby for you to write down your favorite hymn and place it in the box. Or... you can simply email your hymns selection to Liz at lizthorpe62@gmail.com or call Liz at the church (717)264-6957.

We are excited about singing our praises to God with hymns that have touched our hearts for many years. I hope you will join us. It will be a wonderful way to celebrate Palm Sunday!



Chambersburg Church of the Brethren will be hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive in our Brethren Life Center on Thursday, April 22nd, Thursday, May 20th and Thursday, June 24th, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. The Church has been asked by the Red Cross to provide volunteers on blood drive days to help with greeting and snacks. (This is really a lot of fun, a lot more fun when we are not facing COVID but still fun, it takes about three or four helpers on blood drive day). These helpers will scan donors at the door for temperature, greet them and help them sign in, and hand out snacks at the refreshment area. Helpers can help the whole drive or split it up in to two shifts. I hear from most that they like to split it up in which case we would need six to eight helpers. Three or four for the first shift and three or four for the second. Please consider volunteering and contact Carol Wingert in the church office (264-6957 or chambcob@gmail.com) if you can help!

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf nominated Alison (Van Horn) Beam as acting Secretary of the Department of Health replacing Dr. Rachel Levine who obtained a position with the Biden Administration. Alison is an attorney and health policy administrator who served most recently as Governor Wolf's deputy chief of staff.

Alison is the daughter of Carol and John Van Horn. Congratulations to the Van Horn Family!



Check Out a Library Book

New Arrivals in the Library for March 2021

DVD

Remember Sunday

Non-Fiction

The Latte Factor by David Bach

Fiction

The Broken Road by Richard Paul Evans

The Forgotten Road by Richard Paul Evans

The Road Home by Richard Paul Evans

Volunteer Needed

Our church library is looking for a volunteer to assist with the operations of the Adult section of our library.

If this is something you think would be a good fit for you, please contact Gloria Oldham or Linda Remson.

The Church Library is open during the week if you wish to check out books!



Note:
Due to the winter season,
Please be advised that cancellations might happen
the day of Youth Group.
Jamie will notify each youth member and parents if
this happens.

- **Youth Group:** We will continue each Wednesday of the month; March 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st.
 - o There will be **NO** Youth Group on March 3rd. Jamie and Travis will be quarantining due to moving Ezechiel to Portland, Oregon the weekend before.
- **Dinner & Movie Night:** On Saturday, March 20th at 6-9pm, we will be gathering at the church to enjoy dinner together while watching a movie. This event is **FREE** and we encourage you to bring a friend or two!



This past February, the youth did another outreach for the residents at Shook Home and Magnolias of Chambersburg. We bought chocolate roses for Valentine's Day and added a special note of encouragement for each person.

We surprised 143 residents with a special valentine's day gift.

EVENING WITHOUT KIDS

4th Street Church of the Brethren is offering free caregiving for our church family.



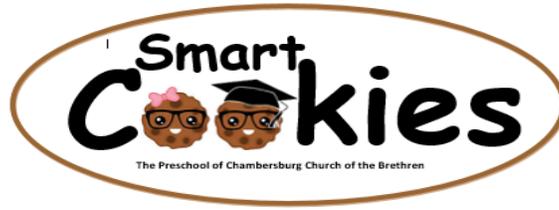
When: Friday, March 12 5:30 – 8:00pm
Where: The Brethren Haus on E. Liberty St.
Who: Children ages 6 months – 5th grade

A meal will be provided or bring along a favorite packed meal for your child

Please call the church office 717-264-6957 by March 9th to register children.



Chambersburg Church of the Brethren
260 South Fourth Street | Chambersburg, PA
(717) 264-6957 | www.chambcob.org



SMART COOKIES PRESCHOOL NEWS

March 2021

February has been a very exciting month at Smart Cookies. We are learning about winter animals, groundhogs, Valentine's Day, Dental Health, letters, the numbers 6&7, many Old testament stories, and about our community.

On February 10th, we had our Valentine's Day party and had some fun activities. February 10th, we also celebrated the students "graduating" to the next level of karate. We had a time for the parents to come in and see what the children have been learning and to receive their new belt. They went from a white belt to a white belt with a yellow stripe.

For the month of March, we have fun activities planned, such as our Dr. Seuss celebration, our 100th day of school celebration, St. Patrick's Day activities, the beginning of Spring, and much more. We will also be starting our Spring Season of Soccer Shots.

Upcoming March Events

March 1st-5th - Dr. Seuss Activities and Celebration

March 15th- No School- Spring Break

March 17th- Wear green for St. Patrick's Day

March 19th- 100th Day of School Celebration and Activities

March 20th- First Day of Spring





Dear Chambersburg Church of the Brethren,

The Salvation Army of Chambersburg would like to thank you for generously giving your time during our 2020 Red Kettle Campaign this past Christmas season. This past Kettle Season was a difficult and challenging one amidst the pandemic. Your help was greatly appreciated and needed more than ever. During your time ringing the bell you raised \$1,493.94, helping to bring our grand total to \$122,039.30.

We sincerely hope that you will participate in the 2021 Red Kettle Campaign. Blessings!

---Jaclyn Brewer, Lieutenant Assistant Corps Officer, Pastor

Blessings to all for the caring thoughts, prayers, phone calls, and beautiful cards offered for the illness and death of Al.

We are so thankful for this church family.

