

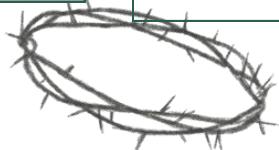


NEW ENTERPRISE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

APRIL 2022



PASTOR'S PEN



I have a unique view of the gathering congregation as I look out from the pulpit on Sundays. I see mostly familiar faces, each warming my heart as I think of conversations we have had. I wonder what is on your mind today; I wonder what you need. I see new faces. I wonder what is on his mind today; I wonder what she needs.

And I wonder too, "Will Jesus Christ be glorified in these hearts and minds today?" I pray, "Help me, Lord, to be your worthy instrument to bring challenging yet healing words of your kingdom purposes and loving grace to each one." And then I tremble. Can I really do this? Am I good enough—in character and skill—to inspire? Am I a capable conduit? Will these good people be able to set aside other things and allow space for God's Spirit to work?

I remember the thoughts that went through my head as I entered the sanctuary and headed for a pew as a child, then a teenager, and finally an adult. I didn't always enter with a generous and open mind, seeking God's peace and kingdom living. The worst years were the ones when I was wrangling four children and a husband to get to church on time. In those days I often entered with a great deal of self-righteous anger. Nothing creates a barrier to God's word more than self-righteous anger, right? We seethe as we replay our distress over and over, knowing we are justified in our thinking and internally building our case, striving for the words that will surely convince the world of our righteousness when we have the chance to speak again.

There are other thoughts that play out in similarly hazardous ways on Sunday morning as we gather for corporate worship. We bring hurts of all kinds with us. And then we encounter fresh discomfort as we find our way to seats in the sanctuary. Maybe you question why I greeted that person and seemingly ignored you. Perhaps you are thinking others are snubbing you with their lukewarm greetings. You may compare your clothes with others' and think you have chosen better or worse. And then it may be that you are thinking, "There's someone in my seat!" Ouch!

I am troubled by these sanctuary grievances—signs of *self*-centeredness. We are to be God-centered, not self-centered. As God's people, we are heeding the command to gather for worship. Hebrews 10:24-25 declares, "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another." In worship we honor God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and we encourage one another in our faith. We grow in spiritual knowledge and strength. Our own limited vision and resources are enlarged and enhanced as we recalibrate our reasoning.

If we find ourselves thinking things like "They're in *my* seat" (or "*my* parking space"), it's time
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HAPPENINGS THIS MONTH...



Tuesday Morning Bible Study is each Tuesday at 10:00 am.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study will meet each Wednesday at 6:30 pm
EXCEPT on Wednesday, April 13th.

All are welcome to join either study at any time.

Wednesday Evening Celebration Meal

Our next Wednesday Evening Celebration Meal is scheduled for April 6 at 5:45pm. The Men & Women's Bible Study and the Discipleship Classes will be hosting.

In May the Youth will be hosting.

Love Feast

The Deacons are planning to have Love Feast on Maundy Thursday, April 14th at 7:00 pm. This is an important event in the life of the church and all are invited and encouraged to attend. If you've never been to a Love Feast before, maybe now is the time.

Sunday School: Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship: Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday,
8:30am-1:30pm

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Woodbury Food Pantry
Food for April:
Canned Veggies, Pork & Beans

Operation Christmas Child
 Suggested items for April: stuffed animals & reusable cups



A new Sunday School class has formed! The Sr. High Youth are now meeting in the Library each Sunday at 9:30am, led by Mandi Cottle. Jr. High Youth continues to meet upstairs behind the balcony.

Sr. High Sunday will be May 1st. We're looking for Sr. High students to join and participate. See Mandi Cottle for details.



The previously postponed Concert of Praise will be held here in the NECOB Sanctuary on the evening of April 24th at 7:00 pm. This is a community event sponsored by the Southern Cove Ministerium.

The NECOB Handbell Choir is planning to play that evening. Please come out and enjoy an evening of music and praise. ALL are invited and welcome!

