

Imagine

ADVENT 2025

The Pastor's Pen... December

Imagine! Did you ever consider how much power and potential could be contained in a single word?

To imagine is “*to form a mental image of something not present*” (Merriam-Webster). The applications are practically *unlimited*. We can *imagine* a place we have never been. We can *imagine* a piece of artwork that has not been produced or a song that has not yet been written. We can *imagine* an experience we have never had. We can *imagine* what another person might be feeling in a given moment or circumstance. We can *imagine* new ideas or solutions to problems. We can look at things as they are and *imagine* them as they *could be*.

Back in July, at the close of this year's Church of the Brethren Annual Conference, our new Moderator, Don Fitzkee, revealed the theme he had chosen for our 2026 Annual Conference. It was a single word. It was *this* word. **IMAGINE!** In his Theme Statement on the Annual Conference website, he references the late theologian Walter Brueggemann's conclusion that the role of a *prophet* is to *imagine new possibilities*. Fitzkee then suggests, “*Perhaps one reason the church remains mired in the same old patterns is that we have lost our ability to envision anything better.*”

For this year's Advent Season, we have chosen this same theme, “**IMAGINE!**” In both our traditional and contemporary services, we will be invited to exercise our imaginations as we seek to put ourselves in the places of the real women and men whose lives and stories became part of *God's* story in sending Jesus. We will *imagine* what it might have been like for *them* to imagine **hope**, imagine **peace**, imagine **joy**, and imagine **love**—*before* those gifts were fully revealed in Christ.

We will be invited *also* to identify similar spaces within *our own* lives and circumstances. We will be invited to take what we know about the lives and circumstances of *others* and to imagine how they feel. We will be invited to look at *how things are*, and to imagine *how things could be*. We will be invited to imagine what it might be like to *experience*, or to be part of helping *others* experience, an infusion of **hope**, an infusion of **peace**, an infusion of **joy**, and an infusion of **love** this Christmas season and *beyond*.

Please join us on this journey and invite others along. A little imagination may be *just what we need*, and just what the *world* needs *from us*, at *this* moment in our *journey together* and into the coming year.

Your partner in this journey,
Pastor Mark



Christmas Eve Service, December 24th at 6:30 PM

Pre-Service Music 6:00 PM

The beloved family service that you all remember. There will be plenty of worshipful music and carols; readings from God's Word; a children's story; and, of course, the closing candle lighting service.

Come and celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus in our 4th Street sanctuary.

Bring your family, neighbors and friends and begin your Christmas with all that is essential.





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



Imagination is a powerful force that can take us in countless directions. We can picture both hopeful and troubling scenarios, yet what we imagine often looks very different from reality. Still, imagination serves an important purpose, motivating and guiding our actions. It offers hope in difficult seasons. It reminds us of peace as we recall how God has provided it before. It helps us savor joy in the present, even amid challenges. And ultimately, imagination can move us toward love, prompting us to consider new ways to care for others. Join us this advent as we *Imagine!*

11/30: *Imagine* Hope!

Scripture: Micah 5:2-4

12/7: *Imagine* Peace!

Scripture: Luke 1:24-25

12/14: *Imagine* Joy!

