

First Church of the Brethren

Roaring Spring, PA

December 8, 2024

Welcome to worship at First Church as we continue to prepare our hearts for the coming Messiah.

Community Gathering

Welcome & Announcements

Enter the Light of Christ *While We Are Waiting, Come*

Call to Worship Pattie Conlon

One: A voice cries in the wilderness;

All: "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

One: A challenge is uttered from on high:

All: "Make straight the paths of our God.

One: Every valley will be lifted up.

All: Every mountain will be made low.

One: The winding path will be made straight.

All: and every rough way will be smoothed.

One: Come! Let us worship the God of our salvation!

Praise Through Video *O What a Glorious Night*

Lighting of Advent Candle

Children's Story Pastor Dave

(Children ages Pre-K through 5th Grade are invited to attend Children's Church)

Reception of New Members

Congregational Response

We welcome you with joy and affection into this household of faith. We pledge to you our help, our prayers, our concern that we may all increase in the knowledge and love of God.

Chancel Choir arr. Dennis Allen
Emmanuel with Joy to the World

Sharing of Joys & Concerns
Congregational Prayer

Hymn # 194 *Away in a Manger*

Scripture Reading Malachi 3:1-4

Sermon Rev. Dr. David A. Crumrine
Is Jesus "Love" or "Tough Love"?

Offertory Thought

Offertory

*Doxology

*Offertory Prayer

*Hymn # 201 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*Benediction

*Postlude

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

Bold print indicates congregational response.

Some parts of this service were adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual.

The flowers on the altar are given in honor of John & Brandi Stranford's 5th wedding anniversary.

The bulletins are given in loving memory of Duane Snyder by Krista Snyder.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the Friendship Attendance Register located on each pew, including any **changes** of information. **New attenders** are encouraged to share their information when they are comfortable with doing so.

This morning, we welcome Carol Strum and Isaac & Alayna Snowberger as new members through transfer.

Serving Today Serving Next Sunday

Candlelighter	Savannah Thompson	Skye Thompson
Organist		Terry Hershberger
Pianist	Brenda Fluke-Garber	Cathy Neal
Worship Leader	Pattie Conlon	Bobbi Beers
Storyteller	Pastor Dave	Traci Totillo
Children's Church	Tammy Carter	Angie Russell
Welcome Center	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland
Nursery		
Parking Lot	Don Myers Jaden Myers	Rick Carrier
Greeters	Carol Emerick	Carol Emerick
Deacon Greeters	Linda Steele	Linda Steele
Head Ushers: Dave Brumbaugh, J D Barry, Pat Frazier, Bill Evans Worship Coordinator & Choir Director: Terry Hershberger Chancel Choir Accompanist: Cathy Petre		
Officiant: Rev. Dr. David A. Crumrine dcrumrine@rsfirstchurch.org First Church of the Brethren 901 Bloomfield Street Roaring Spring, PA 16673 Office 814.224.4113 Churchoffice@rsfirstchurch.org		

Sunday School Classes

Class	Rm	Class	Rm
Nursery – Pre K	202	Young Adults	Stage
K – 2 nd Grade	201	Generation Hope	504
3 – 5 Grade	405	Genesis	406
Jr High Youth	506	Alpha	402
Sr High Youth	503	Living Faith	301

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.

Please include in your prayers: Tom & Janis Thompson, Barry Griffith, Paul Unger, Joyce Mock, Gary & Connie Fluke, Jim Hoover, Joe & Bobbi Price, Bill & Carolyn Grubb, Ramon Burket, Tommy Smith, Dan & Carol Emerick, Joan Johnson, Barbara Roush, Betty Estep, Fred Beers, Chuck Kuntz, Eric Thompson, Dorothy Holsinger, Bonnie Butler, Audrey Smith, Sharlene Wood, first responders, Camp Blue Diamond, those affected by natural disasters, our church family.



CHRISTMAS CARDS - the youth will help you "mail" cards to your church family through next Sunday morning. Please remember to put a return address on each card. Also, this is for those persons who **regularly attend**.

A 2024 Gifts & Talents Survey is located at the Welcome Center. Please complete and return by the end of the year to the Welcome Center or the office.

The White Gift Christmas Offering will aid local, district and world ministries. Financial gifts will be divided among: 1) Family Services, Inc. in Blair County, 2) Mid PA District ministries, and 3) the Emergency Disaster Fund, the financial part of our national and global Brethren Disaster Ministries. Envelopes may be found at the Welcome Center and from the rack near the rear door entrance and may be turned in anytime in December.



Poinsettia order forms are available at the Welcome Center. Orders with payment are due today.

The 2025 budget and slates from the Nov. 24 Forum were passed by the members present. In addition, Becky Bryson was appointed by the Leadership Team to fill the 2025 vacant SS Superintendent position. Our thanks to Becky for volunteering.

