



Mechanic Grove
Church of the Brethren

REVELATIONS

1392 Robert Fulton Hwy Quarryville, PA 17566

Website: www.mgcb.org

Phone: 717-786-2723

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January 2023

Happy New Year!

2023. A fresh start. A clean slate. A new beginning.

I have a strong appreciation for the start of a new year. I love reflection and goal setting. I love looking into another 365 days with intention and purpose.

I've learned some things, though, about new year goal setting...

- I will, at some point in time, lack the follow-through that I thought I had on January 1st.
- Life in January will undoubtedly be very different from my life in the December to follow.
- My intentions and goals for the year have got nothing on what God has in store for me.

I learned these little lessons after many years of setting goals for myself in the areas of friendships, physical health, our home, my spiritual health, our finances and so on. Sure, these goals set me on a nice trajectory to start out the year, but I don't have the foresight to know what I'll need when the calendar turns over again.

This time last year, I had stepped into a world of wild unknown. Simply obedience to what God was asking me to do next. Five months prior, I prayed a bold *"whatever you want to do, Lord, do it. I'm ready"* prayer and then by the time the year was out I was submitting an application for the position of Director of Family Ministry here at Mechanic Grove.

My goal setting looked way different than a normal end of year reflection. I found myself not able to intentionally set goals for the upcoming year. God had absolutely flipped my year inside out. I didn't have a clue what January 2022 was going to bring based on what he asked me to surrender in December 2021. But in a sense, old habits die hard. I needed to position my gaze for the year. There was only one direction to look - up.

Each year, D-Group, the women's bible study I lead, asks its participants to pray over a characteristic or attribute of God they want to (or need to) lean into for that year. It's kind of like picking a word for the year, but better! Last year, I needed to sit in the sovereignty and almighty power of God. Knowing that to be true of Him allowed me to pray often over my availability for Him to work in and through me.

Maybe you'll join me in leaning into a specific attribute of God for 2023? Ask Him to reveal to you what He has for you, what He wants to show you of Himself. If you need some help, stop by my office. I have a nice list of attributes of God with aligning scripture passages that I'd be happy to share with you.

I'm not yet sure what attribute I'll settle on for 2023. But I assure you, when all my other intentions for good goals or healthy lifestyles failed me this year, that one goal didn't. Leaning in to El Elyon, the Sovereign One, proved himself over and over again this year. He will be true to who He is for you too. Lean in. It's His nature.

~ *Janae McMichael*, Director of Family Ministries

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES 8:15am and 10:30am

Date	Title/Scripture	Speaker
January 1	Sermon Title: "Glancing Back, Focusing Forward" Scripture: Isaiah 43:16-21, Ephesians 4:20-32	Rachel Johnson
Series: Simply Jesus! ~ based on the Gospel of Luke		
January 8	Sermon Title: "Showdown in the Desert" Scripture: Luke 4:1-13	Pastor Kevin Richardson
January 15	Sermon Title: "Rejection!" Scripture: Luke 4:14-30	Pastor Kevin Richardson
January 22	Sermon Title: "He Chose Me!" Scripture: Luke 5:1-11	Pastor Kevin Richardson
January 29	Title: "Taking a Stand" Scripture: Luke 5:17-26	Pastor Kevin Richardson

SERVING THE CHURCH

Welcomers/Greeters/Ushers

Welcomers:	8:15 am	Howard & Judy Hendrickson
	10:30 am	Mike & Tracy Mauger
Greeters:	8:15 am	Barbara Graham & Doris Aument
	10:30 am	Michael Bollinger & Nick Kreider
Head Ushers:	8:15 am	Earl Mull
	10:30 am	Dave Holzhauer, Chuck Groff
Ushers:	8:15 am	Earle Hershey, Ken Herr
		Ed Reinhart, Ken Rutt
	10:30 am	Youth

Attendance & Giving

Date	Worship	Sunday School	General Offering	Online Giving	Budgeted Difference
December 4	231	116	\$8,725.00	\$770.00	-\$1,299.00
December 11	232	190	\$14,840.00	\$270.00	+\$4,816.00
December 18	248	132	\$2,700.00	\$1,170.00	-\$7,324.00
December 25	228		\$10,306.50	\$270.00	+\$282.50

Building Maintenance Fund	\$5,959.00	2 Cent-a-Meal	\$350.00
Benevolence/ Birthday	\$2,500.00	SNM/ Food Bank	\$50.00
Change for Change	\$5,000.00	Christmas Offering	\$19,233.11

* \$10,024.00 is the weekly amount needed to meet the 2022 Budget

Update from Bob Kettering

I want to thank you for this opportunity to briefly share about my recent two and a half week mission trip to East African Church of the Brethren congregations in Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda. Thank you for your prayers and for the financial contribution from the Mission Endowment Fund to help underwrite some of the expenses of the pastoral training seminars in the four countries I mentioned. And thanks to my wonderful family for supporting me in this endeavor. This was my first trip to Africa.