Scripture: Luke 1:46-56

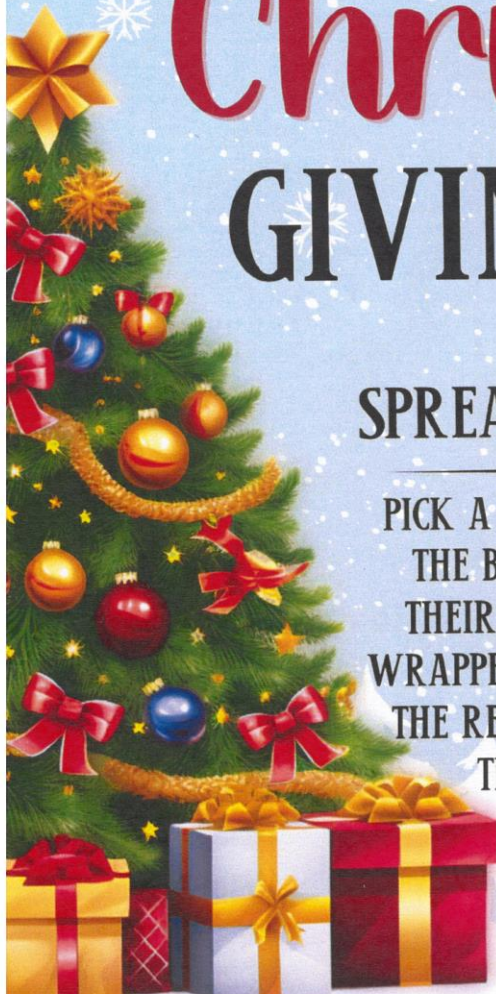
12/21: *Imagine* Love!

Scripture: Luke 2:8-18



260 South 4th Street Chambersburg, PA | www.chambcob.org | (717) 264-6957

CHAMBERSBURG CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



Christmas GIVING TREE

SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER!

PICK A TAG FROM OUR GIVING TREE IN
THE BLC LOBBY, PURCHASE GIFTS ON
THEIR WISHLIST, AND BRING IT BACK
WRAPPED ALONG WITH THE TREE TAG BY
THE RETURN DATE. PLACE GIFTS UNDER
THE TREE IN THE NARTHEX !

RETURN BY: DEC 16TH 2025

BE AN ANGEL, SHOW YOU CARE
GIVE A GIFT, SPREAD LOVE EVERYWHERE!

QUESTIONS - CONTACT YOUTH DIRECTOR JESSICA MADDEN



National Youth Conference

Light
within US
—Matthew 5:14-16

 **July 18 - 23, 2026**

 **YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, CO**

 **Registration opens January 5, 2026**

 **www.brethren.org/nyc**

National Youth Conference (NYC) provides young people in high school and the first year of college (or are age equivalent) and their advisors the chance to gather for a week of fellowship, worship, workshops, recreation, and more!




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!



SMART COOKIES PRESCHOOL NEWS

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

Happy Fall! The end of October and most of November have been very busy months for our Preschool. We have been continuing to learn our letters and numbers. We are still learning about the "Bee" Attitudes. Each week we focus on a specific beatitude and hear Bible stories and do activities based on the Beatitude for the week. For our Thanksgiving Bible lesson, we learned about the 10 Lepers and their healing. We have been discussing Thanksgiving and being thankful for what we have.

On October 31, we had our Harvest Festival/ Halloween Party. The students had a great time dressing up and going around to different stations and completing various activities, such as making crafts, playing a game, or telling a story.

On November 19, we had our Sharing Meal during the school day. We shared our meal with the residents from the Brookview facility of Menno Haven. Thank you to the Smart Cookies Committee Members that coordinated, prepared the meal, and served us. It was a very enjoyable time.

The students are now preparing for their Christmas Program. They are very excited for the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. We are looking forward to having a great December and a fantastic New Year.

We wish you all a happy and healthy Thanksgiving! We also wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Ms. Amy

December Special Events

December 10th - Visiting Brookview Senior Health Center (Menno Haven)

December 16th - Polar Express/Pajama Day

December 18th - Christmas Program at 6:30 PM

December 19th - Christmas Party

December 20th - January 4th - Christmas Break

January 5, 2026 - School Reopens



Ms. Amy's Pre-k classroom

It really does feel like November flew by! Between the Sharing Meal, classroom celebrations, and all the little daily joys with your preschoolers, the days seem to have slipped right through.

