

January 2024

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.

Do you know what your New Year's Resolution is going to be for this new year? Have you decided what habits and attitudes you should begin, strengthen, or eliminate from your life? Or are you going to be one of the 91% who say you're going to make changes to make your life better, and then never get around to following through on them?

For resolutions to take hold, for desired changes to impact our future in the way we hope they will, there has to be a recognized need for such a change.

So, if you haven't decided on any improvements you need in your life, may I be so bold as to suggest one possible resolution that ALL of us need?

Why not make a commitment to grow closer to God in the coming year?

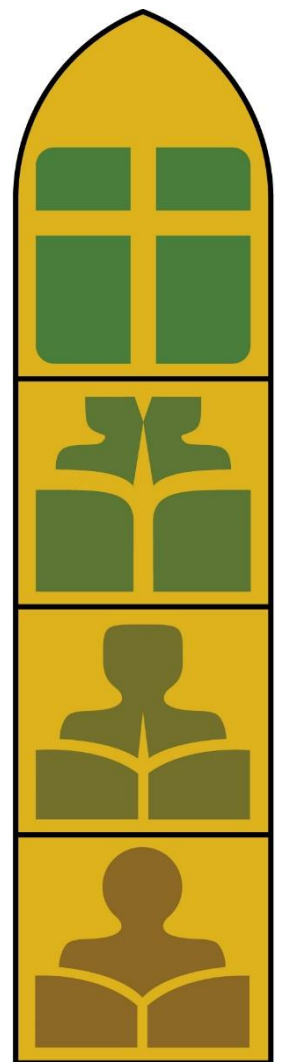
Oh, I get it. Sometimes we think growth just happens on its own without effort on our part. Sometimes we think growth is what happens when life doesn't give us what we really wanted. And I get that we're all good people. We wouldn't be in church, and we wouldn't be reading this if we weren't.

But still. There are very few changes we can make in how we live our lives that offer as many benefits as drawing closer to God –no matter where we already are in this area. Read more scripture. Be around people who want to discuss what that scripture means in their lives. Apply what you read to serving the church, serving the needy, serving our community and our world. PRAY a lot. Pray for peace, pray for people in need. Pray for our leaders and our world. Be grateful in all things. Forgive. Trust that God is working even in the problems you go through. And always ask the Holy Spirit to help you do all these things because most times we can't do them on our own.

Imagine! Just imagine where you might end up the year --- and eternity --- if you do these things! And imagine the impact and legacy you will have on those around you!

You can thank me for the suggestion later!

Pastor Dave



**Learn
&
Grow**

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

The Leadership Team met on 10-31-23. The next meeting will be held on 12-5-23.

Worship: Elementary children shared in the worship service on 10-29. The youth presented worship on 11-5 as a part of the Church of the Brethren Jr. Youth Sunday. On 11-12 there was a special emphasis on the Ladies Aide of our church and a display of several quilts were in the Overflow Room. On 11-26 there will be a segment of worship dedicated to those who have lost loved ones and wish to recognize them as part of a “Blue Christmas” service.

Missions & Service: Heritage Fair collected \$26,000. Pennies for Witness from our church totaled \$640. We are to be commended for our generous giving to this outreach. It was noted that all budgeted outreach for 2023 will be paid. Our annual White Gift offering opportunity will be held during December. This helps to meet our end of year budgeted obligations.

Christian Education: The team is working on ordering Adult Advent Booklets. Hospitality & Communications: Donations for the Truck or Treat event made a total of 268 goodie bags. Thank you for your donations! In addition to sharing them at the T or T event, children and adults were also given bags at a recent ReCharge. Upcoming events include the Older Servants Dinner; a Paint Party; a Hymn Sing; and a 5th Sunday lunch to wrap up the year!

Finance & Facility: Waiting for state inspection to be completed on the elevator revamp. Roof drain repairs will begin soon by Mid-State Roofing. Attendance and giving are both steady; thank you for your commitment to both. The church’s computer software has been switched over to “Church 360”. Most of the employed staff and the financial secretary have been trained and are liking the added perks of the new program. The church office phones will soon be able to be switched over to Microsoft VOIP. This will occur once the elevator work is complete, and the elevator phone is accessible. The new website is up and working well; it just needs some continued tweaking and the addition of photos of the church’s events. Please share what you have with the church office via email. To date, the History Team has provided some interesting photos. Brass handrails will soon be installed at the steps coming off the Overflow Room into the sanctuary for added safety. Other areas of the building will also be accessed for better safety features. An updated map of the church building is also a work in progress. A bathroom plumbing issue was recently resolved.