---God Bless, Pat Corman & Families

To Chambersburg COB,
Once again we want you to know we really do appreciate your church and personnel making accommodations for us to hold our exercise class.

May God bless and keep your church and congregation safe.

---Limber Ladies Exercise Class



Our Sympathy to:

Deborah Austin and Family following the death of her mother, Shirley Austin on Monday, February 22, 2021.

The Family of Thomas R. Fleming following his death on Friday, February 19, 2021.



Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 14th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead an hour!





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

WHEN: Wednesday, March 3rd
between 5:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

WHERE: Chambersburg COB

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



Newsletter

Deadline for April Pastor's Pen is
Sunday, March 21, 2021.

Please submit all information to the
church office.

Meat Canning Project



6 Days

*April 5, 6, 7,
12, 13 & 14*

Processed at:
Christian Aid Ministries
Ephrata, PA

Sponsored by:
Southern PA &
Mid-Atlantic Districts COB

VOLUNTEER TODAY!

- Help with canning and labeling, there are 2 shifts each day, 7:15 a.m. to noon and 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. **Note: change in shift times.**
- Sign-up early to secure your preferred day and time.
- Volunteers are also needed to provide meals or finances to help cover the cost of meals.
- See Meat Canning brochure or District website for more details.
- Contact your District Office to **VOLUNTEER!**

**The Southern PA District Office has
successfully moved and has a physical location
once again.**

SO PA District Office Church of the Brethren
3375 Carlisle Road Suite A
Gardners, PA 17324

717-778-2264 is the office phone# (you will be
prompted to select Carolyn or Bill).

717-778-2254 is Bill's direct# if you want to
by-pass the above.

We no longer have fax capability.
Our email addresses have remained the same.

For those not familiar with Gardners, we are
located along Rt 34 between Biglerville and Mt.
Holly Springs, in beautiful orchard country.

Refresh and Renew: R&R in Christ

On March 12, Liz Thorpe will be starting a new ministry called “Refresh and Renew: R&R in Christ.” This will be a time of quiet reflection, scripture reading, and sharing – a time to slow down from our busyness and be quiet in the presence of God.

We will meet weekly via Zoom on Fridays, 10:00-11:00 a.m. You will receive a zoom link each week to serve as a reminder of our time together. There will be a limit on the number of participants to allow for adequate sharing time. If needed, we can form another group at a different time or day.

Knowing schedules do not always allow for a weekly commitment, please join us when you can. If you would like to come to the well for refreshment and renewal in Christ, please contact Liz at the church office (717264-6957 or by email at lizthorpe62@gmail.com).



What's coming from the pulpit?

Pivotal Moments

To pivot means, *to turn or make a shift* as in “Joel swung or pivoted on his heels.”

According to Webster's Dictionary, pivotal moments are moments of clarity that shift our perspective and provide opportunity to make a turn.

We've been hearing that the virus has been pivotal in introducing us to new ways of seeing and doing things. Similarly, much of what Jesus said and did created pivotal moments in established practices and beliefs.

During Lent we will look at some of Jesus' pivotal moments. Join us for worship and prepared to be challenged and changed by the unpredictable impact of the inescapable Jesus.



Annual Conference pivots from hybrid to online event in 2021

A release from the Program and Arrangements Committee of the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference

The Program and Arrangements Committee has determined that the 2021 Annual Conference will be entirely online. The committee hoped to have a hybrid (both in-person and online) Conference as announced last fall. However, due to the continuing challenges of COVID-19, the committee deemed that it is not wise to have an in-person component for Annual Conference this summer. As Program and Arrangements Committee has consistently stressed, the health and safety of Annual Conference participants is the highest priority.

This was a difficult decision to make since last summer's Annual Conference needed to be cancelled entirely because of COVID-19. While we know that meeting in person eventually will be safe again, we sadly do not believe that it will happen in time to safely have an in-person event at the end of June 2021.

This will be the first time that the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference has gathered entirely online, as many of our congregations have been doing these past 10 months. While we lament that we cannot be together in person to hug one another, sing together, and eat at tables together, we are nevertheless excited about the new opportunities an online gathering offers. We will be able to open Annual Conference to much greater participation than ever before. Instead of traveling long distances and having only 2,000 or so Brethren gathered together, we are throwing wide the doors to thousands of Brethren who never before have been able to participate fully in Annual Conference.

Imagine an opportunity for many people from each one of our congregations to participate in the virtual opportunities that will be included in the 2021 Annual Conference, gaining tools and resources for their congregations' ministries, benefiting from leadership development, earning continuing education credits, participating in spiritual growth, and networking with other Brethren who share similar ministries and interests.

We are offering a one-time reduced price for non-delegate adults to register for the online Annual Conference for only \$99. That fee will support the ministry and on-going expenses of Annual Conference and will give non-delegates access to: --all six business sessions; --all Insight and Equipping Sessions; --all networking events;

--a virtual concert by Fernando Ortega. Ortega is a multi-Dove award winner and singer-songwriter whose hits include "This Good Day" and "Jesus, King of Angels";

--resource sessions led by Tod Bolsinger, best-selling author of *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*. Bolsinger is the vice president and chief of leadership formation at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, Calif.; --daily Bible studies, along with Insight Sessions, led by Michael Gorman, author of more than 20 books on biblical theology. Gorman is the Raymond E. Brown Chair in Biblical Studies and Theology at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Md., and a frequent lecturer at church and clergy gatherings.

Note: All five worship services will be available free of charge to non-registered persons.

