

hello September

The Pastor's Pen . . . September 2026

"Wisdom While We Wait..."

Life is filled with waiting. Simply starting a sentence with the words "I can't wait for..." is evidence of seasons of life where we have no choice but to wait for things that are outside of our control or that will arrive only with the passing of a certain amount of time. Waiting can be hard. Waiting can also be *productive*.

It should be no surprise to find that *waiting* is a frequent topic within the Scriptures. I have become especially intrigued with the Hebrew word קָוָה (pronounced kah-VAH), which is translated "wait" in dozens of Old Testament passages. Psalm 130:5 records a personal testimony: "*I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.*" In Psalm 27:14, the word appears as part of an exhortation. "*Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.*"

What intrigues me most is bound up within the background of this word. The primitive root has the meaning of *combining* (perhaps by twisting) in a way that *adds strength* and makes *preparation* for a specific *purpose*. We can imagine the strength of a rope that is created from the gathering and twisting together of many strands. Thus, *waiting* in Scripture is never passive resignation; it is *faith stretched toward, intertwining with, and trusting in the sure character of God*.

In our life together as a church family, we often experience seasons of waiting. Here are a few current examples: (1) So far, 2026 has been stronger financially for our church than 2025 was, but we are still waiting to see how things look at the *end* of the year. (2) We agreed to apply for some grant funding, but we are still waiting for the last few applications to be completed and for the time to come—perhaps three or more months from now—when we learn whether or not we will actually receive any grant awards. (3) We just completed some significant first steps toward "improving our welcome" by making some physical improvements to our gathering spaces, but we are waiting for additional time and resources to finish our plans. We are also waiting for more visitors whom we can *welcome well* into our midst and into our hearts. (4) Our Church Board is having conversations about next year's budget, about church ministries, and about strategies for possible growth; but our congregation is still waiting to hear and consider the proposals that ultimately result from those months of discernment.

Is there anything we can do while we wait? Absolutely!

While we wait, we can work at binding ourselves closer to God and to each other. We can lean into what it means to fully trust all that is *certain* about God and about God's plans for us, even as we wait for the uncertain aspects of our future to unfold. We can continue showing up *with* each other and *for* each other, giving what we are able, and serving our neighbors the best that we can. We can make plans for the future, relying on the vision and wisdom that God provides, all the while trusting that God is able to do above and beyond what we could ever think or even imagine.

So let's wait *together*—not just passing time, but rather waiting with deep faith that takes meaning from the past, with courageous hope that inspires action toward the future, and with unconditional love that guides our steps each day.

Your partner in this journey,
Pastor Mark

HEY 6TH-12TH GRADERS!
YOU'RE INVITED!

YOUTH GROUP

**BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS
 BETTER TOGETHER!**

**WEDNESDAY
 SEPTEMBER 2**

5:30 - 7:30 PM

Chambersburg Church
 of the Brethren
 260 S. 4th St.
 Chambersburg, PA 17201

We will be
 working with:
EPHESIANS 4:19-12
PROVERBS 17:17

WE'LL HAVE:

DINNER **ICEBREAKER GAMES** **FUN & FRIENDSHIP!**

DON'T MISS IT!

BRING A FRIEND!
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

YOUTH Group!

6TH-12TH GRADERS

BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS.
Growing in Faith.

DINNER **GAMES** **LESSON**

SEPTEMBER 9

5:30 - 7:30 PM

**CHAMBERSBURG CHURCH
 OF THE BRETHREN**

*Come
 BE YOU.
 BELONG.
 GROW.*

YOUTH Group

NO

YOUTH GROUP

Wednesday,

SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

See you the following week!



Children's Ministry Volunteers Needed

Our church is blessed with young families, and we have an incredible opportunity to invest in the next generation. While we currently have only a small number of children attending each Sunday—approximately two in our Nursery and two to six in our Pre-K classroom.

If we hope to continue welcoming new families into our church, it is essential that we provide a strong and consistent children's ministry. We are prayerfully asking members of our church family to consider serving in one of the following areas.

Nursery (Birth–3 Years)

2 volunteers needed each Sunday

- Provide loving, attentive care for our youngest children during Worship & Sunday School.
- Assist with diaper changes and help children with bathroom needs as necessary.
- Comfort, play with, and supervise children in a safe, nurturing environment.
- Serve from 9:00 a.m. until approximately 11:45 a.m.
- Please note that if there is a second worship service, it typically extends about 15 minutes beyond the Sunday School hour. We ask volunteers to plan their schedules accordingly.

Pre-K (Age 3 & Potty Trained – Kindergarten)

2 volunteers needed each Sunday

- Teach a short, age-appropriate Bible lesson.
- Supervise playtime, outdoor activities (weather permitting), and snack time.
- Assist children to and from the restroom as needed (no diaper changes required).
- Serve from 9:00 a.m. until approximately 11:45 a.m.
- Please note that if there is a second worship service, it typically extends about 15 minutes beyond the Sunday School hour. We ask volunteers to plan their schedules accordingly.

