

The Pastor's Pen...

April 2024



Sometimes following the weather can feel a little like riding a roller coaster. Even though this past winter was a mild one overall, we still struggled with the up and down, unpredictable nature of it all. To borrow a variation on the theme commonly associated with March, winter went out like a lamb (average daily temperature March 1-18 was 50.8° F); while spring came in more like a lion (average daily temperature March 19-24 was 40.7° F). Sounds a bit like life, doesn't it?

While it is true that our human lifetime follows a pattern that loosely compares to the changing seasons of the year, it is also true that there is much that is "up and down" and unpredictable along the way. The new life and colors of spring and summer are often punctuated by days of clouds, rain, and storms. And sometimes, those storms seem to last forever. Similarly, the soft changes of autumn and the harshness of winter ultimately usher in nature's sleep of death. Yet even those seasons are often sprinkled with gifts of sunshine, beauty, and joy.

All of this reminds us that while we have no control of the weather—in nature or in life—we don't have to let the weather control us. We can choose to be miserable and frustrated when the weather is not to our liking, or we can accept each season of life—along with its surprises—trusting in a God who is all-knowing, all-loving, all-powerful, and everywhere present...all the time.

This particular time of year, with the passing of winter to spring, is filled with particular reminders of God's character, especially when we take to heart the truths reflected in what we call the "Christian calendar." As winter begins, we celebrate the time in history when the Word became flesh, when Jesus, the Son of God, became one of us and lived among us. God *knows* all things because God *created* all things. But now, through Christ, God *experienced* human existence—suffering, rejection, temptation—from the inside out. And through his life, Jesus showed us how to face life—and death—with faith, courage, and compassion for others.

In his death, Jesus demonstrated the depth of God's *love*. There is no greater love among men, Jesus said, than one who lays down his life for a friend. But God demonstrated his love *this* way: while we were yet *sinners*, Christ died for us.

Following this expression of divine love, on the third day God demonstrated his *power* over death itself. Death could not keep its prey. Christ arose to life and promises eternal life to all who trust in him. And before leaving this earth, he also promised his presence, and the presence of the Spirit, to be with us always.

May we face every season of the year, and every season of our lives, with faith in the God who knows all, loves us fully, can do all, and is with us always. To God be the glory!

- Pastor Mark (Your partner in the journey)



Rockingham Male Chorus – April 21, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Chambersburg Church of the Brethren

The Rockingham Male Chorus of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia is a group of volunteer musicians from a variety of backgrounds, careers and denominations who welcome the opportunity to travel and sing the gospel of Christ. “The Singing Men” as they are known, travel hundreds of miles on an annual basis giving 20-30 concerts covering an area from Pennsylvania to Florida. They will be performing at **Chambersburg Church of the Brethren** on Sunday evening, April 21st at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Organized in 1966, the founder and original director of the Rockingham Male Chorus was Dr. Nelson T. Huffman, a music professor who taught at Bridgewater College in Bridgewater, Virginia. Dr. Huffman led the “Singing Men” through their 500th concert before retiring in 1987. The Chorus subsequently reorganized and selected David MacMillan to serve as its director.

David MacMillan, a graduate of Shenandoah Conservatory of Music in Winchester, VA continues to serve as the director of the Chorus, and his wife, Kathy, serves as accompanist. Chorus members gather on a weekly basis from September until May for rehearsals. To date, the Chorus has provided over 1400 concerts.

Admission to the Rockingham Male Chorus concert is free however a freewill offering is received to help offset administrative and travel expenses. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Yard Sale 2024



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

*As of Monday, March 25th, we raised **\$9,172.07** for our Smart Cookies Preschool program.*

Enjoy some photos of the yard sale!



The Board Report

April 2024



This is the first Board Report included in the monthly newsletter. Anyone – church congregante, or visitor can read the monthly Board minutes posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Many of us are busy and just do not have time to stop and read them. So, a summary of what the Board is working on will be included in the church newsletter going forward.

