

# *The Pastor's Pen...*

## **October 2023**

### **Recap of the 2023 District Conference of the Southern PA District**

*Thank you* to everyone who helped make District Conference a success. Those in attendance were so pleased with the help and hospitality offered by the Chambersburg church. Our guest speaker, Paul Munday, the District Moderator, Terry Smith, and the District Executive, Bill Waugh, all made it a point to come and express their thankfulness and gratitude for the well-organized and well-hosted event. A special thank you to Marsha Smith for her leadership and hard work. Thank you to those working in the kitchen, parking lots, greeters, guides, clean up and maintenance of the building, and all other behind the scenes duties that allowed this event to run so smoothly. Your service to others and to our Lord, Jesus Christ, is greatly appreciated!

### **Brief Report:**

- Paul Munday led two in-service sessions for pastors and lay persons on Friday, September 15. The morning session was titled, "Care-Fronting: How to Fight Fair When We Differ As God's People, and the afternoon session was titled, "The Contagious Congregation: Thriving as a Vital, Outreaching Church!" These two sessions were well attended – approximately 60 people.
- Paul Munday was the guest preacher at Friday night's worship service. His sermon was titled, "Eyes That See the Glory" based on Romans 15:1-13. If you were unable to attend the worship service, you can find a link on the church Facebook page to view the service. We had several people from other churches within the district join the choir for the anthem. It was a nice time to sing to the Lord with our fellow COB brothers and sisters.
- Saturday, September 16 began the conference business sessions.
  - After an opening time of praise and hearing God's Word, the business session began with the consecration of delegates. Representing our church were: Rhonda DeShong, Linda Hawbaker, Ian Irvin, Ali Toms, and Liz Thorpe.
  - The ballot was distributed and voted upon for district board members.
  - Two annual meetings which take place each year at district conference: The Brethren Home Board Meeting, and the Children's Aid Society Board Meeting
  - Reports were presented for: COB Denominational, Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center, District Board and Commissions, District Executive, Financials for the District, District Auditors, Standing Committee, and Camp Eder

- DFMA (District Financial Ministries Allocation) was voted on and approved. The DFMA is the amount the district assesses each church per member. The amount per member for one year is \$87.
- There were two insight sessions held during the lunch time.
  - The first was on Brethren Disaster Ministries and how they are working in and out of the United States to help those who have been impacted by disasters. They have responded to tornado and hurricane damaged areas bringing items such as the clean-up kits and hygiene kits to those in need. Our church has assembled and sent these kits to Brethren Disaster Ministries many times in previous years.
  - The second session was given by the District Stewardship Commission explaining the District budget in more detail. This was an opportunity for people to ask questions concerning the budget which was later voted on during the afternoon business session.
- Our District Executive, Bill Waugh, retired effective the close of business of District Conference. Bill and his wife, Dawn, were presented with flowers and gift cards as a “thank you” for the nine years Bill served as our District Executive. We wish Bill well in his retirement.
- Conference concluded with the recognition of outgoing board members and the consecration of those newly elected to the board. At the close of the session, Moderator Terry Smith passed the gavel to the 2024 Moderator, John Hess.
- Following the conference, the District Board met and affirmed Georgia Markey as the interim District Executive while a search is being conducted for a new DE.

Pastor Liz

## Apple Dumplings Sale



Smart Cookies Preschool will be selling Apple Dumplings. They are \$5 each and will be available for pick-up after worship on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.

Please place your orders on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.



## **A WORD FROM PASTOR GRETCHEN,**

As fall settles in we move into a new season of the year. A time to let what's old fall away so that months from now the new will come. We each can ponder areas of our life where we can work to let go of what no longer serves us. Anger, resentment, disappointment, frustration, and bitterness are just a few negative emotions we'll talk about letting go of in Youth Group this fall. These emotions leave permanent scars.

### **The Fence story - Author Unknown**

There once was a young boy with a very bad temper. The boy's father wanted to teach him a lesson, so he gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into their wooden fence.

On the first day of this lesson, the little boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. He was really mad!

Over the course of the next few weeks, the little boy began to control his anger, so the number of nails that were hammered into the fence dramatically decreased.

It wasn't long before the little boy discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence.

Then, the day finally came when the little boy didn't lose his temper even once, and he became so proud of himself, he couldn't wait to tell his father.

Pleased, his father suggested that he now pull out one nail for each day that he could hold his temper.

Several weeks went by and the day finally came when the young boy was able to tell his father that all the nails were gone.

Very gently, the father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence.

