



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

December 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.

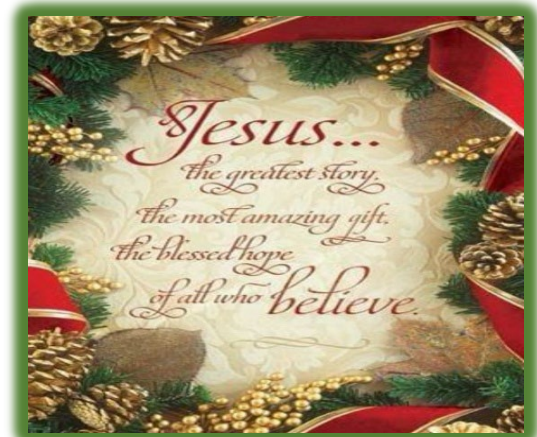
Benjamin Franklin is most often credited with originating the saying “If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.” That Ben. He sure was right. Even when we apply that principle to this Advent season.

The purpose of Advent, of course, is to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the first coming of the Christ child, and to also keep us preparing for His second coming. And Ben hit the nail squarely on the head. If we fail to plan, or more precisely, prepare, for Christ’s coming, then we are allowing arguably the greatest season of the year to sprint by us without making the correct impact on us.

So, this Advent, prepare for Christ by focusing on the things of God. Be in scripture, be in prayer, look for opportunities to share His Spirit with those less fortunate. Don’t be fooled by all the commercials and advertisements and start to think that the Christmas season is only about cookies and parties and wrappings. Take a deep breath and slow down. Take the time to listen to the words of some of your favorite carols. Take the time to enjoy the look of eager anticipation on the faces of children around you.

If you can do that, you won’t wake up one morning and think. “Well, another Christmas has come and gone. All I have left are the bills and cleanup.” Instead, you will be left with the glow and certainty that Christ did come into this world once, and He is coming back.

Pastor Dave



Highlights of Leadership Mtg.

November 4, 2025

Hospitality and Communications Team - Beth Burns

- Trunk or Treat in parking lot 10/30 had 70 children stop by.
- Older Servants dinner 11/2.
- JOY Christmas party is 12/18.

Missions and Service Team - Sandy Burket

- Giving Tree will collect for Food Banks.
- White Gift will be split between RS Ministerium, Middle PA COB District and Heifer Project.

Christian Education Team - Kaye Russell

- Children will sing at Christmas Eve service.
- Reevaluating some classroom locations.
- Advent book to be available 11/30.
- Children's Church and Recharge are being well attended.

Worship Team - Terry Hershberger

- Terry thanked those who filled in while he was away leading disaster relief crews in Kentucky.
- Hanging of the Greens during morning worship 11/30.

Finance and Facility Team - Bryce Nooyen

- Budget for 2026 approved. Will be presented at 11/23 Forum.
- Presented proposal of improvements to the audio/visual system. Decided to upgrade microphones soon but not proceed with video upgrades at this time.
- Mike B. stepping down as Endowment Team chair. Kaye Russell is willing to serve. Will be presented for affirmation at Forum.
- Money borrowed from Parsonage CD has been repaid.
- Leadership Team approved a proposal for electrical upgrades. To be presented to congregation at Forum due to significant cost.

Deacons' Report – Mike Bianconi reported.

- No Deacon calling will be held this year.
- Continue to offer support where needed. Let Deacons know of needs.

Pastor Dave

- Working on Advent/Christmas season services.
- Hanging of the greens 11/30.
- Blue Christmas service 12/21 during worship.
- Seeking volunteers for lighting Advent candles and for readings.
- Looking ahead to baptisms and membership transfers. Let him know if you may wish to be included.

Other

- No one has agreed to serve as chair of Christian Education Team beginning 2026. Will continue to search and explore options if no one willing to serve.
- Also still looking for delegates for Annual Conference in Fort Wayne, IN.

Next Meeting – Tuesday December 2nd at 6:00



Helping Hands in December

Greeter
Deacon Greeter
Fellowship Time

Don & Diana Bookhammer
Travis & Angie Russell
Youth



	7	14	21	24	28
Candlelighter	Thea Thompson	Skyee Thompson	Finn Croft		
Organist	Cathy Petre	Terry Hershberger		Terry Hershberger	Cathy Petre
Pianist	Cathy Neal	Jill Delozier	Brenda Fluke-Garber	Cathy Petre	Marcia Fleck
Worship Leader	Angie Russell	Jane Geist	Linda Steele		Mark Robertson
Storyteller	Traci Totillo	Pastor Dave	Sandy Norris		Betsy Garach
Children's Church	Jodie & Bella Dellinger	Tammy Carter	Angie Russell		Terra Gartmann Melinda Green
Welcome Center	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland	Darlene Wyland
Parking Lot Greeters	Rick Carrier	Earl Bryson	J D Barry		Don Myers
Flowers	John & Brandi Stranford	In Memory of Chuck Piper by his Family		XXXXXXXX	
Bulletins	In Memory of Duane Snyder by Krista		In Memory of Bonnie McKinney	In Memory of Don & Margaret Imes by Janet & Dave Imes	

ReCharge Dates:

December 3, 10 February 4,11,18,25
January 7,14,21,28 March 4,11,18,25

GOOD GRIEF

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9TH @ 6:30 PM



**Every
Wednesday**



5:45 pm

ATTENTION CHILDREN 5th grade and under. We will be participating in the Christmas Eve service this year. A list of songs and its music link will be available at the welcome center. If you would like a speaking part, please see Mindy Wagner. Practice dates and times will be announced later.



