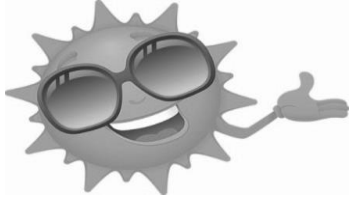


THE BROTHER'S KEEPER – JUNE * JULY 2022

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN – LIGONIER, PA.

Summer is here...



...not officially until June 21st, but Memorial Day weekend is when it all begins! If you are like me, you might moan and groan a bit about how wet and cold spring was this year, what a cold winter we had and fall - with all the mold and leaves it knocked my allergies for a loop! In the not-too-distant future, I, at least, will be complaining about the hot weather!

I love the Seasons of the year, but I want them perfect (by my definition). Summer should be in the low to mid 70's with a slight breeze and low humidity. And I have my requirements for the other Seasons of the year as well. But that discussion is for another day! What am I getting at?

We want the weather, our spouse, our kids and grandkids, our job, our health, maybe our lawn and landscaping, and just about anything else perfect (by our standards), but God doesn't require perfection from any of us! Why are our standards for others and other things tougher than God's standards for any of us?

Jesus says, in Matthew 7:3-4, ***"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?"***

The next verse Jesus starts out by saying ***"you hypocrite..."*** That kind of sums it up. We are a fallen, sinful people and can't, as does our Good Lord, understand our own weaknesses, but see them in others and in "things".

The writer of Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us ***"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:"*** When you think about it, aren't you glad God is in charge of the seasons, including the seasons of our lives? Aren't you thankful that He provided a way out of our sinfulness, through the life, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior?

Enjoy your summer ... enjoy your life in Christ and enjoy everybody and everything around you. It is all a gift from God!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ... IN EACH ISSUE OF THE "BROTHER'S KEEPER"

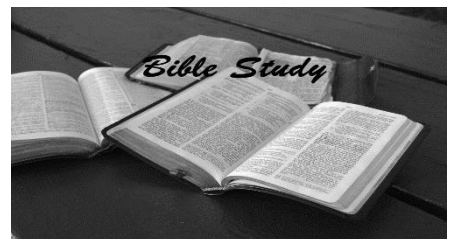
we highlight the Sunday School programs at our Church ... How Sunday School begins at **9:30am**. --- There are classes for **ALL** ages - from pre-school children through adults. --- The new Sunday School class for children in 4th grade and older, led by Kara is going great! Stand in the hallways and hear the excitement of the children as they come to Sunday School – be careful you don't get run over!! They're so excited! Take a peek into the children's classrooms – from the posters on the walls and notes on the blackboard or bulletin board, lesson books on the shelves and tables - you can get an idea of what they are learning. Catch their enthusiasm and energy!



THANKS TO PAM, STACEY AND THE CHILDREN, a "Children's Choir" has started. The children sang during the Worship Service a few weeks ago, and they were great ... and they're practicing a new song for a Sunday in the near future. If only we had the enthusiasm and excitement the children have for coming to Church, learning and praising God with music and sharing their excitement during the Worship Service! Let's catch their enthusiasm, their spirit and their love of God. Let's get **EXCITED** about Sunday School and Church too!

THE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS IS USING "A GUIDE FOR BIBLICAL STUDIES – PARTNERS IN A NEW CREATION" under the leadership of Ed Wedge. This study, written by David Radcliff, an Ordained Church of the Brethren Minister, is broken down into chapters, and with each chapter there are daily Scripture Lessons to read as devotions in preparation for the Sunday lesson. Some of the lesson titles and Scriptures are: **"GOD FORETELLS DESTRUCTION"** from Isaiah 47. **"GOD FORTELLS OF REDEMPTION"** from Isaiah 49:1-17. **"GOD'S RESTORED PEOPLE SHALL PROSPER"** from Isaiah 49:18-26. Plan to join the class and discussion in the Fellowship Room.

WEDNESDAY EVENING ADULT BIBLE STUDY meets at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Room. We've finished the study on the Book of Acts – all 28 Chapters! – and we're going to move on to **Galatians**. This book was written by Paul. It's a short book – only six Chapters – but it's full of wisdom. In the Book of Galatians **"Paul proclaims the reality of our liberty in Christ – freedom from the law and the power of sin, and freedom to serve our living Lord."** Everyone is welcome to attend – if you haven't attended Bible Study in the past, please join us. We're all students, we have great discussion and we have coffee, tea, and snacks afterward!