"You have done very well, my son," he smiled, "but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same."

The little boy listened carefully as his father continued to speak.

"When you say things in anger, they leave permanent scars just like these. And no matter how many times you say you're sorry, the wounds will still be there."

There are so many verses in the Bible to encourage us and guide us in taming our reaction and response to the things that hurt or bother us. James 1:19-20 can be summed up in three words for quick recall - "Quick, Slow, Slow." *"This you know, my beloved brethren, But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God."*

As we're learning in Youth Group, life is short. We can't control others or what's happening around us, but we can learn to control ourselves and our response. "Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the enemy." As Ian reminded us, we are so lucky to KNOW God. In knowing God, we can rest assured he can help us to allow the old to fall away so the new can come, even the hard stuff.

In Great Love,  
Pastor Gretchen

## **A NOTE FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

It's Fall and the weather is showing it! The mornings are starting to get crisper, the afternoons nearly perfect, and the sun is setting earlier and earlier. Corn mazes, hayrides, apple dumplings, and fall festivals are on the horizon.

Individualized classes have resumed and if you are not currently attending Sunday School, I encourage you to give it a try. We currently have three adult classes, one young adult class, and plenty of programs for the young.

Each of our three adult classes has something unique to offer you; there is truly something for everyone. The Challengers class is enjoying The Chosen Season One so that congregants who did not see the whole season can enjoy and discuss through the next few weeks. Anyone is welcome to join.

Both the Believers and Searchers class have a great line up of educators for the fall. Participants can expect to learn something new and exciting each week from teachers that truly love to share new information and inspire students to know the Bible and Jesus on a deeper level.

No matter the class, all three are comprised of their own small community waiting to embrace you and your walk of faith. This same inviting and loving nature can be found in our Young Adult class and in our youth programs. We hope to see you next Sunday!

Our Youth Group has resumed and we appreciate continued prayers for our students. There is a snack sign up sheet posted in the main lobby of the church. Thank you to everyone who has and will sign up. Snack is an important part of our night as it serves as dinner for some of our students. Your small contribution makes a giant difference in their lives. Thank you.

Please mark your calendars:

Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, Love Feast & Communion 10:30 a.m. NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, Trunk or Treat

Every Tuesday @9:00 a.m., Women's Bible Study with Pastor Liz

Reminders:

We'd like to remind each class to continue to take attendance on Sundays!

The attendance clipboard in the classroom is a great tool for invites and miss you's!

The entire Christian Ed department is dependent on volunteers. We need YOU!

In a time of year where everything is falling away, it's refreshing to know our Sunday School department offers new knowledge, new happenings, and new friends.

Be blessed,

Pastor Gretchen on behalf of The Christian Education Department

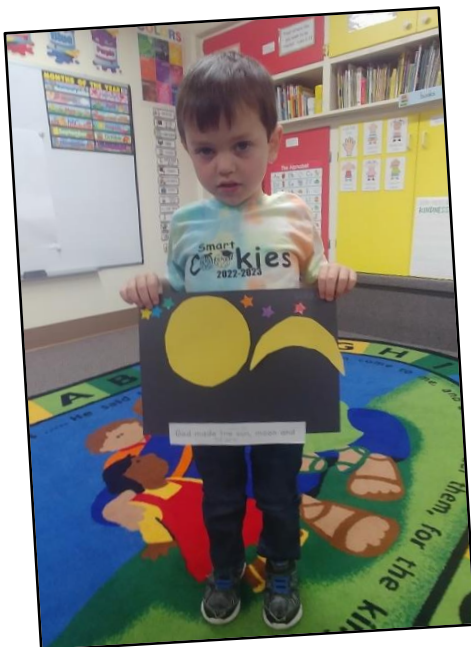


Welcome back to school! Smart Cookies Preschool reopened on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> for instruction! We are so excited to have 11 students enrolled in our program for the 2023-2024 school year. We are expecting to have a fun and exciting year. We have also been learning about respect, friendship, sharing, and more. Over the next few weeks, we will start to learn our letters and numbers, more exciting Bible stories, all about autumn, apples, pumpkins, and fire safety.

We could use more volunteers, so if you can help us, please see Carol Wingert in the church office.

