



The Pastor's Pen...

May 2022

**You see, when God gives grace and issues a call to a people,
He does not change His mind and take it back.
Romans 11:29 The VOICE Translation**

For I the LORD do not change. Malachi 3:6a NIV

A snow on the 18th of April? Who could have imagined? The day before Easter was practically a preview of summer. Sure, it was cool on Resurrection Day. But 33-degrees, windy, and white? I thought we were done with that!

Change. My 10th-grade biology teacher used to say, “There’s only one thing in life you can count on – change.” Change of weather. Change of circumstance. Change of mind. Change of heart.

My biology teacher was partially correct: change is inevitable. It hasn’t been too long ago when Mother Nature dealt a seasonal blow, faculty and students had a “snow day.” Now, they stay at home and have class online. It wasn’t so very long ago that you practiced parallel parking in order to pass the PA driver’s exam. Now cars have the technology onboard to park themselves!

We don’t always “do” change well; however, navigating a change always allows for opportunities to grow.

“There’s only one thing in life you can count on,” he said. I disagree. There are two things you can count on:

1. Change
2. Our steady, unchanging God.

Dr. David Jeremiah said in his Easter message, “The tomb is *still* empty.” It was empty on the first Easter morning two thousand years ago and it is empty today. That hasn’t changed. Jesus was alive then; he is alive now and he will be counted among the living 2,000 years from now.

Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Hebrews 13:8

Jesus does not change. He gave his life in exchange for yours a long time ago and he would do it again in a heartbeat tomorrow.

How many friends have you had and lost or become distant over the years because things changed and you grew apart? Not so with Jesus. He doesn’t stop loving you. He doesn’t stop forgiving you. He doesn’t stop believing in you. He doesn’t stop wanting the very best for you. HE is the one thing in life we can always depend on.

Our world is changing – technology, medicine, how we shop, how we communicate, even how we worship. But as Christians we can take great comfort in knowing we have a God and Savior in whom we can place our confidence and we won’t be disappointed.

Joel



New Spring Series

***Moving Forward – Discovering God’s Presence
and Purpose in Your Tomorrow***

- April 24: Dream and Pray
- May 1: Youth Sunday in the Brethren Life Center
- May 8: Focus
- May 15: Austin House, preaching
- May 22: Risk
- May 29: Believe
- June 5: Finish
- June 19: Celebrate!



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

April has been a wonderful month here in Christian Education and Youth Ministries. I have been overjoyed to meet so many kind and loving people. The future's looking bright and there are so many things to look forward to!

YOUTH

Our Youth Group has already had some great adventures and there are more exciting things to come before the school year ends.

In April our Youth focused on teamwork with a scavenger hunt and obstacle course. It was exciting to learn how much stronger we are when two or more of us come together. We studied the power of inviting God into our midst and how we can show our gratitude and love for God through worship. We even made our own Youth Band.

In the month of May, we will continue to learn about various ways to worship and how we can bring glory to God in our lives, every day. We will continue meeting every Wednesday from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Our activities for May will be a surprise. The dates are **5/4, 5/11, 5/18, 5/25**

Our FINAL Youth Group before Summer Break will be Wednesday, May 25, 2022. This will be our "School Year End" Party with food, games, and fun activities.

I want to give a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who helped make Youth Sunday a success. With only a few weeks to prepare I am so proud of how hard you all worked that day.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

I'd like to take a moment to thank everyone involved in Christian Education. There are so many people, so many moving parts that make this a success. I am working on a very exciting program for the summer. Please stay tuned as flyers will be up in the next two weeks. Get ready to spend this summer "Harnessing Hope."

GRADUATION SUNDAY

If you have a graduate from high school, trade school, or college. Please let me know as soon as possible so they can be included in our event. Thank you so much!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This year we are returning to a full, live, 5-day event! VBS is a great way to meet children in the local community and show them the love of God. Several volunteers we have had in the past will be on a once in a lifetime trip to Israel the same week we have VBS. This means we need new volunteers to step up and love on these kids.

Volunteering for VBS might feel intimidating. You might think it's a lot of work, that you aren't qualified to do it. HAVE NO FEAR!! Our VBS is designed for anyone to set up and volunteer. You'll work with some kiddos but also be in a squad of some amazing adults, too! We need all kinds of volunteers and support. There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby. Please consider helping us out, there are so many roles to play. This is a big opportunity to grow the love of Jesus right here in our own backyard. PLEASE JOIN US!!

God is working wonders in our Education Department!

Be Blessed & Stay Hopeful,
Gretchen Sortzi
gretchen@chambcob.org
Director of Christian Education & Youth



Connect Groups: C-Groups Craft Corner Schedule

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!!





SMART COOKIES PRESCHOOL NEWS

The month of April is flying by. We have been very busy in our preschool program. We are continuing to learn our letters, numbers, etc. For the month of April, we had fun themes for our Fridays. Friday April 1st was superhero day, Friday, April 8th was Sports Jersey Day, and Friday, April 29th was Pajama Day.

