



The First Church of the Brethren
901 Bloomfield Street, Roaring Spring, PA 16673
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churchoffice@rsfirstchurch.org
Pastor: Rev. Dr. David A. Crumrine
dcrumrine@rsfirstchurch.org

December 2023

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.

So. What's the best Christmas present you have ever received?

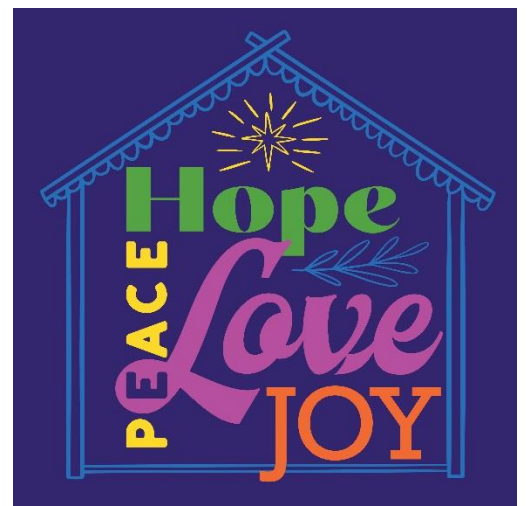
My hope is that it didn't take you very long to honestly respond to that question by answering that "Jesus Christ is the best Christmas present I have ever received."

Because Jesus came into this world, and because of what He has done for us, we can have hope, love, joy and peace. Add it all together and the birth of Christ or, "Emmanuel, God is with us," has to be the best thing that has potentially happened to, and for, us.

As the light that is Jesus the Christ "shines around us." (Luke 2) let us use this time of Advent as preparation for recognizing, remembering and being recharged by the value of what we have received. And let's not limit the gift to just this season! Let us commit to carry forth the light of Christ in our hearts and souls for the coming year. As we receive that gift, may it also fill us to the point of wanting to share it with those around us.

In times of darkness, light becomes even more valuable than usual. So, let this season recharge and refresh your understanding of what Jesus means to you, and be willing to share it with those around you in the coming months!

Pastor Dave



Twas The Night Before Jesus Came

Anonymous

Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house
not a creature was praying, not one in the house.
Their bibles were lain on the shelf without care,
in hopes that Jesus would not come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed,
not once ever kneeling or bowing a head;
And mom in her rocker with baby on her lap,
was watching the late show while I took a nap;

When out of the East there arose such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter;
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
threw open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The light of His face made me cover my head,
it was Jesus returning, just like He said.
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.

In the book of life, which He held in His hand,
was written the name of every saved man.
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name,
when He said, "It's not here!" my head hung in shame.

The people whose names had been written with love,
He gathered to take to His Father above.
With those who were ready He rose without a sound,
while all the rest were left standing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too late:
I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight.
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.

In the words of this poem the meaning is clear,
the coming of Jesus is drawing near.
There's only one life and when the last name is called,
we'll find that the bible was true after all.



HELPING HANDS IN DECEMBER

Greeter Don Bookhammer
Deacon Greeters Doug & Brenda Garber

Candlelighters Youth
Fellowship Time Youth

December	3	10	17	24 Morning	31
Organist	Terry Hershberger		Cathy Petre	Cathy Petre	Terry Hershberger
Pianist	Cathy Petre	Brenda Fluke-Garber	Marcia Fleck	Cathy Neal	Cindy Shaw
Worship Leader	Kaye Russell	Linda Steele		Stephen Hershberger	
Storyteller	Betsy Garach	Pastor Dave	Bonnie Butler	Bethann Frederick	
Children's Church Nursery	Jodie & Terry Dellinger	Janie Myers Jaden Myers	Angie Russell	Melinda Green Terra Gartmann	Amy Nooyen
Welcome Center	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland
Parking Lot Greeters		Earl Bryson			
Flowers		Memory of Chuck Piper	Memory of Bob Walls		
Bulletins	Memory of Duane Snyder		Memory of Brittany Grubb	Memory of Harold Smith	



Morning worship 9:25 am
Sunday School 10:30 am
Candlelight Service 7 pm



*New Year's Eve
Worship Service*

December 31st 9:25 am
Sunday School 10:30 am



Please be safe when the weather turns cold and more dangerous.

Please leave the close parking spots for those who truly need them. Should we have to cancel worship, we will notify you with a telephone call using OneCallNow. It will also be posted on our website, www.rsfirstchurch.org, and our Facebook page.

If the Spring Cove School District cancels or has an early dismissal due to weather, all children and youth activities for that day are also cancelled.

WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW....

December 16, 2023

8 am

Breakfast at The Dream

All men invited!