Here are the 2024 members of the 4th Street Church of the Brethren Board. Please reach out to anyone of them if you have comments, questions, or concerns. We are your elected representatives and staff and wish to serve you and the Lord.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Responsibilities</u>
Jesse Miles	Moderator
Marsha Smith	Board Chair/Executive Committee
Ian Irvin	Board Co-Chair/Executive Committee
Terry Koons	Deacon Representative/Executive Committee
Linda Steck	Deacon Representative
Bryan Stevenson	Christian Education
Renee Preso	Worship & Music
Tangela Gibbons	Fellowship & Recreation/Executive Committee
Laura Shank	Mission & Services
Larry Bricker	Stewardship & Finance/Executive Committee
Cody Toms	Properties
Tim Monn	Smart Cookies Preschool
Nancy Hoke	Scribe/Business Manager/Executive Committee
Mark Baliles	Senior Pastor/Executive Committee
Liz Thorpe	Pastor of Music and Spiritual Formulation
Carol Wingert	Administrative Assistant

The Board meeting occurs on the second Tuesday of each month. Anyone can attend this meeting. If you have an agenda item for discussion, you must notify the Board chair one week prior to the meeting date to ensure your item is included on the agenda.

In March, we changed the format of meeting to include dinner prior to the meeting (provided by a board member) followed by the regular business meeting discussion – financials, commission requests, old and new business items and then a focused board development and planning session. We spent 90 minutes discussing and listing key opportunities, risks, process reviews needed, church structure, communication needs, and backup plans. We are planning focused work and development in the coming months.

Your board members would like to hear from you. If you have any suggestions or thoughts on needs for our church, please contact any board or staff member.



WHAT: Smart Cookies Chicken BBQ

WHEN: May 4th

WHERE: tentatively at the Rural King Store Parking Lot on Wayne AV
Tickets will go on sale April 7th after worship –
½ Chicken, Baked Beans, Applesauce & Martin's roll for \$14.00

SMART COOKIES PRESCHOOL NEWS

Spring is a busy time for Smart Cookies Preschool!

The Yard Sale has resulted in a preliminary total of \$9,172.07 raised! That is a new record for a one-year sale (in 2022 we held a sale that was 2 year's worth of donations). So many volunteers made this a success for the Church's Preschool and the community – we thank you all for your donations, your hours of work, and your purchases! And the Easter Candy Sale netted another \$626.90, thanks to Mimi Kelly directing that project. The final fundraiser for this school year is our Chicken BBQ with Michael's BBQ on May 4th. Tentative location is the Rural King Parking lot and the cost will be \$14.00 again – tickets go on sale on April 7th! These fundraising projects keep our preschool affordable.

Linda Remson's famous "Spaghetti Ice" is scheduled for May 8th. The "spaghetti" is made of ice cream, the "sauce" is strawberry syrup, and the "cheese" is grated white chocolate. Everything is served on tables decorated to make you think of an Italian Restaurant! But, shush, the kids don't know all those details – it's a surprise!

On May 10th the Preschool will celebrate with a Mother's Day & Father's Day Breakfast, and May 16th is our Graduation Ceremony.

Volunteers are needed to help set up, serve, and clean up for Smart Cookies Spaghetti Ice and Mother's Day/Father's Day events. There are several areas that Smart Cookies would need volunteers for at our Graduation/End of the Year Program. If you are willing to help with one or all of these events please contact Amy McNeil at smartcookies@chambcob.org or the church office.



SMART COOKIES PRESCHOOL

March has been a very active month for us. We had Dr. Seuss month and enjoyed parents/grandparents coming in to read to us. We had different themes throughout the week. Friday most of us dressed as our favorite Dr. Seuss character. We celebrated St. Patrick's Day on Monday, March 18th. The children and their families made leprechaun traps to try catch a leprechaun. Unfortunately, the leprechauns messed up our classrooms. One of the students did catch a leprechaun. The students had fun checking their traps and helping us clean up the mess.

On March 22nd, we went back to the Brookview HealthCare Center of Menno Haven. The students and seniors had a great time hearing the story of Christ's Resurrection, coloring and decorating Easter Eggs, and making bunny masks.

On March 22nd, we also began Soccer Shots. Coach Kayla has a great program set up for the kids and soccer will continue every Friday afternoon until May 3rd.

On March 25th, we had our class Easter Egg Hunt and Party. The kids had fun looking for eggs, making resurrection rolls, and hearing a story.

On March 27th, we took a field trip to Grayce Gardens. The class learned how to care for plants, heard a story, and each child got to plant a succulent to take home.

For the month of April, we have fun activities planned, and we have a class trip scheduled. We will be planting flowers, learning about butterflies and bugs, spending time outside, and preparing for the final days of school.

