



The Pastor's Pen... April 2025

“When Clouds Get in the Way”

There we were on Easter Sunday, at 6:45 in the morning, gathered in an outdoor pavilion for what was supposed to be a sunrise service. There was just one problem: clouds. Not the scattered, fluffy kind. Rather, the sky was covered in solid gray. There was no sun to be seen—at least not until later in the day.

After all, that's what clouds do, isn't it? They ruin things: ballgames... picnics... sunrise services... other outdoor plans... our mood. But do they ruin our faith?

Actually, clouds help make possible a number of things that we need or enjoy: rain, flowers, food, rainbows, sunsets.... But they also bring storms—violent hurricanes and tornados that cause much destruction and loss.

In fact, clouds are frequently used as metaphors representing anything that seems to block the sunshine of our happiness, our security, our deepest dreams, our peace....

But what is a cloud, really? It is simply water vapor. That's all. Admittedly, they look like a whole lot more than that at times.

Think of the first time you flew in an airplane. Even up close, clouds appear at the very least to have the substance of cotton. But as you enter the clouds, you find them to be nothing more than wispy fog.

And then, as you ascend even higher, suddenly you are out of the clouds, and there it is!! The sun!! Shining as brightly as ever!

What's the point? It is simply this. Clouds don't change the reality of what is on the other side. They only obscure our view for a time. By the time we finished our sunrise service on that grey Easter morning, the clouds were still hiding the sun from our view. But they did not change the reality of what was on the other side. Despite the cloud cover, the darkness had begun yielding to the light of day. Already, the sun which we could not see was beginning to warm the air.

Whenever clouds of life obscure your view of God's love and care, God's presence, or God's mercy and grace, remember that **clouds don't change what is on the other side**. Nor do clouds change WHO is still with us, though unseen.

Whatever the circumstance, may we have the faith to sing with the songwriter, "*Blessed be your name when the sun's shining down on me, when the world's all as is should be; blessed be your name. And blessed be your name on the road marked with suffering, when there's pain in the offering; blessed be your name.*"

- Pastor Mark (your partner in the journey)

Let's Celebrate Together



Easter Sunday

April 20th, 2025
WORSHIP / SERVICE 9:30 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM

**Chambersburg
Church of the Brethren
260 S. Fourth Street
Chambersburg, PA**



We are delighted to have welcomed Dan and Ginny Akers into church membership last month. While many of you have already gotten to know them over the past year, we asked them to share a little bit of their life story to help us know them better.

Dan and Ginny Akers were born and raised in Fulton County, Pennsylvania. High school sweethearts, the two were married after college where Ginny received a degree in Home Economics and Dan received a degree in Architecture.

They moved to Chambersburg in 1976 to pursue their careers and to start a family. They're the parents of two sons; Justin, a line engineer with West Penn Power and Jonathan, the used car manager with Fitzgerald Auto Mall. They have six grandchildren: Landon, Maddox, Ashton, Alyssa, Emersyn and Noah.

Prior to coming to Fourth Street Brethren Church, they were 42-year members of The Presbyterian Church of Falling Spring where they both served as youth Sunday school teachers and Dan was a past trustee. Dan is also a past trustee of the Rocky Spring Presbyterian Church. Ginny was a pre-school teacher at the church before accepting a position as a Home Economics teacher with the Lincoln Intermediate Center on Loop Road. Dan's career included working in the structural division at Nassaux-Hemsley, Inc.; Vice President of Ken Plummer Jr., Inc. and President of Akers/Plummer Associates, a design/build construction company operating in the tri-state area and the District of Columbia. He served as an assistant scoutmaster with Boy Scout Troop 127 through the eighties, nineties and into the early two thousands.

Ginny enjoys reading and her book club when not spending time with the grandkids. Dan enjoys deer and turkey hunting; history pertaining to the French & Indian and Revolutionary wars; and participating in historical reenacting with friends around that time period. Both have enjoyed multiple trips abroad.

Thank you, Dan and Ginny, for being a part of our church family. We are blessed by your presence among us, and we pray that you will each be blessed as well, as we journey together as followers of Jesus.

