

# *Midland Church of the Brethren*

## *"Sharing Jesus Begins in our Neighborhood"*

*MARCH 2024*

*LENT February 14 - March 28*

Lent runs for 40 days to reflect the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert before beginning His public ministry, during which He endured temptation by Satan.

On the first Sunday of Lent, Jesus walked into the wilderness, where He remained for 40 days without water or food.

The Gospel of [Matthew 4:1-11](#) tells us that: "Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights and afterwards was hungry."

How to prepare for Easter during Lent?

You can start by listening to a [Daily Lenten Meditation](#).

In the same way that Advent prepares us for [Christmas](#), Lent is a chance for families to reflect upon the sacrifices which God made in giving His only Son, Jesus, to die for us on the Cross.

Use Shrove Tuesday as a time for self-examination and personal reflection.

Decide which Lenten sacrifices to make during Lent. You might consider abstaining from your favorite food or drink or avoiding social media. Some Christians give up alcohol or sweets.

Choose to make Lent a time of special prayer and reflection. You could join an Easter-focused Bible study group in your local church community.

You might also want to give to others. This could include volunteering at a homeless shelter or donating your time or money to those in need. Helping others is a Lenten tradition.

*GOOD FRIDAY March 29*

Good Friday is the day that Christians commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and is observed as a day of sorrow, penance, and fasting.

*EASTER March 31*

Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ 3 days after his crucifixion.

## From Your Leadership Team who were Shaped to Serve

*Corinthians 3:9-11 "For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building. Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ." (NLT)*

Major Christian events occur this month which should inspire us to service, devotion, and celebration. Your Leadership Team encourages you to dedicate time for reflection, fellowship, and sharing during these times.

### **Leadership Team news:**

In February the following items were addressed at Leadership Team:

- Received team, task team and related ministry reports
- Worked on filling positions not filled at Council meeting and vacancies created since.
- Completed all but one staff evaluation
- Initiated revisions to Pastor contract
- Retreat was postponed due to illness so a shortened goal-setting time has been established for March 11. All church members who have comments/ideas for goals for the Leadership Team to consider for 2024 should submit them prior to that time.
- Discussed adding the query from Arlington Church to the Church Council meeting agenda to obtain direction from the congregation for District Conference delegates.
- Learned that Midland has filled the FairthX Knoxville calling.
- Pastor Richard has laid out a weekly theme for 2024 sermons/
- Next meeting March 11

### **Software**

Updates about our new Church management software system, Aplos,.

- Use of its texting capabilities are now active with two lists: prayer requests and general information. Please contact our Administrative Assistant if you are not getting texts or if you would like to opt-out of getting texts.
- The prayer request form is now active: <https://form.jotform.com/233195189605160>
- Aplos includes an on-line giving function which we are requesting that you use instead of Givelify. You can access it from the new website. Using it will simplify the work of the Treasurer since donations using this platform will automatically be entered into the church's financial system rather than through a third party.
- Contact lists are now maintained in Aplos. If you are not getting the newsletter but wish to receive it please contact our Administrative Assistant.

## **Financial**

The latest Treasurer report the checking account balance at the end of January was approx. \$15,000 for the General Fund with about \$65,000 set aside for designated funds. Outreach giving for 2024 will continue to be based on the 10% of giving which means that outreach giving has exceeded the budget for the year since giving exceeded expenses.

Land Fund: Thank you to all who contributed to clear this obligation from the books. The response exceeded the need and we are working with those that contributed to determine how to handle the giving that went over the goal. While very close, the Land Fund is still \$400 due to pay off its obligation.

## **Other ways you can help!**

To all of you who work so hard for our church please know that your efforts are appreciated. We are grateful for you!

If you see the opportunity to thank someone who you see working in a thankless role, please take a moment to make it thankless no more.

If you want to help but are not sure how, there are a lot of acts, from one-shot tasks to ongoing involvement, from no physical effort to arduous labor, from routine to technologically inclined, where we can use you. Just let the Gifts Discernment Committee or the Leadership Team know you want to help, they can help you share your talents and abilities!

Special needs this month include:

- MCA Board members
- Constitution/By-Laws Revisions Task Team
- Kindness Club

Special thanks this month to:

- Trey, Regina, Rudy, Mindy, May, John, Trish, Kara, Lucinda and Shirley who helped prepare and paint walls and move furniture and books as part of the re-arrangement of the library and office spaces to create a youth Sunday School class room.

## **District news:**

May 4 (tentative) Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Auction



**Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Response Dinner**  
**Saturday, April 6, 2024 at 6 p.m.**  
**At Bush Creek Church of the Brethren**  
**4821 Green Valley Road (Rt. 75) Monrovia, MD**

Join us for an evening of good food, fellowship,  
and auction of specialty food items co-hosted by  
Union Bridge Church of the Brethren  
Bush Creek Church of the Brethren

**Tickets are \$35 per person**

**Contact Jeff McKee before April 1, 2024 at**  
**443-547-5958 or [jamckee26@msn.com](mailto:jamckee26@msn.com)**

**Menu:** Fruit Cup, Meat Loaf, Fried Shrimp,  
Vegetarian Pasta Casserole, Candied Carrots,  
Scalloped Potatoes, Oven Roasted Vegetables,  
Homemade Breads, Rolls & Assorted Desserts

Please contact Alice Houck at 240-750-4307 or  
[abhough1@gmail.com](mailto:abhough1@gmail.com) to provide specialty foods  
(cakes, pies, candy, gift baskets, etc.) to auction at  
the dinner

## **Denominational news bits (see details at Brethren.org):**

Introducing 'Shine Everywhere'



We have named our new initiative “Shine Everywhere.” We love the fact that it builds on Shine and extends the light metaphor of living in God’s light!

