



# *The Pastor's Pen... March 2026*

## **Jesus, Lent, and Impact in the Neighborhood**

As our Church Board has continued to work behind the scenes in response to last November's congregational feedback, one word that has resonated deeply is the word "**impact**." Studies have shown that the number one reason people support an organization is belief in the **mission**. Digging a little deeper, people want to know that the cause they are supporting is making a *difference* and having a positive *impact* on the lives of the people it serves.

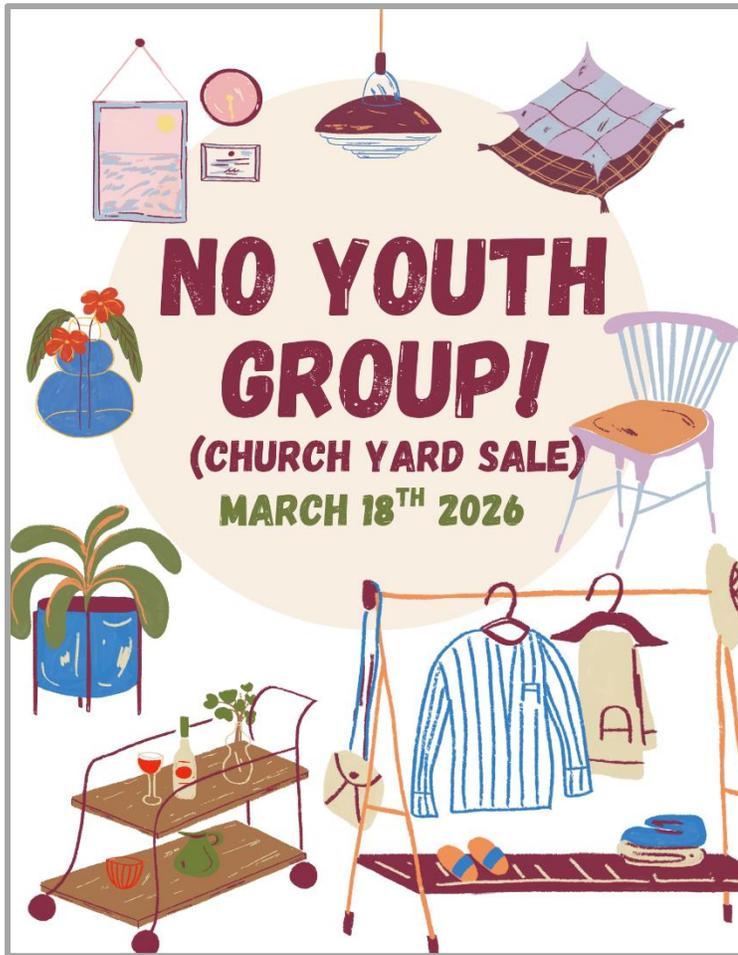
The current mission statement of our church is "*A Family of God, Growing in Christ, Empowered to Serve*." That is a great statement to describe who we are and why we exist. What it does not express as clearly is our vision for positive **impact** on the world around us. How do we want our neighbors to see and know us? How do we want to be known by the friends or family we invite to worship and grow and serve with us? Are we simply another church in our neighborhood? Or are we a church that is truly a here *for* our neighborhood?

When we look at gospels and other writings of the early church, we see some very clear statements about God's vision for **Jesus** coming into the world and for the positive *impact* Jesus' life and death and resurrection would have on humanity. Here are a few of those impact statements of why Jesus, the Word, "*became flesh and moved into the neighborhood*" (John 1:14, *The Message*).

