



First Church of the Brethren

Roaring Spring, PA

The First Church of the Brethren
901 Bloomfield Street, Roaring Spring, PA 16673
814.224.4113
www.rsfirstchurch.org
churchoffice@rsfirstchurch.org
Pastor: Rev. Dr. David A. Crumrine
dcrumrine@rsfirstchurch.org

February 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.

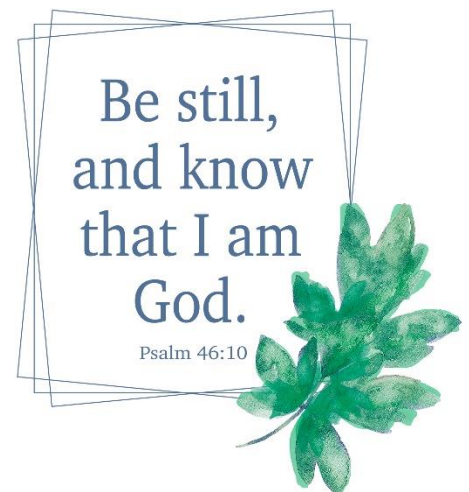
Of course. We all know that February is the coldest month of the year. And we all know that February is the shortest month of the year. (Apparently this has something to do with the construction of the Roman calendar and the fact that Romans did not like this cold, dark season). And we all know that more people struggle with mood swings, eating more, and having less energy during this month as Seasonal Affective Disorder (or appropriately named S.A.D.) cases rise.

And for these reasons, we all know that humans have tried to insert special days in the month to give us some little bit of hope that better, warmer times are just around the corner. Just to name a few of the attempts to lighten the mood, we find Valentine's Day and Groundhog Day popping up during February to try to distract us to help us get through.

But I also hope you know this.....in this month, and even more importantly in the cold and dark times of life, REAL hope is found in knowing Jesus Christ.

Psalm 46:10 tells us to "Be still, and know that I am God." When we know Him, when we trust that he is working in our lives we can rest at peace knowing that this trial will sometime pass. And we can know that while we wait for it to pass, that God is walking beside us, or even carrying us to brighter times ahead.

So, perhaps the best thing we can do in these dark, cold times is to make sure that we draw close to God, knowing that He has a great future planned for us!



Pastor Dave

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

The Leadership Team met on 1-3-2024. The next meeting will be held on 2-6-2024.

Worship: Organ maintenance has been completed. The Souper Bowl of Caring will be held on Sunday, 2-4-2024. Terry will be away for several Sundays this winter as he works with Brethren Disaster Ministries for training.

Missions & Service: Marlys has reached out to introduce herself to the three local food banks: Roaring Spring, Claysburg, and Martinsburg.

Christian Education: Stephen Hershberger is getting to know the Team responsibilities and is getting his Team members in place. They will be focusing on using more children and youth during worship.

Hospitality & Communications: A list of 2024 events was provided. A bowling party will be held at the MC Park on Saturday, 2-10-2024.

Finance & Facility: Bryce checked in with the denomination about our church's desire to use a newly designed church logo with a Dove; the denomination office was more than pleased with our new design and was grateful for our reaching out to them. Discussion was also held on our church's formal use of the word "The" before our church's name. It is not on our charter paperwork. LT has decided to display our name formally as Roaring Spring First Church of the Brethren until this can be further discussed at the next Forum. The outside parking lot lighting has been updated and is on a dusk to dawn setting. New FH steel exterior doors have been ordered and will be installed upon receiving.

Deacons: fifty gift bags were distributed at Christmas time by Under-shepherds. Mailbox assignments and the Under-shepherd Program will be discussed at the Sunday, 1-21-2024 meeting.

Pastor Dave: The annual Church Directory will be part of the upcoming Pictorial Directory. At this early stage, Palm Sunday, 3-24-2024 will include four baptisms and six transfers.

Children's worship activity bags will be evaluated and restocked as necessary by the CE Team.

Annual Church Directory information found on pages 8-9 will be reviewed by LT Chairs, and contacts will be made with volunteers to see if they will continue to serve in 2024.