Joining me as part of the training team was Marla Abe who planned the trip. She is pastor of the Lynchburg, Virginia COB and the daughter of Brethren missionaries Charlie and Mary Beth Bieber. Marla was born and raised in Nigeria and has a real heart for Africa. Also joining us was Caleb Sylvanus Dakwak who is the senior pastor of the Abuja Church of the Brethren in the capital of Nigeria. His congregation averages between 2,000-3,000 on a Sunday morning; a mega church on the scale of the local LCBC in Manheim. The COB in Nigeria will be celebrating its 100th anniversary next year with about one million members and many more in worship on a Sunday morning.

Let me say that the Church of the Brethren is expanding rapidly to many countries in Africa in recent years and exploding in growth. The Nigerian Church of the Brethren has recently started congregations in Cameroon, Togo and the Niger Republic. Other newly established COB congregations have started in Burundi-2015; Rwanda-2015; Uganda-2015; D.R. Congo-2014; Kenya this year and soon to be established in South Sudan. On the plane ride back we received word that the COB has now been launched in Tanzania. The Lord is doing a marvelous, miraculous work of establishing and growing the Church of the Brethren throughout Africa. But with all of these new churches there is a great need for the education and training of pastors in Brethren history, theology, beliefs and practices.

All of our teaching and preaching was translated by interpreters from each of the different languages in the four countries we visited to about 100 pastors plus 100 spouses and laity. I gave a 4-5 hour lecture on the history of the Christian church, explained our ordinances and taught on our understanding and mode of baptism. Marla taught on the love feast, communion, feet washing, anointing and laying on of hands. Marla and I taught on the peace position of the church and Sylvanus taught on discipleship and integrity of ministry. I also taught on self-care of pastors. In each country we did two days of seminars morning and afternoon. The Brethren in Africa dance and sing heartily in worship and the Masai pastors jump when they worship and invited me to the platform to join them in jumping in praise of the Lord!

I preached in two churches in Rwanda...the large church in Gisenyi with several hundred in attendance and a smaller church reached by a dirt foot path from the road lined with roosters, goats and sheep.

It was a rigorous and rewarding experience which included 10 air flights, hundreds of miles driving in the back of a car or van up and down and around very high dormant volcanic mountains with breathtaking views and hairpin turns. The trip through Uganda was a ten hour ride in the back of a van on a two lane macadam road with four rumble strips every few miles and through the savannah to Kasese where we saw elephants, baboons, monkeys, water buffalo, antelope, a hyena, elands and hippos.

We stayed in adequate to primitive hotels but I slept well every night and ate well with some new tastes including chapati, goat meat and rice soaked in beet juice. Lots of potatoes, rice, chicken, beef and even spaghetti, pizza. Breakfast was usually fresh fruit, omelets and black tea. I returned home on Sunday evening after about 20 hours of flying. I will be available for a presentation to churches in early 2023.

OUR COUPLES CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES

7 Dylan & Krista Ricker



OUR MEMBERS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 5 Jenn Juarez | 18 Dave Felpel | 24 Alan Platt |
| 9 Dustin Mellott | Tina Herr | 25 Annice Landis |
| Fawn Sample | Philip Johnson | 26 Holly Cunningham |
| 11 Barbara Kreider | Mike Mauger | Madison Houghton |
| 13 Pam Scheffel | Ashley Welch | 27 Doug Heisler |
| 16 Drew Housekeeper | 19 Linda Frank | 30 Gail Grosh |
| Ruth Mae Lapp | Mel Lapp | Mary Poe |
| Dick Lefever | 20 Clarence Wenger | 31 Glenn Kreider |



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



Music Notes

By Lori Holzauer

LET'S GET RINGING AGAIN!!! The Adult Bell Choir will start practicing on Thursday, January 12 at 6:30. Now is your chance to join if you are interested. No experience is necessary, we will teach you what you need to know. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 717-951-8880 or e-mail me at Dav1Lori2@epix.net.



