

Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren
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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
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The JANUARY 2024

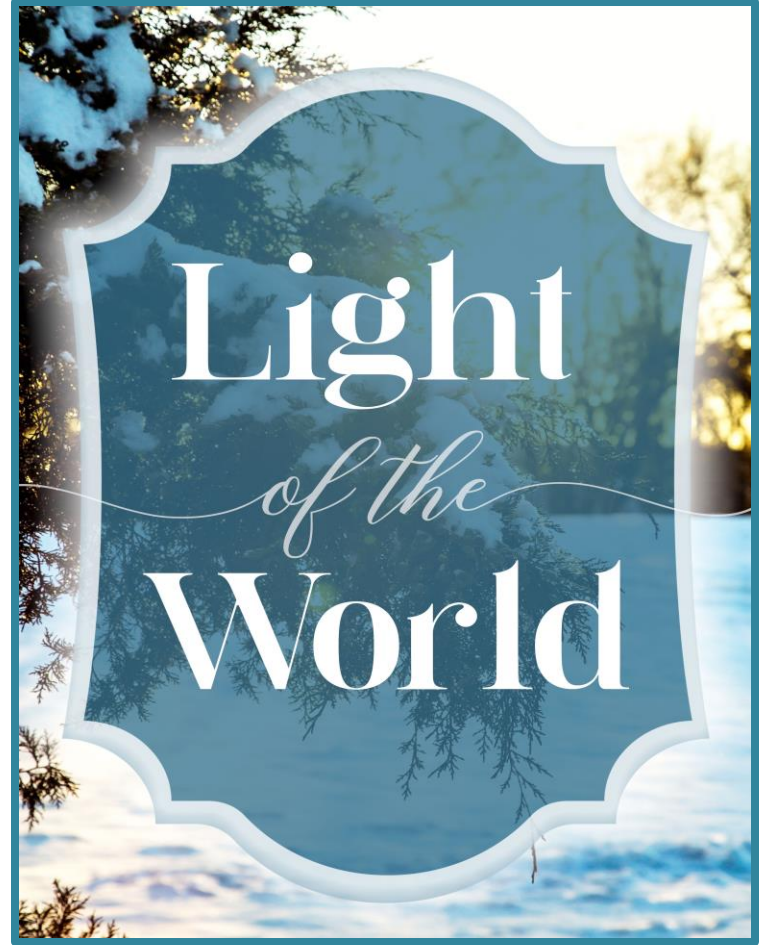
CARILLON

Published Monthly (except August) by

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

www.MechanicsburgCOB.org

Volume 24
Number 01



January Worship Themes

Pew Communion

January 7: "Mmmm, Good!"

- Jim Benedict

Worship Theme: The beginning of a new year is the perfect time to be reminded that our first response to God's creation should be the same as God's – delight.

Scripture Text: Genesis 1:1-25

Remembrance Sunday

January 14: "Up to Something"

- Jim Benedict

Worship Theme: Nathaniel – one of the lesser known disciples – is still a great role model. How can we become people "in whom there is no guile?"

Scripture Text: John 1:43-51

January 21: "Empty Nets"

- Jim Benedict

Worship Theme: It is easy to forget what a radical call it was that Jesus offered the disciples: "Follow Me." It meant leaving behind everything familiar. Moving forward always means leaving a lot behind.

Scripture Text: Mark 1:14-20

January 28: "It's Not Enough To Know" - Jim Benedict

Worship Theme: It isn't enough to know all the answers. You have to know how to love.

Scripture Text: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Looking back, I realize that I haven't read much for pleasure since childhood. I've read plenty. Between home and work offices, I have hundreds of books on the shelf, mostly scholarly in nature. They are the kind of books I read because the information is useful to me in the work I do. As I read, I never become fully absorbed; part of my mind is always asking, "How can I use this for a sermon, a lesson, an academic paper or an article I am writing?"

In the letter Paul wrote to Timothy (quoted above), Paul seems to emphasize a similar approach to reading scripture. He describes it as "useful," and it certainly is. But before he says it is useful, he first says it is "inspired." I've often read or heard interpretations of this passage in which the term "inspired" becomes the basis for a claim of inerrancy, but that always seemed like a bit of a leap for me. If Paul meant "without error of any kind" I am sure he knew the Greek words to say that.

