

THE BROTHER'S KEEPER – JUNE- JULY 2023
FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN – 405 Rt. 271, LIGONIER, PA.
Phone: 724-238-6292 * Email: LCOB1888@gmail.com
Sunday School – 9:30am * Worship 10:30am



PASTOR'S NOTE ... A few short weeks after you receive this newsletter, Summer will officially begin. And while each season of the year is different, each is predictable...Summer, Fall, Winter, then Spring. It happens every year! Having said that, each day in any given season is not so predictable. It may be cooler or warmer than average. It may rain or it may not. And while extreme weather like snow in the summer is very unlikely, it often snows when least expected and we have had very warm days in the middle of the Winter.

But I know something--someone who never changes—Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and tomorrow.” (Hebrews 13:8).** In the Old Testament we read, **“For I the Lord do not change...” (Malachi 3:6a).**

While I truly enjoy the change in the seasons of the year, I am thankful that the God of all creation does not change. He created those things that need to change, and He created those things that need to stay the same. And while most things change over time, I am thankful that the Lord's expectations of all of us **DO NOT CHANGE**. We aren't expected to hit a moving target. We have the Ten Commandments that have remained valid for several thousand years and we have the teachings of Jesus that are as relevant today as they were 2,000 years ago. And the plan of Salvation has been clearly spelled out—we are saved by Grace through Faith not by our own doing but as a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8), from the God who does not change His mind.

I don't know about you, but I would much rather follow our Lord and our God than try to keep up with the ever-changing values of an imperfect society, which often fails the Biblical test of what is right and what is wrong.

Stick with the Winner for all eternity! Stick with Jesus - Summer, Fall, Winter and Spring!!!

MARK YOUR CALENDER - THERE WILL BE AN EXECUTIVE BOARD

MEETING ON SUNDAY, JUNE 4. The Chairman, Dick Jones, will be leading the meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

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THE CHILDREN BLESSED OUR WORSHIP SERVICE on Mother's Day with Special



Music ... They practice a song each Sunday before Sunday School with Stacey, Kara and Pam. They do a great job. Also included in their sharing, they usually recite a Bible Verse or hold up pictures that highlights their song. Thank you Pam, Kara, and Stacey for your leadership. The children are such a blessing – and there are so many of them!!

RITA'S CLOSET IS OPEN EVERY MONDAY FROM 10AM – 5PM - This ministry continues to help individuals and families in our community. Community organizations are becoming aware of Rita's Closet ministry and are making use of it through their donations and referrals. The donations of clothing (for ALL ages), children's items, and household goods continue to be donated. Want to volunteer to help? Contact Darlene.

2023 SUMMER CAMP AT CAMP HARMONY – HERE WE COME – Camp Theme:

“Adventure & Fun With An Eternal Purpose” --- AND, WOULD YOU BE

INTERESTED IN SPONSORING A CHILD OR YOUTH to attend Camp Harmony this summer? Camps are organized by age and sibling discounts & scholarships are available! The tuition cost is \$380 per camper and is completely covered by donors or the Church. If you would like to make a donation, please earmark your check or donation to “Camp Harmony Tuition.” Also, would you be willing to provide transportation to and from Camp for our daily campers? Please see Michelle Black if you can help in any way. The children will be blessed and you will be too! See the flyers in the Church!

CONGRATULATIONS TO DOMINICK BOYD, the Grandson of Barry & Mary

Boyd. Dominick is a senior this year and was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society on January 31st. He is studying Computer Engineering at EWTC. Congratulations to Dominick and his family. These are proud moments for Dominick and his family.

THE CHURCH HAD A LOVELY “SEND OFF” IN HONOR OF

DAVID FISH. David moved back home to Kentucky in May. He will be missed here at the Church. His new address is: Cypress Cove RV Park, 289 Lakeview Cabins Drive, New Concord, KY 42076 (He plans to do a lot of fishing!)





And take note of Sherry Boyd's new address come the end of June. She's moving closer to the church! **412 Route 271, Ligonier, Pa. 15658**

ATTENTION MEN! – Don't forget the Men's Breakfast on the second Saturday of the month. Come to the beautiful, newly remodeled Church Fellowship Room for the **Men's Breakfast at 9:00AM**. Our June speaker is Shane Smith. He will be talking about his work in the prison system. We're sure it will be interesting! Join us.

