



The Pastor's Pen... June 2026

"Casting Our Net" in a New Direction

The historical records of Jesus' life and ministry record two occasions when some of Jesus' followers were fishing on the Sea of Galilee but were having no success. On each occasion, Jesus calls to them from the shore and instructs them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat. If you forget what happened, you can read the accounts for yourself in Luke 5:4-6 and John 21:6-8.

For my article this month, I want to summarize what was shared and proposed by our Church Board (and eventually approved) at our recent Congregational Meeting on May 17th. I feel this is important—both for the sake of those who did not attend and as a reminder for those who were present.

The proposal the Board brought to the congregation was that we move forward with grant applications related to both facility improvements and to outreach initiatives. That motion was approved by a 95% "YES" vote by the 86 members present. In case you haven't yet made the connection, applying for grants in hope of receiving financial support for ministry feels a little like casting our net on the other side of the boat.

Here are some of the details to keep in mind as the Board moves forward with applications over the next few months.

The Board will be working with a company known as "Grants For You," based in Richardson, TX. Throughout our conversations with them, they have been extremely responsive and have demonstrated deep understanding of best grant-seeking practices for non-profit organizations. Their process for aligning grant seekers with grant providers is especially strong. Grants For You was founded by and is operated by Neil Reid, who has more than two decades of experience in managing large-scale technical deployments worldwide, in addition to a decade-long ownership of an international technology business. All of our conversations thus far have been directly with him.

We are currently planning on submitting six applications, at a total cost of \$6,000, which includes support for the entire grant process. That cost will be fully covered by a member of our congregation. While there is no guarantee of receiving grant funding, we feel it is prudent to try.

On the facility improvement side, we intend seek grant funding for replacement of our current HVAC system, replacement or resurfacing of the BLC roof, and for a back-up generator. Our current estimate of the total cost of these three repairs and improvements is between \$300,00 and \$400,000.

On the community outreach side, we intend to seek grant funding to provide some overdue upgrades to Smart Cookies Preschool classrooms and to their learning activities and equipment. We will also seek grant funding to add support for our new outreach with Andrew Buchanan Elementary School, as well as our existing “Mid-Week Connection” meal ministry and our 4th Street Kids and Youth ministries.

In addition, we will also seek funding for a two-sided outdoor digital sign for our property. This will be added to either our facilities grant applications or our outreach grant applications (as deemed best through the grant alignment process).

We expect the entire grant process from now until we hear back from our applications to take 4-6 months. As we move through those months, we will continue to give monthly updates on the progress of all of our initiatives.

Please continue to be in prayer for our Board and other members of our church family who are working alongside of us. And please continue to support our church with your presence, your participation, your input, your gifts, and your service—as much as you are able.

Your partner in this journey,
Pastor Mark



★ 260 S. Fourth ST Chambersburg PA

MOVIE NIGHT

★ Wednesday July 15th at 6:30 pm

Join us for an amazing evening filled with:

 Popcorn.  Candy  Soda/Water

Bring your friends, family, a comfy blanket, and enjoy a relaxing summer night!

Reminder- All are welcomed to join us at this event. We asked that everyone is respectful and do not talk during the movie or use cell phones. Thank You!

Movie Title - TBA
(Check our Facebook page for updates)

DID YOU KNOW?

Jacob Picking, grandson of James Picking, was featured in the Chambersburg Trojan Band's 100th anniversary concert on May 9th in the auditorium of Chambersburg Area Senior High School.

Three former bank directors returned to the stage to conduct and perform with the current director, Nicole Albright.

Seeking to commission a piece based on local history for the concert, Albright turned to 2023 graduate Jacob Picking, whom she described as a "natural choice" due to his keen understanding of the band's technical skills and his expertise as a Civil War reenactor.

Jacob composed "*Orders to Burn*," about the ruin and rebirth stemming from the Burning of Chambersburg, in which Confederate troops torched much of the town on July 30, 1864.

"The Burning of Chambersburg was a horrific event, but this piece is bookended in celebration of the unburnable pride residing within the citizens of Chambersburg", Jacob said of his piece.

Despite a downward trend in many school activities, the Trojan Band has maintained a membership of nearly 200 students.



