

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


# CARILLON

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Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren  
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[www.MechanicsburgCOB.org](http://www.MechanicsburgCOB.org)

**Volume 24  
Number 12**



*She wrapped him  
in cloths and placed  
him in a manger.*

Luke 2:7, NIV

## DECEMBER WORSHIP THEMES

### *First Sunday of Advent*

**December 1:** "Finding Hope" - Eric Seibert

**Worship Theme:** Sometimes hope can be hard to find, but it is essential to our emotional and spiritual well-being. A God who is for us, and present with us, offers the hope we seek.

**Scripture:** Isaiah 40:1-5; Luke 1:26-38

### *Second Sunday of Advent*

**December 8:** "Expressing Love" - Eric Seibert

**Worship Theme:** Jesus said people will know we are his disciples if we love one another (John 13:35). But what does love look like, and how is it best expressed?

**Scripture:** Matthew 1:18-25; Romans 12:9-13

### *Third Sunday of Advent*

**December 15:** "Experiencing Joy" - Eric Seibert

**Worship Theme:** God wants us to experience joy in our lives. This message considers how that can happen in both good times *and* bad.

**Scripture:** Psalm 96; Luke 1:5-23

### *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**December 22:** "Making Peace" - Eric Seibert

**Worship Theme:** How can we make peace in a world that seems bent on domination, violence, and its own self-destruction? Jesus, the Prince of Peace, shows us the way, inviting us to make peace with ourselves, God, and others.

**Scripture:** Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 1:57-58, 67-79

### *First Sunday After Christmas*

**December 29:** "Enjoying Rest" - Eric Seibert

**Worship Theme:** Our lives are filled with to-do lists, appointments, and numerous obligations (especially during the holidays). This can make it difficult to slow down, highlighting the important to find ways to rest and renew.

**Scripture:** Genesis 2:1-3; Mark 6:30-32

The Word became flesh and lived among us.  
John 1:14 NRSVue



Ready or not, the holiday season is upon us. This time of year includes family gatherings, elaborate meals, shopping trips, time off work, out-of-state travel, Christmas music, special church services, and more.

It also includes a considerable amount of stress! Traffic is worse, lines are longer, and people seem to be in a big hurry to get things done. While some people find all the hustle and bustle exhilarating, others find it quite exhausting.

Whatever the case may be for you, I hope you will be able to slow down enough to enjoy the gifts this season has to offer. I would encourage you to take the opportunity to reflect on the meaning of Advent as we enter into this very special time of year. The worship themes for the month of December can help in this regard, inviting us to find hope, express love, experience joy, and make peace.



As we journey toward Christmas, my prayer for each of you is that you will experience afresh the joy and wonder of Jesus' coming into the world. May you see God showing up in unexpected places, and may there always be a star to light your path and guide you on your way.

In glad anticipation of celebrating this season together with you . .

-Pastor Eric



# 2025

**Our next Family Promise week is January 5 -11, 2025**



Kids and Parents: "Save the Dates" for all Wednesday evenings in February and the first one in March! Our new Winter Wednesday Bible School is coming in the form of PANDAMANIA, where God is absolutely wild about YOU!!! You will not want to miss any of our adventures.




On Wednesday evening, at 7:00 p.m., we will hold a **Blue Christmas Service**

(sometimes also referred to as a Longest Night service). This service will include songs, readings, special music, silence, and candle lighting. As described on the Small Church Ministry website:

"For many, Christmas is not 'The Most Wonderful Time of the Year' (as the song goes). A Blue Christmas service can offer some healing and hope. The ideas behind the Blue Christmas service is to create space for the acknowledgment of the heaviness often carried during this season, as well as offering the hope that Jesus gives.

Our society has become one of masking emotions that are sometimes considered negative. The Bible clearly acknowledges, celebrates, and makes space for pain, struggle, hardship, and tears – and so should we...

This Blue service is a beautiful way to make space during the Advent season for those suffering any kind of loss – whether the loss of a person, a dream, finances, stability, health, or more."




## 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, 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](mailto: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.

**December 24: *Christmas Eve***  
 "The Best Birth Announcement Ever"  
 - Eric Seibert

This evening will include lessons and carols, providing an opportunity to experience the Christmas story through Scripture and song and a special candlelight service.