We have our only field trip scheduled for April 27th. We will be going to Stoners Dairy Farm. We are getting ready to begin working on our End of the Year/Graduation Program. We have a lot of fun events planned for the month of May.

We currently have a full class for the 2022-2023 school year. We have 18 children registered to start in the fall. I am excited to welcome all of these children into my classroom next school year.

We will continue to be busy throughout the month of May. Our last day of school is May 20th. We thank you for your continuous support to our program.

May Events

- 6th- Muffins With Mom
- 11th Spaghetti Ice
- 13th-Donuts with Dad
- 14th- Water Day
- 16th- Water Day Rain Date
- 18th- End of the Year Party/Carnival
- 20th- End of the Year Program/Graduation
- 20th- Last Day of School





To My Church Friends,

Thank you for your cards and kind words in celebration of my 100th Birthday. I had a quiet day with my three daughters. We did a lot of reminiscing, played a few games, and had lunch at the Coffee Shop. To top off my day, thanks to Pastor Joel's getting approval from Village Square for a visit by the Youth. What a Great Youth Group. With their visit they had a little gift. A little flower pot (which they made) of candy kisses. They then sang Happy Birthday.

It was a great day! Thanks again.

---**Sincerely, Dorothy Blough**

The Fellowship and Recreation

Commission would like to thank all of those that contributed their time and efforts to the "Daystar" concert, particularly those that provided technical support - Cody Toms, Bob Witter, and Zachary Mills; those that served as greeters - Terry Gibbons, Judy Witter, and Rick Shreiner; those that provided refreshments and other support - Tangela Gibbons, Rhonda DeShong, and Linda Ross; the Men's Gospel Chorus and particularly Robin Hockenberry for sharing their talents before and during the concert; Pastor Joel for keeping everything running smoothly; and of course "Daystar" for sharing their testimonies and their songs of praise.

Church Family,
Just want to say Thank You for all your cards, prayers and thoughts during my recent diagnosis and surgery. I have not started my radiation treatments yet. No one knows how much all your prayers mean to me.

Thank You!

---**Joanne Walls**

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the annual church yard sale!

This was our best year ever with over \$10,000.00 in donations. At least \$1,000.00 will go to the Ukraine special offering.

This is one of our four major fundraisers for Smart Cookies.

- Yard Sale
- Easter Candy Sale
- Chicken BBQ
- Apple Dumplings

Thank you also to everyone who supported our Gertrude Hawk Easter Candy fundraiser. Your love of chocolate and your love of children enabled us to raise \$1,996.50 for our Smart Cookies program.

We will sponsor the Shop with Scrip fundraiser in November and December only for Christmas gifts.

If you are interested, you can purchase **eGift Cards** throughout the year via the Shop with Scrip App or online. We are discontinuing the monthly purchase of gift cards for January – October.

If you have any questions about **eGift Card** purchases, contact Marsha Smith.

--**Smart Cookies Preschool Committee**

The Fellowship and Recreation

Commission would like to thank all of those that contributed to the Easter Parade, particularly those that donated candy, the youth, those that helped set up/tear down the displays, and those that manned the various stations of the event. We had 100 church and neighborhood children participate!



Thank you to all who donated hygiene items for Helping Hands Circle. We were able to assemble 67 hygiene kits for the Cumberland Valley Relief Center to distribute to those in need.

Thank you for your donations!
----**Helping Hands Circle**



Our Sympathy To:

Philip and Megan Rotz and Family following the death of Philip's grandfather, Nelson C. Rotz, on Monday, April 18, 2022.

Lois Black and Family following the death of her brother, Jay E. Black, on Monday, April 18, 2022.



Deadline for June Pastor's Pen is Sunday, May 22, 2022.

Please submit all information to the church office.

Finances at a Glance
April 17, 2022

God gives us things to share;
God doesn't give us things to hold

Unified Budget Received Year-to-Date
\$122,444.81



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

WHEN: Wednesday, May 4, 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.



Added to the Church Library are two books written by a recently deceased member, Richard Wager.

"An Irish Soldier's Patriotic Journey"--Follow a young man recently arrival from Ireland to America. He becomes a citizen and takes part in defending Fort Sumter. He has war injuries and as age and ailments take over he seeks a pension. It is not an easy journey.

"In the Shadows of His Mind" is Richard's first Novel. A young Chambersburg boy raised and abused by his single mother. Read how he learns that among life's darkness there is beauty.

Also added to the Library:

"Where Do We Go From Here" by Dr. David Jeremiah. -- Learn how tomorrows prophecies foreshadow today's problems.

"Looking Into You" by Chris Fabry-- a story of a young women, Paige giving up her baby for adoption, then meeting the girl, Treha, years later. Paige is the teacher as she learns of Treha's struggle to find her true identity.