Loving Hearts Schedule

April-July 2025



Thursday, April 17th-12:00 Stoner's Restaurant

We will be having a guest speaker.

Thursday, May 15th-12:00 Stoner's Restaurant

We will be playing BINGO

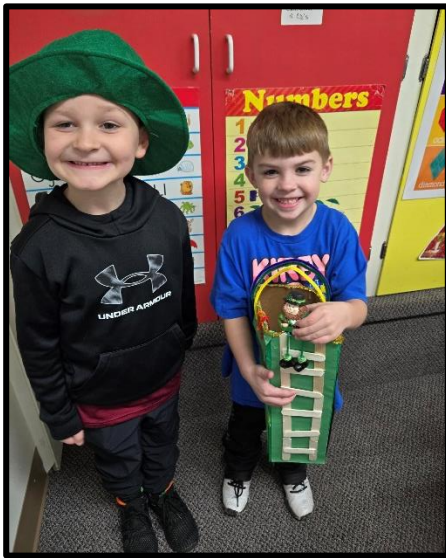
Thursday, June 19th-12:00 Church-Brethren Life Center

There will be a guest speaker displaying a charcuterie board

Thursday, July 17th-12:00 Church-Brethren Life Center

We will be having a beekeeper, John Shelly, who will give us the buzz on bees.





SMART COOKIES PRESCHOOL NEWS

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

March has been a very active month for us. We had Dr. Seuss month and enjoyed our parents coming in to read to us. We had different themes throughout the week. We celebrated St. Patrick's Day on Monday, March 17th. The children and their families made leprechaun traps to try to 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.

During the week of March 17th, our class was learning the letter A and all about aviation. We took the classes on a field trip to Chambersburg Airport. They watched an airplane land, got to go into the airplane, watched the airplane take off. The students had a lot of fun.

On March 21st, we went back to the Brookview HealthCare Center of Menno Haven. The students and seniors had a great time bowling and playing with a parachute.

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

Ms. Kobie's 3-year-old class

We had so many things happening during the month of March, Dr. Suess, St. Patrick's Day, and we had some of our wonderful parents come in the classroom to share their favorite Dr. Suess book to read to our young scholars.

Spring is great time to remind us just how powerful and amazing our God is. The trees, flowers, that were bare and dormant during our very cold winter months, are becoming new and beautiful during this time of year. What a great time to teach and remind our little learners that they too are growing in God.

As we celebrate Easter, our early learners will learn and discuss the story of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection.

Our young scholars are very busy in the next few weeks learning their letters X, Y, Z. Sorting by shapes, colors, opposites, and number order. They have also been practicing their cutting skills by cutting out letters, shapes and making their crafts for the week. All the while having fun.

Thank you for letting me share the amazing things about our young scholars.

Sincerely,
Ms. Amy and
Ms. Kobie

Upcoming April Events

April 11th- Field Trip to Brookview Center of Menno Haven

April 16th- Easter Party and Egg Hunt

April 17th- Early Dismissal

April 18th-21st- Easter Break

April 25th- Field Trip to Wilson College Horse Stables





To Our 4th Street COB Family,

Thank you all for the heartfelt texts, calls, cards and messages during the loss of my Dad and his long-time companion. Losing two people you love in a span of two weeks was very difficult. If not for support from family and friends and a strong faith, we would not have made it through.

**God Bless You All,
Terry and Tangela Gibbons**

We would like to thank the congregation for the love and support shown us during the last several months through two eye surgeries, one hip replacement surgery, one knee replacement surgery and one serious back issue. Your prayers, phone calls, and expressions of concern were instrumental in keeping our spirits up and in keeping us looking up. We also want to especially thank the Believers Sunday School class for all the delicious meals they provided for us. It was wonderful to have meals ready and waiting for us to microwave. Members of the class also were a wonderful blessing in getting Vicki out of the house and to her appointments. For all these things we are extremely thankful. It is so wonderful having a church family so full of love that it can't help but overflow with acts of kindness.