4th Street Church
**YOUTH GROUP
SUMMER
Cookout**
Wednesday, June 24th 2026
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Join us for our summer cookout, please bring your lawn chairs and blankets. We will have hotdogs and hamburgers.

RSVP
4th St Snapchat

Tangela. & Terry Gibbons
Home 74 St.Thomas-Edenville
Road St.Thomas, Pa 17252



**VOLUNTEERS
Needed!**
HELP US BRING THE
**RAINFOREST
TO LIFE FOR VBS!**

We need helping hands to set up backdrops and classrooms/decorations for Vacation Bible School!

CHOOSE THE TIME THAT WORKS FOR YOU!

 SATURDAY JUNE 6TH	 TUESDAY JUNE 9TH	 WEDNESDAY JUNE 10TH
 ANYTIME BETWEEN 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM	 ANYTIME BETWEEN 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM	 ANYTIME BETWEEN 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**YOUR HELP
MAKES AN
ETERNAL IMPACT!**

*Many hands make
light work!*

THANK YOU FOR HELPING
MAKE VBS AMAZING!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL RAINFOREST FALLS

Embark on the wildest rainforest escapade ever at the Chambersburg Church of the Brethren Vacation Bible School. (VBS) is a community-centered program designed to provide children with a safe, engaging, and faith-filled environment during the summer. Throughout the week, children participate in hands-on activities, music, crafts, games, and lessons that encourage personal growth and positive values..

JUNE 15TH - 19TH
9:00 AM - 11:30AM

Register Now - www.chambcob.org

FREE!!

Preschool - 5th Grade
(4 year olds +)

(717) 264-6957 | 260 s.Fourth St Chambersburg PA



SMART COOKIES PRESCHOOL NEWS

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

I can't believe that we are in the month of May and that summer vacation is just around the corner. We have been busy in the Pre-K classroom reviewing our letters, numbers 0-20, and many other things. We enjoyed a day of playing board games and other special events.

On May 13th, we had our first Field Day at Norlo Park. Our students had a great time playing various games. The highlight of the day was our annual Cornhole competition and we all had a great time participating. On May 15th, we had our End of the Year Breakfast. We invited families to share a time for breakfast and fellowship. On May 20th, we had our Spaghetti Ice event. Linda Remson did a fantastic job organizing and running this event for us.

Graduation was held on Thursday, May 21st. It was a nice time, and we had a great turnout. I had to say goodbye to 8 students and send them off to kindergarten in the fall.

On a personal note, I want to thank all of you for your support and encouragement during my nine years at the CCOB. I have loved getting to know many of you. It has been an incredible journey. As I embark on the next chapter of my life, I will continue to pray for all of you.



Ms. Amy
Pre-K Classroom Teacher



Ms. Kobie's Pre-k Classroom

Wow — where has the time gone! We have officially wrapped up another wonderful year at Smart Cookies Preschool, and our hearts are full. This year has been overflowing with memories, laughter, hugs, and high-fives from our friends. What a joy it has been to watch each child grow in confidence, kindness, and curiosity.

From our very first adventure at Stoner's Dairy Farm to our end-of-year celebration at Norlo Park, our Smart Cookies have explored, learned, and shined in many ways.

Our K-3 class is now ready to begin their next big journey as they move up into the K-4 class. We are so proud of how much they've grown this year and can't wait to see all they will accomplish next.

To our parents and families, thank you for sharing your children with us, for your support, and your partnership throughout the year. Your trust means everything.

To our wonderful staff, volunteers, and committee, you are the heart of Smart Cookies. Your dedication, and love for our children make this preschool a warm, joyful, place to learn and grow. We are blessed by each of you.

As we close this chapter and look ahead to the next, we celebrate every giggle, every milestone, every friendship, and every moment that made this year so special. What a blessing it has been to learn, play, and grow together.





The Family of Betty Stouffer wants to thank Pastor Mark for the many visits and to our church for the prayers, cards, calls, food, and love for Betty during her illness and following her passing.

Thank you to the Deacons for the Fellowship Meal.

May God bless you all.

---Dallas, Douglas, Barbara and Michelle Families

Dear Church Family,

Thank you all so very much for the beautiful birthday cards that you sent to celebrate my mom's 100th Birthday!

