



# *The Pastor's Pen...*

**May 2024**

## ***Messy and Miraculous***

What is it like being a mother? I don't think anything else in life can adequately describe the joy, the beauty, and the depth and fierceness of love; nor the fears, the doubts, the tears, and the heartaches that often accompany this incredible calling. I've experienced a mother's love and support and sacrifice as a son. I've watched it up close as the husband of an amazing and deeply devoted mother. The past three years, I've seen it through new eyes as the father of another incredible mom.

There is a sense in which being a mother is messy. I don't just mean diapers and laundry and crayon on the wall. I mean the fact that you can have it all scheduled and programmed, but things seldom turn out as planned. Kids don't turn out as planned. You don't turn out as planned. It's messy. And yet, in the midst of the mess, there is indescribable beauty, joy, and love. There is something miraculous.

That's motherhood. That's life. In fact, it's how both motherhood and life get their start. Remember childbirth. It's quite messy...literally. And it is terrifying, and painful, and hard, and ... beautiful and ... yes, miraculous.

As we honor moms this coming month, let's remember that Mother's Day can also be complicated and messy. For some, it is one of the most difficult days of the year. There are women who wanted to be mothers, and who live in pain of unfulfilled longings and dreams. There are women who are at peace with not being a mother, but who often are treated as *less than* because of it, especially on Mother's Day. I am the father also of a daughter who is *not* a mother but who is incredible and smart and strong and creative and compassionate and fierce in so many beautiful ways.

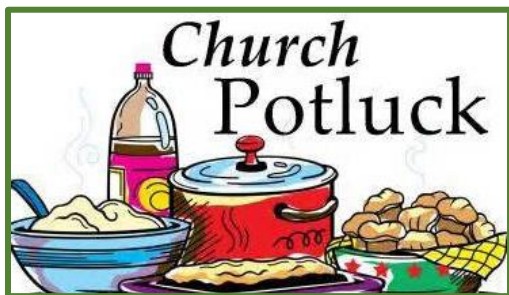
There are also *mothers* who have been treated as *less than*—by the culture around them, by extended family, or even by their own husband or children. Most every mother has been unappreciated at times—or at least under-appreciated—despite her strength, her perseverance, her self-sacrifice, and so much more.

There are mothers who will not hear from their children this Mother's Day. There are mothers who have buried children. There are mothers who have experienced excruciating pain in other forms. And for these, Mother's Day is hard.

Then there are children—young and old—whose mother is no longer with them, and they miss her terribly, and Mother's Day is hard. There are children whose experience of having a mother was less than what their heart longed for—some a little less, others unbelievably less—and Mother's Day is hard.

In the midst of all that is messy this year, may there be an abundance of beauty and joy. May there be sensitivity and grace. And may miracle and grace flow through each of us.

- Pastor Mark (your partner in the journey)



## EVENT

**with (ARTISAN/CRAFT/SPECIALITY SHOW)**

**Sunday, May 19, 2024**

following Sunday School in the Brethren Life Center

We want to invite the congregation to come and participate in the POTLUCK EVENT (even if you don't have something to share in the show.) If you have an art, craft, or specialty talent that you want to showcase, please sign-up in the Brethren Life Center lobby.

Come bring your favorite potluck dish and see all the talents, etc. we have within our church congregation! Anyone unable to bring a dish for potluck is still welcome to come!



## Bus Trip to “*Daniel*” at Sight and Sound

Date is **Tuesday, September 24, 2024**

Time: 7:30AM depart church

Arrival: 10:30AM Sight and Sound

Show: 11:00AM - 1:45PM Story of DANIEL

Meal: 2:00PM - 4:00PM at New Hershey Farms Family Restaurant Complex

Depart: 4:15PM for return to church by 6:00PM

Price is \$170 per person ADULT

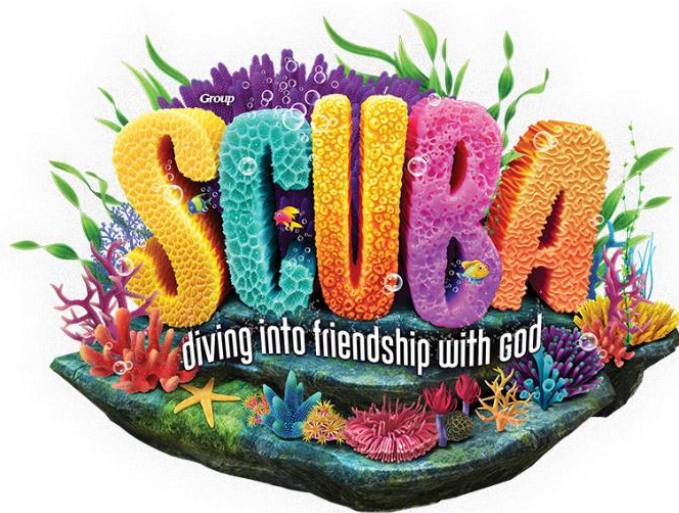
Price is \$115 per CHILD (4/12 yrs)