### October Events

- 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Fire Safety Week
- 9<sup>th</sup>- No School
- 11<sup>th</sup>- Field Trip to Stoner's Dairy Farm
- 17<sup>th</sup>- Mrs. Amy's Birthday
- 23<sup>rd</sup>- National Pumpkin Day
- 30<sup>th</sup> - Halloween Party







## Good Intentions

### ***Dear Congregation:***

*You are a very loving and caring group, however, there is something that we need to change. I have done it in the past, too.*

*When someone loses a loved one, please do not say "How are You?" That brings tears or a choking up. Much better to say, "It's good to see you" or "Nice to have you here," or something similar.*

***---Thank You, A recent Widow***



### **Additions to the Library for October**

*Allegheny Gospel Trails* by Virginia Crider -

A true story of an early Circuit Rider in Virginia. With poor roads and challenging weather when even a horse was unavailable.

*Living Life in the Lymelight* by Rachel Long -

The story of a young girl and her family in the early days of Lymes Disease. Often doctors knew less than this family.

*The Story of an Auction: For the Glory of God* by Vivian S. Zieger –

Every year we support the Brethren Disaster Relief Auction, but do you know its beginnings?

*Newsletter*



### **Newsletter Deadline**

#### **Deadline for November**

Pastor's Pen is Sunday,  
October 22, 2023

Please submit all information  
to the church office.



### ***Join Us for Table Games***

Table Games are held every Wednesday in the Brethren Haus from 1-4. All are welcome for this fellowship. We decide what to play once gathered.

If you wish you may bring a game.  
Snacks are welcome, but not necessary.



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

**WHEN:** Wednesday, October 4th  
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.*

Panera  
FUNDRAISING

*Help support us!*

## FOR THE KIDS OF CHAMBERSBURG

**20%  
OF SALES  
WILL BE  
DONATED**

**October 14, 2023  
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm EST  
979 Norland Ave, Chambersburg, PA**

Use code **FUND4U** at online checkout, in the Panera App, or at the kiosk in-cafe.\*

Bring this flyer or show a digital copy to your cashier when ordering at the cafe or enter the promo code FUND4U at checkout on Panerabread.com or the Panera App to ensure your organization gets a portion of the proceeds.\*\* Learn more at [fundraising.panerabread.com](http://fundraising.panerabread.com)

\*Gift card and catering order placed on Panerabread.com, and delivery orders placed through third-party sites are excluded and will not count towards the event. Other restrictions apply. For complete details, visit: <http://fundraising.panerabread.com/terms-conditions/>. \*\*Services vary by cafe.

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## Camp Eder News

Fall Fest is a major fundraiser for Camp Eder and will be held Saturday, October 21. Over 100 volunteers are needed for the event. Volunteer for an hour or two and then enjoy the festival and the natural surroundings of Camp Eder! Be on the lookout for sign-up sheets.

Also donations of items for the meals and the silent auction help reduce expenses.

Please see the flyer included in this newsletter for how you can help.

Viviendo el amor de Dios  
Viv Lanmou Bondye A  
Rayuwan Kaunar Allah  
Living God's Love

Ephesians 5:1-2  
Languages: Spanish, Creole, Hausa, English

**Annual Conference 2023**

**Cincinnati, Ohio**

**Tim McElwee, Moderator**

**Theme: “Living God’s Love”**

Business Meetings began with short Bible Study by various pastors. Moderator McElwee stated that enough time and discussion has been spent on the human sexuality issue and will now be decided by individual congregations. The majority of time was dedicated to wording changes. Topics included reparations to people of color and all indigenous people.

It was emphasized that congregations would disagree but that they should “Disagree in Love.”

Several anniversaries were celebrated. 75 years of Brethren Volunteer Service; 100 years of the church in Nigeria under persecution.

Three new Brethren churches were welcomed. Rwanda, Bhurundi and the Congo added 80 new churches.

The Exhibit Hall was the scene of many ministries including quilting, books, silent auction, coffee house, podcasts, game night and Ice-cream social. Brethren Press provided a wide variety of materials for all age groups.

Women Pastors Breakfast was widely attended displaying the growing acceptance of women in the pulpit.

Expansion of online worship is a reality.

120 pints of blood were donated. \$13,000.00 was raised at the silent auction.

An On Earth Peace march was scheduled from the Convention Center to City Hall.

Youth and adult choirs performed at evening worship services.

Communion was served at Saturday’s closing service as was the consecration of 2024 and 2025 moderators.

Next year’s theme: “Welcome and Worthy.”

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Linda Ross, delegate*





## **CROP WALK**

**When: Sunday, November 5th**

**Time: Registration at 1:30 p.m.**

**Where: Zion Reformed Church  
259 S Main St, Chambersburg, PA 17201**

For close to 50 years neighbors and friends have raised money through CROP, a grassroots hunger relief effort sponsored by Church World Service.