The Shine curriculum started in children’s Sunday school, has moved into the home through [ShineFamilies.org](https://ShineFamilies.org), and now through Shine Everywhere is moving out into the everyday and “everywhere” places in which we live, work, and learn—everywhere we practice our faith.

We want Shine Everywhere to become a community of churches and families who discover and practice the everywhere habits that grow faith in children. Faith grows through our relationship with God, the church, and each other, so Shine Everywhere will primarily be a community of believers whose focus is learning to know Jesus and become more like him.

Sign up at <https://shinecurriculum.com/2024/02/14/introducing-shine-everywhere> and keep in touch with what we are learning about the everywhere habits that grow faith in Jesus.

### **Christian Citizenship Seminar**

April 11 – 16, 2024  
Washington, D.C.

### **2024 Annual Conference**

The 2024 Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren is planned for July 3-7 in Grand Rapids, Mich. Moderator Madalyn Metzger has chosen the theme “Welcome and Worthy” (Romans 16:2, CEB).



## **Denominational news bits (see details at Brethren.org):**

### Young Adult Conference



**May 24-26, 2024**

**Shepherd's Spring Camp & Retreat Center**

Young Adult Conference (YAC) offers people ages 18-35 a chance to enjoy fellowship, worship, recreation, Bible study, service projects and more... with other fantastic young adults!

Registration is open! Register between 1/12 and 2/14 to get free [Nutter's Ice Cream](#) during YAC!

Preachers include Audrey and Tim Hollenberg-Duffey, Cliff and Arlene Kindy, Emmett Witkovsky-Eldred. Get to know Annual Conference Moderator Elect Dava Hensley. Share your thoughts with the "Calling Denominational Leadership Study Committee." Worship will be coordinated by Erika Clary and Connor Ladd. Stay tuned for more leadership announcements!

Registration includes housing, meals, and programming. Scholarships (travel, BVS) available by request until April 15; contact [bullomnaugle@brethren.org](mailto:bullomnaugle@brethren.org) or 847-429-4385.

- 18-year-olds can attend for only \$150!
- Regular registration is \$275.  
Non-refundable deposit of \$150 is due within two weeks of registering.

After May 1, there will be a late fee of \$50 added to the registration fee.

Questions? Becky Ullom Naugle, 847-429-4385, [bullomnaugle@brethren.org](mailto:bullomnaugle@brethren.org)

### **What happened December 25, 1723?**

"What Happened December 25, 1723?" is the title for a Brethren Heritage Center event celebrating the 300 anniversary of the founding of the first Brethren church in the Americas. Germantown Church of the Brethren in Philadelphia, Pa., is the oldest continuously existing congregation in the Brethren movement, and is considered the "mother church."

# God is Love

A C Y P D H B B S A C Q P U C C L  
 A E C A R G V U R E D H W K S Y N  
 C C W T J L R W W V I K M J S D I  
 T X V I E X Y Z N L Z B G B E N E  
 E O Q E H I I H E R J N N I N J Y  
 Q N B N E W N O D B Z B H Z L S F  
 V E G C A E C N E I D E B O U A O  
 R Z P E Z B M K U N B V U H F L R  
 R Q A A F P Q I R P U Y Y G H V G  
 T A W B G E Y E U W Y J C K T A I  
 N N A G Q A R P P P H G R L I T V  
 T L N B G L Y L E B A C E X A I E  
 S I A Z J J O Q A G U Z M Y F O N  
 A O S F T V S G C D S G X S F N E  
 D I R U E Q X O E E F S J V G Z S  
 J N L E E L F M K Y S I N E T L S  
 A J Y J Y R T S I N I M Q Z N D W

PATIENCE  
 FAITHFULNESS  
 OBEDIENCE  
 EROS  
 MERCY

PEACE  
 AWANAS  
 PHILEO  
 GRACE  
 FORGIVENESS

SIN  
 MINISTRY  
 AGAPE  
 SALVATION  
 LOVE

WEBSITE & ONLINE GIVING OPTION

The church website has been updated!  
Be sure to check out what's on the menu.  
You can go there for calendar and event  
updates, online giving  
& to submit prayer requests.  
Web address remains the same  
[www.midlandbrethren.org](http://www.midlandbrethren.org)

*Sharing Jesus begins in our neighborhood*

Together, we will develop a culture of  
calling and equipping disciples to  
serve who are compassionate,  
innovative, and fearless, as we  
passionately live and share Jesus  
Christ through relationship-based  
community engagement.



