

Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren
301 Gale Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
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The FEBRUARY 2024
CARILLON

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Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren
301 Gale Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717-766-8880

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**Volume 24
Number 02**



BE COMPLETELY
humble & gentle;
BE PATIENT,
BEARING WITH
one another in love.
Ephesians 4:2, NIV

February Worship Themes

February 4: "The Secret" - Jim Benedict

Worship Theme: Jesus wasn't out to become an overnight sensation. His goal was to form a community of faith and train a few followers to carry on the work.

Scripture Text: Mark 1:21-28; 40-45

February 11: "Slipping Away" - Jim Benedict

Worship Theme: We are often encouraged to work harder and work faster, but there are times when we need to do the opposite – just stop, slip away for a while and reflect on why we do what we do.

Scripture Text: Mark 1:29-39

February 18: "Blind Spots" - Jim Benedict

First Sunday of Lent

Worship Theme: Lent is starting, a traditional time for confession and repentance. We are called again to take a hard look in the mirror and to seek God's mercy.

Scripture Text: Psalm 19

February 25: "The Hard Way" - Jim Benedict

Second Sunday of Lent

Worship Theme: Almost everything we do these days is easier than it used to be, yet life is often less satisfying. Sometimes doing things the hard way helps us discover our strength and develop our faith.

Scripture Text: Genesis 17:15-22

Valentine's Day "traditions" are equally suspect. Greeting cards, flowers, and chocolates in heart-shaped boxes became part of the celebration mainly because entrepreneurs saw opportunities over the last century and a half. Valentine's Day wasn't even associated with romance until the 13th century. It originated in the 5th century, established by church authorities to help supplant the pagan celebration of Lupercalia, which celebrated fertility. St. Valentine's Day, by contrast, was meant to celebrate the faithfulness of martyrs.

I do not mention all this because I want to be some kind of Valentine's Day "Scrooge" or "Grinch." I am not against candy, cards, or flowers; nor am I against romance. Faith does not require that we despise things that bring us joy or pleasure. I mention this background of the holiday because it seems wise not to mistake the relatively modern, superficial version for the whole reality of it.

St. Valentine's Day may not have originally been about romance, but it was about *love* – God's love for us, our love for God, and our love for others. Those who are committed to following Jesus, like the original St. Valentine, organized their lives around love for others. Early Christians were renowned for their love for one another and for their love of those who were not part of their faith community. They took seriously the teachings of Jesus in Luke's gospel, where he calls upon his followers to love even those who do not love them, to do good and to lend, expecting nothing in return.

Even though it is called *Saint* Valentine's Day, people no longer think of it as a religious holiday. But we can reclaim it as such, at least a little bit, by remembering God's love for us, our love, for God, and our call to love others. And we can celebrate it through acts of kindness and caring toward others without regard for whether or not they love us.

Peace,

Pastor Jim





Meat Canning Project April 1-4, 2024

Processed at: Christian Aid Ministries Sponsored
by:
Southern PA & Mid-Atlantic Districts COB

The goal this year is to can approximately 17,000 pounds of chicken in the 4 days of processing. Please contact the District Office if you are able to volunteer on canning days or are able to financially contribute to this project.

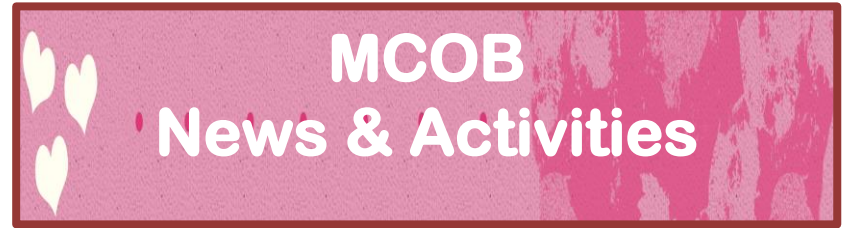
SOPA District Office: 717-778-2254 or 717-778-2264

Reclaim the Day

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Luke 6:32-36

Tradition, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. Many things called "traditional" are actually quite different from what they once were. Take the so-called "traditional" wedding, for example. The big church wedding with many attendants (bridesmaids and groomsmen), followed by a lavish reception and a honeymoon vacation, was practically unknown before the 20th century, unless you were a member of the upper class or nobility. The "tradition" for common folk was often to schedule a quick ceremony in the parlor of the parsonage or with a justice of the peace.



The **Willing Learners Sunday School** Class meets at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Fran Welling is leading the class through a study of the book of Romans. We welcome others to join us as available for lively discussion as well as serious study.

The **Knitting Group** meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Church Library. Yarn, patterns, and needles are provided. Do you prefer to crochet? Please join us!

