

The Pastor's Pen . . . July/August 2026

With our 2026 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference having been held this past week, I want to introduce to you Don Fitzkee, our Annual Conference Moderator for this past year and a personal friend, by sharing the article he wrote providing background for this year's Annual Conference theme.

~Pastor Mark (Your partner in the journey)



Theme Statement

When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost amidst tongues of fire and miracles of speaking and hearing, the people were amazed and perplexed. Peter explained to them that the words of the prophet Joel were being fulfilled:

¹⁷ *'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.*

¹⁸ *Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. (Acts 2:17-18 NRSVUE)*

Scholar Walter Brueggemann in his classic work *The Prophetic Imagination* argued that the role of a prophet is to imagine new possibilities. Perhaps one reason the church remains mired in the same old patterns is that we have lost our ability to envision anything better.

Paradoxically, Brueggemann suggested that a prophet's visions and dreams for a hopeful future often re-appropriate themes and symbols from the past that are rooted in God's call and faithfulness—a newness that is so old, he wrote, that it has been forgotten.

When I was a young man leaving for a year abroad, a mentor encouraged me to “remember who you are.” Could it be that the key to envisioning a way forward for the church is to remember where we've come from? Rather than something entirely new, what may be needed are renewed dreams and restored vision as we reclaim themes like radical discipleship, commitment to our New Testament creed, caring community, humble service, and nonviolent peacemaking.

The second verse of the hymn “What is this place” (HWB 1) suggests that “dreams, signs, and wonders sent from the past are what we need.” What's old can be new again. “What a commission it is,” wrote Brueggemann, “to express a future that none think imaginable!”

Imagine!

—Don Fitzkee, Moderator
2026 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference



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

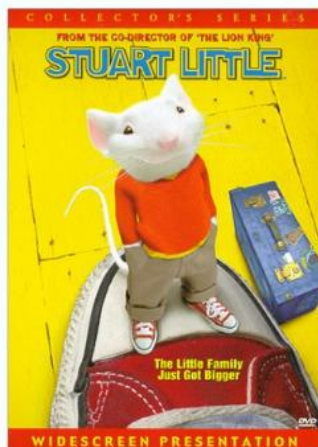


Soda/Water

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 Showing:





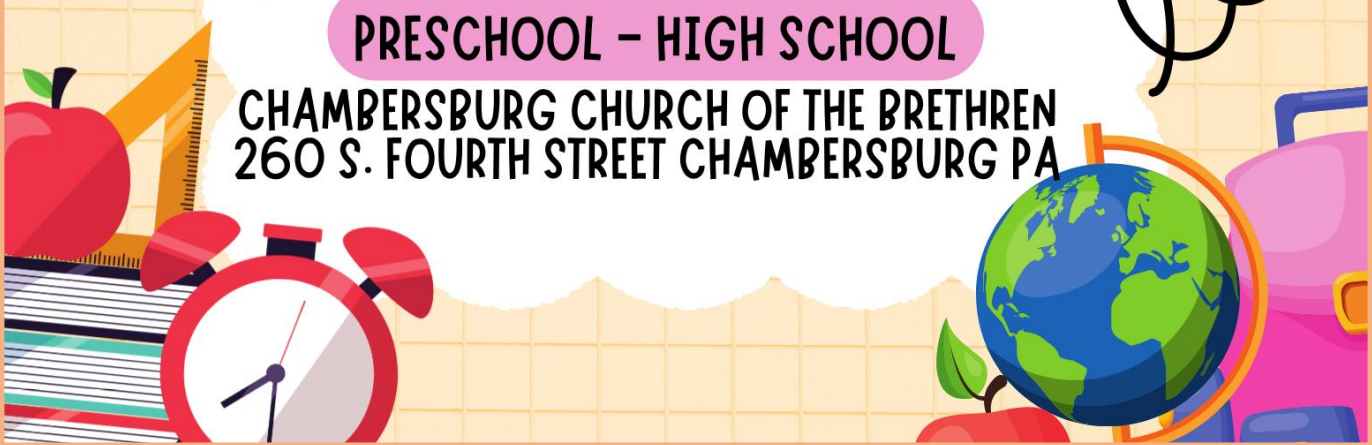
BACK TO SCHOOL BOOK BAG DRIVE

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





**On Sunday, June 7th we honored the following 2026 Graduates.
Please join us in Congratulating them for their achievements!**

High School

Colby Burns is the son of Kristie Eberly. He received his diploma from Chambersburg Area Senior High School. He completed his graduation requirements early in January and participated in the May commencement ceremony with his class. He plans to continue in the workforce while exploring long-term career opportunities. Colby would like to thank the Lord for guiding him, as well as everyone who supported him along the way. He is grateful for his perseverance and for the encouragement of his girlfriend and Mother.

