

Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren
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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
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The FEBRUARY 2025

CARILLON

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**Volume 25
Number 02**

A large, solid red heart is the central focus, surrounded by a circular ring of colorful stick figures. The figures are in various colors (blue, yellow, green, red) and are holding hands, forming a circle around the heart. The background is a solid red color.

By this
everyone will know
that you are my disciples, if
you have love for one another.

John 13:35, NRSV

FEBRUARY WORSHIP THEMES

February 2: "Loving Enemies Not Hating Them" (4 of 7)

- Eric Seibert

Worship Theme: In order to love our enemies as Jesus commanded, it is important to understand what is – and is not – involved in obeying one of Jesus' most difficult teachings.

Scripture: Exodus 23:4-5; Matthew 5:43-48

February 9: "Taking Up the Cross Not the Sword" (5 of 7)

- Eric Seibert

Worship theme: When we follow the nonviolent way of Jesus faithfully, we should be prepared for hardship and determined never to harm others.

Scripture: Matthew 7:12; Mark 8:34-36

February 16: "Including People Not Excluding Them" (6 of 7)

- Eric Seibert

Worship Theme: Jesus was radically inclusive, welcoming all sorts of people and breaking down barriers. Those who follow Jesus should do the same.

Scripture: Isaiah 56:1-8; Luke 5:27-32

February 23: "Caring for the Poor Not Ignoring Them" (7 of 7)

- Eric Seibert

Worship Theme: What Jesus said about money requires his followers to seriously reconsider their relationship to wealth and possessions.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 15:7-11; Luke 16:19-31

In my "Why I Love the Church" sermon series last fall, I mentioned that Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren has five core values. Core values are useful indicators of what we stand for and who we aspire to be as a church. I also said that if we were in an academic setting, I would give you a pop quiz to see how many of these you could name. But I never told you what they were! So, if you've been waiting and wondering all this time, here are MCOB's core values:

- Strengthening congregational community
- Witnessing through service and outreach
- Welcoming and valuing others
- Developing believers
- Living our faith

You will find these printed on the inside cover of the 2025 church directory so you can keep them close at hand for easy reference.

My current sermon series about what it means to follow Jesus is best aligned with the core value "Living our faith." We used the description of this core value as our affirmation of faith in a worship service in January. The description reads as follows:

When we live our faith, we use not only our voices, but our hands and feet to express the good news of what God has offered us through Jesus Christ. We tell his story, not just in words, but in actions that demonstrate his mercy, love and compassion. Living our faith involves embodying the priorities that Jesus taught, so that our lives and life together reflect Christ's redeeming love and grace, and testify to those realities to others.

I hope this current sermon series will enable each of you to follow Jesus more faithfully. Let us embrace this core value together by "embodying the priorities that Jesus taught" in word and deed.

Stay warm and be safe!

Pastor Eric

Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren is a community of people striving to live out our faith in Jesus Christ by welcoming and valuing others, developing believers, strengthening congregational community, and sharing God's love through service and outreach.

Join us in person on Sunday mornings!

Stop by the Welcome Center for a cup of coffee, tea, or cocoa before Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Our Worship Service begins in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.

You may also join us by Zoom or Live Stream. Search for Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren on YouTube.

For the latest worship and activity information, visit our website. www.mechanicsburgcob.org or follow us on Facebook.

Everyone is welcome!



*Continuing the Work of Jesus.
Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

MCOB NEWS & ACTIVITIES

In the event that weather conditions require a cancellation of services or activities at the church, an effort will be made to communicate that to members and friends through the email list, on the church's Facebook page, and through local media (television and radio). If you do not receive information from any of those sources and still have questions, you may contact Pastor Eric by email at pastor@mechanicsburgcob.org or call 717-585-5994.

Of course, even if services or activities are not cancelled, please do not attempt to come if you do not feel safe.

**Winter Weather
Cancellation
Policy**

THANK



We want to thank everyone for the emails, telephone calls, cards, and prayers in the midst of Bill's recent surgeries & hospitalizations. We certainly appreciate the visits and anointing by Pastor Eric, Warren, and Harvey. We are more than grateful to our church family.

