



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



Website: [www.mgcb.org](http://www.mgcb.org)

Phone: 717-786-2723

Email: [church@mgcb.org](mailto:church@mgcb.org)

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## May 2020

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### *Powerless?*

It is so easy to feel powerless in the midst of the unknown. We're existing in a time of unknowns. We haven't practiced physical distancing in this way before. We haven't had businesses shutdown and stay-at-home orders and the requirement to wear masks. This all feels unknown. Making matters worse, we don't know when these measures will be scaled back or end. I'm a planner, and I normally plan things out at least a couple months ahead when at all possible. But at this point, I'm not certain what the next couple weeks will bring, let alone the next couple months. Given how unfamiliar life feels at this point, it's easy to feel powerless in the midst of this.

But we are not truly powerless. James 5.16 reminds us, in part, "the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." Prayer can feel like such a small thing, but it's one of the best things we can devote ourselves to during this time. It's important to remember that prayer does not begin and end with making requests of God. Prayer can take the form of sharing our joys and thanksgivings, obviously. But it also ought to include our confessions. Even more, prayer is a chance for us to spend time with God. It shouldn't be uncommon for prayer to include times of silence or rest, moments where we simply relax in the presence of the divine. Carving out intentional time to spend with God is a vital Christian practice, and making time to pray during the present crisis of COVID-19 is even more vital than normal. That time spent with God can help to lower our anxieties, help us to relax, and help us get through our days. It's a small thing, but it's powerful. Typically, May includes the National Day of Prayer, and while events that involve gathering will likely be curtailed this year we can still pray in our homes or wherever we find ourselves.

Prayer isn't the only small thing we can do, however. There are dozens, if not hundreds, of small gestures we can make each week and even each day, to share the love of Christ with our neighbors. A card put in the mail could brighten someone's day. A phone call could connect us with an old friend. A video chat could put a smile on a child's face—or on our own! We might enjoy a conversation with a neighbor across the driveway, or handling the yard work in an elderly neighbor's backyard. We might find that conversation during this time naturally leads to talk about faith, about relying on God, about not fearing the unknown, about sacrificing for the good of the community. In May, we'll begin a sermon series based on the book *Outflow* by Steve Sjogren and Dave Ping. We'll talk about the way God loves us, and the way that love ought to overflow from us and flow outward into our friends and families, our communities, and even the world. I hope that even in the midst of all the unknowns we're experiencing during this season we take the time to spend time with God and we continue to share his love with our family, friends, and neighbors.

- Pastor Calvin

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

Date	Title/Scripture	Speaker
May 3, 2020	<i>National Youth Sunday</i> Sermon Title: Scripture: Theme:	
<i>Sermon Series: Outflow</i>		
May 10, 2020	Sermon Title: "Meant to Overflow" Scripture: John 4:13-14 Theme: We are meant to live lives that overflow with joy.	Pastor Calvin Park
May 17, 2020	Title: "Outward toward Self" Scripture: 1 John 4:9-11 Theme: That joy flows first and foremost from the love we experience from God.	Pastor Calvin Park
May 24, 2020	Sermon Title: "Outward toward Family & Friends" Scripture: Luke 8:38-39 Theme: Our lives then flow outward toward our inner circle, our family and friends	Pastor Calvin Park
May 31, 2020	Sermon Title: "Outward toward Our Community" Scripture: Galatians 5:13-14 Theme: God wants our love to flow outward to our community.	Pastor Calvin Park

## SERVING THE CHURCH

### Welcomers/Greeters/Ushers

May Welcomers:	8:15 am	Clarence & Carolyn Wenger
	10:30 am	Dwight & Sharon Herr
May Greeters:	8:15 am	Fred & Barbara Graham
	10:30 am	Ellie Holzhauser & Bill Guhl
May Ushers:	8:15 am	Ed Reinhart, Don Trimble, Dave Nichols, Dave Herr
	10:30 am	Sr. High Youth



### Nursery Schedule                      Sunday School                      10:30 Infant /Toddler Nursery

May 3	Laurie O'Donnell	Justin & Jacey Hershberger
May 10	Melissa Houghton	Josh & Britni Akers
May 17	Pam Felpel	Linda Frank & Sharon Davis
May 24	Amy Housekeeper	Josh & Jess Bledsoe
May 31	Morgan Holzhauser	Josh & Heather Kreider

*If you are unavailable for the Sunday you are assigned, please plan to switch with someone.  
Scheduling concerns can be directed to Kerri Kreider – 717.615.2986*

## MUSIC NOTES *By Lori Holzauer*

In last month's "Notes" I shared the lyrics to the song "Grace at the Cross", how appropriate as we have needed lots of God's Grace during our time of 'Social Distancing'. It has been painful for many of us not to be able to Worship together and share our lives with one another. As I work on different projects around the house, I often listen to the Christian Contemporary Radio station on Pandora. Here are the words to "Even Then" a song I discovered one day while listening. I pray that it will encourage you during this uncertain and difficult time.

