

THE BROTHER'S KEEPER
FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN—LIGONIER
OCTOBER—NOVEMBER 2021

“ALMOST BACK TO NORMAL”?



Allow me to say at the outset that one of my virtues is NOT PATIENCE! So please read this with that understanding!!!

The kids are back to school ... but wearing masks. Visitation is possible in our Nursing Homes and hospitals, sometimes—and only after going through a few hoops (almost like a wellness visit at your family doctor). Masks are required in some places where you buy groceries, and all the time when you fly on an airplane.

We are coming up on two years of this pandemic—who caused it anyway? Some say President Trump, Dr. Fauci, or the Chinese. Others suggest that President Biden isn't doing enough to get us past this mess. Does the vaccine really work? Should it be required in order to get medical help if you contact COVID? Does it contain a microchip to monitor our every thought, word, or deed? Why do we allow illegal immigrants to enter the country with COVID and a host of other ailments?

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, PATIENCE, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” (Galatians 5:22-23a)

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9)

OK Pastor John. Settle down! Try harder to exhibit that Christian virtue of PATIENCE! After all, shouldn't I know who really is in charge and who will see us through to the other side? Clearly, even that lovely 23rd Psalm suggests that the Lord will lead us through any and all of life's difficulties and challenges. It does not say that just because we are believers, we will not face those valleys in life.

Allow the Holy Spirit and the fruit thereof to give you the assurance that HE is in charge and that we will come out on the other side stronger—physically, emotionally, and **SPIRITUALLY!**

I KNEW THAT!

Pastor John

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ... NEWS AND NOTES



WANTED!! A FEW GOOD MEN, WOMEN & CHILDREN

For what you ask? For Sunday School that begins at 9:30am each and every Sunday—right before the Worship Service that begins at 10:30am. And just a reminder We have classes for children from pre-school through elementary school age ...

“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6

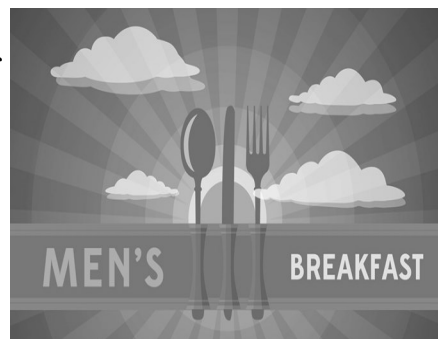
... AND GUESS WHAT—there is an adult Sunday School class also. It’s a great way to prepare for the Worship Service. DID WE MENTION WE HAVE LOVING, CARING TEACHERS FOR ALL AGES who take the time to read God’s Word and prepare the lessons for Sunday morning. Please join us.

JUST A NOTE: One of our Sunday School students/helper, Matthew Rummel is getting settled inat college, thanks to his Dad and Mom, Lee and Darlene. His address is 2563 Dole Street, Hale Laulima, Room 103-A, Honoulu, Hawaii 96822 *** Please keep Matt, and all of our school students in prayer. And ... we’re sure Matt would appreciate a card and note!



ADULT BIBLE STUDY meets each and every Wednesday evening at 6:30pm. We will soon rap-up our current study on the Book of Revelation, realizing of course, there is much, much more to learn. We have not yet decided which Book of the Bible we will tackle next, but it is sure to be both enjoyable and educational. And by the way, we begin each study time-with prayer concerns and joys. Did we mention that we have snacks? We do! There will be NO Bible Study on Wednesday, October 27th.

THE MEN’S BREAKFAST meets every second Saturday of the month at 9:00am in the Fellowship Room. While the agenda varies from meeting to meeting, we most often have a guest speaker and always delicious food. All men and boys are invited. Ask your friends and neighbors to come. The more the merrier ... and we are most always done by 10:30am, leaving plenty of time to go home and mow the lawn and maybe watch college football!