There will be a LT Retreat on Saturday, 1-27-2024 from 9-11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Team members for 2024 are encouraged to attend with their Team chair. Questions should be directed to their chair, or to Kaye Russell.

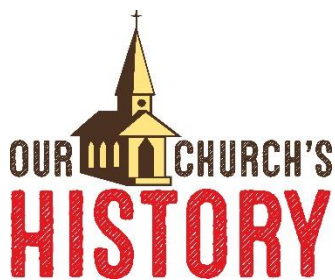
Kaye Russell, Leadership Team Chair



HELPING HANDS IN FEBRUARY

Greeter Burns Family Candlelighters Children's Ministry
 Deacon Greeters Dave & Janet Imes Fellowship Time Generation Hope

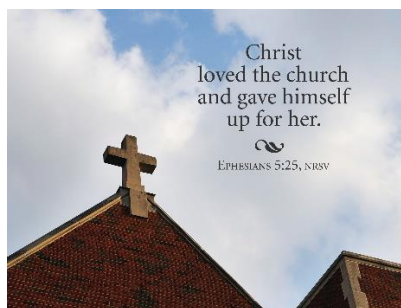
February	4	11	18	25
Organist	Cathy Petre		Terry Hershberger	Cathy Petre
Pianist	Cathy Neal	Brenda Fluke-Garber	Cindy Shaw	Marcia Fleck
Worship Leader	Kaye Russell	Bobbi Beers		Linda Steele
Storyteller	Linda Steele	Pastor Dave	Marlys Hershberger	Gary Wineland
Children's Church	Jodie & Terry Dellinger	Not held	Angie Russell	Melinda Green Terra Gartmann
Nursery				
Welcome Center	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland
Parking Lot Greeters	Don Myers	Don Myers		
Flowers				Memory of Anna Ferne Long McConahy
Bulletins				



Our church's administration is operated through a structure which the Brethren denomination developed some years ago and calls it a "Leadership Team" concept. Another term which some Brethren churches still use is "The Church Board". The members of the 2024 Leadership Team include: Chairperson-Kaye Russell; Vice Chairperson-Paul Witkovsky; Pastor-David Crumrine; Church Clerk-Valerie Smith; Church Moderator-Dan Hammel; Deacon Chairpersons-Dave & Valerie Smith; Christian Ed Core Team Chair-Stephen Hershberger; Finance & Facility Core Team Chair-Bryce Nooyen; Hospitality & Communications Core Team Chair-Beth Burns; Missions & Service Core Team Chair-Marlys Hershberger; & Music & Worship Core Team Chair-Terry Hershberger. Each Core Team chair is responsible for securing 3-4 active attendees to serve a 1 or more year commitment on their team.

In addition to the Leadership Team there is a "Leadership Executive Team" which may still be tagged in some congregations as the "Church Executive Committee". This Team is made up of the Leadership Team Chair, Vice-Chair, Pastor, Church Clerk, Moderator, & 1 of the 5 Core Team Chairs as chosen by the Leadership Team.

This form of administration and leadership has been a good transition for First Church.





Tuesday, February 20

6 pm

Valley Dairy
in Altoona

RSVP to Janet Imes
or Valerie Smith

no later than February 18th



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

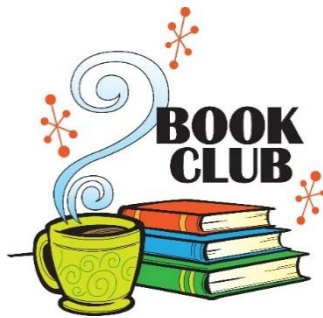
February 17

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 February 19, 2024.

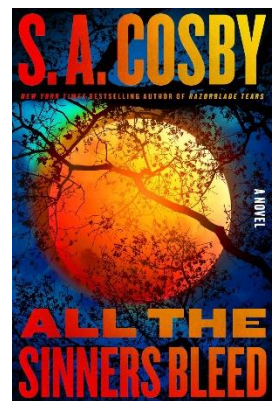
All the Sinners Bleed by S. A. Cosby

Titus Crown is the first Black sheriff in the history of Charon County, Virginia. In recent decades, quiet Charon has had only two murders. But after years of working as an FBI agent, Titus knows better than anyone that while his hometown might seem like a land of moonshine, cornbread, and honeysuckle, secrets always fester under the surface.