The **Caregivers Support Group** meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Church Library.

Bible Study continues each Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. by Zoom. Please contact Pastor Jim if you would like to join.

Lunch & Learn Fellowship will be held on Wednesday, February 21st at 11:30 a.m. Our Guest Speaker will be John Werner from the Carlisle Tool Library.

The **Grief Support Group** meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Church Library.

The **Church Book Club** will meet on Monday, February 26th at 7 p.m. by Zoom. This month's selection is *From Plain to Plane* by Patty Bear. Janet Zeiters will be the Discussion Leader.





**Wednesday
Night Live**
 Wednesday evenings,
 beginning February 7,
 2024, and continuing
 until March 6, 2024,
 from 5:30-7:45 p.m.,
 and dinner is included.

We are excited by Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren's
 Winter Bible School!

Son Harvest Winter Fair is 5 Wednesday nights of fun on
 the farm!

In Son Harvest County, children will discover how to grow
 the fruit of the Spirit. Specifically, children will learn to Grow
 Love, Sprout Joy, Plant Peace, Produce Patience and Pick
 Kindness. We will have a great time with lively songs, crafts,
 Bible stories and snacks. On top of that, we will be helping
 children grow the fruit of God's Spirit.

Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center or
 call the church office at 717-766-8880 to register your child.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with activities. If
 you can help or need additional information, please call
 Cheryl Noll at 717-834-4046.

**SEE YOU ON
THE FARM!**



Happy New Year!

We hope everyone had a lovely Christmas holiday! We are so grateful for the loving support of our church families! Thank you for ALL you did for those we serve. In December, a guest of New Hope shared with us: *"I'm a guest at New Hope and a volunteer. Through all my struggles, New Hope is always a place I can go even if I just need a smile. It's a happy place to be. I love the family atmosphere here and I enjoy helping other families. I'm just so thankful for the countless ways they help and I'm thankful they are in my life."*

Because of your loving support, guests of New Hope find love of a family wrapped in compassionate care.

Thank you for supporting our mission that provides more than we even know.

Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."
 Psalm 46:10

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



Sponsor A Building Project

Camp Eder's extensive property spans over 450 acres of lush forest and orchard. Nestled in this landscape are numerous lodges, cabins, and amenities that visitors throughout the year utilize for retreats, renewal, and summer camps. The maintenance and enhancement of our facilities demand significant time and resources. We are actively seeking sponsors to join us in preserving and improving Camp Eder's property.

Could you consider becoming a building sponsor?

Below are corresponding amounts for the lodges and cabins we are looking to update and maintain. Your support will play a vital role in ensuring the continued care and enhancement of our facilities for the benefit of all who experience the beauty of Camp Eder.

| Building Name | Sponsorship Cost | Project/repairs needed |
|------------------------|------------------|---|
| Geigley | \$2,500 | Water Heaters, Toilets, Paint |
| Tree of Peace | \$3,000 | Flooring, Paint, Mattresses, Resurface Wood Floor |
| Schwarzenau | \$2,000 | Paint, Build New Rear Porches |
| Mack Cabins | \$800 | Heating and Cooling System, Paint |
| Maintenance Shop | \$2,000 | Paint, Lights, Garage Doors |
| Heckman Pavilion | \$800 | Exterior Lighting and Paint |
| Miller Meeting House | \$1,500 | Replace Windows, Paint, Water Heater |
| Water Treatment Plant | \$1,000 | Paint, Equipment |
| Sewage Treatment Plant | \$1,000 | Equipment, Repairs |



In many parts of the world, women and girls live in period poverty – lacking access to necessary feminine care supplies. During the menstrual cycle, these hygiene materials are especially important to healthy practices. Not having supplies like sanitary napkins, tampons, soap and disposable plastic bags can create challenges that lead to unsafe and unsanitary conditions.

Now you can help women and girls around the world living in period poverty. The CWS Period Pack gives women and girls the essentials they need to feel clean, be healthy and live with dignity during the menstrual cycle.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- One 1-gallon Ziploc bag
- Two 2-oz bottle hand sanitizer
- Three 4-gallon bathroom trash bags
- One travel pack of Wet Ones
- Ten unscented tampons (5 regular, 5 super absorbency)
- Ten unscented sanitary napkins (long super ultra-thin)
- One bath—size bar of soap in the original package (3 oz bar or larger)
[No Ivory or Jergen's due to short shelf life.]
- One pack of flushable wipes (unscented, 42 count)
- Six laundry detergent sheets (place sheets in small Ziploc bag)

The Witness Team will be collecting supplies through **February 11, 2024**. Donations toward supplies and processing fees can be contributed by using the brown pew envelopes.