“FAITH STEP ... Some count to 10 before reacting to a stressful situation. What if we adopted the practice of reciting, “*The joy of the Lord is my strength*” when faced with depleted energies or discouraging circumstances? I’m in ... Are you?” — Copied

JOIN US AT SUNSHINE STITCHERS on Thursday mornings from 9:30am—noon. The ladies continue to keep busy making prayer shawls and other items including arm chair totes for the Laurel Area Faith in Action ministry. The prayer shawls make you feel like you're receiving a big hug—and you are—the ladies who make the shawls pray as they work (and we talk some too!!). So, let any of the ladies know if you, a family member, a friend or just someone you know who needs a prayer shawl. Another project being done during our stitching time is recovering the chair seats in the downstairs Sunday School room thanks to Becky Kwak. New vinyl was purchased and one by one Becky is removing the old seat covers and replacing them with new vinyl. They look great. Stop in the classroom sometime and check it out. Thank you Becky. Please keep the Sunshine Stitchers ministry and their work in prayer.

A PRAYER TO KEEP GOD PRESENT

Dear merciful Lord, In silence and prayer I feel Your presence yet back in the world I forget. Why do I lose sight of You? I know You, I trust You, but I get distracted and fail. I let my flesh react without thinking or care, ignoring or hurting others, even though I don't want to. Won't you change me, Oh Lord? I can't do it on my own. Remove the obstacles in my heart that cover Your grace. When I arise from prayer let me not forget Your love. And may my prayer continue when I engage with people. May Your mercy go forth as I was saved by Your Mercy.. Let me stand firm on principles, on the rock that is Christ whose Spirit gives me life. Help me be humble, my Lord. May Your hand never leave me. Let my life glorify Christ in Jesus' name. Amen.

- Copied

“I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer.”

- Martin Luther

THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP IS HAVING A "RADA" SALE ...

You know—spatulas, knives, peelers, graters, and more!! An inventory flyer has been made and is available at the church. If you're interested, or have questions about RADA items, please see Pam Zimmerman.



You won't need to wait for your items to be ordered—the inventory is with Pam.

Surely, there is a tool in your kitchen that you need or perhaps there is one that needs to be replaced. The money raised supports the Women's Fellowship.

A newcomer approached the Pastor after Worship and said, “I'd like you to pray for my hearing.” Placing his hands on the man's ears, the Pastor said a very passionate, earnest prayer and then asked him, ‘How's your hearing now?’ With a confused look the man said, ‘Well, it's scheduled for tomorrow!’”



RITA’S CLOSET MINISTRY continues to help individuals and families in the Ligonier area who are in need of clothing, shoes, coats, diapers, household items and much, much more. But the main and most important items that those who volunteer at Rita’s Closet share is the love of God and love of our brothers and sisters.

If there is an individual or family in need of prayer, their need is met as the helpers pray together. Rita’s Closet not only meets the physical needs of everyday life, but they focus on the Spiritual needs as well. Contact Darlene at 824-243-7156 if you have any questions, if you would like to help, or if you have a donation for this ministry. Rita’s Closet is open Monday 10:00am—6pm. Stop by and browse and have a cup of coffee. You’ll be greeted warmly. And, please keep this ministry in your prayers.

“WOVEN TOGETHR IN LOVE—A CHALLENGE OF FAITHFULNESS”

“And remember the words of the Lord Jesus when He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” ACTS 20:35

The Witness Commission brought this project to us last year and once again we will be supporting this special service project. Please purchase a non-perishable food item each week or make a monetary donation to purchase a turkey from now through Sunday, November 7. The food items, along with a gift card to purchase a turkey, will provide a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for a family of four in our community. Tote bags have been provided—their on the table in the Narthex. Here is a list of the items needed:

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|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sweet Potatoes | Green Beans/Corn (Canned) | Cranberry Sauce |
| Instant Mash Potatoes | Bagged Noodles | Stuffing Mix |
| Canned Pumpkin | Monetary Donation for Turkey | |

(Monetary donations for turkey should be placed in the allotted envelopes provided in the Narthex.)



PLEASE BRING YOUR FILLED TOTE BAG TO THE CHURCH NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, NOV. 7.

CHECK OUT THE WITNESS BULLETIN BOARD ACROSS FROM THE MAIL-BOXES - OR ANY MEMBER OF THE WITNESS COMMISSION.

**“To make a glorious day complete, to make each hour full and sweet,
To thank the Lord for life worth living—that is the real and true thanksgiving.”**

“Praise God from Whom all blessings flow.”

