

Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren
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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
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The **JANUARY 2025**

CARILLON

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Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren
301 Gale Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
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www.MechanicsburgCOB.org

**Volume 25
Number 01**



**On a cold winter
morning,
Holy Spirit,
enfold me in the
warmth of your
love.**



I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19 NRSVue

January 5: "New Beginnings" - Eric Seibert
Worship Theme: Every encounter with God provides an opportunity for change, offering the possibility of a fresh start and a new beginning.
Scripture: Genesis 32:22-32; 2 Corinthians 5:17

The next seven weeks will involve a sermon series that explores the characteristics of Christian discipleship.

January 12: "Follow Me" (1 of 7) - Eric Seibert
Pew Communion
Worship Theme: Jesus calls people to follow him rather than demanding they believe all the "right" things. This emphasizes the importance of the choices we make and the way we live.
Scripture: Deuteronomy 13:4; Mark 1:16-20

January 19: "Serving not dominating" (2 of 7) - Eric Seibert
Worship Theme: Serving is central to following Jesus. We serve others by prioritizing their needs and using our power for their benefit.
Scripture: Isaiah 42:1-9; Mark 10:35-45

January 26: "Forgiving not Retaliating" (3 of 7) - Eric Seibert
Remembrance Sunday
Worship Theme: As followers of Jesus, we refuse to retaliate against those who wrong us, choosing instead to forgive. This is pleasing to God and freeing to us.
Scripture: Genesis 45:1-15; Matthew 6:7-15

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Beginnings and endings. That is what a New Year offers us.

As 2024 rapidly comes to close, many people take stock of the year that was. What happened this past year? How has the world changed? How have our lives changed? What will we remember from the last twelve months—and what would we like to forget?

The turn of the year also finds us looking forward, wondering what next year will bring. A new grandchild? A new health concern? A new job? A new financial worry? A new friend? A new set of beliefs? It's hard to know. But this much is sure. Whatever happens, God will be by our side, guiding us, sustaining us, loving us.

So as this year comes to an end and we prepare to step into what lies ahead, I offer this prayer by Brother John Charles, SSF, to help us on our way.

For all the possibilities ahead in this new year make us thankful, O Lord. Give us wisdom, courage, and discernment in the face of so much chaos, despair, and fear. Help us to see how, in our circumstances, we can contribute toward peace, faith, and love. And give us the will to translate our desires into actions (*The Westminster Collection of Christian Prayers*, compiled by Dorothy M. Stewart, 245).

-Pastor Eric





Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren is a community of people striving to live out our faith in Jesus Christ by welcoming and valuing others, developing believers, strengthening congregational community, and sharing God's love through service and outreach.

Join us in person on Sunday mornings!

Stop by the Welcome Center for a cup of coffee, tea, or cocoa before Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Our Worship Service begins in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.

You may also join us by Zoom or Live Stream. Search for Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren on YouTube.

For the latest worship and activity information, visit our website. www.mechanicsburgcob.org or follow us on Facebook.

Everyone is welcome!



*Continuing the Work of Jesus.
Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

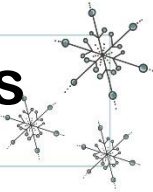
In the event that weather conditions require a cancellation of services or activities at the church, an effort will be made to communicate that to members and friends through the email list, on the church's Facebook page, and through local media (television and radio). If you do not receive information from any of those sources and still have questions, you may contact Pastor Eric by email at pastor@mechanicsburgcob.org 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.

Winter Weather Cancellation Policy





News & Activities



Sunday, January 12, 2025

Bread and cup communion will be offered during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Sunday, January 26, 2025

A time of remembrance and lighting of candles during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. We remember loved ones we have lost in the past year and others who are dear to our hearts.



Our next Family Promise week begins on Sunday, January 5, 2025, and runs through Saturday, January 11th. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board.

Please consider helping in one of the following areas: van driver (AM), van driver

(PM), providing a meal for the families, or sleeping overnight at the church. See Margie Fultz with any questions.



New Hope Ministries is a Christian social service agency that shows the love and hope of Christ by serving our neighbors in times of need and supporting their efforts towards stability.

Our guests include:

- Working individuals who simply cannot make ends meet
- Senior citizens on fixed incomes
- People with disabilities or illnesses
- Victims of job loss or spousal abandonment
- People suffering from other crises

We provide our guests assistance with basic needs, such as:

- Food to prevent hunger [at all Center locations](#)
- Rent/mortgage to prevent homelessness
- Utilities to keep families safe and warm
- Transportation needs
- Medical needs and referral services to alternate assistance providers

For more information:

<https://nhm.pa.org>



Our Mission

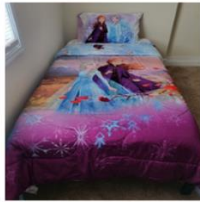
Our mission is to empower families through relationships and skill-building to move from homelessness to home.