Chancel Choir Practice. Wednesdays
at 6:00 pm

Tuesday, December 16, 2025



6 pm at Blossom Hall• \$20 pp to be
Paid with RSVP to Chris Wagner or
Valerie Smith by December 10th.
In lieu of a gift exchange, we will be
Collecting personal care items•

All Ladies are Welcomed to attend!



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

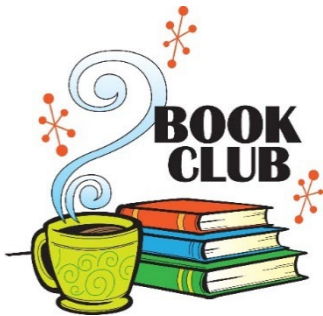
December 20, 2025

8 am

Breakfast at

The Dream

All men are welcome!



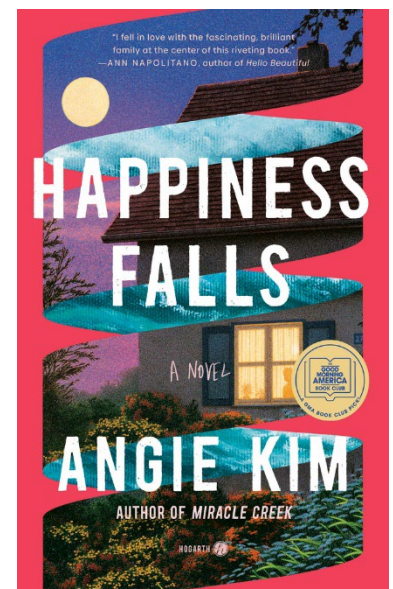
Meetings are the third Monday of each month at 10 am in the Parlor.
Join us as we discuss the monthly selection on December 18, 2025.

Happiness Falls by Angie Kim

"Happiness Falls" is a gripping novel that explores the complexities of family dynamics, communication, and the search for happiness through the lens of a Korean American family facing a crisis when their father goes missing.

The story centers around the Parkson family, particularly focusing on Mia, a 20-year-old college student, and her nonverbal brother, Eugene, who has Angelman Syndrome. The narrative begins with the sudden disappearance of their father, Adam, after he takes Eugene to a local park. When Eugene returns home alone, disheveled and bloody, Mia realizes something is wrong. As the family becomes frantic and calls the police, they are drawn into a tense investigation led by Detective Morgan Janus.

As the search for Adam unfolds, the family grapples with their secrets and the complexities of their relationships. Detective Janus discovers Adam's notebook titled "Happiness Quotient," which contains data on the family's happiness levels and reflects Adam's obsession with measuring and improving their happiness. The investigation reveals that Adam had been communicating with a therapist named Anjeli Rapari, who was helping Eugene learn to communicate through a letterboard. Initially suspected of an affair, Anjeli's true role becomes a pivotal point in the story.





12/2 Mindy Wagner
12/3 Holly Smith
12/6 Tammy Fluke
12/7 Megan Croft
12/8 Don Bookhammer
Gary Speck
Pattie Conlon
12/9 Ezra Croft
12/10 Mandy Keith
Emily Mingle-Hershberger
12/11 Valerie Smith
12/12 Destiny Wagner
12/13 Dawn Crumrine
Charles Smith, Jr.
12/14 Jaden Myers

12/18 Dan Brumbaugh
Justin Croft
12/19 Maureen Detwiler
Marcia Fleck
Brandi Walter
12/23 Cathy Neal
12/24 Kristen Hall
Caleb Keith
12/26 Dave Crumrine
Marlys Hershberger
12/27 Julie Witkovsky
12/28 Diana Walls
12/29 Bethann Frederick
12/30 Janis Loucks
Pat Brumbaugh
12/31 Tom Holsinger



12/12 Tom & Cindy Shaw
12/17 Justin & Mandy Croft
12/24 Tommy & Sandy Smith
Bill & Carolyn Grubb
12/26 Terry & Marlys Hershberger



DECEMBER 2025



**Youth Christmas Card
Delivery will be December 7,14, and 21**



**CONTEMPORARY
CHRISTIAN MUSIC
GATHERING**

**Special
Music
by
Local
Artists**

by His invitation
Revelation 3:20

Dates:
Oct. 12th
Nov. 2nd
Dec. 7th

Time:
6 pm
to
7:30 pm

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
901 BLOOMFIELD ST, ROARING SPRING, PA
For more info follow us @ By His Invitation

**MUMS Event – Tree
Painting at Playtime
Pottery in Hollidaysburg.
December 3rd from 5-8
pm**



**A CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON WILL BE HELD
ON DECEMBER 7TH AT NOON**



**BDM Christmas Party - Monday,
December 8th at 6 pm in the
Fellowship Hall.**

**The Youth will have a Christmas
luncheon party on December 21st
following Sunday School**

JOY

**Just Older Youth will be having a Christmas Brunch
in the Fellowship Hall from 10 am until noon on
December 18th. Please join us for fellowship, food,
fun and music! A sign-up sheet is located in the
Welcome Center. For questions or concerns,
please call Nancy at (814) 934-8434**



An assortment of Advent Devotionals will be available in the Welcome Center beginning November 30th. Please help yourself to whatever one appeals to you. There are also devotionals available for our youth as well as Advent countdown activity card sets for children

– one per family, please.

