

Church of the Brethren
301 Gale Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Address Service Requested



Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Mechanicsburg, PA
Permit No. 112

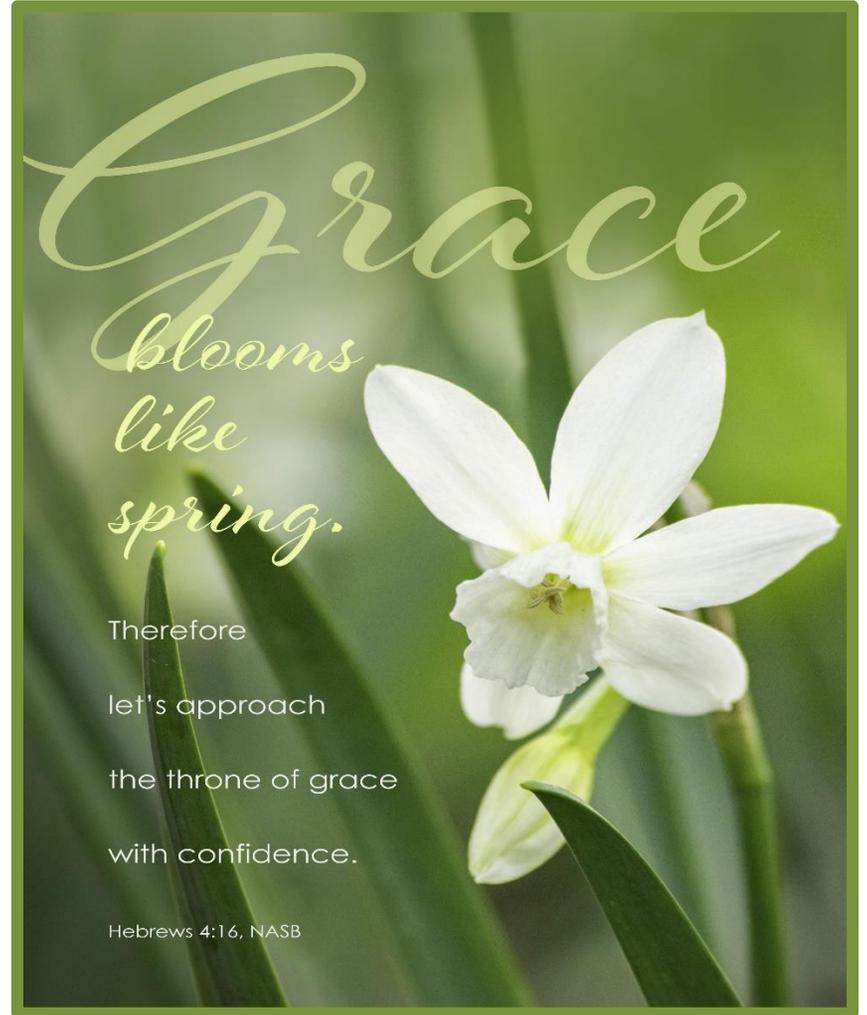


The MARCH 2026
CARILLON

Published Monthly (except August) by

Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren
301 Gale Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717-766-8880
www.MechanicsburgCOB.org

**Volume 26
Number 03**



Worship Themes

March 1: "Praying with Jesus" (2 of 6) - Eric Seibert

Worship Theme: How do you respond to stressful situations? When Jesus was in distress, he prayed and invited his disciples to do the same.

Scripture: Luke 22:39-46

March 8: "Betraying Jesus" (3 of 6) - Eric Seibert

Worship Theme: Betrayal is painful, especially at the hands of a "friend." How might you have responded if you had been with Jesus on the night he was betrayed?

Scripture: Luke 22:1-6, 47-53

March 15: "Denying Jesus" (4 of 6) - Eric Seibert

Worship Theme: Do you want to be associated with Jesus? Peter did not on the night Jesus was arrested.

Scripture: Luke 22:31-34; 54-62

March 22: "Condemning Jesus" (5 of 6) - Eric Seibert

Worship Theme: The execution of Jesus, an innocent man, puts the horror of violence on display and exposes the underside of power and authority.

Scripture: Luke 22:66-23:25

March 29: *Palm Sunday* - "Celebrating Jesus" (6 of 6) - Eric Seibert

Worship Theme: Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem prior to Passover was a cause for celebration. Grab a palm branch and join in!

Scripture: John 12:12-19

"Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning." Psalm 29:5b (NRSVue)

When you receive this newsletter, we will be at the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a somber time in the church year, passing as it must through betrayal, denial, and condemnation on the way to the cross. It is a time for reflection and introspection as we consider the sufferings of Jesus and our own commitment to live a life of faithful discipleship regardless of the cost.