With Love....Rick and Vicki

Chambersburg Church of the Brethren, I want to thank your church congregation for all of your prayers for me while having the flu. I'm feeling better now but have a ways to go to be back to better health. I'm still very tired and weak, and having trouble sleeping due to coughing. Your prayers were really felt and appreciated.

May God Bless all of you.

**---Fern Shank,
(Janice Valentine's sister in Florida)**



Our Sympathy to:

Phil and Liz Thorpe and Family; Ali and Cody Toms and Family following the death of their mother and grandmother, Joanie Thorpe on Thursday, March 27, 2025.

The Family of Cynthia Ann "Cindy" Miller following her death on Wednesday, March 5, 2025.

Tangela and Terry Gibbons and Family following the death of Tangela's father, Daryl E. Parson, on Tuesday, February 25, 2025.

YOU ARE INVITED TO



Free!

- Easter Crafts & Games
- Interactive Bible Story
- Moon-Bounce
- Food

AND SO MUCH MORE!!

April 16th
Starting at 5:30pm

Chambersburg Church of the
Brethren

260 S. Fourth St
Chambersburg PA

MIDWEEK To Go

FIRST WEDNESDAY AT 5:30PM
DRIVE THRU MEAL PICK-UP

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

WHEN: Wednesday, May 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.*



Books added to the library in April for your enjoyment

The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon

A Midwife's Tale by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich

The Sugarcreek Surprise
by Wanda E. Brunstetter

Mere Christianity & The Screwtape Letters
(2 Vol. in 1) by C.S. Lewis

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

Deadline for May Pastor's Pen
Sunday, April 20, 2025

Please submit all information to
the church office.

★★★

CAMP EDER

Golf Outing

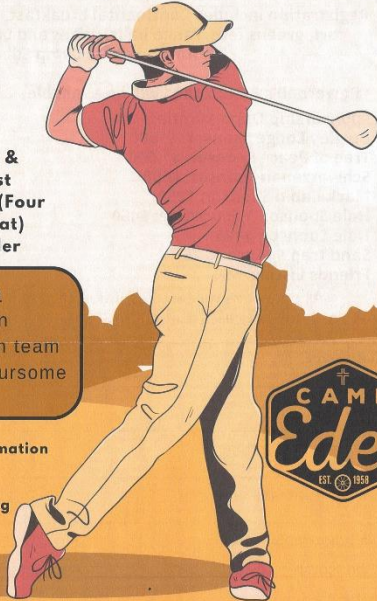
★★★

Wednesday May 21st, 2025

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

CAMP EDER & SOPA DISTRICT MEN'S OUTDOORSMAN DAY

MAY 3RD ONLY

DEVOTIONAL THEME: PROVIDE AND PROTECT, GENESIS 2:15

MAY 3 — 8:30AM-3PM

\$50 LUNCH INCLUDED!

CLAY SHOOT AND FISHING

JOIN US ON MAY 3RD FOR A DAY FILLED WITH ADVENTURE! TOGETHER, WE'LL DELVE INTO THE WORLD OF CLAY SHOOTING, MASTERING GUN SAFETY PROTOCOLS AND HONING OUR SKILLS TO BECOME PROFICIENT CLAY TARGET SHOOTERS. SECURE YOUR SPOT BY REGISTERING ON THE CAMP EDER WEBSITE OR BY CONTACTING THE CAMP OFFICE VIA PHONE. LODGING ALSO AVAIABLE AT ADDITIONAL COST (CONTACT CAMP OFFICE)

*IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP SPONSER THIS EVENT BY DONATING AMMO OR FINAICALLY PLEASE CONTACT DENNY TURNER AT 717-829-1166

CAMPEDER.ORG/REGISTRATION
717-642-8256

914 MT HOPE RD
FAIRFIELD, PA 17320



2025 Camp Eder Golf Registration and Sponsorship Form

Golf Registration Information

Individual Golfer: \$90
Foursome: \$360
Hole Sponsor & Foursome: \$460

Registration includes Continental breakfast, drinks on the course, cart, greens fees, range balls, prizes and Lunch following the tournament at Camp Eder.

• Powerball's & Mulligans will be available.

