



## *The Pastor's Pen...*

### **March 2023**

The month of March is now upon us. It will be interesting to see what this month holds for us since our winter has been relatively mild. At home, the daffodil leaves have broken through the ground, the crocuses are in full bloom, and the sound of birds are filling the air once more. It seems like spring, yet I know we still have one more month of winter. The March winds will soon begin to blow which reminds us that a change is just around the corner – a new season is coming. But this change does not come without its questions. Will March come in like a lion and go out like a lamb? Or vice-versa? Will it bring an abundance of snow? Or will we continue to see a steady rise in warmer temperatures? We do not know what waits for us in March, but we do know that come April, we will enter a new season – the season of spring.

Wednesday, February 22, begins the season of Lent. A season where we encounter the last days of our Savior here on earth – his journey to the cross and grave. His ministry showed us the love of God through the miracles and interactions he had with people. He faced challenges along the way, but always kept moving forward with God's plan for his time here on earth. The final week of his earthly life brought unexpected twists and turns for his followers. With his triumphal entry into Jerusalem celebrating the King of Kings to within days, his arrest and death on a cross. Disciples were stunned, filled with fear and disbelief of what had happened. Jesus, the promised one, the Lion of Judah had now become the sacrificial lamb. In like a lion, and out like a lamb.

Jesus knew the fate that awaited him at the end of his earthly journey. While we ourselves do not know our earthly fate, we do know that we have an eternal home in heaven thanks to the sacrifice our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. No matter what the month of March brings – or whatever lies ahead in our lives – may we find peace in knowing that a new season of life is just around the corner.

***By Liz Thorpe***



## 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 13<sup>th</sup>! 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      Noon-7:00 PM

Friday          March 17th      8:00 AM-1:00 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 are available in the Brethren Life Center Lobby and Narthex.



Missions and Service Commission will be conducting an Easter Food Drive during the Sunday mornings of March 26<sup>th</sup> and April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The drive will be for Easter dinner related non-perishable items.

Items needed include canned hams, Stove Top stuffing, scalloped or au gratin potatoes, granola bars, single pudding cups, single fruit cups, cake and brownie mixes. All donations will be taken to SCCAP following the collection. Items will be collected in the BLC lobby.

# REVOLUTION NEWS

## A WORD FROM THE LEADERS,

We hope this newsletter finds everyone ready for March! It's almost Spring and we're anxious for nice weather to get outside and have some fun. March means Easter is right around the corner, and we have an awesome season planned for you this year.

We've been working on transitioning to a new style of worship and learning over the last three weeks. Students have been enjoying the new style as it allows for more opportunities to share with friends and let off some steam. Our curriculum has also been more exciting as students are more involved and engaged in the work. The new worship style is allowing all our youth to learn new music that surely moves the spirit. We still have some exciting changes on the way. Students can expect more fun, more engagement, and more involvement as we move forward. Please remember we are here to listen to your student. If they have a creative idea, a need, or a desire to do something different, or innovative... our ears are open.

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 FEBRUARY

We kicked off February by discussing the walls of hopelessness in the world and in our lives. We took a look at the many walls people faced in the bible and how God knocked them down. We learned to be more like a tennis ball and less like a snowball. We spent the next week discussing all the ingredients that make us the same. We even enjoyed a mac and cheese cooking class competition. It was delicious. After we tied the night together by discussing the special ingredient of faith. A gift we have with God that allow us to be like David and knock down the Goliaths in our lives. We spent the next week taking a hard look at teamwork and how God wants us to work together for his purpose. Our final week was a look at the rollercoaster of life and how to stay balanced as it shifts and turns. We took a look at how to stay focused, ready, and to never give up.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL RECAP FEBRUARY

We continued our work on casting vision for the future of the church by continuing our cup project and working on our church toolbox!

### LOOKING FORWARD YOUTH GROUP MARCH INTENTIONS

In March we will be diving into the topic of focus with a four- week series on Spiritual Habits. Students can expect a similar format to our time together in February.

### LOOKING FORWARD SUNDAY SCHOOL MARCH INTENTIONS

Going to Sunday School each week in March has big rewards. Our Sunday School class will be combining with the Believers class. This is a big deal so a big trip to SkyZone is your pay off.

### SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 15<sup>th</sup>  
NO YOUTH GROUP

APRIL  
1<sup>st</sup> Easter Parade

MAY  
7<sup>th</sup> Youth Sunday  
12<sup>th</sup> Weekend Away Money Due  
19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> Weekend Away

JUNE  
12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Vacation Bible School

**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.**



## A WORD FROM PASTOR GRETCHEN,

January flew by as we embraced new beginnings. February moved just as fast while we practiced forgiveness with others and ourselves. Here we are already in March, ready to tackle our third topic, increasing faith.

As the saying goes, March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb. This saying is most commonly related to the weather as we anticipate snowy, stormy weather to hit us again before breaking free in April to rain showers, budding trees, and the renewal we receive with Spring. Yet this saying can have a new meaning for us as Christians when we turn our attention to two images of Jesus presented in Revelations 5:5-6; Jesus, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah and Jesus, the Lamb who was slain. Jesus endured death as a lamb, he overcame it as a lion. What powerful imagery of these two animals, both so different, yet so impactful. The Lion, The Lamb, Jesus. These verses are important. They solidify Jesus's identity far back in the prophecies of the Old Testament showing just how faithful God is to us.

Our verses this month center around the idea of increasing our faith. Pushing the limits of our belief in what God can do in our lives. Being abundantly faithful. I heard an interchange between a family of faith about one of their family members who had a negative health diagnosis. One person didn't say a word. One person said they were sure God was in total control. Then the third person spoke "I do believe they can be healed but she also has to be realistic."

This really got me thinking. We've forgotten our God is the God of miracles. The maker of ways, the breaker of chains, the King of the how, and he still has work to do. Miracles are still possible right here, right now. God is not realistic and in no way does he ask us to be. He asks us to be fantastical, unrealistic, impractical. He asks us to have blind faith in his ability to do anything. We are encouraged to stop being realistic and start being faithful; to stop putting restrictions on our God. We can stop disabling him before we even ask for his help and start allowing him to work through our words, visions, beliefs, and actions.

Do you believe his miracles still exist? Are you lost in the reality in front of you or empowered by the mystical authority that governs all.

*Mark 11:24 Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.*

When there is no path, God makes a path. It is us, who muddle the water with our own plans and inability to see the way there. In taking our focus off the how and putting it into the "it's done" we can allow God to do what he told us he would do.

*Matthew 21:22 "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."*

Follow God's lead. Follow his example of unbridled faithfulness. Let your heart be free.

In Great Love,  
Pastor Gretchen

## A NOTE FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education Department would like to give a huge thank you to everyone who participates in our Sunday educational programs. The last few months have been filled with transition and change. Everyone has rallied to the challenge with kindness, patience, and collaboration. Thank you all!

We are happy to announce we have settled our room assignments for 2023. Our final landings are posted below for everyone to review. We are excited to see each class grow this year. We have plans for future classes and bible studies we know you'll enjoy.

Please note the following permanent room assignments for 2023.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Room</b>	<b>Teacher</b>
Challengers	Classroom 7	Determined by Class
Searchers	Classroom 8 (old K-5)	Determined by Class
Believers	Mini Fellowship Hall	Determined by Class
Young Adult Class	BH – Main Floor	Discussion Based
Youth	BH – Youth Room	Determined by Christian Ed
K-5	BH – Top Floor Art Room	Determined by Christian Ed

Each adult classroom will be equipped with the requested chair and table arrangement, a refreshment station, a marker board/writing pad easel, and basic office supplies. As we move forward, please share any additional needs you have with us so that we can do our best to meet them.

Our K-5 classroom will be making its way into the Brethren Haus building on the Top Floor in the Youth Art Room. Students will enjoy plenty of space and light. This room will be a fresh, new area for our children to enjoy arts and crafts, games, and fun while learning about the love of Jesus.

The Pre-School kitchen will also be getting an overhaul to help ensure the staff and students of the Pre-School enjoy clear counter spaces for snacks and lunch preparation through the week. Classes don't need to worry. All refreshment storage will be adequate and labeled to ensure your class prep and clean time runs smoothly.

Finally, March celebrates one year we have been together. There have been so many exciting changes, so many God sightings, so many areas of growth and renewal.

With all we've accomplished in a year just imagine what we can do in another.