Authors Shane Claiborne, Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, and Enuma Okoro offer these words about the meaning and practice of Lent in their book *Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinal Radicals*.

Lent is the forty-day season of reflection and preparation for the death and resurrection of Jesus. . . . It is a time of repentance, of considering Christ's sufferings and rethinking how we are called to take up our own crosses. Some of us give up things like chocolate or television during this season as a sort of fasting, and others try to integrate something new into their lives, like visiting folks in prison, sewing clothes, exercising, or praying. It is a good season to rethink how we live and to let some things go, or maybe even to develop some new holy habits (p. 139).

As you make your way through the season of Lent, let me encourage you to consider what "holy habits" you might wish to try over the next several weeks (and beyond). Feel free to use a familiar spiritual practice or try something you've never done before as you seek to know God more and as you reflect upon the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Peace and blessings!

Pastor Eric



Join Match Madness this Month

A few new policies enacted so far this year have made life more precarious for refugees and immigrants. Church World Service Harrisburg recently asked volunteers to work with their legal refugee families to develop a preparedness plan in case they are detained and face deportation. Due to this increased threat, having adequate legal staff to help CWS clients is more important than ever. The Harrisburg office has begun a fundraising campaign with a goal of raising \$75,000 to hire a legal counselor. This month, CWS Harrisburg is participating in the Partnership for Better Health's Match Madness campaign, meaning donations made during March will be matched, doubling their impact and making the month an especially powerful time to give. For that reason, the Living Letters Sunday School Class is committing funds to this effort and invites other church members to join our class, if they are so moved. Please write checks payable to CWS Harrisburg and place in the Sunday collection plate. Deadline for contributions is Sunday, March 22. See Sherri Kimmel if you've questions.



President and CEO, Eric M. Chase, M.S., M. Div. is pleased to announce that the Children's Aid Society's Early Learning Childcare program located at the Werner Early Learning Childcare Center in York, PA, has received its

provisional license from the PA State DHS Office of Child Development and Early Learning effective 12/23/25.

This important milestone allows us to begin welcoming children and families into our program and begin to serve them and the community, while we continue working toward full licensure and our Keystone Stars quality rating. We are grateful to our dedicated ELC leadership and staff team, our community partners and supporters, who made this next step possible by expanding high quality, nurturing childcare for all children in our community in a safe and loving place.



Good Friday Service
Friday, April 3, 2026 at 7:00 pm

Easter Service
Sunday, April 5, 2026 at 10:30 am



CWS Blanket Sunday March 1, 2026

We all know how much we have appreciated a warm blanket through these cold winter months. MCOB is hosting a BLANKET SUNDAY

through CWS to provide blankets for those needing warmth and comfort at this time. On March 1 we will provide envelopes for you to share your gifts for this outreach. Blankets are only \$10 each, payable to CWS (Church World Service). Thank you for sharing.

- Your Witness Team

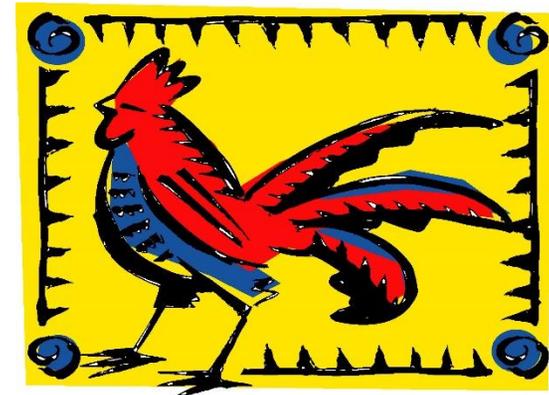


Prayer at the Peace Pole

Join the Living Letters after Sunday school and before church on March 15 at the peace pole in the front church yard. Warren Eshbach is leading this effort to pray for peace and justice during these troubled times in our nation and globally.

SOPA District Church of the Brethren 2026 Meat canning

Please note that the meat canning committee has met in preparation for the 2026 canning. The committee has determined to go forward with meat canning for 2026.



The dates will be
April 6-9, 2026
at Christian Aid Ministries,
2412 Division Hwy,
Ephrata, PA 17522

Kim Geisewite of the District Witness Commission will be taking calls for our churches to sign up for meat canning, 570-295-9879.

Kim will be able to let you know if the date you desire is available.

Please call her as soon as possible to reserve the work time slot for your congregation's date preference.