Then a year to the day after Titus's election, a school teacher is killed by a former student and the student is fatally shot by Titus's deputies. As Titus investigates the shootings, he unearths terrible crimes and a serial killer who has been hiding in plain sight, haunting the dirt lanes and woodland clearings of Charon.

With the killer's possible connections to a local church and the town's harrowing history weighing on him, Titus projects confidence about closing the case while concealing a painful secret from his own past. At the same time, he also has to contend with a far-right group that wants to hold a parade in celebration of the town's Confederate history.

Charon is Titus's home and his heart. But where faith and violence meet, there will be a reckoning.





2/4 Nathan Walter
 2/5 Dylan Bianconi
 2/7 Natalie Ebersole
 2/13 Jordy Burns
 2/15 Annabelle Hoffman
 2/16 Abby Martin
 2/17 Bobbi Price

2/19 Doris Albright
 2/20 Barbara Roush
 Mateo Padilla
 2/22 Georgia Hagstrom
 2/26 Barbara Wineland
 Jackolyn Crumrine
 2/27 Rusty Hoover



2/2 Derek & Abby Martin
 2/14 Don Bookhammer & Nancy Mobley



Bob Weyandt, began worshipping with us in early 2022. He currently resides at the Graystone in Roaring Spring.



Charley & Shirley Smith, joined our congregation through transfer on October 5, 1958. They serve as shepherds in our Undershepherd program. They don't join us in person often due to health issues, but they participate in the online worship service.



Thoughts on LENT

This year, **Ash Wednesday** takes place on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, coinciding with Valentine's Day.

If you're familiar with Ash Wednesday—also known as the Day of Ashes—then you know that every year, people receive dark ash marks on their foreheads in the sign of a cross. Even if you're not familiar with getting ashes, you've probably seen people walking around the grocery store or your office on Ash Wednesday displaying these black streaks.

What's the reason behind the ashes and why are they given on this day?

The ashes are meant to symbolize both death and repentance in order to begin Lent in a solemn, humble way. This is said to allow people to reflect on their sins throughout Lent before Easter, when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

Most churches use palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday service to create the ash. When Christians receive ashes, the priest or pastor says, "From dust you came and from dust you will return."

Ash Wednesday is the start of the Easter season as it marks the beginning of Lent. Though the day itself is not mentioned in the Bible, ashes are often used as a symbol of sorrow for sin in the Bible. Because Lent is a time for fasting, self-sacrifice, and repentance, it makes sense to begin the 40-day period with a symbolic gesture of solemnity.

Lent is a time of reflection and self-examination, where Christians observe a period of fasting, repentance, and spiritual discipline. Many people give something up for Lent, but I challenge you instead to take up something (a start to a good habit) instead. Here are some ideas for things to take up for Lent 2024:

1. **Daily prayer:** Set aside time each day to pray and meditate on scripture.
2. **Fasting:** Give up a favorite food or drink for the duration of Lent.
3. **Charitable giving:** Donate to a charity or volunteer at a local organization.
4. **Random acts of kindness:** Perform a kind deed for someone each day.
5. **Journaling:** Write down your thoughts and feelings each day.
6. **Reading:** Read a spiritual book or devotional each day.
7. **Forgiveness:** Forgive someone who has wronged you.
8. **Gratitude:** Write down something you are grateful for each day.
9. **Simplicity:** Simplify your life by decluttering your home or workspace.
10. **Silence:** Spend time in silence each day to reflect on your thoughts and feelings.

These are just a few ideas to get you started. Remember, the goal of Lent is to grow closer to God and to become a better version of yourself. Choose something that challenges you and helps you to focus on your spiritual journey.



New Addresses: Please consider sending cards:

Joyce Mock
220 Newry St Rm 107A
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Joan Johnson
437 Givler Drive Room 418
Martinsburg, PA 16662

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.