Must pay for ticket to confirm reservation. If you cannot make the trip you will be responsible for finding someone to purchase your ticket for the day. Sign-up sheet is in the Brethren Life Center Lobby. Make check payable to Chambersburg COB.

Save the Date  
for this Awesome Event  
At the Chambersburg Church of the Brethren!!

## Vacation Bible School

June 10 thru 14, 2024  
9AM till 11:30AM



Pre-Schoolers (4 Years Old) thru 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

260 South Fourth Street  
Chambersburg, PA 17201  
717-264-6957

**Consider volunteering during this awesome week!!!!  
Please let Ann Deardorff or Alaina Irvin know if you can help!**

Registration coming soon online at [www.chambcob.org](http://www.chambcob.org)  
or in the Brethen Life Center Lobby at the VBS Display!



## SMART COOKIES PRESCHOOL NEWS

The month of April is flying by. We have been very busy in our preschool program. We are continuing to learn our letters, numbers, etc.

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, we went to Menno Haven and had a nice time with the seniors! On the 26<sup>th</sup> we went on a field trip to Wilson College's Equestrian Center. The kids had a lot of fun learning about horses, feeding the horses, and petting the horses.

We are getting ready to begin working on our End of the Year/Graduation Program. We have a lot of fun events planned for the month of May.

We currently are accepting registrations for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. So far, we have 6 children registered to start in the fall. I am excited to welcome all these children into my classroom next school year.

We will continue to be busy throughout the month of May. Our last day of school is May 16<sup>th</sup>.

We thank you for your continuous support to our program.

### May Events

8<sup>th</sup> - Spaghetti Ice

10<sup>th</sup>- Parent/Grandparent Breakfast

15<sup>th</sup>- End of the Year Party/Carnival

16<sup>th</sup>- End of the Year Program/Graduation

16<sup>th</sup>- Last Day of School



**Volunteers are needed to help set up, serve, and clean up for Smart Cookies Spaghetti Ice and Parent/Grandparent Breakfast 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](mailto:smartcookies@chambcob.org) or the church office.**



*I am thankful to the congregation – my church family – for the very generous gift you gave to me and the entire ministry team. It was an honor and privilege to serve the Lord and God’s people as the interim administrative pastor. I continue to hold all of you in my thoughts and prayers as we grow together in Christ.*  
**--Blessings and many thanks,  
Pastor Liz**

*Thanks, Pastor Mark, for your visits both at the hospital and at home. Thanks to my church family for the cards, phone calls and concerns following my knee surgery. All were a blessing.*  
**---James Diller**



### **Newsletter Deadline**

**Deadline for June Pastor’s Pen**  
Sunday, May 19, 2024

Please submit all information to the church office.



### **Our Sympathy to:**

*Eugene and Mary Hawbaker and Family; June Hawbaker and Family following the death of their sister and sister-in-law, Betty H. Miller on Tuesday, April 23, 2024.*

*Mimi Kelly and Family following the death of her grandson, Alex McDannell on Friday, April 19, 2024.*

*V. Darlene Kelso and Family; Sean Scott and Family following the death of their brother and uncle, Robert E. Yeager on Tuesday, April 16, 2024.*

*Doris Demuth and Family following the death of her daughter-in-law, Barbara Lynn (Robson) Demuth on Wednesday, April 10, 2024.*

*June Hawbaker and Family; Eugene and Mary Hawbaker and Family following the death of their sister-in-law, Charlotte (Mabel) Hawbaker, on Sunday, March 31, 2024.*

### **What to Give?**

*To your enemy, forgiveness.  
To an opponent, tolerance.  
To a friend, your heart.  
To a customer, service.  
To all men, charity.  
To every child, a good example.  
To yourself, respect.*

*---Oren Arnold*



## Loving Hearts Events

### May & June

**May 16<sup>th</sup>**-12:00 Noon Lunch at Stoner's Restaurant followed by Bingo.

Please RSVP to Vivian Fisher at 717-809-0521 if you plan to attend.

