**ROTHER’S KEEPER –**

**THE BROTHER’S KEEPER – OCTOBER \* NOVEMBER 2022**

**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**

**AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2022**

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***From the Pastor’s Desk …*** I know I write a lot about the seasons of the year…but Fall just happens to be one of my favorite times of the year. The leaves change colors, the temperature moderates and the constant cutting of the lawn eases up! And perhaps the best “kick-off” to the Fall happens to be the first Sunday of October—World Communion Sunday. And why is that such a big deal?

First, we once again celebrate the sacrifice Christ made for all of us. It is a gift that has eternal blessings. The broken body and shed blood are a whole lot more than a piece of unleavened bread and a little grape juice. It is life and life eternal for those who accept Christ as Lord of their lives.

Second, in Brethren Tradition, it is an opportunity to gather for a simple meal with those of like precious faith. How powerful is that, knowing that Jesus is right there with us. In fact, we gather at the table at His invitation.

Third, by washing one another’s feet, not to get them clean, but to remember that we are all equal, that we are all servants, and we all receive the same blessing from God in service to each other.

Fourth, and this is a special blessing of World Communion Sunday.

No matter how many times we share communion during the course of the year. No matter what our denominational differences, Protestant or Catholic, we put aside those differences and become one in Christ on World Communion Sunday. Isn’t that how it should be? Isn’t that how it should be every day?

It would be simple to do if we would just put aside our differences and emphasize Christ and Christ alone. Read through the words of that great hymn “In Christ Alone” and you will get a glimpse of what is singularly important about the Christian faith. I think you will agree, Jesus the Christ is what it is all about.

**GOD BLESS YOU** – From: Pastor John

**JUST A REMINDER: DO YOU HAVE A PRAISE OR PRAYER REQUEST?** Call Pastor John at home (814-255-7838) or his cell (610-413-1997). He’ll put your request on our Prayer Chain and the prayer warriors will lift your prayer request to our Father in Heaven. If you aren’t a part of the Prayer Chain and would like to be, give Pastor John a call. He’ll gladly add you to the prayer chain.

**THE NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY FOR 2022** has been printed and placed in your mailbox. If you didn’t get a copy, or if you would like an extra one or two, there are extra copies on top of the mailboxes or see Pastor John. If you see any mistakes or corrections that need to be made, or if there are any additions that should be included, please put a note in Pastor John’s mailbox, or give him a call. We’ll be printing a Directory “Corrections Insert” that will include corrections and additions.

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**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO CAROL WOLFORD** for making our tablecloths for the Fellowship Room. Alberta, a friend of Pastor John and Susan from the Roxbury Congregation, gave a huge bolt of white lacy fabric to the Church. When the stitching ladies saw the fabric, they all agreed the fabric would make beautiful tablecloths. It was suggested we ask Carol Wolford to make them, and she did a great job! Everything fell into place!! (Clear plastic was purchased to cover the tablecloths to keep them clean.) Several of the ladies placed the tablecloths on the tables for all to see a few Sundays ago. They look great. A special thank you to Carol for making the tablecloths, thank you to the ladies who put the tablecloths on the tables for a sneak preview, and to our friend Alberta for donating the fabric. Don’t you love it when everything falls into place!!

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**THE “LETTER” FOR THIS EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER IS THE LETTER “B”!!** “The Bat came down from the Belfry to join in Bible Study. We hope the bat went back to where he came from!!” You might be saying, “What are you talking about?” Well, a bat visited our Bible Study class several weeks ago! We were finished with our study for the evening, and all of a sudden a bat “zoomed” into the Fellowship Room! We have no idea where it came from??? What a surprise. What a shock! Some people headed for the door, but the men were so brave! They asked for a broom and they swung that thing left and right as the bat zoomed around and around, avoiding the strike of the broom. Strike 1. Strike 2. Thankfully for us, they got rid of the bat. They were our heroes! So sorry for the bat!! We know the bat is part of God’s creation, but we really didn’t want it in the Fellowship Room of the Church flying around our heads! We hear the Scouts for the Pittsburgh Pirates are trying to get in touch with the broom-swinging men to ask them to join the Pirates in the spring!! Or maybe the Scout was from the Reading Phillies!! Way to go guys!!! What a way to close our hour of Bible Study!

