

Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren
301 Gale Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
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The MARCH 2025

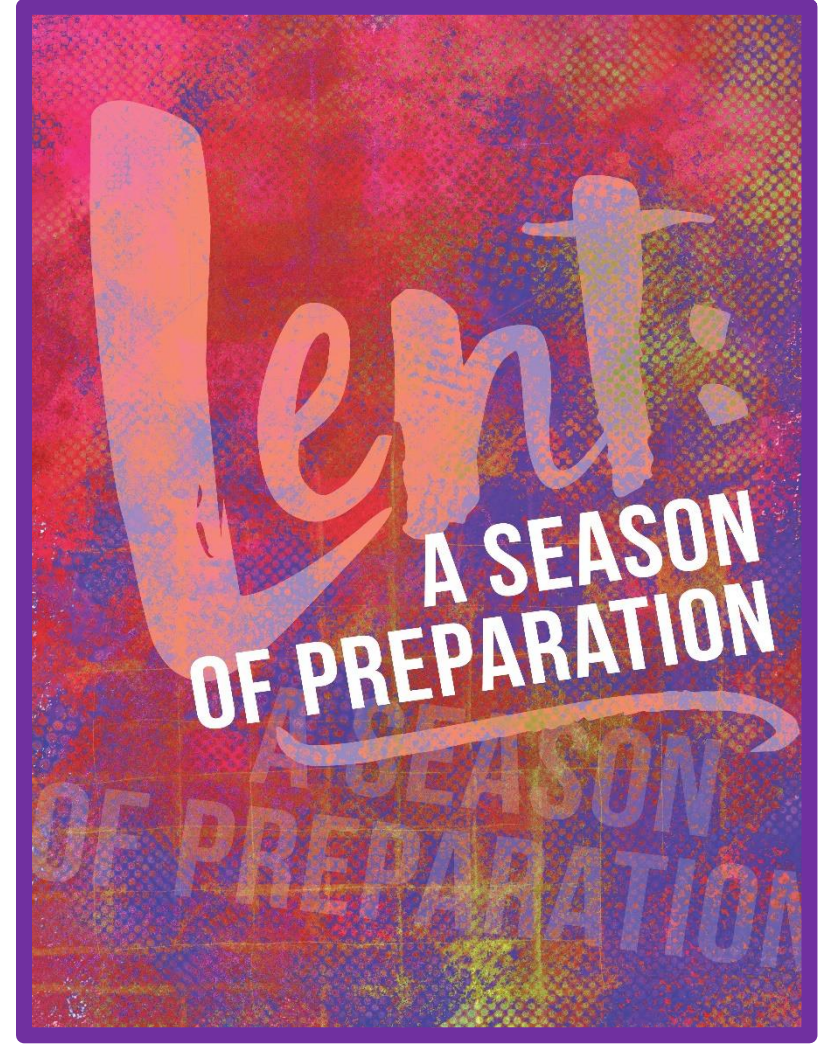
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**Volume 25
Number 03**



WORSHIP THEMES

March 2: *Service of Licensing*

"Called to Be Table Waiters"

- Warren Eshbach

Worship Theme: Many believe that being called to the ministry is solely about a profession. But the biblical accounts talk as though it is much more about servant leadership.

Scripture: Matthew 20:20-28; Acts 6:1-7

March 9: "Personal Reflections on Following Jesus" - Eric Seibert

Worship Theme: After highlighting key ideas from the recent "Following Jesus" sermon series, a few people from the congregation will share what following Jesus means to them.

Scripture: Psalm 77:11-15; Philippians 1:3-11

March 16: *One Great Hour of Sharing*

"Meeting the Needs of "the Least of These"

- Eric Seibert

Worship Theme: The Church of the Brethren has designated this Sunday as the One Great Hour of Sharing which focuses on meeting the needs of people through such things as disaster relief and development efforts.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 10:17-21; Matthew 25:31-40

March 23: Why Do People Suffer? (1 of 3)

- Eric Seibert

Worship Theme: We will evaluate various ways people explain human suffering—and the role they think God plays in it—to gain a better understanding of why people suffer.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 28:1-6, 15-19; Matthew 5:43-45; Luke 13:1-5

March 30: How Can We Help People Who Are Suffering? (2 of 3)

- Eric Seibert

Worship Theme: This message considers how Job's "friends" respond to his suffering and offers some practical do's and don'ts when helping people who are hurting.

