

The Pastor's Pen...

April 2022



For creation was subjected to futility – not willingly, but because of him who subjected it – in the hope that creation itself will be set free from the bondage to decay into the glorious freedom of God’s children. Romans 8:20-21 CSB

Years ago, in the dead of winter, someone said to me, “Winter really exposes humankind’s crudeness.” What he meant was, with the absence of leaves and foliage on the undergrowth, litter and pollution that had been hidden there is revealed and it doesn’t look pretty.

I like fall and winter. I know not everyone shares my view. I admit it is sad to watch things recede and die. And while there is still a lot of life in our cold Pennsylvania winters, much of what we enjoy about spring and summer goes into “hibernation” here.

You’ve probably noticed things are beginning to return from dormancy. For example, when I’m outside with the dogs before dawn I have noticed the sound of returning birds. The ice on the fish pond has melted. Some of the trees are starting to bud. There are “old friends’ like the crocus and the daffodil showing their faces in lovely pastels.

Things are returning to life. Which, of course, makes me thankful for Jesus. He routinely told the disciples that the Son of Man would be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and die. But the rest of the story is his return from the dead which makes Easter the best news of all!

I believe the Father so ordered creation to be subject to death so it could be “set free from bondage” and return to life JUST SO we wouldn’t forget there is more to this life than living and dying – just so we’d put our eyes on Jesus and know what the hymnwriter said is true:

BECAUSE *HE* LIVES, I CAN FACE TOMORROW!

I invite you to come to one of our two services of celebration on Easter Sunday – 8:30 or 10:45. The music will be lively and uplifting; the Spirit will be resurrecting hearts; I’ll talk about *The Difference a Day Makes*. Like the return of spring, it makes all the difference in the world.

Joel

The Apostle Paul told the believers in Corinth that faith and hope and love abide, but the greatest of the three is *love*.

Jesus told a seeker that God *loves* the world so much God gave it his one and only Son.

John told the church that whoever doesn't love doesn't know God because God *is love*.

Our Lenten theme is, *Love Reigns*. And we are looking at some folks in the gospels whom Jesus loved particularly well. On March 6 Jesus demonstrated love to a Samaritan woman who was isolated, shame-ridden, and alone.

Coming Up: Love reigns in the lives of...

A woman caught in the act of adultery (March 26)

A blind beggar from Jericho (April 3)

Two women who expressed their love thru anointing (Palm Sunday)

Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb (Easter)



Then... ***Moving Forward – Discovering God's Presence and Purpose in Your Tomorrow***

April 24: Dream and Pray

May 1: Focus and Choose

May 8: Take a Risk

May 15: Austin House, preaching

May 22: Believe

May 29: Finish

June 5: Celebrate!



Connect Groups: C-Groups Craft Corner Schedule

April 14, 6:00 p.m.

Macrame Heart Wall Hanging – Pam West will be teaching us how to macrame (cord knotting) a wall hanging with a heart in the center. This is a fun craft that has been around for many years. No previous skill required. Cost of the class is \$10, which includes all supplies and cost of instruction. Choose from the following colors for your heart: Red, Maroon, Pink, Orange, Grey, Medium Blue, Black, Coral, Green, Lime, Dark Green, Purple, Lavender. Sign-up in the BLC lobby today!

April 19, 6:00 p.m.

Watercolor Painting Class – Ann Deardorff will be leading another class on watercolor painting. Create beautiful watercolor works of art. No previous painting skills required. Ann will provide all instruction necessary. There will be a small cost for the supplies for this class. Please sign-up in the BLC lobby.

****NOTE:** Ann is willing to teach a daytime class. If you are interested, please contact Liz Thorpe so a date can be set for the event.

April 25, 1:00 p.m.

Felt Ornament Class – Lois Fleagle and Liz Thorpe will be leading a class on making various ornaments for Christmas and seasonal trees. No previous skills required. All supplies will be provided. Please sign-up in the BLC lobby.

**May 5, 6:00 p.m. OR
May 16, 1:00 p.m.**

String Art – Cindy Swarner of “The Woods in Three Square” handcrafted décor, will be teaching us the techniques of String Art. Cindy is offering 22 projects to choose from including some for kids. Cost of the class is \$12-\$15 for kids projects and \$25-\$30 for a 7x7 project for adults. Cost includes all supplies and cost of instruction. No previous skill required.

****NOTE:** You can choose from either the evening or daytime class OR attend both!!



A NOTE FROM THE NEW DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH

Hello, I want to introduce myself and say how excited I am to work in this ministry with you and the children of the church.

My name is Gretchen Sortzi and I have been an educator and speaker as a faith-based entrepreneur for the last 25 years. Born and raised in the Church of the Brethren I come from a long line of faith and ministry; as many of my family currently pastor churches in Virginia. I am a college graduate several times over, most proud of my time at Clarion University with a Bachelor's in Communication and also a Master's of Sociology from Arizona State University.

