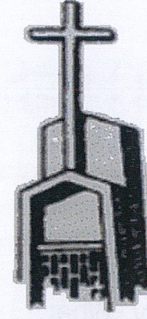


Church of the Brethren
301 Gale Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
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The APRIL 2026

CARILLON

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

www.MechanicsburgCOB.org

Volume 26
Number 04



April Worship Themes

April 5: Easter Sunday

"Seeing is Believing"

- Eric Seibert

Worship Theme: In John 20, various individuals see the empty tomb and the resurrected Christ, resulting in belief and joy. What signs of the resurrected Christ do you see in the world today?

Scripture: John 20:1-31

April 12: "Naomi's Devastating Tragedy – Ruth's Amazing Loyalty"

- Eric Seibert

Worship Theme: This is the first message of a four-week sermon series on the book of Ruth (the other three sermons will occur in May after our 100th year anniversary celebration). Naomi experiences huge losses and blames God for it. Though things look bleak, Ruth's astonishing loyalty provides a ray of hope that only grows brighter as the story progresses.

Scripture: Ruth 1

April 19: Guest Speaker (TBD)

April 26: An ordination service for Eric Seibert is tentatively planned for this Sunday with guest speaker TBD.



And now, O Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in you.
Psalm 39:7 (NRSVue)

I recently watched someone interview James Martin, a Jesuit priest and author of the recently published book *Work in Progress: Confessions of Busboy, Dishwasher, Caddy, Usher, Factory Worker, Bank Teller, Corporate Tool, and Priest*. During the interview, Father Martin used a brief expression—twice as I recall—that captured my attention. It stuck with me not just because of its brevity, but because of its profundity. The expression? **We live in hope.**

As people of faith that is precisely how we are called to live. In the midst of pain and suffering, we live in hope. In the face of oppression and injustice, we live in hope. When everything around us feels like it is falling apart, we live in hope. When the world has lost its imagination and violence is on the rise, we live in hope.

We live in hope that God is at work in our lives, in our homes, in our church, and in our world. We live in hope that wrongs will be set right, that good will triumph over evil, and that love will prevail over hatred. We live in hope that tomorrow might be better than today, that there is healing for what ails us, and that death is not the final word.

As Easter people, we live in the hope of resurrection and new life, confident that the God most clearly revealed to us in the person of Jesus will be with us always, to the end.

We live in hope.

As we continue on this journey of faith together, let us encourage one another with these words often, and may that give us strength and bring us comfort in trying times.

Pastor Eric



Church of the Brethren

Annual Conference 2026

Sunday, June 28 – Thursday, July 2

Fort Wayne, Indiana

Grand Wayne Convention Center

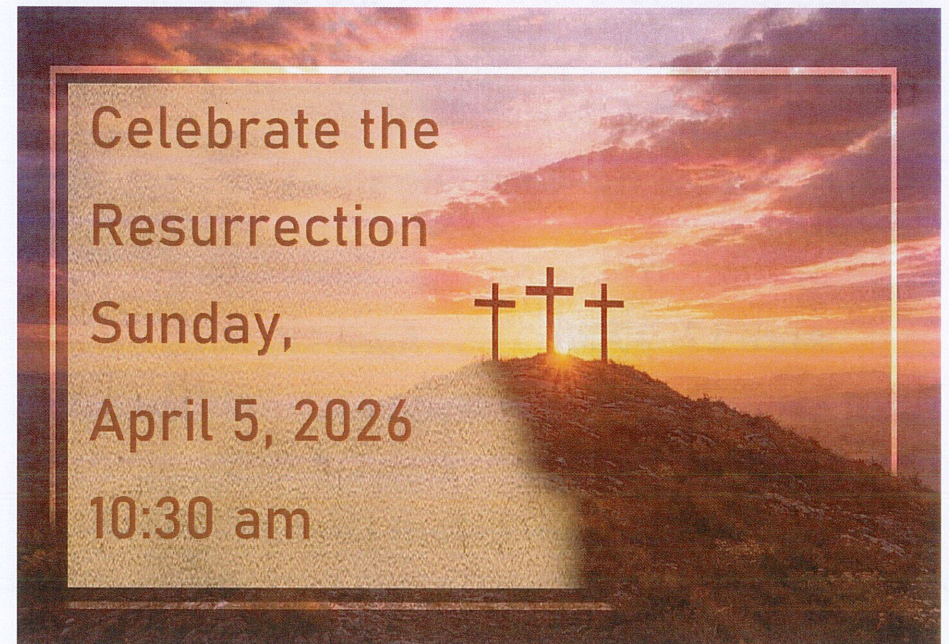
Registration is now open!

