

Church of the Brethren
301 Gale Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
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The JANUARY 2023
CARILLON

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

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**Volume 23
Number 01**



Welcome to All!

Our worship services are available in person, concurrently on Zoom or Live Stream, and posted to the Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren YouTube Channel and our Website on Sunday afternoons. Go to www.mechanicsburgcob.org and click on "messages".



January Worship Themes

January 1: "Mission Possible" - Pastor Jim Benedict

Worship Theme: A new year is ahead, but our mission is the same. In Christ we are called to the ministry of reconciliation, breaking down the dividing walls, healing wounds and promoting peace.

Scripture Texts: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

January 8: "The Blessing" - Pastor Jim Benedict

Communion Sunday

Worship Theme: What a special moment it must have been for Jesus when he heard the voice from heaven. He received a blessing from God, which sustained him through the difficult times he was to encounter in the course of his life. We all have that same blessing through our baptism, and it can sustain us, too.

Scripture Texts: Matthew 3:13-17

January 15: "Called to Be Saints" - Pastor Jim Benedict

Worship Theme: You might think it immodest to consider yourself a saint, but that's what the New Testament calls ordinary Christians like you and me. Being a saint begins with being yourself, and then finding out how you can serve with others to see that God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven.

Scripture Texts: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

January 22: "Second Careers" - Pastor Jim Benedict

Worship Theme: The longer I live, the more I realize how important it is to learn how to "let go" with grace. As we and the world around us change, the alternative to letting go is getting stuck, falling behind and becoming resentful. In the gospels, the disciples start their training by letting go of former careers and attachments. What is God calling you to let go?

Scripture Texts: Matthew 4:12-23

January 29: "When 'C' Is Not Average" - Pastor Jim Benedict

Remembrance Sunday

Worship Theme: In God's rating system, commitment, consecration and compassion matter more than all the ability, beauty, or high standing in the world.

Scripture Texts: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Wintertime

*The Lord upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.
The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.
Psalm 145:14-16*

Winter officially began last month, but for most of us it only really starts to feel like winter once all the festivities of Advent, Christmas and New Year's Day are finished. Once all the decorations are put away, we look around and see only two or more cold, bleak months ahead. As soon as we are done dreaming of a white Christmas, we start dreaming of Spring.

We are encouraged to dream by the arrival of seed catalogs, at least at my house. With their colorful pictures of perfect produce and bright blossoms, they might make us feel worse than we already do about the barren landscape and frigid temperatures. On the other hand, they are a helpful reminder that our current condition is not permanent. Seasons come and seasons go. Before long, we'll be seeing green in lawns and on limbs, and in six months we will be complaining about the heat.

The Book of Ecclesiastes says there is a season for everything and a time for every purpose under heaven. I suppose that means there is also a purpose for every season. Winter is not just something to "grin and bear," but a time in which important things are happening. In nature, winter makes it possible for certain plants and animals to flourish. Without winter, the natural world we are so glad to welcome again when Spring comes would be very different.

Spiritually, winter is a season for seeking clarity and making plans. What does God expect of us? What do we need to do in order to become the people God wants us to be? How can we continue the work of Jesus where we are – work that both relieves real human suffering and attracts others to be a part of that work?

Spring is coming, as hard as that might be to believe on certain days. The days are already getting longer, in fact. Still, we have time to do the work of winter – to seek clarity and make plans, so God's will may be done through us.

Peace,

Pastor Jim

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

EVENT: SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2023

Location: Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren
301 Gale St. Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

MAN 2 MAN

Person registering: _____ Telephone: _____

Congregation: _____ Email: _____

Workshop Fee: \$16.00 per person.

Mail this form along with your check (payable to SO PA District COB):

Man2Man Workshop
SO PA District Office C.O.B.
3375 Carlisle Road Suite A, Gardners, PA 17324

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, FEBRUARY 1, 2023

Ordained Ministers desiring .30 CEU credits please indicate by placing checkmark in this box

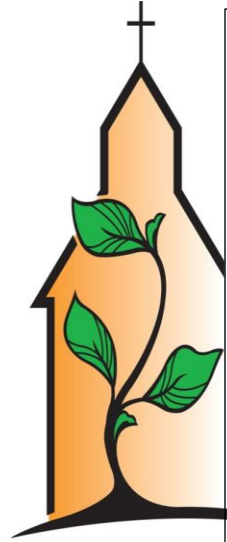


Pew Communion will be held on Sunday, January 8, 2023 at the 10:30 a.m. Worship service.

Our practice is open communion, so all who have made a commitment to Christ our Lord as Savior are invited to commune with us.

Remembrance Sunday will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2023 at the 10:30 Worship service.

During this service, we will remember all from our congregation who have died in the past year through a time of lighting candles of remembrance. You are invited to also remember loved ones and family members at this time.



You have heard a bit about *Dale Leverknight*.

