



First Church of the Brethren
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churchoffice@rsfirstchurch.org
Pastor: Rev. Dr. David A. Crumrine dcrumrine@rsfirstchurch.org
May 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.

The future of our church takes a front pew seat during the month of May. Not only do we continue to try to engage our children and youth by providing them classes and activities on Sundays and Wednesdays, but May also finds our worship service being led by the Youth on May 5, and the children playing a leadership role on the 12th. That Sunday is also Mother's Day when we highlight the role Mothers have played in shaping our faith, and also celebrate with the dedication to the Lord of several infants.

We are truly blessed by ALL who attend and take part in our worship community, but watching the smiles on the faces of the children during Children's Story, and on the faces of the congregation watching the children during Children's Story is a special blessing. In addition, our church benefits from the efforts of Mindy, Doug and Brenda, Angie, Janie and ALL of you who teach, monitor, feed, provide Brethren Bucks, plan, mentor and support our programs for children and youth.

Proverbs 22:6 says "Train up a child in the ways they should go and when they are old they will not depart from it." So, THANK YOU to all who, in one way or another, minister to our children. Because in essence, you are in ministry to them, to all of us, and to our future church as well.

And, of course, as special THANK YOU to all the parents, uncles, aunts, grandparents, family friends and others who make the special effort to get the kids here on Sunday mornings and for all those other activities as well!

Pastor Dave



LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

The Leadership Team met on 4-3-2024. The next meeting will be held on 5-7-2024.

CHRISTIAN ED TEAM

The last regular children's SS hour will be held on 6-2-24; there will be no children's SS during June, July, or August. Combined youth and adult SS will begin on 6-16-24 in the Overflow Room; Pastor Dave will lead it. Children's Church will continue during the summer months. There will be a Teacher's Appreciation recognition on 6-9-24 followed by a celebration fellowship. ReCharge will be offering different fun events over the summer. Stay tuned for that schedule! Rally Day will be on 9-8-24. A VBS Impact Team has been formed and they continue making plans. CE Team will be helping Mindy Wagner with securing fall SS teachers and choosing curriculums over the summer.

HOSPITALITY & COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Over seventy children participated in the recent Easter Egg hunt and party. Thanks to all those who were able to donate items to make this event a success for the children. There will be a baby dedication on 5-9-24. The 2nd Annual Community Carnival Day will be hosted by our church at the Albright Church on 5-18-24. More details can be found in the newsletter and bulletins.

WORSHIP TEAM

Tom Holsinger was thanked for serving as choir director during Terry Hershberger's recent time away. An Impact Team has been formed to pursue looking at some changes to the seating in the choir loft.

MISSIONS & SERVICE TEAM

Thirty-eight people from our congregation recently helped with the community UNTO outreach project. Over 15,000 bags of rice and beans were bagged and made ready to be sent to locations throughout the world where there is a need for food. The team will be sponsoring a "clean up bucket" service project for Church World Service during May and June. Flyers with detailed information will be available soon. A sample bucket can be seen in the Overflow Room.

FINANCE & FACILITY TEAM

The Parsonage replenishment fund is at approximately \$13,000. Please continue to make donations to the Elevator Fund as you are able in order to pay back the Parsonage fund in full. Donation envelopes are located in the Overflow Room. The roof drains that were to have been replaced were not able to be replaced but have been sealed; there have not been any new leaks to date. This is just a band aid that will buy us several years with the current roof and drains. A telephone device has been ordered for in the elevator with the hope that it will be workable inside the elevator. It was clarified that any information given to the church office for a newsletter is then given monthly to IMPEL Web Design for insertion onto our website and Facebook. Other information that you wish to have added throughout the month needs to be given to Bryce Nooyen. He then shares it with the Media Team for their review and is then forwarded onto IMPEL.

DEACON'S REPORT

New Bibles will be provided to recently baptized members as well as new members by transfer. Monetary support continues to be offered to those in our church family when there is a need. The deacons will work in unison with the Men's Fellowship to provide church back door and hallway monitoring during Sunday morning worship.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Dave thanked the teams for their continuing time and dedication, especially during Lent and Holy Week. He is planning to attend Annual Conference, so there will be Rev. Dan Hammel will be offering the message on 7-7-24.

☐ The seven outdoor door wreaths will be put up and taken down by the H&C Team, with the exception of the Christmas/Winter wreaths. These will be put up and taken down the by Alpha SS Class as their part in the annual Hanging of the Greens Service.