Deacons: In person prayer gatherings continue the first and third Sundays of each month. The team provided the meal at the 10-25 ReCharge. We are in the midst of a deacon calling.

Pastor Dave: He appreciates all the support he receives from the Leadership Team and the congregation. He continues working on the photo directory and hopes to have it available by the first of the new year. He will be asking for volunteers to light the Advent candles during worship.

~~The church has always provided the curriculums needed for our Sunday School Program. Extra items for classrooms, however, are at the expense of each class.

~~2 new sets of exterior metal doors are needed in the Fellowship Hall. These will be added to the current “wish list”! 2 of the other items F&F mentioned as needing replaced include new Plexiglas for the stained-glass windows and new chairs for the Fellowship Hall.

~~The Leadership Team approved the agenda for the upcoming Forum, the slates, and the 2024 proposed budget. It was noted that both the Middle PA District and the Brethren Denomination are both struggling financially. It is suggested that individuals make personal contributions, if able, to either of these to aid in their ability to continue their ministries and budget expenses.

Kaye Russell, Leadership Team Chair



LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

The Leadership Team met on 12-5-23. The next meeting will be held on 1-2-24.

Kaye Russell expressed her gratitude to all 2023 LT members. The church is beginning to pick itself back up for the several years of COVID setbacks. We are all working intently to bring the vitality of our congregation back and it is working well. We have a considerable number of activity options available once again to bring the children, youth and adults from our congregation and our community closer to God.

Worship: Tree lights will be placed on the two artificial trees behind the choir loft.

Missions & Service: All committed 2023 outreach has been paid. Year end monetary gifts will be given to the RS Library, Blair Family Services, three local food banks, and the SCSD Backpack Program. White Gift will be shared with Brethren Disaster Ministry Emergency Fund and the Middle PA District budget. The Giving Tree will accept food donations for the three local food banks.

Christian Education: Children's SS will not be held on 12-24 or 12-31. Adult classes can decide on their own if they choose to meet or not meet. Nursery care during worship was discussed.

Hospitality & Communications: 5th Sunday luncheon for 12-31 has been cancelled. 2024 calendar of events has been compiled.

Finance & Facility: The elevator updates are complete and have been inspected by the state. One final weight limit inspection is scheduled. There has been some offering submitted through the new website's donation option. Donations were received to replace the wooden exterior doors in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to those who are making this upgrade possible. Spotlights have been added to the signs in the front of the church building for better nighttime viewing. Men's Fellowship was granted permission to store a propane heater in the Ladies Aid Room following their pre-worship outdoor meet and greet time during the winter months. Paul Witkovsky will ask the Lady quilters for their permission. Off season, the heater will be stored off premises. A new dusk to dawn light timer and LED bulb will be installed for the parking lot. There are continuing concerns with the daycare that is housed in our building. Discussion continues.

Deacons: Deacons assisted with congregational anointing during worship on 11-26. Six deacons were recently recalled. Installation of 5 and 1 emeritus recognition will be held on 1-7-24 along with in pew communion. Hallway mailboxes will be updated. Christmas gift bags for delivery will be ready for pick up on 12-14 by Shepherds.

Pastor Dave: Preliminary pictorial directory continues through the end of the year to circulate for members and friends to approve their photo and information. Jan Simington will be on vacation from 12-21 through 1-1-24. Pastor Dave and Terry Hershberger will be covering the office and answering the phones.

LT has been asked to aid the History Team with bringing recorded history highlights up to date from 2010. Requests of the congregation to assist in gathering old church records will be in upcoming bulletins.

A list of Hanging of the Greens annual group responsibilities has been developed and will be distributed in January.

Discussion on wording in the Constitution regarding forum packets and slate affirmations was reviewed. Changes will be made for the 2024 fall forum. Forum minutes will appear in newsletters that follow as well as become part of the next forum packet.

There were not enough paper slates available for all members for the 12-10 slate affirmations, so additional papers will be offered on 12-0 for those who were not able to complete one on 12-3. After all slates have been collected, a determination of total affirmation counts can be made.

2024 LT meetings will continue to be held the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6pm in the Overflow Room.