Scripture: Job 1:13-19; 2:1-7, 11-13; 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

Then he [Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed

and after three days rise again.

Mark 8:31, NRSVue

Most of us do not like to suffer. I sure don't! We typically avoid suffering like the plague. After all, it's no fun to hurt. But pain and suffering are unavoidable realities of life. We can do our best to minimize and mitigate suffering, but we cannot fully escape it. Everyone suffers from time to time, some more intensely than others, some more frequently than others, but suffering is common to us all.

In the season of Lent, we remember the suffering of Jesus, who was crucified for his faithfulness to God. Jesus knew that his public ministry and his unswerving obedience to God would run afoul of the religious leaders of his day. He told his disciples that he "must undergo great suffering," and he also told would-be followers that they should be prepared for much the same (see Mark 8:34).

Human suffering inevitably raises profound theological and practical questions. During Lent, we will reflect on some of these through a three-part sermon series on human suffering. We will consider 1) why people suffer, 2) how to help those who suffer, and 3) what good can come out of our suffering.

All this will lead us toward Easter and the hope of new life, reminding us that pain and suffering are not the final word. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Eric



Looking ahead. . .

April 13: Palm Sunday Worship
10:30 a.m.

April 13: Love Feast 6:00 p.m.

April 20: Easter Sunday
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Community
Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 19th



10:00 AM Rain or Shine



MCOB
News & Activities



Sunday, March 9, 2025

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Volunteers Needed!

Our Family Promise Host Week is Sunday, March 23rd through Saturday, March 29th.

Please check the signup sheet on the bulletin board to see how YOU can help!



The **Church Book Club** will meet on **Monday, March 31st at 7 p.m.** over Zoom.

This month's selection is

The Lonely Hearts Book Club by Lucy Gilmore.

Our Discussion Leader is Jill Risser.



Changes to Worship Service Livestreaming beginning March 16TH

Sunday morning March 16th the Church Tech Team will continue streaming services through YouTube, but will no longer stream through Zoom. Below are some questions you may have about this change.

Question: Why is the team making this change?

Answer: Congregants have told us the video and audio clarity are better through YouTube, compared to Zoom. Providing one stream will also simplify the technology needs Sunday mornings.

Question: I always use Zoom, and have never viewed the service through YouTube. Can someone help me?

Answer: Yes, members of the Tech Team will be reaching out before March 16th to assist those who usually join through Zoom to make the transition. You can also contact the church office to arrange for assistance.

You may also notice that the email sent each Friday with the bulletin attached has links for both Zoom and YouTube. You can try joining through YouTube before March 16th to confirm it works for you.

Question: I have always enjoyed joining the Zoom session before church starts and getting the chance to talk to other participants. Will I be able to do that with YouTube LiveStream?

Answer: No, unfortunately YouTube only allows you to view the service. There is no mechanism in YouTube to correspond with other viewers.

The Tech Team realizes the importance of fellowship for those who cannot attend worship in person. March 16th we will be launching a weekly “Zoom Virtual Pre-Service Coffee Chat” from 10:15 to 10:25 AM. During this time, you can converse with other Zoom participants.



District Women's Spring Luncheon
Saturday, April 12, 2025
9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Our speaker, Annual Conference Moderator, Dava Hensley, will reflect on our faith in God when we are grieving along with the various reasons for grief.

This event will be held at:
Huntsdale Church of the Brethren



**Ash Wednesday service on
Wednesday, March 5th at 7:00 p.m.
with Communion.**

**Shepherdstown United Methodist
Church**

1934 S. York Street, Mechanicsburg



New Hope Ministries is excited to celebrate the graduation of five nurse aide pre-clinical students, marking an important step in their educational journey! As they now move on to the clinical phase of their education at higher education institutions, we are proud of the progress they've made. Congratulations!



More information at <https://nhm-pa.org>

At 10:25 AM participants will be urged to hop over to the YouTube livestream.

Question: Will anything else be changing?

