

WINTER

The Herald

To all our family and friends, Merry Christmas, from the staff at West Richmond Church of the Brethren



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

7:00 p.m. on Friday, December 24

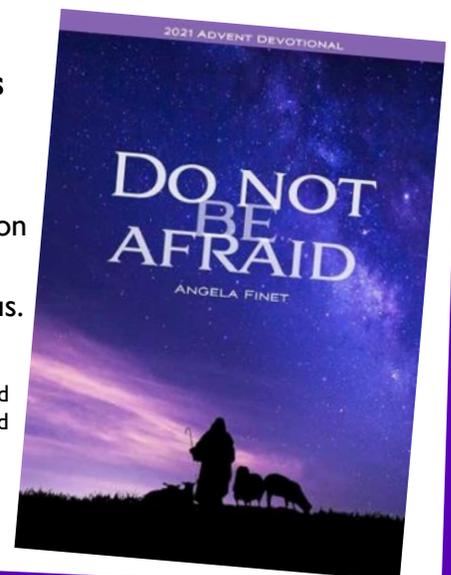
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Did you pick up your copy of this year's Advent devotional from Brethren Press?

You can find copies in the Communication Center by the front doors. Nurture Commission purchased 25 of them for us.

The Brethren Press devotional series is published twice a year in anticipation of the Advent and Lenten seasons. WRCOB is a seasonal subscriber.





DO NOT BE AFRAID I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY THAT WILL BE FOR ALL PEOPLE

Luke 2:10 (NIV)

Frederick Buechner likens Advent to the moment right before a concert: the house lights go off and the footlights come on. Even the chattiest stop chattering as they wait in darkness for the curtain to rise. In the orchestra pit, the violin bows are poised. The conductor has raised the baton.

In the silence, all attention focuses on the rising of the curtain and what follows. Advent is that moment.

It reminds me of a moment that I will always treasure. My family and I lived in western Massachusetts, where I worked as the farm manager of a rehab farm community called Gould Farm. We attended the local town church, Monterey United Church of Christ, that averaged, on a good Sunday, maybe thirty. I had finished milking and hurried to the house to shower and dress and get ready for the Christmas Eve Candle Light Service at church. It had started snowing, and by the time we were ready to drive to church, several inches had fallen.

What I remember that I treasure, even today, was standing on the top stair of a long flight of stairs up to the front door of the church. There was a silence so thick that you could not hear a passing car. The snow had blanketed the little New

England town with a white sheet of silence. It was just a moment. Standing there, at the top stair, in the silence, looking out over the quaint New England town and countryside, time had stopped. Something lured me to listen. Listen to what, I don't know. And so, I stop for a moment knowing that as soon as I opened the door and the interior light would flood out, the moment would be gone. It was all I needed. I opened the door, entered the warm room of spirit and fellowship and quietly celebrated the coming of the Christ child, the Savior of the world.

Again from Buechner, "The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment."

The Salvation Army Santa Claus clangs his bell. The sidewalks are so crowded you can hardly move. Exhaust fumes are the chief fragrance in the air, and everybody is as bundled up against any sense of what all the fuss is really about as they are bundled up against the wind chill factor.

May this Advent Season be that special moment before the actual moment happens!

Pastor Dave



In Our Congregation

UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Times have changed, but we **still** do a lot of “bread and butter.” That’s the seemingly endless task at FeedMore’s Community Kitchen. Since May 2021, WRCOB has once again been represented at FeedMore’s Community Kitchen on the third Tuesday of each month after a 13-month absence due to COVID concerns. In May, Ann Andrus and Carol Goss worked in Kitchen No. 1 doing that familiar bread-and-butter chore: putting one roll and a pat of butter in a plastic bag and sealing it.

In June, Ann, David Brunk and Judy McCloud began volunteering in **Kitchen No. 2**. There, the tasks are defined as “packing.” Recent tasks have included assembling boxes and labeling them to identify the meals packed in them, repacking boxes that were damaged, and repackaging hundreds of packets of dry milk into packs of five. In August and September, Ann and Judy again tackled “**bread and butter**”, but with a difference. In Kitchen No. 2 the bread-and-butter chore requires placing **five** rolls and **five** butters in bags to be boxed with other foods to provide five meals for recipients.