Spring Fling Rummage Sale

MCOB needs a volunteer (or 2) to coordinate the Spring Fling Rummage Sale for 2024 if this event is to take place.

If interested, please contact the church office or any member of the Leadership Team.



Attention Children and Youth of all ages!

The Christian Ed committee is pleased to announce our **Bible-a-Thon** for our youth will be taking place on **Sunday, March 10!**

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 14.

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

Children grades 2nd – 4th will study the book of Esther.

Junior High Youth (5th – 8th) will focus on the book of Thessalonians.

Senior High Youth (9th – 12th) will dive into the book of Isaiah.

Using their Bibles, kids will answer a series of questions and prepare to be quizzed!

Quizzing will take place on Sunday, March 10 from 12-2pm.

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! Please RSVP if you plan to quiz!

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 Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren in a relaxed, fun setting! All supplies will be 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 4!

Please contact Kristy Richmond, Linda Saylor, Cheryl Noll or Shelly Hale with any additional questions.



Family Promise

56 Erford Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011
717-737-1100

www.familypromisehcr.org

“A community response for homeless families”

Day Center Needs

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Printer Paper | Trash Bags (not Good Sense) |
| Laundry Detergent | Swiffer Mop Pads |
| Swiffer Wet Jet Solution | Febreze |
| Women’s Razors | Dish Soap |
| Baby Wipes | Shampoo |
| Shaving Cream | AA and AAA Batteries |
| Zip Loc Bags, Foil, Plastic Wrap | |
| Paper Plates | Queen Inflatable Mattress |

Gift cards to Sheetz, Giant, Walmart – These help families with gas to go to work, food beyond what we provide here, and medicine. Many items families need can be bought with these cards, allowing families to save their money towards housing while they are here. Another great thing about gift cards...they take up very little space!

Items can be placed in the container located in the back gathering area, or you may drop off at the address listed above.

Help Share the Promise



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Family Promise of Harrisburg Capital Region

Family Promise is a nonprofit agency serving families who recently lost their homes. We are one of over 200 Family Promise affiliates in 41 states.

Family Promise coordinates compassion, local resources/partners, and skill-building opportunities to address the root causes of family homelessness. Families come to us in crisis; we help them rebuild their lives with new skills and ongoing support.

Our Shelter Program and how it works.

We utilize community resources (local congregations and volunteers) to provide overnight lodging, meals, and hospitality on a rotational basis. Each congregation serves for one week at a time, usually 4 times per year.

Volunteers provide food, spend time with families, stay overnight, and drive our van. By using these volunteer resources, we are able to cut our expenses by a third. We partner with 20+ local congregations and have over 400 volunteers.

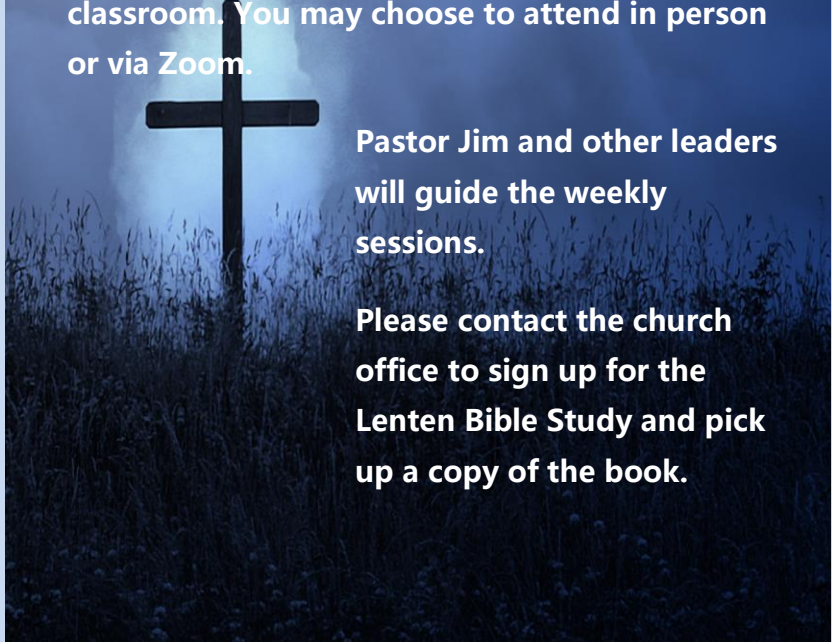
During the day, families spend time at our Day Center. Our professional staff provide intensive case management, connect families with resources, and provide the accountability our families need in order to get back on their feet. We have computers for families to conduct housing and job searches and to work toward their other goals. We also have shower and laundry facilities as well as a kitchen so that families can take care of their basic needs day-to-day.