Letters from the Library

Earth Psalms

By Francine Rivers

With Karin Stock Buursma

What could be more meaningful than pictures of **nature** coupled with the **Psalms** from the Bible? Ms. Rivers puts together a beautiful book reflecting on God's purpose in our lives with these two elements.

Ms. Rivers draws verses from both the Old & New Testaments to relate an experience of her own life and how God has blessed her.

She adds comments from different sources such as lyrics from classic and new music, authors, scientists and pastors to further illustrate God's purpose in our lives.

She chooses to challenge us with reflection, application and connection with God after each chapter. So this book can be used as a Devotional if you so choose.

Finally ending with the Psalm verse that rounds out the purpose of each chapter.

My favorites include the very first chapter titled "Faithfulness Day & Night" - Psalm 90:14. Sunrise and Sunset are a blessing each day! Giving us hope and enjoyment with a range of beautiful colors.

My second favorite is the comparison of dog and cat, titled "Staying Close to the Master" - Psalm 63:4 - 5. Both are wonderful pets but they do not react to you in the same way. Similar to how we treat God in our spiritual life.

I sincerely hope that you choose this book from the library shelves and use the verse and photos to enhance your walk with God.

~ Jeffie Singo, Church Librarian

MISSIONS

April's mission offering will be designated to Youth Ministry International's fund that has been established to provide humanitarian aid to Ukraine during this time as well as help with the evacuation of Ukrainian citizens. Teachers at Kyiv Theological Seminary are actively working with Ukrainians in crisis. Missionary couple Sam and Melissa Hughes are graduates of Southern Seminary in Louisville, KY. They have served as missionaries with Youth Ministry International in Kyiv during the last ten years, where Sam teaches Ukrainians and trains them to serve in Christian ministry with a focus on ministry to youth. Weeks ago, the Hughes evacuated to Romania, where they and other evacuated missionaries are helping local churches and individuals open their doors to the many Ukrainians crossing the border as refugees. Our financial gifts to YMI will help both those who are caught in Ukraine as well as those refugees in neighboring countries like Romania and Poland.

In March we collected for Precious Life and also took part in One Great Our of Sharing. As of March 21, we had \$340 for Precious Life. Our One Great Hour of Sharing Offering came to \$160.

~ Ed Cook, Mission Team Chair

Children's Department



Remember the old "Memory/Matching" game you played as a child? Here is the Bible story version. Girls beat the boys. We will have to have a re-match soon!

~Jeffie Singo
Children's Dept. Director



JESUS EASTER PARTY!

The children's Sunday School Department would like to welcome kids age Pre-K thru 5th Grade to join us for Sunday School on Easter Sunday (April 17th) at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. There

will be a Bible based scavenger hunt, stories, video, snacks and an Easter Egg Hunt. We would love to see you on Easter Sunday!

Easter Egg-Stravaganza

Sunday, April 10, 2022
2:00pm

Woodbury Community Center
4100 Woodbury Pike; Woodbury, PA

Hosted by Woodbury Church of the Brethren
(814)793-2288 ◆ ◆ ◆ woodburycob@atlanticbb.net

Easter Egg Hunt!



Games!

Crafts!



Easter "Sundae" Bar!



Fun activities for children ages Pre-K through 5th Grade. Attendees will be split into age groups to rotate through the different stations. We look forward to seeing you!

Organization

(These people look like they know what they're doing)

No organization

Chaotic FUN Nite!

Our next Chaotic Fun Nite is planned for Wednesday, April 13th from 6-7pm. Kids age 4- 5th grade are invited. In true Chaotic fashion, the adults in charge are still not 100% on what exactly they'll produce for fun that evening. It's looking like some sort of egg hunt but... who knows. They make no pretense that they've got it all together. They don't and they openly admit it. So just show up at NECOB at 6pm on April 13th and have fun in whatever way, shape or form presents itself!

New Stuff

NEWSLETTERS:

Beginning this year we will only have 10 newsletters per year. In July there will be a July/August newsletter and in December we will have a December/January newsletter.

The reason for this is because not much happens in the summer to warrant separate newsletters. December and January are extremely busy and stressful months in the life of a church office, though not always necessarily in the life of the church itself. December is also the time of year when any remaining vacation days get used before the year ends. Therefore the December and January newsletters will also be combined.