Adult Choir

Youth - ???
Wednesdays
7:30 – 8:30

Adult Bell Choir

Thursdays
6:30 – 7:30
In Room 26



Jr. Chime Choir will be starting on Wednesday, January 11th at 5:15. We will meet in the bell room, located in the upstairs Nursery School Wing.



Clyde Dubble
The Glen #359
675 Willow Valley Square
Lancaster, PA 17602
Phone: 717.517.3370

Tyler & Janelle Brown
3148 Pinch Road
Manheim PA 17545

MECHANIC GROVE

ROOTS



JAN

LIL' ROOTS

ROOTS NIGHTS - DIG N' GROW:

- JAN 4TH AND 18TH
- INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

SUNDAY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS:

- PARABLES OF JESUS

HOW YOU CAN PRAY FOR US:

- PRAY FOR THE LAUNCH OF LIL' ROOTS GROW GROUPS! (THE NEW VERSION OF CHILDREN'S CHURCH)

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO LORI HOLZHAUER AND RHONDA HEIDINGER FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK IN HELPING THE LIL' ROOTS WITH THE CHRISTMAS S.O.C.C.E.R TEAM MUSICAL!



YOUTH ROOTS

PAST EVENTS:

- YOUTH "GATHER" EVENT
 - YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY
 - GIFT EXCHANGE & GINGERBREAD DECORATING
- HELP WITH THE JOURNEY TO THE NATIVITY

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ROOTS NIGHTS - DIG N' GROW
 - JANUARY 4TH, 18TH
- JR.. HIGH WINTER RETREAT AT BLACK ROCK
 - JANUARY 6-9
- SR. HIGH SKI RETREAT AT THREE SPRINGS
 - JANUARY 27-29

WHAT WE'RE LEARNING:

- PARABLES OF JESUS
- "WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT..."

HOW YOU CAN PRAY FOR US:

- THAT OUR TIMES AT OUR WINTER RETREATS WILL BE A BLESSED TIME OF FELLOWSHIP, WORSHIP AND CONNECTING WITH THE LORD



MECHANIC GROVE



ROOTS



LIL' ROOTS GROW GROUPS

FORMALLY CHILDREN'S CHURCH

SCHEDULE

10:30AM SERVICE ONLY
GROUPS DISMISSED AFTER
OFFERING & PRAISE TEAM SONGS

1ST SUNDAY - OFF

2ND SUNDAY - K-1ST

3RD SUNDAY - 2ND-3RD

4TH SUNDAY - 4TH-5TH

5TH SUNDAY - OFF

WHAT'S GROW GROUP?

G: GOD'S WORD > INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY, TECHNIQUES, AGE-SPECIFIC

R: RELATIONSHIPS > DISCUSSION, ACCOUNTABILITY, CELEBRATIONS, ADULT MENTORS

O: OUTREACH > SERVICE, OFFERINGS, MISSIONS

W: WORSHIP > SONG, PRAYER

PURPOSE: TO ALLOW LIL' ROOTS STUDENTS TO ENGAGE IN AGE-SPECIFIC "BIBLE STUDY" THROUGH SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION, INDUCTIVE STUDY TECHNIQUES, PRAYER AND WORSHIP.

LIL' ROOTS GROW GROUPS WILL MEET IN ROOM 8 (COLD AUXILIARY ROOM, BESIDE THE ART ROOM/OLD KITCHEN)

THEY WILL HAVE 30-45 MINUTES, ONCE A MONTH WITH THEIR AGE GROUP FOR A AGE-APPROPRIATE BIBLE STUDY, LED BY A LEADER PAIR THAT WILL STAY WITH THEM FOR THE YEAR.

THE TOPIC THEME FOR 2023 IS "A 6-CHAPTER GOSPEL"



www.becomebold.org

Joy Ride

The Joy Ride for the kids at Christmas in Q-ville was a great success! The kids had a great time and we got to interact with new moms in the community that are interested in Bold



Turkey Burn Ride

We had our second annual Turkey Burn Ride & Run on Thanksgiving morning. We had all the bikes full and quite a number of women show up to run. It was an awesome morning of worship with our Bold women!



