



The Pastor's Pen...

January/February 2023

Update On Ministry Team

The Pastoral Search Committee continues to meet and look for a replacement for Pastor Joel Nogle. This continues to be a difficult task due to a lack of candidates and a large number of pastoral openings across the country. The Committee recently interviewed a potential candidate but unanimously felt this was not the right individual for our pastoral opening. We have been told that most openings go unfilled for at least a year and many for much longer than a year.

Given the circumstances described, the Church Board has taken action on a recommendation from the Executive Committee designed to solidify the Ministry Team and to clarify roles of various team members. We have assigned ministry team members new titles that help to describe their ministry responsibilities within the congregation.

Elizabeth Thorpe has been given the title, "Pastor of Administration and Congregational Life." Her administrative responsibilities include chairing staff meetings, coordinating the preaching schedule and serving as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee. She continues to take the lead in visitation and she also continues her role in the music program of the church. She will preach occasionally.

Gretchen Sortzi has been given the title, "Associate Pastor of Christian Education and Youth Ministry." She has the responsibility of organizing and managing our Sunday School programs which includes helping with teachers, providing curriculum, and ensuring there are appropriate classes for all age groups. She also is the lead for providing a meaningful youth program, including recruitment of volunteers, and planning the curriculum and activities. In addition to her assigned responsibilities, she will be a regular part of the preaching schedule.

Ali Toms has been given the title, "Associate Pastor of Worship and Preaching." She has taken the lead in planning the Sunday morning worship services. She will be a regular speaker in the preaching schedule.

Ian Irvin has been given the title, "Associate Pastor of Congregational Life and Preaching." He will be a regular speaker on the preaching schedule. He is also doing some visitation and he is covering the church office on Thursdays when Liz is not in the office.

I believe the ministry team is doing an outstanding job of carrying on the program of the church and I urge you to get behind them. Give them your support and provide them with positive feedback as you have opportunity. This is not the time to sit back and wait on a new pastor; this is the time to get behind the team that we have and work at growing the church. We can do that.

Larry Bricker, Board Chair



INDOOR YARD SALE March 16, 17, 18, 2023

Smart Cookies Preschool will sponsor one of our favorite events, and you can all play an important role in Smart Cookies ongoing funding.

Donations cannot come to the Church building until Monday, March 13th! We no longer have a room for this due to the expansion of Smart Cookies and Youth programs.

We will have volunteers at the church from 11:30 AM until 1:30 PM on Monday through Wednesday (March 13-15) to help carry in any donations. If you have heavy or bulky items and need help getting them to the church, we will have a crew with an enclosed trailer to help. **It will be available by advance appointment only.**

Thursday March 16th 4:00 PM-7:00 PM

Friday March 17th 8:00 AM-5:00 PM

Saturday March 18th 8:00 AM-1:00 PM

We are asking for donations of anything **still useable** that you are willing to donate. Clothes, books, CDs & DVDs, furniture, appliances, kitchen items, dishes and cookware, musical instruments, electronics (still working well), cameras (digital and film), toys, collectables, etc. Please no junk!

Volunteers will be needed for many jobs. Food donations are also needed.

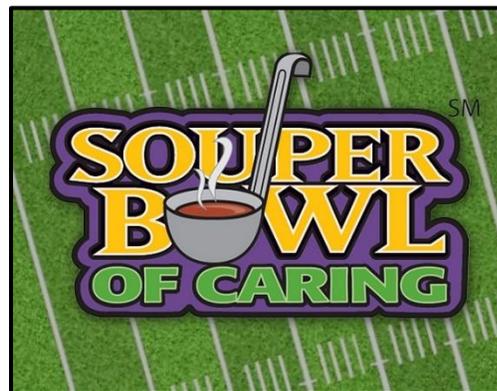
Sign-up sheets will be available in the Brethren Life Center Lobby and Narthex soon.

“Soup”er Bowl

Missions and Service Commission will be sponsoring “Soup”er Bowl of Caring. “Soup”er Bowl Sunday is February 5th and February 12th.

Root for your favorite football team by placing your canned food items on your team’s table in the BLC Lobby. Items collected will benefit SCCAP Food Bank.

Watch the Brethren Life Center lobby area for tables to place your canned items on. All items will be delivered after February 12th.



REVOLUTION NEWS

A WORD FROM THE LEADERS,

Welcome back to a New Year and the last semester of this school year. Congratulations, you are almost halfway to summer break! In our first semester of Youth Group, we spent a lot of time learning just how special you are. Each student is unique, and God has a special purpose for you. Everyone in our youth group brings their own personality, skills, and talents. And when we put those talents together, we are even stronger and more impactful in the world.