www.brethren.org

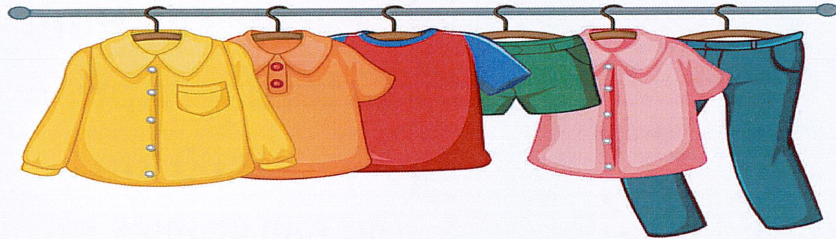
Imagine: New Possibilities, Restored Vision, Renewed Dreams. Annual Conference provides an opportunity for the body of Christ to come together to hear the voice of God as revealed by the Holy Spirit within and among us. Please join us for inspiring worship, informational Bible studies, communal

discernment, engaging breakout sessions, energizing exhibits, empowering witness, nurturing fellowship and meaningful connection.

“Imagine!” inspired by Acts 2:17-18, the experience of the first Pentecost. The theme statement by moderator Don Fitzkee says, in part, “When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost amidst tongues of fire and miracles of speaking and hearing, the people were amazed and perplexed. Peter explained to them that the words of the prophet Joel were being fulfilled.... Could it be that the key to envisioning a way forward for the church is to remember where we’ve come from? Rather than something entirely new, what may be needed are renewed dreams and restored vision as we reclaim themes like radical discipleship, commitment to our New Testament creed, caring community, humble service, and nonviolent peacemaking.”



Spring Fling Rummage Sale



CLOTHING - Shoes & Accessories

For Men, Women & Children - All Ages – All Sizes

LINENS

Bed, Bath & Kitchen

BAKED GOODS - FOOD & DRINK

Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren

301 Gale Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
(717)766-8880

(use the Back Entrance)

Friday

April 17, 2026

8 AM until 5 PM

Saturday

April 18, 2026

8:00 AM until Noon

Serving Food Both Days



35th Annual CAS Auction
- Tuesday, April 28, 2026
New Fairview Church
1873 New Fairview Church
Road, York, PA

Online Auction 04/25-04/27 @

www.auctria.com/auction/CASAnnualAuction

The Lehman Crisis Nursery is one of Children's Aid Society's ten programs and is one of only three crisis nurseries in the state of Pennsylvania. The crisis nursery provides a loving, safe place for young children to stay when their parents require temporary or emergency respite for their children.

Children's Aid Society provides creative child centered art therapy to help children recover and to learn how to cope with life's challenges in positive ways. Parents are empowered by working with our family advocates to learn valuable parenting skills for their children and by participating in parent support groups.

Our centers also provide children and parents education

through our Incredible Years program and we are currently offering traditional early learning childcare in York city at the Werner Early Learning Childcare Center.

The funds raised by our annual auction make it possible for us to empower children and their families, even those whose families cannot pay for what they need.

Last year's auction raised over **\$57,000** for our agency!

Thank you for your donations of gift cards, sponsorships, financial gifts, program ads, and volunteer time.

We are grateful for your support and could not have done it without you!