For more information, to volunteer or donate, visit www.familypromisehcr.org

Lenten Bible Study

The Lenten Bible Study will be based on the **Covenant Bible Study: Passion of Jesus** by **Richard B. Gardner**.

Beginning on Sunday, February 18th through Palm Sunday, at 3:00 p.m. in the Living Letters classroom. You may choose to attend in person or via Zoom.



Pastor Jim and other leaders will guide the weekly sessions.

Please contact the church office to sign up for the Lenten Bible Study and pick up a copy of the book.



The Christian Ed Team invites the body of our church to join us in congratulating Amy Furry for her appointment as our new church librarian. We applaud her willingness to step up and out into this new adventure.

We would also like to acknowledge, with deepest appreciation, the faithfulness and diligence Starr Akens has given to this position for the past 8 years. Her attention to all the details of the position should aid Amy into an easy transition.

Please thank them both when you see them.



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 17, 2024**, 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.

Just a note for those of you who prefer to donate to the mailing costs and purchase of additional items for the boxes (if necessary) At this time, there are sufficient funds in the budget to cover the costs of anything we may need and the mailing costs.

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 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?

DISTRICT & COMMUNITY NEWS

Lenten Lunches

Lenten Lunches will be held on Wednesdays during Lent at Noon.

February 21 – Shepherdstown United Methodist Church (717-766-3076)

February 28 – Hope United Methodist Church (717-766-3072)

March 6 – Shiremanstown United Methodist Church (717-737-6621)

March 13 – *to be announced*

March 20 – Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren (717-766-8880)

Sponsored by the Mechanicsburg Area Council of Churches



Vacation Bible School Coordinator Needed

The Christian Education team is in need of a VBS Coordinator for Vacation Bible School 2024 and beyond.

We know how much the children have looked forward to the adventures they have taken each summer with Heidi as their talented guide. Please prayerfully consider how you might be able to step into this leadership role and help to continue the VBS legacy at Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren.



Logistically, **this position needs filled by March 15 if we are going to be able to host a VBS this year.**

*The team would like to recognize Heidi Graci who has given so generously of her time and talents serving as the VBS Coordinator for over 20 years! Heidi has graciously agreed to stay involved by serving as a mentor for the incoming volunteer.
Thank you, Heidi!!*

If you have questions or would like to talk further, please contact Kristy Pipher Richmond or Linda Crook Saylor.

Thank you,
The Christian Education Team

February

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|--|--|-----------|---|
|  | | | | 1 1 p.m. Grief Support Group 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball 6:15 p.m. Handbells | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Food for New Hope 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship | 5 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball | 6 5/7 p.m. Basketball (John) 7/8 p.m. Special Olympics Dryland | 7 9 a.m. Quilting 9 a.m. Bible Study (Zoom) 5:30/7:45 WNL 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball 7:30 p.m. Choir | 8 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball 6:15 p.m. Handbells | 9 | 10 |
| 11 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Deadline for CWS Hygiene Donations | 12 1 p.m. Knitting Group (Library) 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball | 13 5/7 p.m. Basketball (John) 7/8 p.m. Special Olympics Dryland | 14 9 a.m. Quilting 9 a.m. Bible Study (Zoom) Ladies Luncheon 11:30 5:30/7:45 WNL 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball 7:30 p.m. Choir Ash Wednesday | 15 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball 6:15 p.m. Handbells | 16 | 17 |
| 18 Donations for Family Promise 1st Sunday of Lent 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 3 p.m. Lenten Bible Study | 19 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball | 20 1 p.m. Caregivers 5/7 p.m. Basketball (John) 7 p.m. Executive Mtg. 7/8 p.m. Special Olympics Dryland March Newsletter Deadline | 21 9 a.m. Quilting 9 a.m. Bible Study (Zoom) Lenten Lunch 12:00 p.m. (MCOB) 5:30/7:45 WNL 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball 7:30 p.m. Choir | 22 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball 6:15 p.m. Handbells | 23 | 24 |
| 25 2nd Sunday of Lent 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 3 p.m. Lenten Bible Study | 26 1 p.m. Knitting Group (Library) 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball 7 p.m. Church Book Club (Zoom) | 27 5/7 p.m. Basketball (John) 7/8 p.m. Special Olympics Dryland | 28 9 a.m. Quilting 9 a.m. Bible Study (Zoom) Lenten Lunch 12:00 p.m. 5:30/7:45 WNL 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball 7:30 p.m. Choir | 29 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball 6:15 p.m. Handbells | |  |

2024