



REVELATIONS

Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren
1392 Robert Fulton Hwy Quarryville, PA 17566
Website: www.mgcb.org Phone: 717-786-2723
Email: church@mgcb.org

November / December 2025

Why Christmas?

As the calendar turns to November, the rush to Christmas begins. Christmas is celebrated primarily to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior and cornerstone of our faith, with the name "Christmas" itself meaning "mass of Christ." The early Christians did recognize Jesus' birth and celebrate it, but Christmas was not officially recognized until 336 CE in Rome. At its core, Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, our Savior.

But why Christmas? Why should we spend so much time focusing on the birth of Jesus when we know that salvation comes through His death and resurrection? And when we consider all that has happened to commercialize Christmas, are we missing out on the true meaning of Christmas? Is Jesus' purpose in coming to earth still central in our observance of Christmas?

One of my running jokes with our girls is my yearly threat to simply skip Christmas. With all the stress that comes with the holiday, I often say, "Why don't we just skip Christmas this year and pick it up next year?" Fortunately, the girls never take my threat seriously. What kind of pastor would want to skip Christmas? Why would anyone want to not celebrate "the most wonderful time of the year?"

As we approach the Advent season, we are going to attempt to answer the question of "Why Christmas?" We will consider biblical passages that declare Jesus' purpose for coming to earth. We will re-tell the familiar story of Jesus birth but do so to help us better understand the incarnation and Jesus' birth in the manger of Bethlehem. Why did Jesus come to earth? What does His birth really mean? What is it that we are truly celebrating at Christmas?

For the four weeks of Advent starting on November 30th, we will engage in this advent series which will bring us to our Christmas eve celebration with a greater understanding and appreciation for Christmas and why Jesus came to earth. Rachel Johnson will kick off the series on November 30th sharing how Jesus' coming to earth reveals God to us. Why Christmas? Join us for the journey to greater understanding and appreciation of Christmas and why we celebrate beginning Sunday mornings at 8:15 am and 10:30 am on November 30. May our journey through Advent to the joy of Christmas bring us closer to the One whose birth we celebrate!

Pastor Kevin



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 8:15 & 10:30 am

Date	Title/Scripture	Speaker
November 2	Sermon Title: <i>"Remembrance Sunday"</i> Scripture: Philippians 1:1-6	Pastor Kevin Richardson
November 9	Sermon Title: <i>"Wrestling with God"</i> Scripture: Genesis 32:22-32	Pastor Kevin Richardson
November 16	Sermon Title: <i>"Can I Have Your Attention Please?"</i> Scripture: Exodus 3:1-14	Pastor Kevin Richardson
November 23	Sermon Title: <i>"Give Thanks to the Lord"</i> Scripture: Colossians 3:12-17	Pastor Kevin Richardson
<i>Why Christmas? Sermon Series</i>		
November 30 	Sermon Title: <i>"Jesus Reveals God"</i> Scripture: Hebrews 1:1-3	Rachel Johnson
December 7 	Sermon Title: <i>"Jesus Redefines Love"</i> Scripture: I John 4:9-10	Pastor Kevin Richardson
December 14 	Sermon Title: <i>"Jesus Redeems the Lost"</i> Scripture: Luke 19:10	Pastor Kevin Richardson
December 21 	Sermon Title: <i>"Jesus Restores Our Broken Fellowship"</i> Scripture: Colossians 1:19-23	Pastor Kevin Richardson
December 28	Sermon Title: <i>"Redeeming the Time"</i> Scripture: Ephesians 5:15-17	Pastor Kevin Richardson

Attendance & Giving

Date	Worship	Sunday School	General Offering		
August 31	155	47	\$15,367.21	Building Maintenance Fund	\$856.00
September 7	161	77	\$11,190.00	2¢ a Meal	\$288.60
September 14	164	112	\$797.00	Birthday Offering	\$20.00
September 21	171	86	\$16,126.00	Brethren Housing	\$200.00
September 28	179	109	\$8,416.00	Food Bank/SNM	\$299.00
October 5	204	122	\$20,475.00	Change for Change	\$76.25
October 12	206	114	\$8,102.00	Mission Offering	\$5,446.00
October 19	202	129	\$11,747.00		
October 26	205	134	\$13,606.00		

Thoughts on Peace

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; That I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him Forever in the next". Attributed to Rienhold Niebuhr

Our Couples Celebrating Anniversaries

November

7 Glenn & Anna Mary Kreider 13 Paul & Charlotte Trimble 19 Dave & Nancy Wimer

December

4 Dan & Gayle Hershberger 26 Don & Frances Kreider
13 Hans & Tina Herr 30 Travis & Christy Heidinger



Celebrating Birthdays...

