

Church of the Brethren
301 Gale Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
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The MARCH 2023 **CARILLON**

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Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren
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**Volume 23
Number 03**



L E N T

MARCH WORSHIP THEMES

March 5: "What Did They Know and When Did They Know It?"

Second Sunday of Lent

- Pastor Jim Benedict

Worship Theme: Not all "good deeds" are equal. Some might not even be good. Motives matter.

Scripture Texts: Matthew 25:31-46

March 12: "Cultivating Confidence"

- Pastor Jim Benedict

Third Sunday of Lent

Worship Theme: Times were tough for the Christians in Rome. Paul wrote to encourage them by reminding them that God's love for them gave them reason to be confident about the future, despite their present trials. When we grow discouraged by looking at the world around us, we just need to look up.

Scripture Texts: Romans 5:1-11

March 19: "What God Has to Give"

- Pastor Jim Benedict

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Worship Theme: Although we often turn to this psalm on somber occasions, it is really a celebration of what God has to give – guidance, presence, protection and provision.

Scripture Texts: Psalm 23

March 26: (To be announced)

- Traci Rabenstein

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Winter cold is only one of the things that test the resiliency of trees and other plants. Summer heat, drought, disease, pests and severe weather can also put trees to the test. So can human activity.

Growing up, I remember the county coming around every few years to clear the road ditches. That meant cutting back everything, including small trees, which grew there. For some of the trees, that was the end; eventually what was left would rot away and no sign would be left that there ever was a tree there. But for other trees, it was a setback but not a defeat. After a while, often the next spring, shoots would appear, stretching upwards. In time, leaves would appear and after a while it would look like a brand-new tree. Only if you looked down at the base of it, near the ground, would you be able to tell that it had once been reduced to a stump.

In the book of the prophet Isaiah, God gives encouragement to the people who were worried about the future because of the success of their enemies. First the descendants of Jacob from the north (Israel) were conquered by the Assyrians, and then the descendants of Jacob in the south (Judah) were conquered by the Babylonians and many carried off in exile. They had been "cut down," and a stump was a perfect metaphor for what was left of God's people in the Promised Land.

In the 11th chapter of Isaiah, the prophet speaks of a shoot coming forth from the stump of Jesse. What looked like the end was not the end. The people who were left should not give up, but instead keep watch for signs of life.

Lots of churches just like ours were already stressed before the pandemic hit 3 years ago. One of the questions I heard often as the pandemic set in was whether the church could survive, especially if we weren't able to meet in person for so many months. When people *could* come back, *would* they? And what about children and youth? Weren't they missing out on a critical stage of spiritual development?

There is no doubt that the last few years have been hard on congregations. Nearly every congregation has had to cut back its program, and many have had to cut staff. Attendance is down compared to before the pandemic, even when you count those still choosing to attend online.

Now we can respond to all that by tallying up our losses and lamenting them – or we can do what the prophet called upon his people to do: look for signs of new life. I've been seeing a lot of signs of new life lately. Have you?

Peace,
Pastor Jim



Daylight Savings Time Begins on

Sunday, March 12th!

**Remember to turn your clocks ahead
1 hour!**



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.***

Sunday School Topics:

Living Letters class – Every Creature Singing

Willing Learners class – Luke

Elementary class – Shine Curriculum

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

**You may also join us by Zoom or Live Stream
on the *Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren*
You Tube Channel.**

**Worship videos are posted to our You Tube Channel
and our Website on Sunday afternoons.**

Go to www.mechanicsburgcob.org and click on "messages".

Follow us on Facebook



Signs of Life

*"A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots."*

Isaiah 11:1

There is a tree in my backyard that I will be watching closely this month. I hope to see the first signs of life, buds at the end of the tiniest branches swelling, getting ready to unfurl new leaves. I'm concerned because the tree wasn't doing so well last fall, and two other trees we have planted in the same spot lived only a few years. I suspect the soil is shallow there, and my wife and I have already decided that if this tree doesn't make it, we are going to give up on that spot.



April 2: "The Celebrity Christ"

- Pastor Jim Benedict

Palm Sunday

Worship Theme: With crowds lining the road with palm branches and shouting hosanna, Jesus was at the peak of his fame during his earthly life. Soon enough, the crowds had turned on him when they discovered he wasn't the person they thought he was. He may not have been what they wanted, but he was – and is – what we all need.

