



The First Church of the Brethren

Roaring Spring, PA

December 2022 Newsletter

901 Bloomfield St.
Roaring Spring, PA 16673
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Living out our faith

Being the hands and feet of Jesus, serving with open minds and hearts.

We exist to be a community of welcome and worship where people find peace, purpose, and power through Jesus Christ.

Many of the long time members and attendees of our church already know this, but as a reminder, and more for those who have recently been welcomed into our family, I wanted to take this opportunity to talk to you about one of the highlights of our ecclesiastical calendar – the upcoming Christmas Eve service

Every Christmas Eve, the members of the Roaring Spring First Church of the Brethren come together with any other so-minded guests to honor the long-held tradition of worshipping and expressing our gratitude and respect for the impending birth of the Baby Jesus.

Beloved Christmas carols are sung, the final candle of the Advent is lit, the Christmas story is retold in stirring words, and a candlelight service representing the coming of the Light of the World all combine to add that final, sacred thread to the meaningful preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Another tradition that will continue this year during that service is the giving of a White Gift Offering. In keeping with the idea of Christmas being a time to share with those around us, this opportunity is one that has come to fill an important place in our church finances.

Traditionally this Christmas Eve offering has been used to help complete our outreach giving for the year. In those years that unexpected expenditures and lower than anticipated budgeted revenues cut into our intended giving, it has been this offering that has helped fill in the gaps in our support of local, community and denominational opportunities. Items that we support that are included on the Missions and Services Commission budget benefit from the Christmas Eve offering as we continue to try to be “the hands, feet --- and wallet” for those around us who need the help and support.

Our Leadership Team is working hard to make sure that your support continues to be used efficiently to do God’s work through our church. We appreciate ALL of your financial and prayer support and wanted to continue our efforts to be transparent about how your support and encouragement is appreciated and used for God’s glory.

Pastor Dave



LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

Meeting was held 11-6-22.

A laptop is now available again for reproducing worship CD's for shut ins. This ministry is still needed for those who cannot access YouTube.

Phone service provider switchover has not been completed to date. Please be patient as work continues in this respect.

Facebook, Instagram & the church's website are now being handled through a local company called Impel. It is a 1-year contract & will be re-evaluated at its expiration.

A new church logo is being created & the Leadership Team gave approval on 1 of 6 designs. It will be used on things such as church letterhead & the website.

The current issue with the bank fraud & the church's accounts is being monitored & Bryce Nooyen is working closely with the local M&T Bank where the accounts are held. There will be no funds lost.

A proposal to upgrade the church's elevator was presented. After much discussion, it was agreed that the information should be presented at the upcoming Congregational Forum & take direction from there.

The water cooler in the Fellowship Hall has been moved into the Fireplace Room & is to remain there.

Any monetary donations for the exterior Blessing Box should be marked as such & placed in the offering plate.

Our annual Giving Tree outreach will be going to the RS Library again this year. It will include winter wear for children. Please watch the newsletter & bulletins for updates.

The Worship Team will be working on Advent season worship services along with a Blue Christmas morning service. A discussion was held on purchasing 3 new artificial Christmas trees for the sanctuary. Approval was given.

Hospitality & Communications will be closing out the year with a Fall Bash & a Christmas Party for Jesus.

Mike & Becky Bianconi, Dave & Valerie Smith and Paul & Julie Witkovsky were called & have accepted, to serve as deacons for new 5-year terms beginning 1-1-23.

For the 2nd year, the traditional fruit gift bags will be replaced with useful personal items gifted to those in our congregation over the age of 70, or who are shut-in, or who are widowed.

The children will be presenting a Christmas program in December.

The newly formed Young Adult class has had 1 participant.

Advent activities for adults & children will be available soon.

Nursery, Pre-K & K will now be combined for the SS hour.

Discussion was held on youth activities & the combining of the 2 youth groups. It remains suitable to combine the groups for things such as Sunday School & Bible studies when attendance is down. All other activities need to remain separated, as was discussed & approved by the Leadership Team in February. In addition, NYC should be open to any youth that fits the age criteria as set by our congregation whether they are able to participate in activities or attend church regularly. Guidelines for attending NYC need to be reviewed & perhaps revised. CE chairs will discuss these items with the current Youth advisors.

The 2023 proposed budget, slates, & Forum agenda were all approved.

Next meeting is 12-6-22.

