

THE BROTHER'S KEEPER – DECEMBER 2022 * JANUARY 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

The Pastor's Note...

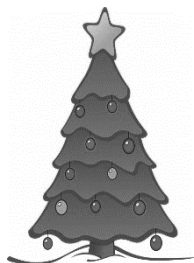


Does it really get “old” and routine or is it fresh and vibrant each and every year? The celebration of Christmas that is! (For almost 1700 years, Christmas has been celebrated and considered a holiday. It was established by Roman Emperor Constantine in the year 336 AD.)

I would submit that if we look at Christmas as a day off work, getting the gifts we put on our list and pigging out at the dinner table, perhaps we need to take another look at it! This Advent Season we are taking a look at God's greatest and most gracious Gift ever given to anyone, anywhere and it is for everyone, everywhere. And the best part of this Gift is that it lasts forever. Think about it a bit. Two thousand years ago Jesus entered this world to die for our sins and provide guidance for our lives on a 24/7 basis. What that means is that the 2000 year old gift is a gift that keeps on giving. It is new every day. And our salvation is forever!

Think for a moment how Jesus has been a part of your life *over the past year* in *new and amazing ways*! Maybe there was advice given to you as a result of prayer. Was there a healing in you or in your family—physically, spiritually or emotionally? Have relationships with others and with God been enhanced? Maybe your dire financial situation has improved dramatically! Perhaps your increased devotion to the Word of God has brought you real joy in your life. Maybe you have been leaning on the leading of the Holy Spirit in a more significant way

The point is simply this. If you think about it for just a moment or two, I guarantee that the Christmas celebration will be fresh and vibrant this year and every year! Actually, if we think about it for more than a moment or two, it will be fresh and vibrant every day! MERRY CHRISTMAS 365- 24/7.



**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AND CANDLELIGHT SERVICE &
COMMUNION, DECEMBER 24 AT 7:00PM. Come and celebrate the birth
of Jesus with us.**

JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON AS WE EXPLORE OUR ADVENT
THEME - "GOD'S GREATEST, GRACIOUS GIFT"

November 27 – "Christ Is Coming"	Luke 21:25-36
December 4 – "Prepare the Way of the Lord"	Luke 3:1-6
December 11 – "He Preached Good News"	Luke 3:7-18
December 18 – "The Christmas Song"	Luke 1:39-55
December 24 – "The First Christmas Message"	Luke 2:1-20
December 25 - "The Gospel of Christmas"	John 1:1-18



The Greatest Gift ever given.

A Gift that literally keeps on giving – an Eternal Gift.

THE CHILDREN OF THE CHURCH HAVE STARTED PRACTICING for the Christmas Play under the direction of Darlene Rummel. They had their first practice and they were so excited, deciding on parts and costumes. They will be meeting each Sunday at the start of the Sunday School hour. A special thank you to the children for their enthusiasm and to Darlene for working with the children. Plan to join us on Sunday, December 18 during the Worship Service for their performance! You'll love it

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS – Michelle Black will be taking your orders for Christmas plants/flowers to beautify the sanctuary for Christmas. Please see her if you're interested in placing an order.

THE POINSETTIA is considered "the flower of Christmas Eve."

There is a story about a little boy named Pablo who was on his way to visit the manger at the church in his village. Having no offering to make, he gathered up some unadorned green branches that grew along the road. The other children made fun of him, but when he laid the poinsettia branches by the manger, each branch was graced with a brilliant red star-shaped flower.



- Copied from "A Christmas Companion"

CHRISTMAS CAKE

1 cup of thanks to God	2 cups sacrifice for others
1 cup good thoughts	3 cups well beaten thoughts
3 cups forgiveness	of compassion
1 cup kind deeds	

Mix thoroughly, add tears of joy, sorrow, and sympathy for others. Flavor with little gifts of love and kindly service. Fold in 4 cups of prayer and faith to lighten other ingredients and rise to great heights of Christian living. Bake well at a high degree of human kindness and serve with a warm smile. Be blessed and enjoy. Merry Christmas!

THANK YOU

EVERY SUNDAY WHEN WE COME TO CHURCH the Sunday Bulletin is in the Narthex, and some copies are at the mailboxes – faithfully! We probably don’t think about it much – we sit in our pew, open the bulletin, read the schedule for the morning Worship Service and look through the announcements and activities for the week. Elaine has been typing the bulletin and recently announced that she will be retiring from that responsibility. We thank her for her dedication and work. And we thank Pam for stepping up to take over the job of “Bulletin Secretary”. When you see Elaine and Pam at Worship, give them a big thank you for their work. It’s very much appreciated. (And, by the way, Pam could use some help! See Pam.)



