



REVELATIONS
MECHANIC GROVE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
1392 Robert Fulton Highway
Quarryville, PA 17566



Website: www.mgcb.org

Phone: 717-786-2723

Email: church@mgcb.org

December 2021

Mission journey to Bethlehem

A few weeks ago, our congregation celebrated “Mission Sunday” when we heard Josiah Ludwick share about the mission trip he and his family took to the country of Rwanda. The purpose of this mission trip was to support and encourage a very new Church of the Brethren church in a country that has had a very difficult history of hatred and violence. Josiah and his family desired to be a part of the healing process in this troubled country.

Have you ever stopped to consider that the incarnation – Jesus coming to Bethlehem as a baby - was a mission trip? Jesus thought our wellbeing was important enough that he left his home in heaven to come, not just to a foreign land, but in a foreign form as well. Missionaries to another country like Josiah and his family will often adapt to some local customs like food and worship styles to be more effective. In order to accomplish his mission of saving the world from the disease of sin, God needed more than a just change of customs. God, who is Spirit, “became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”

We are now in the season of Advent when we are looking ahead to celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world as a missionary at Bethlehem. This was Jesus’ “mission trip” as he came to us to show us the way to heaven. In the upcoming weeks we will have the opportunity to celebrate Jesus “mission trip” to earth as we hear and sing with Christmas music played on our new organ in the sanctuary on December 5th. We will also have the opportunity to participate in caroling on Friday December 17th and candlelight communion on Sunday evening December 19th. All this in addition to our usual weekly opportunities to gather for worship and Sunday school and our traditional Christmas Eve service.

In addition, we will have the opportunity to participate in the Live Journey to the Nativity on Saturday evening December 11th. This will be a live, in-person “journey” as we are invited to re-live the story of how God sent his son Jesus as a missionary to our world.

Years ago, an interesting sign was seen hanging in a store window during the Christmas season. The original message stated, “Let’s make this the best Christmas ever.” Underneath, some perceptive person had scribbled a legitimate question: “How will we top the first one?”

Although we cannot top the first Christmas, I would like to challenge each of us to make this the “second best Christmas ever” as we actively participate in this Advent journey celebrating the coming of Jesus who came to Bethlehem as a missionary to the world on that first Christmas Day.

~ Mary Etta Reinhart, Interim Associate Pastor



SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES 8:15AM AND 10:30AM

Date	Title/Scripture	Speaker
<i>Sermon Series: Messages about the Messiah: Dreams, Visions and Visitations</i>		
December 5, 2021	Second Sunday of Advent Sermon Title: "Zechariah's Visitation" Scripture: Luke 1:5-25	Pastor Bob Kettering
December 12, 2021	Third Sunday of Advent Sermon Title: "Mary's Visitation" Scripture: Luke 1:26-38	Pastor Bob Kettering
December 19, 2021	Fourth Sunday of Advent Sermon Title: "Joseph's Dream" Scriptures: Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-14	Pastor Bob Kettering
December 26, 2021	Sermon Title: "The Wisemen's Dream" Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12	Pastor Bob Kettering

SERVING THE CHURCH

Welcomers/Greeters

December Welcomers:	8:15 am	TBD
	10:30 am	Brad & Bobbie Davis
December Greeters:	8:15 am	Merv & Nadine Keener
	10:30 am	Dave & Diane Herr
Head Ushers:	8:15 am	Earl Mull
	10:30 am	Dave Holzhauer



ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

Date	Morning Worship	Sunday School	General Offering	Budgeted Difference*
October 31	79/98	116	\$8,917.00	
November 4	Online Giving		\$270.98	-\$848.02
November 7	81/76	121	\$10,011.00	
November 11	Online Giving		\$756.18	+\$731.18
November 14	181 Combined	150	\$7,143.00	
November 18	Online Giving		\$756.18	-\$2,136.85
November 21	69/46	96	\$5,164.00	
November 25	Online Giving		\$270.98	-\$4,601.02

*2021 Weekly budgeted amount needed to make budget: \$10,036.00

Building Maintenance Fund \$574.00
 Building Rental \$450.00
 SNM/Food Bank \$90.00

PLEASE NOTE



***All scheduled events in this newsletter** are subject to change. Please check other means of communication such as bulletins, emails, website, etc. for current updates.