I've been described as a dynamic speaker and educator, with my own stories of struggle and victory, led by a passion to change the lives of others through God's love. My greatest achievement is and always will be my amazing daughter, Haley. I'm sure you'll be getting to know her, too. We are both new residents to Chambersburg and excited to get started.

I look forward to using my skills and talents to love and grow this church. If you have any questions, concerns, or would just like to say hello, please get in contact with me at the church and we can set up an apt in person or by zoom.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kind welcome and open hearts. I hope to get to know all of you in my time here.

Be blessed,

Gretchen Sortzi

gretchen@chambcob.org

Director of Christian Education & Youth Ministries



Here is a list of what the youth will be involved in for the month of April.

Every Wednesday from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

4/6 Black-Coffey Caverns! The Youth will be taking a trip to Black-Coffey Caverns in Williamson, PA. on April 6th. We will explore this 3,000-foot cave together! We will leave the church that night at 5:45 p.m. and return at approximately 8:15 p.m. Permission slips were mailed in March!

4/13, 4/20, 4/27 – Group meeting, lesson, and games

4/20 - Ice Cream Sundae Social

4/27 - Youth Sunday Practice

YOUTH SUNDAY

Sunday, May 1, 2022 is National Youth Sunday. All over the country the youth and children of the church will be holding services, leading worship, and sharing God's love. We will be hosting two services this year. The first from 8:30 to 9:30 and the second from 10:45 to 11:45. Students should plan to be at the church from 8 to 12 that day. A snack will be served between services.

I have prepared a special program this year and I will need the help of everyone. Each student will have a role in making this day the best. I am asking that any student who participates in youth group, Sunday school, or children's church, consider participating this year. Information will be handed out at youth group.

Thank you in advance for being part of this special service. Students in need of transportation for Youth Sunday should let me know as soon as possible so it can be arranged.

THIS IS GOING TO BE A GREAT YEAR!!!

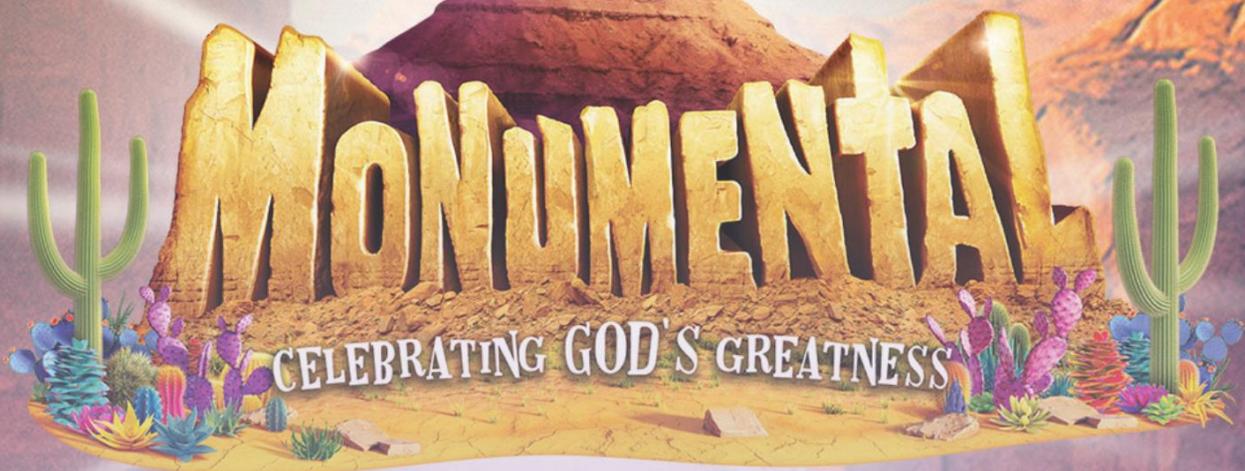
Blessings,
Gretchen Sortzi
Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries
gretchen@chambcob.org

SPECIAL AND ENDLESS THANK YOU!

Thank you to this great team of leaders who have a passion for the Lord and our students. Their help has been invaluable. The last few months could not have been a success without them.

Cody Toms, Nicholas Wingert, Samuel Wingert, Amy McNeil, Terry & Tangela Gibbons, Megan Preso, Stacy Gray, Garrett Bayer, and Joel Nogle

Save the date!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 13-17, 2022

Ages 4 to 5th Grade

9:00am - 11:30am

4th Street Church of the Brethren

260 South 4th Street | Chambersburg, PA | www.chambcob.org | (717) 264-6957



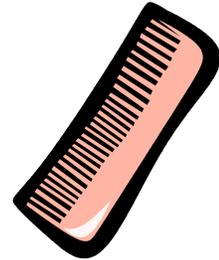
Hygiene Kits

The Helping Hands Circle will be assembling Hygiene Kits for Cumberland Valley Relief Center, 4225 Molly Pitcher Hwy, Chambersburg. Donations of the following items would be greatly appreciated. Items may be placed in the boxes in the Narthex and BLC by **Sunday, April 17th**.

