



The Pastor's Pen... January/February 2026

Hopes for the Year Ahead

As we enter a new year, I invite you to think about your hopes for our church at this moment in time. Imagine what you hope our church would be a year from now. Make a list. Do you hope to see our church grow? Do you hope to see our church become healthier? Do you hope to see more young families, young adults, and young children? Do you hope to see our church making a positive difference in people's lives? Do you hope to see our church find new ways to love and serve our neighbors? Do you hope to grow in your own walk with Christ?

This past November, our Church Board led us in taking a hard look at our current and long-term financial needs. They made several suggestions of ways we might be able to make positive changes toward long-term sustainability as a non-profit organization, and they invited each of us to share our thoughts. The Board is continuing to work hard at discerning how best to move forward, and your feedback has been a valuable part of that process.

However, Church Board initiatives are only one piece of the work that we need to do in order to do more than simply continue to exist into the future...in order to actually be the church that God calls us to be. Here are some important questions for each of us to ask and answer: What is it that we are trying to sustain and why? Who has God called us to be?

Consider these words about God's purpose for His church from chapter 4 of Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus.

¹ Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. ² Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. ³ Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. ⁴ For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future....

¹¹ Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ....

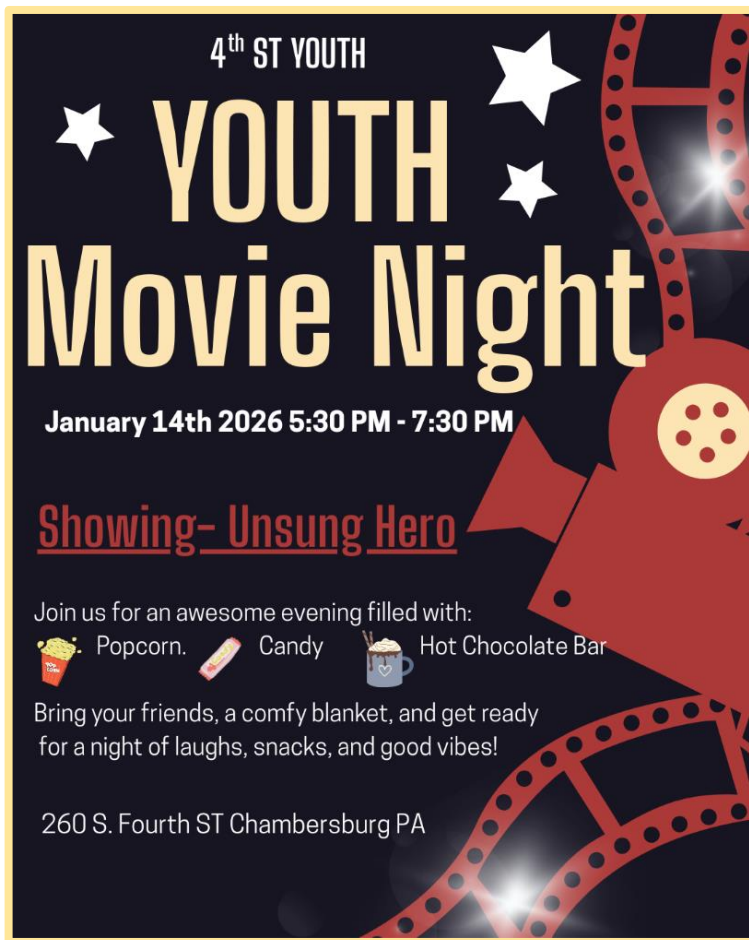
¹⁵ [We] will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

While we wait for further guidance from those whom we have called to lead us, I encourage you to join me in leaning into the guidance God has already given us through this Scripture and others. As I reflect on Paul's words above and on what it means to be a healthy church, I want to suggest five resolutions for each of us to embrace for the coming year.

- 1) Prioritize Relationships (over of the “rightness” of our cause, views, or preferences).
- 2) Practice Humility, Forbearance, and Grace (instead of insisting that our interests and “rights” should be considered above all else).
- 3) Pursue Understanding (in place of assuming, judging, and complaining).
- 4) Promote Unity and Peace (instead of contributing to division within the Body).
- 5) Participate in Positive Changes (instead of remaining on the sidelines).

If we each commit personally to these goals, I believe that will go a long way toward moving us closer to being the church God has called us to be: a church that is healthy and growing and full of love... a church that is growing in every way more and more like Christ.

Your partner in this journey,
Pastor Mark





Books waiting to be read in January

Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books by Kirsten Miller

Hometown Murder by Misty Lynn

The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible by Shannon Bream

Church Signs Across America by Steve & Pam Paulson

Coming in February:

The Windsor Knot by S.J. Bennett

The Pact by Jodi Picoult

Colorado by Rosey Dow

The Love Letters by Beverly Lewis



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

Scott Hambright and Stephanie Berger will be traveling to Letcher County, Kentucky from January 25 -31 (Sunday-Saturday) to join Church of the Brethren volunteers from the Mifflinburg COB congregation 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 Hambright.