***Prayer List** – If you don't currently receive our email prayer list and would like to, please contact the church office or visit: <http://eepurl.com/gNWe95>. If you do not use email, there is also a phone prayer chain available.

***Telephone Directory Information needed.** Please check your information in the Telephone directory (located on the table in the gathering area). Please make any corrections needed or send them to the church office via email - church@mgcb.org. Thanks!

***Articles for the January newsletter** are due by December 15th.

***Summary of New Business and Elections – From Council Meeting Minutes 11/14/21**

New Business

- Director of Family Ministries Position – A motion to create this position was brought from Church Board and seconded by Clarence Wenger. Lori Holzhauser, from the Transition Team (now called the Family Ministry Team) made a short presentation. Pastor Bob then made a few remarks regarding hiring someone for this position prior to hiring a senior pastor. Comments and questions from the congregation were answered. Congregational vote by paper ballot: 97% in favor of proceeding with hiring for this new position.
- 2022 Budget – The 2022 Budget was brought from Church Board and seconded by Brian Mull. Budget passed unanimously by voice vote.
- COM Budgets – The COM Budget was brought from Children's Outreach Ministries via Church Board and seconded by Michael Herr. Budget passed unanimously by voice vote.

Elections

- Licensing of Rachel Johnson – Congregational vote by paper ballot: Approved. Licensing Service will be held on January 2, 2022.
- Relicensing of Josiah Reimold – Congregational vote by paper ballot: Approved.
- Confirmation of Deacons – Congregational vote by paper ballot: All 10 deacons on the slate were confirmed.
- Affirmation of Church Officers – Pastor Bob made comments about calling a moderator to Mechanic Grove who is not from our congregation. Congregational vote for all vacant church positions were made by paper ballot. All positions on the Gifts Discernment Slate were affirmed.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS 2021

December 5	Second Sunday in Advent 3:00pm Organ Concert
December 11	5:30pm Journey to the Nativity
December 12	Third Sunday in Advent Church of the Brethren Advent Offering 5:30pm Journey to the Nativity rain date
December 17	6:00pm Caroling
December 19	Fourth Sunday in Advent 6:00pm Candlelight Communion
December 24	6:00pm Christmas Eve Service





CROP WALK UPDATE

The final results are in for the 2021 Solanco CROP walk that was held Saturday, October 16th. We were blessed with beautiful weather (the rain held off until the afternoon!) and a great location for walking. It was a wonderful day for all who participated and for the persons for whom we raised money.

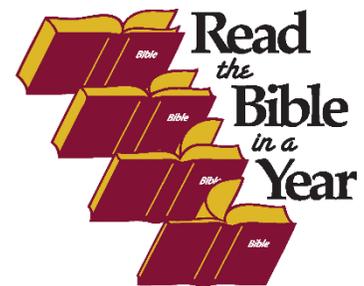
There were a total of 73 persons (virtual and in-person) from 13 community churches or organizations who participated in this year's CROP Walk. The Walk raised \$17,079.39. **This is the 3rd highest amount raised in the past 40 years of the Solanco CROP Hunger Walk!**

Included in this total were 30 walkers from Mechanic Grove who raised a total of \$9,736.70

The Solanco Food Bank will receive 25% of these funds. What a blessing this project will be for both the Solanco Food Bank and for the hungry around the world!

Check our Solanco CROP Walk Facebook Page for pictures of the day's activities!

MEMBER CHALLENGE TO READ THROUGH THE ENTIRE BIBLE IN 2022



I asked the Nurture Commission to challenge the members of our church to read through the entire Bible in 2022. To help with this challenge there will be order sheets to purchase One Year Bibles from a variety of translations. Sample copies of the various translations will be on the table with order sign-ups beginning November 28th. The sign-up sheet for orders will need to be completed by December 12th. Orders will then be placed and payment due when the Bibles are picked up.

The translations will include the King James Version (KJV), the New King James Version (NKJV), the New International Version (NIV), the New Living Translation (NLT) and the English Standard Version (ESV).