1. *To reveal the true nature of God (John 1:18, Colossians 1:19)*
2. *To proclaim good news to the poor, liberty for captives, sight for blind, and liberty for the oppressed (Luke 4:18-19)*
3. *To serve and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45)*
4. *To reconcile us to God (Colossians 1:19-22)*
5. *That we might have life abundantly (John 10:10)*
6. *That we might have eternal life (John 3:16)*
7. *That the world might be saved through him (John 3:16-17)*

As we focus more intently on Jesus during the coming weeks, I pray that we might see more clearly God's vision for us as God's children, God's vision for us as God's servants, and God's vision for us as the Body of Christ. I pray also that we would see more clearly the nature of the positive impact that God might call us to have as a church in, and **for**, our neighborhood.

Your partner in this journey,  
Pastor Mark



## **New District Executive to start April 6, 2026**

The Southern PA District Board Chair, John Hess, announced that Traci Rabenstein has been called as our new full-time District Executive. Traci will officially begin on Monday, April 6, 2026.

Traci is a member of the Mechanicsburg COB, where she had served as Youth Pastor for 8 years. She has also served in our District in many ways, including Moderator and Board Chair for The Cross Keys Village, the Brethren Home Community. For the last 9 years, she has been serving our denomination as Executive Director of Mission Advancement.

Over these next few months, please keep Traci, Interim District Executive Georgia Markey, and Administrative Assistant, Linette Quinn in your prayers.

YOU ARE INVITED TO



**Free!**

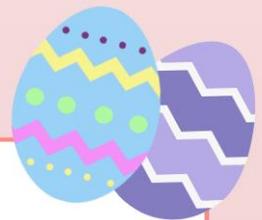
- Easter Crafts & Games
- Interactive Bible Story
- Moon-Bounce
- Food

AND SO MUCH MORE!!

**March 25th  
Starting at 5:30pm**

**Chambersburg Church of the  
Brethren**

**260 S.Fourth St  
Chambersburg PA**





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*



Technology is all around us and in every part of our lives. During this series, *Unplugged*, we will look critically at different ways we use and understand technology, and how technology influences us. We will also examine how Scriptures can give guidance so we can be more judicious in the choices we make around technology.

**3/1: Attentive Presence**

*Scripture: Mark 5:24-34*

**3/8: Short Term Memory Loss**

*Scripture: Mark 8:14-21*

**3/15: Comparison Game**

*Scripture: Mark 10:17-22*

**3/22: Building Community**

*Scripture: 12:28-34*





## INDOOR YARD SALE March 19, 20, 21, 2026!

Smart Cookies will once again sponsor the Church Yard Sale March 19-21! Donations can be accepted beginning Monday, March 16 whenever the church office is open. Additionally, volunteers will be available Monday (3/16) and Wednesday (3/18) from 9am to 12pm and Tuesday (3/17) from Noon to 4:00pm if you need help unloading.

Sale hours will be March 19<sup>th</sup> 11:00am-7:00pm, March 20<sup>th</sup> 10:00am-7:00pm, and March 21 8:00am-12:00 Noon. Volunteers are always needed and sign-up sheets are at the welcome tables in the BLC Lobby and the narthex outside the Sanctuary.

Food will include Chicken Corn Soup, Chili and Corn Bread, Hot Dogs and more! Coffee and cold drinks, too! Come and eat lunch while you shop.

The Yard Sale is particularly important this year as Smart Cookies is now helping with the cost of utilities and Property expenses for the use of Church facilities. Please help support this vital community ministry with your donations, purchases and time!

Hours will now be:

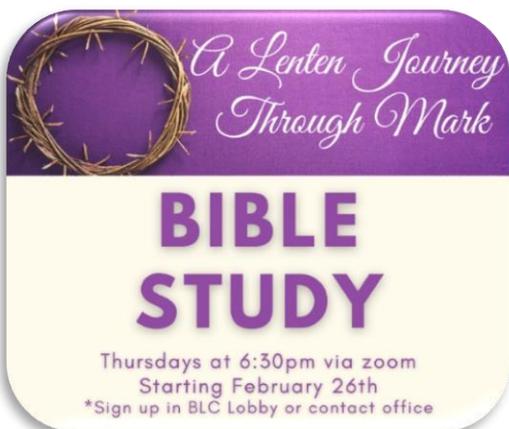
Thursday      March 19th    11:00 AM -7:00 PM

Friday         March 20th    10:00 AM-7:00 PM

Saturday      March 21<sup>st</sup>    8:00 AM-12 Noon

Thank you from the Smart Cookies Preschool Committee.

