



The Pastor's Pen . . . October 2026

"Thoughts on What's Important"

What are the most important things we should be doing as a church? That is a big question. It was asked of our church family at our monthly Board Sharing Session this past Sunday. What ministries or initiatives are most important for us to maintain and support, or to develop if they do not currently exist?

To help us answer that question, we took a few minutes to create a master list by writing down different ministries or initiatives as people called them out. Paper survey forms were then distributed, and each person was asked to write down the five ministries that they felt were most important for our church to be offering. *(Keep in mind that individuals were asked to choose five ministries or initiatives out of approximately 18 that were named out loud. People were also free to write in ministries that had **not** been named out loud.)*

Here are some initial observations.

1. We all have different ideas about what is most important. Only **two** ministry items were listed as "most important" ministries by *more than half* of the 59 respondents (30 or more votes). Those two ministries are **Smart Cookies Preschool** (33 votes) and **Andrew Buchanan Elementary School Outreach** (30 votes).

2. On the other hand, focusing on the **six** ministries which received the **most votes**, 51 out of 59 respondents (86%) voted for **two or more** of them, and 38 of 59 (64%) voted for **three or more**. Each of these six ministries was selected by at least 20 respondents (34%). In addition to Smart Cookies and Andrew Buchanan, these **top six** ministries include **Young Adults, Youth, Mid-Week, and Children's Education**.

3. An additional tier—ministries or initiatives selected by at least 15 respondents (25%)—includes **Collaboration, Music Program, Vacation Bible School, Bible Studies, and Yard Sale**.

4. Including write-in submissions, there were a total of 25 different answers receiving one or more votes. Looking at the data, *every single respondent* chose **at least 1** of the **top eleven ministries** or initiatives listed in the paragraphs above; and 57 out of 59 respondents chose **at least 3**. Even though our priority lists are not identical, we do share common ground. *For each person who voted, there are at least 14 other people who are also strongly passionate about one or more items on their list.*

So where does that leave us? We now have a better picture of what we collectively feel is most important for us to do. The next step is to determine which of these **most important things** we actually have the **resources** and **willingness** to support and sustain. So here is the next big question: **Where are you able and willing to be involved?**

Your partner in this journey,
Pastor Mark



As you are all aware we have been focusing on improving our welcome as a church, with this in mind we have created a Hospitality Committee. Current members are: Larry & Lana Bricker, Ann Deardorff, Robin Faust-Hambright, Tangel Gibbons, Donna Meyers and Linda Steck. If you would like to serve on this committee, please reach out to anyone of us.

Our first duty is to do a revamp of the Coffee Corner that has been offered every Sunday morning during 2nd service, so with that in mind:

The Hospitality Committee would like to invite you to join us at "The Crossroads" (BLC Lobby) beginning Sunday, October 11th from 10:30 - 10:45 for refreshments. Our hope is that everyone will come by and enjoy some refreshments and fellowship. This invitation is offered to the entire church family.

This will be available every Sunday morning going forward. If you would like to volunteer to help with setup, serving or cleanup, please see a member of the Hospitality Committee.

We hope to see you all on October 11th! Thank you.



**Worship – October 4, 2026
9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
NO Sunday School or Contemporary Service**

**Immediately following Worship
LOVE FEAST AND COMMUNION
in our Brethren Life Center**

Our Deacons invite all to come as we eat a simple meal together, serve one another through the washing of hands or feet, and celebrate his death and resurrection with the traditional bread and juice of holy communion.

**The Love Feast will be family friendly with children,
ages 5 and older welcome to participate.
*Childcare for younger children will be provided.**

4th Street Church of the Brethren

Youth Group

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

KITCHEN DUTY & CLEAN UP

Help keep our Youth Group running smoothly!

We're looking for dependable volunteers to help with kitchen duty and clean up after Youth Group.

CLEAN THE KITCHEN & DISHES

OTHER CLEANING DUTIES AS NEEDED
(BLC, etc.)

NO FOOD PREP
(We've got that covered!)

TIME:
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
(No later than 7:30)

WHEN:
WEDNESDAYS
During Youth Group

WHO:
Anyone who can help and make a difference!

Your help matters!

INTERESTED?
Please contact us or let us know on the sign-up sheet.

4th Street Church of the Brethren | 260 S. Fourth Street Chambersburg, PA | 717-264-6957

4th Street YOUTH GROUP Dinner Sign Up

Feed the Body • Encourage the Heart • Build His Kingdom

We are looking for volunteers to help provide a dinner for our 4th Street Youth Group! We will be preparing a dinner for approximately 30 people each week, and your support makes this ministry possible. Our youth are so important, and we want to continue to provide a welcoming, fun, and faith-filled environment for them — and we need your help!

