

EASTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

JANUARY, 2021

PEACHBLOSSOM PRESS NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement

“Sharing the love and blessing of God with all.”



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PASTOR'S PAGE **JANUARY 2021**

It says it right up top. 2021. Yes, 2020 is now behind us. Some of its legacy will be with us for a while yet, until the pandemic is controlled and some sense of normalcy returns, but it still feels good to flip that calendar page from an intensely difficult year. It is, to use a Latin phrase, a “*tabula rasa*”—a clean slate.

While it's easy to dwell on all the things we've lost during the past year and all the things we missed, it's important that we also focus on the good things in our midst, and where God's Spirit is stirring. As it says in Psalm 33:5, “The earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.”

Where do we see that among us? Consider the following:

- In a year when many congregations were stretched to survive, we continue to have a thriving group that enjoys each other's fellowship and praising God together. We have found ways to connect and worship together safely, at least in a limited fashion, with smiles, prayers, and beautiful, creative music. It looks like we'll finish 2020 with income over expense, even with several months of an unoccupied rental house and significant renovations to that property.

- While the pandemic numbers everywhere are problematic, Maryland has been one of the better states in the country in regards of the incidence of COVID-19, and our county has been fortunate to be one of the best in the state, with the fewest COVID deaths recorded in all of Maryland. Our congregation has been able to stay safe and well.

- We have lost a few local businesses, but many have weathered the storm thus far, and Easton has a vibrant and beautiful downtown and other neighborhoods. Be sure to thank the local business owners and patronize them when you can. And thank our health care workers and teachers, too. They've really been stepping up in a time of need, including some right here in our church.

- In just the past few months, our congregation has been able to deliver donations to the Neighborhood Service Center, almost two dozen boxes of food for local seniors in need, Christmas care packages to the residents of Dixon House, contributions for Camp Mardela, meals for the Talbot Interfaith Shelter and support for their expansion efforts, lunches for the Ridgeway shelter, and more. It's good to see us doing significant outreach, especially in a time of heightened need.

- Speaking of Camp Mardela, we had to say farewell to long-time administrator Gieta Gresh as she moves to Pennsylvania, but the camp has called a new administrator, Jennifer Summy, who is bringing fresh vision and energy of her own to lead our camp forward. Like our church, it appears the camp was able to end the year on solid financial footing, while grants and special donations allowed a new roof to go on the King Retreat Center and craft house, new playground equipment to be installed, and more.

I suspect many other things could be added to that list. As many writers have observed, much depends on our perspective: Do we look at places of abundance, or places where things are lacking? Whatever difficulties you have endured this past year, I hope you continue to see those places of abundance and hope.

We have no guarantees of what this new year will hold, of course. But we know that God continues the journey with us. And wherever God is, goodness is present. Happy new year.

—Pastor Walt



Sermon and Scriptures through Epiphany

Jan. 3, 2021

"A Special Season: It's a Wonderful Light"

Epiphany Sunday

Gen. 1:1-5, John 1:1-9, Isa. 60:1-6

Jan. 10

"Welcome to the Neighborhood"

Second Sunday of Epiphany

Psalms 29, John 1:10-18, Eph. 1:3-14

Jan. 17

"Searched and Searching"

Third Sunday of Epiphany

Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Sam. 3:1-10; John 1:43-51

Jan. 24

"Just Desserts"

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Ps. 62:5-12, Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Jan. 31

"Holy Handiwork"

Fifth Sunday of Epiphany

Ps. 111, Eph. 2:6-10, 2 Tim. 2:11-15

Feb. 7:

Sixth Sunday of Epiphany

"Wonder"

Isa. 40:21-31, Ps. 147:1-11, 20a, Mark 1:29-39

Feb. 14:

Seventh Sunday of Epiphany

"Behind the Curtain"

Mark 9:2-9, 2 Kings 2:1-12, 2 Cor. 4:3-6

Music for January

January 3	Ellen Wile
January 10	Jim Lohr
January 17	Ellen Wile
January 24	Cheryl Dayton & Ellen Wile
January 31	Ellen Wile

43rd Annual Meat Canning Project

The annual meat canning is a joint effort of the Mid-Atlantic and Southern Pennsylvania Districts. The goal of the canning project is to help feed people experiencing food insecurity, both locally and overseas.

Due to the uncertainties surrounding Covid-19, the Meat Canning Committee has discussed several alternate plans in case enough volunteers can't be found.

Our congregation can participate in one or all of the following ways:

- **Volunteer to can meat** (chicken this year) April 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14, 2021.

This is a meaningful tradition for some congregations and a time of fellowship, with each other and other volunteers.

- **Donate money** towards the purchase of chicken to be canned and/or to supply lunch for volunteers.

Last year both districts received 350 cases of chicken to distribute to those in need. Also, 150 cases were shipped to Liberia and 200 cases went to the Bahamas.