Bus Trip to Sight and Sound Theater June 23, 2026

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 (family style) at Hershey Farm Restaurant before returning home about 5 p.m.

Cost: \$173.00/person (Bus driver tip not included in cost.)

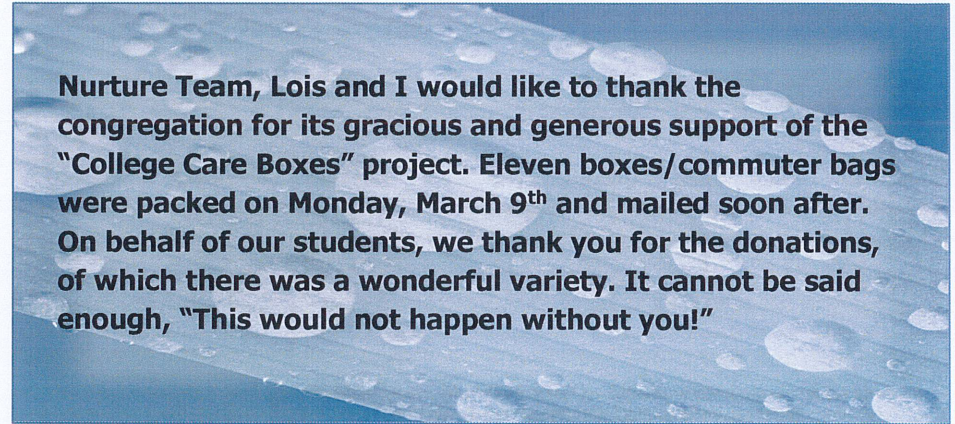
Wheelchair seating available on bus as well as theater. Seats are all in a non-step area of theater, but a lift is on the bus. Max seating on bus is 48. The first people to sign-up will go.

NO REFUNDS. However, you may sell or give your ticket to someone of your choice if after April 26th.

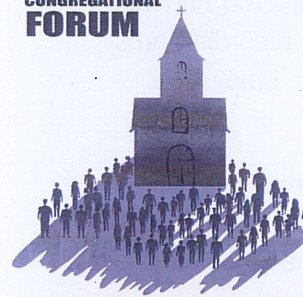
Payment confirms your seat and MUST be received by April 26, 2026.

Cash or Check payable to Arlene Justice.

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



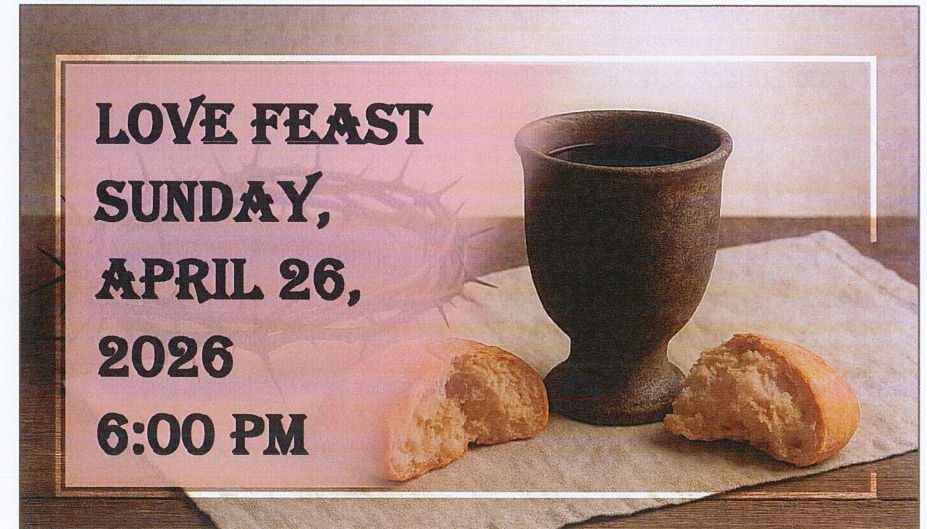
CONGREGATIONAL
FORUM



Spring Congregational Forum Sunday, April 19, 2026

A fellowship meal will be held immediately following worship. Please bring a hot or cold dish to share.