Kaye Russell, Leadership Team Chair

First Church of the Brethren
Roaring Spring, PA
Congregational Forum
11/19/2023

Moderator Dan Hammel opened with scripture reading and prayer

Presentation of Agenda:

Questions or comments: none
Motion to approve; 1st Tom Holsinger, 2nd Linda Steele
Affirm by congregation: Yes

Presentation of Team Reports:

Questions or Comments: Brenda Fluke-Garber, website needs updated picture of our building. Bryce Nooyen noted that the pictures have been supplied, just not updated yet.
Motion to approve; 1st Sandy Norris, 2nd Betsy Garach
Affirm by congregation: Yes

Presentation of 2024 Proposed Budget:

Questions or comments: Kaye Russell, questioned the balance of Hoover/Over money – about \$17,000.00 and about \$6000.00 in stocks. Money moved to Altoona 1st Linda Steele, why didn't we just keep acct at M&T and just change acct numbers? That was done, the new acct had fraud as well, F&F decided to change banks.
Terry Hershberger suggested budgets debits/credits need to be more transparent.
Bryce Nooyen, budgets notes:
Main increase in budget is insurance. Donation was accepted in memory for Marjorie Rhodes, for ReCharge. Endowment fund \$50,000.00. Roof fund \$38,000.00. Memorial fund \$10,000.00. Building Fund \$29,000.00. Elevator fund is \$54,000.00 target of \$70,000.00.
Motion to approve; 1st Shirley Lingenfelter, 2nd Chris Wagner
Affirm by congregation: Yes

Presentation of 2024 Proposed slate:

Questions or comments: Pastor Dave will serve as an Annual Conference delegate unless someone else would like to attend. Gifts Discernment Team had a hard time getting people to serve, grateful for those willing to serve. Cindy Shaw questioned who hospitality & communications chair is, it is Beth Burns, her term is not up until 12/31/24. Team leaders are staggered so leadership does not have all new members at the same time.
Motion to close slate; 1st Linda Steele, 2nd Kristen Hall

Affirm or non-affirm will be held on 12/3/23
It is noted that we will affirm or non-affirm each page not each section

Moderator Dan Hammel closed with prayer and meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:
Valerie Smith, Church Clerk



HELPING HANDS IN JANUARY

Greeter

Candlelighters

Deacon Greeters Mitch & Bethann Frederick

Fellowship Time

January	7	14	21	28
Organist		Cathy Petre	Terry Hershberger	Terry Hershberger
Pianist	Brenda Fluke-Garber	Cathy Neal	Cindy Shaw	Marcia Fleck
Worship Leader				
Storyteller	Pastor Dave	Betsy Garach	Traci Totillo	Sandy Norris
Children's Church	Jodie & Terry Dellinger	Janie Myers Jaden Myers	Angie Russell	Melinda Green Terra Gartmann
Nursery				
Welcome Center	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland
Parking Lot Greeters				
Flowers				
Bulletins				



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.



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Anyone who is interested in becoming a member of First Church is asked to please notify Pastor Dave or the church office. If transferring membership, we will need the name of the church that holds your membership.

If you are in 6th grade or beyond and would like to be baptized and become a member, please notify the office or Pastor Dave. A Membership Class will be offered soon for adults and youth.

2024 Schedules

	Fellowship Time	Candlelighter	Deacon Greeters
January	Genesis Class	Alpha Class	Mitch & Bethann Frederick
February	Generation Hope	Children's Ministry	Dave & Janet Imes
March	Youth	Genesis Class	Doug & Brenda Garber
April	Palm Sunday - Deacons	Youth	Paul & Julie Witkovsky
May	Alpha Class	Men's Fellowship	Dave & Valerie Smith
June	Living Faith		Betsy & Mark Garach
July	Not Held		Krista Snyder
August	Not Held		Keith & Kristen Hall
September	Not Held -Rally Day	Generation Hope	Sandy Norris
October	Genesis Class	Youth	
November	Alpha Class	Deacons	
December	Youth	Youth	Linda Steele

More about Fellowship Time:

Adult Sunday School is now incorporated with fellowship time.

Please continue to provide whatever your group feels they would like to share.

Please make three small trays available for the Children's Sunday School Classes and deliver them to the Nursery Class, Pre-K -2nd Class and 3rd-5th Class

During Talk Time please don't be in the kitchen cleaning up and chatting. Please participate in the talk back.

More about Acolytes:

Please have someone from your group volunteer during your designated month.

Please be in the Narthex during greeting so the Ushers know you're ready.