The One Year Bible provides a systematic way to read the Bible with daily readings from the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs beginning with the first chapter of each book starting on January 1st. By December 31st you will have read through the entire Bible.

My hope is that you will prayerfully take on this spiritual discipline for the new year.

~Pastor Bob Kettering

OUR COUPLES CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES

Dan and Gayle Hershberger	4	Amos and Ruth Cunningham	27
Hans and Tina Herr	13	Don and Frances Kreider	26
		Travis & Christy Heidinger	30

OUR MEMBERS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Graham	1	David Tshudy	12	Alfonso Juarez	15
Scott Kreider	1	Joe Graybeal	15	Melissa Landis	16
Stephen Grosh	2	Jamie Platt	15	Janae McMichael	17
John Manges	2			Peggy Rasmussen	18
Isaac Kreider	2			Howard Hendrickson	19
Stephen Graham	4			Hans Herr	21
Thomas Houghton	5			Heather Kreider	21
Tom Hunter	5			Amy Graver	22
Lacey Heidinger	6			Bette Lou Epler	23
Michael Herr	8			Bob Swarr	24
Everett Kreider Jr.	8			Melissa Kreider (Mrs.Derrick)	26
Denise Mellott	9			Bill Ulrich	26
Justine Kreider	10			Debbie Hart	27
Audrey Cunningham	12			Brian Robertson	27
Aribella McComsey	12			Vince Becker	29
Christine Schneider	12			Carolyn Wenger	29
Joel Schneider	12			Marcia Kauffman	31



If you have a birthday or anniversary this month and it is not listed, please contact the church office.



MUSIC NOTES *By Lori Holzhauser*

The Advent Season is here and there are several opportunities to hear some beautiful Christmas music. Mark your calendars and invite your friends to join you!!

December 5th starts off the season with the Organ Dedicatory Concert at 3:00pm. Come and sing along as Dr. Ross Ellison plays familiar Christmas Carols.

Christmas Caroling – December 17th at 6:00pm. Last year we weren't able to go caroling because of COVID restrictions. If you haven't gone caroling in the past, won't you consider starting a new Family Christmas Tradition. What a great way to serve our older members during the holiday season.

Christmas Sunday is December 19th; **Candlelight Communion** will be held in the evening at 7:00pm.

Christmas Eve at 6:00pm the Adult and Children's Choirs will be featured, including two anthems together. Come sing some of your favorite carols and celebrate the miraculous story of Jesus' birth.

UPCOMING EVENTS & INFORMATION



ORGAN DEDICATORY CONCERT

Sunday, December 5, 2021

Dr. Ross Ellison will present an organ concert of Christmas music based upon familiar carols which the congregation will join in singing for the dedication of the new organ on Sunday, December 5 at 3:00pm. Ross is the owner of University Music Store in Hershey and an adjunct professor of organ at Millersville University. He is head of the Lancaster Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and a sought-after recitalist. Ross and Bob Kettering have been friends since elementary school. Bob is chair of the Mount Gretna Camp Meeting Bible Festival programs and Ross is vice-chair.

The concert is open to the public. A free-will offering will be received.

ADVENT OFFERING

Sunday, December 12th



The Church of the Brethren Advent Offering reflects our commitment to speak peace on earth and goodwill to all peoples. It supports Core Ministries like Congregational Life Ministries, Global Mission and Service, and the Office of Public Witness that carry the Christ-light to all people. Our offerings that day will be divided among these organizations, unless marked otherwise.

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|--|-----|
| • Church of the Brethren Core Ministries | 40% |
| • Brethren Housing Association | 25% |
| • COBYS Family Services | 15% |
| • Brethren Village Good Samaritan Fund | 10% |
| • Alpha and Omega Family Life Center | 10% |



LIVE JOURNEY TO THE NATIVITY

December 11th, 2021

5:30 – 8:00pm

Experience the journey that led Mary and Joseph to the stable where Jesus was born.

A group leader will take you along a lighted path to 3 different scenes and then to the final scene which will be the Nativity. You will hear and see the story from the angel with Mary and Joseph, to the Inn of Bethlehem

and to the shepherds. The wise men and you will follow the star to the Stable! You will also hear songs being sung along your journey. It is an evening planned for you to listen, watch and experience the celebration of joy this Christmas. Each group will have between 25 – 30 people. At each scene there will be benches/bales of straw to sit on. The Journey will take about 40 minutes to complete.