In this new semester we will continue learning about all the gifts God has given of us. The power to communicate, the ability to get through conflict, how to find strength when life feels challenging, and much more. We can't wait to spend this time with you.

Be sure to look at all the dates listed below and mark your calendars. There are a few events over the next few months that will need permission slips. Make sure you have yours turned in on time, so you don't miss any of our fun activities.

Each of you are a blessing to us and we pray for you daily. We can't wait to spend the next few months learning and growing together! YOU ARE LOVED!

YOUTH GROUP RECAP DECEMBER

In December we had two chances to get together before the winter break. We spent our first lesson making ornaments as we learned how we are ornaments on God's tree and can shine bright, all year round. Our second meeting included the lesson the Reason for the Season and a fun Christmas party. We played games like "Youth Leader Christmas Tree," "White Elephant," "Match my Word," and the "Saran Wrap Ball Game." The kids enjoyed pizza, and sweet snacks. Each child left with a special gift and a full heart. The Youth Leadership also participated in all our activities. A special thank you to each of them for always being great sports!

SUNDAY SCHOOL RECAP DECEMBER

SERVICE: MidWeek To-Go Gift
Wrapping Extravaganza

EDUCATE: Christmas Presence, A lesson on the Challenges Facing Mary & Joseph

LEADERSHIP/LOVE/FUN:

A letter to Remind the Self, The Nativity Story

LOOKING FORWARD YOUTH GROUP JANUARY

January will be focused on building the skills God gave all of us. We will have three youth group meetings together before our Friday night Lock In on January 27th. Our Lock In this year will include a trip to the Roll "R" Way Skating Rink here in Chambersburg. Information/Permission Slips will be available at Youth Group this week.

LOOKING FORWARD SUNDAY SCHOOL JANUARY

SERVICE: Birthday Card Shower

EDUCATE: The Fundamentals of Leadership

LEADERSHIP: Where's the Leader? An examination of leadership in the Bible.

LOVE: Thank you's to Commission Chairs/Staff/Etc.

REMINDER:

To attend our weekend retreat in the Spring you must attend Sunday School at least 50% of the Sundays in January, February, and March. This is a non-negotiable stipulation.

Note: Due to the winter season, please be advised that if Chambersburg Area School District BUILDING is closed or is dismissed early due to weather conditions, YOUTH GROUP will NOT be in session.

YOUTH DINNER AND A SHOW HAS BEEN POSTPONED.

Originally, we had planned for dinner and a show to be hosted, served, and performed by our Youth Group as a fundraiser on February 18th of this year. Due to a dozen circumstances, far beyond my control, I am postponing this event until a later date. Please do not be disheartened, it just needs a new date and it's on!! I will contact everyone once I have confirmed with the church calendar and the food caterer. Please know that it is very important to me to deliver quality programs to both the youth program and things we create for the public. Moving the date will ensure we can give this the attention it deserves. Thank you all, Gretchen

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

JANUARY

11th Communication Night
Pictionary/Charades
18th Family Feud Night
25th Heritage Night

FEBRUARY

1st Cooking Class & Competition
8th Valentine's Fun
15th TBD
25th Trivia Night

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

27th Lock In

MARCH 15th

NO YOUTH GROUP

MAY

7th Youth Sunday
19th – 21st Weekend Away

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Both our Sunday Programs and our weekly Preschool Smart Cookies, need your help. Most of our youth group are capable and mature enough to take on these responsibilities! Jump on in!

On Sundays there are several classes that need youth volunteers like the nursery, toddler room, preschool room, and children's class. This mainly requires your presence to assist. You don't have to teach or be alone. Our preschool needs help during the day, through the week.

Knowing how to color and play is a bonus!

If you are interested in volunteering your time in either area, please let me know ASAP!

Students who volunteer for either program will earn 20 points per Sunday/weekday.

Can I bring friends to Youth Group and Events?

You can ALWAYS bring friends to Youth Group. Other activities are on an individual basis and your leaders will let you know as each activity comes along.

HERITAGE NIGHT INFORMATION

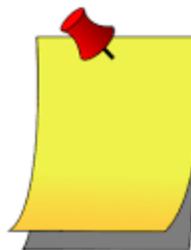
Each Leader and Student in our Youth Group has a unique heritage and experience. Some of us come from Germany, some from England, some from Mexico, Spain, there are so many different cultures represented in our group.

For Heritage Night we are each going to share a little about our heritage. You could bring a food or game your family likes to enjoy. You could tell us about a special holiday you celebrate or tradition you follow. You could wear special clothes, boots, or hats.

