



**REVELATIONS**  
**MECHANIC GROVE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**  
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## November 2020

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### *Gratitude*

For the newsletter this month, as we think about gratitude and thanksgiving, I want to share with you some of my favorite quotes concerning thanksgiving and gratitude. Most of these come from various theologians and Christian thinkers. Some of the names will be familiar to you, and others not. We'll start, of course, with Dietrich Bonhoeffer:

“In normal life we hardly realize how much more we receive than we give, and life cannot be rich without such gratitude. It is so easy to overestimate the importance of our own achievements compared with what we owe to the help of others.”

I'm struck by Bonhoeffer's deep understanding, especially in his last years, that there really is no such thing as a self-made person. We are each of us reliant in so many ways on others. It can be tempting to allow that reliance to become bitter, but the proper response is gratitude and thanksgiving for what we receive from others, even—and perhaps especially—when we feel like we need more.

“When we learn to read the story of Jesus and see it as the story of the love of God, doing for us what we could not do for ourselves—that insight produces, again and again, a sense of astonished gratitude which is very near the heart of authentic Christian experience.” -N.T. Wright

I think Tom Wright does a good job of reminding us that, when it comes to Christian experience, gratitude must be very near the center. Our gratitude for Jesus' sacrifice ought to guide so much of how we interact with God and with one another.

“Gratitude is not a psychological or political panacea, like a secular prosperity gospel, one that denies pain or overlooks injustice, because being grateful does not ‘fix’ anything. Pain, suffering, and injustice—these things are all real. They do not go away. Gratitude, however, invalidates the false narrative that these things are the sum total of human existence, that despair is the last word. Gratitude gives us a new story. It opens our eyes to see that every life is, in unique and dignified ways, graced: the lives of the poor, the castoffs, the sick, the jailed, the exiles, the abused, the forgotten as well as those in more comfortable physical circumstances. Your life. My life. We all share in the ultimate gift—life itself. Together. Right now.” -Diana Butler Bass

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~CHILDREN'S OUTREACH MINISTRIES CONTINUED ~

There is a great deal that we could unpack from Diana Butler Bass's thoughts here. Frankly, far more than I could hope to unpack in a single paragraph. But I think that her assertion that despair is not the last word, that gratitude opens our eyes to see that our lives are graced even in the most painful or difficult areas is amazingly perceptive. When we realize that we each share in this ultimate gift of life, we begin to see that all the areas of our lives contain moments of grace. As Butler Bass points out, this by no means overlooks injustice or denies its pain. But all the areas of injustice that we see do not have the final word. They are not the way the world should be. Jesus is in the midst of setting the world right, of rooting out injustice and pain and suffering. But so often, he roots it out by entering into it, and because our God is willing to be found in those difficult places, we must find ourselves ever grateful for them. This is similar to the thought expressed in James 1.2-3, "My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance."

~Pastor Calvin

## SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES 8:15AM & 10:30AM

Date	Title/Scripture	Speaker
November 1, 2020	<b>National Jr. High Sunday</b> Sermon Title: "Take the log out" Scripture: based on Matthew 7:3-5	TBD
November 8, 2020	Sermon Title: "Jesus is King" Scripture: Ephesians 1:20-23	Pastor Calvin Park
November 15, 2020	Sermon Title: "Sheep and Goats – Another look" Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46	Pastor Mary Etta Reinhart
November 22, 2020	Sermon Title: "How Much is Your Birthright Worth?" Scripture: Genesis 25:29-34	Pastor Rita Carter
November 28, 2020	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b> Sermon Title: "Promised Hope" Scripture: Jeremiah 33:14-16	Pastor Calvin Park



### FALL CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>**

Please join us at 11:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary  
Council Packets will be available in the gathering area for pick up on Sunday,  
November 8<sup>th</sup> to preview before the meeting.

# ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

Date	Morning Worship	Sunday School	General Offering	Budgeted Difference*
September 27	53	N/A	\$3,230.00	
	October 1 Online Giving		\$637.00	-\$6,050.00
October 4	112	N/A	\$8,906.00	
	October 8 Online Giving		\$734.10	-\$276.90

**\*2020 Weekly budgeted amount needed to make budget: \$9,917**

Building Maintenance Fund	\$526.00	Children's Outreach Ministries	\$300.00
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## OUR COUPLES CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES

Glenn and Cleo Freese	4	Paul & Charlotte Trimble	13	Troy & Donna Sellers	18
Glenn & Anna Mary Kreider	7	Jacob & Rebecca Haines	15	Dave & Nancy Wimer	19
Alfonso & Jenn Jaurez	9	Bill & Carolyn Welch	16	Dale & Cindy Bollinger	27

## OUR MEMBERS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Chuck Groff	1	Alyssa Schlaghauer	9	Ruth Ann Wood	23
Donita Reimold	1	Kyle Young	9	Linda Landis	27
Andi Holzhauser	3	Kimberly Myers	12	Josiah Reimold	28
Glenn Wenger	3	Kirsten O'Connell	13	Justin Hershberger	29
Carol Trimble	7	Judy Hendrickson	16	David Holzhauser	29
Morgan Holzhauser	8	Bill Welch	19	Freida Pfender	29
Dennis Findley	9	Rufus Kreider	20	Jeffery Keller Jr.	30
Eric Holzhauser	9	Asher Park	20		

*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 ORGAN HAS ARRIVED!!!** If you have been joining us for worship via the live stream, you may have missed that the new organ has been delivered. The old organ behaved well the first couple of weeks after we moved back inside. Last week it made it almost through the whole service, but when I hit the first chord of the Postlude it let out the most horrendous sound. The new organ cannot be installed soon enough for those of us who are holding our breath each time we play, hoping that it doesn't give someone heart failure with its "not so joyful" noise. I have had several people ask what it is going to cost to have the new organ installed. The project total is \$11,225.00. To date we have received several donations totaling \$4,445.00, leaving a balance due of \$6,780.00. Anyone interested in donating to help cover the remaining cost, can mark their offering envelope "Organ Fund".

# PLEASE NOTE

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

**\*Articles for the December newsletter** are due by November 15<sup>th</sup>.

**\*Prayer List/email updates** – if you don't currently receive our email prayer list/updates 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.

**\*To the Parents of College students:** Please notify the church office with their address at college. We would like to keep in touch with them and continue to send them the newsletter.

**\*Pew Communion** will take place November 8<sup>th</sup> in both services. We will be using special, self-contained bread and cup. Those joining us via live stream may gather their own elements at home or connect with Randy and Deb Hart for the same packets we'll be using at the in-person services.

**\*Witness commission** would like to remind anyone who happens to have a baby bottle they took to use as part of a fundraiser we began for Pregnancy Resources at Cornerstone to return them to the church. They will be reused for future fundraisers. There is a small crib in the gathering area where you can leave them. Thank you

## UPCOMING EVENTS & INFORMATION

### FALL CHURCH CLEAN-UP



**Mark your calendar:** Church Fall Cleanup is 8am on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Rain date will be November 21<sup>st</sup>. All help is appreciated.  
~ Thank you, Property Commission



### SOLANCO FOOD BANK THANKSGIVING MEAL REQUESTS

*Thanksgiving Baskets*

**\*\*please bring items to food bank by Tuesday,  
November 17<sup>th</sup>**

Meal being collected: Turkey with garlic mashed potatoes, stuffing, carrots, green beans & apple crisp

- Turkey (10-12lb) OR \$10 gift card to Giant
- 1 can/jar turkey gravy
- Fresh potatoes (5lbs)
- 1 container garlic powder
- 1 box stuffing mix
- 1 (1lb) bag of carrots
- 1-2 cans green beans
- 1 can cranberry sauce
- 1 bag of apples
- 1 box white cake mix
- 1 box brown sugar
- 1 container of cinnamon
- 1 lb. Unsalted butter or margarine

*If donating perishable items, please make sure they are dated past Thanksgiving Day (11/26/20).*

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## THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

*Thanksgiving* Thanksgiving Eve Service will take place Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. We gather together to give thanks and to worship and praise the good and great Giver! We also take the Thanksgiving Offering, which goes toward COBYS Family Services (75%) and Solanco Food Bank (25%). We would also like to ask persons to bring canned goods for the Solanco Food Bank.

## LIVE JOURNEY TO THE NATIVITY

*December 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>  
Evening 6:00 – 8:00*

*For unto us today a Child is  
born!*



**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 to Mary and Joseph and to the shepherds. The wise man will follow that same star as you! You will also hear songs being sung along your journey. It is an evening planned for you listen, watch and experience the celebration of Joy this Christmas.

Each group will be between 12 – 18 people. At each scene there will be benches/bales of straw to sit on. The Journey will take about 35 minutes to complete. When your journey is done, you can come to the bonfire at the pavilion for hot chocolate, warm cider and your opportunity to make your own s'more. There is no cost for this journey. If you wish to bring a canned good to put by the manger at the nativity, that would be a gracious gift. 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.

We meet and begin in the family life center. There will be stories, activities and music as you wait for your group to start the journey! Masks are suggested for indoors and optional for outdoors. Questions: contact Diane Herr or Lori Holzhauser

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX DRIVE



**Witness commission** is heading a Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child shoebox drive. These are shoeboxes filled with gifts to be distributed to children in over 100 countries. There is some information on a table in the gathering area. More information can be found at [samaritanpurse.org/occ](http://samaritanpurse.org/occ). Any medium size shoebox can be used. A \$9 suggested donation for each shoebox covers the cost packaging, handling and shipping the shoeboxes all around the globe. You can also track where your shoebox goes. This info is also online. Shoeboxes should be returned to the church by November 15<sup>th</sup> so they can be transported to a collection location. For any questions that you are unable to find an answer for, please contact Mike Mauger. P.S. We do have some pre-decorated shoeboxes being shipped to us but do not know when they will arrive.

## SAVE THE DATES



- **National Jr. High Sunday:** November 1<sup>st</sup>
- **Fall Council Meeting:** Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 11:45am
- **Church Fall Clean-up:** Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, rain date Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>
- **Thanksgiving Eve Service:** Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm
- **Church Office Closed:** Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup>
- **Live Nativity:** December 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm
- **Christmas Eve Service:** December 24<sup>th</sup>, time TBD

# HEALTH & WELLNESS COMMITTEE NEWS

~ By the Health Ministry Team



## *REMEMBER TO GET YOUR FLU SHOT*

*~The Health Ministry Team, Judy Becker, Mary Poe, Nancy Wimer, Gail Grosh, and Heather Kreider*

## YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT NEWS

*To the Youth and Young Adults of Mechanic Grove*

*- From Pastor Jeff Keller*

My dear friends,

By now you have all received my letter of resignation. Change is so very hard. Whether it be the change of growing from children into men and women, a change of grade or school, a change of education or career, or the loss of a pastor. I know that right now you must have a number of emotions around the change that is happening and must happen in your church family. It is perfectly fine for you to feel the things you feel. Know that I am praying for you as you confront your emotions. Yet I want to make something really clear to you as I step away.

I am not leaving because of you. I have watched so many of you grow in your faith as the Scriptures gave you insight into the heart and mission of Jesus. As you remain faithful in Jesus and His Word, I am confident the Lord will continue to shape you into the people He has called you to be for His good purposes. Continue to put Jesus above all others. Love Him with all your heart, soul, mind, & strength. Love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus knows you. I see you. You will do well if you keep these commandments.

It is hard to explain why my timing and season have come to an end here. As I go, and after I am gone, I will pray for you and your families that you might have unity with one another, that you will have unity with the church, & that you will humble yourselves and submit to one another out of your reverence to Jesus Christ.

When I am gone; let your hearts be soft, support your leaders with prayer and service, listen to your elders with humble hearts, put aside your differences and be patient with one another, bear good fruit in the Holy Spirit, & in so far as it depends on you keep the peace with everyone. These are all expressions of loving God and neighbor. I will be praying.

Be Blessed therefore in the Grace, Peace, & Love of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Pastor Jeff

# CAMP SWATARA NEWS



Closing Work Weekend

**FREE LUNCH & CAMPING**

**NOV 7 2020**  
**8:30AM - 3PM**

RSVP BY OCTOBER 26 TO  
[FAMILYCAMP@CAMPSWATARA.ORG](mailto:FAMILYCAMP@CAMPSWATARA.ORG)

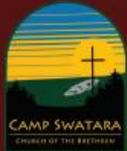


*Setting aside to-do lists to immerse ourselves  
in the peace that comes while we wait  
for Immanuel, God-with-us.*

**ADVENT  
DAY  
RETREAT**

**DEC. 5, 2020 | 9AM - 3PM**  
**WEST RETREAT, CAMP SWATARA**

*This spiritual retreat will include time for group  
and personal reflection as we move into this season  
of holy waiting. Optional overnight accommodations.  
Leader: Karen Haldeman  
Visit [www.CampSwatara.org](http://www.CampSwatara.org) or call 717-933-8510  
for more details and to register.*



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

