



The Pastor's Pen...

January/February 2025

Back to the Work of Christ(mas)

As I sit at my desk to write out some thoughts for this article, the atmosphere here in our CCOB office suite is clearly one of "back to work." For Carol and me (and Kendal), that feeling started last Thursday. For Amy and Amy, our Smart Cookies Preschool staff, the snowstorm added two extra days to the Christmas break. But this morning, as I listen to the sound of the children arriving at the entrance on the other side of the office wall, there is no doubt that today, our entire 4th Street staff is back to work.

And it's not only those in the building right now, and it's not only our staff. Our church family is back in action. As I write, no fewer than 14 large pans of homemade lasagna rest in the kitchen refrigerator, waiting to be baked and shared with friends and neighbors at Mid-Week and with the families of 4th Street Youth and Kids this evening. Those lasagnas were prepared by volunteers yesterday morning. Volunteers will be here this afternoon to bake, assemble, and serve the meals. Meanwhile, Jessica, Reba, and I are preparing lessons and activities for the Youth and kids. Phil, Liz, Pamela, and a host of musicians are ready for Hand-bell and choir rehearsals to resume tonight.

Whether you have already packed away your Christmas decorations, or whether you will leave them up until Easter, *now* is time for the *real* work of Christmas to resume. And the *real work of Christmas* is the work of *Christ*—the work of *Jesus*!

Let's go to the heart of Christmas. Why did Jesus come? Jesus did not come so we could have a beautiful holiday with lights and gifts and music. Christmas is nice, and it is a good time to reflect on His coming, but that is not why He came. Neither did Jesus come so we could build ornate cathedrals with beautiful stained glass where we could come and sit and feel closer to God for an hour or two each week. Yes, church was God's idea, but not ultimately in ways we often think.

There are many Scriptures that shed light on why Jesus came. Let's start with the Christmas story. The angel told Joseph to name Mary's baby Jesus, "because he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). The angel appearing to the shepherds said, "Today in the town of David a *Savior* has been born to you" (Luke 2:11). Jesus himself would later make statements like, "For the Son of Man came *to seek and to save what was lost*" (Luke 19:10), "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners"

(Mark 2:17), "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant... just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to *serve*, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:26-28), and "I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10).

Early in Jesus' ministry, he went into a synagogue in Nazareth, opened the scroll and read the reading for that day from Isaiah 61. "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach *good news to the poor*. He has sent me to proclaim *freedom for the prisoners* and *recovery of sight for the blind*, to *release the oppressed*, to *proclaim the year of the Lord's favor*." Luke tells us that he then rolled up the scroll, sat down, and said, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:16-21).

Understanding more clearly why Jesus came sheds light on how He wants us to recognize and live out His coming in our own lives.

Several years ago, I was introduced to this poem by Christian theologian Howard Thurman, published in his book of meditations, *The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations*. The title of the poem is "*The Work of Christmas Begins*."

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.*

May this New Year be a year of happiness for each of you and for our church family. But even more, may it be a year in which we re-commit ourselves to continuing the work of Christmas—the work Jesus came to do.

- Pastor Mark (Your partner in the journey)



Winter Weather Cancellation

In the event that weather conditions require a cancellation of services or activities at the church, an effort will be made to communicate that to members and friends through the email list, the One Call list, on the church's website, and Facebook page. You can also call the church and listen to the answering machine.

Of course, even if services or activities are not cancelled, please do not attempt to come if you do not feel safe.

Note: 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.



Library News for January/February

Soon there will be a table of withdrawn books from the library. You may have these books or donate in the container provided.

Books added to the library:

A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson -
Like the movie but better - Appalachian Trail

A Light in Babylon by Carole C. Bryson -Based on the life of Daniel



SMART COOKIES PRESCHOOL NEWS

Ms. Amy's 4/5-year-old class

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 Esther, Daniel, and Jonah.

On December 18th, we had our Polar Express/Pajama Day activities.

On December 19th, we had our Christmas Program. The students performed the "The Savior's Birth". The children acted out the play, while Mrs. Amy read the account of Jesus' Birth. The children and families enjoyed this time together.

On December 20th we had our Christmas Party and gift exchange. After a very busy week before Christmas, we all enjoyed our break.

For January, the 4/5-year-old class will begin to learn sight words, basic addition and subtraction, and other Kindergarten concepts. 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.