Whatever you want.

Come prepared to share with the group something that makes you and your family special. We can't wait to learn about you all.

**YOUTH LEADER MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 22nd 10:30 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM**



A NOTE FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION,

We are off to a great start in this new year! All of us in Christian Education are ready for a year filled with learning and love for God. As I mentioned in my sermon on New Year's Day, we have an opportunity this year to commit to a Resolution to Relinquish. This means all of us can work hard to get out of our own way so we can walk the path God has laid before us. We know from Hebrews 8:13 that what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away. It's ready to go!

Each day of the month, I encourage you to join me for a few minutes to read a verse and have prayer for the monthly topic. In February, we are working on Forgiveness. You can find a verse sheet in this newsletter, in the office, or on any of the many bulletin boards around the church. I am confident that this study and prayer time together will help us all grow stronger!

It's our goal in life to live like Jesus with a servant heart. Each of us can best serve God when we serve each other. Christian Education is a great department to do that. It's an area of the church where many can share their talents with others. We are so thankful to all the wonderful teachers who share with our classes and for the amazing students who are there to learn each week. Much like the choir who needs voices that work together, education is the same.

Our children's classes and youth programs continue to flourish and grow. Your help is needed to volunteer and teach in these classrooms. Children are shaped and nourished in faith, by us. Volunteering in Christian Education isn't a lifetime commitment. Volunteer once a quarter, once a month, any time you can spare will help ease the strain on the many teachers who give their time multiple Sundays a month. **If your heart is called to serve as a teacher, a youth volunteer, or any aspect of Christian Education**, please get in touch with me or Tenni Pyles.

Our new Young Adult class, the "Achievers," is off to a great start. This class meets in the Brethren Haus on the main floor and is designed to promote discussion on real life topics facing our families and the church. If you are an adult under 40, please consider giving this class a try. This is a great way to meet new people and build relationships.

Please keep your eyes out for all the exciting things we have coming. It's going to be a year of learning and growing in Christ as we all resolve to relinquish!

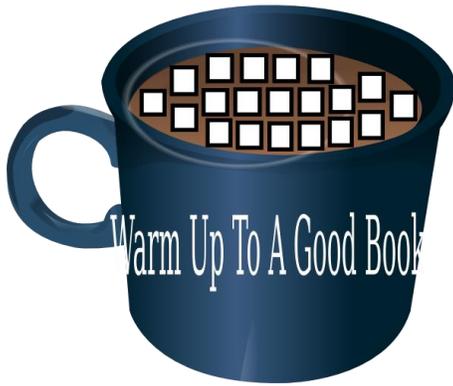
Be blessed,

Gretchen Sortzi, gretchen@chambcob.org

Associate Pastor of Christian Education & Youth Ministries



Day 1	Mark 11:25	Day 15	2 Corinthians 2:5-8
Day 2	Luke 17:4	Day 16	Acts 7:59-60
Day 3	Ephesians 4:32	Day 17	Romans 12:20
Day 4	Colossians 3:13	Day 18	Psalms 130:3-4
Day 5	Proverbs 3:3	Day 19	Isaiah 43:25
Day 6	Matthew 5:7	Day 20	Micah 7:18-19
Day 7	Luke 6:37	Day 21	Daniel 9:9
Day 8	Matthew 18:21-35	Day 22	Acts 3:19
Day 9	1 John 1:9	Day 23	1 John 2:1-2
Day 10	Isaiah 1:18	Day 24	1 Peter 3:9
Day 11	Matthew 6:14-15	Day 25	James 5:16
Day 12	Ephesians 1:7	Day 26	Proverbs 15:18
Day 13	Colossians 1:13-14	Day 27	Proverbs 17:9
Day 14	Psalms 103:12	Day 28	Psalms 86:5



Additions to the Library for January/February.....

While you wait for the Super Bowl why not read? Below are books with football authors:

First Down, Lifetime to Go by Roger Staubach; *I Believe* by Teaff Grant; *God and Football* by Chad Gibbs; *Sidelined* by Chuck Pagano; *Playing With a Purpose* by Mike Yorkey; *This is the Day* by Tim Tebow and *Above the Line* by Urban Meyer.

For President's Day read:

Jimmy Carter by Jimmy Carter; *Franklin and Washington* by Edward J Larson; *Lincoln's Spies* by Douglas Walker and *An Unlikely Trust* by Gerard Helferich

For Valentine's Day the shelves are rich with Fiction stories centered on love. Enjoy!