Children's Story 2024 January-April

January-

7- Pastor Dave
14-Betsy Garach
21- Traci Totillo
28- Sandy Norris

February-

4- Linda Steele
11- Pastor Dave
18- Marlys Hershberger
25- Gary Wineland

March-

3- Bonnie Butler
10- Pastor Dave
17- Bethann Frederick
24- Marlys Hershberger
31- Betsy Garach

April-

7- Pattie Conlon
14 Pastor Dave
21- Traci Totillo
28- Sandy Norris

2024 Deacons

Chairpersons – Dave & Valerie Smith
Vice -Chairpersons - Mike & Becky Bianconi
Treasurer - Bethann Frederick
Secretary – Janet Imes

Gary & Jane Thompson, Emeritus
Mark Garach, Emeritus
Kaye Russell, Emeritus

Mike & Becky Bianconi (2027)
Dave & Valerie Smith (2027)
Paul & Julie Witkovsky (2027)

Keith & Kristen Hall (2024)
David & Janet Imes (2024)

Betsy Garach (2028)
Krista Snyder (2028)
Linda Steele (2028)
Doug & Brenda Garber (2028)
Dan & Sharon Hammel (2028)

Mitch & Bethann Frederick (2026)
Sandy Norris (2026)
Pattie Conlon (2026)



Tuesday, January 16

6 pm

Location TBD

RSVP to Janet Imes
or Valerie Smith

no later than January 14



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

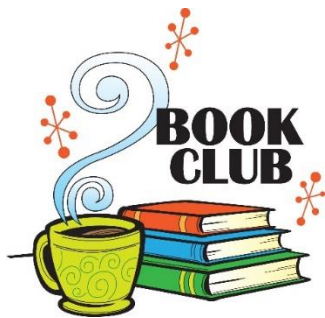
January 20

8 am

Breakfast at

The Dream

All men invited!



Meetings are the third Monday of each month at 10 am in the Parlor.
Join us as we discuss the monthly selection on January 15, 2024.

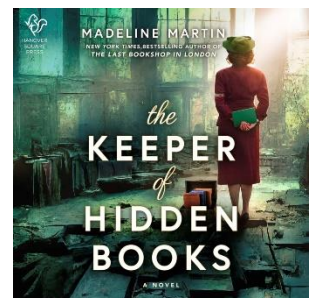
"The Keeper of Hidden Books"

By Madeline Martin

All her life, Zofia has found comfort in two things during times of hardship: books and her best friend, Janina. But no one could have imagined the horrors of the Nazi occupation in Warsaw. As the bombs rain down and Hitler's forces loot and destroy the city, Zofia finds that now books are also in need of saving.

With the death count rising and persecution intensifying, Zofia jumps to action to save her friend and salvage whatever books she can from the wreckage, hiding them away, and even starting a clandestine book club. She and her dearest friend never surrender their love of reading, even when Janina is forced into the newly formed ghetto.

But the closer Warsaw creeps toward liberation, the more dangerous life becomes for the women and their families—and escape may not be possible for everyone. As the destruction rages around them, Zofia must fight to save her friend and preserve her culture and community using the only weapon they have left—literature.



In the case of inclement weather:

If we cancel Sunday worship, notification will be made through a phone call. Should Spring Cove School District cancel or have an early dismissal due to weather, all children and youth activities planned for that day are canceled. Please be sure your information is correct in the office. Our worship service is available on our website.



Carol Strum and her late husband Tom began worshipping with us in 2020.

She has 3 sons, a daughter (and a heavenly daughter), a stepson, 18 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren. She loves to cook, garden and spend time with her family.

She will be moving to Martinsburg in the spring.



Dave, Valerie, and Avery Smith, live on Burkettown Road in Roaring Spring, the property where they live was from Dave's great-grandfathers farm. Dave works for Blair Township; Valerie works at State Farm and Avery works at Traditions Restaurant.

Valerie has been a member at First Church since birth, she is a fourth-generation member. Dave was baptized in 2008 and Avery in 2018 (Avery was part of the first Baptism group for Pastor Dave), making her a fifth-generation member. Dave and Valerie were married at First Church in September 1999.

Dave attends Men's Fellowship, Valerie attends Sisters of Faith. They attend Genesis Sunday School Class. They were called as Deacons in 2018 and are currently serving as Deacon Chairs. They both help occasionally in the kitchen for Recharge meals.

Avery graduated this past June from CHS. She was active with the youth group and mentoring program. She has served on Christian Ed team. She helps in the kitchen for ReCharge too.

JANUARY Birthdays

1/1 Keith Hall
Carol Emerick
1/4 Ryan Butler
Randy Keith
1/7 Jenni Mowery
1/8 Margaret Sell
1/9 Eliana Eicher
1/11 Michael Pollard

1/12 Dan Emerick
1/13 Troy Crumrine
1/16 Gary Thompson
1/17 Nadia Padilla
1/18 Abigail Garber
1/25 Linda Piper
1/28 Penny Igou
1/29 Melanie Hoffman

Danielle Conrath
1/30 Becky Bryson
Lisa Burns
1/31 Gary Fluke
Mitch Frederick
Sandy Norris
Carol Imler



1/1 Mark & Betsy Garach
1/15 Travis & Angie Russell
1/18 Greg & Mary Anne Smith
1/27 Mark & Linda Steele

Messenger, the Church of the Brethren Magazine, is delivered 10 times a year. The cost is \$14.50 per year or \$27 for a two-year subscription. First time subscribers get the promotional rate of \$7.25. Please contact Jan in the office to renew or start a new subscription by the end of January.