☐ A district workshop entitled Divine Encounters will be offered in May at the District Center in Huntingdon. This is for lay persons who work with designing worship services. Marlys Hershberger will be sharing additional information in the weeks ahead. The registration fee of \$100 will be covered by the church's budget.

☐ The front doors to the church building will be locked right before Sunday morning worship begins. The back door near the rear parking lot will remain open. The door buzzer alarm will be turned off during worship and turned back on for Monday morning daycare. In addition, as stated above, a designated person will be monitoring the back door and hallway during the worship hour.

Kaye Russell, Leadership Team Chair



HELPING HANDS IN MAY

Greeter Sandy Burket
Deacon Greeters Dave & Valerie Smith

Candlelighters Men's Fellowship
Fellowship Time Alpha Class

May	5	12	19	26
Organist		Cathy Petre	Terry Hershberger	Cathy Petre
Pianist	Brenda Fluke-Garber	Cathy Neal		Cathy Neal
Worship Leader	Youth	Sandy Norris		Linda Steele
Storyteller	Linda Steele	Pastor Dave	Betsy Garach	Traci Totillo
Children's Church	Jodie & Terry Dellinger	Mindy Wagner	Angie Russell	Melinda Green Terra Gartmann
Nursery	Mindy Wagner	Mindy Wagner	Mindy Wagner	Mindy Wagner
Welcome Center	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland
Parking Lot Greeters	Don Bookhammer	Don Myers Jaden Myers	Rick Carrier	
Flowers	Memory of Delma Witkovsky	Memory of Parents By Fred & Arlene	Memory of Nancy Hoover	
Bulletins	Memory of Paul Harmon	Memory of Margaret Imes		



Paul & Julie Witkovsky have been active at First Church for many years. Julie, daughter of Adam and Anna Ferne Long, since birth. Paul began attending after they met at Camp Blue Diamond and were married here in 1987.

They have two daughters, Marissa Witkovsky-Eldred and Megan Croft. Marissa is the Coordinator of Short

Term Service for the Church of the Brethren and she and Emmett live in College Park MD. Megan is a teacher for Head Start. She and Zach live in Roaring Spring. They have two boys. Finn, almost 5 and Ezra, 2 1/2. Paul's sister Marlys Hershberger also attends First Church.

Julie retired from teaching Family and Consumer Science (Home Economics) after 40 years, mostly at Chestnut Ridge Middle School. Paul has been the Facility Director at Camp Blue Diamond for 35 years. Currently they are Deacons and Paul is serving on the Leadership Team.



Tammy Dell is from East Freedom. She began attending ReCharge on Wednesday evenings before joining us for our Sunday morning worship. She has a cat, Juliet, who is almost 15. She has 3 daughters and a son. One daughter and two grandsons live in Wyoming, the others, including a grandson and two granddaughters live locally. She and her husband Nevin have been married almost 44 years and have been together for 48. She loves her family and being a part of this church family. She loves being outdoors, helping people and playing with the grandchildren. She relaxes by baking. She believes God puts us on this earth for a purpose and hers was Hospice nursing. Helping a patient

and their family accept and find comfort in knowing it's ok to die because our Lord is waiting for us on the other side of this life is what she was put here for.



Tuesday, May 21

6 pm

Duncansville Hoss's

RSVP to Janet Imes

or Valerie Smith

no later than April 14.

ALL LADIES WELCOME



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

May 18th

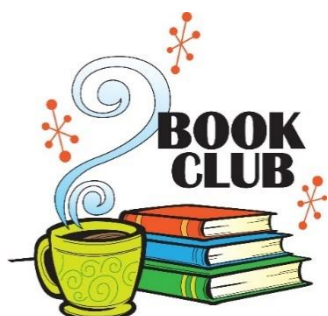
8 am

Breakfast at

The Dream,

Holidaysburg

All men invited!

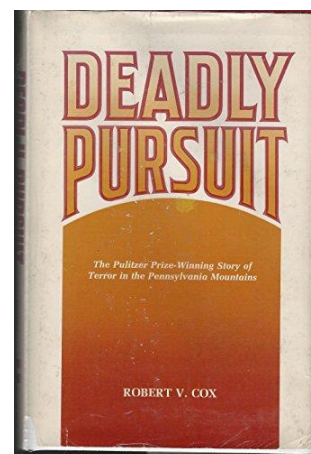


Meetings are the third Monday of each month at 10 am in the Parlor.

