



# 4th Street Church

A congregation of the Church of the Brethren

## Annual Impact Report: A Compelling Vision

June, 2026

# Serving the *community*

*"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you..., for in its welfare you will find your welfare."*

- Jeremiah 29:7 (NRSVUE)

### Jesus in the Neighborhood: A Compelling Vision for the Church of the Brethren

*"Together, as the Church of the Brethren, we will passionately live and share the radical transformation and holistic peace of Jesus Christ through relationship-based neighborhood engagement.*

*To move us forward, we will develop a culture of calling and equipping disciples who are innovative, adaptable, and fearless." (2021)*



Our vision of "Jesus in the Neighborhood" is a dynamic vision, where the believers who form the Church of Jesus Christ in any given place are an active presence in their surrounding community.

The figures take various forms: praising and serving; expressing joy, need, and compassion. Each is different and unique, as each of us and each of those we encounter in our neighborhoods are different and unique.

The heart shape reminds us that when we become Jesus in our neighborhoods, it is Christ's love and presence that we emulate.

The heart is left open because our neighborhoods are in constant change as people move in and out and circumstances shift, but as the bearers of Christ's ongoing presence on this earth, we are called to, continually and intentionally, enter into relationship with whoever is there, embodying the presence of Christ to all with whom our lives intersect.

The open heart also serves as a reminder that we, the church, need to boldly step outside the comfortable buildings and groups that have defined us as the church, and move into the neighborhoods where Jesus' love and compassion calls us to live out the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

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## Annual Impact Report: PARTNERSHIPS

June, 2026

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### Partnerships

### Details

### Outcomes

80 - 100

Students from CAMS South (Middle School) gather here each week for Bible Release Time

In partnership with Joy El Ministries, we open our gym Thursday afternoons during the school year for this cooperative outreach.

This ministry serves a racially diverse group students with a weekly, dynamic Bible lesson. Several of these students now attend our Wednesday evening 4<sup>th</sup> Street YOUTH gathering.

18

Youth and young adults from Life and Hope Hispanic Ministries

Enjoy food, basketball, and volleyball in our gym one Friday evening each month.

This ethnic congregation meets two blocks from us. Our gym is being put to good use, and our partnership is growing.

46

Staff members from Andrew Buchanan Elementary School

Are receiving snacks and home-baked goods for their staff lounge each month, along with a note of appreciation.

Staff at ABES (4 blocks from us) are encouraged and relationships are being built to help provide additional support to under-served students and families.

17

Families from Andrew Buchanan Elementary School were provided with food for an Easter meal.

Partnering with Christian Life Church, we provided meal ingredients and a coupon for a rotisserie chicken to families referred by school staff.

This laid the foundation for future holiday meals to be provided also for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

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## Annual Impact Report: CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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### Children/Youth

### Details

### Outcomes

18

Neighborhood children enrolled in our Smart Cookies Preschool

This ministry has been an important part of our church’s outreach for 49 out of the last 56 years.

We partner with F & M Bank to provide \$500 scholarships for up to 10 students, addressing a critical need for many families.

30

Neighborhood students engaged in 4<sup>th</sup> St. Youth (grade 6-12), offered each Wednesday evening

This weekly program includes a meal, lesson, games, and other service or learning activities.

We are connecting with a racially diverse group of youth from our neighborhood, giving them a safe environment to learn and grow.

6

Neighborhood children engaged in 4th St. KIDS (grades 1-5), Wednesday evenings twice a month

This bi-weekly program includes a meal, lesson, games, and other service or learning activities.

We are connecting with a racially diverse group of children from our neighborhood, giving them a safe environment to learn and grow.

150+

Neighborhood children and adults who attend each of our free annual holiday party events

Food, games, crafts, and giveaways headline our Easter, Back-to-School, and (Halloween) “Glow Night” family-fun events.

We have built a reputation for free, safe, fun, and child-friendly events for our neighborhood families and children.

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## Annual Impact Report: **NEIGHBORHOOD ENGAGEMENT**

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### Neighborhood Engagement

### Details

### Outcomes

**200**

The average number of ready-to-go meals that are given away in our parking lot on the first Wednesday each month

As neighbors drive through to pick up 1-6 individually packaged meals, they are engaged by friendly volunteers who take their orders.

This ministry also provides opportunities to talk with our neighbors and to offer prayer for specific needs or concerns.

**500+**

Neighbors estimated that come to our annual indoor “Yard Sale”

This “pay what you can” event is considered the largest indoor yard sale each year in the borough of Chambersburg.

Neighbors donate items and enjoy shopping to benefit our Smart Cookies Preschool and to build community.

**10-30**

Women who participate in weekly exercise or table game groups, or monthly “Loving Hearts” for retired widows & single women

Participation in these groups is open to friends and neighbors beyond the members of our congregation.

Typically, half of participants in these three groups are from the broader neighborhood.

**2**

Preparedness training simulations hosted for potential emergency use of our gym, restrooms with showers, and commercial kitchen

We are a Red Cross emergency shelter and also the official shelter if A. Buchanan Elementary School ever has an event requiring evacuation.

We are building relationships with community leaders and growing a reputation for our eagerness to serve and give to our community.

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# 4th Street Church

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## Annual Impact Report: Vision for the Future

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### Vision for the Future

### Details

### Outcomes

**Make needed facility repairs and improvements**

Replace HVAC, resurface gym roof, add generator, and add outdoor digital sign

We will be able to continue existing community impact and add new impact outreach as detailed below.

**Make strategic Preschool upgrades and increase scholarship funding**

Refresh classrooms; add learning technology, games, and toys; increase funding for scholarships 400%

Preschool learning experience will improve and will be more accessible to more families.

**Collaborate with A. B. Elementary School PTA to provide needed activity programs for children**

Many families need care for elementary age children on 11 new Fridays w/o school planned for 2026-27.

Children receive safe and trusted care, and collaboration is strengthened with parents and teachers.

**Collaborate with A. B. E. S. staff to provide a closet stocked with free clothes and hygiene products**

The school nurse or other staff sometimes need to provide clean clothes or hygiene products to a child during a school day.

Staff can discreetly meet the needs of a child for an item of clothing or hygiene product from a well-stocked closet.

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