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!





“Soup”er Movie Night
Saturday, February 7th, 2026
At 4:30 p.m.
Movie will show at 6:00 p.m.

Movie to be shown is *The King of Kings* (PG 2025 • Animation • 1h 43m). Renowned writer Charles Dickens shares the story of Jesus Christ with his son, Walter. As his father narrates the stirring tale, Walter becomes captivated with the events of Jesus' life.

People attending are to bring a soup of their choosing to share. You are also encouraged to bring a can of soup to place on the “Soup”er Bowl tables for donation also.

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!



Save the dates.....
Church Yard Sale

The Church Yard Sale will be held on

Thursday, March 19, 2026
11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 15, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 16, 2024
8:00 a.m. – 12 Noon



SMART COOKIES PRESCHOOL NEWS

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

Happy Winter! December was a very busy month for our Preschool. We have been continuing to learn our letters and numbers. We have started to learn about the penny and the nickel. We have been working through the "Bee" Attitudes but took a break to learn about the Birth of Jesus.

On December 16th, we had our Polar Express/Pajama Day activities.

On December 18th, we had our Christmas Program. The students performed the "Christmas Through the Eyes of a Preschooler". The children sang songs, held up the letters to spell Christmas while Ms. Amy read a poem with it, played handbells, enjoyed Mr. Sam singing "*You're a Mean One Mr. Grinch*", and then having a time of refreshment and fellowship. The children and families enjoyed this time together.

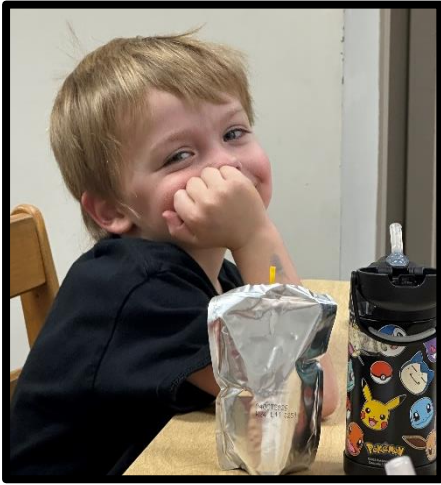
On December 18th we had our Christmas Party and gift exchange. After a very busy week before Christmas, we all enjoyed our break.

The students have been enjoying using their Chromebooks to review letters and numbers learned.

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.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Amy





Ms. Amy's Pre-k classroom

Welcome Back, Smart Cookies!

What a joy it has been to welcome our young learners back to school after the holiday break. They returned with open arms, big hearts, and the brightest smiles—ready to learn, play, and grow together. Their excitement has filled our classrooms with warmth and energy, reminding us once again what a gift it is to guide them each day.

A Joyful January Ahead

As we step into a brand-new year, our preschoolers have jumped right back into routines with enthusiasm. From morning songs to hands-on learning centers, they are eager to explore, discover, and share their ideas. January is always a month of fresh beginnings

Welcoming Our Friends from Meno Haven

We are delighted to share that our beloved grandmas and grandpas from Meno Haven will be returning for a special visit this month. These intergenerational moments are treasured by our children—full of stories, laughter, and gentle connection. We look forward to another meaningful time together.

Parent–Teacher Conferences

Parent–Teacher Conferences will begin on January 20. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate your child's growth, talk about

your child's progress, strengths, and joyful moments in the classroom

Discuss any questions or concerns our parents may have

Set goals together for the months ahead

Strengthening communication between families and teachers

Ensure your child feels supported both at home and at school

May God fill our classrooms with peace, joy, and kindness this January.

All for Him,
Ms. Kobie





Thank you to all who donated cookies for the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry. We made 100 bags, 75 dozen, 900 total cookies for distribution to truckers and travelers in south central PA during the holiday season.

To my church family,
Thank you for all of your Christmas cards and for the wonderful visit by the church carolers. Also, thank you for the fruit cake from Tangela Gibbons and the candy cane from little Jude Toms.
I appreciate all of you. Keep up the good work. The church is in my prayers.
---**Sincerely, Dorothy Blough**

I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has surrounded my family with such love during this difficult time. To my church family, thank you for praying over us, checking in, and showing up in ways that reminded me of God's comforting presence. Your kindness has carried us in moments when we needed it most.

To the preschool committee, your generous donation and your prayers touched me deeply. In the middle of grief, your thoughtfulness felt like God's gentle hand reminding me that we are not walking this alone.

