

The Pastor's Pen... April 2026

Signs of Life

Spring has arrived, and signs of life are evident all around us. Trees are budding. Perennial flowers are pushing through the soil. Grass is growing. Forsythia is in its golden glory. Birds are abundant, and the sound of their singing fills the early morning calm.

What we often forget, however, is that preparations for spring were being made long before these signs appeared. Sap in the trees was rising, unseen. Bulbs in the ground were once again starting to sprout.

The reality is that the glory and beauty of spring was always designed and destined to follow the cold and barrenness of winter. It was God's plan.

Each year, as we anticipate Easter, we reflect on the ultimate sign of life—Jesus' resurrection from death. That event in history was at once life-changing and world-changing and eternity changing for humanity. Because Jesus lives, we, too, can live. Because Jesus lives, we, too, need not live in fear of death. Because Jesus lives, we have hope. Because Jesus lives, we can indeed face tomorrow.

Like spring, this sign of life had always been God's plan.

In Psalm 16, David foreshadowed God's plan when he wrote, *"Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay."*

In Isaiah 53 we read, *"... though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. After he has suffered, he will see the light of life...."*

In reading from Mark's gospel and preparing for our online Lenten Bible Study, I was particularly struck at how often Jesus spoke to his disciples about his death and his resurrection. Five different times in chapters 8-10 Jesus spoke about his imminent suffering, four times he named his death, and three times he said clearly that he would rise again on the third day. Through it all, unseen by human eyes, preparations were being made for Jesus' resurrection.

How does this relate to us? First, we have the promise of Jesus to his disciples, "Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19).

Beyond that, this is only one of many examples of how God is often working behind the scenes to prepare new life within us, among us and through us to the world around us.

Let me leave you with some lyrics from the contemporary Christian song, "Way-Maker."

You are here moving in our midst... You are here working in this place... Even when I don't see it, you're working. Even when I don't feel it, you're working. You never stop working... (You are) Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper, Light in the darkness; my God, that is who you are.

May God help us to see more clearly the signs of Life that God has already revealed in our individual lives and in our midst. And may we trust God more fully for God's unseen work that is still waiting to be revealed.

Your partner in this journey,
Pastor Mark



**VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL
VOLUNTEERS**

MEETINGS- APRIL 9TH AT 6:00 PM &
14TH AT 5:00 PM
*MAY 14TH AT 6:00 PM
*JUNE 11TH AT 6:30PM

SETTING UP- JUNE 6TH & 13TH
TEAR DOWN-JUNE 23RD

SIGN UP SHEETS
IN BLC LOBBY

QUESTIONS-
CALL YOUTH
DIRECTOR
JESSICA MADDEN

Let's Celebrate Together

*Easter
Sunday*

April 5th, 2026
WORSHIP /SERVICE 9:30 AM
& 10:35AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM

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

SAVE THE DATES!

**RAINFOREST
FALLS**

Exploring the Nature of God

June 15th-19th
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Preschool (Age 4) - 5th Grade



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



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

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.

Life Line Screening Event

A promotional graphic for Life Line Screening. It features a woman with grey hair, wearing a green shirt, making a heart shape with her hands. The background is a light blue and yellow gradient with a stylized human figure. Text on the left lists a special screening package for \$129 for members, including Carotid Artery Disease Screening, Atrial Fibrillation Screening, Peripheral Artery Disease Screening, and Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening. It also provides a phone number (800-324-9458) and a code (HABC001) to schedule an appointment. The Life Line Screening logo is at the bottom left, with the tagline 'The Power of Prevention'.

We have great news! Chambersburg Church of the Brethren will be hosting a Life Line Screening event on Monday, May 4, 2026 in the Brethren Life Center. Life Line Screening is the premier provider of stroke and cardiovascular disease risk screenings since 1993. Life Line Screening is extending a discounted offer to all Chambersburg Church of the Brethren members which will identify your risk level for the following diseases:

1. Carotid Artery Disease
2. Peripheral Arterial Disease
3. Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm
4. Atrial Fibrillation

The church office has a few Complimentary Screening Packages available. Please contact Carol in the church office (717-264-6957) if you are interested.

Add to your reading list for April:

By Any Other Name by Jodi Picoult

Mischief In the Morgue by Misty Lynn

The American Heiress Brides Collection
by Kimberly Woodhouse and others





SMART COOKIES PRESCHOOL NEWS

Ms. Amy's 4/5-year-old classroom & Ms. Amy's Pre-k classroom

March has been a very active month for us. We had Dr. Seuss month and enjoyed all the different books and activities that were planned. We celebrated St. Patrick's Day on Monday, March 17th. The children and their families made leprechaun traps to try catch a leprechaun.

Unfortunately, the leprechauns messed up our classrooms. The students had fun checking their traps and helping us clean up the mess.

