

EASTON CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

FEBRUARY, 2025 PEACHBLOSSOM PRESS NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement

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

**Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.
Worship Hours: 10:45 a.m.**



412 S. Harrison Street

Easton, MD 21601

410-822-0475

eastonchurchofthebrethren@gmail.com

www.eastonbrethren.org

Website: www.eastonbrethren.org

Rev. Jody E. Gunn, Pastor

On Sunday, January 26, I referenced the celebration that took place on January 21 in Goshen, Indiana held at College Mennonite Church. Anabaptism turned 500! The Church of the Brethren is one of the faith traditions with Anabaptist roots along with the Mennonites and Amish. One thing that stands out to me with the Anabaptist movement is how much they value community. Community is an important thread throughout their life together as faithful disciples of Jesus. Not only with how they approach scripture, but in service to their neighbors and how they structure their churches. Scriptures are explored in Bible study TOGETHER. Life as a Christian is not in a vacuum, it is imperative that we have people to keep us accountable. We also attempt to make decisions that are for the ultimate good of the community.

Like the Mennonites, we also serve and create programs our people can believe in. One notable program that goes beyond what our government can provide years after a natural disaster is our Brethren Disaster Response. Groups of people sign-up for short term week “or longer term of service” to assist in the rebuilding of communities who have suffered incredible losses of their homes to natural disasters.

Volunteer service for a time like a year or more is also important, especially to the Mennonites and Brethren. Both denominations have their own volunteer programs for helping our neighbors near and far is valued. When we work together to help others, we are blessed as we work as a group.

Connections are made as we live out the scriptures from Matthew 25: 35-40. The faith community working together is always better than us alone. Think about this: one person is working on cleaning a house versus three people cleaning it. One person works for 3 hours, they get 3 hours of worth of work done. However, if 3 people work for 3 hours, what they get done is triple what each person could do alone. As the ancient proverb says, “Many hands make light the work.”

Maybe the Biblical story in Mark 2 of the men who lowered the paralyzed man through the roof to get in front of Jesus is metaphor of our story as a faith community. Historically, we have come together to love and serve Jesus, by serving those who need our help behind the scenes to get near Jesus. These men could never have lowered that man on his mat through the roof without one another. May we stay close in these divided times, helping one another and those who cannot receive help unless caring people strategize a variety of ways to meet the needs of our siblings of the world.

In our world where individualism runs rampant, I pray we can visualize and create a real community where we care for one another in word and deed. Living out the example of Jesus, who called us to step up and “Love each other as I have loved you.”

- Pastor Jody

Please read the Messenger article “Anabaptism at 500” by Denise Kettering-Lane

Our Prayer List

Please pray especially for the following individuals and their families: for health care workers, and for government and civic leaders who are seeking the best way forward, for our District, for all those who have been affected economically, for Camp Mardela and administrator Jennifer Summy, Dean Clutts, Nora Quidas, John Trax, Mary Ellen Hutchison, Ellen Hill, Ron Patrick, Don Saballus, Holly Hill Jones (Larry Fike's stepdaughter), Bobby Bridge, Kevin Little, a gentlemen name Ricki, Cheryl Dayton, Chris Lyons, John Sewell, Ruth Gunn, Michael Stark-ey, Larry & Barbara McCann, Jeanette & Bob Miller, Mary Lou Segar, Frances Morse, Bruce Butler, Jimmy & Loretta Lohr, Adele Pogue, Caitlyn Bussey, Theresa Durnbaugh, Billy Harding, Larry Fike, Alan Segar, GraceWay CoB, Dee Candel, continuous prayers for our church family in Nigeria, continued prayers for Comfort Amos. Pray for leaders & people that are working towards peace. ***Please phone or email the church office to add or remove persons on our prayer list.***



Empty Bowls 2025

This year's Empty Bowls will be held again at St. Mark's UM Church on February 22, 4:30-7:30 p.m.. Tickets for this event are on sale now. For more information visit, www.talbotcountyemptybowls.org. If you are interested in painting bowls for this event, you can reserve a spot at Kiln Born Creations (kilnborncreations.com).



Interested in Serving as Worship Leader

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 Marlena Groves (Nurture Chair).

Neighborhood Service Center 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.

Neighborhood Service Center

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

Talbot Interfaith Shelter



The 2025 Talbot Interfaith Shelter (TIS) 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 month. Any questions, please contact Norma Trax. **Our next date will be February 19. Volunteers are needed. The meal has been covered. Thank You!**

AA Group

Mid Shore Intergroup is a local AA group that meets at our church every Wednesday evening at 7p. For more information please go to www.midshoreintergroup.org.

