

EASTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

FEBRUARY, 2021

PEACHBLOSSOM PRESS NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement

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



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Pastor's Page

While reviewing highlights from the recent inauguration ceremonies in Washington, I was struck by some lines shared by the young poet Amanda Gorman, most notably: “While we have our eyes on the future, history has its eyes on us.”

It was spoken, of course, about the eyes of the world being on our nation as we emerge from a troubling period of division, anger, and even violence. But it could just as easily have been spoken about the church.

Too often, people look at those who call themselves Christians and see little but judgmentalism, hypocrisy, and exclusivity. A third of young adults cited those adjectives in a recent study about why they no longer go to church—and that’s among those who were at church in the first place. Recent years, with heated rhetoric and increasingly polarized positions over political and cultural issues, likely haven’t helped the church’s case.

Even in the Church of the Brethren, we have been consumed in the past year with questions of “loyalty” as the denomination has endured a painful rift. Our numbers keep declining: The statistics from the past year reveal that our membership in the US has dropped below 100,000 for the first time since the 19th century.

It can be easy for our obsession with particular issues to divert our attention from our call to follow Jesus Christ and love our neighbors. A focus on survival can likewise distract us from drawing on the resources we do have and doing what we can in our communities.

I’ve been doing some reading on 19th-century Brethren leader John Kline, who helped the church find its way through another divisive period—the Civil War—largely intact. His tireless work, going back and forth across the lines of North and South, kept Brethren connected and committed. He eventually gave his life for that cause, and he has been remembered for it.

One of his mottos: “No man or animal shall ever be able to accuse me of being unkind to him intentionally.”

People notice when we’re kind. People notice when we care about them. People notice when we listen. People notice when we treat each other well, even when we disagree. People notice when we share our time, our gifts, our ability to help. People notice when we’re authentic and our actions back up our words.

And they notice when we don’t.

The eyes of the world—of our communities—are on us. What will we show them?

—Pastor Walt

Sermon and Scriptures through Epiphany and into Lent

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

Feb. 21

First Sunday in Lent

"Coming to Our Senses"

Feb. 28

Second Sunday in Lent

"Seeing God"

Music for February

Feb. 7: Jennifer Summy

Feb. 14: Lawrence Tyler

Feb. 21: Ellen Wile

Feb. 28: Ellen Wile

Our deepest sympathy to the family of David Bishop. David passed away on January 12. Due to COVID restrictions, a memorial service will be held at a later date.

Our deepest sympathy to the family of Gloria Buzi. Gloria passed away on January 15. Her services were held on January 20 in Towson.

Our deepest sympathy to Don and Jean Saballus. Don lost his older sister on January 5 and Jean lost her older brother in October, 2020.

We pray Christ presence and love to each of these families.



News from the District Office

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.

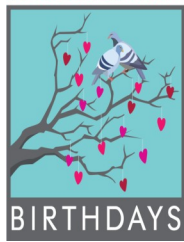
A NEW DISASTER RESPONSE AUCTION DATE SATURDAY, NOV. 13, 2021

For this year, the auction has been postponed from its normal date in May. Details will be shared as available.



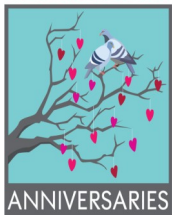
- 1 Ember Mae Stichberry
 2 Pam Fluharty, Steve Wooters
 3 Marjorie (Pete) Fox
 4 Adam Lohr, Harold Lyons
 5 Barbara Saulsbury
 6 Wade Miller
 7 Kevin Kinsey, Christopher Cober,
 Matthew Schwaninger
 12 Ava Elaine Valliant
 13 Sarah Loscomb, Jennifer Saulsbury, Margaret Pete,
 Aubrie Stichberry
 14 Andrew Cheezum
 15 Judy Musch
 16 Phil Ridenour
 17 Renee Baldwin
 18 Pat Schwaninger
 19 Ted Schwaninger
 20 Ryan Glass
 21 Casey Edsall, Jan Hagenberger, Rebecca Moore
 22 Brynn Dayton
 26 Tracy Johnson, Ellen Walbridge, Eden Holmes
 27 Charles Schwaninger, Bernard Randall-Jones
 28 Kimberly Patrick

FEBRUARY



BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY



ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 John & Dorothy Stichberry
 Albert & Margaret Pete
 18 Bud & Judi Loscomb



ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 17, 2021

CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

CBM will be held on Sunday, February 21, immediately following worship in the sanctuary. All written reports need to be into the church office no later than Wednesday, February 10, for distribution to the congregation on Sunday, February 14. Thank you!