It seems wiser to take the word at face value – inspired means life-giving, as when in creation, God breathed into the form of Adam and Adam became a living creature. Further, in ordinary speech, when we describe something as "inspired," we mean that it is life-enriching, moving, powerful. Things that are inspired are capable of inspiring us. They are capable of capturing our imagination, of transporting us into a different world.

There are many good reasons for reading scripture. When the wild-living comedian W. C. Fields was found reading the Bible one day, his surprised friend asked why. Fields replied, "I'm looking for loopholes." That's one reason. I've certainly benefitted in my work and studies from the many hours I've spent reading the Bible. Paul is right when he says that scripture is useful. That's another reason. But one of my goals this year is to try to read scripture the way I once read *The Little House on the Prairie*, to experience it as inspiration, to allow it to awaken wonder, and to let it spark joy.

Whatever your reasons or approach, I encourage you to spend some time in 2024 reading scripture, especially the stories you may have first read or learned about as a child – the gospel stories, the stories of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Deborah, Ruth and so on. If you're like me, you'll discover details you have forgotten or never knew. You may also find inspiration you've been missing.

2024 is a good year to spend more time in the Good Book.

Peace,

Jim

The Arts at Messiah

January 20 - 24, 2024
Senior Art Educator Exhibition

Culminating artworks by seniors in the
B.S. art education program
Climenhaga Galleries
Reception - Climenhaga Galleries,
Jan. 20, 4:30 p.m.

The Good Book

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

1 Timothy 3:14-17

Our oldest granddaughter, Elise, has recently developed an intense interest in the *Harry Potter* book series. We are pleased for a couple of reasons. First, it gets her off her phone. Second, it exercises her mind and expands her vocabulary. Third, it has made shopping for her Christmas presents much easier – anything *Harry Potter*-related is sure to go over well.

This development got my wife and me to talking about the books we read as pre-teens. She was a Nancy Drew fan. I gobbled up the Laura Ingalls Wilder books, in part because they described life as my grandparents and great-grandparents knew it. I've read a lot of books since, but few have captured my imagination in the same way.



Coming Events!

Sunday, January 7, 2024
Pew Communion

Sunday, January 14, 2024
Remembrance Sunday



Winter Weather Cancellation Policy

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, on the church's website,

www.mechanicsburgcob.org 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 Jim by email at benedictj@verizon.net or call 410-635-6684.

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



MCOB NEWS & ACTIVITIES



The **Sock and Mitten Tree** was again overflowing with your generosity this Christmas season. Many families will be kept warm with socks, mittens and gloves, hats, and scarves. Our collection of items for this year is as follows: 46 hats, 3 hat and scarf sets, 37 pairs of gloves and mittens, 25 scarves and 131 pairs of socks.

These items will be distributed in the annual Christmas baskets to needy families within the Mechanicsburg School District by the Operation Wildcat organization.

This has been an out pouring of love from all of you who donated items for the tree. May God richly bless each of you this holiday season.



Thank you to all the bakers who made cookies for the Carlisle Truckstop Ministry Christmas Campaign. We delivered 121 bags from MCOB on Monday morning (12/11). We pray that the

truckers and travelers who receive these cookies will feel a touch of God's love.

Thanks, from your Witness Team.



New Hope Ministries
Administrative Office
99 W. Church Street
P.O. Box 448
Dillsburg, PA 17019

www.nhm-pa.org

Need Help?

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

Truly blessed by our community!



During our recent Thanksgiving distributions, all nine New Hope Ministries centers were bustling with activity. Thousands of turkeys, along with all the necessary fixings, were lovingly distributed to our guests. The weather was perfect, and our guests were extremely grateful to have the opportunity have food to cook a homemade meal for their families this Thanksgiving.

Our greatest thanks to everyone who donated food, turkeys, and financial gifts, and to all who joined us as volunteers - every one helped make these joyful moments possible for our hungry neighbors in need.

Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Psalm 106

Visit our website to find out how you can be involved in our upcoming holiday celebrations at New Hope! Click on the **Holiday Giving Tab** at the bottom of the page for all the details.

nhm-pa.org



Mechanicsburg Area Council of Churches

The Mechanicsburg Area Council of Churches (MACC) was formed, almost 50 years ago, with up to two members from each Christian church congregation serving as representatives.

The main purpose of the Council is to provide an interdenominational agency with fellowship, cooperation, service and support for the needs of the Mechanicsburg area religious community.

The Council is responsible for continuing The Ecumenical Choir Concert in May of each year which supports New Hope Ministries. This has been a very successful concert to bring over 100 singers and musicians together to share their God given talents of music.

The Council also organized the Lenten meals on Wednesdays at noon with various churches acting as hosts. Along with the meal is a brief Lenten devotion by the pastor of the hosting church.

For the past few years, the Council, along with the Jewish and Muslim faiths and a professor and some students from Messiah College, have sponsored The Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, held the Sunday before Thanksgiving. The first year was attended by 150 and the next year over 300 people attended. After the service, food is shared from the three congregations. Each attendee is asked to bring a nonperishable food item for New Hope Ministries.

The Council meets five times during the year in different churches who offer to host.



Bible Study continues every Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. via Zoom. We will be studying the book of Acts. If you would like to join the group, please contact Pastor Jim.

The **Quilting Group** meets every Wednesday at 9 a.m. in the Choir Room for stitching and fellowship.



The **Grief Support Group** will meet the 1st Thursday of every month, beginning on Thursday, January 4, 2024, in the church library.

Loss is hard. You don't have to walk this journey alone. Our support group is a place where you don't have to have it all together ... You will be surrounded by others, who are beginning this journey or in the past have traveled this road and understand the raw emotions and struggles you are going through. Our aim is to help you find strength, encouragement, and hope in a compassionate and non-judgmental setting where hearts are open to those going through difficult times.

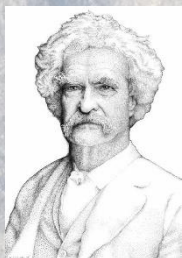
The **Knitting Group** meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month in the church library for needle work and fellowship. Yarn, needles, and patterns provided. Prefer to crochet? Everyone is welcome!





The **Ladies Luncheon** is held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at the Lower Allen Diner, 3449 Simpson Ferry Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011. Join this special time of fellowship!

If you are or have been a caregiver, or know of someone who would like to encourage, support, share helpful hints and give hope to others on their caregiving journey – please consider joining the **Caregivers Support Group**. We meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 1:00 p.m. in the church library.



**Lunch & Learn Fellowship
Wednesday, January 17, 2024
11:30 a.m.**

Please join us for a program on the life of Mark Twain.

Please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

The **Church Book Club** will meet on Monday, January 29th at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

This month's selection is *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch.

Discussion Leader is Jill Risser.



The Church of the Brethren Volunteer Services Short-Term Service Program, **Faith X**, (formerly known as Workcamps), has service trip opportunities for all ages – children, youth, and adults!

What are Faith X service trips?

Faith X trips are short-term service experiences that challenge us to be more aware of ourselves, our communities, and our world. Through Faith X trips, participants grow in Christian discipleship, formed by the command to love God and neighbor, and inspired by Christ's example of humbly serving others. We hope that by serving, we will deepen our faith and grow our compassion as global citizens and children of God.

Who can attend a Faith X service trip?

Faith X trips provide opportunities for all ages to serve! Traditional junior and senior high youth, older adults (55+), family trips with childcare provided allows attendees of any age to experience service together. There are adult trips in the US and in Ecuador, a We Are Able trip for persons with disabilities, and the opportunity to create a custom trip that works for your group's needs!

Where can I see the Faith X schedule?

Visit www.brethren.org/faithx to see the full schedule or email faithx@brethren.org to request a paper brochure. Or contact the Faith X Office at 847-429-4337

CAMP EDER WINTER CAMP January 26th – 28th, 2024

Pack your snow suit and strap your sled to the car because winter camp 2024 is right around the corner. Register for a weekend full of great food, camp games, new and old friends, and a closer relationship with God.