WE REMIND YOU EVERY MONTH BECAUSE WE DON’T WANT YOU TO FORGET!! ... Join us for Sunday School at 9:30am – classes for children (pre-school) (led by loving teachers) through adults of **ALL** ages (led by Ed Wedge). It’s never too late to join in – you’ll be warmly welcomed. And join us for Worship at 10:30am.

A FEW CORRECTIONS FOR THE 2022-2023 CHURCH DIRECTORY AND SOME ADDITIONS. We still have extra copies of the directory if you would like one. See Pastor John.

- DEEMER, RUSS - Remove phone number
- DERK, DOLORES (Lori) – Add: C/O Jim & **Laura** Derk
- GEISEY, JOSH – Address – **121** Hearts Lane
- OMETZ, JOE & ROSEANNE – Remove question marks! The number listed is their home number.
- MATTHEW RUMMEL – 1550 Wilder Ave., Apt. 1306, Honolulu, HI 96822 (By the way - He’s doing real well in school!!)
- WOLFORD, BILL – Bill’s wife is Carol – **NOT** Carolyn (Sorry Carol!)
- ZIMMERMAN, COLEEN – Cell #: 724-640-1373 * Home #: 724-995-8574
- ZIMMERMAN, MICHAEL – Cell #: 724-875-5334

BIRTHDAY LISTING: **ADD** – Eleanor McVicker – Birthday January 18

Zachary McVicker – Birthday June 23

Allister McVicker – Birthday July 16

Kami McVicker - Birthday July 22

Ryan Deemer - Birthday October 30

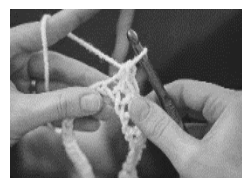
DEACON BOARD – Please remove Lyle Boyd

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP – Treasurer – Please remove Roseanne Ometz.

JOHN RHODES has been faithfully worshiping with us the past several months. Please add his address to the new directory: 1254 Harvey Road, Ligonier, Pa. 15658

BIBLE STUDY - DON’T FORGET! We meet every Wednesday at 6:30pm and we’re continuing our study in the Book of Proverbs – it’s never too late to join us. Come and meet us in the Fellowship Room.

THE STITCHERS meet on Thursday morning at 9:30am. We would love to have you join us in the Fellowship Room. Even if you don’t crochet, knit, quilt, or sew – stop in and say “Hi!”

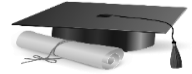




THE SYMPATHIES OF THE CHURCH are with Coleen Zimmerman as her dear mother, Freda Layton passed away. Coleen, Calvin and the family would like to thank the folks at the Church for all of their prayers and concerns during Freda's time at Bethlen Home and on her passing. Thanks to Pastor John and Susan and others for their visits to see Freda regularly. She really enjoyed having company. -Coleen "Da"

... AND A JOY FOR COLLEEN "DA" ZIMMERMAN AND THE FAMILY ... Her youngest Grandchild graduated from Ligonier Valley

High School with honors in June 2022. He is attending St. Vincent College on a scholarship, studying Biology. He hopes to become a Veterinarian. Colleen's oldest Grandson Michael Taylor, Jr., graduated with honors in May 2022 from Pt. Park with a degree in Animation. The parents are Michael and Melissa, and Grandmother (Da) Coleen. Congratulations to ALL – These are proud moments.



"YOU LOOK FOR ME AT CHRISTMAS" you won't need a special star – I'm no longer just in Bethlehem, I'm right there where you are. You may not be aware of Me amid the celebrations – You'll have to look beyond the stores and all the decorations. But, if you take a moment from your list of things to do and listen to your heart, you'll find I'm waiting there for you. You're the one I want to be with. You're the reason that I came, and you'll find Me in the stillness as I'm whispering your name. Love, Jesus" (Shared by Connie McCoy who received this poem from Wib and Dolores Ray in 2003. Thank you Connie for sharing). NOTE: This poem touched our hearts as we remembered our families personally and within the Church, those who lost loved ones over the past several years and are now with Jesus. **SEVERAL FAMILIES WITHIN OUR CONGREGATION LOST LOVED**

ONES OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. Let's continue to keep their families in our prayers this Christmas Season: Ed Boyd (2020), Lyle Boyd (2021), Eileen Davis (2021), Dorothy "Toots" Fish (2020), Charles Harr (2021), Faye Harr (2022), Edith Hay (2022), Thelma Jones (2020), Sue Kinsey (2022), Frank Kwak (2022), Freda Layton (2022), John McInchok (2021), Mary McInchok (2022), Sandy Smith (2021), Novella Whitlock, (2020), Bob Zimmerman (2021).