The business meeting will begin around 12:30 p.m.





Centennial Corner



Anniversary Celebration May 2-3

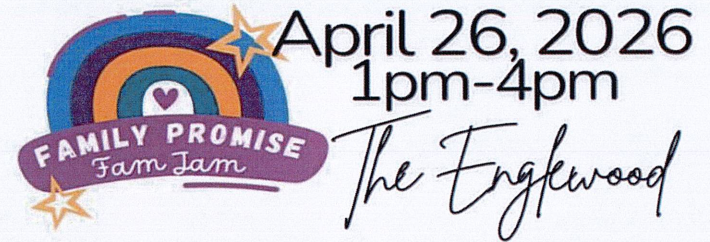
The weekend of May 2-3, our church will mark its centennial. The celebration kicks off with a free concert Saturday, May 2, with a 7 p.m. performance by Anita Stapleton Anderson and her brother Brent Stapleton. The Nashville recording artist began her career singing in our children's choir. Enjoy light refreshments after the performance.

Morning worship on May 3 will center on our anniversary theme "Yesterday's Vision: Today's Strength, Tomorrow's Hope." Jeff Carter, President of Bethany Theological Seminary, will deliver a keynote sermon on the theme. Pastor Eric Seibert will serve as worship leader.

During Sunday school, Jeff Bach, Director Emeritus of the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College, also will offer remarks related to the congregation's 100th anniversary.

Following the worship service, the celebration will conclude with a luncheon and a program emceed by Warren Eshbach. The meal is free to all, but RSVPs are required so that the proper amount of food may be prepared. Vegetarian options are available upon request.

Please RSVP by signing the sheet in the narthex or by emailing or calling Starr Akens, Administrative Assistant, at mcob-secretary@verizon.net or 717-766-8880.



Give People a Hand UP

Family Promise HCR assists people with back rent, and with car expenses through its UP programs. Now more than ever, people need help in these areas. Our goal is to help three families a month to purchase/repair a vehicle or prevent their eviction. We can't do this without you. Regular monthly giving allows us to continue to provide this assistance. You can help keep a family in their home or provide transportation for work! Go to www.familypromisehcr.org, under "donate" to give a single donation or to become a monthly donor.



Have you ever paused to think about what it really means to love your neighbors?

Jesus reminds us that love is not only something we feel, it's something we live out. Throughout Scripture, we see that service to the poor is close to God's heart. And Hebrews 13:16 reminds us, "Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

Thank you for the many ways you choose to walk alongside us! **We are deeply grateful for you** and for your partnership in sharing Christ's love with our neighbors in need.

Most Needed Items:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Peanut Butter | Tuna Fish | Toothpaste |
| Spaghetti O's or Ravioli (canned) | | Shampoo & Conditioner |

Thank you MCOB!
February and March food donation total is 188 pounds!

Southern PA District

Church of the Brethren

2026 District Women's

Spring Tea



II Peter 3:18

Grow in the grace and
knowledge of our Lord and
Savior Jesus Christ.

Saturday, April 25, 2026

West Shore Church of the Brethren

6921 Wertzville Rd., Enola PA 17025

Registration Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Church: _____

Number Attending: _____

Amount Enclosed @\$10 per person

\$ _____

List names of those attending so we can
create nametags. Please list any dietary
restrictions beside name if needed

Make checks payable to and mail to:

Southern PA District
3375 Carlisle Road, Suite A
Gardners, PA 17324

Registration Deadline: April 15, 2026

No refunds after deadline date.

Throughout its 100 years, the Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren has been an impactful church not only locally but in the denomination. In the 56 years of Southern Pennsylvania District executive leadership, two Mechanicsburg members, Stanley Earhart and Warren Eshbach, served as district executives for a combined 30 years, and newly elected executive, Traci Rabenstein, begins her service on April 6. Other members have been district conference moderators and served on the district board.