Answer: Yes, to provide a more seamless livestream we are moving the passing of the microphone for announcements to coincide with greeting one another after the first hymn. If you would like to make an announcement, please fill out a green announcement card prior to the service and give it to someone in the Tech Area. A microphone will be brought to you after the greeting time. Announcements should relate to church activities rather than be prayer requests.

Question: What about prayer requests?

Answer: Prayer requests should continue to be offered via the yellow cards in the pew racks.

Question: Why must prayer requests be written on the yellow cards rather than offered on the microphone?

Answer: Since microphone announcements will now be part of the livestream, they will be available to anyone in the world. It is a recommended online safety practice for churches to limit personally identifying information. That is why Pastor Eric will only use first names in his pastoral prayer. If you would like to provide more details about your prayer request to the congregation, please do so through the prayer chain.

Question: Who can I contact with questions or concerns about this change?

Answer: You can contact Stephen Vinson at 717-795-9652 with any questions, concerns, or if you need assistance making the transition from Zoom to YouTube Livestream.



EASTER FLOWER ORDERS

I/We Wish to Place

EASTER FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

On Easter morning.

Order Deadline: March 30, 2025

_____ Easter Lilies (6 - inch pot/5+ Blooms)	\$16.00
_____ Daffodils (6 - inch pot)	\$12.00
_____ Tulips (6 - inch pot/6 Blooms)	\$12.00
_____ Mini-Daffodils (4 1/2 - inch pot)	\$ 6.00
Total Cost	\$ _____

In Honor of _____

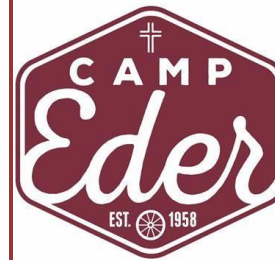
In Memory of _____

Presenter's name _____



Family Promise – 15 Years of Helping Families from Homelessness to Home

More information at www.familypromisehcr.org



Senior Day
Wednesday, April 9th

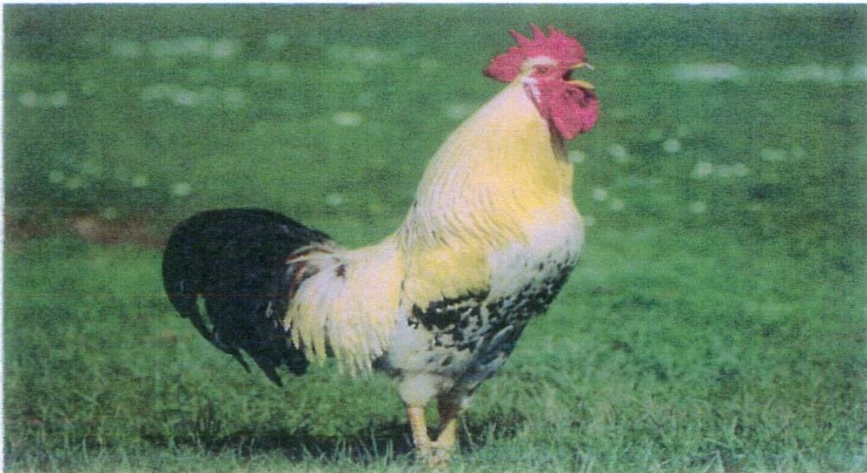
9:30 a.m.
\$20 per person

Register at 717-642-8256

Special Guest – Craig Caltagirone
(singer of oldies)

Craig Caltagirone brings his one-man song and dance program to entertain “seniors”. Audience members enjoy “senior-friendly” musical selections ranging from the 1920s through the 1970s including Classic Broadway tunes and standards from the Great American Songbook.

District & Community News



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)



**LENTEN STUDY
SERIES**
March 9 – April 13
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

We will meet Sunday afternoons 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.

Contact the church office to reserve your copy TODAY!

2025 LENTEN LUNCHES

*Sponsored by the Mechanicsburg Area
Council of Churches*

You are welcome to join us at noon on
Wednesdays to share a light meal and
devotions led by the pastor of each church.

RSVP by the prior Friday appreciated,
but not necessary.