Scripture Texts: Matthew 21:1-11

April 2: Love Feast & Communion

7:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday

Please join us for an evening of scripture and song. We will share an Agape meal, participate in feet or hand washing, and receive the bread and cup communion as a faith community.

April 7: Good Friday Service

7:00 p.m.

April 9: "Rolling Stone"

- Pastor Jim Benedict

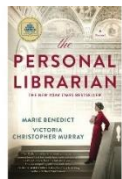
Easter Sunday

Worship Theme: The woman on the way to the tomb worried about the stone that covered the entrance. It turned out that they shouldn't have worried – the stone was already rolled away. It is a story to remind us that God is at work, making a way for us even when there seems to be no way.

Scripture Texts: Mark 16:1-8

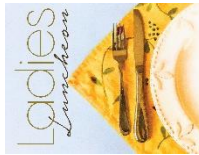
MCOB NEWS & ACTIVITIES

Adult Bible Study is held each Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. by Zoom.
Contact Pastor Jim if you would like to join.



The **Church Book Club** will meet on Monday, March 27th at 7:00 p.m. by Zoom.
This month's selection is *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict
Discussion leader is Oceana Goodwin.

The **Ladies Luncheon** is held on the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at the Lower Allen Diner.
Please plan to join us – everyone is welcome!



Family Promise week at MCOB begins on Sunday, March 5th. Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and prayerfully consider filling an opening.

Lunch, Learn and Fellowship (aka Coffee Fellowship) will be combined with the Lenten Lunch on March 15th.
Pastor Jim is providing the program.
A sign-up sheet will be posted by the office window.
Please sign-up by Friday, March 10th.



Meat Canning Project



4 Days
April 10, 11,
12 & 13

Processed at:
Christian Aid Ministries
Ephrata, PA

Sponsored by:
Southern PA &
Mid-Atlantic Districts COB

VOLUNTEER TODAY!

- Help with canning and labeling, there are 2 shifts each day, 7:15 a.m. to noon and 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Sign-up early to secure your preferred day and time.
- Volunteers are also needed to provide meals or finances to help cover the cost of meals.
- See Meat Canning brochure for more details.
- Contact your District Office to **VOLUNTEER!**



Children's Disaster Services
Volunteer Workshop

APRIL 14-15, 2023

Are you looking for a meaningful way to help children and families after disasters?

Do you have a warm heart, patience, team spirit, a sense of adventure and time to give?

Friday 4:30pm-Saturday 5:00pm

Ebenezer UMC
525 Polly Drummond Rd.
Newark, DE 19711

\$55 registration fee covers materials and trainer costs. Meals and overnight stay provided by the host organization.

Go to www.childrensdisasterservices.org for registration information



David was homeless and unemployed. Through the work of New Hope Ministries and the United Way of the Capital Region's Road to Success program, we helped David get a job at Giant Foods as a Grocery Associate. The Road to Success program helped with transportation assistance to and from his job. Then, an apartment became available in a location convenient to his work. New Hope met with the realtor, and helped secure the security deposit and the Road to Success program helped with the first month's rent. Together, we visited CommunityAid (another New Hope partner) where he found dishes and a coffee table for his new apartment. New Hope was able to provide

David with a bed, kitchen table and chairs, and some additional household items. On moving day, several New Hope staff members helped David move into his new apartment – just in time for Christmas. He continues to work steadily and is enjoying living independently in his new place! **Because of those who support New Hope Ministries'** programs that transform lives, we can help people just like David.

"But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded." 2 Chronicles 15:7

Need Help?

If you or someone you know needs help with food or dealing with a financial crisis, please contact us. (717) 432-2087

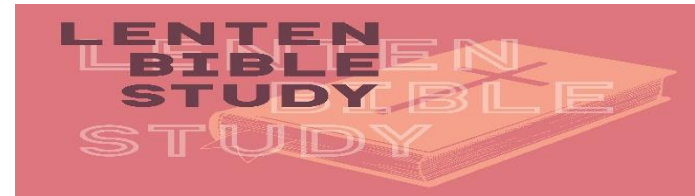
Wish List:

- Canned meats and peanut butter
- Canned veggies/fruit
- Personal care items
- See website for specific needs by Center

Volunteer with us!

There are volunteer opportunities available. Please give us a call, or visit our website to see how you can be a part of our ministry!

www.nhm-pa.org



Lenten Bible Study continues each Sunday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. in the Living Letters classroom.