The Sharing Meal was truly a hit with our friends from Menno Haven—what a joy to see preschoolers and elders coming together around the table, sharing food, laughter, and fellowship. The warmth and connection made the day feel extra special, and it's a tradition we are grateful to continue. With hearts full from that experience, we are now looking forward with excitement to the preschool Christmas program, where our little ones will shine as they celebrate the season with music, joy, and the spirit of Christmas.

A heartfelt thank you to our preschool committee for generously volunteering their time and energy to make the Sharing Meal such a success. Your dedication truly shines in every detail. And a special note of gratitude to Ms. Phyllis for preparing the wonderful soup—it warmed both hearts and bellies, adding an extra touch of comfort to our gathering.

Now we're stepping into December, which always brings a special kind of anticipation—with the Christmas program on the horizon, it's the perfect way to close out the year with joy and light.

Warmly,
All for Him,
Ms. Kobie





I thank Pastor Mark for his visit before my surgery and for the prayers, cards, and calls I have received during my recovery.

---Sincerely, Galen Yeager

Thank you, my church family, for phone calls, cards, and especially prayers. They are more powerful than medicine.

---Love to all, Vivian Fisher



Santa Claus Needed

Smart Cookies Preschool is looking for someone to be Santa Claus for the Christmas Party on

December 18th! Mrs. Santa will be there, and we think the Grinch is coming, too. But our regular Santa is out of commission this year, and we need one good friend of Santa to show up. The costume is available, or you can provide your own.

This is an important part of the party for the three-and four-year-old preschoolers.

Contact Tim Monn by phone or text at (540) 905-2182.

Thank you, and Merry Christmas to all ! ! ! !

-Tim Monn, Smart Cookies Committee Chair



Our sympathy to:

The Family of Helen A. Steinour following her death on Wednesday, November 12, 2025.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA PAMOVN - Mt. Vernon Cemetery



REMEMBER the Fallen. . . HONOR those who Serve. . . TEACH our children the value of Freedom.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: All are welcomed!

WHEN: December 13, 2025 at 1:00 pm
(Wreath Placement Immediately Following Ceremony)

WHERE: Mt. Vernon Cemetery
888 Lincoln Way W, Chambersburg, PA 17202

Veteran Graves: 56

Coverage Goal: 56

Wreaths So Far: 6

Location Coordinator: Tracy Baer

Wreaths Across America will be at Mt. Vernon Cemetery to Remember and Honor our veterans through the laying of Remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each and every veteran aloud.

Thank you so much for supporting Mt. Vernon Cemetery and Wreaths Across America.

If you have any questions or would like to attend please reach out to Jessica Madden, Youth Director.



Loving Hearts

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 December

It Happened on the Underground Railroad
by Tricia Martineau Wagner

The Warmth of Other Suns
by Isabel Wilkerson

Amish Christmas Twins
by Shelley Shepard Gray

Plus... other Christmas stories- check it out!



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

WHEN: Wednesday, December 3rd
Wednesday, January 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.*



**Please take note that the next
Pastor's Pen** will combine the months
of January/February.

Deadline for submission is
Sunday, January 4, 2026

Please submit all information to the
church office.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

CAMP

Eder

DECEMBER 12TH & 13TH 5-9PM

COME JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FAMILY FESTIVE FUN! THE WOODS WILL BE ILLUMINATED WITH LOTS AND LOTS OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, WARM FIRES, HOT COCOA AND CHILDREN ACTIVITIES WILL BE HAPPENING EACH NIGHT. THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL FESTIVAL YOU MOST CERTAINLY WILL NOT WANT TO MISS!

- CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & MUSIC
- HAY RIDES FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT 5-9PM
- TREE DECORATING CONTEST
- DELICIOUS TURKEY DINNER & SOUP (PER DONATION)
- LUMINARY GARDEN (HONORING OUR LOVED ONES)
- DECORATED TREES
- WARM DRINKS AND LOTS OF COOKIES (FREE)
- BAKE SALE
- KID'S ACTIVITIES
- COZY FIRES & S'MORES
- LIVE MUSIC

"AND THIS IS THE TESTIMONY: GOD HAS GIVEN US ETERNAL LIFE, AND THIS LIFE IS IN HIS SON." – JOHN 1:5-11

WWW.CAMPEDER.ORG 717-642-8256
914 MT HOPE RD. FAIRFIELD, PA 17320

Please Note

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.

