
The Light On The Hill



Monthly Newsletter of the First Church of the Brethren, Carlisle, PA

December 2019

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Advent, not merely an event

advent: 1. a coming into place, view, or being; arrival: *the advent of the holiday season.*

The definition for 'advent' above is listed as the primary definition in this resource, **dictionary.com**. If their sample sentence is an accurate use of the word, then we could celebrate advent before Independence Day, or any other 'holiday' we celebrate. Hm-m-m!

advent: 1. the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event: *the advent of television*

The definition above for 'advent' is the primary definition on **Yahoo.com** (from the Oxford Dictionary). It's accurate as it recognizes its potential use with "a notable person" (even though their sample sentence uses the context of a "thing" instead of a person). Of course, we in the Christian faith recognize Advent as the coming of Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior of the world.

In the 21st century, Christian churches commemorate 'Advent' (the four Sundays leading up to and including December 24) for both the initial coming of Jesus Christ at Bethlehem, and/or His second coming as judge of the world.

You would be amazed at the planning and preparations our congregation has made for these important four weeks leading up to Christmas Day. Every Commission (Music & Worship, Deacon, Witness, Nurture and Stewards) has already been involved in the planning of one or more of the events below:

December 1	First Sunday of Advent	'Hanging of the Greens' Worship Service today Special music & Lighting of Advent Wreath each week
December 8	Second Sunday of Advent	'Congregational Christmas Dinner' after service
December 15	Third Sunday of Advent	Christmas Caroling to shut-ins beginning at 6 PM
December 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent	
December 24	Christmas Eve Service	Beginning at 7:00 PM; special music, special visit by a 'shepherd', a special gift to each family, and candle lighting!

We sincerely hope you'll be able to join us in these services and special events planned to draw us closer to the true meaning of Advent during this Christmas season.

. . . awaiting His coming . . .

Pastor Jerry

News Of The Congregation

WITNESS COMMISSION

The Witness Commission welcomes Pam Wert to their commission. We always welcome extra hands and thoughts.

We have signed up with the Salvation Army to help stand by a kettle at The Pointe Mall (where we have been in past years) on November 22 from 10am to 8pm and on December 23 from noon–9:00 pm. We have placed a sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board. If you missed it and would like to help, please give Gloria Ramirez, Lisa Billman, Linda Wilson, Dale Miller, or Pam Wert a call to get your name on the schedule.

We are working to ensure that we are preparing an unusual Christmas Gift to our congregation and to let you know how the Witness Commission works to pass along the message of the Church of the Brethren and to reach out to the community around you.

We hope to support Camp Eder, an important Church of the Brethren ministry, by attending and supporting the Camp's 9th annual Christmas Tree Festival on Friday and Saturday, December 6 & 7, from 5 to 9 pm. There are horse carriage rides Friday night and hay rides Saturday night. They are offering a Turkey dinner and soup with a donation. You may sponsor a luminary for a loved one. Enjoy the decorated trees. Drink some warm drinks and cookies. There are cozy fires and some kids' activities and LOTS OF LIGHTS AROUND THE LODGE! IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GO, we could have some carpooling to get there. Let Gloria know if you are interested in going there. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for all the details.

We have placed an ad in the Martin Luther King Booklet being handed out at the January service. If you attend, you get a free booklet. We encourage you to support this lovely service!

We reviewed the results of the Collection of children's items for the two schools, LeTort and Hamilton. They have already been delivered. We had a total of 8 packs of multi-count boys' underwear, 4 packs of multi-count girls' underwear, 6 lice kits, 7 toothbrushes, 6 Crest toothbrushes, 34 pair of gloves, 4 hats, 8 jackets, and 23 pair of socks. Thanks to everyone who shared something for some of our most vulnerable children of the district.

The 31st annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Service will take place on Sunday Jan 19, 2020 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Carlisle. The schedule for this year is as follows: 2:30pm meet at St. Paul's on the corner of West Louthier and North West Street. 2:45pm march from church to the old courthouse on the square for the MLK celebration. 4:00pm back at St. Paul's for the commemoration service. Some people just go to one or two of the above.

Carlisle Area Religious Council asks for your help in getting one dozen cookies to each one of the inmates at the County Prison. We prefer homemade cookies but store-bought are acceptable. Please put your cookies in a non-returnable container. You may bring them to church on December 15th and place it in a designated spot in the narthex. Linda Wilson will get them to Project Share. Or you can drop them off at Project Share on Orange Street on Monday, December 16th or Tuesday, Dec, 17th. Mark your container from Carlisle Church of The Brethren. The goal is 400 dozen. The Council will be packing them.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Thanks to Ginny Wilson, 6 more lap blankets were shared with residents of the Brethren Home Village. Thank you, Ginny, for your hard work. We are currently working on a quilt on the quilt frame that had once been put together by Julia Fetterman, deceased cousin of Gloria Ramirez. It's beautiful. If you would like to join us in quilting, please let Gloria know and we will find a place for you to work.

