

October 2025

The Pastor's Pen...



Four weeks ago, the last Sunday in August, our congregation gathered for worship and celebrated four new members to our church family, and one re-affirmation of faith by a long-time member. Four of those individuals chose to be baptized by immersion as a public expression of their faith in Jesus Christ and their membership commitment to our church.

Baptism is one of the most important ordinances within our Brethren heritage, and is practiced in some form by every Christian denomination. An ordinance is defined as a practice in the church that meets two basic criteria. It is practiced in obedience to a direct commandment of Jesus to his disciples. It is an outward physical expression of a deeper spiritual reality.

Baptism signifies the start of (or a new beginning in) our journey as followers of Jesus and in fellowship with each other. Immersion into water signifies cleansing and forgiveness that is available to each of us when we acknowledge our sin and ask God for mercy. Going into the water also represents our identification with Jesus' death and our willingness to die to ourselves as we follow Him. Similarly, coming out of the water represents our identification with Jesus' resurrection and the promise of eternal life through faith in Him.

Second to baptism among Brethren is the ordinance of the Love Feast, which includes Communion. In obedience to Jesus' command, His followers "remember His death" in the eating of bread and the drinking of a cup (juice or "wine"). Communion in some form is practiced by every Christian denomination. Brethren, however, hold that Jesus' commandment to "wash one another's feet" (in the midst of the Passover meal) expands this ordinance to include both a simple meal and the practice of washing each other's feet. As the Bread and Cup represent Jesus' death, the meal represents our fellowship as members of one Body or family. The washing of feet represents both our need of daily cleansing (forgiveness) and Jesus' commandment that we serve one another. In this sense, the ordinance of Love Feast signifies, not the beginning, but the continuation and nurturing of both our individual journeys as followers of Jesus and our journey together as members of the Body of Christ.

On Sunday, October 5th, all are invited to join us as immediately following our 9:30 worship, as we share together in the Brethren Love Feast and symbolically renew our commitment to Jesus Christ and to each other.

Your partner in this journey,
Pastor Mark



Join us for worship on Sundays as we create a space where young adults, families, and people of all ages can connect with God and each other through contemporary worship, real conversations, and hands-on moments that make faith feel alive and personal. With short messages that speak to real life and interactive moments that bring us closer to God and each other, it's a space for exploration, reflection, and community.

10:45 am in the Brethren Life Center (Gym)
at Chambersburg Church of the Brethren

IDENTITY **CRISIS**

Sermon Series Oct. 12th - Nov. 23rd

Who are you? If you are asked this question, who are you, how would you answer? Often, we define ourselves by what we do, who we come from, or what roles we have, such as being a caregiver or an employee. This sermon series explores what it means to have an identity in Christ as a child of God.

10/12: Who am I?

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 5:16-17

10/19: I am more than what I do.

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

10/26: I am more than my heritage.

Scripture: Ruth 1:16-22

11/2: I am more than the roles I play.

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

11/9: I am more than my past mistakes.

Scripture: John 21:15-17

11/16: Combined Worship: Council Meeting

No Contemporary Worship

11/23: I am a Child of God.

Luke 15:11-31





We invite you to join us in celebrating the five individuals who were baptized and/or welcomed into church membership on Sunday, August 31st.

Baptized were Nancy Deardorff (previously a member), Julie Sarver, Larry Paulsgrove, and Sam Robertson. Brenda Hoover was received as a member by re-affirmation of faith. Read what was shared about each of them during that service.



Nancy Elizabeth Kuch Deardorff was baptized as an infant and joined the Presbyterian Church in Ridgewood, New Jersey as a teen.

When she and her husband, Chip (Glenn), returned to Chambersburg in 1977, Nancy joined the 4th Street Church of the Brethren through a letter of transfer.

As they raised their four children Nancy was active in Circle, Christian Education Commission, taught Sunday School, directed the Children's Choir, assisted with the Youth Program, and directed Vacation Bible School. She is currently facilitating a weekly Bible Study.