And to my preschool parents—thank you for every message, every hug, every kind word. I have read each one with joy in my eyes. Your encouragement has been such a blessing, and I am truly grateful for the way you have held my family in your hearts. Your love has reflected Christ's care, and my family and I are so thankful.

---**Amy Kobie and Family**

I would like to thank the Christmas carolers for coming to sing for me. They brought great joy to my heart and truly gave me a reason to rejoice with them as they sang the beautiful carols. I wish each one of them peace, joy and love this coming year.

---**Darlene Rosenberry**

Thank you all for your prayers, texts, and cards during our times of surgeries. Your continued prayers for Bob are also appreciated. You all are wonderful and caring people!

---**In Christ's Love, Bob and Laura Shank**

We would like to thank you for the many responses of sympathy following the death of Cinda Emerick, Edie's Mom. We sincerely appreciate visits by Rick and Vicki Shreiner, our Deacons. Cinda may not have remembered names, but never forgot kindnesses shown her. Nor do we.

---**Blessings, Edie Mills and Family**



Our sympathy to:

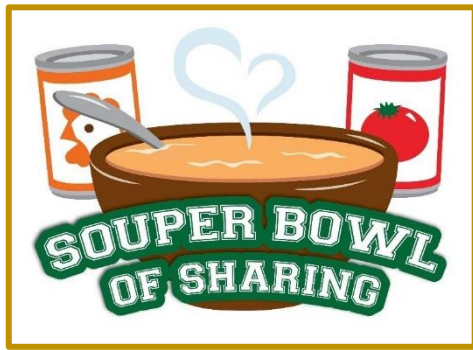
Edie, Gary and Zachary Mills and Family following the death of Edie's mother, Cinda O. Emerick on Saturday, December 13, 2025.

Amy and Victor Kobie and Family following the death of Amy's mother, Linda E. Uzar on Saturday, December 13, 2025.

The Family of Donna Jean Gindlesperger following her death on Wednesday, December 3, 2025.

Patricia McCleary and Family following the death of her husband, David L. McCleary on Sunday, November 30, 2025.

The Family of Ray L. Etter following his death on Wednesday, November 26, 2025.



“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 1st and Sunday, February 8th.

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 8th.



2026 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 chamcob@gmail.com with any new or changed information by February 1st.



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

WHEN: Wednesday, February 4th
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.

**NewsLetter
DEADLine**

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for March Pastor’s Pen
Sunday, February 22, 2026

Please submit all information to the church office.

January 23rd-25th

Camp Eder WINTER CAMP 2026

THINGS TO BRING:

- WARM CLOTHES
- PILLOW AND SLEEPING BAG
- EXTRA SOCKS
- TOWEL AND WASHCLOTH
- PERSONAL TOILETRY ITEMS
- BIBLE, NOTEBOOK, AND PEN
- SNOW PANTS
- WINTER JACKET
- GLOVES AND HAT
- BOOTS
- EXTRA PAIR OF SHOES
- SLED(S) (OPTIONAL)
- SIGNED POLICY AGREEMENT
- HEALTH FORM

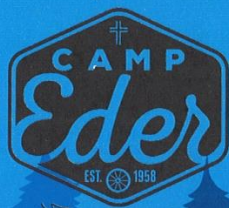


FOR GRADES 1ST-12TH
& SHINING STARS

\$90

ARRIVE 7PM FRIDAY
REGISTRATION @ GEIGLEY
DEPART 2PM SUNDAY

REGISTRATION OPENS DECEMBER
17TH
TO REGISTER GO TO:
WWW.CAMPEDER.ORG/WINTER-CAMP



914 Mt Hope Rd, Fairfield, PA 17320 Campeder.org 717-642-8256



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		



HELLO February

Day 1 Mark 11:25
Day 2 Luke 17:4
Day 3 Ephesians 4:32
Day 4 Colossians 3:13
Day 5 Proverbs 3:3
Day 6 Matthew 5:7
Day 7 Luke 6:37
Day 8 Matthew 18:21-35
Day 9 1 John 1:9
Day 10 Isaiah 1:18
Day 11 Matthew 6:14-15
Day 12 Ephesians 1:7
Day 13 Colossians 1:13-14
Day 14 Psalm 103:12
Day 15 2 Corinthians 2:5-8
Day 16 Acts 7:59-60

Day 17 Romans 12:20
Day 18 Psalms 130:3-4
Day 19 Isaiah 43:25
Day 20 Micah 7:18-19
Day 21 Daniel 9:9
Day 22 Acts 3:19
Day 23 1 John 2:1-2
Day 24 1 Peter 3:9
Day 25 James 5:16
Day 26 Proverbs 15:18
Day 27 Proverbs 17:9
Day 28 Psalm 86:5