Everyone is welcome!



**Christmas Eve**

**Candlelight Service**

**December 24th**  
at 7 p.m.



## MCOB NEWS & ACTIVITIES



Please join us after worship on **Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**, for our **Annual Christmas Luncheon.**

If attending, please sign the sheet in the Narthex as we need an accurate count, because due to popular demand, we are bringing back the spiral cut hams.

We ask attendees to consider bringing a side dish and/or Christmas cookies. Cookies will be served for dessert and also bagged to distribute during our neighborhood caroling following the meal.

### Third Annual MCOB Neighborhood Caroling (after the meal)

We hope many of you can stay after the meal to sing Christmas carols along with the MCOB Ensemble in the neighborhood around our church. This event, and the cookies we deliver each year are a well-received part of our outreach efforts.

Note that this event is weather dependent.



The Friends of  
**CROSS KEYS VILLAGE**  
The Brethren Home Community



## Recycled Christmas Decor Sale

### Freshen up your Christmas!

Freshen up your Christmas decoration and deck the halls without breaking the bank. Welcome to a brand new Friends' event modelled after our popular Almost New Jewelry Sale.

### Bring your donations on Thursday, December 12.

Drop off your holiday items between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. in the Garden Room at Harmony Ridge. We suggest you pre-price your items at \$1, \$3, \$5, or \$10.

### Shop for almost-new decorations on Friday, December 13!

Shop for new-to-you decorations between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. in the Garden Room. Please bring a shopping bag or two to carry your purchases, if possible.



Payment by cash or check please, no credit cards. Proceeds will support projects of the Friends.

Please contact Sharon Stockholm at [stockholmshops@yahoo.com](mailto:stockholmshops@yahoo.com) with any questions.

*Thank you for supporting the Friends of Cross Keys Village and their projects benefiting residents and team members.*