On the nights when the dark last a little bit longer  
When the wind and the storm is a little bit stronger  
When the fear in my heart dips a little bit deeper  
When my faith to stand gets a little bit weaker  
Where could I run to? Where could I go?  
Even when it feels like my world is shaken  
Even when I've had all that I can take  
I know You never let me go,  
And even when the waters won't stop rising  
Even when I'm caught in the dead of a night  
I know no matter how it ends You're with me even then  
When the days up ahead look a little bit brighter  
But the grip of the past holds a little bit tighter  
I'm reminded Your grace never asks for perfection  
Oh I'm restored 'cause I'm Yours and I stand forgiven  
And even in the middle of a struggle  
And even when it's hard to remember  
You alone are my defense when  
I'm standing on Your promises and I know  
That even in the thick of the battle  
And even through the valley of the shadows  
You alone are my defense when I'm standing on Your promises.

CCLI Song # 7075930 Kyle Lee | Micah Tyler | Tony Wood © 2016 Fair Trade Global Songs (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC]) Fair Trade Tunes (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC]) From The Void (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC]) Curb Wordspring Music (Admin. by W.C.M. Music Corp.) Tony Wood Songs (Admin. by W.C.M. Music Corp.) *For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 281969*

## CHILDREN'S OUTREACH MINISTRIES NEWS

### Administrator's Newsletter

I pray that this letter finds you and your family healthy and well. These most certainly are unprecedented times. Personally, this is something I thought I would never see in my lifetime. Because of COVID-19 and the "Shelter at Home" order Children's Outreach Ministries has been closed. Although we are uncertain as to the exact date when we will reopen, we are trying to prepare for that time. There is a very high possibility that both our staff and children over 2yrs. of age will be required to wear face coverings/masks. With items like that being in short supply I was hoping that there might be some of you who would be willing to sew masks for our staff and children to wear. Anyone who would be able to help provide for this need can email me at [alizak@mgcb.org](mailto:alizak@mgcb.org), or call me at 717-806-2163.

Would you please pray for our ministries as we move forward during this time? There are certainly new challenges we will be facing. One thing we can hold fast to and find comfort in, is that God is in complete control and He never changes! Thank you for partnering with us and for your continued support.

*In His Name - Aliza Kraynak, Administrator*



## PLEASE NOTE

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

**\*Mark your calendars for our Spring council meeting for Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>** following the second service, starting @ 11:45am. Please come and hear from the church commissions to know what we are working on. *New date pending.*

**\*Articles for the June newsletter** are appreciated by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**\*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> or contact the church office. If you do not use email, there is also a phone prayer chain available.

## ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

Date	Morning Worship	Sunday School	General Offering	Budgeted Difference*
April 2	N/A	N/A	\$00.00	
	Online Giving		\$290.70	-\$9,626.30
April 9	N/A	N/A	\$16,740.00	
	Online Giving		\$538.90	+\$7,361.9
April 16	N/A	N/A	\$10,660.00	
	Online Giving		\$762.93	+\$1,505.93
April 23	N/A	N/A	\$6,290.00	
	Online Giving		\$1,850.15	-\$1,776.85

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

Building Maintenance Fund	\$869.00
SNM/Food Bank	\$1050.00
BHA	\$85.00



## MAY - THE MONTH AT A GLANCE

Date	Time	Event & Location
Sun. 3		National Youth Sunday
Sun. 17		Spring Council Meeting – new date pending
Mon. 25	all day	Church office closed – Memorial Day

## OUR COUPLES CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES

Jeff and Tammy Wood	4	Bill and Linda Waltman	21
Dave and Diane Nichols	6	Jim and Cinda Showalter	23
Dave and Lisa Wisse	10	Jim and Debra Krantz	24
Norm and Sandy Miller	11	Clarence and Carolyn Wenger	25
Marvin and Melissa Kreider	19	Josh and Heather Kreider	26
Rodney and Gwen Meadows	19	Brian and Heather Robertson	29
Tristan and Kayla Smith	20		



## OUR MEMBERS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Mary Myers	1	Ben Wenger	14	Britni Akers	23
Heather Robertson	1	Donna E. Kreider	15	Ayden Herr	24
Connie Rutt	1	Kevin Prewitt	15	Daniel Wimer	24
Averie Akers	2	Ed Reinhart	15	Hannah Wood	24
Betty Pyle	2	Freddy Frey	17	Maddie Casadonti	25
Travis Heidinger	4	Kirk Niels	17	Samantha Kreider	26
Marietta Peters	4	Donna Sellers	17	Laurie O'Donnell	26
Ken Sample	4	Dave Wilhelm	17	Vickie Kreider	28
Ben Kershner	5	Sara Faulkner	17	Dave Wimer	28
Dan Hershberger	6	Amanda Grumbling	18	Sheri Teaman	29
Faith Reimold	7	Sharon Enck	19	Robert Badger	30
John Berkey	8	Audrey Lefever	19	Sharon Herr	30
Lewis Kreider	8	Dave Scheffel	19	Bill Johnson	30
Bill Waltman	8	Carter Wintsch	19	Nick Kreider	30
Holly Kreider	9	Joyce Robins	19	Barry Smith	30
Andrew Trimble	9	Addison O'Donnell	21	Derrick Kreider	31
David Wissler	11	Sarah Felpel	22	Anita McFadden	31
Esther Lloyd	12	Paul Trimble	22	Catharine Meadows	31
Paul Myers	14			Mike Mellott	31

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

# UPCOMING EVENTS & INFORMATION



*Scholarship Available*

## PEACE ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP

A scholarship opportunity is available for seniors who are continuing their education, following their high school graduation. Nurture Commission is excited to award the winner for the Peace Essay \$500. If you are interested in applying, please contact Jennifer Berkey 484-354-7415 or [jennpberkey@gmail.com](mailto:jennpberkey@gmail.com) and either an electric or hard copy can be sent to you (or see attached if you are reading this digitally). The deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to reading the submissions!

~Nurture Commission

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH



We certainly miss all of the kids and we hope that you enjoyed doing your Easter crafts and activities! Keep reading your Bibles and telling your neighbors about Jesus! Pick your favorite Bible verse and try to memorize it. Your Mom and Dad can help with some verses if you need ideas!

~Children's Church Committee



## ANGEL TEA UPDATE

The Angel Tea is an event that so many in our church look forward to every year and it is an event that we love planning! This year the Angel Tea was scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, since we are not together, we are unable to assign angels. We will look into doing an alternative 'something' depending on when we are allowed to gather again. Thank you to everyone who is always so supportive of the Angel Tea and loves to connect with the children of our church.

## BHA GOLF TOURNAMENT UPDATE!

*Friday, September 18, 2020*



**Attention Golfers!** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and uncertainty of the coming weeks and months, the 17th Annual BHA Golf Tournament has been postponed until September 18, 2020 at Par Line Golf Course, located at 4545 East Harrisburg Pike, Elizabethtown, PA 17022. Our goal this year is 100 golfers and to raise \$15,000 to help families experiencing homelessness get back on their feet. Golfer fees remain the same as last year – \$75 per golfer, or \$300 for a team. This entitles your group to 18 holes of golf with a cart, lunch, eligibility for prizes, and a delicious catered meal after your round. Registration deadline is September 13<sup>th</sup>. Visit [bha-pa.org](http://bha-pa.org) to register online or call 717-233-6016 to register over the phone. Sponsorship opportunities — including hole sponsorships — are available. Please contact Jessica Johnson Vinton at [jjohnsonvinton@bha-pa.org](mailto:jjohnsonvinton@bha-pa.org) or 717-903-9530 for more information.

## SAVE THE DATES



- **Graduation Sunday:** Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>
- **Disaster Relief Picnic:** Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> @ the home of Alan Platt
- **Vacation Bible School:** Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>
- **All church picnic:** Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>
- **Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, MI:** July 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>
- **Church office closed:** Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Independence Day observed

# Youth & Young Adults

## Youth Calendar

All May Youth Activities are currently cancelled while we work through social distancing recommendations.

- **Wednesday Evenings**  
*Zoom Youth Group*  
Game time 6pm-7pm  
Small groups 7pm-7:30  
Link posted at:

Facebook.com/groups/mgcbbyouth

- **Sunday Morning Worship.**  
*Online through Youtube:*  
*find link at:*  
<https://www.facebook.com/MechanicGroveCOB/>

Hey everyone,

As we wrap up this Easter Season and move into May at a distance, I wanted to just touch base with you all in a morning prayer. For this let's turn together to Psalm 23.

### *A psalm of David.*

1. The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
2. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,
3. he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.
4. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
5. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my en-

emies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

6. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

May you walk with the Lord in rest this season. May you take this time to remember the things you ought to be thankful for, and may the Lord remind you that He walks with you always.

Be blessed in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ,

-Pastor Jeff

## Youth News Update:

Parents and Youth,

Please know that we are praying for you all during this challenging time.

Parents, consider using this time to grow closer to your teenagers. Remember that this season is highly stressful for your teenagers who are used to exploring their freedom. They will need your emotional support and presence in very real ways right now.

Teens, give your parents some slack too. Yes we know this is hard, but they love you. :-)

## Young Adults

We are praying for you as well during this difficult season. Please feel free to contact me at any time. My cell number is in the church directory.

I'll look forward to catching up with you when this is finally all over.

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1392 ROBERT FULTON HIGHWAY  
QUARRYVILLE, PA 17566

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