At this juncture in her life Nancy feels that she would like to renew her baptism signifying her faith, commitment and dedication to Christ through the Brethren tradition of immersion.



Julie Sarver has been worshiping with us for more than a year. Perhaps you have met her or seen her singing in our chancel choir or playing in the bell choir or singing with the praise band or playing the trumpet or serving in some other way. But her connection with our church family goes back to her school years when she was a music student of Phil Thorpe's. Her journey of faith took some twists and turns in the intervening years. And now, God's grace has guided her back to this place where open arms and open hearts and the message of God's unconditional love have brought healing and hope. She now desires to express publicly her faith and trust in Jesus through Christian baptism."



Larry Paulsgrove has attended Fourth Street Church for approximately 30 years.

He grew up in Hagerstown MD and attended Grace Brethren Church also in Hagerstown with his family.

Over those years he was never baptized, but he has decided that now was the time to take that step in his faith journey.



Sam Robertson was born and raised in Chambersburg. He went to college in Shippensburg and taught school for 33 years at Cumberland Valley High School in Mechanicsburg, moving back to Chambersburg after he retired.

Over the past 2 years, Sam has been putting his life back together. After years of alcohol abuse and with the help of his family and friends, he checked into a recovery program. He is now in a much better place. With the help of many, including many in this church, he has decided to reaffirm his commitment to God and his love for Jesus Christ.

Whether you know it or not, many of you have had a profound impact on his journey back to Christ.

Brenda Hoover has been worshiping here at 4th Street for the past few years. Many of you have never met her, but you might recognize her as the lady in the mask who sits in the back.

Brenda has lived in and around Chambersburg her entire life. She was baptized as an infant and later confirmed in the United Brethren Church. She later moved her membership to the United Methodist Church on 2nd St. Brenda's recent connection to our congregation coincides with her role as a care-giver for her mother, who lives nearby on Liberty Street and is immune compromised. For that reason, Brenda tries to avoid as much contact and exposure in large crowds.

Although her mom is not able to engage directly in her own United Methodist church community, she has taken an interest in her neighbors here at the Church of the Brethren and keeps up with much of what is happening here, often watching through her window the comings and goings. When Brenda arrives there after worship here, they always talk about the service and the announcements in the bulletin.

Brenda had been thinking about joining the church for several months, and when she heard about our plans for this Sunday, she thought maybe this was the time. Only later did the actual date register in her mind as something of a divine confirmation. August 31st is Brenda's birthday.

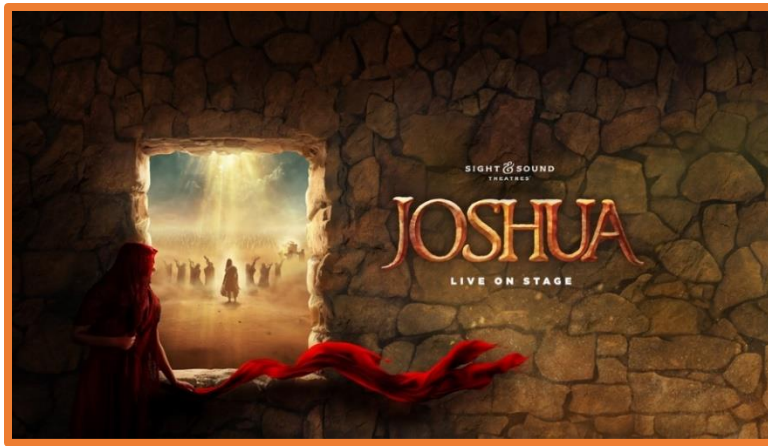


Special Music Guest – October 26, 2025

Mark your calendar and save the date. Sunday, October 26, 2025, during our 9:30 a.m. Worship, David Reeder will be bringing special music. David grew up on a farm in Mercersburg, PA, became a school administrator in Washington County, Maryland and Berlin/Brothers Valley School District in Somerset County, PA.