The Elizabethtown College Concert Choir

Elizabethtown Choir will be coming to the Easton Church of the Brethren on March 1, 2025! They will present an evening concert on Saturday and (added bonus), they will be singing during worship the next morning. There are about 22 singing members and they will be looking forward to staying overnight in host homes on Saturday, March 1. Host families are needed for the singing members of the choir. They pair up to be hosted, so each host family can expect 2 singers. Please sign up with Lee Ann by using the sign-up sheet at church or notify Ellen Wile if you can host: 410 829 3728, wileacre@gmail.com. The E-town Concert Choir is conducted by Dr. Matthew Fritz.



Leadership Team Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 3 at 2:00 p.m.

Congregational Business Meeting

Our next CBM will be held on Sunday, February 23 at 1:00 p.m. Plan to bring a bag lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided. Team 3 will be in charge.

A written report for year 2024 is due into the office no later than Thursday, February 13, for distribution to the congregation on Sunday, February 16.



FEBRUARY

birthdays

- 1 Ember Mae Stichberry
- 2 Pam Fluharty, Steve Wooters, Jeanette Miller
- 3 Marjorie (Pete) Fox
- 4 Adam Lohr, Harold Lyons
- 5 Barbara Saulsbury
- 6 Wade Miller
- 7 Kevin Kinsey, Christopher Cober, Matthew Schwaninger
- 8 Gieta Gresh
- 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 Keller
- 26 Tracy Johnson, Eden Holmes
- 27 Charles Schwaninger, Bernard Randall-Jones
- 28 Kimberly Patrick



FEBRUARY

anniversaries

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



SERVING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

	2/2/2025	2/9/2025	2/16/2025	2/23/2025
Message	Rusty Curling	Pastor Jody Gunn	Rusty Curling	Pastor Jody Gunn
Worship Leader	Sharon Lister	Jay Lister	Mat Baynard	Jane Marshall
Head Usher/Sound	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller	Leroy Miller
Deacons on Call	Leroy & Sharon Miller	Ron & Elisa Miller	John & Norma Trax	Geoff & Lee Ann Fox
Special Music	Rusty & Phyllis Dodd Curling	Ellen Wile	Choir	Lee & Liz Wildasin
Flowers				

News about Camp Mardela, from Jennifer Summy, Camp Administrator



- ♦ **Valentine's Dinner:** February 14, 6-8 pm. \$30 per person. Reservations are due February 1.
- ♦ **FaithX & BVS Reunion:** February 15, 12-4pm. More information to come.
- ♦ **Store Sales:** Did you know that you can buy Camp Mardela swag online on our website!? Show your support for camp by purchasing t-shirts, stickers, bandanas and more online at <https://www.campmardela.org/fundraisers>. Items can be picked up at camp or shipped to your home for a small fee.
- ♦ **Wish List:** Several items need to be replaced at camp. The wish list is located on the web-site; www.campmardela.org/donate
- ♦ **Scrip Fundraiser:** We are still running our Scrip fundraising program! Order gift cards through Scrip and Camp Mardela gets a percentage of the sales. Register and order cards at www.shopwithscrip.com. Contact campmardela@gmail.com for the registration code or any other questions.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for camp and its ministry. It is greatly appreciated and we continue to see the fruit of Camp ministering in the lives of people.

**Anabaptist Vespers Service
February 19, 7:00 pm.**

Roundtop Church



PEACING IT TOGETHER

READ: Matthew 19: 13-15

When children ask about war

But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me" (Matthew 19: 14a)

Adults certainly do not know all the answers. But rather than trying to brush off children's anxieties about war the way we often discount our own feelings of fear and hopelessness, we can find ways to create a positive growth experience from those feelings for the children and for ourselves...

Because the war and peace issues are so crucial and overwhelming it is something easy for us to forget that peacemaking can be fun and guided by optimism—something children sometimes need to remind us. One Brethren parent came very concerned when her young son started asking why his parent even bothered to have children with such a bleak outlook for the future. It is of vital importance that we find ways to remind children that life is indeed worth living.