Be blessed,

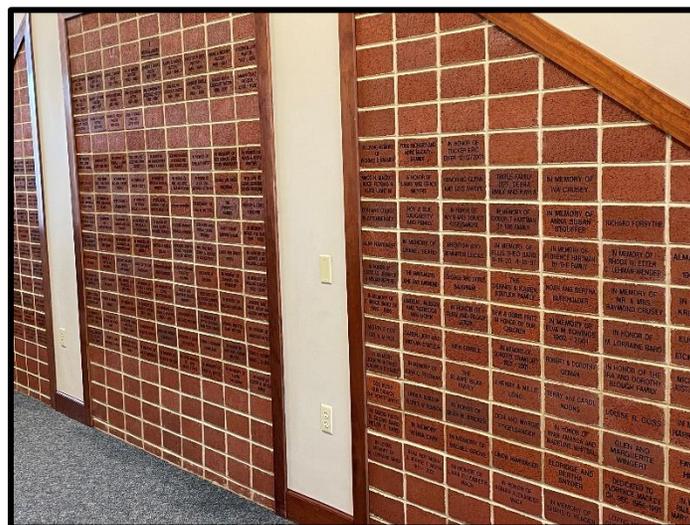
Pastor Gretchen on behalf of The Christian Education Department



**Mary Margaret Cherry (center) pictured here with Caleb Kuhns and Journey Wright which are the winners of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest**

Congratulations to Mary Margaret Cherry for being selected as the High School Essay Contest Representative for her essay on Martin Luther King, Jr. Mary Margaret read her essay at the Martin Luther King, Jr. service held at Central Presbyterian church on January 15, 2023. Her essay topic focused on how Rev. King was inspired to promote social, economic, and racial justice, and which of these issues requires the most attention in the United States today in her opinion. Her essay was well received by those in attendance.

Mary Margaret is a member of the CASHS Band, Jazz Band, Percussion Ensemble, and Symphony. She is in the Cumberland Valley School of Music (CVSM) Community Band. At CVSM she studies piano with Valerie Merriman, drums with Sam Hepfer, and violin with Ashley Wyrick. She is the winner of the 2022 2nd Place Merit Award, and the 2021 Benjamin Rhine Award from CVSM. Mary Margaret is an Ambassador Girl Scout in troop 80978. She is currently a musician at John Wesley AME Zion Church, and a member of the Fourth Street Church of the Brethren.



**BIG Thank You to Doug Heinbaugh...**for installing the new bricks on the church's brick wall on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Thanks also to Ray Burkholder, Mike Oldham, Terry Gibbons, Don Lehman and Bryan Hoke for assisting Doug in the job well done. Take a look at the newly installed bricks on the bottom rows and the Pastor's bricks that were done as well!!



## Preschool News March 2023



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 7 and 8, and many Old Testament stories. Some of the class has been learning sight words, beginning addition, and have been on their Chromebooks on a frequent basis.

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, we had our Valentine's Day party and had some fun activities. On February 15<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. We dressed up as 100-year-olds and did lots of exciting activities.

For the month of March, we have fun activities planned, such as our Dr. Seuss celebration, a 6-week program called Eat Healthy and Play Hard in partnership with WellSpan, St. Patrick's Day activities, the beginning of Spring, and much more.

### Upcoming March Events

- February 27<sup>th</sup>- March 10<sup>th</sup>- Dr. Seuss Activities and Celebration
- March 13<sup>th</sup>- Spring Pictures
- March 15<sup>th</sup>- St. Patrick's Day Celebration- Wear green to school
- March 20<sup>th</sup>- Well Span begins the Eat Healthy, Play Hard program
- March 17<sup>th</sup> - No School- Spring Break
- March 20<sup>th</sup>- First Day of Spring





*To My friends,  
I sure miss seeing all of you Sunday mornings. My church now consists in front of the TV with my earphones on. Age is fast catching up with me.*

*I am so thankful for the three members who have stepped up and are carrying on the responsibility of keeping our church alive. I want to thank Liz for her visit. She is such an encourager. Again, I say I miss you all.*

**---Sent with "Love,"  
Dorothy Blough**

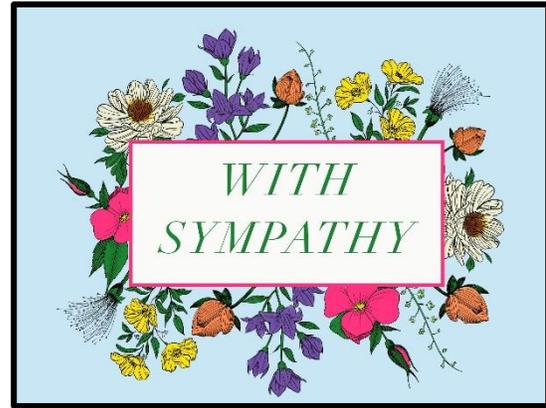
*Thank you to the Deacon Commission for delivering Christmas goodies to many of our older members that are not as active as we would like. It's good to be reminded that even though you don't see us very much, you still think about us. God bless you for your thoughtfulness and kindness, and, for sharing your love.*