"Almost Heaven" by Chris Fabry-- Malachi is an angel sent to protect Billy. Some think Billy is a bit odd, some feel he has a heart of gold. Read and see who is right & how Malachi helps.

DVD-- *War Room: Prayer is a Powerful Weapon.*

Report from For the Kids of Chambersburg:

Taste of the Valley was held for the first time in 2 years on April 5, 2022, with reduced seating. The benefit raised \$6195.83. This is the sum of tickets sold, donations, Silent Auction & Oral Auction. It was an enjoyable evening.

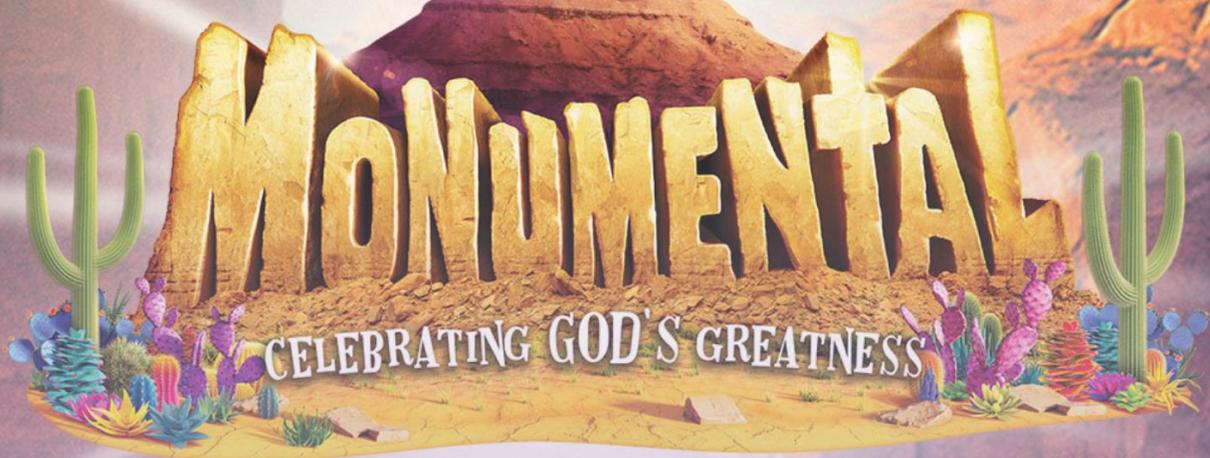
The following is a report of how funds were distributed:

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|----------------------|-----------|
| Over the Rainbow | \$ 700.00 |
| Network Ministries | \$1500.00 |
| BOPIC | \$1500.00 |
| Leiter Caring Center | \$1500.00 |
| Boy & Girls Club | \$ 500.00 |
| Sam's Kids | \$ 500.00 |
| Rhodes Grove Camp | \$ 250.00 |
| Camp Joy-El | \$ 500.00 |
| Pregnancy Ministries | \$ 500.00 |
| Circles/SCAPP | \$ 700.00 |



For the Kids of Chambersburg is a small group from several Churches that raise funds for non-profit agencies who serve children in Chambersburg. If you would like to be part or have questions or concerns, please talk to Stacy Grey or Lora Bucher. We would love to have you join us.

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



*19th Don Gordon Memorial Golf Outing
at Caledonia Golf Club
on Saturday, June 11, 2022*

There will be a Shotgun Start at 8:30 a.m.
The 18 hole green and cart fee will be \$45.00/person.

Checks should be made out to ***Caledonia Golf Club***.

Lunch will be served immediately following golf.

Register your foursome in the Narthex Now!



Greetings from Camp Eder,

Your congregation is invited:

- Send your children and youth to our summer camping program.
- Sponsor “un-churched” neighborhood children and youth for summer camp.
- Attend our Senior Days for food, fellowship, and activities.
- Enjoy our annual events: Golf Outing, Fall Festival, & Christmas Tree Festival.
- Use our facilities for your church or family retreats.
- Visit the camp and arrange for a personal tour to get to know us better.
- Pastors can bring their families for an annual complimentary retreat.

Camp Eder Mission Statement

Camp Eder, Christian Camp and Retreat Center, supported by the Southern Pennsylvania District Church of the Brethren, seeks to offer a place where persons can learn to know Jesus Christ through Bible based ministry in an outdoor environment.

We want you to know that we desire to partner in carrying out our mission with congregations and individuals without regard to denominational affiliation. Let us be the Children of God working together to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. We would welcome the opportunity to share a brief presentation about Camp Eder during one of your worship services. Contact the camp to schedule a time.

Extending the Love of Jesus Christ
914 Mount Hope Road, Fairfield, PA 17320
717-642-8256 • CampEder@CampEder.org • www.CampEder.org