CHRISTMAS TREE  
FESTIVAL  
**CAMP**  
*Eder*

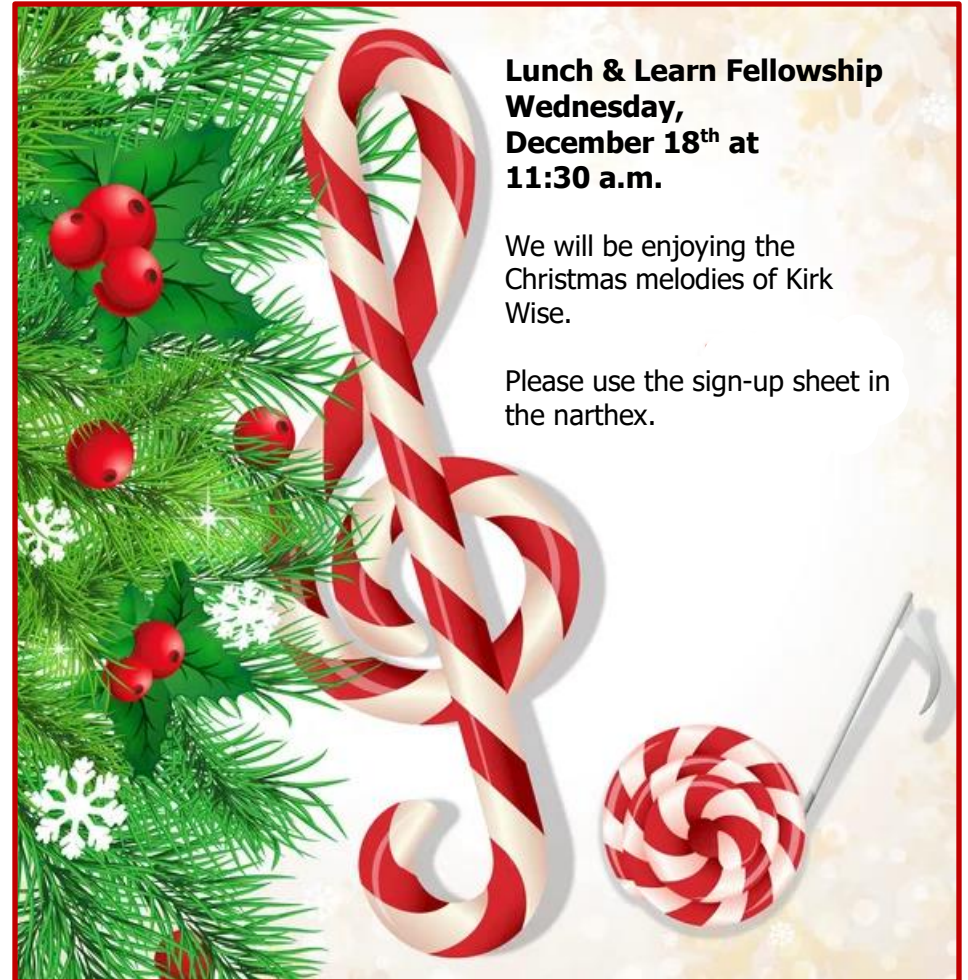
DECEMBER 13TH & 14TH 5-9PM

- CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & MUSIC
- HAY RIDES FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT 5-9PM
- TREE DECORATING CONTEST
- DELICIOUS TURKEY DINNER & SOUP (PER DONATION)
- LUMINARY GARDEN (HONORING OUR LOVED ONES)
- DECORATED TREES
- WARM DRINKS AND LOTS OF COOKIES (FREE)
- BAKE SALE
- KID'S ACTIVITIES
- COZY FIRES & S'MORES
- LIVE MUSIC

"AND THIS IS THE TESTIMONY: GOD HAS GIVEN US ETERNAL LIFE, AND THIS LIFE IS IN HIS SON." – JOHN 1:5-11

COME JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FAMILY FESTIVE FUN! THE WOODS WILL BE ILLUMINATED WITH LOTS AND LOTS OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, WARM FIRES, HOT COCOA AND CHILDREN ACTIVITIES WILL BE HAPPENING EACH NIGHT. THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL FESTIVAL YOU MOST CERTAINLY WILL NOT WANT TO MISS!

[WWW.CAMPEDER.ORG](http://WWW.CAMPEDER.ORG) 717-642-8256  
914 MT HOPE RD. FAIRFIELD, PA 17320



**Lunch & Learn Fellowship**  
**Wednesday,**  
**December 18<sup>th</sup> at**  
**11:30 a.m.**

We will be enjoying the Christmas melodies of Kirk Wise.

Please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex.



**Looking for that special gift?**

Give that special someone the experience of Sight & Sound Theatre and a meal at Shady Maple for \$168.00 inclusive. No other fees. Sign up will be in April 2025.



This Advent season, the Witness team is once again inviting members to make gifts to Heifer International, which marked its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Help stem hunger around the world by boosting farmers, so they gain self-reliance and sustainable

incomes. Look for the Heifer Christmas tree in the welcome area for this special gift-giving opportunity. Deadline is December 31<sup>st</sup>.



In every season, the mission and ministry of the Church of the Brethren shares hope and joy with the world. Through the goodness of God and your faithful support, we extend generosity and witness by engaging our neighbors, seeking justice, and

sharing the holistic peace of Jesus Christ. The Advent Offering supports Core Ministries like Intercultural Ministries, the Peacebuilding and Policy Office, and many more. Learn more at [www.brethren.org/adventoffering](http://www.brethren.org/adventoffering) or give an offering today at [www.brethren.org/giveoffering](http://www.brethren.org/giveoffering)



*Christmas*  
EVE OFFERING

The Church of the Brethren in Venezuela has purchased property to begin working to extend and sustain their ministry and mission in that country. This video provides insight into the vision the church has for the property:

[https://youtu.be/SYX6lrpFvOU?xi=KgYWN-J8z\\_BDk04x](https://youtu.be/SYX6lrpFvOU?xi=KgYWN-J8z_BDk04x)

Please consider donating to this worthy cause. Checks should be made out to the "Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren" and on the memo line mark for "Venezuela COB property" by Christmas Eve. Contributions received after 12/24 will be included in the General Fund.

## 14th Annual Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival

*A Celebration of the Birth of Jesus*

Friday, Saturday  
December 13th and 14th  
Daily 5pm—9pm

### Sponsorship Form

\_\_\_\_\_ Gold Sponsor: \$200.00

Provides funds to purchase items that highlight the birth of Christ and the journey to Bethlehem.