Sign up today!

- A reminder email will be sent out a week prior to your scheduled date with the amount needed since attendance varies.
- You are more than welcome to supply any dinner you want.
- An alternative for our allergy sensitive students will always be provided.
- Please sign your name and dinner idea next to the date you wish to help with.
- If you are undecided at this time, please contact Jessica, the Youth Director, to inform her a week in advance.

If you need a dinner idea, please let us know and we will provide you with some ideas.

Thank you for your support!
Our Youth are blessed to have an amazing church family who are willing to go above and beyond.

Together we can make a difference!

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Starting September 2nd, 2026 through May 12th, 2027.

The first Wednesday of each month dinner is provided by MID-Week.

NO YOUTH GROUP ON:
Sept. 16th, Oct. 28th, Nov. 25th, Dec. 23rd, Dec. 30th, March 24th and April 21st.

Last day of youth group: May 12th
Dinner will be provided by the Youth Director.

Thank you for being a part of this ministry!

BAKE THROUGH THE BIBLE YOUTH GROUP

Good Food + God's Word = A Sweet Combination!

Join us for a fun night of baking, fellowship, and a short Bible lesson!

We'll learn simple baking skills, enjoy a delicious treat, and discover how God's Word gives us the recipe for a good life!

This week's lesson:
The Recipe for a Good Life
Proverbs 3:5-6

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 7TH

DINNER PROVIDED
5:30 PM TO 6:00 PM

YOUTH GROUP
5:30 PM TO 7:30 PM

4th Street Church
260 South Fourth Street
Chambersburg PA

BOOOOOO! NO YOUTH GROUP!

WEDNESDAY OCT 28TH

ENJOY THE HALLOWEEN GLOW NIGHT EVENT AT 5:30 PM!



SMART COOKIES PRESCHOOL NEWS

Dear Church Family,

Fall has arrived at Smart Cookies Preschool, and our young learners are thriving. They have quickly learned their routines and settled into a rhythm of learning, and laughter. The bond between student and teacher is growing, building of trust, comfort, and joy. It is a blessing to watch these relationships form.

We have also been deeply encouraged by the response from our parents. Many have shared how amazed they are by the new preschool space, describing it as relaxed, homey, and welcoming.

October Events & Happenings

October 7: we are traveling to Stoner's Dairy Farm - Our students will enjoy a hands-on fall adventure at Stoner's Farm. From pumpkins to hayrides, and having lunch on the farm.

October 14: our preschoolers will visit the grandmas and grandpas at Meno Haven. We look forward to sharing smiles, songs, and sweet moments with the grandma's and grandpa's.

October 23: A special day to capture fall memories and bright preschool smiles.

Cookie Dough Fundraiser Coming Soon! Get ready for one of our sweetest fundraisers... our Butcher Shoppe Cookie Dough. Families will love this event, and it's a simple, mess-free way to enjoy warm cookies at home. Every purchase supports classroom materials, special activities, and continued growth for our preschool.

More details will be coming soon, but for now... Sweetness is on the way.



Southern Pennsylvania District, Church of the Brethren 2026 District Conference report - September 18-19, 2026.

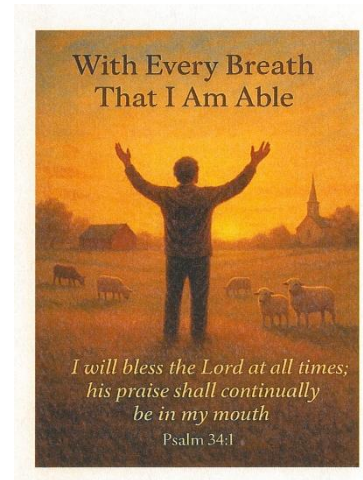
The Southern Pennsylvania District Conference was held at the Chambersburg Church of the Brethren. The theme was "With Every Breath that I Am Able". The scripture was from Psalm 34:1, I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. Nicholas Wingert, District Moderator, lead the two-day conference.

Friday Conference Session

- Seminar on Praise and Worship by Gretchen Sortzi; With Every Breath: Understanding our Congregation through Praise, Worship and Connection
- The two annual business meetings were held: Cross Keys Village, The Brethren Home Report and Children's Aid Society Board Meeting
- Eder Financial and Everence Financial updates
- Other reports given were:
 - Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center (SVMC) Report
 - Camp Eder Report
- The reports were affirmed and prayer was given for all District Agencies
- The evening Worship Service was delivered by Gretchen Sortzi; a re-licensing service and offering was collected to benefit African Great Lakes project. The evening ended with an ice cream social.