Our Vision

Every family has a home, a livelihood, and the chance to build a better future together.

About Family Promise

Family Promise is a nonprofit organization serving homeless families through an Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN). The IHN coordinates local communities of faith, partner agencies, businesses, volunteers, and community leaders to provide resources that enable families to move from homelessness to home. These resources include compassionate care, hospitality, professional support, lodging, meals, donated goods, and – most importantly – volunteers.



Help Share the Promise



For more information:

Family Promise of Harrisburg Capital Region
56 Erford Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011
717-737-1100
www.familypromisehcr.org



Notes from the Church Office

2025 Fellowship Directory

Information Updates

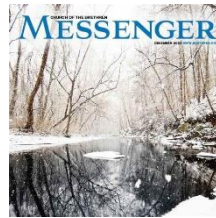
Please check your current directory listing:

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 20, 2025** with any new or changed information. 717-766-8880 or mcob-secretary@verizon.net.

Upon completion of the 2025 Fellowship 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"?

The Messenger Magazine is the official magazine of the Church of the Brethren. 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 to be added or removed from the list, please contact the church office by January 31st.



A big **Thank you** to all of our bakers who provided 120 cookie gift bags for the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry. They appreciated the holiday cheer.

Thank you for your support of New Hope Ministries Christmas Blessings Express! MCOB donated a total of **52 lbs. of gifts!**

The **Sock & Mitten Tree** was again overflowing with your generosity this Christmas season. Our collection of items this year is as follows: 32 hats, 3 hat & glove sets, 1 ear muff, 35 scarves, 3 scarf, sock & glove sets, 23 mittens, 1 mitten & scarf set, 175 socks, 5 t-shirts, 5 boxer shorts, 12 baby briefs, and 2 baby afghans. These items were 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.



Bible Study will resume on **Wednesday, January 8, 2025**, at 9 a.m. over Zoom. Pastor Eric will be leading us in a study of the Old Testament book, Jonah.

WINTER BIBLE STUDY

Prior to that Wednesday, he will be sending a reminder as well as information to prepare for our 1st session.

As a reminder, the access for Zoom is the same as for the Sunday Service.

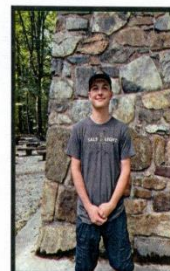
If you would like to join the Bible Study group or if you no longer wish to receive email concerning the Bible Study, please contact Pastor Eric or Jill Risser.

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.

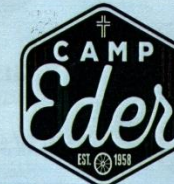


Summer Camp

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. And don't forget to join us January 24-26 for Winter Camp!

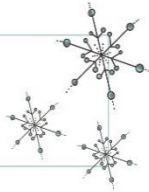
Upcoming Events

- 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





District & Community



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

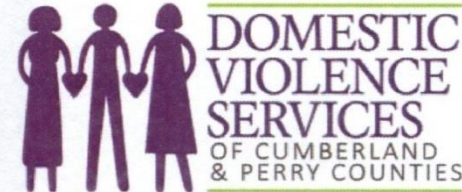


REGISTRATION OPENS NOV. 15TH
TO REGISTER GO TO:
WWW.CAMPEDER.ORG/WINTER-CAMP

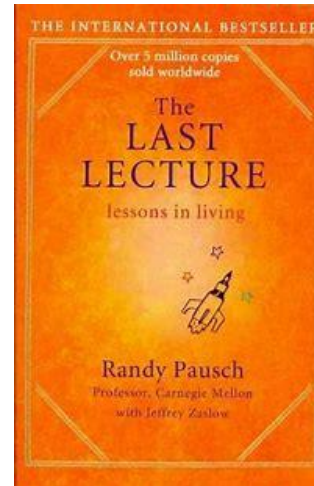
914 Mt Hope Rd, Fairfield, PA 17320 | Campeder.org | 717-642-8256

Lunch & Learn Fellowship
Wednesday, January 15, 2025
11:30 a.m.

Our guest speaker will be Tori Madrak from Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland & Perry Counties.



The DVSCP provides 24 hour a day unduplicated services to the communities of Cumberland and Perry counties since 1990. We support the empowerment of those who are experiencing domestic violence by providing equitable and inclusive direct services and by promoting nonviolence through social and systems change.



The Church Book Club
will meet on
Monday, January 29th at 7
p.m. over Zoom.

This month's selection is *The Last Lecture*
by Randy Pausch.