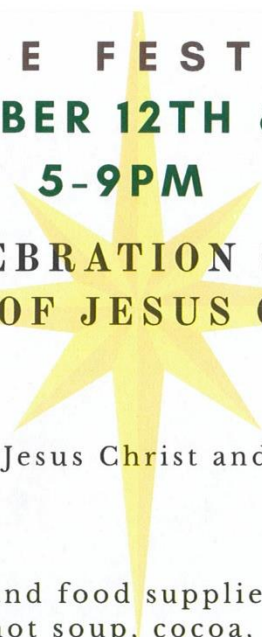


CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL **CAMP** *Eder*

DECEMBER 12TH & 13TH

5-9PM

A CELEBRATION OF THE
BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST!



Sponsorship Form

____ Gold Sponsor: \$200.00

Provides funds that highlight the birth of Jesus Christ and the journey to Bethlehem.

____ Frankincense Sponsor: \$100.00

Goes towards the cost of purchasing food and food supplies. Many Food items will be available including cookies, hot soup, cocoa, sandwiches, turkey dinners and more!- all will be available to guests for a donation.

____ Myrrh Sponsor: \$50.00

Will provide two trees to be used for our decorating contest. Churches, organizations and Camp Eder supporters are given the opportunity to decorate a tree with their choice of theme. Trees are on display for the duration of the festival and are entered into our light-hearted contest. After the festival, the trees are made available to local families in need. You do not have to decorate a tree, however you are welcome to do so by checking the "Tree Sponsor" section below.

____ Luminary Sponsor: \$5.00 per luminary

A luminary will be lit and displayed in honor of:

____ Friend of Camp Eder: \$ _____

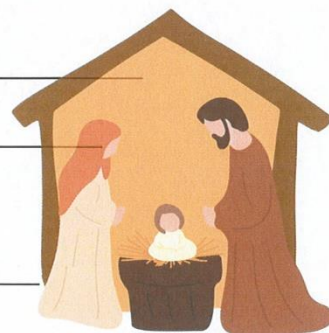
____ Tree Sponsor: No donation is necessary to take on the exciting task of decorating a tree for your organization or family. A 5-6 foot live-cut tree will be provided for your to decorate!

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Note: _____



Thank you for your deductible donation!
CAMPEDER@CAMPEDER.ORG OR 717-642-8256
914 MT HOPE RD. FAIRFIELD, PA 17320

LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR



Day 1 Romans 13:8
Day 2 Matthew 5:43-48
Day 3 John 13:34-35
Day 4 1 Peter 4:8
Day 5 Romans 12:10
Day 6 Leviticus 19:18
Day 7 Proverbs 17:17
Day 8 1 Corinthians 16:14
Day 9 1 John 4:18-19
Day 10 Luke 6:25
Day 11 Proverbs 10:12
Day 12 Ephesians 4:32
Day 13 1 John 4:11
Day 14 Colossians 3:14
Day 15 Mark 12:31
Day 16 1 Thessalonians 4:9

Day 17 James 1:27
Day 18 Luke 6:27-28
Day 19 Galatians 5:14
Day 20 John 15:9
Day 21 Matthew 22:37-40
Day 22 Ephesians 5:2
Day 23 Galatians 6:2
Day 24 Luke 3:11
Day 25 John 15:13
Day 26 Hebrews 13:1-2
Day 27 Deuteronomy 15:11
Day 28 Ruth 1:16-17
Day 29 Romans 12:9-16
Day 30 1 John 4:7-8
Day 31 Luke 6:32