New Items Only

- Hand Towel (medium weight, dark or bright colors; approx. 16 in. x 26 in)
- One wide-toothed comb (6-8 in)
- Nail Clipper (good quality)
- Large Bar of Soap (bath size in wrapper)
- Adult-sized toothbrush (in manufacturer's packaging)

Thank You!



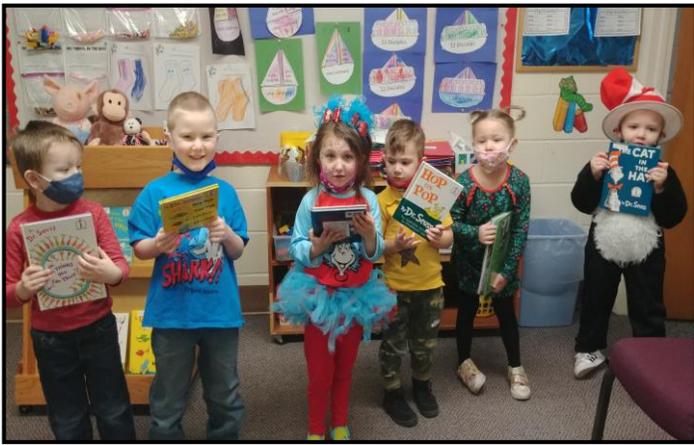
DRIVE-THRU 

**EASTER
PARADE**

APRIL 9, 2022 | 10 AM - 11 AM

Drive thru for a bag of
goodies including
Candy, Candy, & Candy!

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



SMART COOKIES PRESCHOOL NEWS

March has been a very active month for us. We had Dr. Seuss month and enjoyed parents/grandparents coming in to read to us. We had different themes throughout the week. Friday most of us dressed as our favorite Dr. Seuss character. We celebrated St. Patrick's day on Thursday, March 17th.

For the month of April, we have fun activities planned, we have a class trip scheduled. We will be planting flowers, learning about butterflies and bugs, spending time outside, and having theme Fridays. Soccer Shots also begins on April 1st.

Upcoming April Events

- April 1st - Superhero Day: Dress as your favorite superhero
- April 8th- Sports Team Friday: Dress in your team's favorite jersey
- April 13th- Spring Pictures/ Easter Party and Egg Hunt
- April 15th-18th- Easter Break
- April 20th- Earth Day
- April 22nd- Pajama Day- Wear your pajamas to school
- April 27th- Field Trip to Stoner's Dairy Farm



SOPA District Women's Spring Luncheon

The Southern PA District Women's Spring Luncheon will be held on Saturday, April 23, 2022 at Hanover Church of the Brethren.

Leah J. Hileman will be the guest speaker. Leah is the author of nearly 300 original contemporary Christian songs and has been performing music professionally since 1993, both throughout the United States and around the world. World travels include New Zealand, Australia, Scotland, Canada, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

Cost is \$10 and registration deadline is April 15th.

Brochures with registration information for this are available in the Brethren Life Center Lobby and the Narthex.

*Southern PA District Church
of the Brethren*

*2022 District
Women's Spring Luncheon*

Isaiah 43: 18-19

**God Is Doing a
New Thing!**

Saturday, April 23, 2022

9:00 a.m.

**Hanover
Church of the Brethren**

*601 Wilson Ave
Hanover, PA 17331*



Our Sympathy to:

*Janet and Bob Deardorff and Family
following the death of Janet's brother,
Eugene David Stover on Thursday,
March 10, 2022.*

Finances at a Glance March 20, 2022

God's work done in God's way will never lack for funds. Generosity is contagious. God never promised to meet our budget, only our needs.

----J. Hudson Taylor

Unified Budget Received Year-to-Date
\$94,843.81



Deadline for May Pastor's Pen is Sunday, April 17th.

Please submit all information to the church office.



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

WHEN: Wednesday, April 6, 2022
5:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

WHERE: Chambersburg COB

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

*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.*



For your Reading Pleasure in the Church Library:

" Abandoned Pennsylvania: Ruins of the Family Dream"

When is a house Vacant or Abandoned?

" Stitches in Time"

A school teacher comes to Stoney Ridge for a fresh start.

"The German Boy"

What life was like for a little boy, his Mother & younger sister as they struggle to get away from the Russian Troops after World War II

" Our Home In the Hill"

History of Camp Eder's 1st 50 years

DVD *"The Gift of Hope:
the Tony Melendez Story"*



Taste of the Valley will be on April 5, 2022 at LifePoint Church. Seating is being reduced so order tickets early!