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP



Sisters
OF FAITH

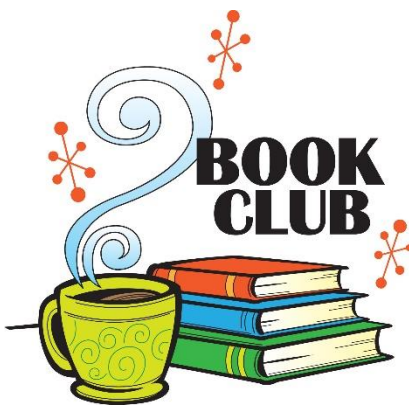
Christmas Gathering

Tuesday, December 19th

6 pm Jethro's

*Please bring a \$5.00
gift for game/exchange*

*RSVP to Janet Imes or
Valerie Smith by 12/17*

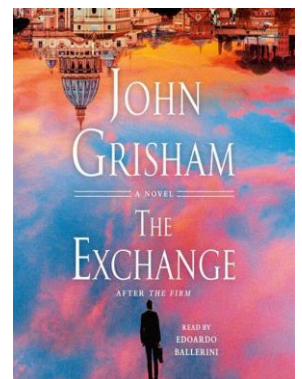


BOOK
CLUB

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

"The Exchange" by John Grisham

What became of Mitch and Abby McDeere after they exposed the crimes of Memphis law firm Bendini, Lambert & Locke and fled the country? The answer is in *The Exchange*, the riveting sequel to *The Firm*, the blockbuster thriller that launched the career of America's favorite storyteller. It is now fifteen years later, and Mitch and Abby are living in Manhattan, where Mitch is a partner at the largest law firm in the world. When a mentor in Rome asks him for a favor that will take him far from home, Mitch finds himself at the center of a sinister plot that has worldwide implications—and once again endangers his colleagues, friends, and family. Mitch has become a master at staying one step ahead of his adversaries, but this time there's nowhere to hide.





Sunday, December 3rd at 6:30 pm Fellowship Hall

If you love to sing, especially at this joyous time of year, we invite you to be a part of our Hymn Sing. Light refreshments will be provided. Invite your friends, neighbors, and family members who also like to sing. We can't wait to see you!

DECEMBER Birthdays

- 12/1 Hunter Keith
Jim Butler
- 12/2 Mindy Wagner
- 12/6 Tammy Fluke
- 12/7 Megan Croft
- 12/8 Don Bookhammer
Gary Speck
Pattie Conlon
- 12/9 Ezra Croft
- 12/10 Mandy Keith
Emily Mingle-Hershberger

- 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
- 12/30 Janis Loucks
Pat Brumbaugh
- 12/31 Tom Holsinger



Justin Keith, son Austin and daughter Kaylee have been attending since 2019 and became members in 2020. Justin helps with the audio system and attends the Men's Fellowship breakfast. They live in Martinsburg. Justin and Austin enjoy hunting and Kaylee enjoys playing basketball. Justin is a huge Buffalo Bills fan.



Travis, Angie, Abe, Charli and Graci Russell reside on Ponderosa Lane off of Cove Lane.

Travis is an owner at Roots in the Cove in Roaring Spring and Angie is a reading teacher at Claysburg-Kimmel Elementary. They have been married since January 2011 and have 3 children; Abe who is 10 and twin daughters, Charli and Graci who are 8. Abe is in 4th grade and is active in football, basketball, and baseball. Charli and Graci are in 2nd grade and take gymnastics at the YMCA 2 nights a week. Travis has been a member at the First Church of the Brethren since birth. He has served as Sunday School superintendent and a member of the Christian Ed committee. On

Sunday mornings you will often see Travis running the sound system from the balcony. Angie was raised in the Leamersville Church of the Brethren. She has taught various Sunday school classes over the years and currently helps to plan for Wednesday Night ReCharge.



2023 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 10th*.

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): _____

Poinsettia #3 Red White Jingle Bell
_____ In memory of _____ In honor of

From (optional): _____

Payment made payable to
Generation Hope Sunday School Class
must accompany order
Poinsettias are \$11 each

For the information of those who attended the Pastor's recent class of "What Brethren Believe" you may be interested in the following Brethren history literature in the church's 2nd Floor History Library.

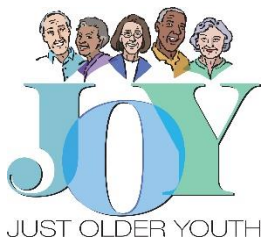
1. History of the Church of the Brethren of the Western District of Pennsylvania
2. History of the Church of the Brethren in the Middle District of Pennsylvania 1781-1925 (2 copies)
3. Counting the Cost
4. Builders in our Century
5. Stories From Brethren Life
6. Transforming Church Boards
7. Peace is our Business
8. Stories from Brethren Life
9. Sister Anna
10. Brethren Hymnal
11. The Old Brethren Society
12. Educational Blue Book and Directory - Church of the Brethren
13. The Adventurous Future 1
14. Fruit of the Vine
15. A History of the Brethren 1708 - 1995
16. The Church of the Brethren and War 1708-1941
17. The Educational History Church of the Brethren

The 2024 Flower and Bulletin chart will be posted this month. The cost is \$65 for altar flowers and \$25 for bulletins each week. You may place the payment in the offering plate at any time, designated "flowers" or "bulletins." They may be placed in honor or memory of whomever you choose. Envelopes are available near the rear door entrance

**5TH
SUNDAY
FELLOWSHIP**

**December 31st
at 11:45
am**

Please join us for church family fellowship while we share a meal of . Please sign up at the Welcome Center by December 24th so we have an idea of how many to prepare for.