**June 20<sup>th</sup>**-12:00 Noon Lunch at Stoner's Restaurant. Following lunch, we will have guest speaker Ashley Winters from Mercy House. Mercy House is designed for and focused on comfort care at the end of life. Individualized round-the-clock care is provided in the community home setting by a dedicated team of trained caregivers and volunteers.

Please RSVP to Vivian Fisher at 717-809-0521 if you plan to attend.



### FOR THE KIDS NEWS

Taste of the Valley was held on April 9. Eleven from our church attended. The proceeds were \$11975.87 (This includes a donation from the American Legion Aux.) These monies will be distributed next month.

This multi-churched organization could use more members. Contact me and I can tell you more. They meet monthly. Taste of the Valley is the biggest fund raiser they do with one - three others in a year.

---Lora Bucher



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

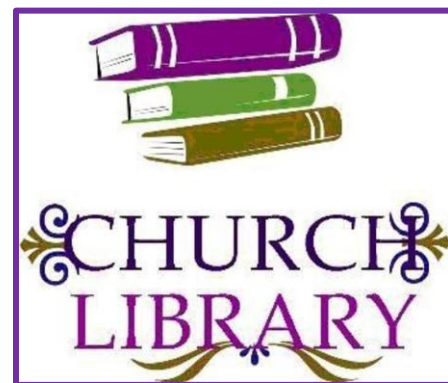
**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 1st  
5:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

**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.*



### Some Books to consider for May

Check these out in the library:

*The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown

*The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough

*We Must Be Brave* by Frances Liardet

# Gretchen Sortzi, Speaker

## 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Camp

### June 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Camp Eder

#### Special Thank You To:

YOU, the camper/guest, for being a part of this 75th Women's Camp.

- The Camp Eder Staff
- Our Guest Speaker - Gretchen Sortzi
- Our Music Leader - Worship Team
- Hostesses - Ellen Yoder
- Mary Hahn
- Sandy Shelly

*The Southern PA District Nurture Commission for sponsoring this event.*



#### Our Guest Speaker Gretchen Sortzi

Gretchen Sortzi has been an educator and speaker as a faith-based entrepreneur for the last 25 years. Born and raised in the Church of the Brethren, she comes from a long line of faith and ministry.

Gretchen has spent the last two years serving as the Associate Pastor of Christian Education and Youth Ministries for the Chambersburg Church of the Brethren. Gretchen is a graduate of Clarion University with a Bachelor's in Communications and also holds a Master's of Sociology from Arizona State University.

Gretchen and her family have recently moved home to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia where she is serving multiple churches and community venues. Gretchen is a dynamic speaker, with her own stories of struggle and victory, led by a passion to change the lives of others through God's love. Gretchen's greatest achievement is and always will be her daughter, Haley.

Gretchen looks forward to using her skills and talents to share with everyone at the SOPA Women's Camp.



#### Registration

Please complete and return the enclosed registration form along with your check in the total amount due no later than  
**FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2024,**

**PLEASE NOTE: LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

**Please Make Checks Payable to:**  
Southern PA District C.O.B.

**Please Mail Registration Form and Check to:**  
Southern PA District C.O.B.  
3375 Carlisle Road, Suite A  
Gardners, PA 17324

**Please Note:** No refunds after May 20, 2024.



#### Things to Bring to Camp

- Bedding
- Flashlight
- Pen/Pencil
- Personal Toiletries
- Washcloth & Towels
- Lawn Chair (optional)
- Bible

**A Free-will Offering will be taken for Sunday Evening Bible Teacher**

#### Tentative Schedule

##### Monday, June 3, 2024

8:45 Registration (Extended to 9:50 AM for those traveling longer distances & for those who have to get children ready for school.)

##### Session 1

9:30 Welcome & Announcements  
Opening Worship  
Group Singing  
10:00 **Finding the Light.**  
Gretchen Sortzi—Guest Speaker  
(Break determined by Speaker)  
12:15 Arrive for Lunch  
12:30 LUNCH

##### Session 2

1:45 Group Singing & Offering  
2:00 Roll Call / Announcements  
2:15 **Finding the Light**  
Gretchen Sortzi—Guest Speaker  
(Break determined by Speaker)

##### Monday Continued

3:45 Games and Puzzles  
5:45 Arrive for Dinner  
6:00 DINNER  
7:00 Hymn Sing / Miller Meeting House

*Following Hymn Sing there will be a Campfire & Snacks*

75th Annual  
Women's Camp Retreat  
Camp Eder ~ Fairfield, PA  
June 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024