LADIES: JOIN US ON THURSDAY MORNINGS from 9:30am – noon for “Sunshine Stitchers”. We begin our morning with a devotional reading and prayer. Our hands are always busy making prayer shawls, dish cloths, (yes, we're still making them!), and wall hangings for in the sanctuary (have you noticed?).

... **AND, WHILE THE LADIES ARE STITCHING, POOR PASTOR JOHN** is in his office working on Bible Study or his Sermon. You don't need to call ahead – just drop in for a visit and a cup of coffee. He'd be thrilled to have you visit!



“THESE BOOTS WERE MADE FOR WALKING, (WE'RE CHANGING THAT TO “SHOES”!) AND THAT'S JUST WHAT THEY'LL DO ...” Do

you remember this popular song from the 60's or 70's – sung by Nancy Sinatra?! (Now we're dating ourselves!) Twelve bags of boots and shoes were delivered to the District Office in May. Funds from the recycling of the shoes/boots go to “Funds to Orgs” that supports the Honduras Orphanages. Some shoes and/or boots are repurposed and given to villagers to open businesses and stores in their area. Pretty neat to learn what that pair of boots and/or shoes can do to help others isn't it? So, don't toss those old boots or shoes, bring them to the Church. We'll take care of them from there. (And one more tidbit of unimportant information: The song by Nancy Sinatra was released in 1966!!! If you remember the song, and if you're brave, wave your hand!!!) Thank you for your donations and support of this ministry.

THE YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS has been learning about Peter and his loyalty to Jesus. They attempted to grow seeds to bear fruit or flowers, however, our thumbs are black instead of green! Planting seeds is a representation of the Disciples' work. We can plant seeds by telling others about Jesus, praying and spreading the Good News. They thoroughly enjoyed greeting everyone during April and are extremely appreciative of the donated snacks and water for our class! - By: Kara Boyd

OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY GROUP will be studying the Letters of John. “Unlike Paul's letters, I John has no opening address or closing greeting; but it is indeed written as a personal letter.” Some call it a “loving and anxious sermon, written by one who loved his people.” We're looking forward to another interesting and thought-provoking Study (as they all are). Join us for this new study venture as we walk through the Scriptures. We meet Wednesday evening at 6:30pm for an hour. (Just a reminder: we serve coffee, tea, and snacks!!)



WOMEN'S CRAFTS AND LUNCH – SUNDAY AFTER CHURCH ON JUNE 11

The Women's Fellowship will be working hard throughout the summer to host the Fall Festival previously known as the Bazaar. Join us on Saturday, October 7 from 9am – 1pm for food, crafts, and fun under the pavilion and in the Fellowship Hall. The Women's Fellowship is offering lunch, soup, baked goods, unused and in new condition home goods, lemonade stand, and a kids' table complete with a tie-dye station. We are excited to bring back this annual tradition! - From: Kara Boyd, Women's Fellowship President

WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO "ADVENTURE DAY" - SATURDAY,

JUNE 17 from 8:30am – 2pm - Darlene Rummel has been busy planning and looking for volunteers for this Church & community event held on our church grounds. This is a fun day as we welcome those in our community to join us. This year fishing will be offered along with other fun and creative activities. BUT, a lot of hands are needed. Six people are needed for kids' groups, and the games and the butterfly tent. Please let Darlene know you'll be there to help. Put a few of the flyers she had made up in your community and businesses! And if you can't be at Adventure Day, please keep this ministry in your prayers.

REMEMBER FATHER'S DAY IS SUNDAY, JUNE 18th.

"SWEET, SWEET, LOVE" "An old fellow fell in love with a beautiful lady. He got down on his knees and told her there were two things he would like to ask her. She replied, "OK."

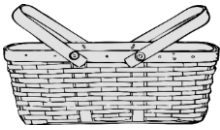
He said: "Will you marry me?" "Yes, Oh Yes" she said. She then asked what his second question was. He replied, "Will you help me get up!!!"