WORLD-WIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY is Sunday, October 3rd. Join us as we gather with Christians around the world, in Church of the Brethren style, to celebrate what Christ has done for us. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the Worship Service. As in the past, we will have a very simple meal commemorating the Last Supper Jesus had with His Disciples, wash one another's feet as a symbol of servanthood—much like Christ did on that last night, and partake of the bread and the cup, representing the broken body and shed blood of Jesus—shed for us so that we may spend eternity with Him. If you have never participated in our “Love Feast and Communion Service,” please feel free to join us and participate to the extent you feel comfortable. Interested observers are welcome. Remember, **Sunday, October 3, 2021** immediately following the Worship Service.! There is something special about communing with Jesus and millions of Christians around the world on the very same day!



“Then He poured water into a basin, and began to wash the Disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.” John 13:8



YOU CAN WALK ALL OVER ME IN A FEW SHORT WEEKS!...

when we gather for Worship on Sunday, October 17th on the all-new sidewalks in front of the Church. Under the leadership of Trustee Chairman Ed Wedge, the Committee has decided to replace the uneven sidewalks and straighten the path a bit for both safety and aesthetic reasons. The project will be managed by Joe Ometz and will begin on the late afternoon of October 11th, continuing each evening until the BIG POUR (of concrete!) on Saturday morning, October 16th. Basically, the evening work will consist of digging up the old concrete, disposing of all the “rubble” and setting the forms for the pour on Saturday morning. It is not too late to sign-up and lend a helping hand on any (or all) of the evenings or Saturday morning. Check the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Thanks for your support and help ... **and no writing your initials in the wet concrete!!** (Oh, by the way, the women are going to feed us lunch on Saturday the 16th!)

OUR CONGREGATION IS SO BLESSED WITH PEOPLE WHO SHARE THEIR GOD-GIVEN GIFTS...

Like working on their day off to work on new sidewalks ... those who give their talents to prepare delicious food to feed the workers ... making preparations to organize an Apple Butter Making Day ... those who clean our facilities when the work is done so it's ready for Worship on Sunday ,... the prayer warriors who can't do some of the things they used to do, but know they can pray! Many hands make light work — we are so blessed!

JUST A REMINDER: YOU'RE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CROP WALK in

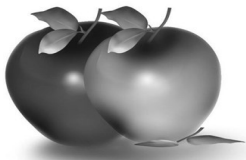
Ligonier on Sunday, October 17. In October 1969, 1,000 people in North Dakota walked in what may have been the start of the hunger walks related to CROP. The walkers raised \$25,000 to help stop hunger. Elaine Boyd is the CROP Walk Representative for our congregation. She's planning to walk, along with a few others from our Church.

Folks from our congregation will be joining walkers from churches in the Ligonier area. One quarter of the money raised from the Walk stays here in Ligonier—1/2 of that goes to the Food Pantry, and 1/2 of the quarter is given to the Salvation Army. Would you



like to participate? Elaine and several from our congregation will be walking to help alleviate hunger. See Elaine if you would like to walk on Sunday, October 17th. After church **For**

those who never heard of the CROP Organization and the Walk: CROP was started in 1947, associated with Church World Service—which was founded in 1946. CROP was an acronym for the Christian Rural Overseas Program. Its primary mission was to help Midwest farm families too share their grain with hungry neighbors in post-World War II.. After all these years, CROP is still helping people in need.



LET'S ALL GO BACK IN TIME TOGETHER... And make some apple butter the old fashioned way with a copper kettle in the backyard of the church. There will be a lot of stirring. On October 23, we plan to do just that—and hope everyone can join us! We plan to start around 8:00am and

last year when we made apple butter, we finished around 1:00pm—and that even included lunch! We plan to have food (as apparently is mandatory at all Brethren events!) and lots of great fellowship. Even if it is cold outside, we should all be warm inside due to the large amount of hot air flying around—and I don't mean from the fire outside!! Last year we had about 33 people helping and hopefully we will have even more this year. We currently have some apples at the Church and would appreciate any help with making these into applesauce—so if anyone could help, please take some and make some! See Becky Kwak for further details on freezing and storage if needed. We will need the applesauce at the Church by Friday, October 22 please. We have had some jars donated and currently are in need of about 50 more pints. We are also hoping to fill some jelly jars in case anyone wants to give them as gifts (great stocking stuffers!) So, clean out those old jars and bring them on down to the Church kitchen. We will be selling the pints for \$6.00 each and jelly jars for \$3.50 each. Proceeds will go to the Women's Fellowship. Thanks in advance for your help and support. Our Apple Butter making day is Saturday, October 23rd, so mark your calendar and plan to come and help—cooking the apples outside or filling jars inside. Many hands make light work. — Becky Kwak