Meet Jasmine. She is a recent graduate of our preclinical class. Hope inspires not only her, but future generations as well. Upon completing the class, she shared with us, "...thank you for investing into not only my future, but my daughter's future also, because now with this opportunity, I'm able to provide more for her and I can be a living testament that she can do whatever she sets her mind to do as long as she applies herself and works hard."



At New Hope Ministries, seeing hope carry forward into the next generation is incredibly meaningful. Because of your belief in our guests, stories like this become possible. Thank you for helping create lasting change in our community.

Psalm 50:14

*"Sacrifice thank offerings to God,
fulfill your vows to the Most High"*

Need Help?

If you or someone you know needs help with food or dealing with a financial crisis, please contact us.

(717) 432-2087

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!

Thank you MCOB for your 11 lb. pantry donation on January 6th!



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 13-14 who are either on campus or are commuters. Please bring your **donations by Sunday, March 8, 2026** 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.

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????



Renew or Join Friends of Cross Keys Village

Cross Keys Village: The Brethren Home Community has announced its annual membership drive. Funds raised support:

- The Good Samaritan Fund, which assists residents whose finances are exhausted
- The Tuition Assistance Program, which supports team members who wish to further their education
- The Memory Care Education Program, which supports individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or another neurocognitive disorder as well as their care partners, whether they live at Cross Keys or in the greater community.

See Sherri Kimmel for a membership form.

2026 Spring Fling Rummage Sale



Friday, April 17th - 8 am - 5 pm

& Saturday, April 18th - 8 am - Noon

Many hands will be needed to make the Rummage Sale a success.

Donations of new or gently used clothing, accessories, bedding, towels, and kitchen linens will be accepted February 12th thru April 10th.

(Nothing ripped or stained please!)

Donations should be bagged or boxed and placed on the stage in Fellowship Hall.

Please consider helping in one of the following ways:

Advertising – passing out flyers, posters, spreading the word
Setting up & tearing down tables and garment racks
Bake sale table – working or providing baked goods
Kitchen provisions – making and selling food
Cashiers – for kitchen sales and clothing sales
Sorting, sorting, and more sorting!

Set up will be on Sunday, April 12th after worship.

Sorting will be on Monday, April 13th thru Thursday, April 16th beginning at 9 am.

Questions to Peggy Brechbiel or Brenda Rhoads



**Stacey Coldren,
Executive Director,
FPHCR**

**Family Promise
Harrisburg Capital
Region**

A New Position but a Familiar Face

“I am honored to serve as the Executive Director of Family Promise of Harrisburg Capital Region, an organization that has been a part of my life for more than a decade. Ten years ago, my family participated in the Family Promise program during a time when we needed support the most. The compassion, dignity, and opportunity we were given changed the course of our lives and planted a seed I could never have imagined would grow into this moment.”

Day Center Needs

Printer Paper
Trash Bags (not Good Sense)
Swiffer Mop Pads
Swiffer Wet Jet Solution
Febreze
Dish soap
Baby Wipes
Shampoo
Shaving Cream
AA and AAA Batteries
Zip Loc Bags, Foil, Plastic Wrap
Queen Inflatable Mattress
Clorox Wipes

**Gift Cards to Sheetz,
Giant, Walmart** – These help families with gas to go to work, food beyond what we provide here, and medicine.





Adult Backpacking Adventure

March 3 – 5

Campeder.org

Senior Day – Wednesday, April 8th

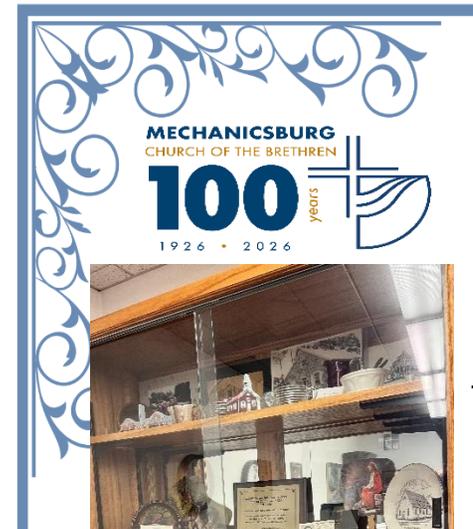
RSVP at 717-642-8256 or email
campeder@campeder.org

SUMMER CAMP

Beginning June 14th – July 24th

Join us this summer for a fun-filled week during which your camper can disconnect from the busyness of life and seek God. Campers will spend the week exploring God's creation through different camp activities. They will grow in their relationship with God while having fun with old and new friends.