THE CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING will be held on Sunday, June 25 following the Worship Service. ALL are encouraged to attend.

OUR CONGREGATION IS MOURNING THE LOSS OF THREE

SPECIAL WOMEN who touched our lives ... Our dear friend Joanne Filson lost her battle with cancer, and is now home with the Lord. Lois Kinsey and Rev. Bertha Hironimus were called to their heavenly home. They both were women of faith, with Lois being faithful to Sunday School and Bible Study. Bertha also was a woman of faith and an Ordained Minister, having served our Church for a while. All three loved the Lord, the Church, their families and friends. They will be sorely missed. Please keep their families in your prayers.





FOR THE PAST SEVERAL SUMMERS we have had a joint Worship Service with the Roxbury Church of the Brethren and our congregation. On Sunday, July 9th, all are invited to drive over the mountain to the Shaffer Farm and join us for Worship at 10:30am. There will be hymn singing, spending time in prayer, Scripture reading and a Message shared by Pastor James from the Roxbury Congregation. And don't forget - food and fellowship too! Following our meal, anyone who would like to go on an old-fashioned hayride to the top of the hill on the farm can just climb onboard. It is so much fun and the view from the top is amazing – God's beautiful creation! (Wear casual clothes!) And we might see a few cows and calves! The kids can play in the yard, or in the tree house while the adults enjoy the outdoors and the fellowship. At the last picnic Pastor John's and Susan's Grandson Johnny got his jeep out (that Pastor John built for him) and gave the kids rides. He'll be doing that again. Bring a covered dish to share – hot dogs, hamburgers, condiments, beverages, paper plates, plasticware, and napkins will be provided. Bring your lawn chairs. Come and join us for a wonderful time of Worship, Fellowship, Fun, Food and praising our Lord outside surrounded by his beautiful creation. Folks of ALL ages are invited – 466 Meadow Drive, Johnstown.

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS ... THE BRETHREN VOLUNTEER SERVICE (BVS) 2023 PROJECT BOOK has arrived – “Sharing God's love through acts of service” is the core of **BRETHREN VOLUNTEER SERVICE**” The program is grounded in the Christian faith and has a Spiritual Dimension through their work.” BVS was founded by youth in 1948 and was created in response to the devastation caused by World War II. It was designed to provide opportunities for young people to serve and make a positive difference in the world.” The booklet is in the Narthex. Check it out!

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THE BOYS' BASEBALL SEASON IS ALMOST OVER, BUT THERE ARE STILL SOME GAMES LEFT FOR YOU TO WATCH IN LIGONIER. ENJOY AND CHEER THEM ON! The boys in our church have been busy playing baseball – and they're great. Pam suggested we print the dates for their remaining games and so we are. Take a lawn chair and go and watch them play in the Ligonier ballfields. Go to the concession stand and buy a hot dog or other snacks. See abbreviated schedule on this page and continued on the next page. We are so proud of these boys!

#17 BROCK - LIGONIER EXPOS (Continued on next page!)

5/30	6:00pm	Vs. Derry Yankees	Don A
6/1	6:00pm	Vs. U3	Don A
6/6	6:00pm	Vs. US3	F1

#17 BROCK - LIGONIER EXPOS

6/13	6:00pm	Vs. U5	F1
6/15	8:00pm	Vs . U4	Don A

#7 PARKER – LIGONIER DIAMONDBACKS

5/25	6:00pm	@ Little League Field	Final Game
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#30 ROMAN – LIGONIER HIGH SCHOOL BANDITS

5/30	6:00pm	* 6/1	6:30pm	*	6/19	6:00pm
		6/21	6:00pm	*	6/23	7:00pm

NOTE: Roman recently traveled to Carolina Beach, North Carolina with his travel baseball team - Bovard Bandits. His team stayed with a church for 4 days and helped clean-up the landscaping around the Church, played in 3 games and visited a training facility for 2 hours of batting instructions. In addition to baseball, the boys enjoyed the beach, boardwalk, and worship. He returned home exhausted and ready for his upcoming tournaments with the Bandits and Ligonier Junior Legion Post 267 season. His number for the Legion Team is #2.

