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# The Light On The Hill



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

January 2020

## *From the Pastor's Desk . . .*

### **The First 5-Gallon Buckets**

It was the house that was to give us enough room to raise three kids. And yet, after a bitter winter of being confined to the four walls of that house, we soon realized that our kids needed more room. That's when I walked down the cellar steps and took a long look at the basement.

The floor was thin and crumbling concrete and the ceiling was menacingly low; I couldn't stand up straight without my head hitting a first-floor joist. But, there *was* lots of space! Problem: knowing that our three children would be tall like their dad, I knew I had to either raise the ceiling or lower the floor for this area to be usable play-space. Solution: Enter 5-gallon buckets, a jackhammer, a pick and shovel - oh, and my neighbor's dump truck parked next to our house.

The project of digging by hand and carrying 5-gallon bucketsful of old concrete and the twenty-seven inches of clay beneath it in a 450-square foot room was, to put it mildly, an overwhelming project. But, in a moment of determination, I started jack-hammering the concrete and carried the first two 5-gallon buckets out to the empty dump truck. After filling twenty-one of those dump trucks, each with about three tons of concrete and clay, I've never looked at 5-gallon buckets the same way. By the way, I lost one inch of height and twenty pounds by the end of this project!

Keeping New Year's resolutions can be just as overwhelming. Resolving not to eat snacks after 8 PM, resolving to take longer walks, resolving to eat fewer carbs are typical resolutions I usually break before flipping the calendar to February. But, let me challenge you (and myself) to make one resolution we'll never regret. Turning our whole lives and all our habits, hobbies, and down time over to God's control, can also be a daunting task. But, it starts with giving Him control of *the first* habit, *the first* hobby, or *the first* hour of down time. Like that first trip carrying 5-gallon buckets to the dump truck, it starts with *the first step*. In 2020, will you join me in giving our Lord that *one part* of our lives where we've been stingy about giving Him control?

**Prayer:** *Lord, you know what I need to change in my life. You know all my flaws and bad habits, even the ones I hate to admit. Forgive me for not truly wanting Your help until now. I can't make this change without You. Please take control of this one area of my life. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. Amen.*

*Pastor Jerry*

## *News Of The Congregation*

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### WITNESS COMMISSION

WOW! TIME TO START PLANNING FOR 2020! We hope everyone was able to share a Christmas mug with someone who might need a little cheering, some Christmas thoughts and prayers shared, some sweets or other gifts to go along with the candies from the mugs. The mugs were to have been shared during the week after Christmas. If you would like to have a mug of your own, see one of the Witness Commission members, who will make sure you get one.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. worship service and walk will take place on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:30. A community service is being planned by Carlisle Area Religious Council at our church, with a freewill offering for CARES in March. Look for information to follow.

We were pleased to have donated 190 bags of cookies to the Truck Stop Ministry and to have had a note from one of the drivers who e-mailed online a thank you, on Contact Us. That felt especially nice to hear back from someone.

We also received a thank you note from Hamilton Elementary School telling us how much they appreciate the items we were able to share. Good Job to those who helped with this project!

Once again, we are planning to have two dates for Soup Kitchen meals to share at the Salvation Army Building.

We are also planning for the Souper Bowl soup collection in February for March. Soup cans are collected for Project SHARE.

We are hoping to work with CCNS to plan for a joint program of some nature. Pray for the Witness Commission to plan meaningful ways to witness to the Carlisle Community.

### **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ARTICLES:**

Thanks again to Ginny Wilson, who put together 3 Christmas blankets, which were shared with the Adopted Family of the Salvation Army. Thank you, Ginny!

We are planning a new year of Birthday Breakfasts. Our new schedule will be available by the second week of January. Our last breakfast in November was shocking with 15 women in attendance. What a noisy blessed group we had! We hope if you have not joined us yet, you know you're missing a great chance to learn about one another and a lively fellowship time. If you know of a different diner to schedule in the new year, please let Gloria know

We are also making plans for another year of Secret Sisters. We had 7 women participate this past year and everyone enjoyed getting cards encouraging and feeling remembered as the year progressed. We had a lovely time learning who actually had been blessing us this past year. Some participants thought they knew who had been their secret sister and some were quite surprised by knowing who actually had been their secret sister. An enjoyable time!

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However, one of the opinions shared was that it would be nicer to have more women participate. Would you consider it for this coming year? Please let Gloria know if you would like to, and hopefully we can get at least 8 to 10 to participate. We will exchange names on the last Sunday of January!

If anyone would like to join the quilting ladies on Tuesdays to work on a quilt, please let Ginny Wilson or Gloria Ramirez know and we will see that you have the right day and time. We have good fellowship as we work on the latest quilt.

### MUSIC & WORSHIP

The Music and Worship Commission has planned a sweatshirt/sweater dress-down Sunday for February 2nd, the day of the Super Bowl. Team attire is acceptable even if your team is not in the game. Any other attire is also acceptable. This could prove to be a very "colorful" day!

Many thanks to **Ginny Wilson** for making three Christmas quilts which were given to the girls of the Salvation Army family which we sponsored. Thanks also go to **Mary Miller** who knotted the blankets. They were beautiful and we are sure the girls will be thrilled to have them! Thanks also to the congregation for your generosity in providing the gifts for a mother and her three daughters. They are surely to be excited on Christmas morning when they open their treasures!

NOT IN OUR TOWN and MOVING CIRCLES; two anti-racism groups will be presenting a program on "Building Coalitions Against Oppression 2020 : What Does that Look Like?" This is a follow up on The Town Meeting of last spring concerning Ku Klux Klan literature that was being distributed in various Carlisle neighborhoods. The meeting room where this meeting took place was overflowing with outraged citizens and community leaders speaking out against what had happened. It was unanimous that this type of literature would not be tolerated in our town. This presentation is a result of this town meeting. It will take place **January 28, 2020 @ 6:30pm at the Cumberland County Historical Society 21 North Pitt St. Carlisle .** There is a parking lot in the back

The 31st annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Service will take place on Sunday January 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 Louth-er and North West St. 2:45 pm 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.

After January 1<sup>st</sup> Ike and Pat Tritt can be reached by cell phone. Ike's number is and Pat's number is

I would like to thank everyone for the expressions of sympathy, cards, and just being a caring presence during this difficult period of adjustment after losing my dear friend Blair.

It has meant a lot -especially that you miss him too. Let us all pray for a better 2020 as we all move forward into the new year. Think positive, and be happy. That is what Blair would want us to. Blessings!

Linda Wilson

### **LIGHTEN-UP LUNCHEON**

**February 9th. Bring a healthy pot-luck dish to share.**

On Earth Peace wishes to thank you for supporting their ministries which will ensure that the message of peace and justice continues to spread.

**Project SHARE** thanks you for your contribution of 121 cans of tuna, 6 boxes of cake mix, and disinfectant wipes over the last several months. Your donations help them remain on the front line in the fight against hunger.

Due to the fact that there is no First Night in Carlisle on New Year's Eve this year, St. Paul's Lutheran 201 West Louthier St. Carlisle is hosting a Family Friendly Celebration and Contemporary Ecumenical Service followed by a bonfire. **10pm-Family Friendly Social in the Welcome Center. 10:45pm. Contemporary Ecumenical Service with St. Paul's Praise Band. 1200AM Bonfire. ALL ARE WELCOME!** See Flier on the Bulletin Board.

Camp Eder is thanking us for changing lives outdoors for the sake of the Gospel.

Camp Eder 2020 Winter Camp is January 24-26th. It's just around the corner! Join them for an action packed weekend full of Camp fun and friends. Grab your sleds and pack your bags; Winter Camp 2020 is going to be a blast! Grades 1st-12th; Registration fee \$75. Register online at [Campeder.org/registration](http://Campeder.org/registration) or contact Mike Kovacs at (717) 642-8256, or at [mkovacs@campeder.org](mailto:mkovacs@campeder.org)



If you have been an usher in 2019 and do not wish to continue in this position, please contact Pat Tritt to have your name removed from the ushers list.

The Unity Singers of Carlisle (also referred to as the Carlisle Unity Singers by some) will be singing at our church on March 22 Sunday at 4pm (Inclement weather date March 29).

The Unity Singers of Carlisle is an all-volunteer community-based gospel choir based in Carlisle, PA. Founded in February 2011 by director Russel Ward, the Unity Singers of Carlisle perform gospel music, old and new, that follows the tradition originally pioneered by American worshippers of African descent.

The choir performs regularly at community events, in area churches, and especially enjoys appearing in local health care centers. They rehearse at New Life Community Church in Carlisle, where Russell Ward is a member, every other Monday evening. Choir members are a diverse group from a variety of area churches, who all share a passion for keeping alive an imperiled worship-music tradition.

The farthest they have ever traveled to sing together was at the Brethren Home in New Oxford, and they feel honored to appear for the first time at the Carlisle Church of the Brethren.

More details in the February newsletter.