Items Needed for the Food Bank:

- Cereal, Oatmeal/Cream of Wheat, Pancake Mix, Fruit or Fruit Juice, Canned Soup, Ramen Noodles, Single
- Serve Meals, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Macaroni & Cheese, Jello, Pasta, Spaghetti, Canned Chicken, Tuna or
- Salmon, Canned Vegetables, Side Dishes, Pudding, Rice, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Beans, Pork & Beans,
- Spaghetti Sauce

Standing with People on the Margins

Middle PA District Office

Saturday, December 6

9 a.m. – noon

No cost but please register so we have adequate materials prepared.

Register: EMAIL
admin@midpacob.org
OR CALL (814) 643-0601



People on the margins are individuals or groups who are pushed to the fringes of society, leaving them with significantly less power, resources, and influence than those in the mainstream. The concept of "the margins" is a metaphor for the social, economic, and political edges where people are often made to feel insignificant and are excluded from full participation in community life.

This workshop will examine the BELOVED* model of sharing, practicing ways to include individuals and groups in community life. In addition, adaptations of the "7-Prompts"* will facilitate a better understanding of what it means to live in the margins and what it means to stand with those who are marginalized. The outcome of this workshop is to receive insights and training so the participant can use this process in churches and other group settings.

Rev. Duane Crumrine and Rev. Beckie Miller Zeek will be our facilitators.

**Districts in the Church of the Brethren, with the encouragement of Annual Conference, have developed discernment practices around issues that affect people of color. In this session, we will adapt the materials developed for that purpose to broaden the scope to include all people who live in the margins of society.*



On Sunday, December 21st, we will be including a time to support those in our church family who may be experiencing a period of grief, or who are remembering loved ones and feeling a sense of sadness. "Blue Christmas" will be a part of our morning worship 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 you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Dave.

The "White Gift" offering to be collected Christmas Eve will be split between the Roaring Spring Ministerium for local individuals in need, the Church of the Brethren Middle PA District to help with operating costs, and Heifer Project International.



Since Our Last Newsletter...




Sisters of Faith would like to thank everyone who participated in the Hoss's Fundraiser! A total of \$582.25 was raised to put toward the funds for a new roof.

TRUNK OR TREAT



Youth Sunday, November 2, 2025



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<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</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>
<div>7</div> <div>9:25 am</div> <div>Worship</div> <div>10:30 am</div> <div>Sunday School</div> <div>12:00 pm - 1:00 pm</div> <div>Christmas Luncheon</div> <div>6:00 pm - 7:30 pm</div> <div>By His Invitation</div>	<div>8</div> <div>4:00 pm</div> <div>BDM Christmas Party</div>	<div>9</div> <div>9:30 am</div> <div>Bible Study</div> <div>6:30 pm</div> <div>Good Grief</div>	<div>10</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>11</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>12</div>	<div>13</div>
<div>14</div> <div>Food Bank Collection</div> <div>9:25 am</div> <div>Worship</div> <div>10:30 am</div> <div>Sunday School</div> <div>  </div>	<div>15</div> <div>1:00 pm</div> <div>Newsletter Submission Deadline</div>	<div>16</div> <div>9:30 am</div> <div>Bible Study</div> <div>6:00 pm</div> <div>Sisters of Faith</div>	<div>17</div> <div>1:00 pm</div> <div>Prayer Shawl Ministry</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>18</div> <div>9:00 am</div> <div>Breakfast Fellowship</div> <div>9:00 am</div> <div>Bulletin Submission Deadline</div> <div>10:00 am - 12:00 pm</div> <div>JOY Brunch</div> <div>6:30 pm - 8:30 pm</div> <div>Knitting Group in Parlor</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div> <div>8:00 am</div> <div>Men's Fellowship Breakfast</div>
<div>21</div> <div>9:25 am</div> <div>Worship</div> <div>10:30 am</div> <div>Sunday School</div>	<div>22</div> <div>10:00 am</div> <div>Book Group</div>	<div>23</div> <div>9:30 am</div> <div>Bible Study</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Office Closed</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div>
<div>28</div> <div>9:25 am</div> <div>Worship</div> <div>10:30 am</div> <div>NO Sunday School</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div> <div>9:30 am</div> <div>Bible Study</div>	<div>31</div> <div>1:00 pm</div> <div>Prayer Shawl Ministry</div>	<div>1</div> <div>Office Closed</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>



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Find us on Facebook

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