– Bill and Linda Saylor

Thank you to all who donated food items to New Hope

Ministries for the Christmas Food Baskets. On December 3, 2024, we donated 120 pounds of food. On January 7, 2025, 76 pounds of pantry items were donated. A special "thank you" to Brenda Rhoads for being our New Hope Representative, and Ron & Diane Altland for delivering our collected pantry items each month.

Agape Luncheon – Sunday, February 16th after worship



After a hiatus since COVID, the Nurture Team is bringing back what was formerly the youth fundraiser "Sweetheart Luncheon", as the rebranded "Agape Luncheon".

The menu of a hearty spaghetti meal has not changed, but a few extra surprises will be thrown in. Donations will be accepted to help defray the cost of the meal with anything extra going to a yet to be determined charity. So please share the AGAPE (Christian love) after worship with your church family on February 16th.



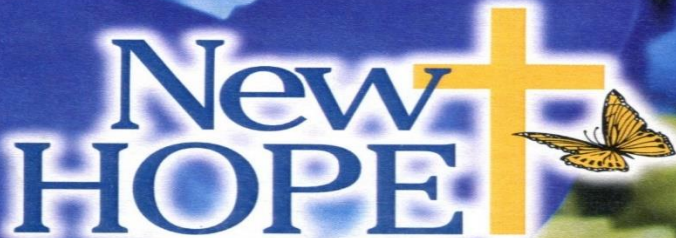
Meat Canning Project 2025 4 Days (April 21, 22, 23, & 24_

Processed at Christian Aid Ministries
2412 Division Highway, Ephrata, PA

Sponsored by:
Southern PA District &
Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren

VOLUNTEER NEEDS:

- ** Help with canning & labeling (two shifts each day – 7:15 a.m. to Noon & 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.)
- ** Sign-up early to secure your preferred day & time
- ** Volunteers are also needed to provide an early morning snack and a lunch for volunteer workers
- ** Contact your District's Contact Person to volunteer (570-295-9879 or Email: kimgeisewite@gmail.com)



New HOPE Ministries

Sharing Christ's love by meeting human needs


How We Help:

- ✓ Crisis Assistance
- ✓ Food Pantry
- ✓ Employment Programs
- ✓ Youth Programs

How You Can Help:

- ✓ Donate Food
- ✓ Give Money
- ✓ Volunteer

Every Life Transformed!



MISSION CENTRAL
EST. 2002

Lunch & Learn Fellowship

Wednesday, February 19th at 11:30 a.m.

Our Guest Speaker is Hope Harrison, the Executive Director of Mission Central, who will provide information about the programs and goals of Mission Central.

'Mission Central first opened in 2002 with the mission of "Connecting God's Resources with Human Need." This is accomplished by following three areas of focus...Mission Outreach, Mission Education and Disaster Response. By partnering with over 140+ organizations, we provide resources to groups who are doing humanitarian work locally, across the country and around the world. Additionally, we stand ready to respond to all weather-related disasters or emergencies that occur.'



Winter Wednesday Night Bible School for Children!

This year's theme is PANDAMANIA.

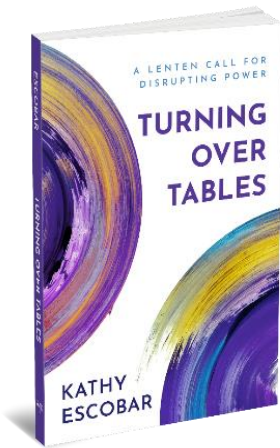
Plan to join us for lots of fun every Wednesday night in February, 2025, and the first Wednesday in March.

Come at 5:30 p.m. for dinner and stay for laughter and learning until 7:45 p.m.

Registration forms can be found in both the front and rear gathering areas and, after completion, can be placed in Cheryl Noll's mailbox.

JOIN US FOR A LENTEN STUDY SERIES BASED ON

Turning Over Tables, by Kathy Escobar



We will meet Sunday afternoons (March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13) from 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm in the Living Letters room. The book is divided into short readings for each day of the week and participants are encouraged to take a copy of the book home with them to complete these daily readings.