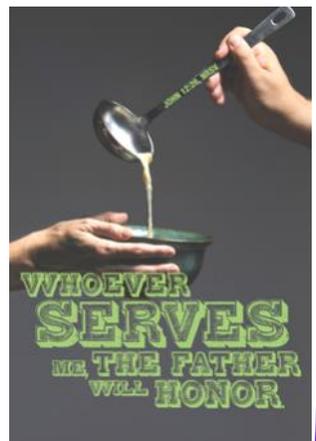
The safety protocols FeedMore adopted in the face of COVID still apply. Only four volunteers from any one organization work per shift. **Face masks are required.** Upon arrival, workers have their temperatures taken and wash their hands. Hairnets (or a baseball cap if you have short hair) are required as are vinyl gloves and plastic aprons. Closed toe shoes are required and shorts are not permitted.

Despite being on their feet for the 3-hour shift, those who have volunteered regularly find that the tasks are easy. They enjoy the opportunity to visit while working and are glad that the simple tasks they perform help provide meals for people who need them.

Currently, Ann, David and Judy are scheduled for work there from **1:00 to 4:00 pm on Tuesday December 21**. There is space for one additional volunteer to serve regularly **OR** to serve as a substitute. If you’re interested in serving at **Kitchen No.2**, please contact Ann Andrus.

Thank you!

Thanks to all who have contributed food dishes and/or served meals to our veterans at the Liberation Veterans Services (LVS) Shelter on Hull Street on the first Tuesday each month: Anna Welch, Ashok, Adam & Sean Solanky, Brenda Kirby & Bob Bates (Girl Scouts), Carol Goss, Pastor Dave & Zherina Whitten, Dolly Guyer, Don Ziegler, Sandy Faw, Susan Robertson, and Thoko, Isaiah & Savannah Lipato.



Special thanks to Anna Welch who has faithfully provided the main course each month for the past several years! Due to on-going health issues, Anna will be

reluctantly hanging up her apron after December 2021. Thank you, Anna, for preparing many delicious meals! The veterans have truly enjoyed these meals. As you can see, “it takes a village” to make this happen. Please consider helping us continue this ministry! See Sandy Faw, Dolly Guyer or Susan Robertson for more details!



Update: Janet Brunk has graciously stepped in to provide BBQ in January! Thank you, Janet! Let us know who’s willing to provide sides for this meal.

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 www.wrcob.org wrcob@wrcob.org

Pastor Dave Whitten (319-610-2274)
 Administrative Assistant..... Barbara Beers (804-338-3482)
 Sunday Worship (On site & Online)..... 11:00 a.m.
 Office (M-F).....9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

If no one is in the office or the line is busy, voice mail will pick up so **PLEASE** leave us a message. Items for the bulletin’s weekly newsheet **MUST** be submitted to the church office by **noon Thursday**. All articles for the **February** edition of *The Herald* are due in the office by **Saturday, January 15, 2022**.

Who's celebrating in...

DECEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 1 *Mark & Denise Diamond*
- 2 Judith Whitten
- 4 Bridget Holsinger
Caroline Holsinger
Dani Saunders
- 6 Baylee Pendleton
Charles & Belinda Layman
- 7 *Lainey Brunk*
- 8 Anna (Beers) Williams
- 9 Judy McCloud
- 10 Barbara Tulli
- 11 Jacob Tulli
- 14 Mike Andrus
Frank Fuller
- 15 Nadene Eads
- 17 Kenny Keithly
Karen (Hite) Searles
- 20 Kathy (Fuller) Guisewite
- 21 Simone Baker (1st)
Sophie Baker (1st)
- 22 Brandon Keithly
Tiffany McCann
- 23 *Zack & Missie (Pendleton) Hurst*
Dave & Judith Whitten
- 27 Margaret (Wampler) Lum
April Lynch
Emmett Vassar
- 29 *Bill & Lib Kinzie (65th)*
- 30 Madeleine Heatwole
- 31 Amparo Brunk

JANUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Chris Johnson
- 2 Finn Hurst
- 4 Alyce Newman
- 11 Sandi Davis
Gus Saunders
- 13 Berkley O'Neal
- 14 Demetra Heckman-Johnson
Alan Vallejo
- 16 Thomas Holsinger
- 20 JoAnn Holsinger
- 23 Ann Andrus
Belinda Layman
- 24 Savannah Lipato
Sarah Niswonger
- 25 Elizabeth Glass
- 28 *Ashok & Donita Solanky*
- 29 Susan Robertson
- 30 John Fleming
- 31 Margaret Phillips



Have we missed your birthday or anniversary? Please, contact the church office to let them know of the omission.

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	
			1 6:00 pm Handbells 	2	3	4 10:00 am JanPro	
5 9:30 am On Site & Online Sunday School 11:00 am On Site & Online Worship with Children's Church 	6 6:00 pm Ladies Nite In at Carolyn Arthur and Terrie Glass' Home	7 10:30 am Ladies Circle 5:15 pm Veterans Shelter on Hull Street 	8	9	10 	11 10:00 am JanPro	
12 9:30 am On Site & Online Sunday School 11:00 am On Site & Online Worship 	13	14 10:30 am Ladies Circle 7:00 pm Hybrid Church Board 	15 6:00 pm Handbells 	16	17  Last Day of SCHOOL	18 10:00 am JanPro	
19 9:30 am On Site & Online Sunday School 11:00 am On Site & Online Worship with Children's Church 	20	21 10:30 am Ladies Circle 12:30 pm FeedMore Community Kitchen  First Day of Winter	22 23			24  Christmas Eve  7:00 pm On Site & Online Worship	25 Christmas Day 
Chesterfield, Hanover & Henrico County Schools closed for Winter Break 12/20 -31							
26 11:00 am On Site Worship (No livestream)  LAMBs Basket	27	28 10:30 am Ladies Circle 	29	30	31 New Year's Eve  Welcome 2022!		
Pastor Dave is on vacation December 27-January 2. The church offices are closed December 27-30.							

JANUARY

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat

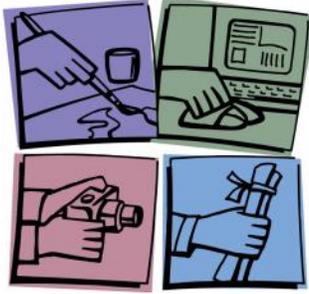
Begin the Year with 

<p>2 9:30 am On Site & Online Sunday School 11:00 am On Site & Online Worship with guest speaker, David Brunk</p>	<p>3  BACK TO SCHOOL!</p>	<p>4  10:30 am Ladies Circle 5:15 pm Shelter on Hull Street</p>	<p>5 6:00 pm Handbells </p>	<p>6  Epiphany</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1 New Year's Day 10:00 am JanPro</p>
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<p>9  9:30 am On Site & Online Sunday School 11:00 am On Site & Online Worship</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11  10:30 am Ladies Circle 7:00 pm Hybrid Church Board </p>	<p>12 6:00 pm Handbells </p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 </p>	<p>15 10:00 am JanPro </p>
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<p>16 9:30 am On Site & Online Sunday School 11:00 am On Site & Online Worship</p>	<p>17 Schools Closed </p>	<p>18  10:30 am Ladies Circle 12:30 pm FeedMore Community Kitchen</p>	<p>19 6:00 pm Handbells </p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 10:00 am JanPro</p>
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<p>23 9:30 am On Site & Online Sunday School 11:00 am On Site & Online Worship</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25  10:30 am Ladies Circle</p>	<p>26 6:00 pm Handbells </p>	<p>27 6:30 pm Ladies Nite Out </p>	<p>28 </p>	<p>29 10:00 am JanPro</p>
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<p>30  9:30 am On Site & Online Sunday School 11:00 am On Site & Online Worship  LAMBs Basket</p>	<p>31</p>	<p> A NEW YEAR & NEW OPPORTUNITIES</p>
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Who's doing what in...