We will be volunteering at the Wood Ministry in Warrenton one Saturday a month from 9am-11am to assist with providing firewood for those who depend on it to stay warm during the winter months.



Scheduled dates:

Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>      Warrenton (behind Walmart)  
Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>      \*Bring work gloves\*

**MIDLAND COB**

**CHILI**

**COOK-OFF**

March 10, 2024 **BRING YOUR FRIENDS** 12:30 - 3:00 pm

Prizes for the top 3 chili!

10434 Old Carolina Rd. Midland, VA. 22728

Bring your best batch of chili and cornbread to share! Salad and drinks will be provided.

All are welcome! Join us for some fun and great fellowship!!

The bottom of the poster features two cartoon illustrations. On the left is a bowl of chili with a smiling face, arms, and legs. On the right is a red chili pepper with a smiling face, arms, and legs.

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday  
7:00am



*Proverbs 22:6 - Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.*

What did Sunday look like when I was a child? Let me back up a day to Saturday. On Saturdays, all the grocery shopping, baking, meal prepping for Sunday dinner was completed and my hair was washed. On Saturday night, we prepared for Sunday. Clothes had been ironed, fresh hankies were plopped into purses, shoes were polished and offering envelopes were prepared. My grandparents each had their own offering envelope (especially after retirement); my grandfather would walk to the bank every Saturday and withdraw the cash for each of their tithes based on their social security and retirement income. I had a little rubber squeeze wallet that held my coins for the offering plate.

There were many Saturdays that I would spend the night at my grandparents' home. After a bath, I would come downstairs to sit with my grandmother on the "davenport" to watch the 8:30 PM airing of "Lawrence Welk Show" and then hear "It's 10 PM, do you know where your children are?", which signaled that it was time to be in bed so that I could get up in time for church. As I climbed the stairs, I remember thinking "what children are not at home at 10PM?"

I decided a few years ago to use my grandmother's good dishes every day instead of storing them out of sight in my china cabinet. When I announced this to my mother, she teased me in faux astonishment as those plates were my grandmother's "good china". They were manufactured in the early 40s. My grandmother was born in 1907 and she was in her 20s during the Great Depression. My grandparents married in 1932. These cream-colored dishes with delicate blue and pink flowers were one of her few prized possessions and they were proudly displayed in her small china cabinet alongside her pink depression glass pitcher and tumblers. On Sundays after church, the younger family members would find a place in the small living room of their quaint craftsman-style home. My spot was usually on the floor with the "funny papers" and some silly putty. Once the meal was ready, we all crowded together in their equally small dining room with stools, highchair and extra chairs surrounding a table covered in several layers of tablecloths and a clear plastic cover to protect the delicate lace topper and proceeded to partake of a home-cooked meal off those dishes.

I now stand at my kitchen sink as a 60-year-old woman to wash one of those plates as memories flood my mind...laughter, teasing between siblings, impatience as my grandfather's before-meal prayer plodded on, and discussions that were heard by my young ears. These dishes were used for every family birthday celebration or holiday and Sunday was no exception. Sunday was a celebration of our faith in Jesus. Oh, no one ever said those actual words, that I can remember; but the dishes said so.



Submitted by Kara Joseph



## Shepherd's Spring Summer Camps

Registration is now open!

June 16-21 Classic Camp I (ages 7-14) \$425

June 23-28 Classic Camp II (ages 10-18) \$425

July 7-12 Aslan Adventure Camp Lite (ages 7-11) \$500

July 7-12 Aslan Adventure Camp Mod (ages 12-18) \$500

July 14-16 Family & Grand Camp I (ages 6+) Starting at \$175

July 14-19 Global Citizen Camp (ages 12-18) \$500

July 21-26 Aslan Adventure Camp Amped (ages 12-18) \$550

July 28-30 Family & Grand Camp II (ages 6+) Starting at \$175

Overnight camps begin on Sunday at 3:00 p. m. and end on Friday at 3:00 p. m. Additional details and registration is available on the camp's website ([www.shepherdsspring.org](http://www.shepherdsspring.org)).

Additional opportunities are available for those over 18 who are interested in serving on summer staff.



### Here's the List...

1. Persons interested in serving on our board
2. New meeting room chairs for lower level
3. Smartboard for Global Village and Retreats
4. Monthly supporters for camp program
5. Materials to construct Honduras House
6. Snow plow for our mile long driveway
7. Improvements to lodge rooms
8. Tables and chairs for Yurt
9. Bicycles for preteens
10. New basketballs
11. New blankets



### Coming in 2024

1. Year round all season use of cabins
2. Expansion of Adventure Camp
3. Expansion of Family and Grandparents Camp
4. Use of Yurt for Global Village and Retreats
5. Construction of a Honduras House for Global Village
6. Expansion of menu for retreat groups
7. Three new board members
8. Global Village staff offering experiential learning canoe trips on the Potomac to study ecological issues. Available to retreat groups and Global Village groups.
9. Global Village programming extended to local schools.
10. Replacement and restoration of all seating in amphitheater area.
11. Global Village staff now offering to go to schools of groups participating in a village experience prior to, and after the group participates in the Village to help prepare and then process the overall experience.