



November 2025

The Pastor's Pen...

Struggles, Requests, Thanksgiving

Each month, as I put together my newsletter article, I am mindful of the context in which I am writing. I think about the calendar—where we are in the changing of seasons or upcoming holidays. I think about where we are in our journey as a church family—what we are celebrating and where we are struggling. And I think about what message God might have for us in any or all of those spaces.

According to the calendar, we are fast approaching November. We'll soon be halfway through fall, with winter just around the corner. For some, as the temperature drops, so do our spirits. The days grow shorter and the nights last longer. Thanksgiving will be here before we know it.

Where are we in our journey together? It seems clear that we are not feeling especially thankful. In fact, since the start of September, we have had little celebration and lots of struggle.

We entered the new school year with high hopes for both existing ministries and a new one. So far, we have had two months in a row with lower turnout than usual for our Mid-week Meals-to-Go. So far, we've had low turnouts for 4th Street Youth and 4th Street Kids. So far, Smart Cookies Preschool has had strong enrollment, but there have been so many extra challenges for our staff to navigate. So far, our new Contemporary Worship has been meaningful for 20-30 of our church family members each week, but we have seen only a few first-time visitors. We choose hope as we continue to prepare, to show up, and to serve, but we feel the struggle.

We especially feel the struggle in the midst of growing concern over our current financial shortfall and what that means for our future. Church Board members have spent hours trying to discern what steps we might be able to take now in order to find our best way forward together. And on Sunday, November 16, we will gather for our annual Congregational Meeting. We will listen to reports and recommendations and responses. We will call leadership, engage in discernment, and make decisions that will impact 2026 and beyond.

In the midst of it all, I invite us to listen to Paul's words in his letter to the church in the Greek city of Philippi. Read this passage slowly. Then read it again.

⁴ *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!* ⁵ *Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.* ⁶ *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.* ⁷ *And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* (Philippians 4:6-7, NIV)

These are not simplistic words suggesting that we just put on a happy face and everything will be fine. Paul wrote these words while imprisoned. He understood struggles and disappointments and challenges in ministry. His own future—even whether he would live or die—was uncertain.

In the midst of Paul's struggles, and in the midst of ours, he invites us to **rejoice**. He says that twice. He invites us to **be gentle**... in our reactions to our circumstances and in our engagement with each other and everyone we encounter. He invites us to find comfort and strength in the knowledge that **God is near**. He invites us to **let go of anxiety** and, in its place, in **every** situation (including our current ones), to **bring our requests**—our concerns, our struggles, our fears, our hopes—to **God**. And he invites us to include **thanksgiving** as an important part of our perspective and our prayers. If we do all this, he says, *the peace of God will guard our hearts and minds*.

May it be so for each of us as we walk this journey together.

Your partner in the journey,
Pastor Mark



**The Chambersburg Congregation Church of the Brethren
Annual Council Meeting will be held on
Sunday, November 16, 2025,
immediately following worship (10:45 a.m.) in the sanctuary.
Please plan to attend this very important meeting!!
A potluck lunch will follow council meeting
in the Brethren Life Center.**



**There will be NO Sunday School
or Contemporary Worship held this Sunday.**



The Board Report November 2025

The Church Board met on October 14, 2025. Our agenda for the evening was to review the current financial report, to review the proposed 2026 budgets, and to discuss the current and long-term financial status of the church.

Commission chairs presented their proposed 2026 budgets. Each line item was reviewed, discussed and revised as needed. I wish to thank the commissions for their diligence in the preparation of these budgets.

The Board discussed the financial forecast for the future and options for addressing the current and future financial needs. The Board will meet again on October 28th to continue the discussions.

In addition to the Board meetings, a sub team of the Board is meeting weekly to analyze some viable options including capital campaigns and potential grant funding.

This is a critical time in the life of our church. Your prayers for strength and guidance for the Board members are needed. Please feel free to attend any Board meeting or speak to a Board member to share your thoughts, ideas, or questions.

The following are key dates to remember:

November 2, 2025

Packets for the November 16th council meeting will be available in the church mailboxes. The packets will contain an agenda for the meeting, prior Council meeting minutes, October financial reports, commission and staff reports, 2026 proposed budget, information regarding our current and long-term financial needs, and a summary of various options for moving forward that are currently under consideration.