Saturday Conference Session

- The morning opened with a prayer meeting, praise and worship time.
- District Conference Elections took place
- The new District Executive, Traci Rabenstein provided her report
- Other Reports given:
 - District Board Report
 - District Auditor's Report
- The afternoon offered 4 breakout sessions:
 - Integrating Praise and Worship into Everyday Life
 - Social Media & Digital Ministry for Congregations
 - Aging Faithfully: Spiritual Practices for Seniors
 - District Finances
- The 2025/2026 financial report was approved
- The District Financial Ministries Allocation was approved. The approved DFMA for 2027 is \$104.14 per member.
- The 2026/2027 District Budget was approved
- Recognition of Georgia Markey and other outgoing District Board Members
- The 2027 District Moderator is Leon Yoder. The conference will be held at the Greencastle Church of the Brethren on Sept 17-18



Our church did an amazing job hosting the conference. The church looked great and the hospitality from all those who served in so many ways was felt by those in attendance. There were so many people who volunteered countless hours to brighten up our church and serve the two days of the event and for that we are grateful. Your helping hands and hard work did not go unnoticed! Nicholas, we thank you for serving as District Moderator!

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Carbaugh
Renee Preso
Linda Gorman
Robin Faust-Hambright



CROP WALK

When: Sunday, October 18th

Time: Registration at 1:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Walk at 2:00 p.m.

**Where: Falling Spring Presbyterian Church
221 N Main St, Chambersburg, PA 17201**

Walkers are invited to bring non-perishable food items that will be donated to Chambersburg Area Food Pantry.

All checks should be made out to "CWS/CROP". Online donations are strongly encouraged. Online donations can be made at: www.crophungerwalk.org. In the Search bar at the bottom of the page type: 2026 Chambersburg CROP Hunger Walk. Designate your gifts as an individual or as part of a team.

***CROP, the "Christian Rural Overseas Program" of Church World Service was established in 1947 in response to massive starvation in post-World War II Europe. The mission was simple: feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and heal the sick. Soon, Church World Service Friendship ships filled with grain donated by Mid-western farmers were crossing the Atlantic Ocean to those in need. The challenge today is just as great, so please help.

Join my educational session:

Medicare Made Simple



Join my upcoming informative Medicare educational session at Chambersburg Church of the Brethren. Whether you're approaching Medicare for the first time, helping a loved one, or simply want to better understand your current coverage, you're invited!

Learn how to better understand your Medicare options and make informed decisions about your coverage. If you have questions, I've got answers! **Everyone is welcome.**

Event Information:



TUES. SEPT. 29TH
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM



CHAMBERSBURG CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
260 S 4TH ST, CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17201

What You'll Learn:

- Medicare Parts A, B, C & D
- Medicare Advantage vs. Medicare Supplement
- Enrollment periods
- Important deadlines
- What Medicare covers and what it doesn't

For more information, please call:

Melinda Christman
Licensed Insurance Agent
(717) 377-7489 | TTY: 711
mc.ins65vetbens@gmail.com

Not affiliated with any government agency including Medicare. This is an educational event. No plans will be presented at this educational meeting and no sales will be conducted. RSVP is optional. For accommodations of persons with special needs at meetings call (717) 377-7489 (TTY: 711). A licensed insurance agent will be present to answer questions.



Dear Church Family,

Thank you all for the prayers,
condolences and cards following the
death of my brother, Todd R. Brandt.
---**Melinda and Vernon Bayer and
Family**



Congratulations to:

Dwight and Tiffany Shilling following
the birth of their son, Noah Russell
Shilling on Monday, September 14,
2026. He weighed 7 lb. 2 oz. and was
19 inches long.

His big brother is Ryan, and his
proud Grandmother is Sheri Martin.
He is also the great-great nephew of
Linda Remson.



**Halloween Glow Night
Wednesday, October 28, 2026
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

We will be hosting a fun-filled evening for
children.

The Evening will include:

Light meal
Games
Pumpkin Decorating
Halloween Costume Contest

We are asking the congregation for
candy. Please place in box marked
candy in the Brethren Life Center.



Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for November Pastor's Pen
is Sunday, October 18, 2026.

Please submit all information to the
church office.