"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." Galatians 5:1

OUR CHILDREN ARE BLESSED WITH TALENT: Several children have shared their gifts during the morning Worship Service by reading the Scripture Lesson. So far, Quinn, Roman, and Anthony have read the Scripture Lesson before the Sermon. Quinn shared music on the piano during the Worship Service. Be watching and listening for more sharing by our children! A special thank you to them all! They are a blessing.

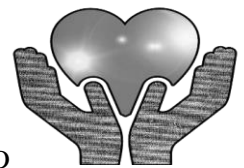


IN THE APRIL-MAY BROTHER'S KEEPER we shared an article under the heading "**SOMETHING NEW FOR THE CHILDREN**". Michelle has been distributing clipboards to the children with coloring pages and activity sheets to occupy the children during the Worship Service. She also has tote bags made up that include pencils, crayons, markers and other items to keep them busy. Have you noticed the

bulletin board in the education wing across from the mailboxes? Michelle displayed the coloring sheets completed by the children for all of us to see and enjoy? When you check your mailbox take a look!. The children did a great job. Thanks Michelle – and children!

RITA'S CLOSET CONTINUES TO HELP PEOPLE AND FAMILIES IN NEED

Rita's Closet also is blessed by many volunteers – some from our congregation and others from the community who come to set-up the fellowship room and prepare the items of clothing for those who come. If you haven't already, you should stop by Rita's Closet. It has a warm, friendly atmosphere shared by those who help with the ministry and those who come to make use of the ministry. New friendships are made and the helpers and those who come to this ministry are blessed. Much thanks is lifted to those who donate items and to those who organize and set-up each and every week. And a special thank you to the Church for opening its doors to this much-needed ministry. Please keep Rita's Closet in prayer – and those who visit, those who donate clothing, and those who come to benefit from this ministry.



THE SUNSHINE STITCHERS meet every Thursday at 9:30am.

Although what we do is work (sometimes you have to count if you're knitting and/or crocheting – and that's hard to do when you're all talking!) we enjoy every minute of it! The fellowship is a blessing. We're still making on prayer shawls and caps. We're going to be delivering our chemo caps to the Hillman-Greensburg Cancer Clinic to be given to those going through cancer treatments. We hope to donate prayer shawls as well. We just started two new projects in support of the Faith in Action Ministry in Latrobe. We're making neck pillows. (Pastor John said they're not for folks to use during his sermon on Sunday morning! He doesn't want anyone falling asleep!) We're also making over the handle t-towels). If you would like a prayer shawl, a cap, a neck pillow, an armchair tote (these are great to hold your phone, your remote, tissues or your Bible) or if you know of anyone who would like one of these items, please let one of the ladies know. We really appreciate the support of the Church. Join us on Thursday morning between 9:30am and noon. Stop in for a visit!

PASTOR JOHN HAS OFFICE HOURS ON THURSDAY FROM 9:00AM - NOON. STOP IN AND SEE THE STITCHERS, THEN STOP TO SEE PASTOR JOHN! STITCHERS AND PASTOR JOHN ARE ALWAYS OPEN TO VISITORS!!! NO NEED TO CALL AHEAD!!!



WE HAVE SOME GREAT ATHLETES IN OUR CONGREGATION ...

Anthony Knupp plays for the Rays, **Brock** plays for the Nationals, **Parker** plays for the Yankees. Ask Andy Knupp, David or Dayna Shannon, Andy or Kara Boyd for the boys' schedule and ask Andy Boyd for Anthony's schedule and Paisley's soccer game schedules. Most of their games are at the fields in

Ligonier, but some are away. **Paisley Knupp** plays soccer at the New Florence Playground. She's #6 on the Blue Team! What a nice way to spend an evening – sitting in your lawn chair, talking to church friends and neighbors – and maybe making a new friend - and supporting the children. By the way ... there is a snack bar!! (Maybe you'll see Pastor John there!) Shane and Debbie Smith shared some proud moments about their Grandchildren who also play baseball. **Junah Krupper**, 8 years old, is the "Assistant Coach" for the Ligonier Yankees Baseball team. His older brother **Jarrett Krupper**, 12 years old, plays for the Major Ligonier Yankees Baseball Team. Their sister **Jaedyn Krupper**, 15 years old, is a freshman and plays Varsity High School Girls Softball for the Shade Panthers. Carolyn Roddy's Granddaughter, **Emily Schadle**, No. 29, is 8 years old and plays in-field with the Spikes, at Ligonier and Derry. **GO KIDS!!!**