November 9, 2025

There will be two opportunities for members to participate in an information and discussion session regarding our current and long-term financial needs.

Session 1 - 10:45 in the Sanctuary

Session 2 - 11:45 in the Brethren Life Center

November 16, 2025

The council meeting will convene at 10:45 in the Sanctuary. All Church members are encouraged to be present for this important meeting.



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.

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





HOODIE DRIVE



Chambersburg Church of the Brethren
260 S. Fourth ST

Collecting gently used
Hoodies & Jackets for
our Youth.

**Students in grades 1st-12th*

Sizes:

YOUTH- X-SMALL SMALL,
MED, LARGE & XL

ADULTS- X-SMALL SMALL,
MED, LARGE, XL & XXL



Collecting Dates:

NOV 2ND – NOV 30TH
(DROP OFF IN BOX IN THE BLC LOBBY)

Pick-up Date/Time:

DEC 10TH 5:30 PM-7:30PM

Light
Refreshments
will be
provided !

QUESTIONS CALL- YOUTH DIRECTOR
JESSICA MADDEN
717-264-6957



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS

Poinsettias will be placed for Sunday Worship on December 21, 2025.

Orders **MUST** be returned by Sunday, November 2, 2025.

Please place your order in the boxes provided in the Narthex and the BLC Lobby.

Payment in full is expected when you place your order.

The price is for: **Variety of Red Poinsettia** – 6-inch pot with 5 to 7 blooms - \$10.00

Number of 6-inch pots _____ Total (cash) _____ (check) _____

Name _____

Phone # _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Given by _____

Place my poinsettia: Brethren Life Center _____ Sanctuary _____



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!



Christian Life Assembly Church, 2645 Lisburn Rd, Camp Hill, PA invites you to experience Christmas Wonderland 2025, *Finding Christmas*, a heartwarming, dramatic musical for the whole family set in 1930s New England.

In the heart of the Great Depression, the wealthy and proud Elizabeth Whitmore has kept her grand mansion pristine—but cold—ever since the death of her beloved husband, Henry.

Meanwhile, just down the road, Sarah Collins—Elizabeth’s estranged niece—runs a modest farm and a struggling church with her husband Pastor Michael. Alongside their children, eccentric volunteers and the resilient families of a nearby Hooverville, they’re determined to bring hope to those in need—even when their own cupboards are nearly bare. With laughter, music and a moving retelling of the Nativity, Elizabeth begins to rediscover the joy her husband once championed reminding us that even in the hardest times, love can be found where we least expect it.

Performances:

- Friday, December 5 | 7:00 PM
- Saturday, December 6 | 2:00 PM & 6:30 PM*
- Sunday, December 7 | 3:00 PM
- Thursday, December 11 | 7:00 PM
- Friday, December 12 | 7:00 PM
- Saturday, December 13 | 2:00 PM & 6:30 PM*
- Sunday, December 14 | 3:00 PM

Ticket Office

(717) 737-1887 (M-W, 9:00 AM–1:00 PM)



4th Street KIDS & YOUTH

Friends giving

Please join us to celebrate on
November 19th at 5:30pm

Family Style Dinner in the BLC Followed
by Activities for the whole family!

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



SMART COOKIES PRESCHOOL NEWS

Ms. Amy's Pre-k classroom

Our Pre-K classroom has been so busy these past several weeks. We have been learning the "Bee" Attitudes each week. So far, we have learned about kindness, forgiveness, obedience, and respect. Each week we look at a different Bible Story that goes with each beatitude. For kindness we heard about the Good Samaritan, for forgiveness we heard about the Prodigal Son, for obedience we heard about The Fiery Furnace, and for respect we heard about the 10 Commandments.

We also have been learning patterns, counting backwards from 5-1, letters, A, T, O, X, B, and F, the 4 seasons, pumpkins, apples, and fire safety.

We are looking forward to all the activities, learning, and fun we will have in November.

On Wednesday, October 15th, both classes enjoyed a wonderful field trip to Stoner's Dairy Farm in Mercersburg. We toured the barn, the milking barn, and the birthing barn, went on a hayride, picked pumpkins, played at the play area, enjoyed a time getting to pet some pigs, bunnies, and chickens, and ate lunch together. It was a wonderful day.



