

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

# CARILLON

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Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren  
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**Volume 24  
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# MARCH WORSHIP THEMES

**March 3: "Stepping Out, Standing Apart"** - Jim Benedict  
*Third Sunday of Lent*

**Worship Theme:** Nicodemus faced a choice: he could remain a mere admirer of Jesus, or take the bold step of becoming a follower. We face the same choice each day.

**Scripture Text:** John 2:23-3:21

**March 10: "Too Close for Comfort"** - Jim Benedict  
*Fourth Sunday of Lent*

**Worship Theme:** The woman at the well became uncomfortable as she realized how much Jesus knew about her. But Jesus was determined to deliver his offer of grace.

**Scripture Text:** John 4:5-42

**March 17: "The Labyrinth"** - Jim Benedict  
*Fifth Sunday of Lent*

**Worship Theme:** Following Jesus is not for those only interested in finding the quickest, easiest way through life. It is for those willing to walk by faith on a path that twists and turns, but leads us home.

**Scripture Text:** 2 Kings 5:1-14

**March 24: "Donkey One"** - Jim Benedict  
*Palm Sunday*

**Worship Theme:** Jesus generally traveled on foot, and sometimes by boat, but when he was preparing to enter Jerusalem for the last time he borrowed a donkey. Why?

**Scripture Text:** Luke 19:28-40

**March 31: "Empty is Everything"** - Jim Benedict  
*Easter*

**Worship Theme:** Because the tomb was empty, our hearts are filled with hope and our future is full of possibilities.

**Scripture Text:** Mark 18:1-8

## The Right Time



"... while we still were sinners Christ died for us."

Romans 5:8b

When is the right time to plant potatoes? According to my father, it is Good Friday. According to some of the old-timers down in Maryland, it is St. Patrick's Day. According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, the right time is 2-4 weeks before the last frost. So when is the right time? Who knows?

But this much we do know: according to the Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Christians at Rome, "at *the right time* Christ died for the ungodly." Still, we may ask, what time was that and what makes it the "right" time? For the answers to those questions, we may read on in the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans. Just two verses later we find, "But God proves his love for us in that *while we still were sinners* Christ died for us."

Franciscan priest and writer Richard Rohr explains what makes this the *right time*: "*Most of us were taught that God would love us if and when we change. In fact, God loves you so that you can change. What empowers change, what makes you desirous of change, is the inner experience of love. This alone becomes the engine of positive change.*"

If God had waited to send Jesus until we had behaved well enough to deserve it, we would still be waiting. But when God sent Jesus to die for us while we were still sinners – when we didn't deserve it – it became clear that God's motivation was love. Love had to come first. That is what made it the *right time*. And that love is what makes us able to change, to become better by loving others and by learning to love ourselves in the right way.

As we make our way through the last weeks of Lent this coming month, let us take time each day to remember God's love for us and others, and give thanks.

Peace,  
Pastor Jim

## *The Arts at Messiah*

### **March 20: Poetry Reading: Ross Gay**

Free to the public, book signing to follow  
7:30 p.m., Hostetter Chapel

### **March 22/23: Spring Senior Series**

Works created & presented by the theatre & dance departments  
8 p.m., Poorman Black Box Theater (Climenhaga Bldg.)

### **March 23/April 7: Senior Exhibition I**

Capstone artwork by seniors in B.A. studio art program  
Aughinbaugh Art Gallery (Climenhaga Bldg.)  
*Reception: 4:30 p.m. on March 23rd*

### **March 24: Messiah University Concert Choir**

Joy Meade, conductor  
4 p.m., High Center, Parmer Hall

### **March 25: Messiah Univ. Chamber Ensembles**

7:30 p.m., High Center, High Foundation Recital Hall

### **March 26: Messiah University Jazz Combo**

Todd Goranson, director  
7:30 p.m., High Center, High Foundation Recital Hall

## MCOB NEWS & ACTIVITIES

Love Feast will be held on Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 6 p.m. We will gather as a faith community in Fellowship Hall to share in a time of feet/hand washing, a fellowship meal, and communion.



### **Trindle Spring Lutheran Church Presents "Music at the Spring"**

Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 4 p.m.

Mansfield University Concert Choir

Dr. Peggy Dettwiler, Conductor



### **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE - MARCH 29 - 7 P.M.**

#### **"NAILS"**

By God's grace and power, even the nails used to hold Jesus on the cross were redeemed.



#### **Scripture Texts:**

**John 19:13-18;  
1 Thessalonians 5:6-11**

**- Jim Benedict**

*Community*

**EASTER EGG HUNT**

**Saturday, March 30, 2024 – Rain or Shine!**  
 Come one and all! Enjoy the reading of a Bible story and then search for candy filled eggs!  
 The fun begins at 10 a.m.!