Register now at campeder.org



Centennial Corner



Did you know the church library houses a collection of historical objects in a display case?

Inside you'll see Bibles used in the former church building on Simpson Street, including one used from 1925 to 1950. The stand on which the Bible rests also was used in that building.

Other relics include an antique hearing aid apparatus used during services, a hinge from the Simpson Street church, offering plates, soup ladles and more.

Stop by and take a look.

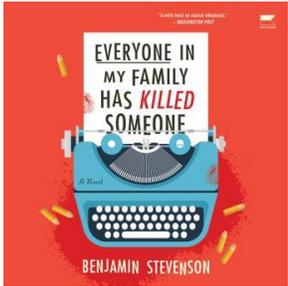
Please reserve the weekend of May 2-3 to celebrate our congregation's 100th anniversary with us.

Saturday evening, we will have a concert by Anita and Brent Stapleton followed by light refreshments.

Sunday morning will feature historian Jeff Bach during the Sunday School hour and Jeff Carter, President of Bethany Seminary as our speaker for worship. Following worship, we will have a fellowship meal by reservation only.

Plan to join the celebration.





The **Church Book Club**
will meet on
Monday, March 30, 2026,
at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

This month's selection is *Everyone in My Family has Killed Someone*
by Benjamin Stevenson.



***Sponsored by the Mechanicsburg Area
Council of Churches***

You are welcome to join us at noon on Wednesdays
to share a light meal and devotions
led by the pastor of each church.

**RSVP by the prior Friday appreciated,
but not necessary.**

March 4 – Shiremanstown United Methodist Church
717-737-6221 or office@sumc.info

March 11 – Hope United Methodist Church
717-766-3072 or jthomas@susumc.org

March 18 – Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren
717-766-8880 or mcob-secretary@verizon.net

Southern Pennsylvania District Church of the Brethren



Traci Rabenstein
has been called
to be our new
**Full Time District
Executive.**

Traci will
officially begin
on Monday,
April 6, 2026.

Many in our District already know her. She is a member of the Mechanicsburg COB, where she had served as a Youth Pastor for 8 years. She has also served in our District in many ways, including Moderator and Board Chair for The Cross Keys Village, the Brethren Home Community. For the last 9 years, she has been serving our denomination as Executive Director of Mission Advancement.

Welcome Traci!



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

March

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i> Blanket Sunday Food for New Hope Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:30 am	2 Fellowship Hall Reserved 8 am/3 pm (AARP) Knitting Group 1 pm (Library)	3 Fellowship Hall Reserved 8 am/3 pm (AARP) Fellowship Hall Reserved 7/8 pm (Special Olympics)	4 Quilting 9 am Bible Study 9 am (Zoom)	5 Grief Support Group 1 pm (Library) Youth Room Reserved 5:30/9 pm (Thrive)	6	7
8 <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i> Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:30 am	9 Fellowship Hall Reserved 8 am/3 pm (AARP) Knitting Group 1 pm (Library) Willing Learners Reserved (Pack Boxes)	10 Men's Breakfast 9 am (Brothers Res.) Fellowship Hall Rsvd. 8 am/3 pm (AARP) Willing Learners Reserved (Pack Boxes) Leadership Team 6:30 pm	11 Quilting 9 am Bible Study 9 am (Zoom) Ladies Lunch 11:30 am (Lower Allen Diner) Willing Learners Reserved (Pack Boxes)	12 Willing Learners Reserved (Pack Boxes)	13	14 Sanctuary Reserved 10/11 am (Mumma)
15 <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> Donations for Family Promise One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:30 am April Newsletter Deadline	16 Fellowship Hall Reserved 8 am/3 pm (AARP)	17 Fellowship Hall Reserved 8 am/3 pm (AARP) Caregivers Support Group 1 pm (Library) Anniversary Committee 7 pm (Living Letters)	18 Quilting 9 am Lenten Lunch at MCOB 12 Noon	19	20 	21 Fellowship Hall & Kitchen Reserved 9 am/5 pm (Baker)
22 <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i> Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:30 am	23 Fellowship Hall Reserved 8 am/3 pm (AARP)	24 Fellowship Hall Reserved 8 am/3 pm (AARP)	25 Quilting 9 am Bible Study 9 am (Zoom)	26	27	28
29 <i>Palm Sunday</i> My 2 Cents Worth Sunday School 9 am Worship 10:30 am	30 Fellowship Hall Reserved 8 am/3 pm (AARP) Church Book Club 7 pm (Zoom)	31 Fellowship Hall Reserved 8 am/3 pm (AARP)				

2026