Join us as we discuss the monthly selection on March 18, 2024.

Deadly Pursuit, The Story of Bicycle Pete by Robert Cox

The true story of terror in the Pennsylvania mountains, *Deadly Pursuit* follows law enforcement officials on their hunt for a mysterious mountain man responsible for a number of attacks committed over a two-year span near the small town of Shade Gap. The case escalates when a woman is abducted, sending police on a seven-day manhunt through the mountainous country that proves fatal for several people involved. The case was the inspiration for the movie *Cry in the Wild: The Taking of Peggy Ann*.



Please update your directory:

Barry Hoffman huffbar8320@yahoo.com

Brandon Long

Ashley Miller

1624 Henrietta Road

Martinsburg, Pa 16662

Brandon 814.722.4407

Ashley 814.925.6497

Child Dedications will be part of worship on Mother's Day. Please notify Pastor Dave or the church office to have your children included.

Missions & Service Team Highlights – CHURCH WORLD SERVICE



Church World Service (CWS) was born in the wake of the devastation of World War II. The Church of the Brethren joined with 16 other Christian denominations “to do in partnership what none of us could hope to do as well alone.” While we in the Church of the Brethren also engage in our own special projects, we

continue to partner with CWS in order to maximize our service to people in need in the U.S. and around the world in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ.

Our congregation’s Missions & Service Team is leading us in a service project – creating CWS EMERGENCY CLEAN UP BUCKETS – time-proven to be a help in crisis.

Hurricanes, floods, fires, and other disasters are happening more frequently. When our neighbors around the world experience these unforeseen circumstances, we can make the road to recovery easier with CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets. These buckets are full of essential home recovery supplies that are needed after a disaster strikes.



In the months of May and June we are encouraging individuals, families, and friends to come together in small groups and create CWS Emergency Cleanup Kits. There are [assembly checklist directions](#) and a sample bucket [in the Overflow Room](#). There is also a video showing cleanup bucket assembly at cwskits.org/resources/. Bring completed emergency cleanup buckets to the Overflow Room by the deadline date of June 30.

A completed bucket costs \$75-100. This is why we have chosen this project: **This is a valuable project that many individuals would not take on alone yet can be achieved when we come together as a faith community, as the body of Christ.** M&S Team has already purchased 22 buckets and lids for your use—first come, first serve. They are available in the Overflow Room.

CWS requests that we give \$3/bucket as a processing/shipping fee. Please place \$3 in an envelope and attach it to the outside of the bucket. **If you prefer to give money towards this project to create CWS cleanup buckets, please contact a M&S Team member.** Or place your money in an envelope, with a note, in the offering plate.

Contact Persons: M&S Team Chair Marlys Hershberger or Vice Chair Don Bookhammer.

Each kit is filled with hope, packed with love,
and shared with our neighbors in need at just the right time.



- 1 Fred Beers
Jim Hoover
Travis Wagner
- 6 Grant Avvampato
- 7 Cynthia Shaw
Tommy Smith
- 9 Alex Nooyen
Tammy Dell
- 11 Christine Smith
- 14 Willow Miller
Jean Eichelberger
Abe Russell
- 17 Carter Keith
- 18 Ezekiel Walter
- 20 Terry Hershberger
- 21 Jill Brumbaugh
Ella Gartmann
- 22 Bill Grubb
- 24 Greg Smith
Nittany Smith
- 25 Angie Russell
- 26 Bailey Musselman
- 28 Jodie Dellinger
- 29 Zachary Croft
- 30 David Smith
- 31 Sharon Hammel



- 1 Ben & Emily Brumbaugh
- 2 Dan & Carol Emerick
- 6 Dan & Jane Brumbaugh
- 10 Dave & Janis Loucks

- 23 Mitchell & Emma Frederick
- 29 Keith & Kristen Hall
- 31 Bryce & Amy Nooyen



SENIOR ADULT DAY

Friday, May 31
Camp Blue Diamond



You are invited to join us for a day of fellowship, inspiration, adventure & fun as we gather to see and hear about the amazing creations of Ian Zimmerman.



You may know of Ian Zimmerman because of his appearance on the History Channel show *Forged In Fire*. Ian is so much more than that. Most importantly Ian would say he is a Christ follower. Ian is using the talents God blessed him with to make a wide variety of beautiful creations.

Ian will share his experiences and some of his amazing creations. These creations range from small blades and knives, to intricate fine jewelry, to a sword that is literally from space!