4/5-year-old classroom November Events

- 11th- No School-Veteran's Day
- 19th- Menno Haven Residents visit Smart Cookies
- 27th-December 2nd- Thanksgiving Break



Ms. Kobie's 3-year-old class

Dear Family

November is such a wonderful month — filled with crisp fall leaves, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving! Our young learners will be engaging in a variety of fun and meaningful activities as we explore these special themes together.

As we watch the leaves change into beautiful fall colors, our class will learn about their sizes, colors, and textures during an exciting leaf hunt.

We will also spend time learning about Veterans Day, honoring the brave men and women who have served and protected our nation.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we will talk about what the holiday means, share our family traditions, and reflect on all the things we are thankful for.

Wishing everyone a month filled with gratitude, learning, and joy!

Warmly,
All for Him,
Ms. Kobie



(Parents of our Preschool enjoying the field trip to Stoner's Dairy Farm)



Many thanks to everyone who purchased apple dumplings in the Apple Dumplings Fundraiser for Smart Cookies. Thanks to the many members of the church family who volunteered their time to make apple dumplings, provided apple peelers, and donations of money or supplies. Over 400 apple dumplings were made, and we raised \$1,980. Thanks for supporting Smart Cookies.

---Smart Cookies Preschool Committee



**VOLUNTEER
BELL RINGERS
NEEDED!**

Ring a bell...help change a life

Salvation Army Red Kettle Project

Missions and Service Commission is sponsoring an opportunity to serve and share with the Salvation Army.

Our congregation will ring the bell for the Red Kettle Project at The Butcher Shoppe on Thursday, December 4, 2025, from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex and sign-up for an hour or two.

Thank you for your help!



**Don't forget to Turn
back your clocks**

Daylight Saving Time will officially end at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 2, 2025. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before retiring on Saturday night or you will be an hour early for church in the morning!



Deadline for December Pastor's Pen is Sunday, November 23, 2025.

Please submit all information to the church office.



Loving Hearts

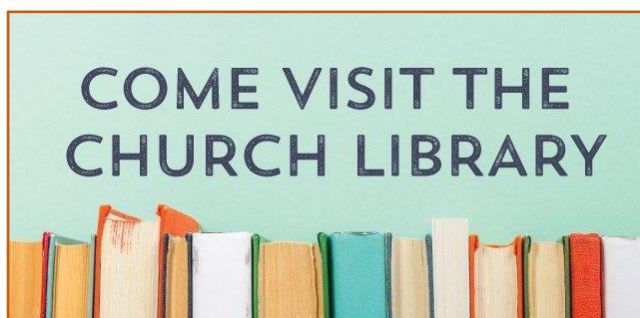
Thursday, November 20, 2025-12:00 Noon
The Family Table Restaurant

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.



New Books in the Library For November

Wind, Sand and Stars
 by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Colors of Christmas by Olivia Newport

The Marlow Murder Club
 by Robert Thorogood

Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult



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

WHEN: Wednesday, November 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.*



Starting December 2nd, PennDOT will begin working on a bridge replacement project on Rt. 116 (Fairfield Road) near Gettysburg. A detour from Gettysburg to Fairfield will be in place using Knoxlyn-Orrtanna Road and Knoxlyn Road.

MOMENTS OF WORSHIP



Day 1	Psalm 50:14	Day 16	Ephesians 1:16
Day 2	Colossians 4:2	Day 17	1 Chronicles 16:8
Day 3	Ezra 3:11	Day 18	Colossians 1:3
Day 4	Psalm 140:13	Day 19	Jonah 2:9
Day 5	2 Corinthians 4:15	Day 20	Psalm 18:49
Day 6	2 Samuel 22:50	Day 21	James 1:17
Day 7	2 Corinthians 9:15	Day 22	Romans 16:4
Day 8	Psalm 26:6-7	Day 23	Psalm 100:4
Day 9	Daniel 6:10	Day 24	1 Thessalonians 5:18
Day 10	Psalm 136:2	Day 25	Psalm 35:18
Day 11	Psalm 95:2	Day 26	2 Corinthians 2:14
Day 12	Matthew 26:27	Day 27	Revelation 7:12
Day 13	1 Timothy 4:4	Day 28	Psalm 30:4
Day 14	Romans 14:6	Day 29	1 Chronicles 16:34
Day 15	Psalm 69:30	Day 30	Psalm 116:17