Pastor Eric will lead the discussion on March 9 and others will facilitate the Lenten study the remaining weeks. All are welcome and Zoom will be available for those who cannot attend in person. Hope to see you there!

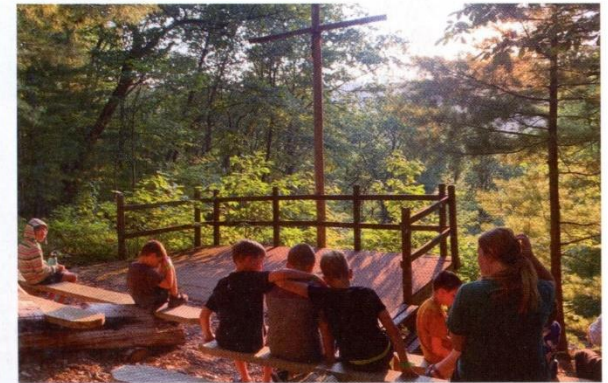
With keen insight and unwavering conviction, visionary pastor Kathy Escobar guides readers on a Lenten journey inspired by the ways of Jesus to dismantle the systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice. From flipping the moneychangers' tables in the temple to uplifting the poor and marginalized, Jesus' actions and words turn the world's idea of power on its head. With each week of Lent, readers will dig deeper into Jesus' challenge to the pervasive influence of privilege and oppression that have dominated since ancient times.

This year our church will use the season of Lent to facilitate conversation navigating how, together, we can turn the tables and build a world where justice, healing, and equity reigns supreme.

Books are available by contacting the church office.