## Lenten Bible Study



Join us on Zoom for a weekly Bible study throughout Lent on **Thursdays at 6:30pm**. We will be working through the book of Mark throughout Lent.

The Bible study will be led collaboratively by Pastor Mark, Ali Toms, and Liz Thorpe. Contact the church office or sign-up in the BLC lobby so you can receive the Zoom link via email.



## SMART COOKIES PRESCHOOL NEWS

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

February has been a very exciting month at Smart Cookies. We are learning about winter animals, groundhogs, Valentine's Day, Dental Health, letters, the numbers 7-10, and The Lord's Prayer.

On February 11<sup>th</sup> we had our Valentine's Day party and completed a lot of fun activities. On February 13<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. We dressed up as 100-year-olds and did lots of exciting activities. We visited with the grandmas and grandpas on Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. We gave them the cards that were sent over from the church Valentine's Day event. On February 26<sup>th</sup>, we went on a field trip to Grove Family Library. The children heard a story and completed a craft.

For the month of March, we have fun activities planned, such as our Dr. Seuss celebration, St. Patrick's Day activities, the beginning of Spring, and much more.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Amy

### Upcoming March Events

- March 2<sup>nd</sup> -March 13<sup>th</sup>- Dr. Seuss Activities and Celebration
- March 13<sup>th</sup>- No School- Spring Break
- March 17<sup>th</sup>- St. Patrick's Day Celebration- Wear green to school
- March 18<sup>th</sup>- Field Trip to Chambersburg Airport
- March 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> - Yard Sale
- March 20<sup>th</sup>- First Day of Spring
- March 25<sup>th</sup>- A visit from the Brookview Senior Center
- March 26<sup>th</sup>- Dr. Barra visits to do a Dental Presentation





## **Ms. Amy's Pre-k classroom**

### **A Joyful First Annual Valentine's Dance**

Smart Cookies Preschool hosted their first annual Valentine's Dance right here at the church, and what a beautiful afternoon it was. The preschool committee prepared a wonderful selection of food and drinks that kept everyone smiling.

A heartfelt thank-you to Garrett Bayer, whose music filled the room and kept our young learners dancing the afternoon away. Moms, dads, and little ones enjoyed a memorable afternoon of laughter, movement, and togetherness.

### **March Adventures: Chambersburg Airport Trip**

Our young learners have an exciting month ahead. In March, the preschool will take a special trip to the Chambersburg Airport, where students will explore, ask questions, and experience the thrill of seeing airplanes up close. It's always a highlight of the spring season.

### **Learning to Care for Our Teeth with Dr. Barra**

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Barra, who will visit our students to teach them about taking good care of their teeth. This hands-on, friendly presentation helps children build healthy habits and understand why dental care matters. We are grateful for Dr. Barra's continued partnership with our preschool community.

### **End-of-Year Visit with Menno Haven Grandparents**

Later this spring, we look forward to a heartwarming tradition: our end-of-the-year visit with the grandmas and grandpas from Menno Haven. These intergenerational moments are truly special. Our students love sharing songs, smiles, and stories, and our Menno Haven friends always brighten the room with their warmth and wisdom.

### **Looking Ahead**

As we move toward spring, we celebrate the joy, curiosity, and kindness our young learners bring to every event. Thank you to our church family, volunteers, and preschool committee for supporting these meaningful experiences.