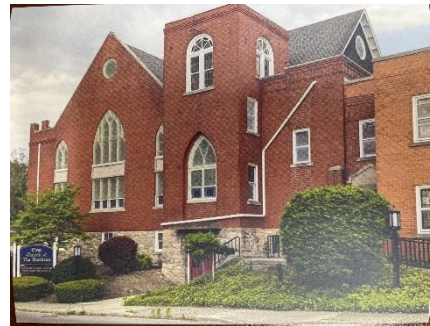
Wednesday, February 7, Gabe from Camp Blue Diamond will be joining us for our evening program. He will be talking about the exciting things happening at camp this summer and how you can sign up. Also - there will be singing and motions. All are invited to attend!

Jane Thompson thanks everyone for their prayers, concerns and cards given since the recent death of her sister Peggy after her fight with cancer.

Looking for groups/families/SS Classes/individuals to cook for recharge on Wednesdays in February and March. Please contact Valerie Smith 814-414-9592 to sign up.



Did you know this box is a prayer box? It's located at the back of the sanctuary. Maybe you would like prayer and it be offered quietly and discreetly. The Deacon's hold a prayer gathering the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month.



This is a new note card with a current picture of the church. Years ago, the youth made note cards and sold them as a fundraiser, as many of you may remember. See Jan in the office if you are interested in purchasing. They are 10 for \$6 and that includes envelopes.



A Bowling Party for our church family has been scheduled for February 10th at Huntsman Lanes at

Morrison Cove Memorial Park. We will bowl from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Please sign up at the Welcome Center so we know how many to plan for by February 3rd.



February 11th

HISTORY TEAM 2023 REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

History Team Statement of Purpose

The Church History Team is responsible for the collection, preservation, interpreting and exhibiting both tangible and intangible heritage of the Roaring Spring First Church of the Brethren for the purpose of keeping alive our institutional history and its place in the Brethren community.

In performing this responsibility team members maintain the History and Research Center on the Church second floor, In addition the team periodically informs the congregation of different aspects of our history and takes action when appropriate to update that history..

In 2013 we--

- Gathered and published biographical sketches of each of our pastors documenting their work as a Brethren minister in our church and elsewhere.
- Organized and made available to church members books, brochures, reports, papers and videos regarding our church history.
- Displayed exhibits of our history, most recently a photograph of our church circa 1909.
- Provided a quiet room for meditation, prayer and research.
- Supported the pastor with visual highlights for presentation at a Mid Atlantic District meeting
- Discovered a formal county agreement in old church papers taxing our auxiliary parking lot., Bryce Nooyen met with County officials who agreed to eliminate the tax.

2024 Church Activities

5th Sunday Meals @ 11:45 am

June 30 Picnic
September 29 Soup & Sandwiches
December 29 Pork & Sauerkraut

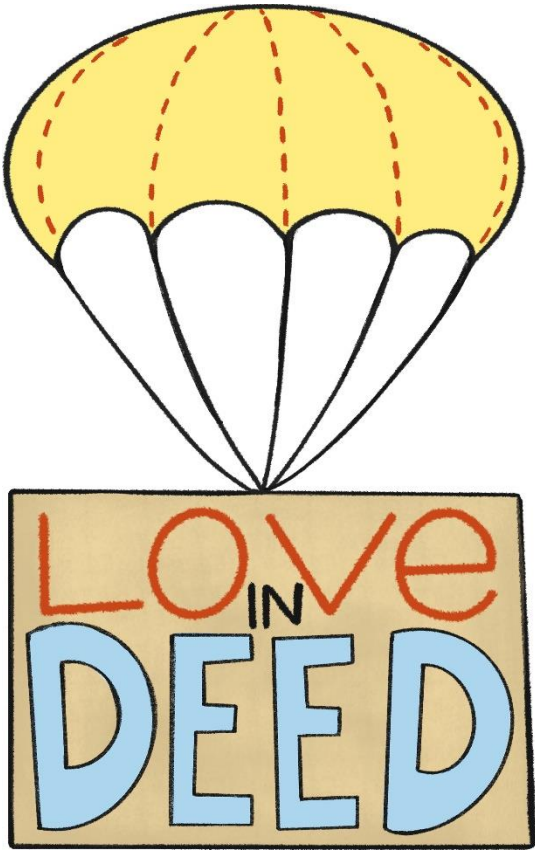


Family Events

March 16	Cabin Fever Game Night
March 27	Easter Egg Hunt
May 18	Carnival at Albright CoB
June 2	Graduation Breakfast
July 14	Church Picnic
July 20	Craft Show at Albright
August 24	Movie Night
September 14	TBD
October 6	Pastor Appreciation
October 24 or 31	Trunk or Treat
November 3	Older Servants Dinner