Classes

MON - 9:15 & 10:00 AM
THURS - 10:30 AM & 6:30 PM
FRI - 9:15 AM



UPCOMING EVENTS & INFORMATION

We are seeking youth and adult volunteers (our branches) to support our Strong Lil' Roots through a series of small notes and gifts beginning on March 5, 2023. It is our hope the children will feel encouraged and supported by their church family. We will conclude by hosting a brunch on March 26, 2023. The theme of our brunch will be "dig" as the children will be spending the spring quarter "digging" through Paul's letters in the Bible. We encourage the volunteers to work alongside the children and read through some of the letters themselves and share what they learn!

Please see the bulletin to sign up to support a child.

All Lil' Roots parents will receive a letter in January asking about your child's interest in participating. Please see Katherine Tshudy if you have not received a letter. Please kindly respond by February 12.

This will be organized similar to the traditional MGCB Secret Angel Tea.

WIDE
BRANCHES
STRONG LIL' ROOTS
BRUNCH

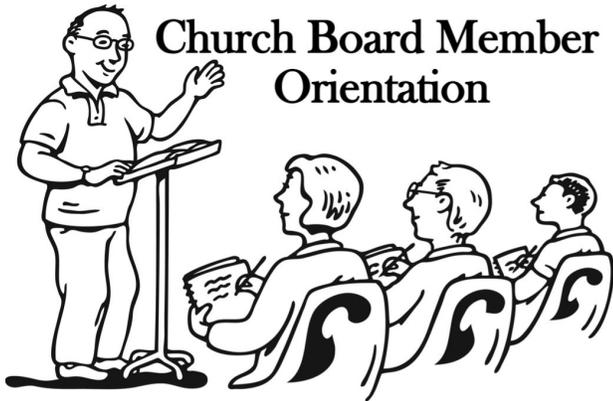


Youth Roots Winter Retreats

<p>JR. HIGH (6th-8th)</p> <p>BLACK ROCK RETREAT Jr. High Winter Retreat</p> <p>January 6th-8th</p> <p>Confirm registration with Heather Kreider by FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23rd</p> <p>Register as individual campers at www.blackrockretreat.com/winter-camps/</p> <p>Youth Registration Cost: \$35</p> <p>Registration Money Due to Janae McMichael by December 30th</p>	<p>SR. HIGH (9th-12th)</p> <p>THREE SPRINGS Ski Retreat</p> <p>January 27-29th</p> <p>Collect registration forms and waivers from Heather Kreider, the youth room OR download in GroupMe</p> <p>Youth Registration Cost: \$70 + Ski Rental Costs</p> <p>Registration Due to Heather Kreider on January 5th</p>
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Invite your friends!

Contact Heather Kreider or Janae McMichael with questions



Church Board Member Orientation

Orientation for Church Board members will be January 7 at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall/Catacombs.

Starting this January

Together we'll memorize one passage each week.
Together we'll fight the fight of faith.

Learn more at
FighterVerses.com/churches

Fighter Verses
GUIDE TO SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Download your Free
Guide to Scripture Memory

I wanted to extend a BIG THANK YOU to all the individuals that were involved in making the 3rd annual Journey to the Nativity event, such a great success.

This truly is a church event. From our youngest person, Isaac Kreider to those adults 70+. I had a total of 71 people helping in some capacity. You were willing to be involved, help with set up and help to take it all down again. You withstood the cold too! We brought much joy to those traveling the path leading up to the birth of our Savior. It was a production that took many hands to make it work. AND YOU DID!

We had 350+ people attending this year. Each year the number increases and that is great! I thank those in our church who attended, and we were also blessed to have so many in the community come to walk through the Journey. God provided us with perfect weather Saturday evening which enabled us to show and explain of the Hope of knowing Jesus as we celebrate Christmas. We had many canned good donations, gift cards and money collected for the Solanco Food Bank. The outpouring of generosity to give back to the community is wonderful!

The Holy Spirit is truly alive and at work at Mechanic Grove! Joy to the World, yes this is Christmas! Not just December 25th, but every day of the year.

There are already have some new ideas to add to the Journey to the Nativity for next year. I like Pastor Kevin's thought on having the Cross with the Manger. That will be incorporated into the Manger scene next year. The more we can share the Light of Christ to others, the more the Light of Christ will shine in them.

I could never say it enough, thank you and I appreciate everyone one of you!

Diane Herr

CANCELLATION OF SERVICES & ROOTS ACTIVITIES

The decision to cancel Sunday morning church services will be made by the Board Chair and the Pastor. Any decision to cancel will be announced on WDAC, 94.5 radio, the church website home page (www.mgcb.org), church Facebook page and the church answering machine. If services are not cancelled and you feel it unsafe to get to church for you or your family, please worship with us online in your own at home!