Singing has been a special talent David has cultivated and is his way of witnessing for Christ.

Plan to be here and invite others.



Come Join Us – Bus Trip to see Joshua at Sight and Sound!
Tuesday, April 28, 2026

A Bus Trip is planned to Sight and Sound in Lancaster to see “*Joshua*” on Tuesday, April 28, 2026. Depart church at 8:00 a.m. with show time at 11:00 a.m. Enjoy a family style meal at Riehl’s Quilts and Craft Shop, an authentic Amish Home beginning at 2:15 p.m. Departure for home at approximately 4:15 p.m.

Cost for bus, tickets, and meal is \$170 for Adults and \$109 for Children (ages 3 thru 12 yrs.) Payment is due upon sign up and payable to Chambersburg Church of the Brethren. If you are unable to attend after signing up, you are responsible for getting a replacement.

Sign-up in the Brethren Life Center lobby today!



Have you ever thought about volunteering for a week with Brethren Disaster Ministries, helping families rebuild their homes after a natural disaster?

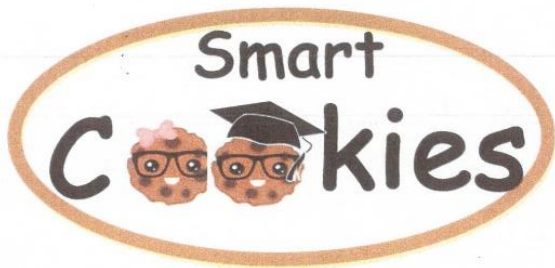
Scott Hambright thought about that often, and this November, he is making that dream a reality. Perhaps this is the nudge someone else needs to do the same. November 2-8, Sunday through Saturday, Scott will travel to Neon, Kentucky, to join Church of the Brethren volunteers from the Lititz (PA) and Wilmington (DE) congregations for a week of helping with some new construction that our BDM team is leading there. It would be great to have another volunteer or two from 4th Street.

If you have any interest, please talk to Scott, or reach out to a seasoned volunteer like Jerry Moore.

Smart Cookies is selling Apple Dumplings!

Please place your orders before or after church at the Apple Dumplings Table. Orders can also be placed in the boxes located in the Narthex or Brethren Life Center.

They are \$5 each and may be picked up Friday, October 10, from 12 noon to 4 p.m. or Sunday, October 12, after Worship (both 9:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services). If possible, please pay when placing your order.



Chambersburg Church of the Brethren Preschool
260 South 4th Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201

Apple Dumplings 2025 Fundraiser

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Number of Apple Dumplings _____ @ \$5 each = _____ Paid

Forms Due October 8, 2025

_____ To Be Paid

Pickup Friday, October 10, 12 noon to 4 p.m.

or

Pickup Sunday, October 12, after Worship (both 9:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. services)



HALLOWEEN *Glow Night*

WEDNESDAY, OCT 29TH

5:30 PM TO 7:30 PM

**JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FAMILY FUN
WITH PUMPKIN DECORATING, GAMES,
PHOTO BOOTH, GLOW MAZE, A LIGHT
MEAL, AND SO MUCH MORE!**

COME IN YOUR FAVORITE COSTUME !

**CHAMBERSBURG CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
260 SOUTH FOURTH STREET CHAMBERSBURG**



SMART COOKIES PRESCHOOL NEWS

Ms. Amy's Pre-k classroom

September has started as a wonderful month. School opened on Tuesday, September 2nd and I welcomed 7 excited and wonderful children into my classroom. We have been so busy learning and having fun. During our Bible time, we are learning about the Trinity. In the coming weeks we will learn about the Beatitudes. We have been learning the letters A and T, the -at word family, shapes, colors, and how to take care of our teeth, bodies, and hygiene.

The children have been having fun participating in a Memory Obstacle Course and playing the game Twister.

Now that the autumn season is here, we are looking forward to learning about pumpkins, apples, etc.

We have a couple of field trips planned for October and the kids are looking forward to them.

