

The Pastor's Pen...

January/February 2024



“Hello” to the Chambersburg Church of the Brethren family!!

I wish you each a blessed and happy 2024! Reba and I so look forward to joining you soon and becoming part of the CCOB congregation for most of this year and beyond!

I can say with Paul, as he wrote in his opening paragraphs to the church in Philippi,

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus....”

“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.”

We have been following the worship services and news from your congregation. It was good to be in Chambersburg last week and greet many of you in person, whether seeing you at game tables in the Brethren Haus, serving food for Mid-Week To-Go, or joining you at choir rehearsal. While there, we were able to walk through a duplex that we will be renting, at least for our first year. It is located in the Maple Run Development. We are excited to begin moving in February.

Here in Harleysville, we are busy connecting with dear church members and friends, doing pre-packing work around our house, helping the church here to transition well to their next chapter, and sharing meaningful “parting words.”

As for our family, January is a special month for our oldest grand-daughter, who turns 3 this week. It is also a special month (and year) for Reba, who turns 60 on the 20th (she told me I could tell you)! Our whole family will be renting a place near Tobyhanna for that weekend to celebrate *her* and to celebrate *with* her.

We hope to see each of you on Sunday, March 3rd, if not before. Until then, may God keep you firmly in His loving care.

Your (soon to be) partner in the journey,

~ Pastor Mark



**Souper & Movie Night
Saturday, February 3rd
At 4:30 p.m.**

Movie will show at 6:00 p.m.

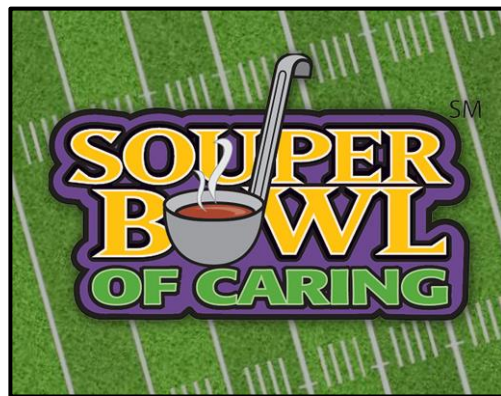
Movie to be shown is *Divine Influencer*.
(2023 COMEDY)

People attending are to bring a soup of their choosing to share. You are also encouraged to bring a can of soup to place on the "Soup"er Bowl tables for donation also.

Please come and fellowship even if you don't bring any soup! A sign-up sheet is in the Brethren Life Center lobby to indicate how many are attending and if you are bringing soup.

Place Settings and drinks provided. Snack provided during movie!!!

Come join us for a Night of Fun!



"Soup"er Bowl

Missions and Service Commission will be sponsoring "Soup"er Bowl of Caring. "Soup"er Bowl Sunday is February 4th and February 11th.

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 11th.



Join your church Family on Sunday, March 10, 2024

On Sunday, March 10, 2024 we will be holding an Installation Service for Pastor Mark and Reba Baliles. It will be during morning worship at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Following worship, we will be hosting a Welcome Reception for Pastor Mark and Reba.

No Sunday School will be held that morning.

Please plan to attend and welcome Pastor Mark and Reba into the Chambersburg COB Family!

A WORD FROM PASTOR GRETCHEN,

As a teenager I was blessed to have very dedicated youth leadership. Dale and Lisa Bowers were not only family, but they were also an important young family within our church. After getting married post high school and before having their own children, Dale and Lisa found great joy in volunteering together to love and lead the teens of our church.

Every Sunday for a portion of the year we would get together to study, fellowship, and explore. We spent time reading the bible, enjoying fellowship over a meal, and taking great adventures. We often went to Camp Brethren woods for retreats and volunteered wherever we could make a difference. Youth Group was a special experience for me and deeply contributed to the Christian I am today. It's from firm foundations great buildings and monuments are built. This is the same for building followers of Christ.

When I look back on this time in my life there are so many memories that come flooding forward. One that stands out especially loud is a caving trip we took as a small group one Sunday afternoon. Now this was before you could pay someone a price for caving gear and a tour guide. This was in a time before permission slips and clearance forms. We didn't have any rope or gear to keep us safe.

As we climbed up rocks structures and crawled through narrow passages, we were just anxious and excited to discover whatever was at the top of the pile or end of the tunnel. I remember having to balance across a rock bridge with a drop we couldn't see the bottom of. If any of us slipped or lost our grips, who knows what could have happened.