You surely helped to make it a special day. Mom enjoys being a neighbor of the 4th Street Church!

---Thanks again, Brenda Hoover and Pearl Foreman

I would like to thank you church family for all the birthday cards I received. It was very kind and thoughtful of you.

---Love, James Diller

Thank you to Pastor Mark and to everyone for the cards and prayers following the passing of our son. It is very comforting to have such a wonderful church family.

---Judy and Garry Schuchman



Our Sympathy to:

Dallas Stouffer and Family following the death of his wife, Betty C. Stouffer on Wednesday, April 22, 2026.

The Family of Kenneth L. Gible following his death on Wednesday, May 13, 2026. Ken was the pastor at Chambersburg COB from 1995 through 2001. Services are on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at Ridgeway Community Church of the Brethren, 525 North Progress Avenue, Harrisburg, PA. Friends may visit with the family from 12:00 noon until the time of the service.



Newsletter Deadline

Please take note that the next newsletter will combine the months of July & August.

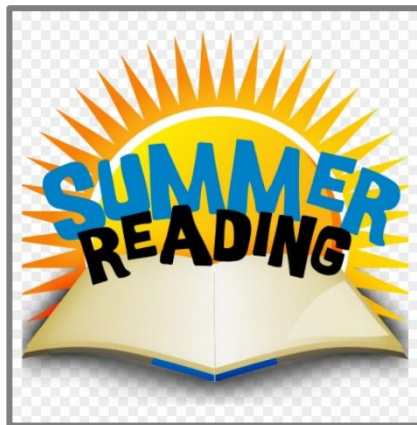
Deadline for July/August Pastor's Pen is Sunday, June 28th.



Schedule of Events for Loving Hearts – June & July

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.



Add to your reading list for June:

Sing You Home by Jodi Picoult

City of Angels by Tracie Peterson & James Scott Bell

The Rocking Chair Prophet by Matthew Kelly

A Mother’s Sacrifice by Carole Towriss



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


WHEN: Wednesday, June 3rd
 Wednesday, July 1st
 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.



CAMP EDER SENIOR DAYS



COST: \$20

CAMP EDER SENIOR DAYS ARE HELD THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES ARE OFFERED AT SENIOR DAYS. HOMESTYLE LUNCH, EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS, MUSIC AND A NUMBER OF SPECIAL GUESTS ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF WHAT IS OFFERED.

PROGRAM:
 9:30 AM MEET AND GREET WITH CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
 10:00 MORNING PROGRAM
 12:00 DELICIOUS LUNCH
 1:00 DISMISSAL

SEPT 9TH	<p style="font-size: x-small;">We will have "Music with Monte" who is to share his love of Jesus and storytelling (through song), as well as giving folks a taste of the kinetic music that he shares during the Summer at Camp Eder.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">We will also have Ms. Autumn Thomas with AARP with a valuable "Fraud Prevention Program"!</p>
NOV 4TH	<p style="font-size: x-small;">WE ARE APPROACHING COOKIE SEASON! WE WILL BE DOING FALL THEMED COOKIE DECORATING THAT THE SENIOR WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE HOME AND A POST CARD ACTIVITY ABOUT CAMP/CAMPING MEMORIES!</p>

REGISTER ONLINE AT CAMPEDER.ORG or CALL THE OFFICE AT 717-642-8256!

For more details and updates about these events, please visit our website campeder.org or call 717-642-8256

Volunteers Needed:

**Back to School
BOOK BAG DRIVE**

AUG 1ST

JULY 28TH

JULY 30th

Please sign up for the Date & Time you would like to Volunteer.

July 28th - 10:30 am til 4:30 pm Filling Book Bags with school supplies.
 July 30th - 10:30 am til 4:30 pm Setting up BLC for Event.
 Aug 1st - 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm Helping at the event with Games, Food, Clean up

**BACK TO
SCHOOL
BOOK BAG DRIVE**

AUG 1ST 5:00PM - 7:00PM

**FREE BOOK-BAGS FILLED WITH
SCHOOL SUPPLIES. CARNIVAL GAMES.
PRIZES. FACE PAINTING. COTTON
CANDY. POPCORN. MOON BOUNCE.
MUSIC. DINNER & SO MUCH MORE!!**

PRESCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL

**CHAMBERSBURG CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
260 S. FOURTH STREET CHAMBERSBURG PA**

**ANNUAL
CAR SHOW
2026**

The Friends of
CROSS KEYS VILLAGE
The Brethren Home Community

**CHICKEN
BARBECUE
& Car Show**

- Pre-Registration by July 31: \$12
- Registration after July 31: \$15
- Dash Plaques to first 75 cars
- Best of Show Trophies - Door Prizes

Saturday, August 8
9:00 am to 1:00 pm
 Rain or shine - Show field opens at 7:30 am

Cross Keys Village
 The Brethren Home Community
 2990 Carlisle Pike, New Oxford, PA 17350

Contact Larry Rohrbach, 717-880-3058 or larryrohrbach@comcast.net



Virtual Attendance at Annual Conference

Annual Conference – Non-Delegate REMINDER – Virtual Attendance is FREE, but you must Register. Read on for more information on how to do that and a letter from Enten Eller, who has overseen the process for and produced the video streaming for past Annual Conferences:

Registration for Non-Delegate Virtual Attendance at Annual Conference 2026:

Thanks to generous contributions from the Living Stream Church of the Brethren and the Pacific Northwest District (PNWD) we are able to offer the virtual option at no charge for 2026. This gives non-delegates the opportunity to engage in business, participate in a number of equipping sessions, and enjoy the Wednesday evening concert featuring Brethren musicians—all virtually. **All virtual participants must still register between March 4 and June 23.** Virtual attendees are encouraged to make a donation to Annual Conference as an expression of appreciation. Go to www.brethren.org/ac2026/registration and select Virtual Non-Delegate Registration.

Letter from Enten begins...

PNWD (and Living Stream COB) are paying for everyone who might wish to attend Annual Conference virtually to do so at no charge (donations accepted)--yet registration ahead is still required. This is the opportunity for all those who might wish to attend conference, yet cannot swing it logistically or financially, to still be able to participate... as well as for those who might wonder what Annual Conference is really all about, to actually take a peek and join in, without having to commit a week for travel and hotel and meal costs. People can join for a session or two, attend worships, watch the concert... and also have access to the recordings of all those events.

Congregations may choose to host "viewing parties," where people gather (at a home or at the church building) to participate in Conference business and/or worship together. Individuals will want to register for themselves, so they can watch sessions (or access the recordings) at whatever time they are able to participate. Since the cost has already been paid, we want to share this invitation as widely as possible.

Why this is important: Our goal is to unite the church, increasing communication and fellowship across the denomination, by opening it up to as many people as possible through removing barriers to virtual access. Further, if virtual attendance is high, we will have demonstrated that there is indeed a desire across the denomination to continue providing virtual access to Annual Conference, and so it will become more accessible. Yet the opposite is also true: if virtual attendance is low, we will have learned that making Annual Conference accessible in this way may not be worth the effort in its current form.

We're trying to get the word out, because we hope that every Brethren will be able to consider this invitation. We would be delighted for more folks to participate in Annual Conference, whether in person or virtually!

Peace,
Enten Eller

Prayers for Facing My Fears



Day 1	Romans 8:15	Day 16	2 Timothy 1:6
Day 2	Isaiah 41:10	Day 17	Psalms 56: 3-4
Day 3	1 John 4:18-19	Day 18	Proverbs 12:25
Day 4	Joshua 1:9	Day 19	Matthew 6:34
Day 5	Psalms 23:4	Day 20	Psalms 55:22
Day 6	John 14:27	Day 21	Isaiah 54:4-5
Day 7	Psalms 27:1	Day 22	Psalms 27:3
Day 8	Isaiah 43:1	Day 23	Mark 5:36
Day 9	Deuteronomy 31:6	Day 24	Proverbs 29:25
Day 10	1 Corinthians 16:13	Day 25	Psalms 94:19
Day 11	Hebrews 13:6	Day 26	Isaiah 26:3
Day 12	Psalms 34:4	Day 27	Proverbs 3:5
Day 13	Psalms 118:6	Day 28	Psalms 91:7
Day 14	1 Peter 3:14	Day 29	Isaiah 35:4
Day 15	Isaiah 41:13	Day 30	Psalms 112:7