\_\_\_\_\_ Frankincense Sponsor: \$100.00

Goes towards the cost of purchasing food and food supplies. Many food items will be available, including: cookies, hot soup, cocoa, sandwiches, turkey dinners, and more—all will be available to guests for a donation.

\_\_\_\_\_ Myrrh Sponsor: \$ 50.00

Will provide 2 trees to be used for our decorating contest. Churches, organizations, and Camp Eder supporters, are given the opportunity to decorate a tree with their choice of theme. Trees are on display for the duration of the Festival and are entered into our lighthearted contest. After the Festival, the trees are made available to local families in need. You do not have to decorate a tree, however you are welcome to do so by checking the "Tree Sponsor" section below.

\_\_\_\_\_ Luminary Sponsor: \$5.00 per luminary

A luminary will be lit and displayed in honor or memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
(use the back of this form if needed)

\_\_\_\_\_ Friend of Camp Eder \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Tree Sponsor: No donation is necessary to take on the exciting task of decorating a tree for your organization or family. A 5-6 foot live-cut tree will be provided for you to decorate

(Name) \_\_\_\_\_ (Phone Number) \_\_\_\_\_

(Address) \_\_\_\_\_

(Email) \_\_\_\_\_

Note: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your tax deductible donation!*

717-642-8256, or [campeder@campeder.org](mailto:campeder@campeder.org)

914 Mt. Hope Rd., Fairfield, PA 17320



Camp Eder is seeking people to serve as Board Members.

[campeder@campeder.org](mailto:campeder@campeder.org)

# JANUARY 24TH-26TH CAMP EDER WINTER CAMP 2025

## THINGS TO BRING:

- WARM CLOTHES
- PILLOW AND SLEEPING BAG
- EXTRA SOCKS
- TOWEL AND WASHCLOTH
- PERSONAL TOILETRY ITEMS
- BIBLE, NOTEBOOK, AND PEN
- SNOW PANTS
- WINTER JACKET
- GLOVES AND HAT
- BOOTS
- EXTRA PAIR OF SHOES
- SLED(S) (OPTIONAL)
- SIGNED POLICY AGREEMENT
- HEALTH FORM



FOR GRADES 1ST-12TH  
& SHINING STARS  
\$90

ARRIVE 7PM FRIDAY  
REGISTRATION @ GEIGLEY  
DEPART 2PM SUNDAY



REGISTRATION OPENS NOV. 15TH  
TO REGISTER GO TO:  
[WWW.CAMPEDER.ORG/WINTER-CAMP](http://WWW.CAMPEDER.ORG/WINTER-CAMP)

914 Mt Hope Rd, Fairfield, PA 17320 | [Campeder.org](http://Campeder.org) | 717-642-8256

## New Hope Christmas Blessing Express . . .

where the guests were able to shop for unwrapped gifts for the whole family.

This season, we are only accepting new clothing for children through tweens. No adult clothing, except what is listed on the Wish List.

Thank you for your generosity and love to our neighbors in need especially during this challenging time. With your support, we can make this Season filled with Hope and Love.

Please pick up a copy of the Christmas Wish List, available in the narthex and place your unwrapped items in the designated box by **Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.**





## DISTRICT & COMMUNITY NEWS

### The Heart of Christmas

Sound over all waters, reach out from all lands,  
 The chorus of voices, the clasping of hands;  
 Sing hymns that were sung by the stars of the morn,  
 Sing songs of the angels when Jesus was born!  
 With glad jubilations  
 Bring hope to the nations!  
 The dark night is ending and dawn has begun:  
 Rise, hope of the ages, arise like the sun,  
 All speech flow to music, all hearts beat as one! ...

Blow, bugles of battle, the marches of peace;  
 East, west, north, and south let the long quarrel cease.  
 Sing the song of great joy that the angels began,  
 Sing of glory to God and of good-will to man!  
 Hark! joining in chorus  
 The heavens bend o'er us!  
 The dark night is ending and dawn has begun;  
 Rise, hope of the ages, arise like the sun,  
 All speech flow to music, all hearts beat as one!