We will use the book, *Lent for Everyone* by N. T. Wright.

Sessions will continue through April 2, 2023, with an earlier time on Palm Sunday.

You may join in person or by Zoom.

Please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex to reserve your seat.

Books are available in the church office.



Let's do lunch!

Lenten Luncheons sponsored by the Mechanicsburg Area Council of Churches

Meet at Trindle Spring Lutheran Church,
14 State Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050 (717-395-7643)

at **12 Noon** on the following Wednesdays,
with lunch & devotions provided by area pastors and congregations.

Please contact the churches listed below by the **Friday before**
to reserve your seat at the table.

March 1st (Trindle Spring Lutheran Church) 717-766-7091

March 8th (Shepherdstown United Methodist Church) 717-766-3076

March 15th (Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren) 717-766-8880

March 22nd (St. Luke's Episcopal Church) 717-766-5182

March 29th (Shiremanstown United Methodist Church) 717-737-6621



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 12, 2023** 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. **Here's something a bit different from other times....** If you prefer that we do your shopping, or if you would rather help with mailing costs, please place your monetary donation in an envelope that is clearly marked "College Care Box." (Please put the same notation, "College Care Box," in the memo section of your check if that's how you are contributing.) If you would like credit on your giving statement, include your envelope number also. All envelopes may be placed in the offering or in the offering box. All monies will be passed through the budget and distributed out of it for our expenses as there is now a Budget Line Item for this project. *Thank you, on behalf of our students, for your generous support of this project each spring and fall!*



PARENTS: Please check the list on the bulletin board near the office 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????



The **Stamp Project at Cross Keys Village** – The Brethren Home Community – began in 1981. Volunteers process over a million donated stamps each year! The stamps are then sold as "lots" to philatelic resellers. Proceeds net several thousand dollars profit each year and are used for items that benefit the entire community. Please consider partnering with CKV by saving your used stamps. A container is located by the office window to drop your stamp into.

BVS @ 75



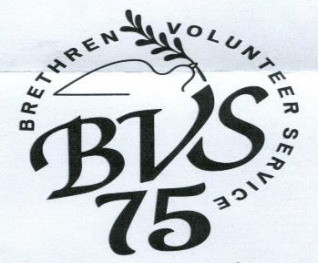
In honor of Brethren Volunteer Service's 75 Anniversary, the Carlisle First Church of the Brethren announces a special program on BVS at the church on Sunday, March 26th from 2-4pm.

Burr Beard served in BVS in 1972-1973 as a conscientious objector and is the host for this event.

With special guests, former and currently serving volunteers in attendance, Beard will conduct interviews to illuminate the history of the past 75 years of BVS and it's current status in terms of opportunities for high school and college graduates, and volunteers of at least age 18.

The event is free and open to the public and is sponsored by the Carlisle First Church of the Brethren. Doug Miller is the Pastor of the Carlisle First Church of the Brethren. Please contact Burr Beard at 717-462-0393, or Pastor Doug at 717-870-1263.

BVS at 75 - Carlisle First Church of the Brethren announces a special program on Sunday, March 26th from 2-4pm. Free to the public...



A CALL TO
CORPORATE
PRAYER

Evening of Prayer

A District Wide Prayer Event

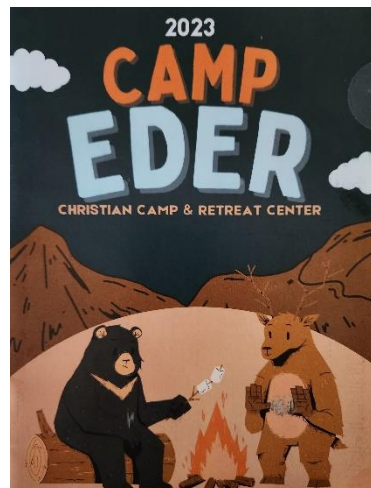
Sunday, March 26, 2023

Carlisle First Church
of the Brethren

1340 Forge Rd, Carlisle, PA 17013

6pm

DISTRICT & COMMUNITY NEWS



Upcoming Events at Camp Eder Senior Days Wednesday, March 8th And Wednesday, April 5th

A variety of activities are available from orchard tours, crafts, speakers, and more! The day starts at 9:30 a.m. with a light breakfast and wraps up around 1:30 p.m. with a delicious lunch included. It is a great day of fellowship and fun! Cost is \$20.