All for Him,  
Ms. Kobie



**And the Champion of The "Soup"er Bowl 2026** for Chambersburg COB is...the Seattle Seahawks (the actual winner of the Super Bowl)! With 546 food items donated (WOW) the Seattle Seahawks won over the New England Patriots 299 items to 247 items. Thank you to all those that played along and donated, making the SCCAP Food Bank the real winner!  
**---Missions and Service Commission**

*I want to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, and kindness of sympathy in the loss of my husband. I also want to thank the people that prepared the luncheon after the service. Your thoughtfulness was deeply appreciated.*  
**---Pat McCleary**



**Special Offerings**

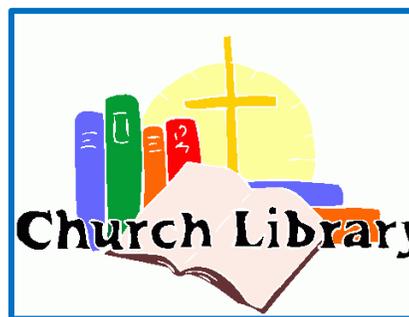
will be taken by Missions & Service Commission on Sunday, March 1, 2026, and Sunday, March 8, 2026, for District Meat Canning.

Please use the offering envelopes provided in the Narthex, Brethren Life Center Lobby or the pews, and mark it Meat Canning.



**Congratulations to:**

*Ray and Kelly Frazer following the birth of their son, Bo Michael Frazer, on Monday, February 9, 2026. He weighed 8 lb. 11 oz. and was 21 inches long. His big brother is Micah, and his proud Grandparents are Bo and Kim Frazer.*



**Add to your reading list for March:**

*A Wedding Quilt for Ella* by Jerry S. Eicher

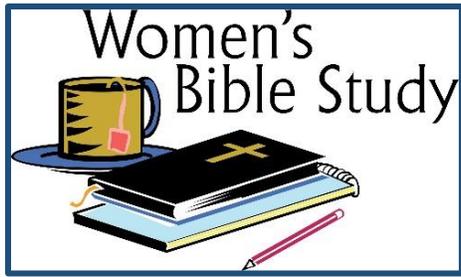
*Agnes Sharp and the Trip of a Lifetime* by Leonie Swann

*Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi



*Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026.*

*Don't forget to set your clocks ahead an hour!*



A Women's Bible Study is being held every Tuesday morning at 10:00 am in the downstairs Sunday School room (7).

We are studying Ephesians resuming with Chapter 4.

Please join us!



**FREE, ServSafe Food Handler's 3-hour class (No Cost)!**

The Borough of Chambersburg, 100 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Chambersburg is offering a free class for all staff who work in food service to understand the fundamentals of food safety.

Designed for all food-service staff: Servers, Cooks (of all levels), dishwashers, volunteer groups, etc.

- Tuesday, April 14, 6-9 pm
- Monday, August 10, 9-11 am
- Monday, October 19, 6-9 pm

Please contact Carol in the church office to register.



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

**WHEN:** Wednesday, March 4  
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**

**Deadline for April Pastor's Pen**  
Sunday, March 22, 2026

Please submit all information to the church office.

## SOPA District Women's Spring Tea Saturday, April 25, 2026.

Southern PA District

Church of the Brethren

2026 District Women's

Spring Tea



II Peter 3:18

Grow in the grace and  
knowledge of our Lord and  
Savior Jesus Christ.

Southern PA District Women's Spring Luncheon will be held at West Shore Church of the Brethren, 6921 Wertzville Road, Enola, PA.

Speakers are Mary and Brad Barrows of *Daybreak*. *Daybreak* is the musical husband and wife team of Mary and Brad Barrows. They will be providing musical entertainment based on II Peter 3:18 "*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*"

Brad and Mary live in the Harrisburg area, where they currently serve with a church worship team in central Pennsylvania and sing in concerts with the Hershey Community Chorus.

Registration deadline is April 15th. Cost of attending is \$10.00 per person.

Brochures with registration information are available in the Narthex and Brethren Life Center lobby.