The Christian Education Committee will provide scheduling, lesson plans, snacks, and training. All you need to bring is a willing heart to serve!

If you feel God leading you to serve or would like more information, please contact **Linda Hawbaker, Megan Carbaugh, or Reba Baliles.**

Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can help strengthen our Children's Ministry. Together, we can create a welcoming place where children can learn about Jesus while their families worship and grow in faith.



Ladies of Strength Training Class

Ladies of Strength Training meet every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 10-11 a.m. from September 1, 2026 through November 19, 2026 and January 5, 2027 through May 20, 2027.

The exercises use leg and arm weights and includes stretching and balancing. You need weights, a towel, and a bottle of water. A donation is accepted to support church maintenance.

Stop in anytime to see if it might be something you would enjoy! Contact Karen Wagner for additional information: call, text or e-mail 717-504-3949 rkwagn@comcast.net.



Missions and Service Commission will hold Special Offerings on Sunday, September 13, 2026, and Sunday, September 20, 2026, to benefit the 49th Annual Brethren Disaster Relief Auction at the Lebanon Valley Expo Center. Please consider contributing!

Opportunity to Witness

The Southern PA District Witness & Outreach Commission has brought to our attention an upcoming event in September at the Pennsylvania State Capital. On Monday, September 21, thousands of Pennsylvanians will gather in Harrisburg for the 6th Annual Pennsylvania March for Life. It will happen on the steps of the Capital, with worship beginning at 10am, the rally begins at 11am, and the march around the Capital begins after the rally.

For more information about the event and/or to RSVP if you plan to attend, go to the [PA March for Life website](#).

If you have any questions or plan to attend, please reach out to Beth Nonemaker (chair of Witness & Outreach) - beautiful_one@zoho.com.



SMART COOKIES PRESCHOOL NEWS

Hi Church Family,

We are excited to share some wonderful updates happening at Smart Cookies Preschool. Over the past few weeks, several generous church members volunteered their time to help refresh our classrooms. Thanks to their hard work, our classrooms have been newly painted, and both the boys' and girls' bathrooms received a bright, clean makeover. Everything is looking fresh, welcoming, and ready for our little learners.

We are also thrilled to introduce Ms. Tiffany, who has joined the Smart Cookies team as our K-3 teacher. She brings creative ideas, a joyful spirit, and a heart for early childhood learning. Our students are going to flourish under her care.

We cannot wait for our preschoolers to see their updated classrooms and meet their new teacher. If you'd like to take a look at the refreshed spaces, we invite you to stop by and see the beautiful work that has been done.

Thank you, church family, for continuing to support this ministry. Your kindness helps us create a safe, fun, and faith-filled environment.

All for Him,
Ms. Kobie and
Ms. Tiffany



Hi Church Family,

Come and Sprinkle a little joy in a child's day.



Smart Cookies Preschool is inviting our church family to partner with us in this great a ministry. If you love God's little bundles of joy, we would be blessed to have you volunteer with our preschool program. Our children thrive when surrounded by caring hearts, patient hands, and joyful encouragement—and your presence can make a meaningful difference in their day.

Volunteers may help with simple classroom tasks, story time, crafts, centers. Whether you can give two hours a week or help during special events, your time is a gift that strengthens our ministry to our young families.

If you feel led to serve, please reach out to Ms. Carol Wingert, for more information. Thank you for helping us nurture little hearts with God's love.

🍪 Thank you so much for considering your time to be with us, your kindness helps every Smart Cookie rise.





*Dear Church Members,
Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and
concerns following the death of my
sister, Joyce Brown.
---Donna & Gary Meyers*



Our Sympathy to:

*Melinda and Vernon Bayer and Family
following the death of Mindy's brother,
Todd R. Brandt on Friday, August 14,
2026.*

*Wanda Ebersole and Family;
Alvin Nelson and Family following the
death of their brother, Herman O. Nelson
on Sunday, August 9, 2026.*

*Marsha Smith and Family following the
death of her Aunt, Emma G. Yeager, on
Sunday, August 2, 2026.*

*Donna and Gary Meyers and Family
following the death of Donna's sister,
Joyce Kay Brown on Tuesday,
July 14, 2026.*



Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for October Pastor's Pen is
Sunday, September 20, 2026

Please submit all information to the
church office.



PLAN TO ATTEND!

Sunday, September 13th
4:30 p.m.

Twin Bridge Campground,
1345 Twin Bridge Rd,
Chambersburg, PA

Chicken will be provided. Everyone
attending is to bring a covered dish to share,
their own place settings, and their own
drinks. Optional lawn chairs.

We plan to play BINGO (normal), corn hole
and other outdoor games!

There are bathrooms provided at the pavilion.

Sign-up in the
Brethren Life Center Lobby today!