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

November 19 – Bingo at Stoner's Family Restaurant

December 17 – Games at Stoner's Family Restaurant

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



Books to enjoy in the Library

October

Perfect Match by Jodi Picoult

The Marlow Murder Club
by Robert Thorogood

The Yada Yada Prayer Group
by Neta Jackson

God Storys by Victorya Wright



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

WHEN: Wednesday, October 7th
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 48TH ANNUAL FALL FEST



OCTOBER 17TH, 2026



10AM–4PM

Join us for a day of family fun, great food, and fundraising to support Camp Eder's programs!

914 Mount Hope Road, Fairfield,
PA 17320

FUN FOR EVERYONE!



SILENT AUCTION



FOOD



LOCAL CRAFT VENDORS



KID'S GAMES



PIT-ROASTED PORK OR TURKEY



EAT IN OR TAKE OUT AVAILABLE



SANDWICHES



SOUP



WONDERFUL BAKED GOODS



CAMP EDER APPLE BUTTER



YARD SALE



LIVE MUSIC



HOT APPLE CIDER



LIVE CRAFT AND SKILL DEMOS ALL DAY



VENDOR MARKET

FOOD & DRINKS

HIGHLIGHTS

- Barrel Train Ride
- Pumpkin & Decorating Patch
- Craft Vendors
- Live & Silent Auction

Silent Auction: 10:00-10:45 & 11:00-11:45

Live Auction: 12:00 NOON

- Fires & S'mores
- Food Trucks



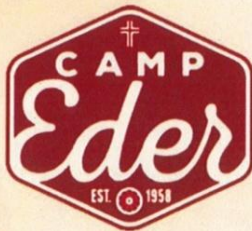
PIT ROASTED PORK & TURKEY MEAL

\$15 adults, \$8 kids (12 & under)

MEAL SERVED 11AM–3PM



COME FOR THE FUN. STAY FOR THE MEMORIES. SUPPORT CAMP EDER!



CAMP EDER'S FALL FESTIVAL

48TH ANNUAL



On **October 17th**, hundreds of people will gather at Camp Eder for the 47th Annual Fall Festival; a festival to celebrate friends, the wonderful ministries of Camp Eder, and the color change of God's beautiful creation.



Thousands of people visit Camp Eder each year for life-changing experiences with God. Fees cover only a portion of the true cost of our ministry. The volunteer time and financial support of friends like you help keep Camp Eder affordable and accessible so lives continue to be changed for eternity.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?



over 100 volunteers are needed for an hour or two or more



donations are needed for the live auction



be a vendor and yard sale spots are available



sponsor an item for the fundraising meal pork and turkey meal



continue to keep Camp Eder in prayer

ITEMS TO SPONSOR

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

7 pigs

30 gallons of cider

Individual bags of chips

Pies and bake sale items

Paper goods

Bags of candy for kid's games

Fall decorations, pumpkins

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Geigley Sponsor \$1000

Tree of Peace Sponsor \$750

Schwarzenau Lodge Sponsor \$500

Mack Cabin Sponsor \$250

Long Hut Sponsor \$100

Covered Wagon Sponsor \$50

YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT CAMP EDER'S FALL FESTIVAL!

Name / Organization

Contact Person

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

I would like to:

Volunteer (Please contact me with more information.)

Sponsor an item (see it above) item:

Donate an item for the live auction

Be a vendor / reserve yard sale spot

Preferred Sponsorship Level:

(If not selected, we will apply to the area of greatest need.)

Camp Eder is a 501(c) non-profit organization and can provide a receipt for any contribution made, including monetary gifts or donated auction items.

Please make checks to "Camp Eder" and mail to 914 Mount Hope Road, Fairfield, PA 17320
717-642-8256

MOMENTS OF WORSHIP



Day 1	Daniel 2:20	Day 17	Psalms 24:1
Day 2	John 4:24	Day 18	Psalms 35:8
Day 3	Psalms 22:27	Day 19	Psalms 40:3
Day 4	Psalms 29:2	Day 20	Psalms 42:5
Day 5	Psalms 66:4	Day 21	Romans 12:1
Day 6	Psalms 95:6	Day 22	Psalms 47:6
Day 7	Psalms 96:9	Day 23	Acts 16:25
Day 8	Psalms 99:5	Day 24	Romans 15:11
Day 9	Psalms 138:2	Day 25	Ephesians 1:6
Day 10	Jeremiah 7:2	Day 26	Hebrews 2:12
Day 11	Psalms 34:3	Day 27	Hebrews 13:15
Day 12	Psalms 69:30	Day 28	1 Peter 2:9
Day 13	Luke 1:46	Day 29	Psalms 68:4
Day 14	Psalms 22:22	Day 30	Psalms 69:34
Day 15	Psalms 27:6	Day 31	Psalms 71:8
Day 16	Psalms 33:2		