Packing list:

Warm clothes	Pillow and Sleeping Bag
Extra Socks	Towel and washcloth
Personal toiletry items	
Bible, notebook, & pen	
Snow pants	Winter jacket
Gloves & hat	Boots
Extra pair of shoes	Sled(s) (optional)
Signed Camp Eder Policy Agreement	
Health form	

Cost \$90.00

Arrive 7 p. m. Friday (registration at Geigley)
Dismiss 2 p.m. Sunday

From the
Church
Office



2024 Directory Information Updates

Has any of your personal information changed?
New Address?
New Phone Number?
New Email Address?

We would like the new directory to be as accurate as possible. Please contact the church office by **January 21, 2024** with any new or changed information.

717-766-8880 or mcob-secretary@verizon.net

Upon completion of the 2024 Directory in January, the Church Mailboxes will be reorganized. Please check your mailbox and remove materials to make this process easier. Thank you!

Do you receive the "Messenger Magazine"?



MCOB covers the cost of a subscription for each member, if they would like to receive the Messenger magazine.

If you would like to help with the costs, the Renewal Rate is \$14.50. Place your check marked "Messenger" in the offering box in the narthex or mail to the church by January 31st.

If you need to be added or removed from the list, please contact the church office by January 31st.

717-766-8880 or mcob-secretary@verizon.net.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

Crafts+Songs+Snacks+Bible Stories



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.

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

Watch for registration forms 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!**

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

Children's Disaster Ministries finds our church facility perfect for holding one of their training sessions. Needed is a co-coordinator to set up such training for April 5-6 or April 12-13, 2024. One person has agreed to help but we need a leader. Please notify the church office, Pastor Jim or a Witness Team member for more details.

We are also in need of a representative for the Brethren Disaster Relief Auction held in September.

Please prayerfully consider where you can help and contact Oceana Goodwin or any Witness Team member.



Meat Canning Project April 1, 2, 3, & 4

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

Sponsored by:

Southern PA District & Mid-Atlantic District COB

Contact your District Office to volunteer.
717-778-2254 or 717-778-2264

DISTRICT & COMMUNITY NEWS



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.

January

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1  Church Office Closed	2 5/7 p.m. Basketball (John)	3 9 a.m. Bible Study 9 a.m. Quilting 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball 7:30 p.m. Choir	4 1 p.m. Grief Support Group (Library) 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball 6:30 Handbells	5	6 Epiphany Fellowship Hall Reserved Noon-10 p.m. (Susquehanna Malayalee Assoc.)
7 Pew Communion Food for New Hope 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship	8 1 p.m. Knitting Group (Library) 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball	9 5/7 p.m. Basketball (John) 7/8 p.m. Special Olympics Dryland (Fellowship Hall)	10 9 a.m. Bible Study 9 a.m. Quilting 11:30 a.m. Ladies Luncheon 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball 7:30 p.m. Choir	11 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball 6:30 Handbells	12	13
14 Remembrance Sunday 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship	15 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball	16 1 p.m. Caregiver Support Group 7 p.m. LT Mtg. 5/7 p.m. Basketball (John) 7/8 p.m. Special Olympics Dryland (Fellowship Hall)	17 9 a.m. Bible Study 9 a.m. Quilting 11:30 a.m. Lunch & Learn Fellowship 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball 7:30 p.m. Choir	18 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball 6:30 Handbells	19	20 February Newsletter Deadline
21 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship	22 1 p.m. Knitting Group (Library) 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball	23 5/7 p.m. Basketball (John) 7/8 p.m. Special Olympics Dryland (Fellowship Hall)	24 9 a.m. Bible Study 9 a.m. Quilting 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball 7:30 p.m. Choir	25 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball 6:30 Handbells	26	24
28 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship	29 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball 7 p.m. Church Book Club (Zoom)	30 5/7 p.m. Basketball (John) 7/8 p.m. Special Olympics Dryland (Fellowship Hall)	31 9 a.m. Bible Study 9 a.m. Quilting 5/9 p.m. St. Joseph Basketball 7:30 p.m. Choir			

2024