From: Debbie McInchok, Our Creative Writer (Maybe we can get her to do the Newsletter – again!!)

**AND DON’T FORGET!** We meet every Wednesday at 6:30pm for a great hour of study and discussion. Right now, we’re studying the Book of Proverbs – and it’s never too late to join us. During and following our study we have snacks … and sometimes visitors from God’s creation after we close!!! It’s never too late in the study to join the group. We love to see new folks – and the last time we looked, there are about 10 tables in the fellowship room and loads of chairs – so we have room for you and more! Come and join us!

**“For reservations to heaven, please enter J-O-H-N followed by the numbers 316.”**

**WORLDWIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY** is October 2. Immediately following the Worship Service all Christians are invited and encouraged to attend the Service in the Fellowship Room. We lift a special thank you to the Deacon Board for planning and preparing for this very special Service.

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**THE 7 “I AM” Statements of Jesus**”

**“I AM** THE BREAD OF LIFE**”**

Jesus is the only One who can satisfy us forever. (John 6:30)

**“I AM** THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD**”**

Jesus is our hope and source of goodness in this dark world. (John 8:12)

**“I AM** THE DOOR**”**

Jesus is our access to heaven (John 10:9)

“**I AM** THE GOOD SHEPHERD”

Jesus saves and protects those who believe in Him. (John 10:11)

**“I AM** THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE”

Jesus will raise believers back to life after death for eternity.” (John 11:25)

**“I AM** THE VINE”

Jesus is the source of Spiritual Life. (John 15:1)

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**WE ASKED JEANNE BOYD** if she would share some of her recipes for the Brother’s Keeper. She graciously shared three recipes. You’ll find them throughout the Newsletter.

**Recipe #1 – NORMA’S COOKIES**

 2 cups Brown Sugar 1 cup Shortening

 1 tsp. Baking Soda 1 tsp. Vanilla

 2 Eggs 3 ½ cups of Flour

 1 cup Sour Milk

 Bake at 350 degrees. Makes 4 dozen cookies.

We know there are a lot of good cooks and bakers in our congregation (and Pastor John probably has taste tested most of that good cooking and baking!!). Please go through your recipe box and share a few of your recipes with us to put in the Church Newsletter.

(If any of the ladies (or men) would like to share a recipe, (and be published!) please place it in Pastor John’s & Susan’s mailbox.)

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**CHURCH NEWS IN BRIEF – PART II**

… **JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY** –Wednesday evening at 6:30pm. Continuing our study of the Book of Proverbs. Study sheets are provided – and snacks!!

… New officers in the Women’s Fellowship: PRESIDENT – KARA BOYD … VICE PRESIDENT – (THIS POSITION IS STILL OPEN) – TREASURER – MARY BOYD - CO-SECRETARIES – CONNIE MCCOY & SUSAN SHAFFER. These ladies are awfully busy!! Be watching and listening for new activities being planned.

… There are still some RATA items if you’re interested in purchasing anything. The box is sitting in the Sunday School wing – and remember – everything is half price – (who doesn’t love a bargain – right?! See Pam or Mary if you’re interested in anything. There isn’t much left, so move fast!!!

**…** Stitchers continue meet to stitch (and talk!!) on Thursday morning at 9am in the Fellowship Room.

… The men continue to gather for their Prayer Breakfast on the 2nd Saturday of the month. Breakfast is served at 9am in the fellowship room. No reservations required!

… Becky and Tom went on a fantastic camping trip out west. See Becky’s article elsewhere in the Newsletter! Glad they stayed safe and had a good time.

… Western Pa. District Conference will be held Saturday, October 15th at Camp Harmony.