Any announcements or changes that come after the publishing of these newsletters will be reflected in the weekly bulletin, as they are now.

Coming Soon

SPRING FORUM:

Our annual Spring Forum will be held after worship on May 1. One of the agenda items is the approval of a recommended change to our constitution. Last fall at Forum we accidentally deleted a section concerning the moderator. Oops. We want to put that back in. The recommended changes to the constitution will be available by March 27th for review. Team leaders will need to submit their team reports to the church office on or before April 11th. Spring Forum packets will be put out for the congregation to take home and review on Easter Sunday, April 17th (two weeks before Forum on May 1st.)

VBS:

Vacation Bible School will be June 6-9 (Mon.-Thurs.) in the evenings from 6 pm to approximately 8 pm. Pre-K thru 5th Grade are invited. The theme will be Crazy People. The focus will be different examples from the Bible that showcase folks listening to God. What happens if you do? What happens if you don't? There are still positions needed for classroom helpers. Would you be willing to help? If so, please contact Susie Dainty. Susie has graciously agreed to be our VBS coordinator this year.

PICNIC AT CBD:

We've reserved the pavilion by the lake at Camp Blue Diamond on the afternoon of July 23rd. Bring the kids, family, friends, and neighbors for an afternoon of swimming and fun along with dinner. Our reservation includes a life-guard. Mark your calendar!

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for a thought adjustment. Our natural desire is for comfort, and we get comfortable with the familiarity of "our" spots at home, in the grocery parking lot, at sporting and entertainment events, and even at church. And yes, we can justify our preferences. But in worship we are not called to be comfortable. Jesus came to shake us up. (Check out Matthew 10:34-38, for example.) There are many reasons why we cannot claim a spot in the sanctuary. For one, we want to create welcome, open space for new folks. And a variety of people have to move about

from week to week because of the need to be near an aisle to assist someone, perhaps assigned as an usher, a greeter, etc. Or sometimes one needs to have easy access to a restroom. Some weeks it is good to move about to befriend a lonely or hurting soul, or to take the opportunity to catch up with another's news. Some people have even found my suggestion to change seats for different perspectives to be beneficial. We need to feel free to enter and sit without hurtful, distracting thoughts.

The reality of Sunday morning worship is that we are a gathering of flawed people, including a pastor easily distracted by varied, major and minor concerns and tasks. And most people are just as self-conscious as you, probably more so. Looks are deceiving. Trust me when I say that others think what they have to say would not be interesting to you, so they may say next to nothing. And if you knew others' secrets (for example, medical tests and decisions, loss of financial security, broken relationships, shame of past or present situations in their families, fear and anxiety of all kinds), your heart would soften.

In our worship this Sunday and into the future, let us draw near to God. Break through the barriers that hinder the Spirit's work. And Jesus Christ will be glorified in our hearts and minds and beyond.

Pastor Marlys



The Village
AT MORRISON'S COVE

Your donations and your volunteer work directly help our elderly residents who can no longer care for themselves. In 2021 alone the percentage of residents who could not afford the cost of their care rose from 65% to over 70%. We expect this

body of need to grow as concerns of the pandemic continue. Compounded by the exodus of health-care workers throughout the country and the dwindling reimbursement options for small businesses, The Village is in dire need of assistance. We ask that you consider giving a financial gift or volunteering your time to the *Campaign for Care* initiative. Volunteers are needed to assist with activities like games or puzzles; help residents write letters, read aloud to residents; play music; visit with residents one-on-one; and assist in everyday needs, such as laundry. Every monetary donation matters, with \$20 covering the cost of a warm meal and \$500 covering a resident's transportation for one month. Monetary donations can be sent to the Village at Morrison's Cove, 429 South Market St., Martinsburg, PA 16662. "Campaign for Care" can be marked in the check memo.

NECOB is in need of a Village Rep. Their job would be to act as a liaison between the Village and our church. They would make us aware of things such as the above message and be the contact person for things like ticket sales, etc. that the Village may be selling. They would submit announcements to the church office to be put in the bulletin and/or newsletter. Would you be willing to be this person? If so, please talk to Pastor Marlys or Kelly Baker at the church office.