- **Pick up and distribute canned chicken to feed the hungry** – to use in your food pantry, a food pantry you work with or a need in your community, FREE.

Pick up is at the Brethren Service Center, New Windsor, MD.

Please contact the church office (410-822-0475) if you are interested in volunteering or able to pick up the canned chicken.





- 1 Sean Randall-Jones, Joyce Battle, Kathy Fike, Chad Allan Fike
- 2 Lee Ann Fox
- 4 David Fike, Lois Sanger, Edan Michael Koenig
- 5 Charles Ball, Jr.
- 7 Julie Griep
- 8 Liam Johnson, Shelby Wood, Robert & Matthew Wooters
- 10 Kathryn Ball, Lyn Banghart
- 11 Larry Milburn, Dylan Seese, Garey Lee Fike, Ian Young
- 12 Aaron Joseph Miller, Patty Schwaninger, Jenson Hagenberger
- 14 Maggie Berkey
- 15 Chad Fox
- 16 Paula Colburn, Aaron Holmes
- 17 Morgan Kilmon
- 18 Garrett Foreman, Terri Jo Tarr
- 19 Brittny Honeman
- 20 Nathan Musch
- 21 Wanda Baynard
- 22 Norma Trax
- 23 Misty Wood, Eric Henderson
- 24 Nick Berkey, David Nalley, Jennifer Grubbs
- 27 Jordan Ball
- 29 Naomi Willey, Nathan Moore
- 30 Tina Wooters, Lauri Glass, Brandon Miles
- 31 Linda Lyons, Billy Miles, Anna Valliant



- 12 Dennis & Tina Wooters
- 14 Michael & Tracy Correa
Robert & Judy Musch
- 23 Gene & Jan Hagenberger
- 26 Phillip & Margie Ridenour
- 27 Jimmy & Linda Mattox

Our Prayer List

Please pray especially for the following individuals and their families: for those who have contracted COVID-19, for health care workers, and for government and civic leaders who are seeking the best way forward, for our District Executive, Gene Hagenberger, for all those who have been affected economically, for Camp Mardela and camp manager Jennifer Summy, Bunky Miller, Teresa (co-worker of Terri Tarr), Bonnie Langford, Dale Fike, Verna Calloway, Josh Greenwood, Pat Covey, Terry Mullikin, Steven Trax, John Trax, Mary Kelly, Amelia Gunn and Chad Whitzel (BVS), Doris Schwaninger, Gloria Buzi and family, Brenna (a college senior at Bridgewater with cancer), Geoff Fox's friend Andre



(battling cancer), Barrett Schartner, John Evans, Isabelle Halliday, Wyatt Ewing, Jack Wheatley, Jim & Loretta Lohr, Kathy Spurry, Lillian Sefcik, Beth Lockwood, Judy Haddaway, Jean & Don Saballus, Richard Scott, Billy Harding, Chuck Davis, Annabel Young, Larry Fike, Childlene Brooks, Alan Segar, Bruce Butler, Pat Lewis, Ellen Walbridge, Lee Roesti, Norman Harding, Gene & Betty Lednum, GraceWay CoB, Nancy Scheffler, Roger Plagge, JK Rider, John Nalley, Bobby Hopkins, Kurt Kline, Dee Candel, Mary Ann Kiser, Lois Schall, Natalee Jones, Jeff Wright, continuous prayers for our church family in Nigeria, continued prayers for Comfort Amos, Barbara Taylor, Leo Truban, Emerson Fike, Katelyn Howard, Christine & Kenny Fike. Pray for leaders & people that are working towards peace.

Please phone the church to add or remove persons on our prayer list.



Worship will remain at 10 a.m. through January, with no Christian Education classes, as we continue to follow the protocols of the current health situation. We're monitoring the situation from week to week. The Christian Education team is preparing study resources each week, available in your bulletin.



Camp Mardela Announces a new Camp Administrator

The Camp Mardela board of directors is pleased to announce Jennifer Lynn Summy as the next administrator of Camp Mardela, located on 125 acres adjacent to Martinak State Park in Denton, Md. Jennifer will be moving in Dec. 30 or 31 and then starting up with training on Jan. 4, 2021.

A graduate of Lebanon Valley College (Annville, Pa.) with a B.A. in Music Business, Summy is currently working on completing a master's degree in Business Administration and Ministry from Mount Vernon

(Ohio) Nazarene University. She has previously worked as a bank teller near her home in Duncannon, Pa., and as a counselor at Camp Swatara (Bethel, Pa.).

In addition to her business and camping background, she brings to the position extensive experience in music and theater, as well as advanced Spanish-speaking abilities and a deep faith life. She recently spent a year as a worship coordinator for The World Race, with time in a variety of contexts on four continents.

"A week at camp is a powerful catalyst in the faith of children and youth, and I am passionate about making the most of that experience for all parties involved," Summy said. "Every step of my spiritual journey has come from the growth and relationships at camp, and I believe that God works in mighty ways when we meet Him in the heart of His creation."

Summy's call to the position comes after a wide-ranging, months-long search process. She succeeds Gieta Gresh, who has served the camp as administrator since spring 2005.

Affiliated with the Mid-Atlantic District of the Church of the Brethren, Camp Mardela was established in 1948 and has been serving children and youth summer campers and year-round rental groups ever since. Summy's work will include leading the camp through its strategic plan centered around its 75th anniversary: "Celebrating 75 Years, Serving the Future." Major annual events include the camp auction each spring and a camp supper in the fall.

For more information about Camp Mardela, contact campmardela@gmail.com or call 410-479-2861.

Feel free to enjoy a day at Camp walking the trails. Hiking is done by appointment only (in order to maintain social distancing). Please call for your appointment at 410-479-2861. Facilities and building will not be available.

Camp Mardela continues with their fundraiser of Scrip: What is Scrip? Buy gift cards online (all year long) at www.shopwithscrip.com, pay online and a rebate will be earned between 2% and 16% that will immediately go towards Camp Mardela. When your gift card arrives, use them for your everyday shopping...that simple. If you would like a copy of the instructions, contact Lee Ann and she can mail you a copy.



Attendance & Offering for December

Attendance

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	12/6/20	12/13/20	12/20/20	12/27/20	Totals
<u>Distributions</u>					
General (06)					
Envelopes	2,790.00	2,077.00	8,261.00	2,930.00	16,058.00
Loose Change/Cash	0.00	0.00	17.00	0.00	17.00
Tithes	2,790.00	2,077.00	8,278.00	2,930.00	16,075.00
06 Income					
Building Use					
Dutchmans Lane Rent				1,155.00	1,155.00
Harrison St. Rent for 12/1	1,000.00				1,000.00
Subtotal of Income	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,155.00	2,155.00
Totals	3,790.00	2,077.00	8,278.00	4,085.00	18,230.00
Special Offerings (07)					
Deacon Fund	1,000.00				1,000.00
Round Top		200.00	50.00		250.00
In Kind					
In & Out					
Messenger Subscriptions				56.00	56.00
Totals	1,000.00	200.00	50.00	56.00	1,306.00
Totals	4,790.00	2,277.00	8,328.00	4,141.00	19,536.00

***** All Year End Giving needs to be in by Jan. 3, 2021 dated no later then 12/31/20.**

Next Leadership Team meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, at 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Please wear your mask and maintain social distancing.

Minutes from the December Meeting

- Harrison Street renovations have been completed.
- Pastor Walt is on vacation December 25-January 1, 2021.
- We will have 2 Christmas Eve's services, 6p & 8:30p. Sign-ups are required.
- Pastor Walt's 2021 renewal agreement has been done.
- We should be receiving a check from Erie Insurance soon for damage done at Dutchman's Lane property from storm.
- Leadership Team retreat is being discussed.
- Norma Trax will serve as our interim Leadership Team chair for 2021. Gene Walbridge has stepped down to fill duties at the District Office.
- Ministry Teams gave brief reports.
- Next Meeting, 1/12/2021, 1p.



Volunteer Opportunities

Ridgeway House Lunches

The 1st & 3rd Fridays of each month. For months that have five Fridays, lunches will be provided on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Friday. Monetary and food donations (drink boxes, individual fruit cups, small bags of chips and cookies) are always welcome.

NSC Food Pantry

Let's not forget that food prices keep going up! When we pay attention to our local, national and international food needs, we are reminded that people suffer from food insecurity all around. If we do not share of our bounty, others go hungry. Let us give, so others may live. Any non-perishable food items with good "best if used by" dates are accepted. **Consider bringing in your non-perishable items when church re-opens.**

Interested in Serving as Worship Leader or doing the Children's Time?

We're always looking for new people to share their gifts! It doesn't take a lot of time--just a bit of preparation and a willingness to serve. If you would like to join this team of volunteers or want more information, please contact the church office or Pastor Walt.

The volunteer opportunities listed below are currently closed due to COVID-19. Please keep these opportunities in mind when things re-open.
Thank you!!!

Talbot Interfaith Shelter

The 2020 volunteer list is available for sign-up. Please take the time and look to see where you can spare a few hours of your time every other month. Any questions, please contact Norma Trax. **Our next date is February 19, 2021. If you are interested in providing a meal, please contact Norma Trax. (We will keep you up-dated should COVID-19 restrictions change in allowing volunteers to come to the shelter.)**

Neighborhood Service Center

Please contact Marilyn Neal, if you are interested in volunteering at the center. Their phone number is 410-822-5015.





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