On March 18th, we took the classes on a field trip to Chambersburg Airport. They watched an airplane land, got to go into the airplane, watched the airplane take off. The students had a lot of fun.

On March 25th, we spent time with the grandmas and grandpas from Menno Haven. We did some sand art, played with Play-Doh, and put puzzles together.

On March 26th, Dr. James Barra came to the preschool and taught us about keeping our teeth clean and shiny. The kids all have a good time during his visit.

For the month of April, we have fun activities planned, and we have a class trip scheduled. We will be learning about Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, planting flowers, learning about butterflies and bugs, spending time outside, and preparing for the final days of school.



Upcoming April Events

April 1st- Spring Pictures

April 2nd - Easter Party and Egg Hunt

April 3rd-6th - Easter Break

April 13th- Dance class

April 15th- Field Trip to Wilson College Horse Stables

April 22nd- Field Trip to Menno Haven

April 28th- Dance class





To My Brothers and Sisters at Fourth Street,
A heartfelt thank you for all your thoughts, prayers, well wishes, food, cards and phone calls over my recent hip surgery. Every act of kindness meant the world to LaVerne and me. I'll thank you and ask God to bless you for caring.
--**Blessings, Harold Yeager**

Dear Friends,
I personally wanted to thank the members of the Chambersburg Church of the Brethren for your support of the 2025 Chambersburg Area CROP Walk. Your gifts, which total \$510, help support a global initiative dedicated to supplying and distributing food to individuals in desperate need. Locally we raised \$7,115. A third of this amount has been divided equally between the Chambersburg Area Food Pantry, the Gleaning Project (a part of SCAAP), and the Salvation Army, while the balance is being used by Church World Service for hunger relief efforts throughout the world. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.
--**Your servant, Peter W. Emig, CROP Walk Coordinator**

Thank you all who supported the Smart Cookies Preschool Gertrude Hawk Candy fundraiser. We were able to raise \$539.62 for the preschool program.

And....a huge thank you to everyone who donated items, food, and time to make the annual yard sale a big success! We raised \$9,635.56 for our Smart Cookies Preschool program.
--**Smart Cookies Preschool Committee**



Our Sympathy to:

Judy and Gary Schuchman and Family following the death of their son, Gary Lee Schuchman Jr. on Thursday, March 19, 2026.

The Family of Betty Lou Fogelsanger following her death on Wednesday, March 4, 2026. Betty was the wife of our former pastor Donald H. Fogelsanger.

Church News

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for May Pastor's Pen
Sunday, April 19, 2026

Please submit all information to the church office.





Schedule of Events for Loving Hearts – April - July

April 16th- Bingo at Stoner's Family Restaurant

May 21st- Harpist Lauren Swain will play following lunch at the Church in the Brethren Life Center

June 18th- Stoner's Family Restaurant
Speaker Wayne Myers from Norland Pharmacy

July 16th- Michael Peluso glass blowing following lunch at the Church in the Brethren Life Center.



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

The Borough of Chambersburg, 100 South 2nd 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, April 1
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.

What to Give?

To your enemy, forgiveness.

To an opponent, tolerance.

To a friend, your heart.

To a customer, service.

To all men, charity.

To every child, a good example.

To yourself, respect.

--Oren Arnold

OUTDOORSMAN DAY

May 2nd, 2026 8:30am-3pm

Devotional Theme: JOB 12:7-9

Country Breakfast Available!

Clay Shoot, Fishing and Axe Throwing!

Join us on May 2nd for a day filled with adventure! Together, we'll delve into the world of clay shooting, mastering gun safety protocols and honing our skills to become proficient clay target shooters. We will also have fishing, hiking and axe throwing! Secure your spot by registering on the Camp Eder website (campeder.org/registration) or by contacting the camp office via phone. Lodging also available at additional cost (contact camp office at 717-642-8256)

*If you would like to help sponsor this event by donating ammo or financially, please contact Jonah Simons (717-642-8256)



914 Mt Hope Rd
Fairfield, PA 17320

\$50, LUNCH INCLUDED!