**---Dean Bricker**

*The victor of The "Soup"er Bowl 2023 for Chambersburg COB is....the Philadelphia Eagles (not the actual winner of the Super Bowl)! With 322 food items donated the Eagles won over the Kansas City Chiefs 171 items to 151 items.*

*Thank you to all those that played along and donated making the SCCAP Food Bank the real winner!*

**---Missions and Service Commission**



**Our Sympathy to:**

*The Family of Willis C. Ritchey following his death on Saturday, January 14, 2023.*

*Leon and Ellen Yoder and Family following the death of Leon's mother, Velma Jean Yoder on Thursday, January 12, 2023.*



Time to  
Spring Ahead

*Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023.*

*Don't forget to set your clocks ahead an hour!*



**Newsletter Deadline**

**Deadline for March  
Pastor's Pen**

Sunday, March 19, 2023

Please submit all information to the church office.



**Additions to the Library for March.....**

*Irish Soldier's Patriot Journey* by Richard Wagner- the struggle of an Irish Soldier during and after the Civil War.

*Two Steps Forward* by Suzanne Woods Fisher-- Jimmy is back home to his Amish roots but where does he fit in?

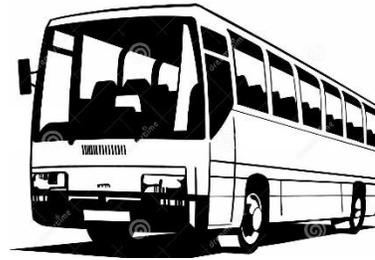
*The Rogers of Renfrew: Threads of Change* by Maxine Beck & Marie L. Beck - Family values and recipes are passed down thru the generations.

*Dewey* by Vicki Myron - Really a cat in the library??!

*The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman- a luxury retirement village finds four residents in the jigsaw room. They are NOT doing jigsaw! They are discussing unsolved crimes -- oops! some are more recent.

Please contact me if you have a book or type of book you wish to see in the Church Library.-It is YOUR Library.

---Lora Bucher



**Bus Trip to Sight and Sound**

A Bus Trip to Sight and Sound in Lancaster to see "Moses" will be on Thursday, April 27, 2023. Depart church at 8:00 a.m. with show time at 11:00 a.m.; stop for meal (Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant) and return to church.

Cost for bus, tickets, and meal is \$158 for Adults and \$114 for Children (ages 3 thru 12 yrs.) 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.

Reservation deadline is March 15<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up in the Brethren Life Center lobby.



**New Church Office Hours**

The Executive Committee made a slight change to church office hours that will go into effect immediately. The hours are as follows: 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM Monday through Thursday with lunch from 12:30 PM to 1:00 PM. Friday hours will be from 8:00 AM until 12 Noon. Carol handles church business on Sunday mornings on a regular basis and also attends all Board meetings which more than covers her Friday afternoon hours. If there is an emergency, our pastors can be contacted by cell phone.

**Finances at a Glance**

God has given us two hands, one to receive with and the other to give with.

---Billy Graham

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Actual Income through 1/31/23...  
\$42,263.00  
Actual Expenses through 1/31/23...  
\$32,594.00  
Net as of 1/31/23...\$9,669.00



## Rockingham Male Chorus at Chambersburg COB

Rockingham Male Chorus from Virginia will be giving a concert at our church Sunday evening, March 26. Final arrangements for a time are yet to be determined.

The Rockingham Male Chorus, which started in 1966 and continues today praising God through music, have given over 1400 programs. They performed at our church several years ago, and it was wonderful!

Please mark your calendar for this concert.



For the Kids of Chambersburg:

Taste of the Valley  
April 4, 2023  
at  
LifePoint Church

Doors open at 5 PM with a Silent Auction and Gift Card Board

15 restaurants serve at 6 PM  
How much can you put on two plates??  
Live Auction begins at 7 PM  
Tickets at \$30.00

See Lora Bucher or Stacy Gray  
Profits go to local non-profits who serve Children  
Donations of items accepted till 3/15/23



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

**WHEN:** Wednesday, March 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.*

## March Senior Day

Wednesday March 8th

9:30am Check in/Light Breakfast

10:00am Join us as we learn about **Natural Clean Living!** We will make and learn about natural soap, laundry detergent & MORE! You will even get to take home a sample!