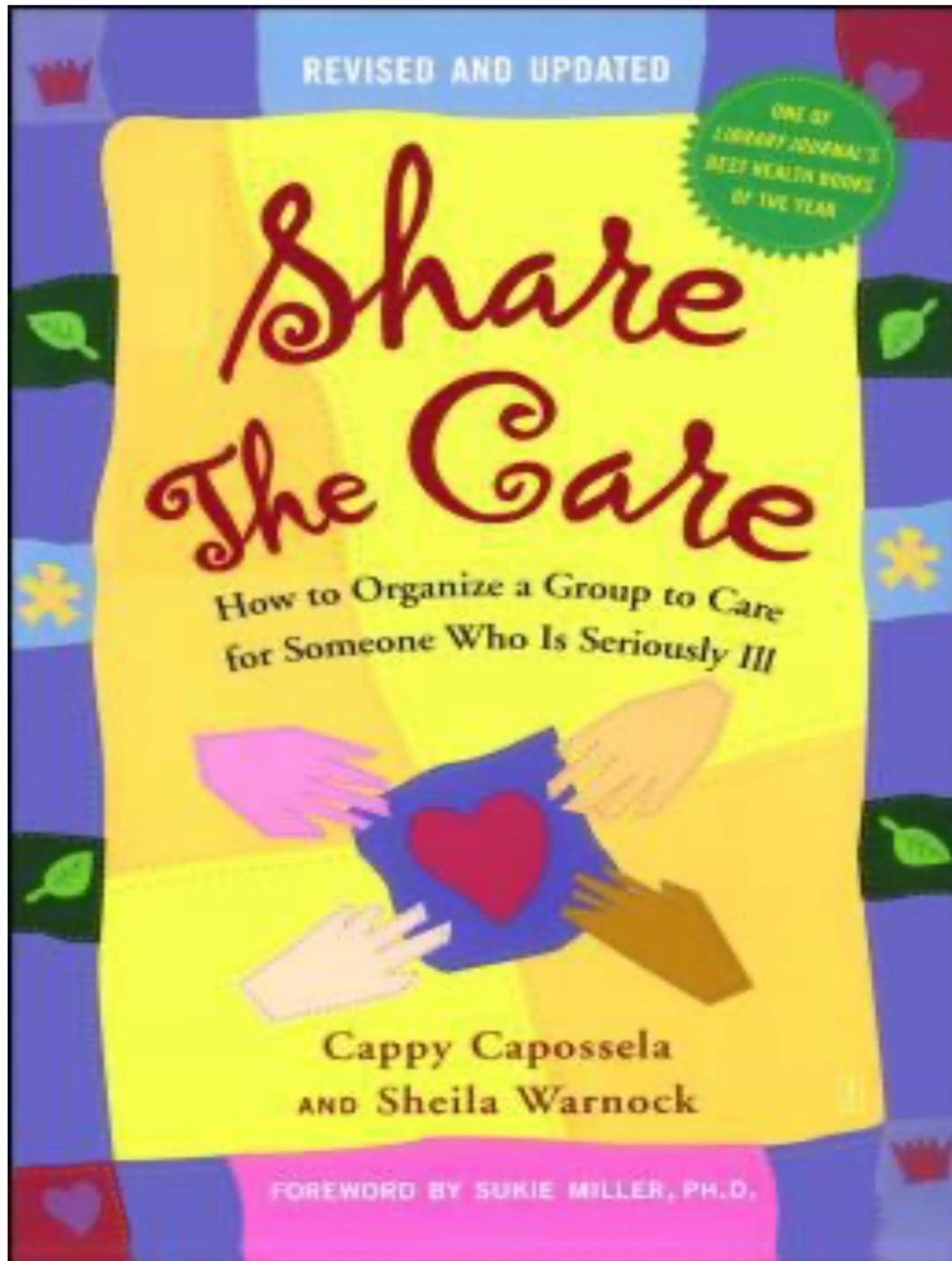
Peacemaking is something to celebrate...We need to be creative in this work of bringing peace to a warring world. Adults can learn from children, by tuning in to their enthusiasm, their hope, and their simple honesty. We must be urgent in our work and yet try to communicate a feeling to our children that they have all the time in the world to grow and learn. Together, we can and must work to create a peaceful world filled with the hope of the vision that God has promised us.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6).

Judith Myers-Walls and Kathleen Fry-Miller

Respond: Consider communities and groups in which you take part. How does each of these care for children? What more could each group be doing?

Pray: Dear Lord, let me not be like those disciples who tried to keep the children away. Help me embrace them, and bless them, in your name.



A great book for people who are trying to organize family, friends, and others around someone who is seriously ill.



CAMP MARDELA

Valentine's

Dinner

Feb. 14th
6pm-8pm
\$30/person

Join us in our newly refurbished Krabill Hall for a romantic dinner with your sweetheart in the rustic woods of Camp Mardela. Sit back and you will be served a decadent, plated meal to enjoy with your love.

Menu

*Meal will be plated & served to
your table.*

Pork Tenderloin medallions - roll with butter
- fruit cup - homemade applesauce - salad -
baby potatoes - fresh green beans - desserts

Reserve your seat by February 1st online or by mail using the information below:



www.campmardela.org/valentines



301 Deep Shore Rd, Denton, MD

Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren
2025 Disaster Response Auction Booklet



Dear Pastors, Disaster Coordinators, Witness Chairs and Donors.