Registration for Outdoorsman Day 2026:

May 2nd, 2026 8:30am-3pm

Name: _____

Email/Phone Number _____

Select an activity: (you may select more than one)

- Clay Pigeon Shoot (firearms will be registered upon arrival) Axe Throwing (waiver signed on arrival) Fishing/Hiking

Ticket Cost: \$50, breakfast and lunch included

Please make out checks to Camp Eder or mail payment to 914 Mount Hope Road, Fairfield, PA 17320

GOLF TOURNAMENT

May 20, 2026

7:00 am Registration & Light Breakfast

8:00 am Shotgun Start (Four Player Scramble Format)

12:00 Noon Lunch at Camp Eder

CARROLL VALLEY
GOLF COURSE
at
LIBERTY MOUNTAIN



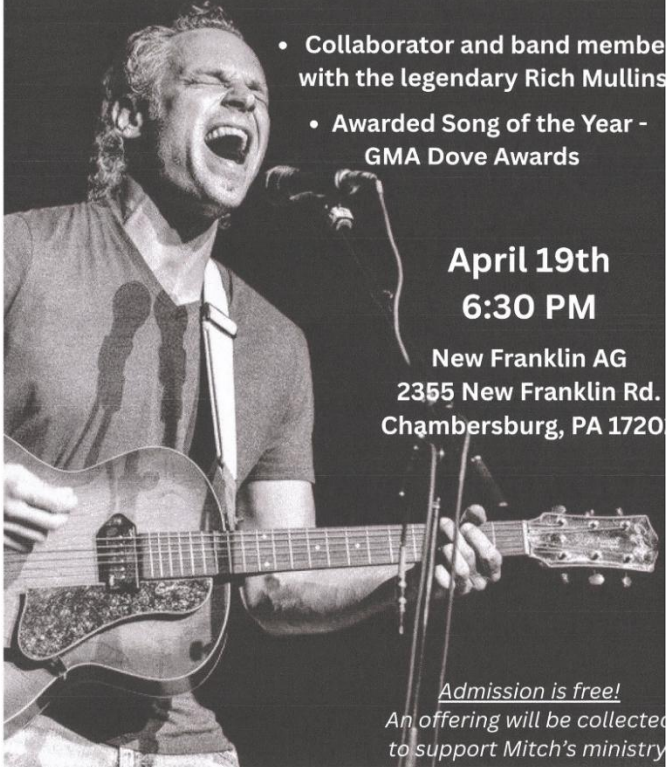
Camp Eder
Play with Purpose

JOIN US FOR A DAY ON THE GREENS

Support Camp Eder ministries while enjoying a fun round of golf with friends and family.

REGISTER EARLY – ALL SKILL LEVELS WELCOME!

Mitch McVicker in concert



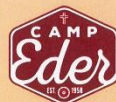
- Collaborator and band member with the legendary Rich Mullins
- Awarded Song of the Year - GMA Dove Awards

**April 19th
6:30 PM**

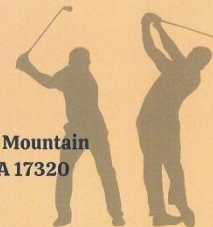
New Franklin AG
2355 New Franklin Rd.
Chambersburg, PA 1720

Admission is free!

An offering will be collected to support Mitch's ministry



914 Mt hope Rd. Fairfield PA 17320



Where:

Carroll Valley Golf Course at Liberty Mountain
78 Country Club Trail, Fairfield, PA 17320

When:

7:00 am Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:00 am Shotgun Start (Four Player Scramble Format)
12:00 Noon Lunch at Camp Eder

Why:

The Annual Camp Eder Golf Outing plays a crucial role in sustaining Camp Eder's mission of providing a space where individuals can encounter the presence of Christ in the beauty of God's Creation.

Thanks to events like the Golf Outing and our scholarship program, we've been able to extend the opportunity for numerous families to participate in our enriching camp experiences.

Would you consider lending your support to further the mission of Camp Eder? Your contribution could make a significant difference in the lives of those we serve.

Want to be a hole sponsor? Click the link on our website under "Sponsorship Form"!

How:

To register follow the link on our website.
for more information contact Camp Eder

717-642-8256
campeder.org
914 Mt Hope Rd
Fairfield, Pa 17320



Worship & Praise



Day 1	Isaiah 25:1	Day 16	Psalms 42:11
Day 2	Exodus 23:25	Day 17	Romans 14:11
Day 3	Psalms 150:6	Day 18	Psalms 105:1
Day 4	Acts 16:25	Day 19	Psalms 143:6
Day 5	John 4:24	Day 20	1 Samuel 2:2
Day 6	Psalms 103:1	Day 21	Psalms 95:6
Day 7	1 Chronicles 16:34	Day 22	Psalms 66:17
Day 8	Psalms 63:1	Day 23	Psalms 16:2
Day 9	Habakkuk 3:17-18	Day 24	Daniel 4:37
Day 10	Psalms 71:8	Day 25	Psalms 63:3-4
Day 11	1 Chronicles 29:11	Day 26	Ephesians 3:20-21
Day 12	2 Corinthians 1:3-4	Day 27	Revelation 5:13
Day 13	2 Samuel 7:22	Day 28	Psalms 28:7
Day 14	Psalms 68:4-5	Day 29	Psalms 116:1-2
Day 15	Romans 11:36	Day 30	Psalms 145:3