You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5: 14-16

##### Tuesday, June 4, 2024

7:00 Devotion in Motion  
7:45 Arrive for Breakfast  
8:00 BREAKFAST

##### Session 3

9:30 Welcome & Announcements  
Morning Worship  
10:00 **Finding the Light**  
Gretchen Sortzi—Guest Speaker  
(Break determined by Speaker)  
12:15 Arrive for Lunch  
12:30 LUNCH



**Brochures with Registration information available in Brethren Life Center Lobby and Narthex.**



Day 1	Matthew 11:28-30	Day 17	Hebrews 12:12-13
Day 2	Psalms 73:26	Day 18	Colossians 1:29
Day 3	John 14:27	Day 19	Galatians 6:9
Day 4	Psalms 55:22	Day 20	Proverbs 3:24
Day 5	1 Peter 4:19	Day 21	Psalms 147:3
Day 6	2 Corinthians 5:6-7	Day 22	John 16:24
Day 7	Psalms 147:3	Day 23	Isaiah 26:3
Day 8	1 Peter 5:7	Day 24	Hebrews 4:16
Day 9	Isaiah 40:31	Day 25	Psalms 55:6
Day 10	Luke 10:41-42	Day 26	Proverbs 23:23-24
Day 11	Nehemiah 8:10	Day 27	Psalms 18:31-32
Day 12	John 16:33	Day 28	James 1:12
Day 13	Psalms 4:8	Day 29	Revelation 2:3
Day 14	Exodus 33:14	Day 30	Hebrews 6:10
Day 15	Psalms 121:1-3	Day 31	Isaiah 55:11
Day 16	Jeremiah 31:25		





## Camp Eder News

### **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 16<sup>th</sup> 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

.....★★★.....

# CAMP EDER

*Golf Outing*

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**Friday May 10th, 2024**

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**Carroll Valley Golf  
Course at Liberty  
Mountain**  
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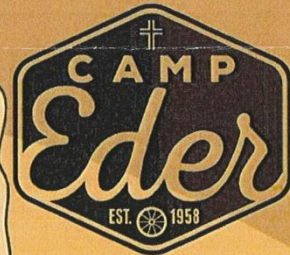
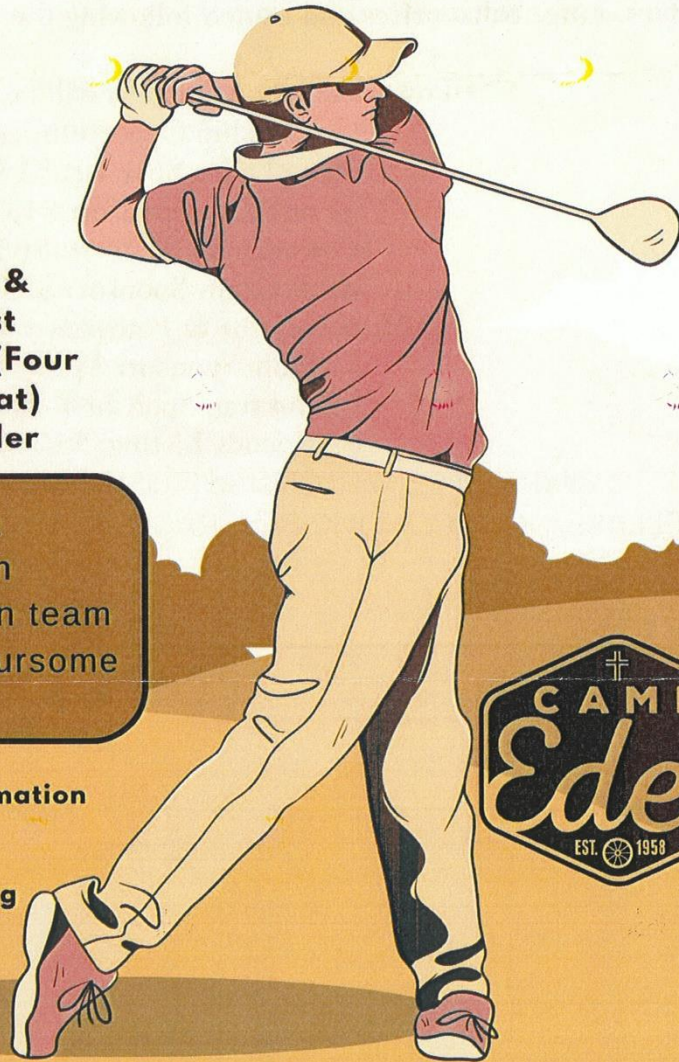
**78 Country Club Trail  
Fairfield, PA 17320**

**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](http://www.campeder.org)

717-642-8256