Upcoming April Events

April 19th- Field Trip to Brookview Center of Menno Haven

April 26th- Field Trip to Wilson College Horse Stables



Reba and I want to express our deep appreciation to our new church family here at Chambersburg COB for the warm welcome we have received as we start this new chapter of our lives. From the help unloading the truck to the welcome reception on Sunday, March 10th and everything in between and all that is yet to come, we are grateful.

And we are eager to continue getting to know you as we worship, work, and walk together as friends, as family, and as followers of Jesus.

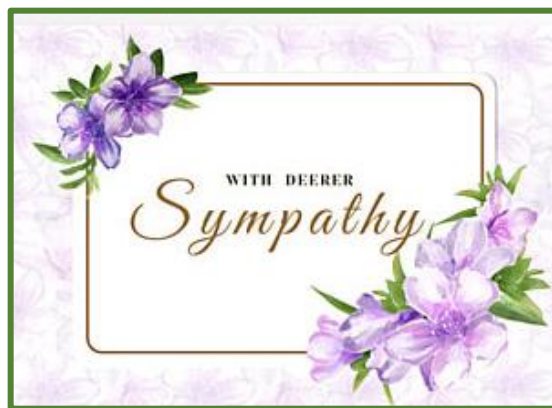
**---Your partner in this journey,
Pastor Mark**

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Easter Food Drive. We collected 174 items that were delivered to the South Central Community Action Programs (SCCAP) food bank for Easter!

---Missions and Service Commission

Thank you to everyone who supported our Gertrude Hawk Candy fundraiser. Your love of chocolate and your love of children enabled us to raise **\$626.90** for our Smart Cookies program.

**---Smart Cookies Preschool
Committee**



Our Sympathy to:

Zach and Alicia Lear following the death of Zach's mother, Regina Kay (Dicken) Lear on Monday, March 4, 2024.

Stan and Debbie Shilling and Family; Sheri Martin and Family; Dwight Shilling and Family; Linda Remson and Family following the death of their father, grandfather, and brother-in-law, Stanley R. Shilling on Monday, March 11, 2024.



Congratulations to:

Zach and Alicia Lear on the birth of a son, Jameson Thomas Lear, born Thursday, March 14, 2024. He weighed 7 lbs. and was 19 1/4 inches long.

His big sister is Magdalena, and his proud grandparent is Robin-Faust Hambright.



Workday at New Windsor

Missions and Service Commission has scheduled a workday at the Brethren Service Center (New Windsor, MD) on Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

We need 10 Volunteers. We will be leaving the church parking lot at 7am – working from 8:30 am till 4 pm (lunch provided – 12 noon – 1 pm). We will return to the church by 5:30 pm.

Watch for sign-up sheets in the Brethren Life Center lobby.



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

WHEN: Wednesday, April 3rd
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.



April Senior Day

Wednesday April 10th

9:30am Check in/Breakfast

10:00am Elva Hurst will be presenting a live chalk talk her theme is "New Spring/Easter celebrating the splendor of spring and sharing the story of Easter in chalk, music and story with special blacklight effects.

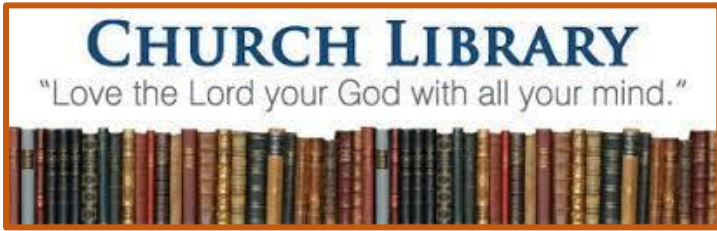
12:00 pm Lunch Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls w/ Butter, Salad, Mix of Lemon and Chocolate Chip Cookies with Ice Cream

1:00 pm Depart

RSVP BY 4/3

Cost: \$20 Per Person
RSVP by calling 717-642-8256

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



Some Books to consider for April

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
And the Angels Were Silent
Angel with 100 Wings
All the Lonely People

Do you know there are Photo albums of Church events in the library?



FOR THE KIDS NEWS

Taste of the Valley will be on April 9. We will meet on April 18th to distribute the funds raised to various non-profit agencies in Chambersburg that serve children.