The leadership team hired him as a consultant to help us work on revitalizing our church. We are having another meeting with him on **Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at 6:30.**

EVERYONE is invited to attend. It should not be up to just the Leadership Team to do the work of revitalization. It is EVERYONE'S job to work on. Some of the questions Dale asked us: Are we a praying church? Are we teaching, preaching, and living solidly on the Scriptures? Are we following the Great Commission? Does the community know that we are here? Do you take time to talk to the people who have their children playing in our parking lot? Community building is something we all need to be doing. All. Of. Us.

So, mark the above date on your calendar and set aside time to hear Dale, and brainstorm with the others of our congregation.

Remember YOU are the church.

- Margie Fultz, Moderator



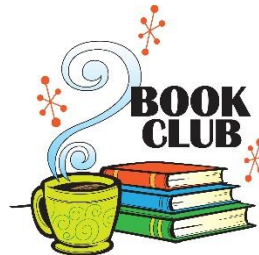
MCOB NEWS & ACTIVITIES



Adult Bible Study is held
each Wednesday
at 9:00 a.m. by Zoom.
Contact Pastor Jim if you would
like to join.



The **Church Book Club** will meet on
Monday, January 30th at 7:00 p.m. by Zoom.
This month's selection is
Winter Garden by Kristin Hannah.
Discussion leader is Trish DuBois.



Volunteers Needed! The Sunday Morning Coffee is up
and brewing, we are looking for volunteers to take a turn
on Sunday mornings. If you are interested, please contact
the church office.

MAN 2 MAN

Men's Spiritual Leadership Summit

Building Bridges: Embracing Diversity and Facing Division

Focus:

Jesus calls the disciples to be one in witness and in spirit
as they reside in Him and He in the Father.
What does it mean to build bridges in a divided world?

Bethany Theological Seminary
President
Dr. Jeffrey C. Carter
Guest Speaker

SATURDAY MORNING
FEBRUARY 18, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon
at

Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren
301 Gale Street, Mechanicsburg, PA

Please complete and submit the registration form along with payment
no later than Wednesday, February 1, 2023.

Sponsored by the Nurture Commission
Southern Pennsylvania District
Church of the Brethren



The church office will be closed on Monday, December 26, 2022 and Monday, January 2, 2023.



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 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.

2023 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 15th** with any new or changed information. 717-766-8880 or mcob-secretary@verizon.net

Upon completion of the 2023 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 added or removed from the list, contact the church office by **January 31st**.

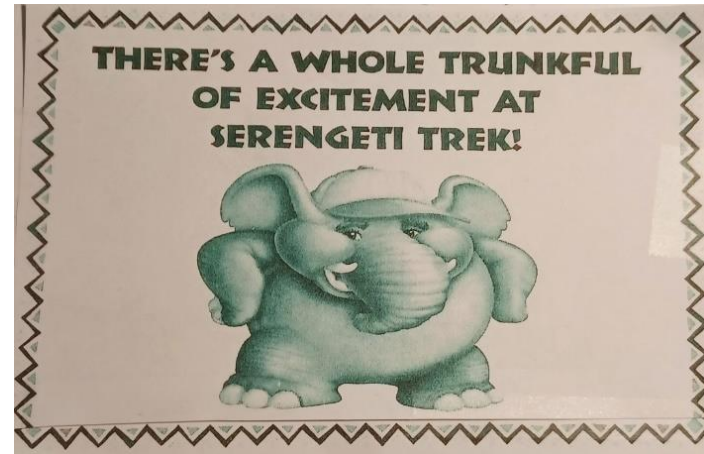


SOCK AND MITTEN TREE RESULTS

The Sock and Mitten Tree was again overflowing with your generosity this Christmas season. Many families will be kept warm with socks, gloves, hats, scarves, underwear and an afghan and 2 baby blankets. I think we might have a record this year for everything that was donated. Our collection of items for this year is as follows: 100 hats, 2 hat and scarf sets, 4 head bands, 23 pairs of gloves, 111 pairs of socks, 18 scarves and 2 pairs of ear muffs, 24 underwear briefs, as well as the afghan and baby blankets. 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 outpouring of love from all of you who donated items for the tree. May God richly bless each of you this holiday season.

Thanks, Fran



Important Person: Please fill out this form and put it in the Christian Ed folder or in Cheryl Noll's mailbox. Thank you.

Note: We will follow the Weather Alerts/News of the Mechanicsburg School District for closures, but will add additional Wednesday nights to complete the entire program.

Student's Name _____

Grade _____

Parent/Guardian's Name(s) _____

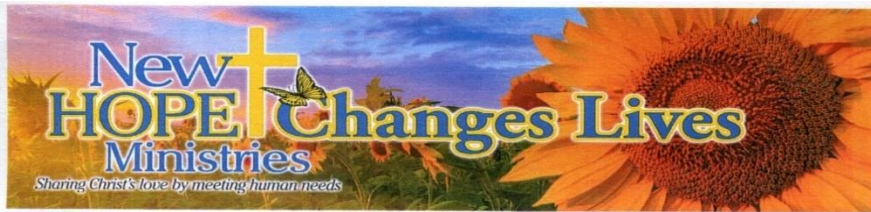
Address _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Special Medical Information/Food Allergies _____

Who Will Pick Up the Child? _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____



Thank you on behalf of New Hope Ministries for the donations of food and gifts for the *Thanksgiving and Christmas Blessings Express*. Your generosity helped many families.
- Linda Wevodau



Thank you to our very, clever cookie bakers; the decorated bags were well done! We delivered 211 bags of cookies to the Truck Stop Ministry. Thank you for serving this mission.