Amy McNeil
Pre-K Teacher

Ms. Kobie's 3-year-old class

Hello Smart Cookies Family,

There is something truly special about the beginning of a school year—fresh faces, curiosity, and the joy of discovery. It is inspiring to hear that our young learners are enthusiastic about exploring God's creation, by using song, crafts and going on a nature walk.

October 14 – Stoner's Farm Visit: Our young learners are in for a treat! We will be traveling to Stoner's Farm. Where we will connect to God's creation; animals, crops, and the changing of the season.

October 29 – Menno Haven Visit: Visiting with the grandmas and grandpas at Menno Haven will be a blessing—for both the children and the residents making crafts, singing, and talking.

October 31- Halloween Party: Preschoolers love the chance to dress up, we will celebrate the season by having a Halloween party by providing a safe, friendly trick or treat experience through the church with a mini parade.

Wishing our preschoolers a month filled with laughter and learning all about God's world.

All for Him,
Amy Kobie



The Board Report September 2025

The following is the announcement provided by the Board Chair, Marsha Smith on Sunday, September 14, 2025.

I would like to take a few minutes to keep you abreast of the work of your Church Board.

As you can see from the back of your church bulletin, the financial standing (net income) of the church year to date as of the August 31, 2025 report is at a deficit of over \$50,000. While our expenditures are less than budgeted, which is a positive position, unfortunately, our income is significantly lower than our year today expenses.

A special Board meeting was held on August 26th to review our financials and a needs planning document provided by the Properties Commission. The needs document provided projected capital improvements estimates to replace HVAC units and other facility needs.

The Board approved the following motion:

Take necessary steps to inform the congregation of the financial situation and develop and implement a plan for a capital campaign to meet the immediate financial needs of the church as identified by the properties commission and continue focusing on the long-term financial needs and growth of the congregation.

The Board appointed a subcommittee charged with working on a proposed capital campaign that will be reviewed during the November council meeting.

The Board will have an extended review of 2026 budget requests by commission chairs during the October 14th board meeting. All are welcome to attend this meeting.

The Board will provide more details of the financial status and needs of the church in the Council meeting packets which will be available in church mailboxes on November 2nd. Sunday November 16th is our council meeting.

Suspension of bylaws for the Board, commissions and committees was approved at last year's November's board meeting. All members of the current board that want to service in 2026 will be included in the council meeting ballot. You will be selecting 6 Board members to serve in 2026.

I am asking for your continued support, providing suggestions and feedback and praying for Board wisdom as we move forward. If you are interested in serving on the Board or even if you have ideas concerning our financial state, please feel free to reach out to me or any Board member.

Thank you



*My Church Family,
I write this with humble appreciation to
all for keeping me in your prayers, cards,
meals, visits, and calls. It has been a
long busy year, and it's still going!!
With everything I have truly been
blessed. God has taught me a lot during
my surgeries and rehabs. I met some
wonderful people. My heart goes out to
those who have medical and other
needs. Also, for all who have lost a
loved one. I love you all.*

---Gail Appenzellar

*Dear Church Family,
Thank you for the prayers, kind words
and cards at our Mother's passing.
Your kindness and support are greatly
appreciated. Thank you to Pastor Mark
for a wonderful service, ushers, and
Deacons serving the meal.*

**---Bless You All,
The Doris Diller Family**

*I would like to thank the congregation for
the generous gifts, cards, and words of
kindness I received upon my retirement.
It has been a joy to work for the church
all these years. I have been blessed in
so many ways, and you made me feel as
though I have been a blessing to many of
you.*

**--With deep heartfelt gratitude,
Liz Thorpe**

*I want to thank the church for their love,
support, cards, hugs, and care packages
during the passing of my mother, Jeanne
Monn. I felt embraced by my church
family. Thank you.*