Ms. Kobie's 3-year-old class

It has been an exciting month for our little learners. The month of December has been all learning about the birth of our Lord and Savior. It was a wonderful time for our parents to join us to witness the story of the birth of Jesus by having our little learners perform the Savior's Birth. The children loved all the parent participation, they were thrilled to have the parents join in with them in singing along with the songs while celebrating our Lord and Savior's birth.

Our little learners also had a visitor named Snowflake who brought wonderful goodies for us to make a snowman and our little learners had a blast making and eating their own snowman.

As we enter the new school year, I cannot help feeling the excitement to return and see our students' wonderful faces. As the students return to school, they will learn about a winter wonderland, where they will get to make snow, learn to catch a snowball, and while using an ornament they will practice their cutting skills.

February is all about being kind and how we can show kindness everywhere we go. Our preschool class will be asked to show how they can be kind; while doing so, our parents will fill out a cut out of heart, where the parents will write out the act of kindness their child has exhibited. We will then display the acts of kindness on a wall for all to see and read. Our classroom Valentines celebration will be held on February 12, with great snacks and games to share.

Thank you for letting me share the great things happening in the preschool room.

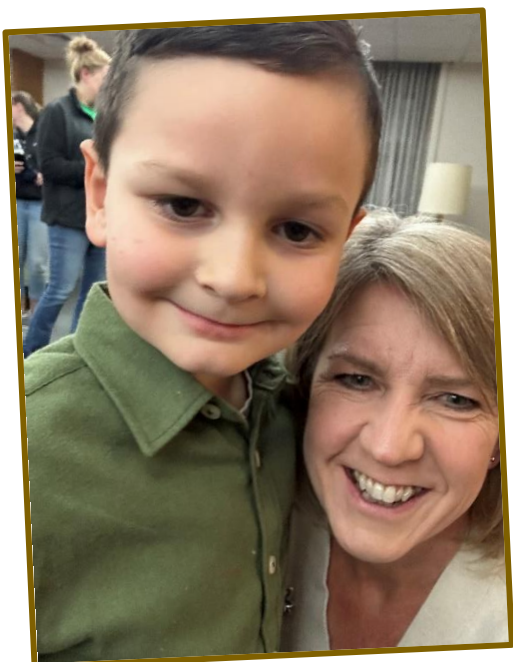
Sincerely,
Ms. Amy and
Ms. Kobie

January Events

- 17th- Visit with Menno Haven Residents
- 20th - No School-MLK Jr. Day
- 27th- Field Trip to Grove Family Library

February Events

- 2nd- Groundhog Day
- 12th- 100th Day of School Celebration (tentative)
- 14th- Valentine's Day Party
- 17th - No School: President's Day
- 24th-March 7th- Read Across America/Dr. Seuss Week





Dear Church family,

LaVerne & I feel like November 2024 has been a time of going through the "trials and tribulation" of life. We want to tell you each and all how much your cards, calls, visits, prayers and other expressions of caring have affected us. You need to know that every act of caring has meant the world to us. Thank you and may God continue to bless our walk as the "Family of God".

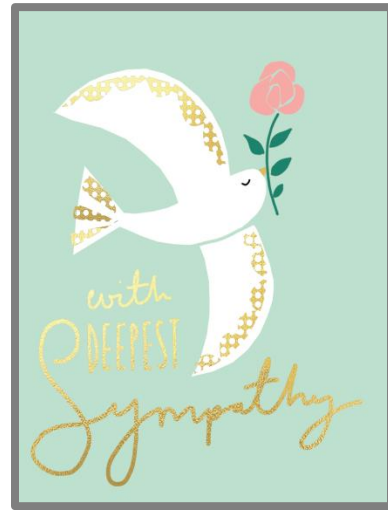
**--With great Christian love,
Harold & LaVerne**

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the cards, and texts since Jimm's unexpected death. We were touched by those who were able to attend the service! It has been a shock to our family, but we know that Jimm is where he always planned and Hoped to be—with his Savior, worshipping in His presence forever. While our road is not what we planned, we know that the HOPE we have in Jesus Christ and the HOPE of heaven will sustain us on the journey. Our best to you all as you continue to share that HOPE with all those on your journey.

**--With love—Beth and Jeremy Roland
Bekah, Ryan, Carson and Luke
Scorza**

Thank you to all who donated cookies for the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry. We made 128 bags, 96 dozen, 1152 total cookies for distribution to truckers and travelers in south central PA during the holiday season.



Our Sympathy to:

Dennis and Vicki Kiser and Family following the death of Dennis's mother, Genevieve V. Kiser on Wednesday, December 18, 2024.