November

1 Chuck Groff	8 Morgan Holzhauser	23 Ivy Welch
Donita Reimold	9 Dennis Findley	27 Jess Bledsoe
3 Andi Holzhauser	Eric Holzhauser	29 Justin Hershberger
Glenn Wenger	13 Kirsten O'Connell	Dave Holzhauser
4 Colin Chadwick	16 Judy Hendrickson	Freida Pfender
7 Carol Trimble	20 Rufus Kreider	



December

1 Barbara Graham	8 August Herr	15 Joe Graybeal	23 Bette Lou Epler
Scott Kreider	Michael Herr	17 Janae McMichael	24 Bob Swarr
2 Isaac Kreider	Everett Kreider Jr	18 Peggy Rasmussen	29 Vince Becker
Mike Welch	9 Denise Mellott	19 Howard Hendrickson	Carolyn Wenger
5 Thomas Houghton	10 Justine Kreider	21 Hans Herr	31 Marcia Kauffman
Tom Hunter	12 Audrey Cunningham	Heather Kreider	
6 Lacey Heidinger	David Tshudy	22 Amy Graver	

If you have a birthday or anniversary and it is not listed, please contact the church office.



CANCELLATION OF SERVICES & WEDNESDAY EVENING ROOTS ACTIVITIES

The decision to cancel Sunday morning services is made by the Board Chair and the Pastor. Any decision will be announced on WDAC 94.5 radio, church website - www.mgcb.org, church Facebook page and the church answering machine. If services are not cancelled and you feel it unsafe to travel, join us for worship online!

Wednesday evening ROOTS will be cancelled if Solanco School District has an early dismissal or is **CLOSED**. If we need to make a decision before the school, we will do so by 1 pm and a message will be placed on the church answering machine and the website.



>>> THE NEXT CHAPTER <<<

after a season of rest
& prayer BOLD
ministry has officially
moved to a new
location!

On September 25th, BOLD held its final ride at MGCB. The room was filled with enthusiastic riders, the music was loud, and the energy was somber yet energized. I led the class with a heart full of gratitude, reflecting on the countless women who have been touched by these bikes over the past five years. When I shared with my community that BOLD would be closing its doors at MGCB in August, I left the possibility open for someone to continue the ministry at their own church; however, no one stepped forward. As a result, the bikes were set to be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis to our community. Remarkably, within just three hours of that announcement, every bike found a new home. It seemed like a straightforward conclusion to this chapter, right? Not quite. Just four days before the final ride and the bike distribution, a devoted rider reached out to me, expressing that God wasn't finished with BOLD ministry yet and that they wanted to carry on this faith-fueled fitness ministry on a spin bike at their own church.

GOD'S NOT DONE WITH BOLD MINISTRY YET. HE'S JUST MOVING IT!

There is so much more to this beautiful story that I would love to share, don't hesitate to reach out if you're interested in hearing more about this transition!

Sincere thanks for your support in this ministry over the years

 MORGAN HOLZHAUER 

NEW LOCATION

UNION PRESBYTERIAN
5637 STREET ROAD
KIRKWOOD, PA 17536

NEW LEADERSHIP

CORINNE BRIDGES
& JESS WOLFE

SAME MISSION

TO WORSHIP & RIDE
FOR JESUS IN
COMMUNITY.

Regular classes will resume in January 2026



JOIN SLC COMMUNITY CHOIRS FOR:

JOY UNSPEAKABLE

THIS UNIQUE COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE FEATURES
A CHILDREN'S CHOIR, AN ADULT COMMUNITY CHOIR,
AND A COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 AT 3 PM
SWIFT MIDDLE SCHOOL

TICKETS ARE PAY-WHAT-YOU-WILL BUT SEATING IS LIMITED



RESERVE YOUR SEATS AT SLCCCHOIRS.COM

Seats for Joy Unspeakable are going fast!!

Our participants are: Karl Auker, Rhonda Heidinger, Phil Johnson, Sheri Johnson,
Caitlyn Mauger and Raleigh Osborne.

COMING JANUARY 2026

BELIEVE

LIVING THE STORY OF THE BIBLE
TO BECOME LIKE JESUS



WHAT YOU BELIEVE DRIVES EVERYTHING.



In 2026, we are embarking on a 30-week journey called Believe.