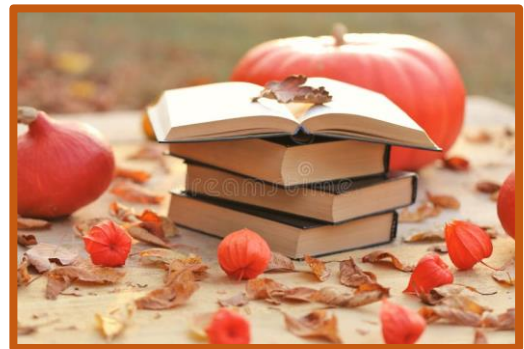
--Liz Thorpe and Family



Our Sympathy to:

*Liz and Phil Thorpe and Family;
Ali & Cody Toms and Family; Janet
Deardorff and Family following the death
of their mother, grandmother, and sister-
in-law, Jeanne Elizabeth (Deardorff)
Monn on Friday, September 5, 2025.*

*Kim and Robert (Bo) Frazer,
Ray and Kelly Frazer, Tate Frazer and
Family; John and Margaret Diller and
Family; James and Mabel Diller and
Family following the death of their
mother, grandmother, and sister-in-law,
Doris "Dory" Jean (Harrison) Diller on
Monday, September 1, 2025.*



New Books in the Library for October

The Book of Signs by Dr. David Jeremiah

By Gone Christmas Brides by Ginny Aiken

*Twelve Extraordinary Women
by John MacArthur*

*The Lost Girls of Willowbrook
by Ellen Marie Wiseman*



Loving Hearts

Thursday, October 16, 2025-12:00 Noon
Church-Brethren Life Center

There will be a guest speaker who is a comedian

Thursday, November 20, 2025-12:00 Noon
Mrs. Gible's Restaurant

Celebrating Thanksgiving

Thursday, December 18, 2025 -12:00 Noon
Stoner's Restaurant

Christmas Get-Together

Please contact Vivian Fisher
 if you plan to attend (717) 809-0521.



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

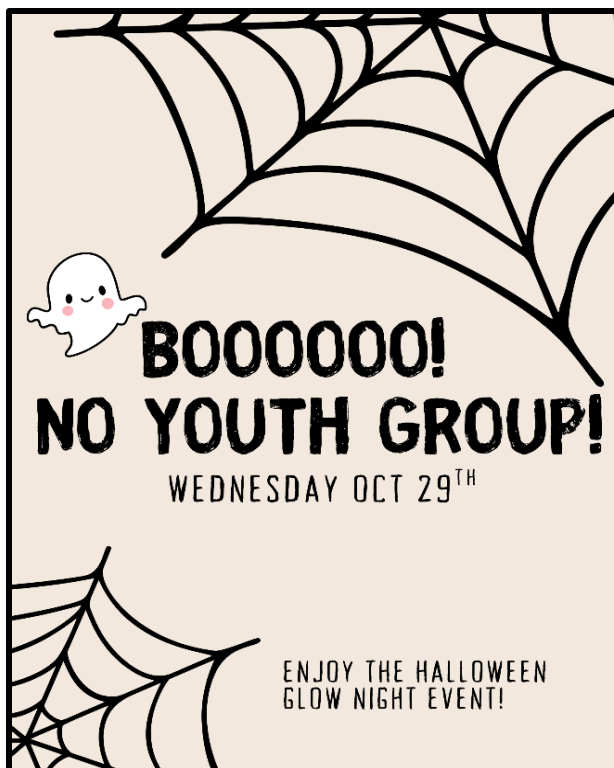
WHEN: Wednesday, October 1st
 5:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

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.*



Deadline for November Pastor's Pen is
 Sunday, October 19, 2025.

Please submit all information to the
 church office.

Southern PA District Conference Report – September 19-20, 2025

The Southern PA District Conference was held at Hanover Church of the Brethren. The theme for the conference was *Prayer Changes... Things, Me, You*, with scripture text from Hebrews 4:14-16. This year's moderator was Eric Reamer from Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren.