On the national level, Warren Eshbach was General Board chair, Colin Scott was Mission and Ministry Board chair, Wayne Scott was Brethren Benefit Trust/Eder Financial chair, Theresa Eshbach was Bethany Seminary's Director of Institutional Advancement, Traci Rabenstein was Executive Director of Mission Advancement and Del Keeney was Denominational Executive Director for Congregational Life Ministries. Vernne Greiner and Margie Fultz served on the Association of Brethren Caregivers Board.

The church played a key role in establishing a Mechanicsburg branch of New Hope Ministries in 1989. The church remains an avid supporter of the Christian social service agency that provides food, basic needs and stability/workforce development to at-risk individuals in northern York and eastern Cumberland counties.

Other local nonprofits the church staunchly supports are the Harrisburg office of Church World Service, Family Promise of Harrisburg Capital Region, Brethren Housing Association and the Wildcat Foundation.

In recent years, the church has fulfilled the denomination's calling to be Jesus in the Neighborhood by engaging the local community. Recent well-attended initiatives held at the church for area residents have been a spring Easter Egg Hunt, Burgers & Dogs cookouts during the summer months, a spring rummage sale and late-summer yard sale, and Trunk or Treat in the fall.

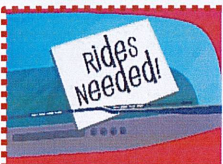
The church annually supplies a team for Mechanicsburg's fall Church World Service CROP Walk and offers Caregivers and Grief Support groups as well as knitting and quilting groups, Vacation Bible School,

Winter Wednesday Bible School, an instrumental music ensemble, and hand bell and vocal choirs as well as other engagement opportunities.

As the Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren sets its path into its next century, it is guided by five core values:

- *Strengthening the Congregational Community*, affirming one another's gifts and celebrating God's love and caring together
- *Witnessing through Service and Outreach*, assisting individuals and our community across cultures, religion and throughout the world
- *Welcoming and Validating Others*, receiving people with generosity, warmth and patience
- *Developing Believers*, sharing what we have learned with others so they too may grow in their spiritual lives
- *Living Our Faith*, embodying the priorities that Jesus taught.

MANY THANKS for your generous donations to the CWS Blanket Fund. We collected \$915 in donations plus some additional funds were given directly online. That's over 100 blankets that will comfort and warm folks in need. Thank you for giving!
- Your Witness Team



The Witness Team is seeking individuals who would be willing to help members with transportation to physician visits, etc. If you are willing to be on a call list for this ministry, please see any of our Witness team members: Janet Zeiters, Verne Greiner, Lewis Furry or John Mumma.

We also are looking for someone willing to coordinate this effort. If you are able to do this, please see one of the Witness team members listed above. Thank you.



Senior Day
April 8, 2026
Cost: \$20

RSVP 717-642-8256 or
email

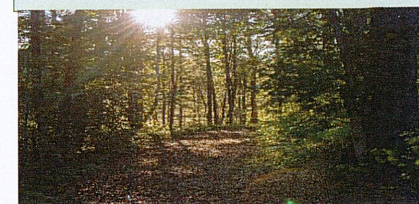


Richard D'Ambrisi from Gettysburg's World War II American Experience Museum will present an introduction to the museum, a "Tank Talk", and a World War II Trivia Game.

Camp Clean Up Days

Come and help us get ready for our busy seasons at Camp Eder. Just before Summer Camp (May 9th) and right before our Fall Festival (September 19th) we need your help to get camp in tip top shape. This will include splitting wood, cleaning up leaves, and other jobs that will make our grounds look great! Lunch will be provided.