We want believers of all ages to be able to answer three driving questions:

- What do I believe?
- What should I do?
- Who am I becoming?

Join in one or more of the below options as we learn together
how to think, act and be like Jesus.

Sunday Morning Sermons

Roots Kids Sunday School

Sunday School Electives for Adults

**Wednesday Night Bible Study for
Adults**

KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE AND WHY IT MATTERS.

roots family ministry

2025-2026

NOV

11/5 - Roots Night (Family In Service Night)
11/5 - Jr. Chimes Practice
11/16 - Youth Gather Event: Progressive Dinner
11/19 - Roots Night
11/19 - Jr. Chimes Practice
11/26 - Thanksgiving Eve Service
11/26 - Jr. Chimes Presentation

DEC

12/3 - Roots Night
12/13 - Journey to the Nativity
12/17 - Roots Night (Christmas Bash & Caroling)
12/21 - Candlelight Communion
12/24 - Christmas Eve Service
12/24 - Roots Night Song Presentation
(Lil' Roots)

JAN

1/7 - Roots Night
1/7 - Jr. Chimes Practice
1/9-11 - Jr. High Youth Roots Winter Retreat @
Black Rock
1/18 - Youth Gather Event - Young Adults Game
1/21 - Roots Night
1/21 - Jr. Chimes Practice

all dates subject to change - pending dates include Youth Roots Fundraisers and summer conferences

DEEPEN IGNITE GROW

A FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP PODCAST
FROM MECHANIC GROVE CHURCH

the

DIG

*Follow along with Lil' and Youth Roots
learning on our *new* podcast!*



*Scan to listen, or search on Spotify and
Apple Podcast!*



THE AMAZING JOURNEY OF A SIMPLE SHOEBOX GIFT BEGINS WITH YOU



PACKING, COLLECTING & SHIPPING

People pack shoebox gifts each year to bless children in need around the world. Churches and groups collect these boxes the third week of November. Then, thousands of volunteers inspect and prepare the shoeboxes for international shipping.



WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

Long before shoeboxes arrive in more than 100 countries, volunteer National Leadership Teams train pastors and community leaders who want to share the Gospel and bless children.



OUTREACH EVENTS

Churches around the world hand out shoebox gifts at festive outreach events where the Gospel is clearly presented. Christians also take gifts to orphanages, hospitals, and at-risk places to share the hope of Christ. Along with the gifts, we offer Gospel booklets called The Greatest Gift to help shoebox recipients learn about God's greatest gift, His Son, Jesus Christ.



DISCIPLESHIP & MULTIPLICATION

After receiving a shoebox gift, children have the opportunity to enroll in our 12-lesson follow-up discipleship program, The Greatest Journey. As a result of what they learn, boys and girls grow in Christ and share Him with others. Families are reached, churches grow, new churches are started, and communities are transformed.



For more information, see the display in the Gathering Area.

Please have your Shoeboxes back by November 17.

YOU'RE INVITED

FIGHTING HUNGER ONE BOWL AT A TIME.

11.8.25

4PM-8PM

MEALS SERVED



TO PURCHASE TICKETS

CALL 717.723.8385 OR

VISIT solanconehoodministries.org

Journey to the Nativity

Saturday, December 13 ~ 5:30 - 7:45 pm

Mark on your calendar and plan to bring family and friends to walk along with Mary and Joseph as they make their journey to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus.

From the stories, the music, the animals, and campfires, along the lighted path, all combine for a meaningful experience for all ages. The journey takes approx. 40 minutes to complete. Enjoy warm hot chocolate, hot cider, coffee or water and a light snack in the Family Life Center before your group is led by a Shepherd to each scene.

There are always a few minor changes, however, the story of the birth of our Savior remains the same. This has become a wonderful tradition of our church and a way to bring forth the reminder of what Christmas is about to as many people in our area as we can reach!

If you wish to bring a canned good(s), or monetary donation to Solanco Neighborhood Ministries, that would be a gracious GIFT for you to "give back" to the community. This time of year, there are greater needs to be met.

A golf cart is available for those who are not comfortable with the walking. They will drive behind the group and stop at each scene.

Requirements: Dress WARM, Relax and expect to feel the Spirit. 😊

**If inclement weather, Journey will take place inside the Church.



UPCOMING EVENTS & INFORMATION

Fall Grounds Clean-up

Saturday, November 8 at 8 am

Bring your gloves, rakes, shovels, and more importantly you or just your helping hands!