AND JUST A NOTE ... Jarett Krupper, a student at Ligonier Valley Middle School, wrote a "Haiku Poem" in his writing class, and it was one of the poems chosen by his teacher to be submitted for the Ligonier Valley Writer's Student Poetry Awards. Twenty different schools participated in this year's competition, and there were multiple poetry categories for the students to enter. Jarett won 2nd place in the Haiku poem category, and he joined other students at Barnes and Noble in Greensburg to read his poem and receive both his award and prize. It was a nice experience for Jarett and his family as well. The proud parents are Jamie & John Krupper. Proud Grandparents are Debbie & Shane Smith. We at the Church are proud of Jarett also. Here is the winning Haiku:



"SHADOW CATCHER" -- A Haiku By: Jarett Krupper

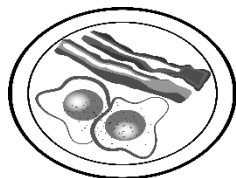
"Darkness is crawling,
Trying to catch my shadow.
Hiding. It's here now. Bye!"

A Church that enjoyed good fellowship always served coffee after the sermon. The Pastor asked a little boy if he knew why they served the coffee. "I think," said the boy, "'it's to get the people wide awake before they drive home!" (Nothing personal Pastor John!!)

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10

REMEMBER THE LENTEN FOOD BAGS MANY OF US FILLED FOR FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY?

Debbie McInchok reported that there were 17 sets of Lenten Food Bags collected and donated and given to the Ligonier School District for distribution to needy families in our Community. The Witness Commission thanks everyone who participated in this outreach project.



THE MEN WILL MEET FOR THEIR MONTHLY PRAYER

BREAKFAST on Saturday, June 4 at 9:00am. ALL men are invited to join in this time of prayer, a delicious breakfast made by the men of the Church and a time of fellowship. This past month, Jeremy prepared and served a delicious

breakfast (according to the men!). No reservation is needed – just come and join in the meal and fellowship. They meet in the Fellowship Room.

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES AND FAY HARR, a Memorial Service will be held at our Church, led by Pastor John and Pastor Paul from the Indiana congregation on **Saturday, June 11 at 2:00pm**. Following the Service there will be light refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. Charles and Faye were active in our Church before moving from the area to be near their daughter Cathy. Their children are Cathy (Harr) and Doug Henderson, George and Cindy (Harr) Butcher, Bruce and Denise Harr, Skip and Vicki (Harr) Hovey, and Karen Harr. Please plan to attend the service and support the family. If you would like to help with the refreshments, please see Sheri Boyd. Since they were die-hard Steeler fans, consider wearing a Steelers jersey!



ADVENTURE DAY

Butterfly Tent

Saturday, June 18th

8:30am – 2:00pm

Archery



**Join us for a day of Fishing, Archery,
Butterfly tent and much more.**

FREE for ages 4 – 16 (Lunch Included)

Join us for FUN

Right here at the First Church of the Brethren

RSVP by June 16 – 814-243-7156

Fishing



TO HELP WITH ADVENTURE DAY, SEE DARLENE RUMMELL.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP REPORT – May 2022: Women's

Fellowship meetings are generally held the fourth Sunday of every other month following the Church Service. The schedule is flexible, of course, for any "unexpected occurrences". The first official meeting for this year was held on Sunday, March 27. An all-church get-together was held on Friday evening, April 22. Approximately 28 "fun-loving" people shared homemade ice cream and played games. There were a few friends who preferred to just eat ice cream and chat with each other. A big **Thanks!** to Paul and Stacey Knupp and Jeremy and Samantha Peiffer for the delicious vanilla and chocolate ice cream they made.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY – SUNDAY, JUNE 19

"Last night my little boy confessed to me some childish wrong,
And kneeling at my knee he prayed with tears;
'Dear God, make me a man, like Daddy – wise and strong. I know You can.'
Then while he slept, I knelt beside his bed,
Confessed my sins and prayed with low-bowed heart,
'O God, make me a child like my child here –
Pure, open, trusting in Thee with faith sincere."



Sunday, June 19 - Father's Day, following the Worship Service, a luncheon for all will be held to honor all Fathers. The women will prepare the meal and the children will help serve. A sign-up sheet will be available for those wishing to attend.