If you would like to come out and support us please let us know by contacting us by calling 717-642-8256 or email campeder@campeder.org





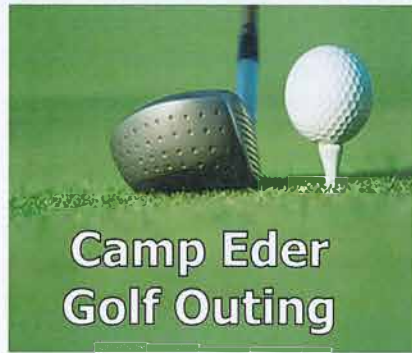
**Camp Eder
Outdoorsman Day
May 2, 2026
8:30 am to 3:00 pm**

\$50 per person (lunch is included)

Join us for a day filled with adventure together. We'll delve into the world of clay shooting, master gun safety, and honing our skills to become proficient clay target shooters. Secure your spot by contacting Camp Eder at 717-642-8256 or on our website

www.campeder.org

Lodging is also available for an additional cost.



**Camp Eder
Golf Outing**

**May 20, 2026
Carroll Valley Golf
Course at Liberty
Mountain**

Grab your golf bag and join us for a relaxing afternoon of golf and fellowship at the Annual Camp Eder Golf Outing which plays a crucial role in sustaining Camp Eder's mission of providing a space where individuals can encounter the presence of Christ in the Beauty of God's Creation.

After the play has concluded, players and family members are invited to a delicious meal at Camp Eder. All proceeds go to furthering the summer camp program at Camp Eder.

To register, call 717-642-8256 or visit our website

www.campeder.org

Events on the calendar are correct at time of printing.

April

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 Quilting 9 am Bible Study 9 am (Zoom) Fellowship Hall Reserved 7/8:30 pm (Mid Penn Motion)	2 Grief Support Group 1 pm (Library)	3 Good Friday Service 7 pm	4 Easter Egg Hunt 10 am 
5 Easter Sunday Food for New Hope Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:30 am	6 Fellowship Hall Reserved 8 am/3 pm (AARP)	7 Fellowship Hall Reserved 8 am/3 pm (AARP) Fellowship Hall Reserved 7/8:30 pm (Mid Penn Motion)	8 Senior Day at Camp Eder Bible Study 9 am (Zoom) Ladies Lunch 11:30 am (Lower Allen Diner) Fellowship Hall Reserved 7/8:30 pm (Mid Penn Motion)	9 Youth Room Reserved 5:30/9 pm (Thrive)	10 Fellowship Hall Reserved 7/8:30 pm (Mid Penn Motion)	11 Fellowship Hall & Kitchen Reserved 8 am/8 pm (Graci)
12 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship Hall Reserved (Set Up for Rummage Sale)	13 Knitting Group 1 pm (Library) Fellowship Hall Reserved – Rummage Sale Prep	14 Men's Breakfast 9 am (Brothers Restaurant) Fellowship Hall Reserved – Rummage Sale Prep	15 Quilting 9 am Bible Study 9 am (Zoom) Fellowship Hall Reserved – Rummage Sale Prep May Newsletter Deadline	16 Fellowship Hall Reserved – Rummage Sale Prep	17 Rummage Sale 8 am/ 5 pm	18 Rummage Sale 8 am/ Noon
19 Donations for Family Promise Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:30 am Congregational Forum	20	21 Caregivers Support Group 1 pm (Library) Fellowship Hall Reserved 7/8:30 pm (Mid Penn Motion)	22 Quilting 9 am Bible Study 9 am (Zoom) Fellowship Hall Reserved 7/8:30 pm (Mid Penn Motion)	23	24	25 SOPA District Women's Spring Lunch/Tea Fellowship Hall Reserved (Deacons)
26 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:30 am Family Promise Fam Jam Love Feast 6 pm	27 Knitting Group 1 pm (Library) NO Book Club	28 Children's Aid Society Auction Fellowship Hall Reserved 7/8:30 pm (Mid Penn Motion)	29 Quilting 9 am Bible Study 9 am (Zoom) Fellowship Hall Reserved 7/8:30 pm (Mid Penn Motion)	30		

2026