Linda Hawbaker, Carol and Jere Wingert; Nancy and Bryan Hoke; Nicholas Wingert, Samuel & McKenzie Wingert following the death of their mother and grandmother, June K. Hawbaker, on Monday, December 9, 2024.

Sean Scott, Larry Paulsgrove and Family following the death of Sean's mother, Vonda Darlene Kelso on Saturday, November 30, 2024.

The Family of Rev. Jimm A. Roland following his death on Monday, November 25, 2024. Pastor Jimm was our Associate Pastor from 1990-1996.

**NewsLetter
DEADLine**

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for March Pastor's Pen
Sunday, February 16, 2025

Please submit all information
to the church office.



On behalf of the June K. Hawbaker family, we thank you all for your expressions of love and support through cards, prayers, food, phone calls, and visits. Special thanks to Pastor Mark for his visits, and the Deacons for preparing and serving the meal, and to all those who helped make the memorial service possible. Everything has been greatly appreciated during this time of loss. We are blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

Thank you church family for the many cards, kind words, and prayers that came our way to encourage us following the death of our mother Genevieve Kiser. We are so grateful for your support.

---Dennis and Vicki Kiser and Family

*To my church family,
Thank you so much for all the support I received after my Mother's illness and passing.*

The expressions of sympathy through the cards, the calls, the hugs and the prayers will always be appreciated more than I will properly express.

I also am very thankful for those that participated in the planning and the day of the memorial service. Pastor Liz, Pastor Mark, Pastor Harold, Pamela and the Deacons made the day especially meaningful to me and my family.

...Sean Scott



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

WHEN: Wednesday, February 5th
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.



2025 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.



Soup & Movie Night

**Saturday, February 1st
at 4:30 p.m.**

Movie will show at 5:45 p.m.

Movie to be shown is *A Carpenter's Prayer*.
(2024 Drama)

People attending are to bring a soup of their choosing to share. 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. We will be collecting for "Soup"er Bowl Sunday on Sunday, February 2nd and Sunday, February 9th.

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 9th.



Help us help them

4th Street Youth will create winter care-packages that will be delivered to our local shelter for people experiencing homelessness.

Currently accepting:

- Hats
- Gloves
- Blankets
- Fleece Material (Youth will make blanket/quilt)



Hygiene Kits Items Needed:

- Hand Sanitizer (Personal Size)
- Women's Feminine Products
- Toothbrush (single or double packs)
- Toothpaste
- Bar of soap
- Band-Aids
- Tissues

By Jan 29th our Goal will be to provide:

30
Hygiene kits

20
Hats/Gloves

20
Blankets



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		



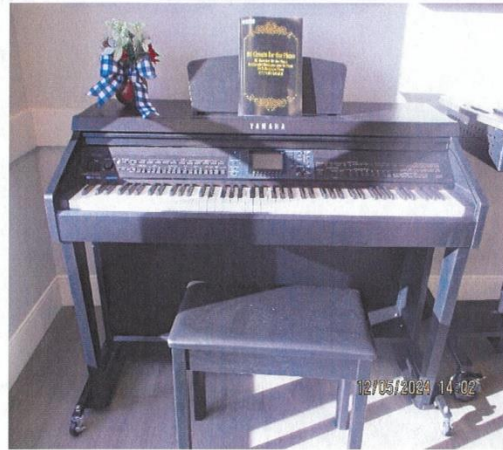
Day 1	Mark 11:25	Day 17	Romans 12:20
Day 2	Luke 17:4	Day 18	Psalms 130:3-4
Day 3	Ephesians 4:32	Day 19	Isaiah 43:25
Day 4	Colossians 3:13	Day 20	Micah 7:18-19
Day 5	Proverbs 3:3	Day 21	Daniel 9:9
Day 6	Matthew 5:7	Day 22	Acts 3:19
Day 7	Luke 6:37	Day 23	1 John 2:1-2
Day 8	Matthew 18:21-35	Day 24	1 Peter 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		



December 2024

Greetings from the Stamp Group at Cross Keys Village in New Oxford, PA.

We thank you for all the stamps you've donated this past year. We appreciate you spending your time and money to help us. Last year we told you about the new adult day care building, named Life Spring, to be built here on campus, and that the Stamp Group was donating \$5,000 for purchase of a clavino (electronic piano). The Stamp Group was able to attend the open house this December and saw the new Yamaha clavino. Because of you, we were able to fund this project.



This month we sold another shipment of stamps and received a check for nearly \$3,000. Again, that was because of you.

We receive stamps from across the nation. They have come from Arizona, California, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin!

We thank you so much for making it possible for us to help others.

The Stampers wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.