Sponsorship Opportunities:
Geigley Lodge Sponsor: \$1500
Tree of Peace Sponsor: \$1,000
Schwarzenau Sponsor: \$650
Mack Cabin Sponsor: \$250
Hole Sponsor & Foursome: \$460
Hole Sponsor: \$125
Sand trap Sponsor \$ 75
Friends Listing: \$50

All donations will be listed if you choose in the program.
PLEASE, NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES* & No Smoking at Camp Eder

REGISTRATION:

(Name) (Address) (Email) (Phone)

(Name) (Address) (Email) (Phone)

(Name) (Address) (Email) (Phone)

(Name) (Address) (Email) (Phone)

Sponsorship Level _____ Amount Enclosed _____



Men's Outdoorsman Day

May 3rd,
8:30am—3:00pm

Clay Bird Shooting and Other Activities

Devotional Theme:
Meeting God in the Great Outdoors

Come See It - Open House

May 17th 2025, 10:00am—3:00pm

Experience the beauty and serenity of Camp Eder! Tour lodges, RV sites, and our new activity area, or hike scenic trails through wooded hills and streams. This is a great day to learn more about summer camp and the fun your kids will have while here.



If you would like to come out and support us please let us know by contacting us at Campeder@campeder.org or by calling 717-642-8256

Senior Day

April 9th 9:30am-1pm

Camp Eder Senior Days welcome guests 50+ for a day of fellowship and fun, starting at 9:30 am with breakfast, followed by entertainment, and ending with a delicious lunch.

Camp Clean-Up Day

May 10th 2025, 8:00am—3:00pm

Join us at Camp Eder to prepare for Summer Camp! Help with wood splitting, leaf cleanup, and other tasks to keep our grounds looking great. Lunch will be provided!

Pastor Mark, Leadership, and the Rest of This Loving Congregation at 4th Street Church of the Brethren,

I can't express enough how much gratitude I hold in my heart for each and every one of you. Our vision is to ignite this generation to seek God, and your support goes far beyond financial donations. The way you open your doors and provide a space for us to teach and invest in students is a gift that has eternal impact. You are not just providing a gym—you are providing an opportunity for young hearts to be transformed by the truth of the Gospel. I am so blessed by your generosity and kindness!

When God called me to this mission in 2023, the programs had 168 students total. Today, we have 105 students in the Chambersburg area alone and around 300 students across Franklin, Fulton, and the West Virginia programs. **God is moving!** Because of your faithfulness in making space for this ministry, He is blessing your steps and bringing kids into the Kingdom, making disciples, and transforming lives.

Because of you, stories of heartbreak are being heard and met with the life-changing truth of the Gospel. Middle schoolers are finding church homes, discovering their purpose, and realizing that their lives truly matter. But the work is far from over. There are still so many students who need to hear the truth of Jesus, and I believe God is calling us to reach even more!

Your continued prayers, encouragement, and hospitality make this possible. Whether it's through opening your doors, offering words of support, or sharing this vision with others, you are playing a vital role in changing lives for eternity. I truly couldn't do this without you!

I also want to take a moment to say how much we appreciate that the tables and chairs are always set up and ready to go! It's such a simple yet impactful way you serve, and it doesn't go unnoticed. Thank you for making our time here smoother and for welcoming us so well.

I love you all, and I am beyond grateful for your partnership in this mission and in my life. **All glory to God!** Thank you for being part of what He is doing!

Thank you for making our mission part of yours and for inspiring me daily to go out in bold faith and share truth with a generation that desperately needs it!

With love and appreciation,
Ryan



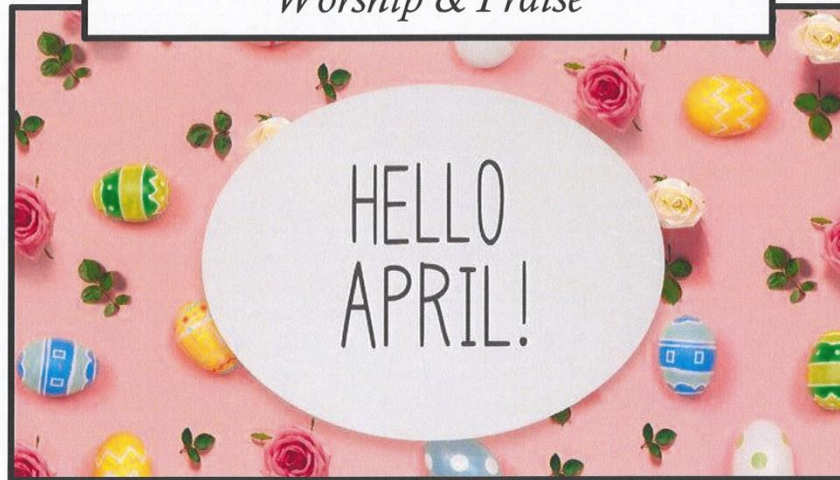
CAMS South
2023 (4 students)



CAMS South
2025 (66 students)



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

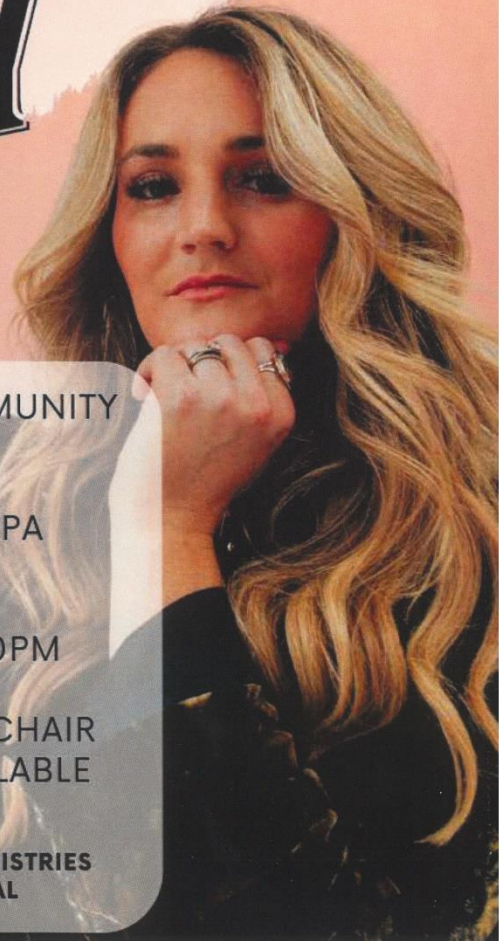
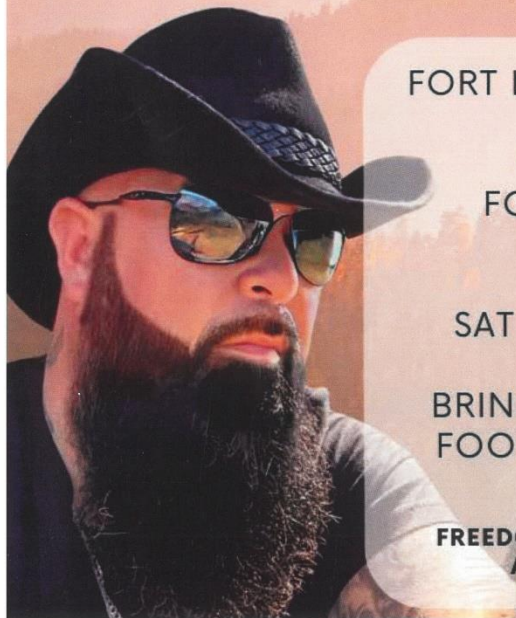


Speak to the Mountains

FREEDOM LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRIES 20TH ANNIVERSARY
OUTDOOR CHRISTIAN MUSIC CONCERT
FEATURING

EMERSON DAY

WITH SPECIAL GUEST
CHRIS HUGHES



FORT LOUDON COMMUNITY
PARK
142 MULLEN ST
FOURT LOUDON, PA

FREE ENTRY
SAT MAY 17TH, 4:00PM

BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR
FOOD TRUCKS AVAILABLE

SPONSORED BY
FREEDOM LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRIES
AND FORGE FINANCIAL