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 Mandela and Jennifer Summy, new camp administrator, the family of Linda Warren, the family of Gloria Buzi, the family of Dave Bishop, Kim Hammond, Misti Green, Peggy Hutchison, Bunky Miller, Theresa, (co-worker of Terri Tarr), Verna Calloway, Bonnie Langford, Dale Fike, Mary Kelly, Terry Mullikin, Amelia Gunn and Chad Whitzel (BVS), Hermann & Peggy Oberkofler, Doris Schwaninger, Brenna (a college senior at Bridgewater with cancer), Barrett Schartner, John Evans, Isabelle Halliday, Wyatt Ewing, 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, Jeff & 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. 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 February, 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.



A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS

Can you find the following flowers in the puzzle below? Answers can be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal, backwards or forwards.

DAFFODIL
PEONY
CROCUS
BLUEBELL
ASTER

TULIP
PETUNIA
HYACINTH
IRIS
DAISY

PANSY
ROSE
VIOLET
LILAC
LILY



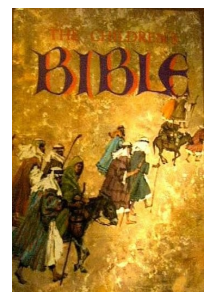
R	L	L	E	B	E	U	L	B	X
M	E	S	S	P	E	N	G	P	E
R	O	B	A	I	N	U	T	E	P
R	V	I	O	L	E	T	R	O	S
E	T	H	R	U	E	Y	P	N	U
N	F	R	E	T	S	A	P	Y	C
H	Y	A	C	I	N	T	H	G	O
A	R	D	A	S	I	R	I	E	R
N	V	D	Y	Y	L	I	L	A	C
D	A	F	F	O	D	I	L	U	V

WHO AM I? - Old Testament Review

Match the Bible story with the Bible characters

1. ____ He was sold into slavery in Egypt?
2. ____ He was Esau's twin brother.
3. ____ He was tricked by Delilah.
4. ____ She married the king of Persia.
5. ____ He was thrown to the lions.
6. ____ He built a temple in Jerusalem.
7. ____ She married a man name Isaac.
8. ____ He led the Israelites out of Egypt.
9. ____ He spent three days and nights inside a big fish.
10. ____ He built an enormous boat.

- A. Daniel
- B. Jonah
- C. Esther
- D. Moses
- E. Solomon
- F. Samson
- G. Noah
- H. Joseph
- I. Rebekah
- J. Jacob





ADOPT A CABIN @ CAMP MARDELA

Help us raise the roof!

Amid the challenges of the past year, Camp Mardela has been able to put much-needed new roofs on the Craft House and the King Retreat Center. We want to complete the process by putting new metal roofs on our six cabins, too.

Generous donors have stepped up to cover the cost of three of the cabins; now we need someone to adopt the other three! The cost is approximately \$1,000 per cabin. Can you help? Call camp today!



CAMP MARDELA: ON MARYLAND'S EASTERN SHORE

**WHAT: ADOPT A
CABIN AT CAMP**

**WHO:
CONGREGATIONS
OR INDIVIDUALS**

**HOW MUCH: \$1,000.
SPONSOR A WHOLE
CABIN OR A
PORTION**

**WHEN: AS SOON AS
YOU CAN!**

**ANY EXCESS FUNDS
WILL BE USED TO
ADDRESS OTHER
MAINTENANCE
NEEDS AT CAMP**

CAMP MARDELA

301 Deep Shore Rd.
PO Box 460
Denton, MD 21629

www.campmardela.org

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 to-

wards 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.



Always choose love

God wants us to choose to love him freely, even when that choice involves pain, because we are committed to him, not to our own good feelings and rewards. He wants us to cleave to him, as Job did, even when we have every reason to deny him hotly. That, I believe, is the central message of Job.