Kaye Russell, Leadership Team Chair

Those Serving in December

Greeters

Don & Janie Myers

Deacon Greeters

Doug & Brenda Garber

Candlelighter

Jr High Youth

December	4	11	18	25
Organist	Cathy Petre		Cathy Petre	Barb Wineland
Pianist	Cathy Neal	Brenda Fluke-Garber	Terry Hersherberger	Marcia Fleck
Storyteller	Bonnie Butler	Gary Wineland	Betsy Garach	Pastor Dave
Welcome Center	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland
Worship Leader	Sandy Norris	Bobbie Beers	Linda Steele	Kaye Russell
Children's Church	Jodie & Terry Dellinger	Terra & Jon Gartmann	Jodie & Terry Dellinger	Hank & MaryAnn Meetze
Parking Lot Greeters	Don Bookhammer	Earl Bryson	Don Bookhammer	Don Myers Dee Myers
Flowers	Memory of Sarah Hoover		Memory of Bob Walls	
Bulletins		Myers		Memory of Harold Smith



Candlelight Service
7 pm



Christmas morning worship
10 am

Announcements and Information

THE MANGER

"THE MANGER LAMB. God is in the details - AMAZINGLY so! Mangers are feed troughs. In ancient Israel and still in the middle east, they're made of stone. In a pinch, they can be a protective bassinette. That's why the priests of Bethlehem, would place lambs in them. Not *all lambs; just those that were without blemish and suitable for the blood sacrifices. Sacrifices to cover sin.

These were lambs Bethlehem was known for. Near the hills, there with a tower named "Migdal Eder" and the flocks nearby produced lambs for sacrifice.

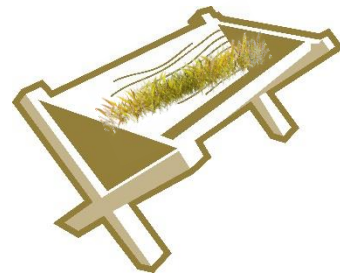
When the time neared, the priests chose the lambs for sacrifice, those without blemishes. To protect them, they'd wrap them snugly in cloth - they'd swaddle them. Then they'd lay the lambs in stone mangers for until their time came.

"Manger" is only mentioned in one account of Jesus' birth (in Luke). And now all this should make sense to you. However, on that holy night long ago, there was only a small group of people who would understand it's significance. Those who heard the words: "You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloth, and lying in a manger." ... Shepherds! Bethlehem area shepherds of the sacrificial flock.

The shepherds knew what the swaddling cloth and the manger meant. "This will be a sign unto you," the angel said. And it was. It wouldn't have been a sign to many. But to them? Most definitely. And this detail was staggering. The long expected messiah King wasn't destined for a palace in this world. No, the Lamb of God was going to be sacrificed."

By Brent Hanson

"Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners, reconciled."



December 17, 2022

8 am

Breakfast at The Dream



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP



Sisters
OF FAITH

December 20, 2022

6 pm

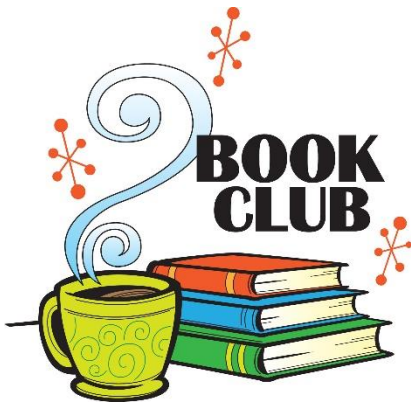
U S Hotel

RSVP to Janet Imes

or Valerie Smith

December 18

Please bring a \$5
gift for the gift
exchange

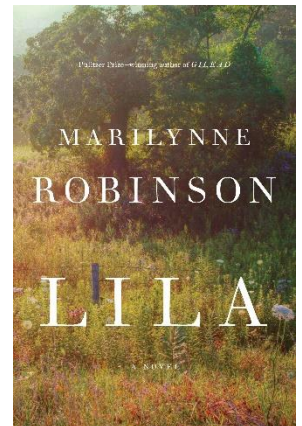


Meetings are the third Monday of each month at 10 am in the Parlor.
Join us as we discuss the monthly selection.

December's Selection: **Lila** by Marilynne Robinson

Lila, homeless and alone after years of roaming the countryside, steps inside a small-town Iowa church - the only available shelter from the rain - and ignites a romance and a debate that will reshape her life. She becomes the wife of a minister, John Ames, and begins a new existence while trying to make sense of the life that preceded her newfound security.

Neglected as a toddler, Lila was rescued by Doll, a canny young drifter, and brought up by her in a hardscrabble childhood. Together they crafted a life on the run, living hand to mouth with nothing but their sisterly bond and a ragged blade to protect them. Despite bouts of petty violence and moments of desperation, their shared life was laced with moments of joy and love. When Lila arrives in Gilead, she struggles to reconcile the life of her makeshift family and their days of hardship with the gentle Christian worldview of her husband which paradoxically judges those she loves.