2025

CALENDAR



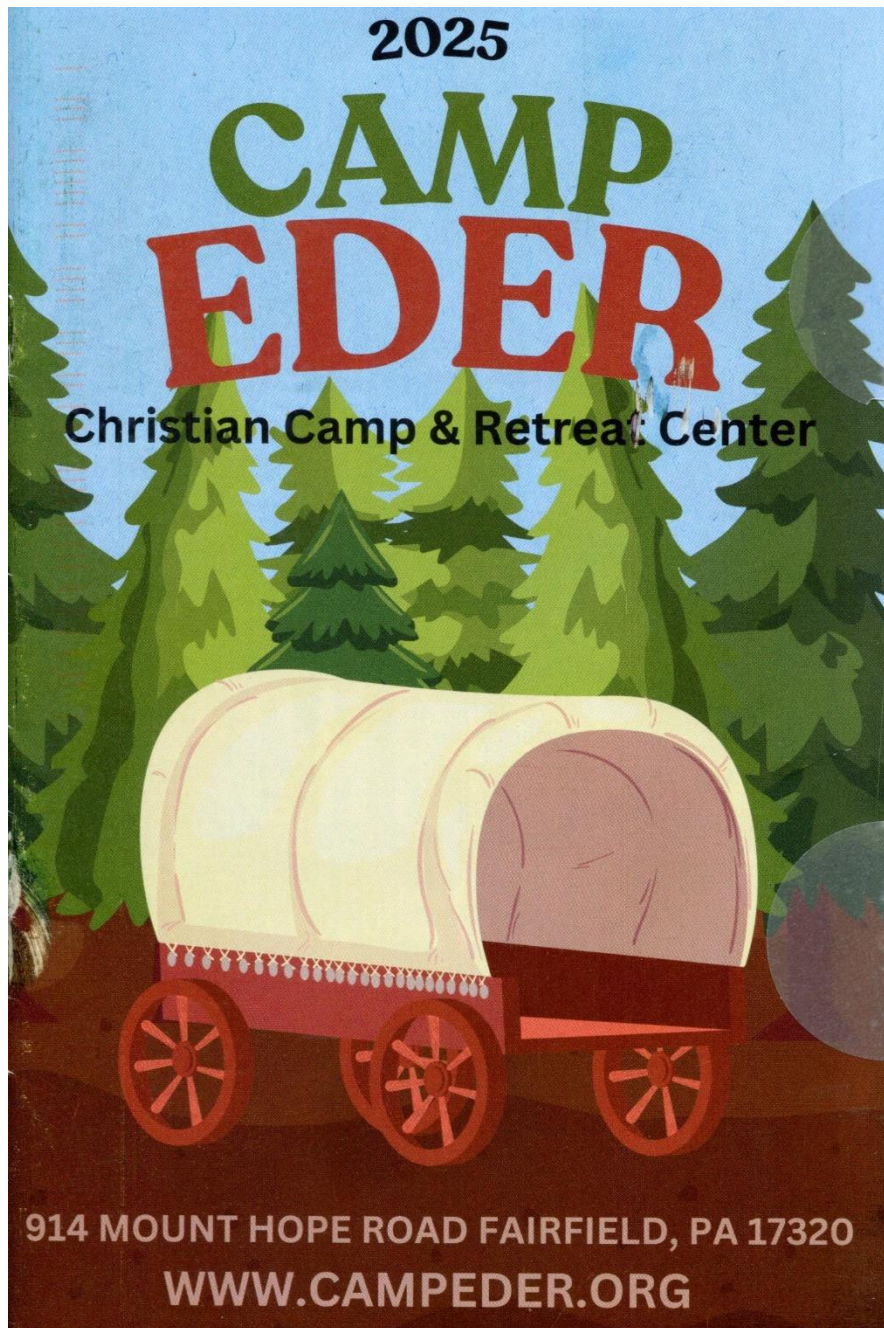
Calendar of Events

January 24th-26th.....	Winter Camp
April 9th.....	Senior Day
May 3rd.....	Men's Outdoorsman Day
May 10th.....	Camp Clean-Up Day
May 21st.....	Golf Outing
June 2nd-3rd.....	SOPA Women's Camp

Summer Camp

June 9th-13th.....	Staff Training
June 12th-13th.....	CIT Training
June 13th	Staff Commissioning Service
June 15th-20th.....	Week #1
June 22nd-27th.....	Week #2
July 6th-11th.....	Week #3
July 13th-18th.....	Week #4
July 20th-25th.....	Week #5

September 3rd.....	Senior Day
September 27th.....	Camp Clean Up
October 18th.....	Fall Festival
October 24th-26th.....	Young Adults Backpacking Tr
November 5th.....	Senior Day
December 12th & 13th.....	Christmas Tree Festival



It's College Student Care Package Time!

We are collecting individually wrapped snacks, treats and other helpful goodies to send to all the college students connected to our congregation. Right now, we know of about a dozen or so who are either on campus or are commuters.

Please bring your **donations by Sunday, March 2, 2025** and place them in the designated bin by the coat rack across from the Pastor's Office. We will then pack the boxes and get them in the mail to our students that week.

PARENTS: Please check the list on the bulletin board to be sure we have the correct address for your student. If it's correct, just mark, "OK". If it's not, please write the correct one. Did we miss anyone???

Thank you, on behalf of our students, for your generous support of this project each spring and fall!

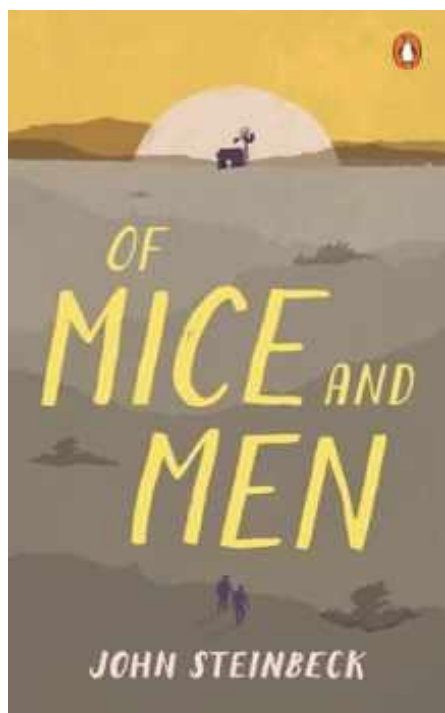
Please note: Thanks to all of you, we have sufficient funds to cover mailing costs and additional items if needed.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Teachers Needed



We are looking for people with...a smile, a heart for working with children, AND a heart for sharing the Word of God!