—John Greenleaf Whittier

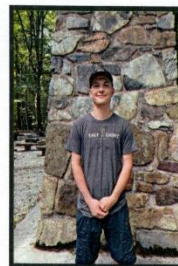


# CAMP EDER NEWS

## William Hilliard

### Welcome to the family!

We are thrilled to introduce our new Program Coordinator, William Hilliard! William graduated from Lancaster Bible College this past spring with a degree in Youth and Young Adult Ministry, as well as Biblical Studies. He has previously served in various roles at Woodcrest Retreat center in Lancaster County, including counselor, director of resource staff, and as an intern this past spring. We are excited to welcome William to the Camp Eder family and look forward to the positive impact he will have on our programs. As we enter the fall season, we are grateful for a successful and safe summer where God moved in powerful ways, and lives were won for His Kingdom.

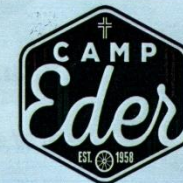


## Summer Camp

Summer Camp registration opens January 1st! We're excited to offer new specialty camps this year that you won't want to miss. Keep an eye out for our annual program booklet to see the new offerings. Registration and camp details can all be found on our website at [www.campeder.org](http://www.campeder.org). And don't forget to join us January 24-26 for Winter Camp!

## Upcoming Events

- Christmas Tree Festival Dec 13-14
- January 1st Summer Camp  
Registration opens
- Winter Camp Jan 24th-26th
- Senior Days 2025: April 9th,  
September 3rd, November 5th







# CLUES ABOUT CHRISTMAS

The Old Testament contains many details about Jesus' birth.  
Can you uncover what Isaiah prophesied?

Directions: Use the code to write the letters and complete Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	!	@	#	\$
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
%	^	&	*	(	)	-	?	>	<	:	;	{

For to us a 3 8 9 # 4 is 2 ^ ( % , to us a ) ^ %

is 7 9 > 5 % , and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful 3 ^ ? % ) 5 # ^ ( ' ,

\$ 9 7 8 - ; God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the

greatness of his government and & 5 1 3 5 there will be no 5 % 4 .

He will reign on David's - 8 ( ^ % 5 and over his @ 9 % 7 4 ^ \$ ,

establishing and upholding it with ! ? ) - 9 3 5 and righteousness

from that time on and 6 ^ ( 5 > 5 ( . Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV

# December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.	<b>2</b> Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 (SJS Basketball)	<b>3</b> Fellowship Hall Reserved 6/8 p.m. (John)	<b>4</b> Quilting 9 a.m. Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 (SJS Basketball)	<b>5</b> Grief Support Group 1 p.m. (Library) Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 (SJS Basketball)	<b>6</b> Fellowship Hall Reserved 6/9 p.m. (SOPA District COB)	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.	<b>9</b> Knitting Group 1 p.m. (Library) Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 (SJS Basketball)	<b>10</b> Men's Breakfast 9 a.m. (Brother's Restaurant) Fellowship Hall Reserved 6/8 p.m. (John) Executive Committee 7 p.m.	<b>11</b> Quilting 9 a.m. Ladies Luncheon 11:30 a.m. (Lower Allen Diner) Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 (SJS Basketball)	<b>12</b> Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 (SJS Basketball)	<b>13</b> <b>Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival 5/9 p.m.</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival 5/9 p.m.</b>
<b>15</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. <b>MCOB Christmas Dinner</b> (after worship)	<b>16</b> Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 (SJS Basketball)	<b>17</b> Caregiver Support Group 1 p.m. (Library) Fellowship Hall Reserved 6/8 p.m. (John)	<b>18</b> Quilting 9 a.m. <b>Lunch &amp; Learn Fellowship 11:30 Blue Christmas Service 7 p.m.</b> Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 (SJS Basketball)	<b>19</b> Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 (SJS Basketball)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.	<b>23</b> Knitting Group 1 p.m. (Library) Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 (SJS Basketball)	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7 p.m.</b>	<b>25</b> Church Office Closed <i>Merry Christmas!</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> My 2 Cents Worth Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.	<b>30</b> NO Book Club	<b>31</b> Fellowship Hall Reserved 6/8 p.m. (John)				

2024