BILLY CRAWFORD earned 2 Gold Medals and 1 Silver Medal at the Special Olympics Regional Event. Congratulations Billy and all of our boys. Way to go!!! They make us so proud.

PASTOR JOHN’S AND SUSAN’S Grandchildren Johnny and Morgan competed in tennis this year for the Westmont School District. This was Johnny’s first season playing tennis for Westmont. Morgan will be going off to Westminster College (her mother’s Alma Mater), where she’ll be playing tennis (and hopefully studying!). We are so proud of them! One more note: Morgan received the Girl Scout “Gold Award” at a Ceremony on Sunday, May 7th. It was a great moment for her and her family (including Grammie and Poppy!). We have two younger Grandchildren who we are very proud of – Connor plays baseball (he loves being the catcher, and he hits well). Keira is very involved in Cheerleading and she loves crafts. We wonder if they get their skills from their Grandparents??? Who else????!!!!

JUST A NOTE: MORGAN’S GOLD AWARD PROJECT was providing opportunities for children in Johnstown to learn how to play tennis. She decided to host a week-long tennis camp for children. Hoping to increase interest in the sport, she provided all the necessary equipment needed to teach the game and improve skills. She even provided tennis rackets and balls! A healthy lunch was provided each day thanks to donations from local businesses. The tennis camp will be offered annually, thanks to the commitment of area high school tennis players and coaches.

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OUR CHURCH OUTREACH: Our outreach for June is Sportsmen Fellowship Ministries, Inc., led by Frank Young. Several children from our congregation attend Sportsmen's Ministry, learning to use a bow. Frank would love you to stop in for a visit! In July our outreach will be Valley Youth Network. And looking into August, our outreach will be Camp Harmony.



WE HAVE A NEW FLOWER COORDINATOR: Casey Kwak will now be taking care of our flower orders. Her phone number is 724-610-7555. Give her a call if you want to place flowers in the sanctuary. Thanks Casey for taking on this responsibility for the Church. And thank you to Michelle for a job well done as our past Flower Coordinator.

WE HAVE A NEW JOB DESCRIPTION – “FACEBOOK GURU”

SAMANTHA “SAM” PEIFFER ! We're catching up with the 21st Century! Sam will keep our Facebook Page updated with activities and program information going on at the Church. She'll be posting Church program information. It's another way of letting folks know about our Church, our programs and services. Thank you Sam. Stacey is our WebPage expert and among other information, she posts the Church Newsletter. It's so great having young, smart people who understand technology as part of our Church family!!



PRAYER CHAIN: Our prayer chain is always active as folks call for prayer requests. The “One Call Now” system that Pastor John uses is a great program. He places the request on One Call Now” and it goes out to all enrolled all at once. If the line is busy, One Call Now tries again later (on its own!!). If you would like to be a member of the Prayer Chain let Pastor John know and he'll add you to the contacts. If you have a prayer request, Pastor John will take care of that too. Just give him a call. Your prayer request can be added in an instant and prayer will be lifted! Isn't technology great!!!

“A GRADUATE’S PRAYER”

Dear Father, I have knowledge so will you show me now how to use it wisely and find a way somehow to make the world I live in a little better place and make life with its problems a bit easier to face. And show me how to serve Thee in the most effective ways so all my education, my knowledge, and my skills may find their true fulfillment, as I learn to do Thy will. And may I ever be aware in everything I do that knowledge comes from learning and wisdom comes from you.”



FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
405 ROUTE 271
LIGONIER, PA. 15658-9245

CHURCH WEB SITE: www.Ligonierfirstcob.org

**PLEASE JOIN US EACH AND
EVERY**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

**9:30AM – CLASSES FOR
PRE-SCHOOL THROUGH
ADULT STUDY**

SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:30AM

WORSHIP – 10:30AM

**BIBLE STUDY –
WEDNESDAY @ 6:30PM
EVERYONE WELCOME!**

**LIGONIER FIRST CHURCH
OF BRETHREN** is a
community of believers who
seek to walk passionately with
Christ -reaching out in His
name – preaching and sharing
His gospel and teaching all to
love Him.