ROSEANNE IS OUR NEW CROP WALK REPRESENTATIVE. She

submitted this article following the CROP Walk in Ligonier: On October 23rd, several from our Church participated in the Annual CROP (Community Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk. It is an inter-faith collaboration to raise funds to help fight poverty sponsored by the Church World Service. A portion of the money raised will go to the World Hunger Organization and a portion will stay in our community to be shared by the Ligonier Foodbank and the Salvation Army. Our church donated \$226.00, and over \$4,800 was raised in our community. It was a good opportunity to share the love of Christ locally and abroad. ... And, speaking of Roseanne, she recently retired and she and Joe have a wonderful "on the road" camping trip planned. Congratulations Roseanne and safe travels for you and Joe. (Roseanne said "This is the wonderful church that God blessed for me to be a part of." We're thankful for you both too!)



DID YOU EVER WONDER WHY YOU SEE PILES OF SHOES on the shelf as you go into the Fellowship Room or in the Narthex? Those shoes are collected to support the El Hogar de Ninos Emmanuel Orphanage. The proceeds from the shoe collection are used for their building project - a new chapel at their facility. "After the October collection held at the Westmont Church (where our donated used shoes go), the new shoe total is 2,225 pair of shoes. We only need 275 additional pairs to reach our minimum shipping requirement of 2500 pairs of shoes!" Thank you to all who have faithfully donated their used shoes. Let's fill up another box or two!!



FOR CHURCH WORLD SERVICE many from our church donated funds to purchase items for 9 buckets filled with cleaning products and eleven hygiene kits and seven school kits. A huge thank you to Becky and her family for doing the shopping and preparing the items for shipping. And a big thank you to those who donated financially to this project.

RITA'S CLOSET UPDATE ... The volunteers at Rita's Closet are enjoying meeting lots of new faces each Monday and God continues to bless in mighty ways. Generous local (and not so local) donors continue to supply gently used and new clothing, small household items, toys and much more which we are able to freely share with the community at large. Most recently, a family who has roots in the Ligonier area, but currently live in Florida, saw one of our Facebook posts and offered to mail brand new newborn clothing, breast pumps and pacifiers! Several recipients of Rita's Closet have attended our Church Services as well. Please join us in prayer – not only for God to use us to provide for the physical needs of our community – but more importantly, the spiritual needs as well. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to stop and visit us in the Church Fellowship Room any Monday between 10am – 5pm and see what we have that you might need. Please help spread the word to others who may benefit from the ministry. If you are looking for a way to help serve, additional volunteers are always welcome to help set up, sort through, and organize donations, greet newcomers or pack up. Please contact Darlene Rummel at 814-243-7156 for more information. Update Shared By: Sharon Lanz, Rita's Volunteer (along with Bob!)



A NOTE OF THANKS FROM PASTOR FRANK... Dear friends: I want to thank the Ligonier CofB for standing with our Ministry this past year with your financial support. Also, thank you for your donations of snacks and archery equipment for the children who attend. This year we have had over 100 children participate in the archery program. What a great tool God has us use to share the Gospel with the children. I hope some Sunday soon I can come to the Ligonier CofB and share a verbal report, while worshipping with you. Blessings to you as God uses you to help us in this ministry to the children. Blessings! Frank Young

JUST A REMINDER: Don't forget to check your Church mailbox in the Sunday School wing. The boxes are used to distribute the Church Newsletter and other mail – Plus: you'll see the beautiful colored pictures hanging on the wall across from the mailboxes done by the children

PUMPKIN COOKIES

(From Jeanne Boyd – Recipe given to her by Mary Louise Wolford)

1 cup sugar	1 tsp. cinnamon
1 cup Crisco	1 tsp. baking powder
1 egg	1 tsp. soda
1 tsp. salt	1 tsp. vanilla
2 cups flour	1 cup pumpkin

Ice cookies while warm: Boil 2 minutes ½ cup brown sugar, 3 tbsp. butter, 4 tbsp milk, and add 1 cup powdered sugar plus ¾ tsp. vanilla. Mix well. Bake at 325 degrees for 10 minutes.

RECIPES WANTED: WE HAVE A LOT OF WONDERFUL COOKS and BAKERS

in our congregation. Would you share a recipe or two for the next issue of the Brother's Keeper? Please give it to Pastor John or Susan. Thank you.