Friday, September 19, 2025

- After an opening time of praise and hearing God's Word, the business session began with the consecration of delegates. Representing our church were: Ray and Linda Burkholder, Kim Frazer and Carol Wingert.
- Two annual meetings which take place each year at district conference: The Brethren Home Board Meeting, and the Children's Aid Society Board Meeting
- The delegates overwhelmingly approved an organizational restructuring of The Brethren Home Foundation (TBHF) and Cross Keys Village – The Brethren Home Community (CKV-TBHC). As part of this approval, TBHF and CKV-TBHC moved from being an agency of the Southern Pennsylvania District of the Church of the Brethren (SOPA) to a partnership bound by a relationship covenant.
- This decision, informed by thoughtful consideration and sound legal counsel, affords legal protection to SOPA, TBHF, and CKV-TBHC, while also preserving and reaffirming the meaningful relationships that have been established over generations. If you have further questions about this, please contact the SOPA Moderator.
- The day ended with a Prayer Service/Re-Licensing Service and an ice-cream social.

Saturday, September 20, 2025

- A Bible Study on prayer was led by Fred Keener
- The ballot was distributed and voted upon for district board members.
- Reports were presented for: COB Denominational, Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center, District Board and Commissions, District Executive, District Executive Search Committee, Financials for the District, District Auditors, Standing Committee, and Camp Eder.
- Some discussion was centered on the 2026 budget with two amendments being voted down. The district is trying very hard to have a balanced budget. The budget was approved as presented.
- DFMA (District Financial Ministries Allocation) was voted on and approved. The DFMA is the amount the district assesses each church per member. The amount per member for one year is \$101.06.

Conference concluded with the recognition of outgoing board members and the consecration of those newly elected to the board. At the close of the session, Moderator Eric Reamer passed the gavel to the 2025 Moderator, Nicholas Wingert.

Since our Moderator is Nicholas Wingert, the Chambersburg Church of the Brethren will be hosting District Conference next year on September 18-19, 2026. Please think about how you would like to help out with this event and contact Nicholas or the church office!

Delegates,
Ray and Linda Burkholder
Kim Frazer
Carol Wingert



CROP WALK

When: Sunday, October 19th

Time: Registration at 1:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Walk at 2:00 p.m.

Where: First United Methodist Church
225 South Second Street, Chambersburg

Walkers are invited to bring non-perishable food items that will be donated to Chambersburg Area Food Pantry.

All checks should be made out to "CWS/CROP". Online donations are possible and encouraged. Online donations can be made at:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/search> and designate gifts to the "Chambersburg Area Crop Walk."

***CROP, the "Christian Rural Overseas Program" of Church World Service was established in 1947 in response to massive starvation in post-World War II Europe. The mission was simple: feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and heal the sick. Soon, Church World Service Friendship ships filled with grain donated by Mid-western farmers were crossing the Atlantic Ocean to those in need. The challenge today is just as great, so please help.



MOMENTS OF WORSHIP



Day 1	Daniel 2:20	Day 17	Psalms 24:1
Day 2	John 4:24	Day 18	Psalms 35:8
Day 3	Psalms 22:27	Day 19	Psalms 40:3
Day 4	Psalms 29:2	Day 20	Psalms 42:5
Day 5	Psalms 66:4	Day 21	Romans 12:1
Day 6	Psalms 95:6	Day 22	Psalms 47:6
Day 7	Psalms 96:9	Day 23	Acts 16:25
Day 8	Psalms 99:5	Day 24	Romans 15:11
Day 9	Psalms 138:2	Day 25	Ephesians 1:6
Day 10	Jeremiah 7:2	Day 26	Hebrews 2:12
Day 11	Psalms 34:3	Day 27	Hebrews 13:15
Day 12	Psalms 69:30	Day 28	1 Peter 2:9
Day 13	Luke 1:46	Day 29	Psalms 68:4
Day 14	Psalms 22:22	Day 30	Psalms 69:34
Day 15	Psalms 27:6	Day 31	Psalms 71:8
Day 16	Psalms 33:2		