## ***CARLISLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN SERMON DETAILS***

**January 5, 2020**

**Sermon Title: "Oily Lamps" Communion Sunday**  
**Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13**

I love stories. I love to listen to others tell stories, and I enjoy telling some of my own. Jesus also loved stories, and was a master story teller when teaching and illustrating important truths. January Sermons will focus on stories (a.k.a. 'Parables') that Jesus told that reveal truth about His second coming. If you were a Boy or Girl Scout, this scripture in Matthew should be one of your favorite.

**January 12, 2020**

**Sermon Title: "Retirement Plans"**  
**Scripture: Matthew 24: 36-51**

Sorry. This news might change your plans. Counting on Social Security? Planning to kick-back in your lazy boy? Think again! Jesus offers wise words regarding our retirement that will revolutionize your investment planning.

**January 19, 2020**

**Sermon Title: "Harvesting Figs"**  
**Scripture: Mark 13:21-32**

I've picked multiple varieties of pears, apples and cherries from trees that I've grown. But figs from fig trees? Never. Yet Jesus helps us know the timing of His second coming using a parable from this type of tree. You'll never look at wasps the same.

**January 26, 2020**

**Sermon Title: "Hide and Seek"**  
**Scripture: Mark 13:32-37**

As children who loved to play Hide and Seek, my sisters and I learned quickly how to count from 1 to 100 as we covered our eyes with our hands. In the parable of this scripture, Jesus tells us how servants should be playing that game. And it has very little to do with counting or with hiding. "Ready or not, here I come!"

***On the Personal Side...***

***Joys, Sorrows, & Concerns this past month to:***

***Joys to:***

***Friends of the Congregation who have been ill, hospitalized, or needing prayer this past month include:***

***Prayer List:***

***Persons from the Congregation who have been ill, hospitalized, or needing prayer this past month include:***

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## *Serving You In January . . .*

### ***Worship Greeters***

### ***Hospitality***

### ***Ushers***

### ***Head Ushers***

January 5 -  
January 12 -  
January 19 -  
January 26 -

### ***Sound Room***

January 5 -  
January 12 -  
January 19 -  
January 26 -

### ***Children's Time***

January 5 -  
January 12 -  
January 19 -  
January 26 -

January 5 -  
January 12 -  
January 19 -  
January 26 -

### ***Nursery II***

January 5 -  
January 12 -  
January 19 -  
January 26 -

### ***Worship Leaders***

January 5 -  
January 12 -  
January 19 -  
January 26 -

## ***Our Record of Faithfulness***

**Y-T-D**  
General Fund  
December 22, 2019

**2018**  
General Fund

**Y-T-D**  
Building Fund

**2018**  
Building Fund

**Y-T-D**  
Special Giving

Make every effort to do what leads to peace and edification.

Romans 14:19

## LEMON CAKE DESSERT

Alverta Bobb's recipe, curtesy of Shyrl Carothers

Cream 2 cups flour, 2 sticks melted butter and 3/4 cup crushed pecans and press in a sprayed 9x13 pan. Bake 25 min at 350. Cool

Whip 16 oz cream cheese, 2 cups powdered sugar and spread over cooled mixture in pan.

Mix 2 small boxes of instant lemon pudding with 3 cups milk. Spread over cheese mixture and then spread cool whip over pudding. Leave it set one hour in fridge.

Chocolate pudding can be used instead of the lemon pudding.

## GRAPE SALAD

Cream 8 oz softened cream cheese, 1 cup sour cream, 1/3 cup sugar and 2 tsp vanilla. Add 2 lbs each red and green grapes. Mix well.

Topping - 2 Tbs each brown sugar and chopped pecans. Sprinkle on.



*Happy  
Birthday*

*Happy  
Anniversary*

There are no anniversaries during the month of January.

**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](http://carlislecob.org)

[office@carlislecob.org](mailto:office@carlislecob.org)

# January 2020

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Communion	<b>6</b>	<b>7 7:00 pm</b> Music/Worship	<b>8 6:00pm</b> Praise Band <b>7:00</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15 6:00pm</b> Praise Band <b>7:00</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19 Noon</b> Deacon Lunch & Meeting  <b>2:30pm</b> MLK Commemora- tion @ St Pauls Luther- an Church	<b>20</b>	<b>21 7:00pm</b> Church Board	<b>22 6:00pm</b> Praise Band <b>7:00</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>23 6:30</b> <b>pm</b> SOPA Meeting	<b>24</b> Camp Eder Winter Camp Jan. 24th thru 26th	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28 6:30pm</b> Building Coali- tions Against Oppression 2020 @ Cumb Co Historical Society	<b>29 6:00pm</b> Praise Band <b>7:00</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

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