OUR PRAYER CHAIN is “called into action” often. **We are a praying Church.** If you have a prayer request or a prayer joy that you would like put on the Prayer Chain, call Pastor John. Don't ever think it's a bother – prayer is important, and it works! Just call the home phone (814-255-7838) or his cell phone (610-413-1997) and (as Pastor John says) “he'll crank up the prayer chain!!!” With the new message system the church purchased, our prayer chain members receive the message within minutes!! Amazing, isn't it? Technology!



“Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, unuttered or expressed, the motion of a hidden fire that trembles in the breast. Prayer is the simplest form of speech that infant lips can try; prayer the sublimest strains that reach the Majesty on high.” ***“Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire”*** From: *Hymnal – A Worship Book* - Hymn No. 572 – The text for this hymn was written in 1818 by James

Montgomery and the music was composed in 1990 by Stephanie Martin.

The Hymnal – A Worship Book was copyright in 1992 by Brethren Press, Elgin, Illinois Along with Faith and Life Press, Newton Kansas, and Mennonite Publishing House, Scottsdale, Pennsylvania ... Just some trivia for you!!!! Now you'll be humming this hymn all day long – that's not a bad thing!

We just wanted to whet your whistle in preparation of the “coming soon” Hymn Sing! Be watching for the date and time – and we don't want to hear you can't come because you can't sing ... In heaven your singing sounds like angels singing!!

WHAT TO DO THIS CHRISTMAS ... Mend a quarrel * Seek out a forgotten friend * Share some treasure * Give a soft answer * Encourage youth * Keep a promise * Find the time * Listen * Apologize if you were wrong * Be gentle * Laugh a little * Laugh a little more * Express your gratitude * Welcome a stranger * Gladden the heart of a child * Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth * Speak your love * Speak it again. **WHY DO THIS AT CHRISTMAS ONLY** ... Let's make it a New Year's Resolution!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MICHELLE BLACK who faithfully updated the Church sign at the front of the Church. Michelle “retired” from that responsibility and Bob and Sharon Lanz agreed to do this job. Did you notice the sign during the past few weeks? Here is what Bob and Sharon put on the Church sign ALL TO SEE – not just those of us who attend our Church, but the community as well. A big thank you to Michelle and a big thank you Bob and Sharon for taking on this important job. God is so good in providing people to help the Church ministry in so many ways.

“HALLELUJAH! JESUS IS COMING - REV. 22:20”

“WHAT’S AGE WHEN YOU HAVE ETERNITY WITH JESUS?”

DO YOU REMEMBER THE ARTICLE ABOUT “ADOPTING A MAILBOX” IN THE NEWSLETTER SEVERAL MONTHS AGO? Well, if you see a mailbox that is overflowing, and the owner of the mailbox hasn’t been in church, or maybe they were and just didn’t check their mailbox - clean out the mailbox for them, put the mail in an envelope and mail it to them. You could enclose a note also!



THE MEN’S BREAKFAST WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 beginning at 9:00AM in the Fellowship Hall. This month the title of the Breakfast is a misnomer – we invited the women to join us! (Once a year we soften our hearts a bit!) Be sure to mark your calendar as Janet Riorden, President of the Ligonier Valley Association of Churches will share about this unique and dynamic ministry. **See you on Saturday the 10th at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall – MEN AND WOMEN!**

THE WOMEN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held after Church on Sunday, December 11 in the Fellowship Room. All women are asked to bring a covered dish and 2 dozen cookies to share. And, guess what??? **AND, the men are invited!** Plans for this time of fellowship are still being discussed – so be watching and listening for more information! In the meantime, please mark your calendar – **Men’s Breakfast, Saturday, December 10th and the Women’s Fellowship Christmas Party and Luncheon, Sunday, December 11th following the Worship Service.** The best weekend ever!!!!



*Happy
New
Year*

LOOKING AHEAD– 2023! A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR – “Slow me down, Lord. Lord, this year teach me the art of taking minute vacations – of slowing down to look at a flower, to chat with a friend, to pat a dog, to read the Bible. Remind me each day that the race is not always to the swift - that there is more to life than increasing its speed. Let me look upward into the branches of the towering oak and know that it grew slowly as well. Slow me down, Lord and inspire me to send my roots deep into the soil of eternal values, that I may grow toward my eternal home. Amen.”

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

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE – 7:00PM – JOIN US
HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR.**

**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**

**WORSHIP – 10:30AM
BIBLE STUDY – Wednesday –
6:30PM**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!