And it could have happened. It was damp, wet in many places, slippery and cold. It was hard to see and count on the flashlights hanging round our necks. In retrospect, we were feeling our way through the dark, trusting each other, and our leaders to get us through. And we did it all with anxious, excited hearts. Hearts that were focused on opportunity and a chance to grow.

As we approach another new year some folks will find themselves in a dark and damp, cold and maybe even dangerous place. These situations can make us feel hopeless and full of fear we won't find our way out or through. But just like the brave leaders that led my youth group out of the cave that Sunday, God leads us every day.

There is no cave he can't see us through, no situation he can't turn into an opportunity. It's a guarantee, a real promise of promise. As you look at the rocks you may have to climb, the tunnels you may have to crawl through, I hope you find some excitement in the challenge. There is no reason to be afraid of the dark or scared to slip and fall. God, his son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are more gear than you'll ever need.

In Great Love,
Pastor Gretchen





A WORD FROM CHRISITIAN EDUCATION

With the holidays behind us Sunday School is back in full swing in each classroom. The new year is a great time to start a new series or recruit new attendees to our classes. Each Sunday school class for adults and children have something unique to offer you. We hope everyone will find a class that helps them feel more connected to God and our church.

The Christian Education department is responsible for one of the most important things in our church, our children and youth. While our adults are volunteering for our services and attending adult classes our children and youth need teachers and volunteers they can count on. The shortage of volunteers for our childcare and children's classrooms can create a great burden on the church as a whole.

To continue the great programs, we have and to expand our programs to new heights and grow, WE NEED YOU!

How can I volunteer to help?

Contact Tenni Pyles or Pastor Gretchen as soon as you can. There are volunteer positions available from helpers to teachers. We will work with you to find the best schedule and fit for you.

How complicated is the clearance process?

Not at all. It only takes some basic information and a few signatures, and you'll be ready to go in a few weeks. The process is extremely simple.

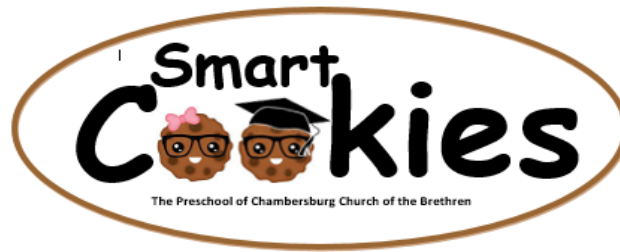
Do I have to commit?

No one must commit long term, but we sure wish you would! Volunteers can do one Sunday, four Sundays, more or less. There are so many ways to serve God by serving our students.

Is there a way to help without being hands on?

Most of what we need in our programs is hands on volunteers but that doesn't mean there aren't other ways to support Christian Education. We are currently building a new classroom and there are many other things to keep up on week to week. If you'd like to help in other ways, please let Tenni or Pastor Gretchen know.

In Love,
Pastor Gretchen on behalf of Christian Education



Smart Cookies News

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 Moses and Joshua.

On December 14th, we had our Christmas Program. The students performed the "Birth of Jesus". The children acted out the play, while Mimi Kelly and Phyllis Kegerreis read the account of Jesus' Birth. The children and families enjoyed this time together.

On December 18th 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, the 100th Day of School, and Dr. Seuss's birthday.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Amy

January Events

- 10th- Martial Arts Classes Begin (Tentatively)
- 15th - No School-MLK Jr. Day

February Events

- 2nd- Groundhog Day
- 14th- Valentine's Day Party
- 12th- 100th Day of School Celebration (tentative)
- 16th- 19th- No School: President's Day
- 26th-March 1st- Read Across America/Dr. Seuss Week
- 28th- Dental Hygiene Visit with Dr. James from Barra Orthodontics





THANK YOU

Many thanks to all who prepared goodies for the Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival Bake Sale which totaled nearly \$1500. The pies were gone in the first hour of the first day!

Thank you to these bakers; Margie Diller, Karen Wagner, Jane Hughes, Mabel Diller, Daphne Murray and Linda Hawbaker.

Thanks to all who sent me birthday cards. I appreciated every card. That's the most cards I ever got for my birthday.
---**Mabel Diller**



2024 Directory Information Updates

Has any of your personal information changed?