We would love to have more members. If you would like more information contact Lora Bucher.



Southern PA District Women’s Spring Luncheon – Saturday, April 20, 2024

The Southern PA District Women’s Spring Luncheon will be held at West Shore Church of the Brethren, 6921 Wertzville Road, Enola, PA on Saturday, April 20, 2024 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

The Speaker is Kirsten Harris Keys, Public Relations Coordinator for the Harrisburg City School District. She attends Solid Rock Missionary Baptist Church of Harrisburg where she gladly serves God and others. She is married to Pastor Thomas Keys. She is active in health and wellness ministry, community outreach, women’s ministry initiatives, and the ministry of encouragement.

Cost is \$10 per person and Registration deadline is April 13th. Brochures with registration forms and more information are available in the Narthex and Brethren Life Center Lobby.



Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for May Pastor’s Pen
Sunday, April 21, 2024

Please submit all information to the church office.



C.O.F.F.E.E.

Christ Offers Forgiveness
For Everyone Everywhere

Worship & Praise



Day 1	Isaiah 25:1	Day 16	Psalms 42:11
Day 2	Exodus 23:25	Day 17	Romans 14:11
Day 3	Psalms 150:6	Day 18	Psalms 105:1
Day 4	Acts 16:25	Day 19	Psalms 143:6
Day 5	John 4:24	Day 20	1 Samuel 2:2
Day 6	Psalms 103:1	Day 21	Psalms 95:6
Day 7	1 Chronicles 16:34	Day 22	Psalms 66:17
Day 8	Psalms 63:1	Day 23	Psalms 16:2
Day 9	Habakkuk 3:17-18	Day 24	Daniel 4:37
Day 10	Psalms 71:8	Day 25	Psalms 63:3-4
Day 11	1 Chronicles 29:11	Day 26	Ephesians 3:20-21
Day 12	2 Corinthians 1:3-4	Day 27	Revelation 5:13
Day 13	2 Samuel 7:22	Day 28	Psalms 28:7
Day 14	Psalms 68:4-5	Day 29	Psalms 116:1-2
Day 15	Romans 11:36	Day 30	Psalms 145:3



Camp Eder News

Senior Day –April 10

Come and enjoy a day in the woods for lunch and a presentation on Chalk Talk. Cost is \$20. RSVP to Camp Eder @ 717-642-8256.

2024 Golf Outing –May 10

Support this fundraiser by sponsoring a hole or a foursome. Come out to play at Carroll Valley Golf Course. See flyer in the newsletter for more information or the camp website

<https://www.campeder.org/>

Camp Clean-up –May 11

Help clean up winter debris to prepare camp for summer activities. Call Mike at Camp Eder for more information and to sign up. 717-642-8256.

2024 Summer Camp

There are 5 weeks of summer camp starting June 16th through July 21 for Kindergartners through senior high schoolers. See Camp brochures at the BLC Welcome table or the camp website <https://www.campeder.org/>

There are scholarships available to attend from both Camp Eder and our church. See the church office for information on scholarships.

Camp Eder Needs for Summer Camp

1 more male Counselor

Pastors and Nurses. Each serves for a week of camp and room and board are free.

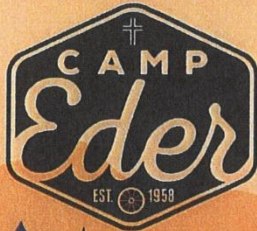
The responsibilities of the nurse are to distribute campers' medication and aid in any first aid that needs to be given out to campers or staff.

Camp pastor for the week is responsible for one chapel time a day (30mins) plus vespers (30mins) on Wednesdays.

Contact Camp Eder to volunteer or for more information or questions. 717-642-8256