***Rain date Saturday, November 22*



Date & Time: **12 November** Starting At: **7 PM** Location: **Sanctuary**

let's
GATHER
PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR
Thanksgiving Eve Service
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26 AT 7 PM

WE GATHER TO REMEMBER ALL THE THINGS WE ARE THANKFUL TO GOD FOR. WE WILL COLLECT THE THANKSGIVING OFFERING THAT SUPPORTS COBYS FAMILY SERVICES (75%) AND THE SOLANCO FOOD BANK (25%).

We invite you to bring non-perishable food items for the food bank.

POINSETTIAS

will be available to purchase to decorate the church Sunday, December 21. They may be removed following the service, or if you like, you may leave them for the Christmas Eve Service. They may be used to honor someone or as a memorial. A complete listing will be printed in the bulletin on Sunday morning. This year we are offering RED (R), WHITE (W) and PINK (P) poinsettias. Order forms will be placed in your mailbox by November 2 and should be returned to the church by November 16.

Thanksgiving FOOD DRIVE

SOLANCO FOOD BANK

WE ARE IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR THANKSGIVING DINNER BOXES

Turkey or Giant Gift Card
Stuffing Mix
Gravy packets or a jar of Turkey Gravy
Other Items:
Green Beans
Canned Yams
Cream of Mushroom Soup
Cranberry sauce (can)
Pumpkin puree 30 oz
Evaporated milk 16 oz

Items are needed at the food bank by November 14

SOLANCO NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRIES



Save the Date! OAKS Christmas

Monday, December 8 at

Noon in the
Gathering Area



Advent Offering December 14



This offering supports the following: Church of the Brethren Core Ministries (30%), Alpha & Omega Church (10%), Brethren Village Good Samaritan Fund (10%), Brethren Housing Association (25%) and COBYS Family Services (25%). Prayerfully consider your gift to these organizations.



Join us for

CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION DECEMBER 21 AT 7 PM

Join us for this time of reflection during the Advent season as we partake of the bread and the cup.

Mennonite Disaster Service celebrates 75 years of Building Hope

In celebration, they have published two books *Mended: A Story of Hope* is a children's book and is a delightful read for children of all ages.

Many Hands, Being Good Neighbors in Time of Disaster documents the experiences of volunteers and survivors over the past two decades.

MDS is the equivalent to our Brethren Disaster Ministries. If you have ever wondered what happens on these trips, the books may be found in the Resource Room by the Sanctuary.

Christmas MEAL DONATIONS for Solanco Food Bank

We are in need of the following items for Christmas dinner boxes:

Ham or ham steaks	canned green beans
5 lb bags of potatoes or canned potatoes/yams	
butter or margarine	canned pineapple
box of yellow or white cake mix	
container of cake icing	cake sprinkles

If donating perishable items, please make sure they are dated AFTER Christmas.

Please have items to the food bank
by Monday, December 15



MANY STORIES START OUT WITH
"ONCE UPON A TIME" AND THEY
MAY END WITH "AND THEY LIVED
HAPPILY EVER AFTER."

THIS YEAR FOR CHRISTMAS EVE
WE WILL BE DOING OUR "ONCE
UPON A CHRISTMAS" STORY AND
YES, WE WILL LOOK FOR THE
"HAPPILY EVER AFTER!"



COME AT
6:30PM AS
WE GO
THROUGH
OUR "ONCE
UPON A
CHRISTMAS"
STORY - PAGE
BY PAGE.



Advent Schedule

Why Christmas? Sermon Series Begins

November 30 - First Sunday of Advent

"Jesus Reveals God" Scripture: Hebrews 1:1-3

Rachel Johnson

December 3 - Roots Meal @ 5:45 pm with Roots programs @ 6:30 pm

December 4 - Women's Ministry Annual Pine Trail @ 5:30 pm

December 7 - Second Sunday of Advent

"Jesus Redefines Love" Scripture: I John 4:9-10

Pastor Kevin Richardson

December 13 - Journey to the Nativity @ 5:30 - 7:30 pm

December 14 - Third Sunday of Advent

"Jesus Redeems the Lost" Scripture: Luke 19:10

Pastor Kevin Richardson

December 17 - Roots Meal @ 5:45 pm with Caroling @ 6:30 pm

December 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

"Jesus Restores Our Broken Fellowship"

Scripture: Colossians 1:19-23

Pastor Kevin Richardson

Candlelight Communion @ 7 pm

*December 24 - Christmas Eve Service at 6:30 pm
with candle lighting*

MECHANIC GROVE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

1392 ROBERT FULTON HWY

QUARRYVILLE PA 17566

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED