

THE BROTHER'S KEEPER

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN—LIGONIER

JUNE—JULY 2021



“SUMMER IS ALMOST HERE!”

What a chronic complainer. When I look back over the years or even the seasons of the year, I am reminded of my constant complaining. The summer is too blasted hot and humid! In the Fall I must rake those leaves with all the mold and mildew! In the Winter I just can't stand the cold anymore! And spring—there is entirely too much rain! I could go on and reminisce about my complaints when I don't feel well or when the traffic is bad, or maybe the kids are driving me nuts! When will it end ...?

But then I stop and THINK just a bit. I sure am glad God is in charge. You want hot days to swim, I want cooler days so I don't sweat so much; you want rain for the garden, I want sunny days to go hiking in the woods. Maybe the traffic is bad so I don't rush and get in an accident. Maybe the illness is telling me I must take better care of myself. And the kids ... may be a test of my patience.

While we may think our world is a bit messed up—and it is—(due entirely of our own doing), I can't help but think what it would be like if I were in charge of the weather or anything else that matters.

So, the challenge is simply this: When you start to complain (as I often do), stop and THINK why God is in charge. He simply knows what is best for us. As I have said many times—God's way is the perfect way and God's timing—rain or shine—is the perfect timing.

Enjoy the summer! When it is too hot and humid, keep your cool and thank God for His wisdom and perfect ways!

SUMMER TIME IS A TIME TO SIT BACK, PUT YOUR FEET UP AND RELAX. However, we're all very busy. You know when your life is too busy when ... You tried to enter your password on the microwave! You email your son or daughter in his or her room that dinner is ready, and he emails you back, “What's for dinner?”

“But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Matthew 6:33

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN * LIGONIER—CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



DR. ERIN BOYD SOISSON of the Human Development and Family Science Department at Messiah College recently received the 2021 Smith Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award in the category for full Professors. In part, she is described by her students as having a clear passion for her teaching, and this is evident by her up-to-date knowledge of the material, her ongoing research, and her emphasis of hands-on learning. She is the daughter of Carol Boyd and very proud sister of Debbie McInchok. Congratulations Erin and the entire Boyd family!

CONGRATULATIONS TO JENNA DEEMER, daughter of Brian and Jeni Deemer, Granddaughter of Barry and Mary Boyd, and Great Granddaughter of Carol Boyd. Jenna was graduated from the Phlebotomy Program at Westmoreland County Community College on May 7. She is employed by Excelsa Health and the Mellon Foundations.



CONGRATULATIONS TO CORRINE SMITH, the daughter of Shad Smith. Corrine was graduated from Westmoreland County Community College with a Degree in Radiology. She is working at Med-Express in Westmont.



CONGRATULATIONS TO MATTHEW RUMMEL who was graduated from Ligonier Valley High School. Matthew was involved in many sports, and musical performances. He was a member of the National Honor Society, Student Counsel and involved in many other programs and activities.. In addition to his involvement in High School, Matthew is active in the Christian Ed. Program at our church. He plans to attend college at the University of Hawaii this fall, working on a degree in Political Science and a minor in French.



“THE GRADUATE’S PRAYER”

“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. Grant me faith and courage, and put purpose in my days, 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. Amen.”



DATE CHANGE FOR THE MEN’S BREAKFAST IN JUNE - All men are invited to gather in the church Fellowship Room for breakfast on **Saturday, June 5th at 9:00am** Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast prepared by the men of the Church and hear from a Guest Speaker who will be sharing his testimony. This date change is for June **only**. **NOTE: In July we’ll be back to our regular schedule— SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH— THE 10TH—at 9:00am.**

JUST A NOTE: **Pastor John and Susan will be on vacation the week of June 7 and will be returning June 14.**



FATHER’S DAY—SUNDAY, JUNE 20. The children of the church are very excited to serve lunch on Father’s Day, following the Worship Service. They look forward to a large crowd!

FATHER’S DAY LUNCH MENU

HOT DOGS * SLOPPY JOES * POTATO CHIPS * DESSERT * DESSERT * BEVERAGE

“A FATHER’S DAY PRAYER” Last night my little boy confessed to me about some childish wrong, and kneeling beside me on his knees 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, and trusting Thee with faith sincere.”



HATS OFF TO STACEY AND TRACY for getting our Webpage up and running. Check it out at www.ligonierfirstcob.org. To be effective, the information on the web page must be kept current, so please forward to Stacey any updates, new events, or new activities. In that way, those wanting the latest and greatest information regarding our church and its ministries will be only a click away!

“You, my brothers and sisters, we’re called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.”
(Galatians 5:13)

As you gather with family and friends thank God for the freedom we have in Him.





WE'RE HAVING AN OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE ON SUNDAY,

JULY 18 at 10:30am in the pavilion at the Shaffer Farm—466 Meadow Drive, Johnstown (Upper Yoder). As we worship we will be blessed by God's lovely creation surrounding us. Gather in the outdoor pavilion for worship,

followed by a covered dish luncheon. Also worshipping with us will be the folks from the Roxbury Church of the Brethren (Pastor John's home church). Pastor James Braunns will bring the morning message. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend. Dress casual, and bring the entire family. Let's gather together to worship and praise Lord in his beautiful creation. (You might hear the sounds of God's creation in addition to seeing them! —clucking chickens and mooing cows!!)

NEWS FROM THE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP... We are still working on getting back to normal as we slowly return to Church. On March 14th we had a meeting after Church to discuss what we want to do for the coming year. **WE WILL NOT HAVE THE CHURCH BAZAAR** this year, however RADA items are still available. If you're interested in purchasing anything, please see Pam. \$1,000 was distributed to several organizations, some of which is the Blackburn Center, Sportsman's Ministry, and Heifer Project. We talked about making ham loaves and apple butter. (Be watching for more information on that!) On Sunday, May 2nd, 17 women attended a "Thank You lunch" for the mothers who work so hard for all of the functions throughout the years. Each lady brought an indoor or outdoor plant, which in turn was exchanged. Our next get-together is **"Christmas In July"** to be held on Sunday, July 25th. The theme is **"Mangers"**. This will be held after Church in the social hall under the leadership of Stacey Knupp. Each lady is asked to bring a \$10 gift to exchange. We hope to see you then.



From Cathy McMaster, President

Children's Sunday School



OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS ARE FILLED WITH CHIL-

DREN who come wanting to learn about God, play, spend time together, do crafts, sing songs and have snacks. Many of these children are also in

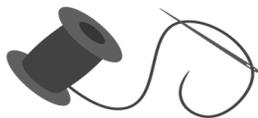
church and we all get to see their smiling faces during the Children's Story. Stacey does a great job sharing the Word with these little ones and Billy is a big help to her. Special thanks to both for sharing in this special ministry. If you come a little early for church, take a walk through the upstairs and downstairs hallways and "peek" in the Sunday School rooms where the children gather. You'll have no trouble finding which room the children are in—you'll hear their happy, excited voices! **"People were bringing little children to Jesus for Him to place His hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, He was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.' Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. And He took the children in His arms, placed His hands on them and blessed them."** Mark 10:13-16

THE WITNESS COMMISSION has been very busy organizing various outreach projects for our Church. In January we supported “Souper” Bowl month. February was Heifer Project International. One of the outreach projects this year was the “**Lenten Food Offering**”. It started February 20th and ended April 3. Two bags were provided per person/family along with a list of 24 items to purchase to fill the bags. Sixteen pairs of bags were given to the local School District for needy families in our community. In March the focus was “**One Great Hour of Sharing**” and April the “**Emmanuel Children’s Home**”. Upcoming special offerings include **Sportsmen’s Fellowship Ministries, Valley Youth Network, Camp Harmony, and Kids Care Fund Food 2 Go 4 Kids**, just to name a few. “It is so heart warming to see the generosity and faithfulness of our congregation for our outreach programs. Acts 20:35 tells me of the kind hearts, and that generosity and faithfulness of this congregation which says, “In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” There is joy in the act of giving when it is done with pure motives.”



Debbie McInchok, Chairperson

THE SUNSHINE STITCHERS OF THE CHURCH CONTINUE TO MEET in the Fellowship Room on Thursday morning from 9:30 until noon to work on prayer shawls, cancer caps, dish cloths, baby blankets and baby caps. We open our stitching time with prayer (and we always have coffee, tea, and snacks!). Since January 2021 we have made and donated 26 Prayer Shawls, 13 Fleece Prayer Blankets, 70 Chemo caps, 41 baby caps—plus numerous dish cloths. With each prayer shawl and blanket, a typed prayer is attached. All of the items we make are placed in the Sanctuary for Sunday Morning Worship. If you know of anyone who could use the blessing of a prayer shawl or a cap please let Susan or Connie know. We don’t want to stock-pile them—we want to distribute them to those who need a “prayer lift” and the shawl wrapped around the shoulders gives that lift. Thank you to the Church for the use of the Fellowship Room, to the congregation for their support, and the ladies who come each week to share their gifts. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.



WE’RE GOING TO TRY SOMETHING NEW. For the Laurel Area Faith In Action organization in Latrobe we’re going to “attempt” to make Arm Chair Totes. Making the Arm Chair Totes is a 20-year-old Advent tradition for the Laurel Area Faith in Action ministry. If you sew and would like to help with this project, please see Susan or any of the stitching ladies. We have a pattern and fabric! **“I have set the Lord continually before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.” Psalm 16:8**



**PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US FOR BIBLE
STUDY on Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm—**

7:30pm, as we study the Book of Revelation. The purpose of Revelation is to reveal the full identify of Jesus and to give warning to non-believers and hope to believers. We're taking the Study of Revelation slowly as we dive into each verse to discuss it and understand it. Revelation is a book of hope, written by John, the beloved Apostle and eyewitness of Jesus. Study sheets are distributed and are helpful in reading, understanding and discussion—and we have great discussion! We started several weeks ago, but it's never too late to join the group. Remember, we're all students trying to learn and understand God's Word. We meet in the Fellowship Room and sit informally around the table. PLUS — There is coffee, cold drinks, and refreshments. (the life bread of the Church of the Brethren!!). Please plan to join us for study, discussion, understanding, and learning. There's always room—none of us are Revelation Scholars AND there are no exams!!

**“Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy,
and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it,
because the time is near.” Revelation 1:3**

SUNDAY SCHOOL—9:30AM

CLASSES FOR ALL AGES—PRE-SCHOOL THROUGH ELEMENTARY

(The children are so excited when they get here)

AND AN ADULT CLASS

(The adults are excited when they get here too!!!)

They meet in the Fellowship Room

9:30AM — JOIN US!

BE WATCHING FOR THE NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY coming to your mailbox very soon. Right now it's in the “proof-reading” stage, We've tried real hard to get updated information and several folks of the church have been very helpful with that. Something new in the Directory is Birthdays and Anniversaries (that's why they aren't in the Church Newsletter!). We know there will be corrections; we just ask that you let us know what they are and we'll type up a sheet of “corrections”. (We hope there aren't too many!!) We want to thank all who helped with the new Directory—making phone calls to check on addresses, phone numbers, birthdates and anniversary dates, proofreading, copying, collating and more.



RITA’S CLOSET—A FREE CLOTHING MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH...

Rita’s Closet - a free clothing ministry—is open Monday from 10am—6pm—now with extended hours. The Community has well received this free clothing and small items ministry at the First Church of the Brethren. One family came needing clothes for their entire family. All sizes and styles were easy to find from the generous donations received

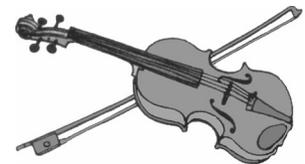
from the many kind hearted members of the Church and the community. On a normal Monday Rita’s Closet sees anywhere from 5—13 people. Currently volunteers including Connie McCoy, Lori Derk, and Jerry Hooper help set-up the rack of clothes and tables in our Fellowship Hall. We are truly thankful for their time and willing spirit . Their help touches those in need and as Darlene says, it touches her heart, as well, every week. Stop by and visit this Ministry on Monday during the hours they’re open, and if you would like to make a donation please see Darlene. When you stop in for a visit, stay and have a cup of coffee!

WE HAVE A VERY ACTIVE PRAYER CHAIN and great prayer warriors! If you have a prayer

request, please call Pastor John. He’ll pass the prayer request on right away.

Cell phone: 610-413-1997 * Home phone: 814-255-7838.

“THE TOUCH OF THE MASTER’S HAND”



“Twas battered and scarred, and the Auctioneer thought it scarcely worth his while to waste much time on the old violin, but held it up with a smile. What is your bid, good folks,” he cried, “who’ll start the bidding for me?” “A dollar, a dollar. Then two! Only two? Two dollars, and who’ll make it three?” “Three dollars, once; three dollars, twice; going for three ...” But no, from the room, far back, a grey-haired man came forward and picked up the bow; then wiping the dust from the old violin, and tightening the loosened strings, he played a melody pure and sweet, as a caroling angel sings. The music ceased, and the Auctioneer, with a voice that was quiet and low, said, “What am I bid for the old violin?” And he held it up with the bow. “A thousand dollars, and who’ll make it two? Two thousand! And who’ll make it three? Three thousand, once; three thousand, twice, and going and gone,” said he. The people cheered, but some of them cried, “We do not quite understand. What changed its worth? Swift came the reply: “The touch of the Master’s hand.” And many a man with life out of tune, and battered and scarred with sin, is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd much like the old violin. A “mess of pottage,” a glass of wine, a game — and he travels on. He is “going” once, and “going” twice, but the Master comes, and the foolish crowd never can quite understand the worth of a soul and the change that is wrought by the touch of the Master’s hand.”

By: Myra Brooks Welch / Submitted By: Lois Kinsey

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
405 ROUTE 271
LIGONIER, PA. 15658-9245
EMAIL: lcob1888@gmail.com
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.



Church of the Brethren

PLEASE JOIN US ...
SUNDAY SCHOOL—9:30AM
CLASSES FOR ALL AGES—
YOUNG CHILDREN THROUGH
ADULT

WORSHIP—10:30AM

ADULT BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY EVENING—6:30PM