March 12 – Shepherdstown United Methodist Church
717-766-3076 or office@shepherdstownumc.org

March 19 – Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren
717-766-8880 or mcob-secretary@verizon.net

March 26 – Shiremanstown United Methodist Church
717-737-6221 or office@sumc.info

April 2 – Trindle Spring Lutheran Church
717-766-7091 or
pastoraaron@trindlespringlutheran.org

April 9 – St. Luke's Episcopal Church
717-766-5182 or admin.st.lukes@verizon.net

2025 Spring Fling Rummage Sale



Friday, April 4th – 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

&

Saturday, April 5th – 8 a.m. – Noon

Clothing items – shoes & accessories

Linens – kitchen, bed & bath

Please place
your donated
items on the
stage.
Thank you!





**Bus Trip
to
Sight and
Sound Theater
June 24, 2025**

Leaving Mechanicsburg

Church of the Brethren parking lot at **8:45 a.m.** for Sight and Sound show at 11:00 a.m.

Following show, late lunch/early dinner at Shady Maple Restaurant before returning home about 5 p.m.

Cost: \$168.00/person (Bus driver tip not included in cost.)

Need 42 people to sign up before March 31st.

Wheelchair seating available on bus as well as theater. Seats are all in a non-step area of theater, but a lift is on the bus. Max seating on bus is 48. The first people to sign-up will go.


NO REFUNDS. However, you may sell or give your ticket to someone of your choice if after April 27th.

**Payment confirms your seat and MUST be received
by April 27, 2025.**

Cash or Check payable to Arlene Justice.

Questions to Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren at
717-766-8880 or mcob-secretary@verizon.net

March

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1 F. H. RSVD 4/8:30 p.m. (Grace Reformed Baptist) Fellowship Hall RSVD 9/11 p.m. (B&H Islamic)
2 New Hope Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.	3	4 F. H. RSVD 7/8:30 p.m. (Mid Penn Motion) CE Team Mtg. 7 p.m. (Zoom)	5 Bible Study 9 a.m. (Zoom) PANDAMANIA 5:30/7:45 P.M. Choir 7:30 p.m.	6 Grief Support Group 1 p.m. (Library) MCOB Anniversary Comm. 7 p.m. (Library)	7 Fellowship Hall RSVD 9/11 p.m. (B&H Islamic)	8 Fellowship Hall RSVD 9/11 p.m. (B&H Islamic)
9 1st Sunday of Lent Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Lenten Study 3 p.m. (Living Letters)	10 Knitting Group 1 p.m. (Library)	11 Men's Breakfast 9 a.m. (Brothers') Fellowship Hall RSVD 5/8:30 p.m. (Mid Penn Motion)	12 Bible Study 9 a.m. (Zoom) Ladies Luncheon 11:30 a.m. (Lower Allen Diner) Choir 7:30 p.m.	13 F. H. RSVD 5/9 (SJS Basketball)	14 Fellowship Hall RSVD 9/11 p.m. (B&H Islamic)	15 Fellowship Hall RSVD 9/11 p.m. (B&H Islamic)
16 2nd Sunday of Lent Family Promise Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Lenten Study 3 p.m. (Living Letters)	17	18 Caregiver Support Group 1 p.m. (Library) LT Mtg 7 p.m. Fellowship Hall RSVD 5/8:30 p.m. (Mid Penn Motion)	19 Bible Study 9 a.m. (Zoom) Lenten Luncheon 12 Noon Choir 7:30 p.m.	20 April Newsletter Deadline	21 Fellowship Hall RSVD 9/11 p.m. (B&H Islamic)	22 Fellowship Hall RSVD 9/11 p.m. (B&H Islamic)
23 3rd Sunday of Lent Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Lenten Study 3 p.m. (Living Letters) Family Promise	24 Knitting Group 1 p.m. (Library) Family Promise	25 Family Promise	26 Bible Study 9 a.m. (Zoom) Choir 7:30 p.m. Family Promise	27 Family Promise	28 Family Promise	29 Family Promise
30 4th Sunday of Lent My 2 ¢ Worth Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Lenten Study 3 p.m. F. H. Reserved (Rummage Sale Prep)	31 Church Book Club 7 p.m. (Zoom) F. H. Reserved (Rummage Sale Prep)		 <i>Preparing for Easter</i>			

2025