12/1 Hunter Keith
12/2 Mindy Wagner
12/3 Holly Smith
12/6 Tammy Fluke
12/7 Megan Croft
12/8 Don Bookhammer
Gary Speck
Pattie Conlon
12/9 Ezra Croft
12/10 Mandy Keith
12/11 Valerie Smith

12/12 Destiny Wagner
12/13 Dawn Crumrine
Charles Smith Jr.
12/14 Jaden Myers
12/18 Dan Brumbaugh
Justin Croft
12/19 Maureen Detwiler
Marcia Fleck
Brandi Walter
12/22 Benjamin Smith
12/23 Cathy Neal

12/24 Kristen Hall
Caleb Keith
12/26 Dave Crumrine
Marlys Hershberger
12/27 Julie Witkovsky
12/28 Diana Walls
12/29 Bethann Frederick
Jacob Reilly
12/30 Janis Loucks
Pat Brumbaugh
12/31 Tom Holsinger



12/12 Tom & Cindy Shaw
 12/17 Justin & Mandy Croft
 12/24 Tommy & Sandy Smith
 Bill & Carolyn Grubb (70 years!)
 12/26 Terry & Marlys Hershberger

The 2023 Flower and Bulletin Chart is now posted by the church mailboxes. They may be given in honor or memory of a loved one, a friend or family member, in remembrance of a birthday or anniversary. The cost will be \$65 for flowers and \$25 for bulletins. Please sign up today. Payment may be made through the offering by noting "flowers" or "bulletins" on payment. Payment envelopes are located near the rear entrance.



After many, many years of playing the organ at First Church, Barbara Wineland has decided to "retire" because of some health concerns. Please thank Barbara for her faithful service to First Church. December 25th will be the last Sunday she will play. Thank you, thank you!!!



2022 Poinsettia Order Form

The Generation Hope Sunday School Class is offering the congregation the opportunity to help decorate our sanctuary with poinsettias this Advent season.

Please leave them in place until after the Christmas Eve Service.

Return this form with payment to Travis or Angie Russell, or any Generation Hope class member no later than **December 4th**.

Cost is \$11.00 each.

Number of poinsettias: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to: Generation Hope Sunday School Class

Poinsettia #1

☐ Red

☐ White

☐ Jingle Bell

_____ In memory of _____ In honor of

From (optional): _____

Poinsettia #2

☐ Red

☐ White

☐ Jingle Bell

_____ In memory of _____ In honor of

From (optional): _____

The Youth will help you deliver **CHRISTMAS CARDS** but have a few guidelines:

- 1) Return Addresses are required on each card
- 2) This is available ONLY for those who regularly attend or at least have a current mailbox.

Christmas cards will be accepted on three dates: November 27, December 4 and 11.



**Christmas
Card Exchange**

CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTHDAY!



DECEMBER 21ST

6 - 8 PM

***THIS FAMILY EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE IN OUR
FELLOWSHIP HALL***

***BRING PRESENTS TO DONATE TO SCHOOLS' CLOTHES
CLOSETS: HOODIES, SOCKS, UNDERWEAR, HYGIENE
ITEMS, WINTER HATS, GLOVES AND MITTENS***

***PLEASE SIGN UP AT THE WELCOME CENTER SO WE CAN
PLAN (WE DON'T WANT TO RUN OUT OF CAKE!)***





Mitten/Winter Clothes Tree

Help us help those who are less fortunate than we are. Please bring "winter wear" and place around the tree in the Overflow Room. Items we are collecting include hats, gloves, scarves, warm boots and shoes, coats, sweat shirts and pants, socks, long underwear, etc. All donated items will be given to the Roaring Spring Library to use as part of their community outreach program.



Undershepherds who have Christmas bags to pick up for their shepherds can pick them up December 14th following ReCharge and December 15th from the Overflow Room. A reminder will also be placed in your church mailbox about pick up times and who to deliver to.

The monthly gathering of good grief will be held on Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00 PM. We will join together in the parlor as we continue to bring comfort and support to one another in our journeys of finding a new sense of peace and purpose, especially as the Christmas season is about us. If your heart is grieving over a loss, recent or otherwise, please pray about attending this informal support group. If you have questions, please speak with either Pastor Dave or Kaye Russell.



Children in 5th grade and below are invited to be part of our **Christmas play** that will be performed during our worship service on Sunday December 11th. Children will need to be at practice at 10 am December 3 & 10 and be available for costume fitting following ReCharge at 7:30 pm, December 7th. Amy Nooyen will be directing the play and would be happy to answer any questions.



(Just Older Youth)

For those aged 55 and over

Christmas Social December 8, 2022 10 am

First Church Fellowship Hall

Communing TOGETHER



January 1, 2023

Worship 10 am

In Pew Communion

Sunday School will not be held

A GOOD GRIEF Christmas opportunity

RS First Church will be offering a time of reflection during our Sunday morning worship on Dec 18 for those who have experienced a loss (or losses) in their life and would like the opportunity to remember their loved ones during the Christmas season.