New Address?

New Phone Number?

New Email Address?

We would like the new directory to be as accurate as possible. Please contact the church office 717-264-6957 or chambcob@gmail.com with any new or changed information by January 31st.



Our Sympathy to:

Carol and Dean Burkholder and Family following the death of Carol's mother, Ruth L. Shafer on Sunday, January 7, 2024

Daphney Martin and Family following the death of her husband, Gerald E. Martin on Sunday, December 31, 2023.

Jere and Joanne Walls and Family following the death of their sister-in-law, Kay S. Shatzer on Thursday, December 21, 2023.

Jere and Joanne Walls and Family following the death of their brother-in-law, John E. Burkholder Jr. on Monday, November 27, 2023.

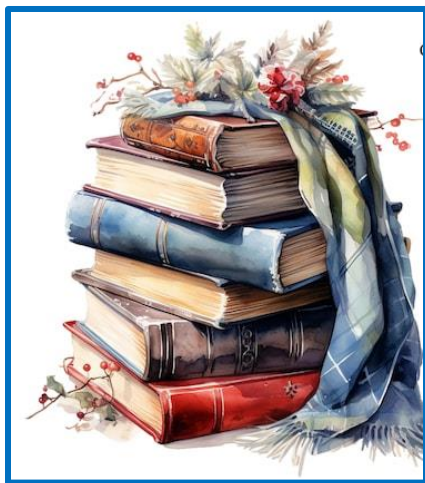
The Family of Ethel May Block following her death on Monday, October 16, 2023. She was the wife of Rev. Ervin F. Block who was our pastor from 1959 through 1962.

**NewsLetter
DEADLine**

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for March Pastor's Pen
Sunday, February 18, 2024

Please submit all information
to the church office.



Library News for January/February

Lets start off the New Year on a happy note:

There will be various Books with humor on display for you to choose from during January.

During February there will be a display for books that will make you aware of things we don't always take note of.



FOR THE KIDS NEWS

The fundraiser at Ledo's Pizza went well with a profit of \$157.03. Both the Pizza and Steak Sandwiches were great. Will do this again.

Remember Taste of the Valley will be April 9, 2024. Contact Lora Bucher for more information or if you want to donate something.



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

WHEN: Wednesday, February 7th
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.



Save the dates..... Church Yard Sale

The Church Yard Sale will be held on

Thursday, March 14, 2024
1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 15, 2024
8:00 am. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 16, 2024
8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



Winter Camp 2024

January 26th-28th

Grades 1st-12th & Shining Stars Campers

Pack your snow suit and strap your sled to the car because winter camp 2024 is right around the corner. Register for a weekend full of great food, camp games, new and old friends, and a closer relationship with God.

Cost \$90

Arrive 7 pm Friday (Registration at Geigley)

Dismiss 2 pm Sunday

Packing List:

Warm Clothes

Pillow and Sleeping Bag

Towel and washcloth

Extra Socks

Personal toiletry items

Snow Pants

Boots

Winter Jacket

Gloves & hat

Extra pair of shoes

Sled(s) (optional)

Bible, Notebook, & Pen

Signed Camp Eder Policy Agreement

Health Form



Day 1	Ecclesiastes 3:11	Day 19	Ezekiel 36:26
Day 2	Isaiah 40:31	Day 20	Isaiah 58:12
Day 3	Jeremiah 29:11	Day 21	Hebrews 8:13
Day 4	Job 8:7	Day 22	1 Peter 1:23
Day 5	Philippians 3:13-14	Day 23	Hebrews 4:16
Day 6	Isaiah 43:18-19	Day 24	Romans 12:2
Day 7	Lamentations 3:22-23	Day 25	Matthew 7:7-8
Day 8	Ephesians 4:22-24	Day 26	John 10:10
Day 9	2 Corinthians 5:17	Day 27	Philippians 4:6-7
Day 10	Psalms 40:3	Day 28	Galatians 6:15-16
Day 11	Ezekiel 11:19	Day 29	Psalms 98:1-3
Day 12	Matthew 26:27-29	Day 30	1 Peter 1:3
Day 13	Isaiah 65:17	Day 31	1 John 2:17
Day 14	Romans 6:4		
Day 15	Colossians 3:9-10		
Day 16	Revelation 21:5		
Day 17	Acts 3:19		
Day 18	2 Chronicles 7:14		



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