… When you stop in the backyard, notice how lovely our grounds look – flowers, the benches, hanging baskets, a wheelbarrow with a bale of straw and flowers. (Shhh! Here’s a secret: David makes the grounds look so pretty with the flowers and decorations!) We thank God for His lovely creation. And thank you David for your efforts.

**HAVE YOU BEEN IN THE BACK YARD OF THE CHURCH LATELY?** There’s been a lot of work going on! The pavilion has been completed - it’s beautiful and awesome! Tables and chairs have been purchased and are already in place for the **Pavilion Dedication and Pig Roast on Sunday, October 9 immediately following the Worship Service**. Everyone is invited to come and celebrate the completion of the project and enjoy the love and fellowship (and good food!). Please come and join us for Sunday School at 9:30am and Worship with us at 10:30am, and stay for the celebration, fellowship, and Pig Roast that follows.

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**CHEESECAKE TARTS**

Mix together:

2 – 8 oz. Cream Cheese 1 tsp. Vanilla

2 Eggs ¾ cup Sugar

Place Keebler vanilla wafers in foil cup. Add mix. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Top with “Thank You” brand cherries. (2 batches of cookies take 3 cans of pie filling.) Use aluminum foil midget cupcake cups (Murphy’s).

 From: Jeanne Boyd

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**JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30AM** each and every Sunday. We have classes for pre-school children through adults. If we all had the enthusiasm for coming to Sunday School to learn more about God as the young children have, our classes would be packed! Set your alarm an hour early on Sunday morning and join us for Sunday School. And, Sunday School isn’t just for kids! Come on adults! JUST A NOTE: Notice the colored pages on the bulletin board across from the mailboxes. Our children did a fabulous job coloring – let them know you noticed their work!



**TRAVELERS TOM AND JONI** shared some highlights of their trip. “Tom and I went out west for the month of August in our RV. We had a wonderful time. God has made some beautiful country! Long trip to get to Wyoming! In Wyoming we stopped at the Grand Tetons National Park and then to Yellowstone National Park. On to Montana to Glacier National Park. We hiked in the Grand Tetons to Hidden Waterfall. In Yellowstone we took the “Wake Up To Wildlife Tour” in a 1938 yellow school bus! We saw antelope, bison, and wolves no bear, but every night in our campground we saw elk! At Glacier we took the Red Bus Tour (1938 too!!). When we stopped we were able to stand on the seats to look around. We went the entire “Going to the Sun Road” and back. Our tour guide was excellent. I was also thankful we weren’t driving as there is basically go guard rail with the cliffs straight down just to the right. I tried not to look! The mountains, streams, glaciers, and lakes were just beautiful. We went through Idaho and Washington to Oregon and the Columbia River Gorge. We were on Route 30 (our Route 30!) – very curvy and with lots of waterfalls. Tom got to windsurf in the Columbia River. Next we headed to the Oregon coast. Lots of gorgeous scenery with State Parks, cliffs, mountains, beaches, rocks, seals, and whales along the way. We had to stop at the Tillimook Cheese Factory and try some cheese! Unfortunately, the ice cream line was too long! Our last stop was Crater Lake National Park. The blue of the lake was incredible due to how deep the lake is. We drove the 33 miles around the lake which is a caldera. Wonderful trip! I recommend it for everyone! We thank everyone for all of your thoughts and prayers on our recent trip out west. We had no difficulties and we didn’t even break down!” Joni shared two photos from her trip. Check out the bulletin board in the Fellowship Room. Be sure to take a look!

 Thank You Joni and Tom for sharing highlights of your trip for the Church Newsletter! So glad you had a fun and safe trip enjoying God’s creation.

After typing Joni’s article about the vacation she and Tom took, we couldn’t help but think of the hymn **“For the Beauty of the Earth”**. ***“For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies. For the love which from our birth over and around us lies; Lord of all to Thee we raise. This our hymn of grateful praise.” Amen****.*

**THE SYMPATHIES OF THE CHURCH**are with Kris Kinsey and the family as they mourn the passing of Sue. Sue fought a tough battle with cancer, but was always upbeat and positive and so appreciative for all the people did for her over the cancer journey years. Sue is the daughter or Lori Derk. Please keep Kris, Lori, Sue’s son, brothers and the entire family in your thoughts and prayers. This is a portion of the obituary written by her husband Kris in memory of Sue who entered the gates of heaven on September 26, 2022.