What are FaithX service trips?

FaithX trips are short-term service experiences that challenge us to be more aware of ourselves, our communities, and our world. Through FaithX trips, participants grow in Christian discipleship, formed by the command to love God and neighbor, and inspired by Christ's example of humbly serving others. We hope that by serving, we will deepen our faith and grow our compassion as global citizens and children of God.

Who can attend a FaithX service trip?

FaithX trips provide opportunities for all ages to serve! Traditional junior and senior high youth trips are happening during summer, but we also have a few brand-new trip options! In February, FaithX is hosting a service trip for older adults (55+) at Camp Ithiel in Florida – registration is open now for this trip! During summer, a family trip with childcare provided will allow attendees of any age to experience service together. Additionally, our summer schedule includes adult trips in the US with Brethren Disaster Ministries and in Ecuador, a We Are Able trip for persons with intellectual disabilities, options for combined junior and senior high youth groups to attend together, and the opportunity to create a custom trip that works for your unique group's needs!

Where can I see the FaithX schedule?

Visit www.brethren.org/faithx to see the full schedule or email faithx@brethren.org if you'd like a paper brochure to be mailed to you.

When does FaithX registration open?

Registration for summer FaithX trips will open on January 10, 2024 at 7:00pm eastern time. Registration for the winter older adult trip is open now and will close on February 1, 2024. Go to www.brethren.org/faithx to register!

How do I get more information about FaithX service trips?

Visit www.brethren.org/faithx to learn more about FaithX service trips. Or, contact the FaithX Office at faithx@brethren.org or 847-429-4337.

**Camp Blue Diamond Summer Camp registration begins in January.
Register online beginning January 1st.**

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:25am Worship	1 Office Closed	2 9:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Leadership Meeting	3 9:00am Ladies Aid 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:45pm ReCharge 6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice	4 9:00am Breakfast Fellowship at Spring House Grille 9:00am Bulletin Announcement Deadline 6:30pm - 8:30pm Knitting Group in Parlor	5	6
7 9:25am Worship with In Pew Communion 10:30am Sunday School	8	9 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Good Grief	10 9:00am Ladies Aid 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:45pm ReCharge 6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice	11 9:00am Breakfast Fellowship at Spring House Grille 9:00am Bulletin Announcement Deadline 6:30pm - 8:30pm Knitting Group in Parlor	12	13
14 Food Bank Collection 9:25am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time 10:30am Sunday School	15 Office Closed 10:00am Book Group 1:00pm Newsletter Submission Deadline 7:00pm Disaster Response Meeting	16 9:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Sisters of Faith	17 9:00am Ladies Aid 10:00am - 12:00pm RS Community Library Quilters 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00pm - 6:30pm RS Community Library Quilters 5:45pm ReCharge 6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice	18 9:00am Breakfast Fellowship at Spring House Grille 9:00am Bulletin Announcement Deadline 6:30pm - 8:30pm Knitting Group in Parlor	19	20 8:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
21 9:25am Worship 10:30am Sunday School	22	23 9:30am Bible Study	24 9:00am Ladies Aid 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:45pm ReCharge 6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice	25 9:00am Breakfast Fellowship at Spring House Grille 9:00am Bulletin Announcement Deadline 6:30pm - 8:30pm Knitting Group in Parlor	26	27
28 9:25am Worship 10:30am Sunday School	29	30 9:30am Bible Study	31 9:00am Ladies Aid 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:45pm ReCharge 6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice			

“Although no one can go back and make a brand-new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.” —Carl Bard

“Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward.” —Princess Diana



LATIN CROSS — The Latin cross is the simplest and most common form of the Christian cross, possibly dating from the second or third century. Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christians typically display a crucifix — an image of Jesus hanging on the cross — to remember his death for the sake of the world. Protestant churches often favor the empty cross, commemorating Jesus’ resurrection.

Dear Heavenly Father, we place our trust in You, our unchanging rock and guide. Lord, in this ever-changing world, help us keep our eyes fixed on You, finding our hope and strength in Your eternal love. Father, we pray for Your wisdom to guide our choices this year.

Address Service Requested



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