**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.

**REMEMBER TO**

**SPRING FORWARD**  
**March 10th!**  
 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS!  
 [+1 HOUR]



**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

**Southern PA District  
 Church of the Brethren  
 2024**

**District Women's Spring Luncheon**

**"A Commandment to Keep and a Choice to Make"**

**Saturday, April 20, 2024**

**9:00 a.m.**

**West Shore Church of the Brethren  
 Enola, PA 17025**

**Registration forms are located on the bulletin board**

# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



## All of God's grace in one little face.



Jade visited New Hope for the first time in January. She was having trouble making ends meet and needed help with heating her home during these cold months. She was very close to having her first baby and we provided her with a baby bundle. New Hope's baby bundles are filled with everything a young

mom would need for their new arrival – and it was a good thing we gave it to her when we did – baby Brooklyn arrived earlier than expected! Jade came to New Hope just looking for help with keeping her home warm and ended up receiving so much more! **She found love, understanding and support.**

**Thank you for making these moments possible!**

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.  
Ephesians 2:10

### 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](http://www.nhm-pa.org)



I/We Wish to Place

## EASTER FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

On Easter morning.

### **Order Deadline: March 10, 2024**

_____ Easter Lilies (6 - inch pot/5+ Blooms)	\$14.00
_____ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

The CHURCH BOOK CLUB  
will meet on Monday,  
March 25, 2024,  
at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

This month's selection is  
*The Dollhouse* by Fiona Davis.

Discussion Leader is  
Peggy Brechbiel.



**GLOBAL FOOD INITIATIVE**

"My 2 Cents  
Worth"  
Collection -  
March 31<sup>st</sup>

Your support of the Global Food Initiative upholds the biblical command to lift the burden of the oppressed. Moreover, it honors God, for as stated in Proverbs 14:31, "Kindness shown to the poor is an act of worship."

The **WITNESS TEAM** -  
Thanks to all for their  
generosity in donating supplies  
for the CWS Period Kits packed in  
February. We packed and delivered  
54 "kits" to the New Windsor  
office along with the required  
funds to handle the distribution  
of the kits. The few supplies  
remaining were donated to New  
Hope, Family Promise or used in  
the church bathrooms.  
Thanks again . . . Witness Team



## 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



**Wednesdays at Noon at the hosting church.**

March 6: Shiremanstown United Methodist Church 717-737-6621

March 13: St. Luke's Episcopal Church 717-766-5182

March 20: Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren 717-766-8880



## Family Promise

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

[www.familypromisehcr.org](http://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*



### **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.

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 is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

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

**Help Needed!** Christian Ed would appreciate any assistance to get tables and chairs set up in the Fellowship Hall for our Bible-A-Thon event on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. One of us can meet anyone willing to help with this so that everything is set to go by 11:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. Please see Linda Crook Saylor by phone call, text, or email to make arrangements for a time that is convenient for you. Please and thanks for your consideration!



Our **Family Promise Hosting Week** is coming up on March 17<sup>th</sup> through March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please check the bulletin board to see how **YOU** can help!



## 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?



Our church has a long tradition of providing funeral meals for those coping with loss. The Nurture Team would like to create a roster of individuals willing to help with that ministry. No special culinary expertise is needed and most items can be made beforehand and dropped off at the church. Contact Stephen Vinson if you would be willing to help or have questions.



## 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.**

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

**District Wide Discernment Meeting  
For the Congregations of the  
SOPA District of  
the Church of the Brethren**

**Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Carlisle First Church of the Brethren**



# DISTRICT & COMMUNITY



**Bus Trip  
to  
Sight and Sound  
Theater  
June 25, 2024**

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 Hershey Farms smorgasbord (chicken & turkey, soups, salad, breads, and desserts before returning home.

**Cost: \$156.00/person** (Bus driver tip not included in cost.)

**Need 42 people to sign up before March 31<sup>st</sup>.**

Wheelchair seating available on bus as well as theater. Seats are all in nonstep 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 May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Payment confirms your seat and MUST be received by  
May 1, 2024.**

**Checks payable to Arlene Justice.**

# March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 4:30/9 p.m. Fellowship Hall Reserved (Grace Reformed Baptist)
<b>3</b> <b>New Hope</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship <b>3 p.m. Lenten Bible Study</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9 a.m. Quilting 9 a.m. Bible Study  5:30/7:45 p.m. WNL	<b>7</b> 1 p.m. Grief Support Group (Library)  St. Joseph Basketball 4/8:30 p.m.	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship <b>12/2 p.m. Bible-A-Thon</b> <b>3 p.m. Lenten Bible Study</b>	<b>11</b> 1 p.m. Knitting Group (Library)	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9 a.m. Quilting 9 a.m. Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Ladies Luncheon 7:30 p.m. Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <b>Family Promise</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> "One Great Hour of Sharing" Collection 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship <b>3 p.m. Lenten Bible Study</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 1 p.m. Caregivers Support Group (Library) 7 p.m. Leadership Team Meeting	<b>20</b> 9 a.m. Quilting 9 a.m. Bible Study <b>12 Noon – Lenten Luncheon (MCOB)</b> 7:30 p.m. Choir	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Family Promise</b>	<b>Family Promise</b>	<b>Family Promise</b>	<b>Family Promise</b>	<b>Family Promise</b>	<b>Family Promise</b>	<b>Family Promise</b>
<b>24</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship <b>3 p.m. Lenten Bible Study</b> <b>6 p.m. Love Feast</b>	<b>25</b> 1 p.m. Knitting Group (Library)  7 p.m. Church Book Club (Zoom)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9 a.m. Quilting 9 a.m. Bible Study  7:30 p.m. Choir	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>7 p.m. Good Friday Service</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Community Easter Egg Hunt</b>
<b>31</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship "My 2Cents Worth" Collection						

2024