December	5	12	19	26
Greeter	Carol Goss	Barbara Beers	Dolly Guyer	Ann Andrus
Worship Leader	Susan Robertson	June Diehl	Alyce Newman	Bob Gangwer
Tellers	Jeff Goss & Alyce Newman	Joel Guyer & Larry McCann	Bob & Pat Gangwer	Nancy Martin & Ann Andrus



January	2	9	16	23	30
Greeter	Carol Goss	Barbara Beers	Dolly Guyer	Ann Andrus	Susan Robertson
Worship Leader	Susan Robertson	Pat Gangwer	Ann Andrus	Barbara Beers	
Tellers	Jeff Goss & Alyce Newman	Joel Guyer & Larry McCann	Bob & Pat Gangwer	Nancy Martin & Ann Andrus	Jeff Goss & Alyce Newman

Want to be included in any of these activities? Please contact the church office.



Church Board Notes

Here are some highlights from our hybrid Church Board meeting on Tuesday, October 12th...

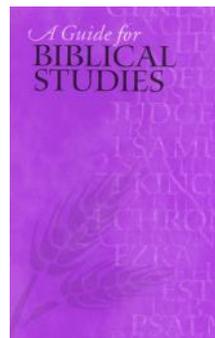
- ◆ The Ladies Circle delivered 41 school kits to the Shenandoah District to be distributed to areas in need.
- ◆ Christian Ed announced that Sarah (Beers) Hartman will be working with the children during church, and they recognized Cameron McCloud's assistance with the younger children.
- ◆ Nurture highlighted the celebration of Clergy Recognition in October.
- ◆ Our Director of Technology & Media, Kevin Beers, reported that our new wrcob.org website is up and running, and that he would welcome any feedback or suggestions.
- ◆ The board approved a motion to send \$2000 out of gains from our financial investments to Midwives for Haiti for assistance to women in earthquake-stricken areas.

- Sandy Faw, Church Clerk -

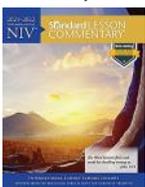


A NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS...

You are invited to consider joining a new Adult Sunday school class beginning **January 9, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.**, in-person or online. This study focuses on justice as presented in a variety of Old Testament scriptures. Justice originates in the nature of God and is given to God's people as a gift under the law. This history of God's covenant people shows that kings who exercised God's justice according to God's law were considered good kings. Over time, adverse circumstances caused God's people to raise questions about God's justice.



Written from a Church of the Brethren perspective, A Guide for Biblical Studies is issued quarterly and contains daily NRSV scriptures, lessons, and questions for both individual preparation and small group use. Follows the International Sunday School Lessons/Uniform Series.



Please let Pastor Dave know of your interest in the class by **DECEMBER 15** so that materials can be ordered to arrive before the class starts. A large print edition is available, let us know if you'd prefer it.

Weekly Statistics

October 3

Attendance

Worship (total)	53
In-person.....	42
Live stream.....	11
On-line views as of 10/8.....	22

October 10

Attendance

Worship (total)	50
In-person.....	39
Live stream.....	11
On-line views as of 10/15.....	35

October 17

Attendance

Worship (total)	43
In-person.....	32
Live stream.....	1
On-line views as of 10/22.....	34

October 24

Attendance

Worship (total)	47
In-person.....	40
Live stream.....	7
On-line views as of 10/29.....	15

October 31

Attendance

Worship (total)	69
In-person.....	55
Live stream.....	14
On-line views as of 11/5.....	25

Offering

October 3.....	\$ 5,365.00
October 10.....	\$ 1,675.00
October 17.....	\$ 2,870.00
October 24.....	\$ 2,675.00
October 31.....	\$ 2,860.00
Offering YTD.....	\$154,926.75

Trunk or Treat 2021 - Fall Festival

Sarah Hartman

Anything italicized is information learned and/or needed for the future.