What also makes CROP special is that it allows individuals from different faith communities to join hand in hand in support of this worthy cause.

This year's CROP Walk will take place on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Registration will be at Zion Reformed Church, 259 S. Main Street, Chambersburg, starting at 1:30 p.m. and at 2 p.m. begin the 2 ½ mile route around the downtown Chambersburg area.

\*\*\*CROP, the "Christian Rural Overseas Program" of Church World Service was established in 1947 in response to massive starvation in post-World War II Europe. The mission was simple: feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and heal the sick. Soon, Church World Service Friendship ships filled with grain donated by Mid-western farmers were crossing the Atlantic Ocean to those in need. Today, this same effort is needed!



**Camp  
Eder**

**45TH  
ANNUAL**

**FALL  
FEST**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21ST**

**10AM-4PM**

**MEAL SERVED 11AM-3PM**

**LIVE AUCTION 10:30AM**

- Pork Meal-Barrel Train Rides-Hay Rides**
- Live Auction-Kid's Activities-Craft Vendors**
- Eder Made Apple Butter-Yard Sale Vendors**
- Live Music-**

**914 MOUNT HOPE RD  
FAIRFIELD, PA 17320**



## Dear Neighbors and Friends of Camp Eder,

On October 21st, hundreds of people will gather at Camp Eder for the 45th Annual Fall Festival; a festival to celebrate friends, the wonderful ministries of Camp Eder, and the color change of God's beautiful creation.

Throughout each year, thousands of people step foot onto Camp Eder property for a life changing experience with God. Some people are a part of the summer camp ministry and are introduced to Jesus Christ for the very first time; others are a part of one of the dozens of Christian ministries that use the facilities as a place of respite and inspiration.

Although Camp Eder does charge for things like summer camp registrations and use of retreat facilities; the goal is to keep these things as affordable and accessible as possible to each person who needs an encounter with Christ. Fees collected only go so far to keep the Camp in top condition. It's only through volunteer and financial support that all the needs of the ministry are met. Fall Festival goes a long way to help keep Camp up and running. We need your help to make this year's festival a success!

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Over 100 volunteers are needed to serve an hour or two (or more) to make the day special for everyone, are you able to help out?
- Donations are Needed for the live auction
  - Be a Vendor (We are also offering Yard Sale spots this year)
  - Sponsor an item for our fund-raising meal pork and turkey meal
- more than anything else, you can continue to keep Camp Eder in prayer as financial challenges are faced each season of the year.

Thank you for your partnership, we look forward to seeing everyone at this year's Fall Festival. Items to Sponsor • 7 Pigs • 30 Gallons of Cider • Individual Bags of Chips • Pies • Bake Sale Items • Paper goods • Bags of candy for kid's games • Fall Decorations • Pumpkins • Silent auction items

### Sponsorship Levels

- Geigley Sponsor \$1000
- Tree of Peace Sponsor \$750
- Schwarzenau Lodge Sponsor \$500
- Mack Cabin Sponsor \$250
- Long Hut Sponsor \$100
- Covered Wagon Sponsor \$50

Camp Eder is a 501c (3) non-profit organization and can provide a receipt for any contribution made. Please thoughtfully consider partnering with us. Should you graciously decide to provide Camp Eder with an item that can be sold in the fundraising auction, or if you choose to show support with a monetary gift to the Festival A tax receipt will also be provided to you.

Thank you for your time and contribution,

*Camp Eder Staff*



## MOMENTS OF WORSHIP



Day 1	Daniel 2:20	Day 17	Psalms 24:1
Day 2	John 4:24	Day 18	Psalms 35:8
Day 3	Psalms 22:27	Day 19	Psalms 40:3
Day 4	Psalms 29:2	Day 20	Psalms 42:5
Day 5	Psalms 66:4	Day 21	Romans 12:1
Day 6	Psalms 95:6	Day 22	Psalms 47:6
Day 7	Psalms 96:9	Day 23	Acts 16:25
Day 8	Psalms 99:5	Day 24	Romans 15:11
Day 9	Psalms 138:2	Day 25	Ephesians 1:6
Day 10	Jeremiah 7:2	Day 26	Hebrews 2:12
Day 11	Psalms 34:3	Day 27	Hebrews 13:15
Day 12	Psalms 69:30	Day 28	1 Peter 2:9
Day 13	Luke 1:46	Day 29	Psalms 68:4
Day 14	Psalms 22:22	Day 30	Psalms 69:34
Day 15	Psalms 27:6	Day 31	Psalms 71:8
Day 16	Psalms 33:2		