You won't want to miss everything Ian has to share with us!

- 9:00 Registration/Coffee/Tea/Gathering
- 9:30 Get acquainted/Worship/Hymn Sing
- 10:00 Time with Ian
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:45 Breakout session options:
more time with Ian, a craft,
camp tour, tower climbing, hike, relax
- 3:00 Closing Worship
- 3:30 Our day together concludes

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. Genesis 1:1

Cost for day is \$20

Includes a morning snack, programming & lunch

To register, complete the form below and send, along with \$20 per person to:

Camp Blue Diamond, PO Box 240, Petersburg, PA 16669 Make check payable to: Camp Blue Diamond



Yes! I/we are coming to Senior Adult Day on May 31st. Please list any special needs on the back of this form.

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Congregation _____ Email (optional) _____

Breakfast with the Birds

May 10th and 11th at Camp Blue Diamond

- Join us for our Spring Migration "Breakfast with the Birds" morning at Camp Blue Diamond. Gabe Imler will lead us around Camp looking for bird species that are passing through Rothrock State Forest. The bird walk will begin on May 11th at 7 AM with a bird-themed breakfast to follow. Cost is \$20 per Person
- Back by popular demand, come down the night before for a night hike! Gabe will lead a night hike filled with all sorts of nighttime programming with a snack to follow. Lodging will be provided, so you can stay and join us for the walk the next morning! Cost for both Friday and Saturday is \$40 per Person
- All ages and skill levels welcome! Feel free to bring your own binoculars and field guides

*Pictured: A Great Horned Owl in
Lake Geneva, WI. Photographed
by James Gorsline, 2018*



Questions? Feel free to call the Camp Office at 814-667-2355 or email us at info@campbluediamond.org

Name(s) _____ Email _____ Phone _____

☐ \$40 for Friday and Saturday

☐ \$20 for Saturday **Only**

To register, please send this slip and payment to Camp Blue Diamond, PO Box 240, Petersburg, PA 16669

Or register online at campbluediamond.org > Events/News Tab > Retreats and Events

Please register by **May 3rd**!

Important Church Dates:

Sunday Worship 9:25 am

Sunday School 10:30 am

Deacons Prayer Gatherings 1st and 3rd Sundays

Second Monday of each month is Middle PA Disaster Response Meeting 7 pm

Third Monday of each month is Book Group 10 am

First Tuesday of each month is Leadership Team Meeting 6 pm

Every Tuesday of each month is Bible Study 9:30 am

Second Tuesday of each month is Good Grief 6:30 pm

Third Tuesday of each month is Sisters of Faith Dinner 6 pm, location changes

Each Wednesday Ladies Aid Quilting 9 am

Each Wednesday Prayer Shawl Ministry 1 pm

Each Wednesday Virtual Bible Study 6:15 pm

Each Wednesday September - May Chancel Choir practice 6:30 pm

Each Thursday of each month bulletin submission deadline 9 am (unless noted as changed)

Each Thursday of each month is Breakfast Fellowship at Spring House Grille 9 am

Each Thursday of each month is Knitting in the Parlor 6:30 pm

Third Saturday of each month is Men's Fellowship Breakfast at The Dream 8 am

May Dates:

Friday May 3rd Youth Lock-In

Sunday May 5th Youth Sunday

May 9th Women's Activity – Goat Milk Soap Making

May 12th Baby Dedications will be included in worship

May 15th Recharge Event 5:45 pm

May 18 Carnival held at Albright CoB

May 27 Office Closed – Memorial Day



Wednesday May 15

5:45 ReCharge ice cream and game night event at the Russell's

343 Ponderosa Lane, Roaring Spring

Bring your favorite game to play in the pavilion.

A prayer for roots

O God, we thirst for you, as dry tree roots thirst for water in hot, dusty soil. Help us send spiritual roots down deep into the grace and knowledge of the One who is the same yesterday and today and forever, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who gives us stability when the earth shakes and the storms of life swirl about us.

Rooted and grounded in your love, and strengthened and comforted by your grace and your Spirit who gives us hope, may we be steadfast and immovable in the work Christ gives us to do, until he comes again. Amen.

"In times of stress, the best thing we can do for each other is to listen with our ears and our hearts and to be assured that our questions are just as important as our answers." —Fred Rogers

"None can believe how powerful prayer is, and what it is able to effect, but those who have learned it by experience." —Martin Luther

Address Service Requested



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please contact us through an above
means.