[This Photo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_birds_of_Wisconsin) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)

 ***“Sue fought her battle with ovarian cancer as she lived her life with immense faith a focused determination, an abundance of love, and a deep and appreciation for everyone around her. To have known Sue was to understand gentleness, compassion, and warmth. In her presence you could feel her bright eyes and sense her smile deep in your soul. She was an amazing, caring person and will be greatly missed.”***

**“And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7**

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**THE NEXT TIME YOU SEE ALLISTER** (Traci’s and Michelle’s Grandson) give him a high-5 and a pat on the back. He was fishing and he caught the biggest fish of anyone in the group! Way to go Allister. (Did the Black family have fish for dinner??!! Why weren’t we invited!!)

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**DON’T FORGET ABOUT THE STITCHERS** – They meet each Thursday from 9:00am – noon. Join us in the Fellowship Room. We do keep busy – stitching, talking, sewing, talking, snacking, stitching and more eating! What fun!! We begin with devotions and a prayer then we get to work!! 9:00am Thursday morning in the Fellowship Room. Join us.

**POOR PASTOR JOHN** sits in the office (working?!) and doesn’t get many visitors. David refers to him as the lonely Maytag Repair Man!!! He would love it if someone would stop in for a visit – a cup of coffee and some conversation, a prayer. Please come and visit him – then he won’t have time to come to the fellowship room to interrupt our “stitching”!! But if he didn’t come to visit us we would miss him!

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**JUST A NOTE OF THANKS** to those who share their abundance from their gardens and chicken coops! On Wednesday evening at Bible Study, there are often fresh garden vegetables and Johnstown farm eggs brought in for anyone to take. Bob and Sharon had a good garden this year and they brought their bounty in to share. Pastor John’s chickens have been producing an abundance of eggs – and his cousin Roger who also raises chickens on his farm has shared some of his eggs with Pastor John to bring to the Church. Soooo – don’t just come for the food and fellowship – come to Bible Study to learn more about our God and Savior.

**THE NEWS ABOUT OUR OWN ELAINE BOYD TOOK US BY SURPRISE – AND TOOK HER BY SURPRISE TOO!** Russ Olsen lived with Elaine and her family as a young boy for several years, while he attended Ligonier School District. He went off to college and attended Robert Morris University and graduated in 1982. Here is the news wonderful news!!

**From the Newsroom of Robert Morris University, Thursday, September 22, 2022 …**

**“RUSS OLSEN MAKES MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR PLEDGE IN SUPPORT OF THE ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY”** … **The Library will be named “The Elaine Boyd Library”**, and the pledge will support library improvements and student services. The President of the University, Michelle Patrick said, “This is a great day for Robert Morris University. Our library is the intellectual heart of the University and a key driver in the academic success of our students.” “Through his incredible generosity, Russ has ensured that the **Elaine Boyd Library** will continue to meet the needs of our students and the entire campus community far into the future. Russ Olsen most recently served as Chief Executive Officer of Triad Life Sciences, Inc., an emerging regenerative medicine company with a groundbreaking FDA-cleared technology platform engineered to address unmet clinical needs in complex surgical wounds, chronic stalled wounds, and burns. Russ graduated from Robert Morris University with a degree in Management and has over 35 years of experience in executive management, sales, and marketing. Isn’t this great. What an honor. Congratulations Elaine. You just never know how you touch someone’s life.

**FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**

**405 ROUTE 271**

**LIGONIER, PA. 15658-9245**



**LIGONIER FIRST CHURCH OF THE 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.**

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR …**

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

**WORSHIP - 10:30AM**

**BIBLE STUDY – WED. 6:30PM**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**