Witness Team

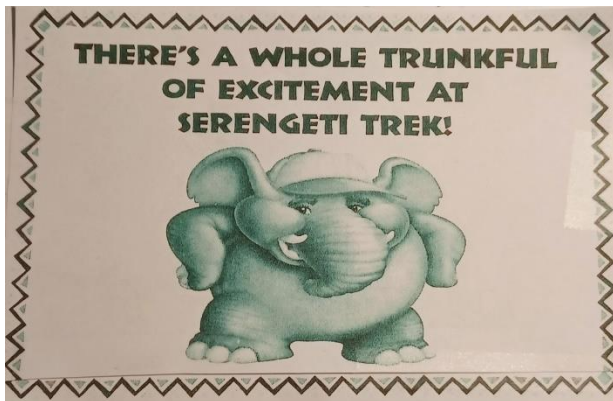
Kids-Pack your bags for SERENGETI TREK!

Beginning February 1, 2023, and continuing for the next five Wednesdays (up to and including March 1, 2023) we will be going on an adventure, a Serengeti Trek.

We will be discovering more about God's great love for us. We will learn to KNOW God, TALK to God, TELL about God, LOVE God, and WORK for God. We will learn something new about forming a personal friendship with GOD. Sounds exciting, doesn't it!!

The program is for you if you are potty-trained, and even you, if you are in school up to the sixth grade. Arrive at Fellowship Hall near the drive-up entrance to the church about 5:30 P.M. Please tell someone important to pick you up at the same location at 7:15 P.M. We need to have permission from that Important Person to allow you to leave with them, so please have them complete the form below. Your supper will be included in these adventures, so come hungry for food and to learn more about GOD. We will not even charge you any fee for this great time of fun and discovery.

There will be more details to follow for your Important Person to pay attention to, but for now, plan on coming and joining ME. My name is LUG the Elephant and I have a whole trunkful of excitement waiting for you at Serengeti Trek beginning February 1, 2023



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Lucas Seagrist; Adelaide Seagrist
- 2 – Melissa Kiehl
- 3 – Diann Meck
- 4 – Warren Eshbach
- 5 – Tanner Heimbach; Julie Miller; Jacob Rabenstein
- 6 – Haley Goodwin
- 7 – Gerry Sechrist
- 8 – Madelynn Baughman
- 10 – Ron Pipher; Dan Graci
- 11 – Ron Kiehl
- 12 – Jackie Wimberly
- 14 – Mark Appleby; Jenny Bowes
- 15 – Kayle Scott; Cindy Thatcher; Tim Cisney
- 18 – Sally Fike; David Williamson
- 19 – Roger Cutter; Oceana Goodwin
- 20 – Sarah Hoover; Danielle Mumma; J. David Ziegler
- 21 – Anita Arbogast; Zach Hawk
- 24 – Morgan Espenshade; Suzanne Enders
- 27 – Madison Creps
- 29 – Sarah Hoover
- 30 – Jon Noll





JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 – Ed & Dollie Neuhart
- 3 – Jeff & Karen Martin
- 6 – Ron & Jill Risser (06)
- 11 – Lewis & Amy Furry (75)
- 25 – Stan & Oceana Goodwin (75)



January

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 Happy New Year! Food for New Hope 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	2 Church Office Closed	3 7/8 pm Dryland	4 9 am Bible Study (Zoom) 6/8 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Ensemble 7:30 pm Choir	5 5/9 pm Basketball	6 	7
8 Communion Sunday 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	9 1 pm Knitting Group 5/9 pm Basketball	10 7/8 pm Dryland	11 9 am Bible Study (Zoom) 11:30 pm Ladies Luncheon 6/8 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Ensemble 7:30 pm Choir	12 5/9 pm Basketball 6 pm Hand Bells	13	14
15 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	16 5/9 pm Basketball	17 1 pm Caregiver Group 7 pm Leadership Mtg 7/8 pm Dryland	18 9 am Bible Study (Zoom) 6/8 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Ensemble 7:30 pm Choir	19 5/9 pm Basketball 6 pm Hand Bells	20 February Newsletter Deadline	21
22 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	23 1 pm Knitting Group 5/9 pm Basketball	24 7/8 pm Dryland	25 9 am Bible Study (Zoom) 6/8 pm Basketball 6:30 pm Ensemble 7:30 pm Choir	26 5/9 pm Basketball 6 pm Hand Bells	27 Camp Eder Winter Camp	28 Camp Eder Winter Camp
29 Remembrance Sunday 9 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Camp Eder Winter Camp	30 Church Book Club 7 p.m. (Zoom) 5/9 Basketball	31 6:30 pm Meeting with Dale Leverknight 7/8 pm Dryland				

2023