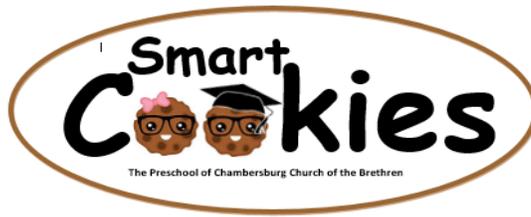
Also, you will see the return of books you may take as they have been thinned from the Church Library. They are free unless you choose to make a donation. Donated funds will be used to purchase books as the Library budget has been lowered.



Ladies of Strength Training class will be held every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 10-11 a.m. from January 3, 2023 – May 25, 2023. The class uses leg and arm weights along with stretching and balancing. You need weights, a towel, and a bottle of water.

A donation is accepted to support church maintenance. Stop in anytime to enjoy!

Contact Karen Wagner for additional information: call, text, or email at 717-504-3949 - rkwagn@comcast.net.



Happy Winter! December has been a very busy month for our Preschool. We have been continuing to learn our letters, numbers, shapes, and colors. We also have started to learn about syllables, writing our names, and learning how to be healthy. In December, we learned about the Birth of Jesus. For January and February, we will be looking at the lives of Hannah, Samuel, David, and Daniel.

On December 15th, we had our Christmas Program. The students performed the “ABC’s of Christmas”. They held up signs with letters of the alphabet and told us something about Christ’s birth. Mimi Kelly and Phyllis Kegerreis read Scripture to go with each letter. The children and families enjoyed this time together.

On December 19th we had our Christmas Party and gift exchange. After a very busy week before Christmas, we all enjoyed our break.

For January, we will start a martial arts class. The month of February we will be busy celebrating Dental Hygiene Month, Valentine’s Day, Groundhog Day, and Dr. Seuss’s birthday.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Amy

January Events

- 11th- Martial Arts Classes Begin
- 16th - No School-MLK Jr. Day

February Events

- 2nd- Groundhog Day
- 13th- Valentine’s Day Party
- 15th- 100th Day of School Celebration (tentative)
- 17th- 20th- No School: President’s Day
- 27th-March 3rd- Read Across America/Dr. Seuss Week





Thank you to all who served on our board, commissions, and committees this past year. Thank you to the choir, handbell players, praise band members, accompanists and musicians for leading us in worship. Thank you to all those who do the “behind the scenes” work that keeps our church functioning. Your dedication to our church does not go unnoticed. YOU are greatly appreciated! May God bless our church family this upcoming year as we continue to be a

**Family of God,
Growing in Christ,
Empowered to Serve.**



Thank you to **Linda Ross** and the **Helping Hand Circle** ladies for making the nativity sets for our Smart Cookies children and the children on Christmas Eve. What a special ministry!

I would like to thank you for the cards and wishes that I received for my 90th Birthday. I enjoyed hearing from all of you.

---**John Diller**

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, calls, cards and the one visitor who helped time go faster. Also to Liz Thorpe for her visits. Thanks also for the ones who brought food. It was really appreciated. God Bless you All.

---**Louise Blattenberger**

Thank you for the calls and cards we received following the passing of my brother Sam Burns. Your concern was greatly appreciated.

---**Nancy and Galen Yeager**

Thanks to all those that volunteered again this year to cover a day of ringing the bell as part of Salvation Army's Red Kettle Project at the Butcher Shoppe on December 2nd. We covered the bell ringing from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. that day. The amount raised during our time was \$869.22.

---**Missions and Service Commission**



Newsletter

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for March Pastor's Pen

Sunday, February 19, 2022

Please submit all information
to the church office.



Our Sympathy to:

Margaret and John Diller and Family following the death of Margie's brother, Wayne H. Benedict on Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Nancy and Galen Yeager and Family following the death of Nancy's brother, Samuel T. Burns on Saturday, December 17, 2022.

Ralph Wadel and Family following the death of Ralph's brother, R. Lee Wadel on Monday, December 19, 2022.

Doris Diller and Family; John Diller and Family and James Diller and Family following the death of their sister-in-law Vivian I. Diller on Saturday, December 24, 2022.

Carol and John Van Horn and Family following the death of Carol's mother, Deloris J. Eichelberger-Territo on Sunday, January 1, 2023.

The Family of Patricia L. Corman following her death on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.



Finances at a Glance

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

Actual Income through 11/30/22...
\$432,637.00

Actual Expenses through 11/30/22...
\$435,394.00

Net as of 11/30/22...\$ -2,757.00



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

WHEN: Wednesday, February 1st
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.