September 17 – Speaker, Robert Bingaman
(Road Repairs)
Stoner's Family Restaurant

October 15 – Speaker, Pastor Harold Yeager
Stoner's Family Restaurant

November 19 – Bingo at Stoner's Family
Restaurant

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



Books to enjoy in the Library

September

The Book of Eels by Patrik Svensson

The Devil In Pew Number Seven
by Rebecca Nichols Alonzo

The Dentist by Tim Sullivan

The Last Mrs. Parrish by Liv Constantine

The Secret Life of Sunflowers by Marta Molnar



Women's Bible Study will be kicking off at
10:00 on Tuesday, September 15th, with a
special presentation on "Creating a Healthier
Life in a Toxic World" by Donna Meyers.

We will meet in the Searchers
classroom. Studies on Paul's letters will
continue every Tuesday after that. Join us!



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

WHEN: Wednesday, September 2nd
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.*

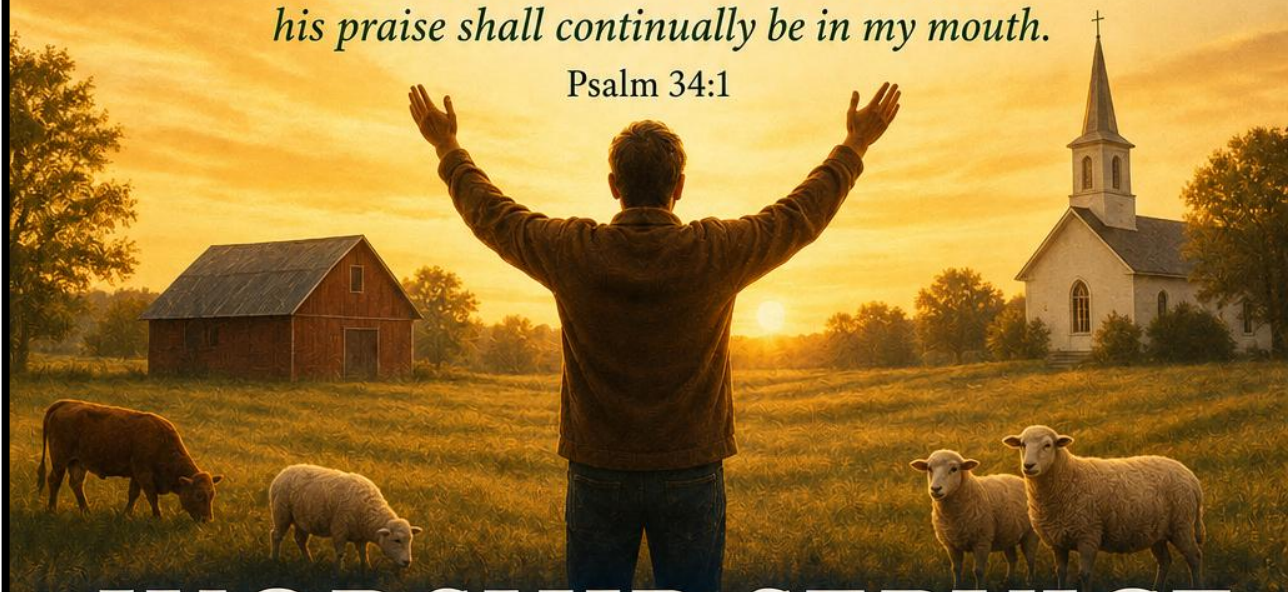
SOUTHERN PA DISTRICT CONFERENCE

With Every Breath That I Am Able



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

Psalm 34:1



WORSHIP SERVICE

Friday, September 18, 2026 | 7:00 PM



Keynote Speaker

Gretchen Sortzi

Chambersburg Church of the Brethren
260 South Fourth Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201



Church
of the
Brethren



EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



Come and join us for an inspiring evening of worship, music, and fellowship.



SEASONS OF WAITING



Day 1	Ecclesiastes 3:11	Day 16	Lamentations 3:25
Day 2	Psalms 27:14	Day 17	Isaiah 30:18
Day 3	Luke 1:45	Day 18	James 5:11
Day 4	1 Samuel 12:16	Day 19	Psalms 40:1-1
Day 5	Isaiah 40:31	Day 20	Psalms 62:5
Day 6	Psalms 37:7	Day 21	Habakkuk 2:3
Day 7	John 13:7	Day 22	Galatians 6:9
Day 8	Philippians 1:6	Day 23	2 Peter 3:9
Day 9	Exodus 14:14	Day 24	Psalms 33:20
Day 10	Hebrews 6:15	Day 25	Psalms 130:5
Day 11	Micah 7:7	Day 26	Psalms 31:14-15
Day 12	Romans 12:12	Day 27	Psalms 62:7-8
Day 13	Colossians 1:11	Day 28	Isaiah 58:11
Day 14	1 Corinthians 15:58	Day 29	Isaiah 33:2
Day 15	James 1:12	Day 30	James 5:7