We are in need of a volunteer or more that would be interested in co-teaching the Elementary Children's Sunday School Class. If you are interested, please contact any member of the Christian Education Team. We will help you with clearances – all teaching materials provided!



The Church Book Club

will meet on

Monday, February 24, 2025,

at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

This month's selection is

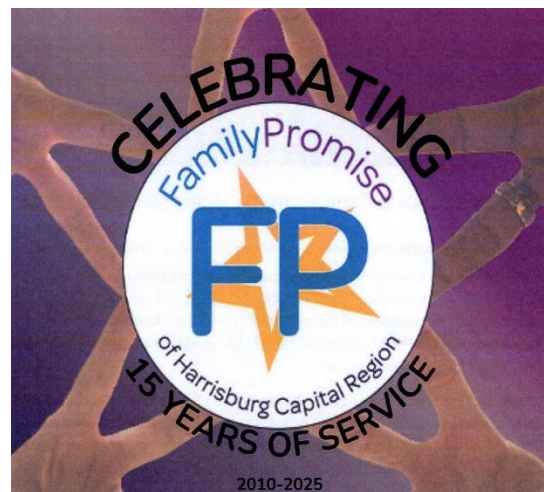
Of Mice and Men

by John Steinbeck.

Our Discussion Leader is

Peggy Brechbiel.

DISTRICT & COMMUNITY



**15 Years of
Helping
Families from
Homelessness
to Home**

Knowing where you and your child(ren) will eat each day can be a huge stressor for a family experiencing homelessness.

At Family Promise HCR, we relieve families of that daily stress by providing home-cooked meals each night from caring volunteers. Yum! Thank you to all who have helped provide over 16,000 meals!

In the past 15 years...

**16,425 meals
shared together**



**Spring Fling
Rummage Sale
Friday & Saturday
April 4th & 5th, 2025**



February

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1 F.H. Reserved (8 a.m./4 p.m.)
2 Food for New Hope Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.	3 Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 p.m. (SJS Basketball)	4 F. H. Reserved 5/7 p.m. (John) F. H. Reserved 7/8 p.m. (Special Olympics)	5 Bible Study 9 a.m. (Zoom) PANDAMANIA 5:30/7:45 P.M. Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 p.m. (SJS Basketball)	6 Grief Support Group 1 p.m. (Library) F. H. Reserved 5/9 p.m. (SJS Basketball) MCOB Anniversary Comm. 7 p.m. (Library)	7	8
9 Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.	10 Knitting Group 1 p.m. Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 p.m. (SJS Basketball)	11 Men's Breakfast 9 a.m. (Brother's) Kitchen Reserved 11 a.m./3 p.m. (Deacons) F. H. Reserved 5/7 p.m. (John) F. H. Reserved 7/8 p.m. (Special Olympics)	12 Bible Study 9 a.m. (Zoom) PANDAMANIA 5:30/7:45 P.M. Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 p.m. (SJS Basketball)	13 Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 p.m. (SJS Basketball)	14 	15
16 Donations for Family Promise Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Agape Luncheon (after worship)	17 Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 p.m. (SJS Basketball)	18 Caregivers Support Group 1 p.m. (Library) Executive Mtg. 7 p.m. F. H. Reserved 5/7 p.m. (John) F. H. Reserved 7/8 p.m. (Special Olympics)	19 Bible Study 9 a.m. (Zoom) Lunch & Learn Fellowship 11:30 a.m. PANDAMANIA 5:30/7:45 P.M. Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 p.m. (SJS Basketball)	20 March Newsletter Deadline Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 p.m. (SJS Basketball)	21	22
23 Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.	24 Knitting Group 1 p.m. Church Book Club 7 p.m. (Zoom) Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 p.m. (SJS Basketball)	25 F. H. Reserved 5/7 p.m. (John) F. H. Reserved 7/8 p.m. (Special Olympics)	26 Bible Study 9 a.m. (Zoom) PANDAMANIA 5:30/7:45 P.M. Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 p.m. (SJS Basketball)	27 Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 p.m. (SJS Basketball)	28	

2025