MAN 2 MAN

Men's Spiritual Leadership Summit

Building Bridges: Embracing Diversity and Facing Division

Focus:

Jesus calls the disciples to be one in witness and in spirit as they reside in Him and He in the Father. What does it mean to build bridges in a divided world?

Bethany Theological Seminary
President
Dr. Jeffrey C. Carter
Guest Speaker

SATURDAY MORNING
FEBRUARY 18, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon
at

Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren
301 Gale Street, Mechanicsburg, PA

Please complete and submit the registration form along with payment no later than Wednesday, February 1, 2023.

Sponsored by the Nurture Commission
Southern Pennsylvania District
Church of the Brethren



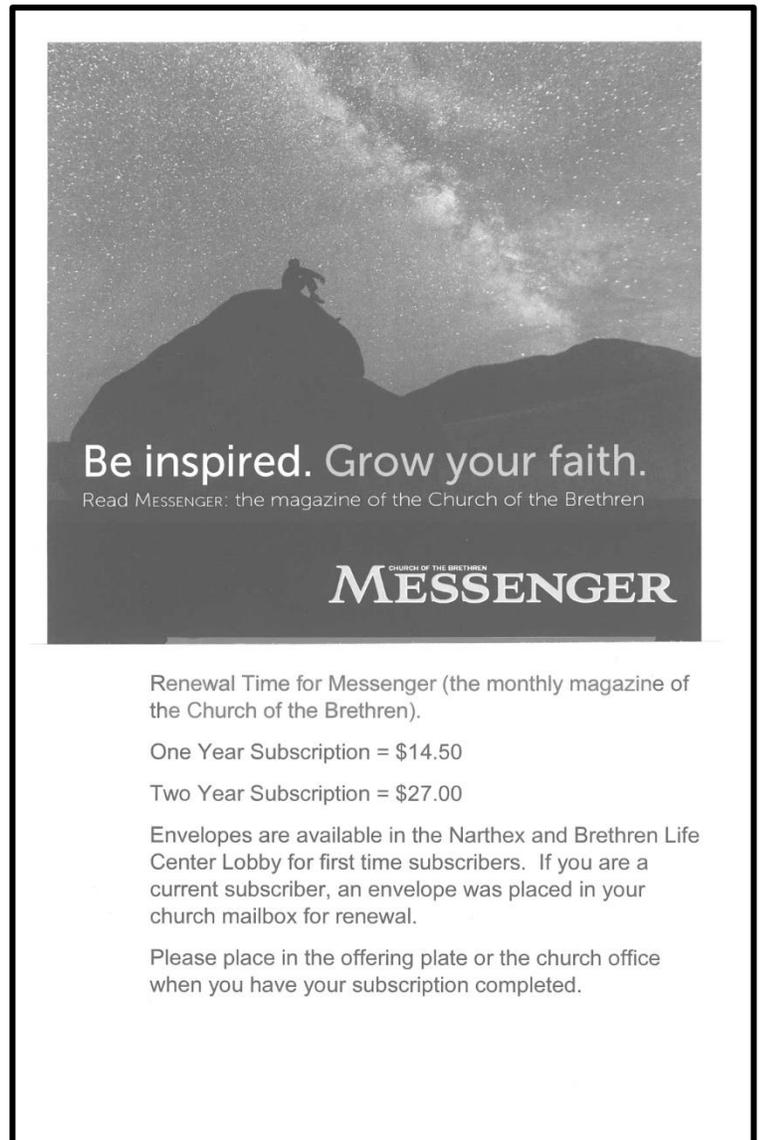
CAMP Eder

JANUARY 27TH-29TH
CAMP EDER
WINTER CAMP
2023

GRAB YOUR SLEDS AND STRAP ON YOUR SNOW BOOTS AND JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND OF WINTER FUN AT CAMP EDER!

FOR GRADES 1ST - 12TH & SHINING STARS CAMPERS
\$85
ARRIVE 7PM FRIDAY
PICKUP 2PM SUNDAY

Brochures with Registration forms for this event are in the Brethren Life Center Lobby and the Narthex.



Be inspired. Grow your faith.
Read MESSENGER: the magazine of the Church of the Brethren

MESSENGER
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Renewal Time for Messenger (the monthly magazine of the Church of the Brethren).

One Year Subscription = \$14.50
Two Year Subscription = \$27.00

Envelopes are available in the Narthex and Brethren Life Center Lobby for first time subscribers. If you are a current subscriber, an envelope was placed in your church mailbox for renewal.

Please place in the offering plate or the church office when you have your subscription completed.