February 2024

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	3
4 9:25am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:45am Deacon Prayer Gathering	5	6 9:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Leadership Meeting	7 9:00am Ladies Aid 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:45pm ReCharge 6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice	8 9:00am Breakfast Fellowship at Spring House Grille 9:00am Bulletin Announcement Deadline 6:30pm - 8:30pm Knitting Group in Parlor	9	10 6:00pm Bowling Evening
11 Food Bank Collection 9:25am Worship - Souper Bowl of Caring 10:30am Fellowship Time 10:30am Sunday School	12 7:00pm Disaster Response Meeting	13 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Good Grief	14 9:00am Ladies Aid 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:45pm ReCharge 6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice	15 9:00am Breakfast Fellowship at Spring House Grille 9:00am Bulletin Announcement Deadline 6:30pm - 8:30pm Knitting Group in Parlor 1:00 pm Newsletter Deadline	16	17 8:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
18 9:25am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:45am Deacon Prayer Gathering	19 Office Closed 10:00am Book Group	20 9:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Sisters of Faith	21 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	22 9:00am Breakfast Fellowship at Spring House Grille 9:00am Bulletin Announcement Deadline 6:30pm - 8:30pm Knitting Group in Parlor	23	24
25 9:25am Worship 10:30am Sunday School	26	27 9:30am Bible Study	28 9:00am Ladies Aid 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:45pm ReCharge 6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice	29 9:00am Breakfast Fellowship at Spring House Grille 9:00am Bulletin Announcement Deadline 6:30pm - 8:30pm Knitting Group in Parlor		



"Don't let me ever think, dear God, that I was anything but the instrument for your story — just like the typewriter was mine."

—Flannery O'Connor

"Pray, and let God worry."

—Martin Luther

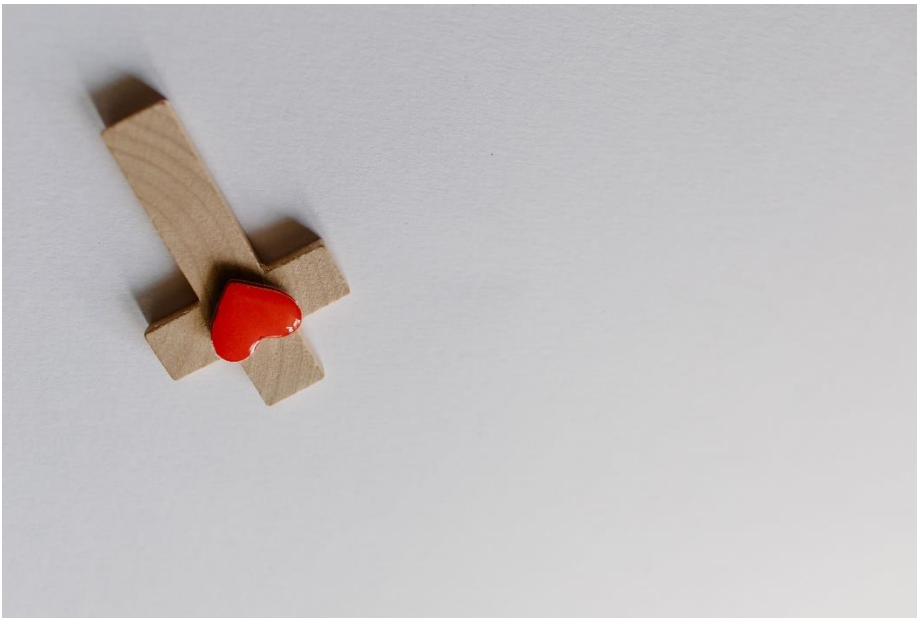
"Where there is love there is life."

—Mahatma Gandhi

"Blessed are the cracked, for they shall let in the light."

—Groucho Marx

Address Service Requested



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