The Amani Dove Festival will take place on Saturday Dec. 14 from 12pm-4pm at the First United Church of Christ 30 North Pitt St. Carlisle. There will be free food and hot chocolate, live music and performances, and handmade crafts. Local businesses will have designed and decorated doves which will be displayed at the dove festival to highlight peace. You can vote for your favorite with your spare change. There will also be a silent auction of the doves. The money raised will be given to Warm the Children Program and will be used to provide warm clothing for children in need. Last year they raised \$1,400!

Since 1994, Amani has grown from just a small group of volunteers to a peace movement that has attracted thousands upon thousands to historic downtown Carlisle every May for the Amani Festival. The Amani Festival is a celebration of peace through diversity where numerous cultures are represented. Some of those cultures are Thai, German, native American, African-American, Chinese, African, and Mid-Eastern. The festival includes entertainment for adults, activities for children, and many vendors from different cultures selling crafts, food, books, clothing etc. The Amani Committee also hosts and participates in various community events throughout the year.

The Women's Fellowship is again sponsoring a family for the Christmas season. We will provide gifts for a mother and her three girls. Gift suggestions are listed on the bulletin board. Please add your name next to the item (s) you would like to purchase. Wrapped gifts can be placed in the large box in the narthex by December 15th. Thank you for helping to give this family a bright Christmas.

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MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS

Any person not receiving the Messenger Magazine who would like to subscribe to it for 2020 should contact Bernie Koontz by December 15th. The cost is \$14.50 for one year or \$27.00 for two years.

If you are celebrating a 50, 55, 60, or above wedding anniversary, let Bernie Koontz (249-4884) know and he will have it placed in the magazine. Thanks!

HAYRIDE

Middlesex United Methodist, 118 North Middlesex Road, Carlisle, PA, 17013, is holding their annual Hayride to Bethlehem on Friday, **December 6, 2019**, from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 7, 2019, from 4:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

We would like to invite you, your staff, and your entire congregation to this event.

Grab your heaviest coats, hats, scarfs, gloves and your warmest blankets and come our church to hop on a hay wagon for a 40-minute ride through the countryside. The Christmas Story will be portrayed by different scenes, actors and live music to help bring the true meaning of Christmas to life! Look for the Star in the sky—it will lead you to the manger and the telling of the birth of Jesus. You will be returning to our church to enjoy a cup of delicious hot chocolate and homemade cookies. The Hayride to Bethlehem is FREE and all ages are invited. For more information, contact our church office by calling 717-249-2449, or visit our website: www.middlesexumc.com/livenativity

We would love to see you there!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

December 22 from 6:00-8:00; carolers should bring a dozen cookies to share. The Nurture Commission will provide hot chocolate or coffee. Dress warm and meet here at the church.

CARLISLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN SERMON DETAILS

December 1, 2019

Sermon Title: "Why Prophets?"

Scripture: Isaiah 9: 2-7; Matt. 4: 15-16

We'll study what the prophets said about the birth of Jesus, and why they were a critically important component of our Messiah's arrival.

December 8, 2019

Sermon Title: "Why Mary?"

Scripture: Isaiah 35: 1-10; Luke 1: 46-49

Unthinkable. Unlikely. Unbelievable. Those adjectives tend to describe the mother and conception of God's Son. But we'll take a closer look at how scripture describes and supports Mary as a Mother-to-be.

December 15, 2019

Sermon Title: "Why Shepherds?"

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 2: 8-20

Back in the late years of B.C., very few children wanted to be shepherds "when they grew up." So, why were they designated to be the first to visit the First Family?

December 22, 2019

Sermon Title: "Why Joseph?"

Scripture: Isaiah 7: 10-16; Matt. 1: 18-25

Imagine being Joseph's parents or one of his closest friends. What advice would you offer him when you learn that his fiancé is prematurely pregnant? Why, Joseph, did you marry her?

December 29, 2019

Sermon Title: "Why Wise Men?"

Scripture: Jeremiah 31: 15-17; Matthew 2: 1-12

It appears as if the forces of evil led the Wise Men to visit with Herod on their way to Bethlehem. But that won't be the last time that Satan attempts to thwart the mission of Christ.

On the Personal Side...

Joys, Sorrows, & Concerns this past month to:

Joys to: Lori Salisbury for a successful surgery;

Friends of the Congregation who have been ill, hospitalized, or needing prayer this past month include: Mary Beth Blackburn; Jeanne Bobenage's sister's grandson, Kyle's close friend, Tom; Elwood Detwiler; Sally Milbrand; Garry Detwiler; Lori Salisbury; the Ken Rentschler family; Novella Strickler, Ron Lang, John Pitman's sister Carolyn, and John & Linda's Hannah.

Prayer List: Clair Tritt, Blanche Shenk, Pearl Ditmer, Gene Roth, Lois Sollenberger, Betty Gish, and Martha Trimmer.