The Women's Fellowship hopes to plan additional activities in the near future. A Bake-less Bake Sale Fundraiser will be held in July. Be watching for more information. The business meetings are opened with Devotions and prayer, followed by the reports of the Secretary and Treasurer. Old and new business is discussed, then a light luncheon follows. We extend an invitation to ALL the women of our congregation to come, fellowship, and share.

-- Jo McWherter, Vice President of Women's Fellowship

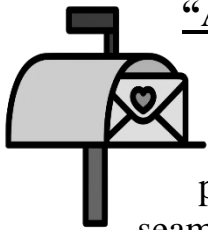
BE WATCHING AND LISTENING FOR INFORMATION about the Worship Service and Covered Dish Picnic on **Sunday, July 17**, at Pastor John's and Susan's home. Once again, the Roxbury Church of the Brethren will be joining us. We'll sing some hymns, there will be a Morning Message, followed by our picnic and fellowship. There will be games planned for the children, and Pastor John might give tractor rides again! (Last year Ivery Ella was the first one to ride/drive the tractor!) Mark the date on your calendar!

Church Directory

WE'RE GOING TO BE UPDATING THE CHURCH DIRECTORY.

If you know of any changes, corrections, or additions, would you please let Pastor John and/or Susan know by the end of August. You can drop a note in our mailbox, give us a call, or see us in and around the Church. Thank you.

THE CHURCH PRAYER CHAIN is always very busy. There is nothing more special God's people who believe in the power of prayer – and our people do. Our prayer chain is always busy, sharing prayer joys and concerns. If you have a prayer request, don't hesitate to call Pastor John on his cell phone (610-413-1997) or on the house phone (814-255-7838). He'll put your prayer request on the Church Prayer Chain right away and within minutes 70+ people will be lifting prayer. If you're not on the Prayer Chain, give Pastor John a call. He'd be glad to add you to the Prayer Chain.



“ADOPT A MAILBOX!” Do you remember this article in the April-May Brother's Keeper about adopting a mailbox? You do?? Great! You don't?? Oh no!! Have you adopted a mailbox? You don't have to answer – but we thought we would just give you a reminder – and a nudge! Did you ever pick-up your mail at the Church and discover a mailbox that was bursting at the seams with mail? **NOW IS YOUR CHANCE TO DO A GOOD DEED! DOES THIS RING A BELL??** Pastor John encouraged us to pick-up someone's mail and if they're in church deliver their mail to them. **NOW DO YOU REMEMBER – IS THIS ARTICLE COMING BACK TO YOU!!!** He assured us that Postal Regulations do not apply!! This is NOT tampering with the mail! (If he's wrong about that he'll be sure to visit you if have to do time!!!) **HERE IS YOUR MOMENT TO SHINE!!** If the folks are not in Church, grab one of the bigger envelopes on the top of the mailboxes, stuff their mail (nicely!) inside, address it – and don't forget the stamp! We have you covered – there are stamps to cover the additional postage – also on top of the mailboxes. (You will still need to use your own first-class stamp – the stamps provided on top of the mailboxes are for the additional ounce of postage.) Now if everyone in attendance adopted just one mailbox, everyone would be kept informed of the goings-on in the Church in a very timely manner. Be creative and write them a note while you're at it! Or, maybe hand-deliver the envelope instead of mailing it (save the postage). (Would you mind delivering Pastor's John's mail to the farm in Westmont – he / we would love that!!) Keep in mind that mailing the envelope will cost you one first-class stamp and you just might put a big smile on someone's face!

THIS IS MY CHURCH

It is composed of people just like me.
It will be friendly if I am. It will do great work if I work.
It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am generous.
It will bring others into fellowship if I bring them.
It will be a Church of loyalty and love, of faith and service.
If I who make it what it is, am filled with these.
Therefore, with God's help, I dedicate myself to the task of being
All these things I want my church to be.
- Submitted by Jeanne Boyd From “The Fishwrapper”

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

EMAIL: lcob1888@gmail.com

CHURCH WEB SITE: Ligonierfirstcob.org



FATHER'S DAY – SUNDAY, JUNE 19

FIRST DAY OF SUMMER – JUNE 21

CHURCH PICNIC AT THE FARM – JULY 17.



**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 CLASSES**

WORSHIP - 10:30AM

BIBLE STUDY – WED. 6:30PM

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!