

First Church of the Brethren

Roaring Spring, PA

December 22, 2024

Paul says: "Rejoice in the Lord always," but what if I don't feel joyful today? I will "present [my] requests to God" and wait for God's peace beyond understanding
Philippians 4:4-7.

Community Gathering

Welcome & Announcements

Enter the Light of Christ *While We Are Waiting*

Call to Worship Doug Garber

One: Rejoice in the presence and love of Christ.

All: We rejoice in the one who lives in our hearts.

One: Rejoice., For Christ brings justice and peace to our world.

All: We rejoice in the one who calls us to justice and peace.

One: Rejoice with faith and hope.

All: We rejoice I the one whose promises are true.

Children's Story Betsy Garach

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

Lighting of Advent Candle

Choir Anthem *A Christmas Proclamation* arr. Martin

Sharing of Joys & Concerns
Congregational Prayer

*Hymn # 199 vs. 1, 2, 5

The First Noel

Offertory Thought

Offertory

*Doxology

*Offertory Prayer

Scripture

Luke 1:39-45

Sermon

Rev. Dr. David A. Crumrine

Who Has The Last Word Matters

Blue Sunday Service

Responsive Call Honoring Those Who We Grieve

Leader: In the midst of this usually joyful season, some have experienced the loss of loved ones. Others feel the burden of not being where they wish we were in life. Some are simply worn down and weary by life.

People: Come, God of power and Light, help all of us feel your presence.

Leader: In the midst of cheerful gatherings of the season, some feel alone, alienated and carry the burdens of life.

People: Come, God of peace and Hope, hear our cries.

Leader: In the midst of the worlds' celebration, some hearts cry out. May we find rest in the Advent message of hope, love, joy and peace.

People: Lord, hear us, and come to us. Bring us peace, AMEN.

Blue Sunday Candle Lighting

*Closing Hymn # 193

Silent Night

*Benediction

*Postlude

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

Bold print indicates congregational response.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Portions of this service were adopted from the Abingdon Worship Manual and also from “A Weary World” by Kathy Escobar

The bulletins are given in loving memory of Bonnie McKinney by her family.

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.

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: The family of Joan Johnson, 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, Barbara Roush, Betty Estep, Fred Beers, Chuck Kuntz, Carol Imler, Eric Thompson, Dorothy Holsinger, Bonnie Butler, Audrey Smith, Sharlene Wood, first responders, Camp Blue Diamond, those affected by natural disasters, our church family.

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.

Serving Today Serving Next Sunday

Candlelighter	Thea Thompson	Finn Croft
Organist		Cathy Petre
Pianist	Brenda Fluke-Garber	Marcia Fleck
Worship Leader	Doug Garber	Lois Lynn
Storyteller	Betsy Garach	Gary Wineland
Children’s Church	Terra Gartmann Melinda Green	Not Held
Welcome Center	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland
Parking Lot		
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

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.

Stewardship Report for December 15, 2024

Worship attendance	117
Sunday School	76
Actual Income	\$ 288,025.42
Budget Income	\$ 275,480.77
Actual Expense	\$ 274,041.88

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.

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”.

JD Barry, Guy & Nancy Forshey, Travis & Angie Russell, Craig & Chris Wagner, and Travis & Mindy Wagner. Have accepted the call to be **Deacons**. They will be installed 1/5/25 during worship.

December 22 - 29, 2024

Today	9:25 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Sunday School
Monday – Friday		Office Closed
Tuesday	7 pm	Christmas Eve Service
Thursday	9 am	Breakfast Fellowship @Traditions
	6:30 pm	Knitting Group in Parlor
Sunday	9:25 am	Worship

I wish to thank everyone for their kind words, texts and cards for the recent passing of my mother. They are much appreciated. – Jan Simington

We will be including a time to support those in our church family who may be experiencing a period of grief, or who are, during this season, remembering loved ones and feeling a sense of sadness. **“Blue Christmas”** will be a part of our morning worship today and those who choose to do so will have an opportunity to light a candle in remembrance of loved ones and may also be anointed for comfort and healing. Others in the congregation will also be invited to be anointed if they would like to draw closer to God as well.

Watch for details about: Winter Jam at the Bryce Jordan Center on Saturday, March 9. If you are interested in going to see Skillet, Anne Wilson, Colton Dixon, and others, let the Garber's know so we can start making plans and secure tickets.

National Junior High Conference - June 22 to 25 at Juniata College Are you interested in going? We need to know so we can find an advisor to attend with you. No additional information has been provided so watch for details.



In-Pew Communion
January 5, 2025