Satan had taunted God with the accusation that humans are not truly free. Was Job being faithful simply because God had allowed him a prosperous life? Job's fiery trials proved the answer beyond doubt. Job clung to God's justice when he was the best example in history of God's apparent injustice. He did not seek the Giver because of his gifts; when all gifts were removed, he still sought the Giver.

--Philip Yancey, *Where Is God When It Hurts?*

Volunteers for February

	2/7/2021	2/14/2021	2/21/2021	2/28/2021
Message	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt	Pastor Walt
Worship Leader	Kevin Wile	Lynn Butler	Wanda Baynard	Jay Lister
Head Usher/Sound	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller
Deacons on call	John & Norma Trax	Geoff & Lee Ann Fox	Mat & Wanda Baynard	Les & Marlena Groves
Special Music	Jennifer Summy	Lawrence Tyler	Ellen Wile	Ellen Wile
Flowers		Kevin & Ellen Wile		

Attendance & Offering for January

	Attendance	29	36	0	38	103
	1/3/21	1/10/21	1/17/21	1/24/21	1/31/21	Totals
<u>Distributions</u>						
General (06)						
Envelopes		2,636.00	500.00	1,520.00		4,656.00
Loose Change/Cash	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	5.00	6.00
Total Before Prepaid Tithes	0.00	2,636.00	500.00	1,521.00	5.00	4,662.00
	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	1,500.00
	300.00	2,936.00	800.00	1,821.00	305.00	6,162.00
Other Income (06)						
Building Use						
Dutchmans Lane Rent				1,200.00		1,200.00
Harrison St. Rent	1,500.00					1,500.00
Totals	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	0.00	2,700.00
Special Offerings (07)						
Deacon Fund		1,000.00				1,000.00
In Kind						
						0.00
In & Out						
Totals	1,500.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,200.00	0.00	3,700.00
Totals	3,000.00	3,636.00	500.00	3,921.00	5.00	11,062.00



**WE'RE
IN THIS
TOGETHER!**



Let us all be vigilant. Wash your hands, socially distance, wear a mask that covers your mouth AND nose, and pray for God's guidance and healing.

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!!!

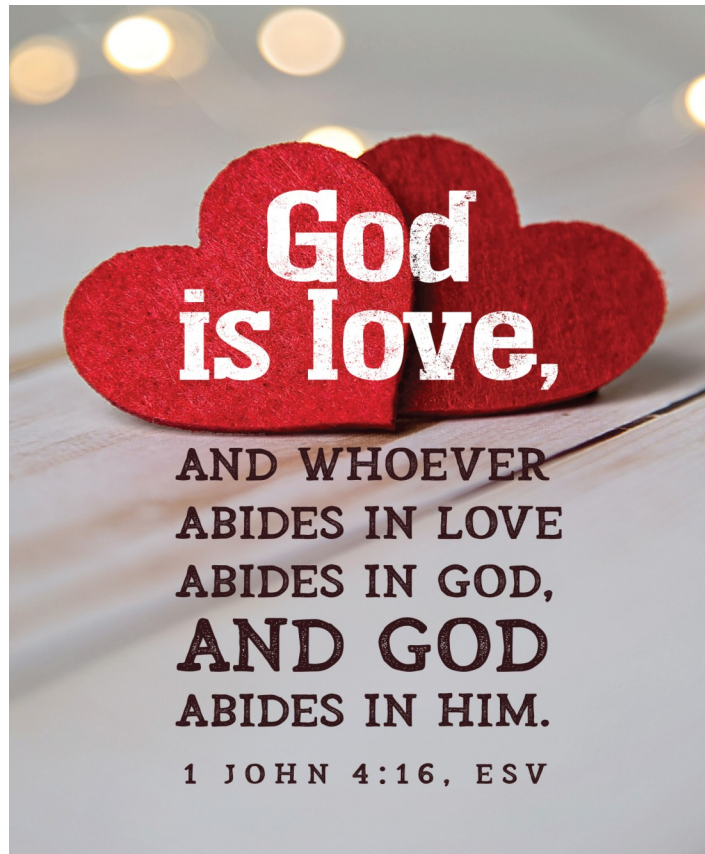
Talbot Interfaith Shelter

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 updated 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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