For ROOTS Wednesday cancellations, we will follow cancellation or early dismissal decisions determined by Solanco School District. If school has been cancelled or dismissed early, **there will be no ROOTS activities!** There may be other occasions when we need to cancel ROOTS before Solanco makes its decision. In those cases, we will do so by 1 pm on Wednesday. A message will be placed on the church website and church answering machine.



We are in need of a few Sound and Live Stream Technicians for both the 8:15 & 10:30 worship services. You would be volunteering for one Sunday per month on a rotation. If you are interested, please see Ed Heidinger II or contact him at EdH@mgcb.org or 717.344.4177

Children's Outreach Ministries Update

A new year brings with it fresh opportunities to seek after and serve God. Pastor Rita spoke of it as signing a blank page and asking God to fill it in. I really like that analogy and am praying this for our ministries. We don't know what God will have in store for us, but I would like us to "sign that blank page" and let Him fill it in with whatever He chooses.

2022 was a blessed time of rebuilding and restoring the ministries that have struggled since COVID. I know God is not finished with us. He continues to grow the reputation of C.O.M. for His name and glory. As we move forward in this new year there is something I'm requesting you to pray for us. The makeup of the family unit has changed much over the last few years. There are many grandparents raising their grandchildren, single parent households, and strained family relationships. More and more of the children we care for are struggling in many ways and are under a lot of stress. We are striving to re-educate ourselves, but I ask that you pray God gives us the wisdom, insight, patience, love, and grace to meet the needs of these children and their families. We know God can offer healing and comfort and we pray He opens doors and gives us opportunity to show this to them.

We are excited to see all that God has for Children's Outreach Ministries and Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren in 2023. Let us all be willing to sign that "Blank Page".

In His Name - Aliza Kraynak, Administrator



Update from the Witness Commission

Several months ago the Witness Commission assisted St. John's church in Lancaster in sponsoring an Afghani refugee family by offering financial support. Here's some information on the family:

The Abdi family consists of Bati & Halimia (Dad & Mom), children Abidissa 16, Sutan 14 and Abdallah 8.

- Bati is employed at Urban Outfitters and is pleased that his family now has income.

- Abidissa & Sutan attend McCaskey High and Abdallah attends Fulton Elementary in the School District of Lancaster.

The family is living in a house on the church property and are wanting to do many things on their own, though they know there are people who care about them if help is needed. St. Joh's has many members serving on the Wel-

ED'S TECH CORNER

Some helpful tips to get you comfortable with your tech
& tech updates here at the Grove.



New Year, New Tech

Updates about some upgrades coming to the Grove

Over this last year I have been keeping an eye on all the tech here at MGCB to make sure everything is functioning as it should. Little did I know that some equipment would test my knowledge through the year. As some of you know we have free Wi-Fi available for use any time you are in the building. The equipment behind this system is no longer supported by the manufacturer. There is plan in place to replace this equipment to bring you a slightly faster speed as well as a more secure connection.

Another upgrade that you will see coming in 2023 is a TV monitor in the gathering area scrolling events, announcements, and various other information we want to make sure you see.

And finally, although BreezeChMS has made our jobs somewhat of a "breeze", we are finding it lacking because it doesn't grow with our needs we are seeing in the future. So, we are looking into other databases that bring a lot of functionality, ease of use, and keep everything in one place all around. One of them we are looking at includes a branded mobile app unique to us. This will put the church calendar, directory, past worship services and more in the palm of you hand in an easy to use format.

Not receiving the Prayer Chain??

Due to spam filters with certain email providers, we are finding individuals are being removed from the Prayer Chain. This is the same system we use to keep you updated with prayer requests, service cancellations, weekly updates from Pastor Kevin and Janae. If you have noticed that you have stopped receiving these emails, please let Ed Heidinger II know via EdH@mgcb.org or 717.344.4177.

Sign up for e-communications

Looking to join our Prayer Chain, receive an e-newsletter, or get the weekly updates?? Simply visit mgcb.org/prayerchain to sign up today!

Thank you to the Sound & Live Stream Teams!

Thank you to all of the individuals who helped make 2022 services and other events happen here at MGCB. I look forward to working with you all in the future and years to come!



MECHANIC GROVE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
1392 ROBERT FULTON HWY
QUARRYVILLE PA 17566

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED