



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

November 2025

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.

Quick! What immediately comes to your mind when you hear the name “Ebenezer?”

If you’re like most people, you probably think of the notorious tight wad from Charles Dickens “The Christmas Carol” Ebenezer Scrouge.

But let’s make this the month we change that first impression by focusing on another Ebenezer, one that is much more productive for us to think on.

I Samuel 7:12 tells us that after a miraculous victory over the Philistines....

“Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen.

He named it Ebenezer, saying, “Thus far the Lord has helped us.””

Evidently, the name comes from a Hebrew word meaning “stone of help.” So, when the classic hymn “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” sings “Here I raise my Ebenezer. Hither by thy help I’ve come” what we’re doing is expressing gratitude for all that God has done for us.

Of course, November is the month of Thanksgiving, a time traditionally set aside to get us to focus on our many blessings. But we don’t have to wait just for this month, or just for that holiday.

Rather, every day can be an Ebenezer to God as we think about all that He has done, is doing and will do to help us and to bless us. Making every day an Ebenezer has many benefits, not least of which is that gratitude draws us closer to God (Psalm 22:3)

So. Let’s resolve to make gratitude a daily habit. Let “Bah, Humbug” behind as characteristic of this world, while we make raising an Ebenezer in praise of our Lord and Savior part of our Christian world view.

And speaking of gratitude... thanks to Jim Caporuscio for suggesting this topic!

- *Pastor Dave*



November is the month
to remind us to be
thankful for the many
positive things
happening in our life.

Highlights of Leadership Mtg.

October 7, 2025

Finance and Facility Team - Bryce Nooyen

- Budget process has begun for 2026 budget.
- Impact Team has been formed to look at ideas to improve welcomeness of church building and programs. Meeting soon.
- Getting proposal to improve audio visual system.
- Elevator still having issues. Proposal for building electrical upgrades to be presented at Forum.

Hospitality and Communications Team - Beth Burns

- Trunk or Treat in parking lot 10/30.
- Older Servants dinner 11/2.

Missions and Service Team - Sandy Burket

- At Heritage Fair we sold hot beverages, gob cake, baked goods, pepper soup, chicken noodle soup and bottled water. \$1659.25 was turned in from sales and donations. Baskets given for auction from RS raised \$517.50.
- Donations of \$100 each were given to No Strings Attached ministry and to Ministerium's Food and Coat drive.

Worship Team - Terry Hershberger

- Terry was away leading disaster relief crews in Kentucky.
- Tom Holsinger leading the choir while he was away.

Christian Education Team - Kaye Russell

- Four youth attended first informational meeting about NYC '26.
- Pancakes with the Pastor for nursery - 12th grade 10/12.
- Children will sing at Christmas Eve service.
- Recharge has started. Volunteers are needed to present lessons. Material provided.
- Travis Wagner will lead a Young Adult SS class the 1st and 3rd Sunday mornings and a Young Adult gathering the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evening during Recharge. Recharge begins with a meal at 5:45. Contact Travis for more information.

Deacons' Report – Mike Bianconi reported.

- In person prayer gatherings have resumed.
- 56 attended Love Feast. 5 joined via Zoom.
- Continue to provide monetary and meal support as needed.

Pastor Dave

- District Conference 10/11. Pastor Dave and 5 delegates attending.
- Cindy Eastep will be leading a support group for people trying to support family/ friends who are struggling with substance abuse. Contact Pastor Dave or Cindy for details.
- Hanging of the Greens will be during 11/30 worship.
- Blue Christmas service tentatively 12/21 during worship.

Other

- Congregational Forum is scheduled for November 23rd. A couple of proposed changes the Constitution will be presented.

- Janet Imes has agreed to be put on the slate for a 2-year term on Gifts Discernment team.

Next Meeting – Tuesday November 4th at 6:00 pm

HELPING HANDS IN NOVEMBER

Greeter
Deacon Greeter
Fellowship Time

Don Myers
 Guy & Nancy Forshey
 Genesis Class

| | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|-------------------|
| Candlelighter | Travis & Angie Russell | Chris Wagner | Betsy Garach | Nancy Forshey | Savannah Thompson |
| Organist | | Terry Hershberger | Terry Hershberger | | Terry Hershberger |
| Pianist | Brenda Fluke-Garber | Marcia Fleck | Jill Delozier | Brenda Fluke-Garber | |
| Worship Leader | Nancy Forshey | | | Bobbi Beers | |
| Storyteller | Cindy Shaw | Pastor Dave | Pattie Conlon | Betsy Garach | Destiny Wagner |
| Children's Church | Jodie & Bella Dellinger | Jaden & Janie Myers | Angie Russell | Terra Gartmann Melinda Green | Amy Nooyen |
| Welcome Center | Darlene Wyland | Darlene Wyland | Darlene Wyland | Darlene Wyland | Darlene Wyland |
| Parking Lot Greeters | Earl Bryson | Paul Witkovsky | Earl Bryson | Don Bookhammer | |
| Flowers | In Honor of Dorothy Holsinger by her family | | In Memory of Lowell & Delma Witkovsky by Paul & Julie | In Memory of Martha Brumbaugh by her family | |
| Bulletins | | In Memory of Alfred Hoover by Linda | | In Memory of Martha Brumbaugh by her Family | |



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND WILL BE YOUTH SUNDAY! COME SUPPORT THE YOUTH OF THE CHURCH AS THEY HELP LEAD WORSHIP SERVICE. PRACTICE WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST FROM 9:00-11:00 AM

ReCharge Dates:
 November 5,12,19
 December 3,10
 January 7,14,21,28
 February 4,11,18,25
 March 4,11,18,25



GOOD GRIEF

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH @ 6:30 PM

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

6 pm- Hoss's

RSVP to Janet Imes

or Valerie Smith

by November 17th

ALL LADIES WELCOME!



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

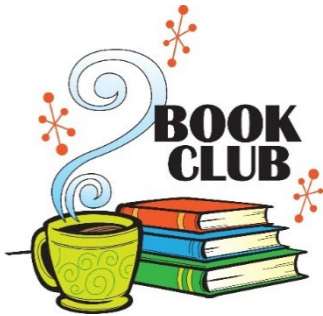
November 15, 2025

8 am

Breakfast at

The Dream

All men are welcome!



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

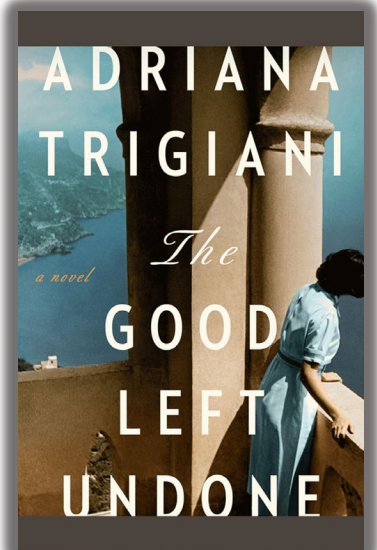
Join us as we discuss the monthly selection on November 17, 2025.

The Good Left Undone by Adriana Trigiani

Matelda, the Cabrelli family's matriarch, has always been brusque and opinionated. Now, as she faces the end of her life, she is determined to share a long-held secret with her family about her own mother's

great love story: with her childhood friend, Silvio, and with dashing Scottish sea captain John Lawrie McVicar, the father Matelda never knew. . . .

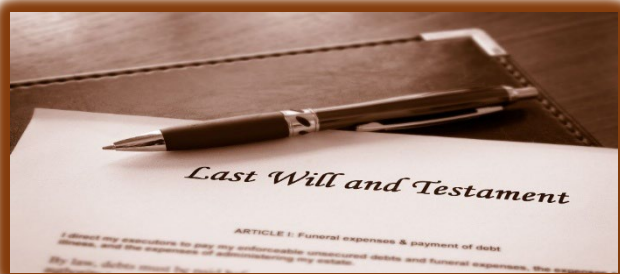
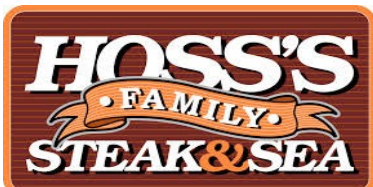
In the halcyon past, Domenica Cabrelli thrives in the coastal town of Viareggio until her beloved home becomes unsafe when Italy teeters on the brink of World War II. Her journey takes her from the rocky shores of Marseille to the mystical beauty of Scotland to the dangers of wartime Liverpool--where Italian Scots are imprisoned without cause--as Domenica experiences love, loss, and grief while she longs for home. A hundred years later, her daughter, Matelda, and her granddaughter, Anina, face the same big questions about life and their family's legacy, while Matelda contemplates what is worth fighting for. But Matelda is running out of time, and the two timelines intersect and weave together in unexpected and heartbreaking ways that lead the family to shocking revelations and, ultimately, redemption.





| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 11/1 Doug Detwiler | 11/18 Dave Loucks |
| 11/4 Darlene Wyland | Bobbie Beers |
| Dennis Igou | 11/20 Carsen Mowry |
| 11/7 Brend Fluke-Garber | Mason Hershberger |
| 11/10 Mary Anne Smith | 11/26 Mark Robertson |
| 11/11 Barry Hoffman | Bella Dellinger |
| Mike Bianconi | 11/27 Brandi Stranford |
| Ben Beers | 11/30 Signe Dellinger |
| 11/12 Pat Frazier | Marissa Witkovsky-Eldred |
| 11/16 Elijah Walter | |

Middle PA District is hosting a Hoss's Steak and Sea House fundraiser to raise money for a very worthy cause. Please consider visiting a Hoss's location in Huntingdon, Lewistown, Duncansville or Bedford on November 9th and let them know you are with group #133132. 20-25% of your check will be donated to the District!



Trinity United Methodist Church is sponsoring a **"Wills Workshop" Sunday, November 9** at 2:30. Several local experts will be discussing gift planning. All are welcome.

Love Them Through It 

Love Them Through It – A support group for those dealing with loved ones dealing with substance abuse will be held Monday, November 10th at 6:30 pm in the Parlor.



Youth Volleyball Tournament

Saturday, November 15, 2025 will be the Middle PA District Youth Volleyball Tournament at Martinsburg Memorial Park. Grades 6-12 are encouraged to get your teams together and come enjoy a day of fun with youth from across the district.

NOVEMBER 2025

The Congregational Forum is scheduled for November 23rd during the Sunday School hour.

Sharing Sunday – November 23, 2025 A small donation to the Middle PA District can provide:

\$250.00 Scholarship for a youth to have a workcamp experience

\$100.00 towards youth events, retreats and leadership

\$80.00 scholarship for a minister in training to receive education

\$50.00 towards minister's events, retreats and minister family support. No amount is too small!

November 27th is Thanksgiving. The church office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and Friday, November 28th. Enjoy the day with family and friends reflecting on all we have to be thankful for!



November 30th will be the hanging of the Greens for the first Sunday of the Advent season.



A Christmas Luncheon will be held on December 7th following Sunday School. A sign-up sheet will be provided in the Welcome Center



Calling all picture takers! Courtney would like pictures from any fellowship and worship events to include in the newsletters and the church Facebook page. Please send them to churchoffice@rsfirstchurch.org.

Last month's Fun and Fellowship Moments!



Love Feast was celebrated on Sunday, October 5th for World Communion Sunday.

An October Sunday Children's Story



Pastor Appreciation Sunday – October 12th Pancakes with the Pastor! Preschool to 12th grade

Heritage Fair 2025 Update: Heritage Fair sent a huge thank you to everyone for their efforts to make the 2025 Heritage Fair a success! To date, Heritage Fair 2025 proceeds are over \$24,000. The proceeds are split equally between Camp Blue Diamond and the Middle PA District ministries to further the work of God's Kingdom and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If you have ideas or suggestions for improvement, please reach out. 2026 Heritage Fair will be September 19th.

Board 101

Saturday, November 15, 2025

9:30 to 11:30 am

Roaring Spring Church of the Brethren

Have you been asked to serve on your church board? Are you already serving in that capacity? This two-hour workshop will give you some practical tools to fulfill that role.

Serving on a church board is not “business as usual.” Yes, there are legal responsibilities and best business practices that serving on your church board entails, however, it is also “worshipful work.”

This workshop will cover both of those aspects: first, that being a board member of a church is an important role full of legal responsibilities, with tasks and expectations unique to that position, along with practical steps that you can take to minimize risk and maximize protection for your church.

Second, we will discuss the fact that serving in any capacity in the church is a calling, sacred and holy. We are called to offer before God all that defines us and is important to us – including serving on the church board. How do we integrate these two sometimes dichotomous roles into one efficient board? How do we marry the legal and business aspects of serving on a church board with the evangelical and theological aspects?

As part of our ongoing series of workshops and classes focused on equipping lay leaders for serving our church effectively in the future, the Middle Pennsylvania District of the Church of the Brethren is offering “Board 101” on Saturday, November 15 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Roaring Spring Church of the Brethren, 901 Bloomfield St., Roaring Spring, PA.

The workshop will be led by Eder Financial President Nevin Dulabaum. There is no charge to attend, but churches sending congregation members to the session are encouraged to make a free-will offering to cover expenses.

Contact Kris Shunk at the District Office to register either by phone: (814) 643-0601 or e-mail: admin@midpacob.org

| UN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|---|--|---|---------------|---|
| <div>26</div> <div>9:25 am </div> <div>Worship</div> <div>10:30 am </div> <div>Sunday School</div> | <div>27</div> | <div>28</div> <div>9:30 am </div> <div>Bible Study</div> | <div>29</div> <div>1:00 pm </div> <div>Prayer Shawl Ministry</div> <div>5:45 pm </div> <div>ReCharge</div> <div>6:15 pm </div> <div>Virtual Bible Study</div> <div>6:30 pm </div> <div>Chancel Choir</div> | <div>30</div> <div>9:00 am </div> <div>Breakfast Fellowship</div> <div>9:00 am </div> <div>Bulletin Submission Deadline</div> <div>6:00 pm - 8:00 pm </div> <div>Trunk or Treat</div> <div>6:30 pm - 8:30 pm </div> <div>Knitting Group in Parlor</div> | <div>31</div> | <div>1</div> <div>9:00 am - 11:00 am </div> <div>Youth Sunday Practice</div> <div>2:00 pm - 5:00 pm </div> <div>Funeral</div> |
| <div>2</div> <div>9:00 am - 10:30 am </div> <div>Youth Sunday</div> <div>9:25 am </div> <div>Worship</div> <div>10:30 am </div> <div>Sunday School</div> <div>12:00 pm </div> <div>Older Servants Dinner</div> <div>6:00 pm - 7:30 pm </div> <div>By His Invitation</div> | <div>3</div> | <div>4</div> <div>9:30 am </div> <div>Bible Study</div> <div>6:00 pm </div> <div>Leadership Meeting</div> | <div>5</div> <div>9:00 am - 11:00 am </div> <div>Quilting</div> <div>1:00 pm </div> <div>Prayer Shawl Ministry</div> <div>5:45 pm </div> <div>ReCharge</div> <div>6:15 pm </div> <div>Virtual Bible Study</div> <div>6:30 pm </div> <div>Chancel Choir</div> | <div>6</div> <div>9:00 am </div> <div>Breakfast Fellowship</div> <div>9:00 am </div> <div>Bulletin Submission Deadline</div> <div>6:00 pm - 9:00 pm </div> <div>Cove Cause For Cancer Meeting</div> <div>6:00 pm </div> <div>C E Team Meeting</div> <div>6:30 pm - 8:30 pm </div> <div>Knitting Group in Parlor</div> | <div>7</div> | <div>8</div> |
| <div>9</div> <div>Food Bank Collection </div> <div>9:25 am </div> <div>Worship</div> <div>10:30 am </div> <div>Sunday School</div> <div>11:00 am - 8:00 pm </div> <div>Middle PA District Hoss's Fundraiser</div> | <div>10</div> <div>6:00 pm - 8:00 pm </div> <div>Love Them Through It Support Group</div> <div>7:00 pm </div> <div>BDM Meeting</div> | <div>11</div> <div>9:30 am </div> <div>Bible Study</div> <div>6:30 pm </div> <div>Good Grief</div> | <div>12</div> <div>9:00 am - 11:00 pm </div> <div>Quilting</div> <div>1:00 pm </div> <div>Prayer Shawl Ministry</div> <div>5:45 pm </div> <div>ReCharge</div> <div>6:15 pm </div> <div>Virtual Bible Study</div> <div>6:30 pm </div> <div>Chancel Choir</div> | <div>13</div> <div>9:00 am </div> <div>Breakfast Fellowship</div> <div>9:00 am </div> <div>Bulletin Submission Deadline</div> <div>6:30 pm - 8:30 pm </div> <div>Knitting Group in Parlor</div> | <div>14</div> | <div>15</div> <div>8:00 am </div> <div>Men's Fellowship Breakfast</div> <div>9:30 am - 11:30 am </div> <div>Board 101</div> <div>1:00 pm </div> <div>Newsletter Submission Deadline</div> |
| <div>16</div> <div>9:25 am </div> <div>Worship</div> <div>10:30 am </div> <div>Sunday School</div> <div>12:00 pm </div> <div>Deacon Meeting</div> | <div>17</div> <div>10:00 am </div> <div>Book Group</div> | <div>18</div> <div>9:30 am </div> <div>Bible Study</div> <div>6:00 pm </div> <div>Sisters of Faith</div> | <div>19</div> <div>9:00 am - 11:00 pm </div> <div>Quilting</div> <div>1:00 pm </div> <div>Prayer Shawl Ministry</div> <div>5:45 pm </div> <div>ReCharge</div> <div>6:15 pm </div> <div>Virtual Bible Study</div> <div>6:30 pm - 7:30 pm </div> <div>Chancel Choir Practice</div> | <div>20</div> <div>9:00 am </div> <div>Breakfast Fellowship</div> <div>9:00 am </div> <div>Bulletin Submission Deadline</div> <div>6:30 pm - 8:30 pm </div> <div>Knitting Group in Parlor</div> | <div>21</div> | <div>22</div> |
| <div>23</div> <div>12:00 am </div> <div>Middle PA District Sharing Sunday</div> <div>9:25 am </div> <div>Worship</div> <div>10:30 am </div> <div>Sunday School</div> | <div>24</div> | <div>25</div> <div>9:30 am </div> <div>Bible Study</div> | <div>26</div> <div>1:00 pm </div> <div>Prayer Shawl Ministry</div> <div>6:15 pm </div> <div>Virtual Bible Study</div> | <div>27</div> <div>Office Closed</div> | <div>28</div> | <div>29</div> |
| <div>30</div> <div>1st Sunday of Adven... </div> <div>9:25 am </div> <div>Worship</div> <div>10:30 am </div> <div>Sunday School</div> | <div>1</div> | <div>2</div> <div>9:30 am </div> <div>Bible Study</div> <div>6:00 pm </div> <div>Leadership Meeting</div> | <div>3</div> <div>1:00 pm </div> <div>Prayer Shawl Ministry</div> <div>5:00 pm - 8:00 pm </div> <div>MUMs (Mothers Uplifting Mothers) Tree Painting</div> <div>5:45 pm </div> <div>ReCharge</div> <div>6:15 pm </div> <div>Virtual Bible Study</div> <div>6:30 pm - 7:30 pm </div> <div>Chancel Choir Practice</div> | <div>4</div> <div>9:00 am </div> <div>Breakfast Fellowship</div> <div>9:00 am </div> <div>Bulletin Submission Deadline</div> <div>6:00 pm - 9:00 pm </div> <div>Cove Cause For Cancer Meeting</div> <div>6:00 pm </div> <div>C E Team Meeting</div> <div>6:30 pm - 8:30 pm </div> <div>Knitting Group in Parlor</div> | <div>5</div> | <div>6</div> |



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