Our discussion leader is Jill Risser.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Teachers Needed

We are looking for people with....a smile, a heart for working with children, AND a heart for sharing the Word of God!

We are in need of a volunteer or more that would be interested in co-teaching the Elementary Children's Sunday School Class. We have one volunteer who will cover all of January but cannot take on full-time teaching duties. She would however love to share the class. If you are interested, please submit your "application" (aka a verbal..."I'd love to help!") to: Madison Creps, Sherry Jones, Cheryl Noll, or Linda Crook Saylor. We can help you with clearances...no need to worry! All materials provided!



It's almost here,
time for our Winter
Wednesday Night
Bible School for
Children!

This year's theme is
PANDAMANIA.

Plan to join us for lots of fun every Wednesday night in February, 2025, and the first Wednesday in March. Come at 5:30 p.m. for dinner and stay for laughter and learning until 7:45 p.m.

Registration forms can be found in both the front and rear gathering areas and, after completion, can be placed in Cheryl Noll's mailbox.



Up Coming Events 2025

*Dates are accurate at time of printing.
Please check the monthly newsletters for any changes/updates.



January

- 05-11 Family Promise Host Week
- 12 Pew Communion
- 15 Lunch & Learn Fellowship

February

- 05 Winter Wednesday Bible School
- 12 Winter Wednesday Bible School
- 19 Lunch & Learn Fellowship
- 19 Winter Wednesday Bible School
- 26 Winter Wednesday Bible School

March

- 05 Winter Wednesday Bible School
- 19 Lenten Lunch at MCOB
- 23-29 Family Promise Host Week

April

- 04-05 Spring Fling Rummage Sale
- 09 Senior Day at Camp Eder
- 13 Love Feast
- 16 Lunch & Learn Fellowship
- 21-24 SOPA District Meat Canning
- 26 SOPA District Women's Spring Tea/Luncheon
- 27 Spring Congregational Forum

May

- 03 SOPA District Outdoorsmen Day at Camp Eder
- 21 Lunch & Learn Fellowship

June

- 02-03 SOPA District Women's Retreat
- 08 Pew Communion
- 24 Bus Trip to Sight & Sound

July

- 02-06 COB Annual Conference
- 20-26 Family Promise Host Week

August

- 23 Annual Yard Sale

September

- 03 Senior Day at Camp Eder
- 17 Lunch & Learn
- 19-20 SOPA District Conference
- 26-27 Brethren Disaster Relief Auction

October

- 05 Love Feast
- 15 Lunch & Learn
- 18 Camp Eder Fall Fest
- 26 Fall Congregational Forum

November

- 05 Senior Day at Camp Eder
- 16-22 Family Promise Host Week
- 19 Lunch & Learn

December

- 12-13 Camp Eder Christmas Tree Festival
- 17 Lunch & Learn
- 17 Blue Christmas Service
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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 Church Office Closed	2 Grief Support Group 1 p.m. (Library) Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 p.m. (SJS Basketball)	3	4
5 Food for New Hope Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Family Promise	6 Epiphany Family Promise	7 Family Promise	8 Ladies Lunch 11:30 a.m. (Lower Allen Diner) Bible Study 9 a.m. (Zoom) Family Promise	9 MCOB Anniversary Committee 7 p.m. (Library) Family Promise	10 Family Promise	11 Family Promise
12 Pew Communion Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.	13 Knitting Group 1 p.m. (Library) Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 p.m. (SJS Basketball)	14 Men's Breakfast 9 a.m. (Brothers) Caregiver Support Group 1 p.m. (Library) Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/7 p.m. (John) Fellowship Hall Reserved 7/8 p.m. (Special Olympics)	15 Bible Study 9 a.m. (Zoom) Lunch & Learn Fellowship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 p.m. (SJS Basketball)	16 Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 p.m. (SJS Basketball)	17	18 Fellowship Hall Reserved 3/10:30 p.m. (Susquehanna Malayalee Assoc.)
19 Donations for Family Promise Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.	20 February Newsletter Deadline Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 p.m. (SJS Basketball)	21 Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/7 p.m. (John) Fellowship Hall Reserved 7/8 p.m. (Special Olympics)	22 Bible Study 9 a.m. (Zoom) Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 p.m. (SJS Basketball)	23 Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 p.m. (SJS Basketball)	24	25
26 Remembrance Sunday Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.	27 Knitting Group 1 p.m. (Library) Church Book Club 7 p.m. (Zoom) Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 p.m. (SJS Basketball)	28 Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/7 p.m. (John) Fellowship Hall Reserved 7/8 p.m. (Special Olympics)	29 Bible Study 9 a.m. (Zoom) Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 p.m. (SJS Basketball)	30 Fellowship Hall Reserved 5/9 p.m. (SJS Basketball)	31	

2025