If you, a relative, or neighbor have experienced a loss at any point in your life, and the Christmas season seems to bring about a time of sadness, please plan to attend worship on this date as Pastor Dave incorporates a time of remembrance and support of those present and invites God into our hearts, bringing us a sense of peace and comfort. Please feel free to invite others you may know who may benefit from this opportunity.

If you have questions, please feel free to speak with either Pastor Dave or Kaye Russell.



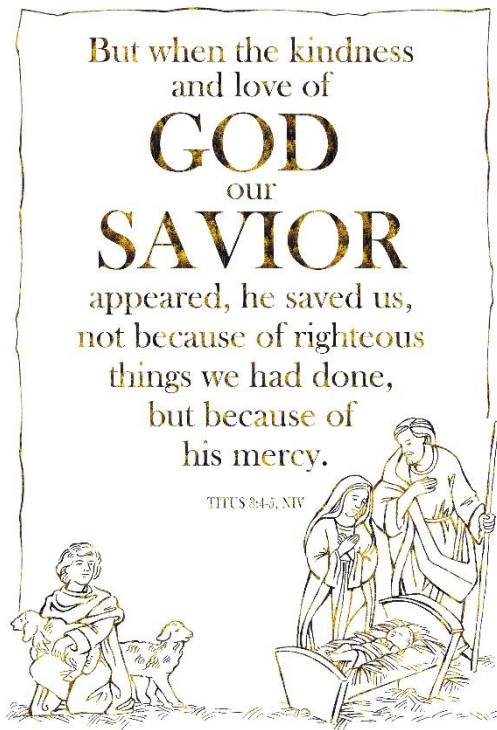
Heavenly Father, Thank You, for the coming year. I take Thy Word for my life. You shall give me peace, hope and a year full of thy blessings. I commit the coming year into Thy Hands. May it be a year we will live and grow in Thy presence in Jesus name. Amen.

ATTENTION CHURCH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS: should you ever be questioning the possibility of Sunday morning church services being cancelled at First Church know that we will send out a message using OneCallNow. Please be sure the office has your correct phone number. We will also post on our website and Facebook page. We encourage you to use your best judgement as to the safety of travelling in winter weather. We always post the service on our website and have the ability to make a CD or DVD of the service for you.

If Spring Cove School District closes or has an early dismissal, all children and youth activities for that day are also cancelled.

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:00am Breakfast Fellowship at Spring House Grille 9:00am Bulletin Announcement Deadline 6:30pm - 8:30pm Knitting Group in Parlor	2 6:00pm Fellowship Hall Reserved	3 10:00am Christmas Play Practice
4 9:25am Worship 10:30 am Congregational Forum 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am Youth Luncheon 11:45am Deacon Prayer	5 4:00pm - 5:00pm Disaster Response Christmas Dinner	6 9:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Leadership Team	7 9:00am Ladies Aid 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:45pm Recharge! 6:15pm Virtual Bible Study 6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:30pm Christmas Play Costume Fitting	8 9:00am Breakfast Fellowship at Spring House Grille 9:00am Bulletin Announcement Deadline 10:00am - 12:00pm J O Y Christmas Party 6:30pm - 8:30pm Knitting Group in Parlor	9	10 10:00am Christmas Play Practice
11 Food Bank Collection 9:25am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 10:45am Fellowship Time	12 1:00pm Newsletter Submission Deadline	13 9:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Good Grief	14 9:00am Ladies Aid 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:45pm Recharge! 6:15pm Virtual Bible Study 6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:30pm Fruit Basket Pick up	15 Fruit Basket Pick up 9:00am Breakfast Fellowship at Spring House Grille 9:00am Bulletin Announcement Deadline 6:30pm - 8:30pm Knitting Group in Parlor	16	17 8:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
18 9:25am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:45am Deacon Prayer	19 10:00am Book Group	20 Bulletin deadline for Dec 25 and Jan 1 9:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Sisters of Faith	21 9:00am Ladies Aid 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00pm - 8:00pm Birthday Party for Jesus 6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice	22 9:00am Breakfast Fellowship at Spring House Grille 6:30pm - 8:30pm Knitting Group in Parlor	23 Office Closed	24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
25 10:00am Worship	26 Office Closed	27	28 9:00am Ladies Aid 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	29 9:00am Breakfast Fellowship at Spring House Grille	30	31



"The Lord is coming, always coming. ... Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord."
—Henri Nouwen

"The good news of great joy changed the course of every silent night to come."
—Alicia Bruxvoort

"Christmas is a box of tree ornaments that have become part of the family."
—Charles M. Schulz

"The only blind person at Christmastime is he who has not Christmas in his heart."
—Helen Keller

"Jesus took his place in a manger so that we might have a home in heaven."
—Greg Laurie

"The most incredible thing about miracles is that they happen."
—G.K. Chesterton, by way of Father Brown

Address Service Requested



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Find us on Facebook

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