12:00 pm **Lunch** Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Broccoli Cheese Soup, Salad, and Lemon Cookies with Ice Cream

1:00 pm **Afternoon Program** Natural Clean Living Trivia

Cost: \$20 Per Person  
RSVP by calling 717-642-8256 or  
Email [mshmittel@campeder.org](mailto:mshmittel@campeder.org)



Camp Eder • 914 Mount Hope Road Fairfield, PA 17320 • (717) 642-8256 • [www.campeder.org](http://www.campeder.org)



## First Church of the Brethren

1340 Forge Road  
Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013  
717-243-4984

*A Christian Community Sharing the Love of God*

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Chambersburg Church of the Brethren  
260 Fourth Street  
Chambersburg, PA 17201

Friends In Christ,

This is the year of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Brethren Volunteer Service. We are planning a gathering of former participants in the ministry and potential future candidates for a time of listening and sharing about the history of this revered program. Burr Beard, a member of our congregation, is planning a gathering at the Carlisle First Church of the Brethren on March 26<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 pm. It will include sharing about the current activities of BVS, sharing from former participants and time for questions about how individuals may get involved with the ministry moving forward. Burr is hoping to record this event and include it as part of a documentary he is working on for the benefit of Brethren Volunteer Service.

We hope you will consider the invitation to join us. If you would like more information, please contact Burr at 717-462-0393. If you would know of others who have had a BVS experience or someone who may be interesting in supporting the ministry in the future (prayer, financially, or as an active participant), please feel free to share this invitation and invite them to this gathering as well. Please have any potential participants call Burr Beard directly. We look forward to hearing from you on or before March 26<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support and interest in furthering the mission of BVS.

In Christ's Service,

Douglas Miller  
*Carlisle First Church of the Brethren, Pastor*

Ministers: every member

# BVS @ 75



In honor of Brethren Volunteer Service's 75 Anniversary, the Carlisle First Church of the Brethren announces a special program on BVS at the church on Sunday, March 26th from 2-4pm.

Burr Beard served in BVS in 1972-1973 as a conscientious objector and is the host for this event.

With special guests, former and currently serving volunteers in attendance, Beard will conduct interviews to illuminate the history of the past 75 years of BVS and its current status in terms of opportunities for high school and college graduates, and volunteers of at least age 18.

The event is free and open to the public and is sponsored by the Carlisle First Church of the Brethren. Doug Miller is the Pastor of the Carlisle First Church of the Brethren. Please contact Burr Beard at 717-462-0393, or Pastor Doug at 717-870-1263.

BVS at 75 - Carlisle First Church of the Brethren announces a special program on Sunday, March 26th from 2-4pm. Free to the public...





## Become a Friend in 2023!

The purpose of the Friends of Cross Keys Village is to benefit the lives of residents and team members of Cross Keys Village—the Brethren Home Community.

To accomplish this objective, funds are raised through an **Annual Membership Drive**, donations, and various fundraising events throughout the year. Membership in the Friends of Cross Keys Village is open to all residents and friends of Cross Keys Village.

Funds raised by the Friends are principally used to support:

- The **Good Samaritan Fund**, assisting residents whose finances are exhausted
- The **Brethren Home Educational Assistance Program (BHEAP)**, offering support to our team members who wish to further their education.
- The **Professional Artist Series**, bringing professional entertainment to our campus for the enjoyment of villagers and neighbors from the greater community

**Becoming a member or renewing your membership  
gives you the satisfaction of helping others!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation (if affiliated with Church of the Brethren): \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me about volunteering for The Friends

Please circle your  
level of membership:

**\$10 Bronze-one person**

**\$20 Bronze-two persons**

**\$50 Silver-one person**

**\$100 Silver-two persons**

**\$100 Gold-one person**

**\$200 Gold-two persons**

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like a tax-exempt receipt

The completed form and your check made out to **The Friends of CKV** can be placed in the Campus Mail, addressed to Membership Chair Carol Replogle, 516 Grace Terrace, or mailed to Carol Replogle, 516 Grace Terrace, New Oxford, PA 17350.

Questions can be addressed to **Carol Replogle:** [replogle2@icloud.com](mailto:replogle2@icloud.com) | 717-624-3830

**Online membership and credit card payment:** [www.crosskeysvillage.org/donate/friends](http://www.crosskeysvillage.org/donate/friends)