JOIN US FOR OUR SECOND ANNUAL APPLE BUTTER MAKING DAY!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

“WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THE LVAC?? Could it be the initials of an area school system? A private local club? What about an acronym for a business? A top-secret code to gain access to something or somewhere? It could be any of these but it’s not. LVAC stands for the Ligonier Valley Association of Churches serving our community in very powerful ways. The group consists of about 20 area Churches, a food pantry and the Valley Youth Network. What are some of the activities supported by the LVAC? Here is a partial list: Community Thanksgiving, Lenten, Good Friday and Easter Services; National Day of Prayer; STARS—a program for adults to get them out of poverty; Meals on Wheels; CROP Walk; Information Booth at Ligonier Days; Open Hands Ministries serving the new mothers of Westmoreland County; Faith in Action; Angels Attic; Valley Youth Network, and the Nativity Display at Heritage United Methodist Church on the Diamond. I am so thankful that our Church supports this organization and many of its ministries. If you want to know more about the Association, our expert is Elaine Boyd who has been our representative for many years (not that she is THAT old)!

FOOD2go4 KIDS ADOPTION - Weekend “Food Bag” Program / Ligonier Valley School District A flyer regarding this program is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Take a look at it and pray about it—maybe you would like to support the FOOD2go4KIDS. Pre-qualified students receive a backpack every Friday during the school year containing food for the weekend. The cost per backpack has risen to \$9, and the items are “kid friendly” so they can prepare or open them without adult assistance. The cost per backpack has gone up—it’s now \$9. They are assembled by Ligonier Middle School students and discreetly distributed to students at Laurel Valley and RK Mellon Elementary, as well as the middle and high schools on Friday afternoons. Check out the flyer and read more. It’s a real worthwhile program. And remember to keep our families and community in prayer. There is a number to call if you have any questions, or see a member of the Witness Commission.



JUST A REMINDER: Remember to donate your gently used shoes, wrapped with a rubber band. This project supports the Honduras orphanage. See Elaine Boyd with questions. You’ll find a box outside the Fellowship Room and in the Narthex.

AN UPDATE ON THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Over the years the Women's Fellowship has declined. This group is not just for five or six women of the Church — it is a fellowship for ALL women.—whether you are a member of the church or not. Our Church as a whole is growing,. Let's work on getting our Women's Fellowship to grow also.



At our September 13 meeting, six women attended. Here are some highlights from that meeting:

- * We voted to serve lunch on Saturday, October 16th to the men who will be working on the new Church sidewalk.
- * On Saturday, October 23 we will be making Apple Butter—the men and women will be participating.
- * Our Fireside Chat will be held Sunday, November 7 after Church in the Social Hall.. Pastor John will share a devotional with us.
We will be having a Silent Auction, and we are going to use some of the items from the baskets we have accumulated. A special thanks to Mary Boyd and Coleen Zimmerman who are over-seeing this project.
- * On Sunday, December 5th, we will host our Christmas Party after Church. This will be open to all women and men of the Church.

At the Fireside Chat on November 7, we will elect officers for the 2022 year. Put on your thinking caps and keep the elections in your prayers. Maybe God will be leading you to accept a position with the Women's Fellowship.

Thank You and God Bless You

—Cathy McMaster, President

“For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.” Hebrews 6:10

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CHURCH WEB SITE: ligonierfirstcob.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



LIGONIER FIRST
CHURCH OF THE
BRETHREN is a

community of believers who seek to walk passionately with Christ by reaching out in His name—preaching and sharing His Gospel—and teaching all to love Him.

PLEASE JOIN US ...

SUNDAY SCHOOL—9:30AM
(CLASSES FOR ALL AGES -
PRE-SCHOOL THROUGH
ADULT STUDY CLASSES

WORSHIP—
10:30AM