Tickets are still \$25, and are available from Lora Bucher or Stacy Grey.

2022 Camp Eder Golf Outing



Friday May 6, 2022
Carroll Valley Golf Course at Liberty Mountain

78 Country Club Trail
Fairfield, Pa 17320



7:00 am Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:00 am Shotgun Start (Four Player Scramble Format)
12:00 Noon Lunch at Camp Eder

Registration
\$85 per person
\$325 per-four person team
Hole sponsor and Foursome \$425



To register or for more information contact Camp Eder
717-642-8256
campeder@campeder.org
914 Mt Hope Rd
Fairfield, Pa 17320



2022 Camp Eder Golf Registration and Sponsorship Form

Golf Registration Information

Individual Golfer: \$85
Foursome: \$325
Hole Sponsor & Foursome: \$425

-Men's and Mixed Divisions-

- Registration includes Continental breakfast, drinks on the course, cart, greens fees, range balls, prizes and Lunch following the tournament at Camp Eder.

- Blessed Bags, Powerballs & Mulligans will be available.

Sponsorship Opportunities:

Geigley Lodge Sponsor: \$1500

Tree of Peace Sponsor: \$1,000

Schwarzenau Sponsor: \$650

Mack Cabin Sponsor: \$250

Hole Sponsor & Foursome: \$425

Hole Sponsor: \$125

Sand trap Sponsor \$ 75

Friends Listing: \$50

All donations will be listed if you choose in the program.
PLEASE, NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES* & No Smoking at Camp Eder
Covid protocols will be enforced as per State of Pennsylvania.

REGISTRATION:

(Name) (Address) (Phone)

(Name) (Address) (Phone)

(Name) (Address) (Phone)

(Name) (Address) (Phone)

Sponsorship Level _____ Amount Enclosed _____



Bus Trip to Sight and Sound Thursday, May 19, 2022

The Fellowship and Recreation Commission is sponsoring a trip to Sight and Sound theater for "David" in Strasburg, Pennsylvania on Thursday, May 19, 2022. The schedule of the day will be departing the church at 8:30 a.m. with show time at 11:00 a.m.; stop for meal (Bird-in-Hand), and return to church.

Cost for bus, tickets, meal buffet (Bird-in-Hand) is \$125 for Adults and \$90 for Children. Payment is due upon sign up and payable to Chambersburg Church of the Brethren. If you are unable to attend after signing up, you are responsible for getting a replacement. No refunds will be given. Reservation deadline is April 1st. Sign-up in the Brethren Life Center lobby.

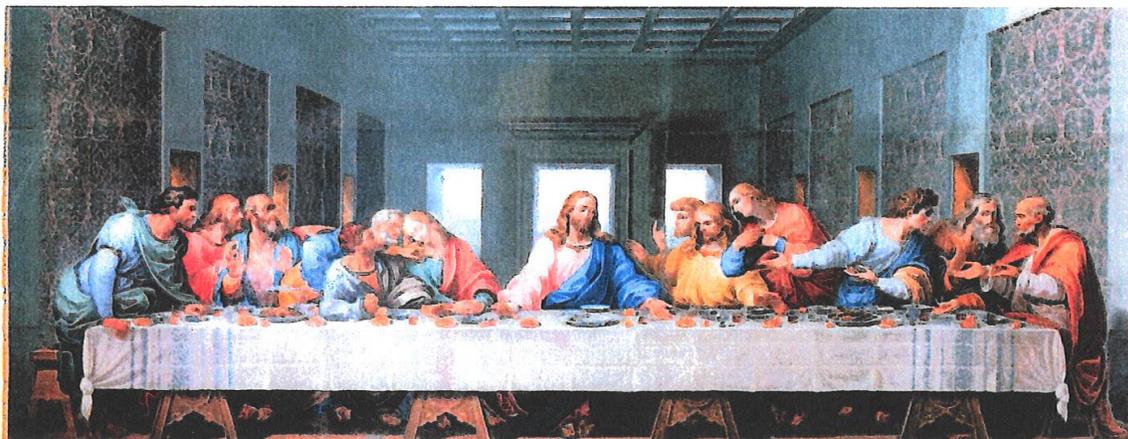
For information concerning the theater and the play "David" go to <https://lancasterpa.com/attractions/sight-and-sound-theatre/>.

“THE LIVING LAST SUPPER”

An Easter Drama

PRESENTED BY

WAYNESBORO CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



“Is it I, Lord?”

Palm Sunday, April 10th, 2022

2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 15TH, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Public is Welcome

Free Admission

Handicap Accessible

117 South Church Street

Waynesboro, PA 17268

717-762-3835

WAYNESBORO CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Visit us online at www.cobwaypa.org