There is no cost for this journey. If you wish to bring a canned good(s) for the Food Bank, that would be a gracious gift! We will have a container for you to place your canned good gift and we will deliver these items to the Quarryville Food Bank. Invite your family and friends, young and old. We will have golf carts available to take those not comfortable with the walking. They will drive behind the group and stop at each scene.

You will begin where the star is shining over Welcome Area. Each traveler can enjoy a cookie with hot chocolate or hot cider and sit around one of the 4 campfires and listen to stories as you wait for your group to start the journey! Rain Date is Sunday, December 12th.

BOLD CLASSES

2022 schedule will follow the Solanco and Wee Friends Preschool calendars. All ages of women are welcome to all the classes.



Mondays 9:15 am – Spin - 30 minutes

We will guide your road through resistance and speed changes, but it is always your ride!

Thursdays 10:30 am – Dualsday - 30 minutes

Two instructors, one ride. Follow the instructor that fits your need. From low impact to advanced, we will guide you through your road in the same class

Fridays- 9:15 am - Bootcamp - 45 minutes

Get your heart pumping, transitioning from the bike to the floor for low impact strength!

Evening classes - There have been many asking about evening classes. At this point we will be trialing out 1 or 2 evenings a month. These will be posted on our social media pages and in the bulletin the month prior.

***January 12th @ 6:30pm ***

Not interested in Spin but want to support this outreach and the younger moms entering our church? There is a need for childcare. We are looking for our church members to love on the children that aren't old enough to be in preschool or are in afternoon Kindergarten during these morning classes! Please contact Morgan or Brittney for details!

LIFT CLASSES

LIFT Nutrition and Strength Training Classes for men & women will be offered by Penn State Extension at Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren.

The eight-week class begins January 4, 2022 and continues until February 24th. You can register for the 9am or 10:45am class that is held every Tuesday and Thursday. The cost is \$60.00. For information about registration contact Doris Aument 717-464-6662.



valuable information that will help you through this difficult season of your life.

Our next GriefShare group meets January 8, 2022, at 9:30am in Room 33 at the church. We are offering this 13-week program to help and support you during this difficult time in your life. We hope you, a family member, or friend will consider joining us.

Please remember your loss is shared by others in this church and what you are experiencing is sometimes easier to bear knowing others are listening and do care. May God's love continue to comfort and strengthen you. Please feel free to call the church office at 717-786-2723 or Pastor Rita Carter at 717-806-2156 for more information about the group.



GRIEF SHARE

Expressing sympathy is always difficult, but all we can say is how sorry we are and want you to know we care. The journey of grief is a painful process, and you do not need to walk it alone. We would like to encourage you to come to the special seminar and support group offered at the Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren called GriefShare. The materials specifically address topics and issues for those who are grieving the death of a loved one.

GriefShare meets weekly and the content is Christ-centered and biblical. You will find this to be a place where you can be around people who understand the pain of your loss. You will be prayed for and learn

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SAVE THESE DATES NEXT MONTH

- **Licensing of Rachel Johnson:** January 2, 2022
- **ROOTS Nights:** Wednesday, January 5th & 19th
- **Church Board Member Orientation:** Saturday, January 8th @ 9am
- **Church Board Installation:** Sunday, January 9th @ 8:15am
- **Deacon Installation:** Sunday, January 9th @ 10:30am
- **Commissions, Church Board and Executive Board:** Monday, January 10th



FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE

We are excited to be moving forward after receiving an overwhelmingly positive vote to hire a Director of Family Ministries.

Thank you for all your encouragement and support over the past year. A Search Committee will be formed to begin the next phase in finding a candidate to fill this position. The Ministry & Nurture Commissions will form the Committee and announce the members as soon as possible.



David & Lori Holzhauer (Facilitators) and Denise Mellott (Nurture Liaison)

Karl & Sue Auken and Eric & Morgan Holzhauer (Youth)

Janae McMichael and Laurie O'Donnell (Jr. High)

Amanda Grumbling and Kerri Kreider (Pre-school and Elementary)

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