College

Landon Glenn is the son of Brandi Glenn-Akers and Jonathan Akers. He graduated with honors from West Chester University with a degree in Anthropology and earned Magna Cum Laude recognition. This summer he will be studying abroad in Italy and is still deciding on future employment opportunities. Landon is the grandson of Rhonda and Gary DeShong, Dan & Ginny Akers and the great grandson of Betty Jane Hughes.



National Youth Conference will be held July 18th to July 23rd at the YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park Colorado.

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!

Those attending from 4th Street Church of the Brethren are Anastasia Deardorff, Zachary Deardorff, Flor Calderon and Vashti Walters. Jessica Madden and Brian Deardorff will be their chaperones.

Hold them all in prayer as they travel to and from Colorado and for a week of growing closer to God!



SMART COOKIES PRESCHOOL NEWS

Dear Church Family,

Smart Cookies Preschool is pleased to share that Ms. Tiffany Myers has joined our staff. As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a nurturing, faith-centered learning environment, we seek individuals who demonstrate both professional excellence and a genuine heart for serving young children. Ms. Myers reflects these values, and we are grateful to welcome her into this ministry.

Ms. Myers comes to us with a strong and well-established background in education, and she brings with her a deep commitment to supporting the developmental and spiritual growth of young children. Her professional experience, with her thoughtful approach to teaching, makes her a valuable addition to our team.

Beyond her qualifications, Tiffany embodies a spirit of warmth, kindness, and creativity. She has a natural ability to connect with children, offering them encouragement, stability, and a joyful learning environment. We are confident that she will continue to be a blessing to our students and families.

We are thankful for the gifts she will bring to this ministry and look forward to the positive impact she will have within our preschool community.

Please join us in welcoming Ms. Myers and in praying for her as she begins this new chapter of service.

All for Him

Amy Kobie

2026 Vacation Bible School Recap

What an incredible week of Vacation Bible School! We are so thankful for the many volunteers who helped make this year's VBS such a tremendous success. From the very first day, the energy was contagious, and it was a joy to watch children learn about God's love through Bible lessons, worship, games, crafts, and unforgettable adventures.

We welcomed 35 children throughout the week, with 30–32 children attending each day. It was a week filled with laughter, friendships, and spiritual growth.

A heartfelt thank you to our Crew Leaders: Mimi Kelly, Carol Wingert, Kim Frazer, Lila Parson, Brittney Martin, Lydia Bayer, Rhonda DeShong, and Joanne Walls; our Youth Helpers: Zach, Juliet, and Ana Deardorff; and our many station leaders, teachers, snack ladies, and helpers including Hope Parson, Marsha Smith, Mr. Sam Robertson, Mindy Bayer, Nancy Deardorff, Nicholas Wingert, McKenzie Wingert, Stacy Gary, Pastor Mark, Tangla Gibbons, Terry Gibbons, Carol Koons, Laura Shank, Bob Shank, Linda Hawbaker, Nancy Hoke, and Reba Baliles. Your love, dedication, and servant hearts made a lasting impact on every child.

Special thanks to Laura Shank, Stacy Gray, Linda Remson, Dan Akers, Dean Burkholder, Jeremy Martinez, Amy Kobe, Linda Hawbaker, Tangela Gibbons and Kendal Trader for designing, building, decorating, cleaning, and helping create the amazing rainforest props that transformed our church. Thank you to Bryan and Nancy Hoke, Nicholas Wingert, and Robin Faust-Hambright for providing and transporting the real bamboo that brought our main stage to life. We also appreciate Judy Witter for capturing wonderful memories through photographs and Garrett Bayer for faithfully running the sound each morning.