April Anniversaries

- 3- Jeff & Kim Imes
- 4- Rick & Jeanne Defibaugh, Robert & Sandy Reffner
- 8- Shawn & Stephanie States
- 10- Rick & Janesa Bowman
- 11- Scott & Sherri Baker
- 28- Jeff & Annette Boyd

HELPING HANDS FOR APRIL

PREACHING SCHEDULE

- Apr. 3- David Stanton
- Apr. 10- Pastor Marlys
- Apr. 17- Pastor Marlys
- Apr. 24- Pastor Marlys

ACOLYTES

- Apr. 3- Isaiah Baker
- Apr. 10- Catherine Baker
- Apr. 17- Braden Cottle
- Apr. 24- Logan Cottle

WORSHIP LEADERS

- Apr. 3- Steve Cottle
- Apr. 10- Stephanie States
- Apr. 17- Robert Beach
- Apr. 24- Matthew Hall

GREETERS

- Apr. 3- Ed & Jan Cooke, Dean & Elmira Grimes
- Apr. 10- Merle & Janelle Helsel, Joan Hershberger, Betty Sue Laird
- Apr. 17- Allen & Brenda Bingenheimer, Chris & Kelly Baker
- Apr. 24- Ryan & Megan Hall, Ray & Della Mae Grubb

April Birthdays

- 1- Martha Beach
- 5- Sara Browell, Cristy Strayer
- 7- Jerry Lee Hershberger
- 10- Karen Baker
- 11- Chris Baker
- 12- Tina Walter
- 13- Lainee Sensenig
- 15- Mackenzie Dick
- 18- Mariah Hall
- 20- Merle Helsel
- 22- Marcy Smith
- 23- Frank Imler
- 25- Linda Brumbaugh, Paeden Logue
- 26- Velma Steele
- 27- Mike Baker
- 29- Logan Cottle, Wayne Muntain
- 30- Brenda Bingenheimer



SOUND TECHS

- Apr. 3- Chris Hull
- Apr. 10- Rick Defibaugh
- Apr. 17- Matt Hall
- Apr. 24- Ryan Hall

RECORDING TECHS

- Apr. 3- Rich Clemens
- Apr. 10- Mariah Hall
- Apr. 17- Mandi Cottle
- Apr. 24- Rich Clemens

CHILDREN'S STORY

- Apr. 3- Mandi Cottle
- Apr. 10- Kelly Baker
- Apr. 17- Pastor Marlys
- Apr. 24- Jeanne Defibaugh

* If you are unable to help on your scheduled Sunday, please find someone to switch with and then let the church office know.

April 2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|----------------------------|---|--|--|------------------------------------|---|
| | | <p>We covenant with God to witness in word and deed to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ as proclaimed in the New Testament, drawing people into a more personal relationship with God.</p> | | | 1 | 2 Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall Reserved |
| 3 9:30am SS 10:00 am Choir Practice 10:30am Worship 6:00pm Youth | 4 | 5 10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study | 6 Quilting 5:45 pm Wed. Eve. Celebration Meal 6:30 pm Wednesday Evening Bible Study | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 9:30am SS 10:30am Worship 6:00pm Youth <i>Palm Sunday</i> | 11 TEAM REPORTS DUE | 12 10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study | 13 Quilting 6:00 pm Chaotic Fun Nite | 14 7:00pm Love Feast Maundy Thursday | 15 Good Friday Office Closed | 16 |
| 17 9:30am SS 10:30am Worship 6:00 pm Youth <i>Resurrection SUNDAY</i> | 18 Newsletter Dead-line | 19 10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study | 20 Quilting 6:30 pm Wednesday Evening Bible Study | 21 6:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting | 22 | 23 |
| 24 9:30am SS 10:30am Worship 7:00pm Concert of Praise <i>Concert of Praise</i> | 25 | 26 | 27 Quilting 6:30 pm Wednesday Evening Bible Study | 28 | 29 | 30 |