Persons from the Congregation who have been ill, hospitalized, or needing prayer this past month include: The Donnelly family for the passing of Edith Donnelly Reamer.

Serving You In December . . .

Worship

Greeters

Elmer & Pauline Stump

Hospitality

Pat Tritt

Ushers

Shyrl Carothers, Landon
Billman, Charlie Carothers &
Justin Shaulis

Head Ushers

December 1 - Dave Wert
December 8 - Dale Miller
December 15 - Dave Marks
December 22 - Ike Tritt
December 29 - Dale Miller

Sound Room

December 1 - Ike Tritt
December 8 - Dave Marks
December 15 -
December 22 - Michael Strickler
December 29 - Mike Ditmer

Children's Time

December 1 - Gloria Ramirez
December 8 - Francine Moody
December 15 - Gloria Ramirez
December 22 - Doris Marks
December 29 - Maria Shaulis

Nursery I

December 1 - Pat Tritt
December 8 - Shyrl Carothers
December 15 - Maria Shaulis
December 22 - Lisa Billman
December 29 - Kirsten Shaulis

Nursery II

December 1 - Francine Moody
December 8 - Desiree White
December 15 - Kirsten Shaulis
December 22 - Landon Billman
December 29 -

Worship Leaders

December 1 - Linda Young
December 8 - Mike Ditmer
December 15 - Ike Tritt
December 22 - Rita Young
December 29 - Dale Miller

Our Record of Faithfulness

	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>
	General Fund	General Fund	Building Fund	Building Fund	Special Giving
November 10, 2019	\$95,493.35	\$83,931.00	\$2,375.00	\$1,565.00	\$3,536.50

***CHRISTMAS LASAGNA FOR
CHRISTMAS EVE***

- 10 Lasagna noodles, uncooked
- 1 lb Chicken Breast, boneless & skinless
- 1 jar Marinara Sauce
- 1 ½ Mushrooms
- ¼ cup Onion, chopped
- 1 TBS dried Basil
- 1 ¾ tsp Salt (divided)
- 1/8 tsp Garlic Powder
- 3 cups small-curd Cottage Cheese
- ½ cup Egg substitute or 2 Eggs
- ½ cup Parmesan Cheese, grated
- 1/3 cup fresh Parsley, minced
- ½ tsp Pepper
- 2 cups Mozzarella Cheese, shredded

Instructions

1. Cook lasagna according to package directions. Meanwhile, shred pre-cooked chicken breast.
2. Drain noodles, set aside.
3. In a large nonstick skillet, combine the shredded chicken, Marinara sauce, mushrooms, onion, basil, 3/4 teaspoon of salt and garlic powder. Bring to boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 30 minutes.
4. In a bowl, combine cottage cheese, egg substitute, Parmesan cheese, parsley, pepper and remaining salt.
5. In 1 13-in x 9-in. x 2-in. baking dish coated with nonstick cooking spray, place a layer of noodles, overlapping them. Layer with the cheese mixture, chicken mixture and mozzarella. Repeat layers. Cover and bake at 375 for 30 minutes or until bubbly. Uncover, bake for 5 minutes longer. let stand for 15 minutes before cutting and enjoy!



*Happy
Birthday*

December

*Happy
Anniversary*

December

First Church of the Brethren
1340 Forge Road
Carlisle, PA 17013



The Light On The Hill

Address Service Requested



Interim Pastor: Jerry Underkoffler

Secretary: Judy Moore

Church Office: 717-243-4984

A Christian Community Sharing the Love of God

Sunday School: 9:00 AM

Worship 10:15 AM

carlislecob.org

office@carlislecob.org

December 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2	3 9:00 am Central PA Pastors' Mtg 1:00 pm Quilt- ing 1pm Puzzle Time	4 6pm Praise Team & 7pm Choir Rehearsals	5	6	7
8 Christmas Dinner after church	9	10 1:00pm Quilting 1pm Puzzle Time 7pm Stewards	11 12:30pm Witness Com- mission 6pm Praise Team & 7pm Choir Re-	12 6:30 pm SOPA Meet- ing	13 6:30pm District Ex- ecutive Committee	14
15 6pm - 8pm Christmas Caroling	16	17 1:00 pm Puzzle Time	18 9:00 am Birthday Break -fast @ Crack- er Barrel 9am CCNS Concert- Cookie sale 6pm Praise Team & 7pm Choir Re- hearsals	19 CCNS 3's Class Holi- day Party 6:30pm SOPA Meet- ing	20 CCNS Pre-K Classes Holiday Pty	21
22	23 CCNS win- ter break all week	24 CCNS winter break all week	25 6pm Praise Team & 7pm Choir Rehearsals CCNS winter break all week	26 CCNS win- ter break all week	27 CCNS win- ter break all week	28
29	30	31 1:00 pm Puzzle Time				