We deeply appreciate and thank you for your past support of the Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Auction Booklet.

If you have not advertised in the booklet previously we invite you to consider doing so this year.

The 44th Annual Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Auction will be held Saturday, May 3, 2025, starting at 9:00 am at the Carroll County Agricultural Center in Westminster, Maryland. Your support will enable us to provide even more assistance to more disaster victims this year.

***In 2024, \$72,000 was given to the Emergency Disaster Fund
of the Church of the Brethren to help victims recover
from many disasters all around our world.***

During 2024 the Emergency Disaster Fund supported these efforts and more:

- 2021 Tornado recovery in Dawson Springs, KY
- 2022 Summer Flooding Response in Letcher County, KY
- Hurricane Helene Response in the Southeastern District
- Humanitarian Response to Multiple Crises in Haiti
- Child Life Disaster Relief Training Models and Resource Dev.
- LSESD Response to Israel-Hezbollah Conflict in Lebanon
- 2023 Maui, Hawaii Wildfire Recovery Program for Children
- Nigeria Crisis Response
- Aid for Haitian Refugees in the Dominican Republic
- Emergency Flood Relief in the Congo
- Solar Power System in Zambia
- Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis
- Gaza and West Bank Aid Relief
- York County, PA, Long-Term Recovery 2021

...and much more!

Your local church is an important part of this effort!

- You can help by placing an ad in the booklet. We are once again offering the ad sizes below in black and white or color. The ad can include a photograph or artwork. Ad sizes and prices are as follows:
 - Full page...\$160 black/\$200 color
 - Half page...\$85 black/\$105 color
 - Third Page...\$60 black/\$75 color
 - Eighth Page...\$25 black/\$35 color
 - Patron Listing...\$10, \$25, \$35, or more
 - Donations of any amount
- Encourage your members to place business, personal or patron ads and print announcements about the auction in your newsletter and bulletin.
- Please print the enclosed bulletin insert and put it in your bulletin by Sunday, January 5, 2025.
- You can also help by posting the flyer included that is requesting special sale items.

Here are more ways you can help make the auction a success.

- Create craft items
- Donate baked goods
- Donate plants, shrubs and trees
- Assemble gift baskets
- Hold a fundraiser to support the auction
- Donate high quality items to publish in the booklet
- Volunteer to help
- Publicize and attend the Auction!

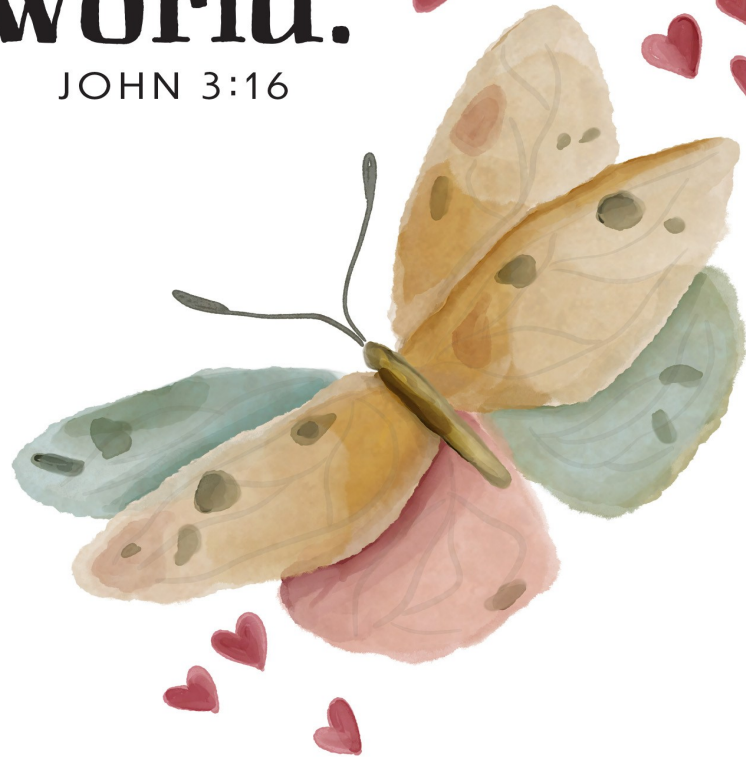
Please return your advertising space reservation form by Friday, February 7, 2025!

Please call booklet designer Debbie Noffsinger at 847-714-4482 or email auctionbooklet@comcast.net if you have questions.

Thank you for your continued support of our Disaster Response Auction!

**For God
so loved
the world.**

JOHN 3:16



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