To everyone who prayed, donated, served, welcomed families, prepared supplies, and supported Vacation Bible School in any way—thank you! Because of your generosity and willingness to serve, dozens of children experienced the love of Christ in a fun, exciting, and meaningful way. We are grateful for each of you and are already looking forward to what God has planned for VBS next year!





Dear Friends,
It is my joy to express appreciation to everyone who was apart of my 100th birthday – cards, phone calls, visits, and parties. I have so much for which to be thankful. Come to see me anytime. To God be the Glory.
---Doris Demuth

Dear Church Members,
Wow! Did your members ever treat the staff at Andrew Buchanan Elementary School well! The snack baskets that were stocked (and restocked) in our faculty room for several weeks in May were overflowing with many people's favorites. What a lovely gesture for Teacher Appreciation Week and beyond. We were grateful for your kindness and generosity every single day. Thank you!
---Susan Berrier, Librarian

Church Family,
I thank Pastor Mark for his visits while I was in the hospital. Thanks for the cards and calls while I recuperate at home.
---Galen L. Yeager

Summer



After 93 amazing years of life and 74 years of marriage in the same home, we have made the heartfelt decision that relocating to Providence Place is the best option for us. Our new address will be 2085 Wayne Road, Apt. 134, Chambersburg, PA 17202 and telephone number 717-709-2890. We kindly request that you keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we embark on this new chapter in our lives. We would love for you to visit us anytime!

---Don and Louise Blattenberger



Our Sympathy to:

Kathaleen Stevenson and Family following the death of her son, John Charles Stevenson, Jr. on Tuesday, May 19, 2026.



Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for September Pastor's Pen is Sunday, August 16, 2026.

Please submit all information to the church office.



Thursday, July 16th-12:00 Noon
Church-Brethren Life Center

We will be having guest Michael Peluso who will be blowing glass.

Please contact Vivian Fisher if you plan to attend (717) 809-0521.



Books in the Library

July

My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult

Sisters in Science by Olivia Campbell

The Secret by Beverly Lewis

The Tule Marsh Murder by Nancy Barr Mavity

August

Nineteen Minutes by Jodi Picoult

The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store
 by James McBride

The Locked Room by Elly Griffiths

The Miracles Among Us by Dr. Marc Siegel



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

WHEN: Wednesday, August 5th
 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.



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**

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. We will also have Ms. Autumn Thomas with AARP with a valuable "Fraud Prevention Program"!

**NOV
 4TH**

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!

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

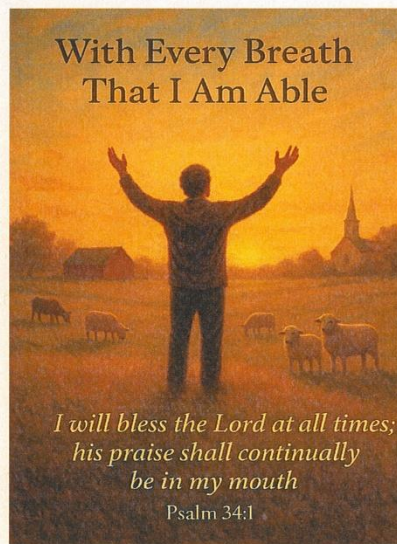
Mark Your Calendar!

SOPA District Conference

September 18-19, 2026

Chambersburg Church of the Brethren

260 S. Fourth Street, Chambersburg, PA 17201



Our theme for this year, drawn from *Psalm 34:1*, is:

"With Every Breath That I Am Able"

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

This powerful reminder calls us to live lives filled with gratitude and continual praise.

District Conference Moderator, Nicholas Wingert, warmly invites you to be a part of this joyful gathering of faith and community. We hope you can join us!

If you would like to pre-register to attend the Conference or reserve display space, please contact: sopadistrict@brethren.org or call 717-778-2264.

The event brochure along with District Conference details will be forthcoming.



Seventy-Third Annual Brethren Camp Meeting

Held at
Rhodes Grove Camp &
Conference Center

7693 Browns Mill Road, Chambersburg, PA 17202

*The Camp is located in a grove of trees and is a cool,
restful, and ideal place for refreshing soul and body.*



August 29 – September 6, 2026
Everyone Welcome

Theme: The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus

Theme Verse: *"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath
made me free from the law of sin and death" - Romans 8:2*

Bible Study: Worship in Spirit and Truth