JUST OLDER YOUTH

All 55+ are invited to our J O Y Christmas Social at 10 am December 14th. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for food, fun and fellowship. Please sign up at the Welcome Center by December 10th so we know how many to plan for.



Pew Communion will be held during worship on Sunday, January 7, 2024. All baptized members are encouraged and invited to join us to renew their covenant with God, and bring in the new year in remembrance of the Savior. Deacons and Deacon Emeritus will also be installed that morning.

Bulletins from the previous two weeks, newsletters and Directories are available in the holder near the bulletin board at the rear door entrance.



Our Deacon body wants to honor our congregation members who are over 70 years old with a small gift. Shepherds will be contacting you to arrange a visit and delivery. If you do not wish to receive this gift, please let Deacon Chairs Dave & Valerie Smith, (814)224-5606, or your shepherd know. This list is taken from the information from our data base, so be sure we have your information on file in the office.

Deacons & Shepherds can pick up Christmas bags for their Undershepherds who are to receive them on Wednesday, December 13th following ReCharge in the Overflow Room, or from 7 am to 6 pm Thursday and Friday. There will be a list in your mailbox of who you need to deliver to. If you have any questions, you can contact Dave Imes.



The monthly gathering of good grief will be held on Tuesday, December 12 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.



- 12/12 Tom & Cindy Shaw
- 12/17 Justin & Mandy Croft
- 12/24 Tommy & Sandy Smith
Bill & Carolyn Grubb
- 12/26 Terry & Marlys Hershberger



The Youth will once again be helping elves and sort the Christmas cards that you wish to send to the regular attendees. We will have our box in the welcome center for cards on December 3, 10 and 17. Be sure your return name is on the cards.



Please let Cathy Petre know if you are not using offering envelopes and would like to have a box for 2024. Offering envelopes will be distributed in church mailboxes near the end of December. Please do not use them until 2024 as some numbers may have changed.

All information for the January 2024 Newsletter needs to be received in the church office no later than December 15th.

White Gift Offering Envelopes are available near the rear door entrance and will be available at the Welcome Center during the month of December. They may be placed in the offering at any time. Questions about what this will be used for can be addressed to the Finance and Facilities Team.

"The story of Christmas is the story of God's relentless love for us." — Max Lucado

"God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If He gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it."

— Pope Francis

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:00pm Faith & Grace Activity	2
3 9:25am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:45am Deacon Prayer Gathering 6:30pm Hymn Sing	4 4:00pm BDM Christmas Dinner	5 9:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Leadership Meeting	6 9:00am Ladies Aid 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:45pm ReCharge 6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice	7 9:00am Breakfast Fellowship at Spring House Grille 9:00am Bulletin Deadline 6:30pm - 8:30pm Knitting Group in Parlor	8	9
10 Food Bank Collection 9:25am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time 10:30am Sunday School	11	12 9:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Good Grief	13 9:00am Ladies Aid 1:00pm Newsletter Submission Deadline 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:45pm ReCharge 6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice	14 9:00am Breakfast Fellowship at Spring House Grille 9:00am Bulletin Deadline 10:00am J O Y Christmas Social 6:30pm - 8:30pm Knitting Group in Parlor	15	16 8:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
17 9:25am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:45am Deacon Prayer Gathering	18 10:00am Book Group	19 9:00am Bulletin Deadline 9:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Sisters of Faith	20 9:00am Ladies Aid 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice	21 9:00am Breakfast Fellowship at Spring House Grille 6:30pm - 8:30pm Knitting Group in Parlor	22 Office Closed	23
24 9:25am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28 Office Closed 9:00am Breakfast Fellowship at Spring House Grille	29 Office Closed	30
31 9:25am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:45am 5th Sunday Fellowship Meal						

New Christmas Tradition

Beginning December 1st read one chapter of the book of Luke in the Bible each evening.

There are 24 chapters.

On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus's Life and wake up Christmas morning knowing WHO and WHY we celebrate!!



"He was created of a mother whom he created. He was carried by hands that he formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy, he, the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute."

—Augustine of Hippo

"May God give you peace with yourselves; may he give you good will towards all your friends, your enemies and your neighbors; and may he give you grace to give glory to God in the highest."

—Charles H. Spurgeon

"Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall."

—Larry Wilde

Address Service Requested



If you wish to be removed from mailing list or correct your address, please contact us through an above means.



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