To register call 717-642-8256

Camp Clean Up Day is Saturday, March 25th

Come and help us get ready for our busy season at Camp Eder. Just before Summer Camp we need your help to get camp in tip top shape. This will include splitting wood, cleaning up leaves, and other jobs that will make our grounds look great! There will be lunch provided.

It's not too early to think about **Summer Camp!**

Whether you like cooking, art, science, or anything in between, there is something for everyone at Camp Eder!

Register online at www.campeder.org



The Church of the Brethren Annual Conference July 4-8, 2023 Cincinnati, Ohio

Registration opens on March 1st.

2023 Theme: Living God's Love
Ephesians 5:1-2



ATTENTION Children and Youth of all ages!

The Christian Ed committee is bringing back the Bible-A-Thon Event!

This is a chance to crack open your Bible and use it to test your knowledge! There will be study packs available for kids and youth of all ages starting Wednesday, February 1st.

Kids ages Pre-K through first grade will be looking at the story of Joseph in Genesis.

Children grades 2nd-4th will study the book of Daniel.

Junior High Youth (5th-7th) will focus on the book of James.

Senior High Youth (8th-12th) will dive into the book of Hebrews.

Using their Bibles, kids will answer a series of questions and prepare to be quizzed! **Quizzing will take place on Sunday, March 19th from 12-2 p.m.**

All participants will be rewarded with a pizza party immediately after quizzing and have the opportunity to enter their names for several fun raffle prizes!

Christian Ed is also looking for adult volunteers to act as quizzers for the Bible-A-Thon. This is a great opportunity to interact with the children and youth here at MCOB in a relaxed, fun setting! All supplies are provided to quizzers and they may also take part in the pizza party.

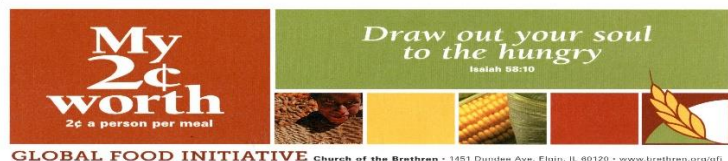
There will be a sign-up sheet in the gathering area outside of the Sanctuary starting February 5th!

Please contact Kristy Richmond, Linda Saylor, or Morgan Scott Espenshade with any question.



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

There are a variety of positions available. If you are interested, please submit your "application" (aka a verbal..."I'd love to help!") to: Shelly Hale, Cheryl Noll, Kristy Pipher Richmond, or Linda Crook Saylor. We can help you with clearances...no need to worry! All materials provided!



"MY 2 CENTS WORTH" Global Food Initiative

will be collected on Sunday, March 26, 2023.

Your donations support food security initiative around the globe.

Home collection containers are available in the narthex.

March 19th is designated as COB Mission Advancement Sunday for "ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING".

One Great Hour of Sharing reaches those near and far, sometimes changing the life of someone in distress in your own community, while at other times impacting the lives of those we may never meet but who are in need of our compassion. God provides the resources so that we can give back. It's not the size of the gift that matters; it's that we give of what we have.

Gifts given through this special offering empower ministries like the Church of the Brethren's Brethren Volunteer Service, Discipleship Ministries, Office of Global Mission, Brethren Disaster Ministries, the Global Food Initiative, and many others. Please use the brown offering envelopes to designate "One Great Hour of Sharing".



I/We Wish to Place

EASTER FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

On Easter morning.

Order Deadline: March 26, 2023

| | |
|--|----------|
| _____ Easter Lilies (6 - inch pot/5+ Blooms) | \$13.00 |
| _____ Daffodils (6 - inch pot) | \$11.00 |
| _____ Tulips (6 - inch pot/6 Blooms) | \$11.00 |
| _____ Mini-Daffodils (4 ½ - inch pot) | \$ 5.00 |
| Total Cost | \$ _____ |

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Presenter's Name _____

Please place your order with payment in a brown envelope and drop in the box by the office window.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3 – Colin Scott, Glenn Lavery
5 – Vicky Keebaugh
6 – Darlene Kiehl
7 – Cierra Heimbach; Kirsten Martin
8 – Paul Meck; Jane Thornton; Pat Seebold
9 – Laura John; Lisa Hancock
10 – Joseph Graci
13 – Jody Scott
14 – Macy Creps
15 – Pearl Bradley; George Akens
17 – Dollie Neuhart
18 – Matt Ayers
22 – Bridget Altland; Jan Custer; Glen Daughtry
23 – Mary Ebersole
24 – Aleshia Hock
25 – Linda Gilligan
26 – David Rider
27 – Sharon Stepp
29 – John Weaver; Grace Seagrist
31 – Russ Rhoads; Joel Sechrist