MEN'S OUTDOORSMAN DAY APRIL 6TH

**CO-SPONSORED BY CAMP EDER &
THE SOPA DISTRICT NURTURE COMMISION**



DEVOTIONAL THEME: MEETING GOD IN
THE GREAT OUTDOORS

APR 6

8:30AM-3PM

**\$40
LUNCH
INCLUDED!**

CLAY SHOOT AND FISHING

JOIN US ON APRIL 6TH FOR A DAY FILLED WITH ADVENTURE! OUR JOURNEY BEGINS WITH EXPERT GUIDANCE FROM MATT ILKO AND NEVIN FUNK, SEASONED FIREARM INSTRUCTORS. TOGETHER, WE'LL DELVE INTO THE WORLD OF CLAY SHOOTING, MASTERING GUN SAFETY PROTOCOLS, AND HONING OUR SKILLS TO BECOME PROFICIENT CLAY TARGET SHOOTERS. LATER IN THE DAY, WE'LL HAVE THE CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE THE TRANQUILITY OF FISHING UNDER THE MENTORSHIP OF SETH BRICKNER, A PASSIONATE ANGLER WHO WILL SHARE INVALUABLE BASS FISHING TECHNIQUES. SECURE YOUR SPOT BY REGISTERING ON THE CAMP EDER WEBSITE OR BY CONTACTING THE CAMP OFFICE VIA PHONE.

CAMPEDER.ORG/REGISTRATION
717-642-82567

914 MT HOPE RD
FAIRFIELD , PA 17320

.....★★★.....

CAMP EDER

Golf Outing

.....★★★.....
Friday May 10th, 2024

.....
**Carroll Valley Golf
Course at Liberty
Mountain**
.....

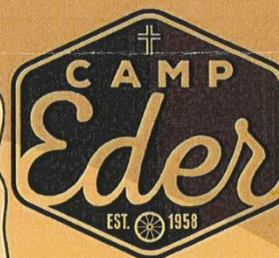
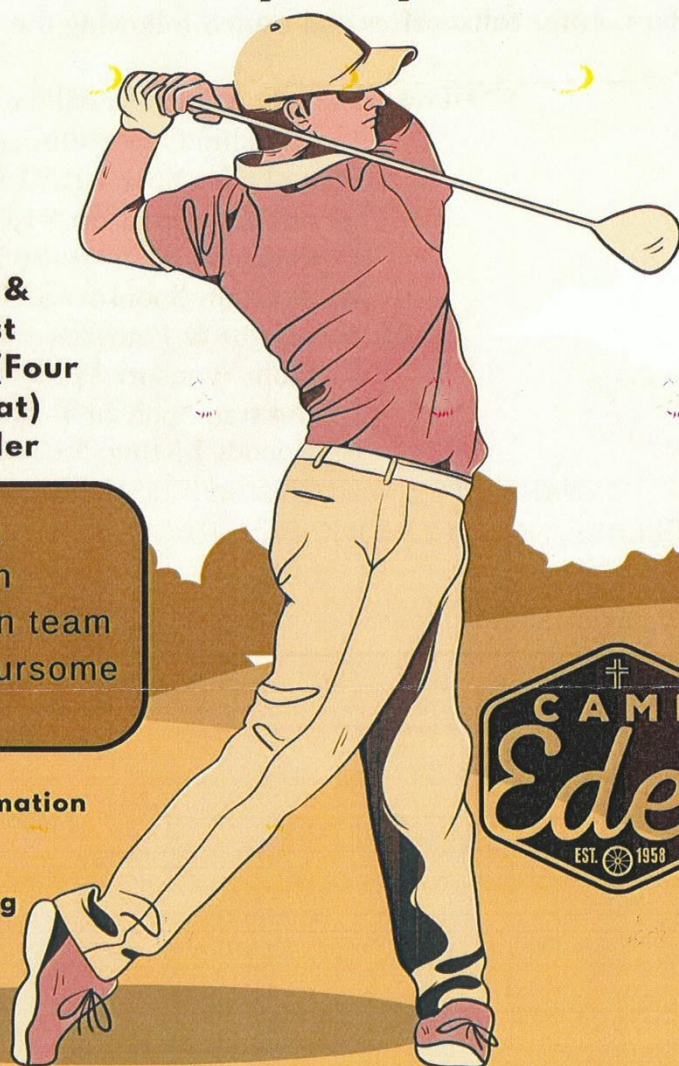
**78 Country Club Trail
Fairfield, PA 17320**

**7:00 am Registration &
Continental Breakfast
8:00 am Shotgun Start (Four
Player Scramble Format)
1:00 Lunch at Camp Eder**

Registration

\$90 per person
\$360 per-four person team
Hole sponsor and Foursome
\$460

**To register or for more information
contact Camp Eder
717-642-8256
campeder@campeder.org
914 Mt Hope Rd
Fairfield, Pa 17320**



www.campeder.org

717-642-8256