## Taste of The Valley Benefiting "For The Kids of Chambersburg"

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

(doors open at 5:00, eat at 6:00, Live auction at 7:15pm)

LifePoint Church  
339 Lincoln Way East  
Chambersburg, Pa. 17201

Tickets are \$30.00 and may be  
purchased by calling  
717-816-1510

Participating  
Restaurants and Caterer's



CM Pig Out    Cracker Barrel    Applebee's  
Ledo's Pizza    Olive Garden    Falafel Shack  
Veroni Cafe    Bruster's Real Ice Cream  
Hoss's Steakhouse    Longhorn Steakhouse  
Wild Annies    Pat & Carla's III    Chick Fil A  
Aunt Trish's Homemade Country Fudge  
Hamilton Heights Market    Branded Bean  
Hickory Ridge Restaurant & Catering



|        |                   |        |                     |
|--------|-------------------|--------|---------------------|
| Day 1  | Luke 17:5         | Day 17 | 2 Timothy 4:7       |
| Day 2  | Romans 10:17      | Day 18 | Matthew 14:29-31    |
| Day 3  | Galatians 5:6     | Day 19 | John 20:19          |
| Day 4  | Hebrews 11:1      | Day 20 | 1 John 5:13         |
| Day 5  | James 2:17        | Day 21 | John 14:17          |
| Day 6  | 1 John 5:4-5      | Day 22 | John 1:12           |
| Day 7  | John 6:29         | Day 23 | Mark 10:52          |
| Day 8  | Hebrews 11:6      | Day 24 | Romans 1:17         |
| Day 9  | James 1:6         | Day 25 | 1 Peter 1:21        |
| Day 10 | Psalms 37:5       | Day 26 | Titus 1:2           |
| Day 11 | Proverbs 3:5      | Day 27 | 1 Corinthians 16:15 |
| Day 12 | Matthew 6:30      | Day 28 | Mark 11:24          |
| Day 13 | Matthew 17:20     | Day 29 | 1 Timothy 6:11      |
| Day 14 | 2 Corinthians 5:7 | Day 30 | 1 Thessalonians 1:3 |
| Day 15 | Acts 26:18        | Day 31 | 1 Peter 1:7         |
| Day 16 | Ephesians 6:16    |        |                     |



# Membership Form

## Become a Friend in 2026!

The purpose of **The Friends of Cross Keys Village** is to benefit the lives of residents and team members of Cross Keys Village - The Brethren Home Community.

To accomplish this objective, funds are raised through an **Annual Membership Drive**, donations, and various fundraising events throughout the year. Membership in The Friends of Cross Keys Village is open to all residents and friends of Cross Keys Village.

Funds raised by The Friends are principally used to support:

- The **Good Samaritan Fund**, assisting residents whose finances are exhausted.
- The **Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)**, offering support to our team members who wish to further their education.
- The **Memory Care Education Program**, which offers support to individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or another neurocognitive disorder, and to their care partners, whether they live on campus or in the greater community.

**Becoming a member or renewing your membership gives you the satisfaction of helping others!**

Please return the completed form with your check.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation (if affiliated with Church of the Brethren): \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me about volunteering for The Friends.

Please select your membership level:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$15 Bronze</b> (one person)     | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$30 Bronze</b> (two persons)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$50 Silver</b> (one person)     | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$100 Silvers</b> (two persons)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$100 Gold</b> (one person)      | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$200 Gold</b> (two persons)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$200 Platinum</b> (one person)  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$250 Platinum</b> (two persons) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Additional Donation \$</b> _____ |  |

**TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$** \_\_\_\_\_  I would like a tax-deductible receipt.

The completed form and your check made payable to **The Friends of CKV** can be placed in the Campus Mail, addressed to Membership Chair Deborah McBeth, 1754 Shoemaker Drive, or mailed to Deborah McBeth, 1754 Shoemaker Drive, New Oxford, PA 17350.

Questions can be addressed to Deborah McBeth: [dlmamsts@aol.com](mailto:dlmamsts@aol.com) 978-979-2270