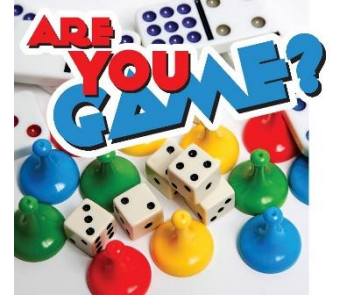


MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

24 – John & Sharon Weaver (73) **"50 Years!"**
29 – Alton & Marie Heimbach (52)
31 – Jesse & Sherry Jones (18)



Family Game Night
Friday, March 17, 2023
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.



**Join us for an evening of
FUN & GAMES!**

**We invite each family to bring some friends,
snacks, and games to share!**

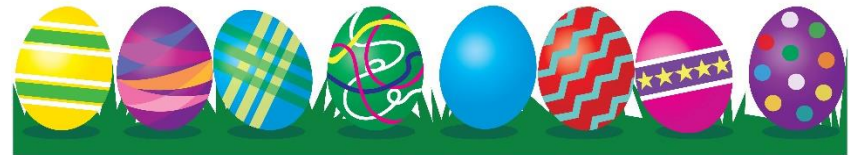
We will meet in Fellowship Hall.



**Mechanicsburg
Church of the
Brethren's Annual
Easter Egg Hunt**

Saturday, April 1, 2023
10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

The Nurture Team is asking for donations of candy to fill the eggs.
A container will be provided in the narthex.



March

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| | * Lenten Lunch each Wednesday at Noon – see announcement inside newsletter | | 1 Bible Study 9 a.m. Quilting 9 a.m. <u>Wednesday Night Live (WNL) 5:30 – 7:15 p.m.</u> Ensemble 6:30 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. | 2 Basketball 5/9 p.m. Hand Bells 6 p.m. | 3 World Day of Prayer | 4 Fellowship Hall & Kitchen Reserved (Grace Reformed Baptist Church) 4 p.m. – 9 p.m. |
| 5 2nd Sunday of Lent Food for New Hope Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Lenten Study 4 p.m. Family Promise | 6 Basketball 5/9 p.m. Family Promise | 7 Family Promise | 8 Bible Study 9 a.m. Quilting 9 a.m. Ladies Luncheon 11:30 a.m. (Lower Allen Din.) Ensemble 6:30 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. <u>Senior Day/Camp Eder</u> Family Promise | 9 Basketball 5/9 p.m. Hand Bells 6 p.m. Family Promise | 10 Family Promise | 11 Turn clocks ahead 1 hour!! Family Promise |
| 12 3rd Sunday of Lent Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Lenten Study 4 p.m. <u>College Care Package donations deadline</u> | 13 Knitting 1 p.m. | 14 | 15 Bible Study 9 a.m. Quilting 9 a.m. <u>Coffee Fellowship (Lenten Lunch) 12 Noon</u> Ensemble 6:30 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. | 16 Hand Bells 6 p.m. | 17 Family Game Night 7/9 p.m. in Fellowship Hall | 18 |
| 19 4th Sunday of Lent One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. <u>Bible-a-thon 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.</u> Lenten Study 4 p.m. | 20 April Newsletter Deadline First Day of Spring | 21 Caregivers 1 p.m. Executive Mtg. 7 p.m. | 22 Bible Study 9 a.m. Quilting 9 a.m. Ensemble 6:30 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. | 23 Hand Bells 6 p.m. | 24 | 25 Fellowship Hall Reserved (Daughtry) 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Clean-Up Day at Camp Eder |
| 26 5th Sunday of Lent My 2 Cents Worth Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Lenten Study 4 p.m. <u>SOPA Prayer Mtg. at Carlisle 1st COB 6 p.m.</u> | 27 Knitting 1 p.m. Book Club 7 p.m. (Zoom) | 28 | 29 Bible Study 9 a.m. Quilting 9 a.m. Ensemble 6:30 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m. | 30 | 31 | |

2023