The Giving Tree is located in the overflow room, next to the sanctuary. We are collecting **food and hygiene items for our local food banks**. Please place your donations under the tree December 1-December 24. If you prefer to donate money, please give your financial gift to a Missions & Service Team member and a paper ornament will be placed on the tree with the amount given (without names). Thank you for sharing. ~ **Missions & Service Team:** Don Bookhammer, Bobbi Beers, Sandy Burket, Tammy Carter, Cindy Estep, Marlys Hershberger, John Holsinger, Julie Witkovsky, Darlene Wyland.

M.U.M.s (Mothers Uplifting Mothers) Group will be having a Wreath Workshop at Roots in the Cove on Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 6:00pm. Mothers of all generations are welcome to join us and can create a beautiful wreath or a potted pine box while we fellowship together. The event will be \$45. Light refreshments will also be available. A sign-up sheet is available at the welcome center. Please see Amy Nooyen for more information or if you need childcare.

Today - Youth will be helping with Fellowship Time and then we will have lunch and an activity.

Stewardship Report for December 1, 2024

Worship attendance	136
Sunday School	75
Actual Income	\$ 275,460.86
Budget Income	\$ 264,461.54
Actual Expense	\$ 263,884.78

Advent books for adults, children and youth are available in the Overflow Room. Please help yourself to one each per family, as needed. If you have any questions, please speak with Angie Russell or Kaye Russell.



If you are 55+ we invite you to join us in the Fellowship Hall from 10 am to noon on Thursday, December 12th for our annual Christmas Party. We gather to fellowship and to share wonderful food.

Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

The Leadership Team was to remind you that on Second Sunday Fellowship days, the hosts of the Fellowship are asked to attend the sermon talk-back period from 11-11:30am so that there is not a lot of competitive noise coming from the kitchen. Remaining Fellowship cleanup may occur at the close of the talk-back period. If you have any questions, please speak with Kaye Russell.

ReCharge is such a blessing to our church family. Looking towards 2025, Christian Education is looking for teachers for January, February, and March for the following classes: nursery, preschool, k - grade 2, and grades 3-5. Please consider volunteering your time so that this program can continue to strengthen our church. Please see Angie Russell or call her at 814-327-0145.

RS First Church of the Brethren, Thank you so much for your overwhelming support and generosity during the time of Nancy's passing. Your contribution in her memory was very thoughtful. Love Don & Stephanie

Shepherds are reminded to pick up Christmas bags to deliver to your undershepherds on December 11th after 7 pm or December 13th between 7 am and 5 pm. If you're unable to make one of these times, please let a deacon know to make other arrangements. Thank you!

The 2025 Flower and Bulletin Chart is now posted by the church mailboxes. They may be given in memory or honor of a person or special event. Payment may be made through the offering by noting either "bulletins" or "flowers".

December 8 - 15, 2024

Today		Food Bank Collection
	9:25 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Fellowship Time
	11 am	Sunday School
	6 pm	MUM Activity
Monday	6 pm	BDM Christmas Party
Tuesday	9:30 am	Bible Study
	6L30 pm	Good Grief
Wednesday	9 am	Ladies Aid Quilting
	1 pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry
	5:45 pm	ReCharge
	6:15 pm	Virtual Bible Study
	6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Practice
Thursday	9 am	Bulletin submission deadline Breakfast Fellowship @Traditions
	10 am	J O Y Christmas Party
	6:30 pm	Knitting Group in Parlor
Sunday	9:25 am	Worship
	11 am	Sunday School
	11:45 am	Deacon Prayer Gathering
	1 pm	Newsletter Submission Deadline

District Youth Retreat at Camp Blue Diamond

Grades 9 to 12 will be January 31 to February 2. The cost is \$85.00 but only \$75.00 if you register by January 17. Registration forms are in the Senior High Youth room.

Grades 6 to 8 will be February 14 to February 16 --- More information will be shared as it is available.

Grades 3 to 5 will be February 28 to March 2 --- More information will be shared as it is available.

SECOND SUNDAY SCHEDULE

All classes, including all children, are invited to the Fellowship Hall after church to have a snack with their family. Sunday School teachers for **Nursery – 5th Grade** will take their students to class at 11:00. **Jr. & Sr. High Youth** may stay in the Fellowship Hall for the sermon discussion or proceed to their classroom at 11:00. **Adults** remain in the Fellowship Hall for the sermon discussion. There is no separate Sunday School for Adults on 2nd Sunday.

Sunday School Updates for the Children

Sunday School Offering Children and Youth attending Sunday school are encouraged to bring offering to their SS class. It is a way to teach them how to give back to God and to His church where activities to grow closer with Jesus can be offered thanks to those who are able to provide financial support, no matter how small.

Brethren Bucks. Children can earn “Brethren Bucks” during Sunday School for things such as: bringing their Bible to church, bringing a friend to church, attendance, learning a memory verse, etc. They will get to ‘spend their bucks’ on Second Sundays after their Fellowship time.

Prayer Tree. Children staying for Sunday School following 2nd Sunday Fellowship will have an opportunity to write down things they are grateful for or things they want to pray to Jesus about. These will then be placed on the “wall Prayer Tree” located on the Nursery level. Please talk to your child(ren) about what they may want to pray for and be sure to check out the Tree with your child(ren) from time to time!