On Saturday, October 30, 2021, we hosted Trunk-or-Treat. It started at 4 p.m. and lasted roughly until about 6 p.m. The entire event was free to anyone who participated.

In the past we have had Trunk-or-Treating in our parking lot. In 2019, Trunk-or-Treat landed on the same day that the boy scouts were selling Brunswick stew. It gave me the idea to restructure Trunk-or-Treating a little bit.

Unfortunately none of our scout groups are able to meet at this time. The person the scouts worked with for Brunswick stew had a significant waiting list and would need to be contacted much farther in advance.

I wanted to use the entire grounds for the festivities. Since we had cleared out the honeysuckle bush on the parsonage side of the church, we set up outdoor games and equipment. We had corn hole, a bean bag toss, four-square volleyball, and can jam. There were other balls and equipment set out with which to be played.

Kevin Beers helped set up a Facebook live the week before the event. He recorded me sharing what activities were going to be in the video. We had someone confirm (nonmember/visitor) that the video helped them know they were at the right location and the correct property.

Barbara Beers showed me spare materials from the past. It included door hangers that were perforated to share with friends. April Keller (Lynch) went around the surrounding neighborhood, hanging these on front and storm

doors. There was at least one family in attendance that confirmed this form of advertisement was what led them to the event.

Concessions were provided at the event. The Ladies' Circle helped put together different s'mores

packages. There was a mix of cinnamon and regular graham crackers as well as milk and dark chocolates. We also had both a popcorn machine and cotton candy machine donated for the evening. They were run by Jim Lavender (owner) and Jay Hartman. Capri Sun and water were also provided. All concessions were free of charge.

More space and labeled lines will be helpful for next year.

When I was younger, the most important part of a fall festival was a hay ride. No matter how slow or fast, scary or cheesy...I loved it! This was my priority, and it went smoothly. Insurance requirements and paperwork were a piece of cake. Jonathan Hartman drove the tractor the entire event, and he didn't have a break in the line the entire time.

Instead of having all cars park in the same location, non-decorated cars were directed to the parking lot while decorated cars parked on the far side of the playground near the volleyball court. This built a "wall" of vehicles that provided a safe, open space for kids to run around in the grass. It also allowed moving vehicles to remain much farther from the kids during the event. *Clearer directions/signs for cars will be helpful for next year as well as 4 or more volunteers to help shape the trunk-or-treat location.*



Activities:

- Hayride
- Popcorn machine
- Cotton candy machine
- DIY s'mores packages
- Trick-or-Treating
- Outdoor games/equipment



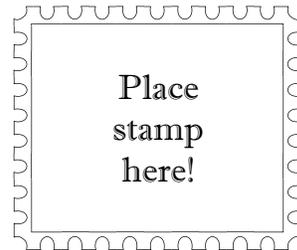
Special Thanks to:

- Ann Andrus and Carol Goss for decorating and helping set up beforehand
- Alyce Newman and Carol Goss for the receipt clean up and training for when I planned the event.
- The Lavender family for popcorn and cotton candy machines

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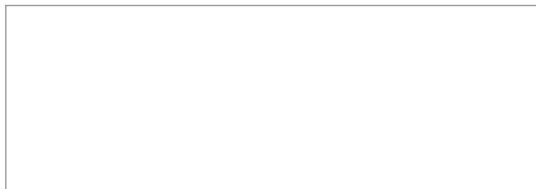
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Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.

BRETHREN DISASTER MINISTRY

Another group of helping hands from West Richmond is heading out on Sunday, December 5, to serve with Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM). Three of the four have been to this site before: Ann Andrus, Sandy Faw, and Carol Goss. Joining them this trip, along with a group from the Shenandoah District, is David Brunk. Hats off to these folks for sharing their time and talents with others.



A little history of this BDM site... A BDM site in Bayboro, NC opened in Sept 2020 to continue Hurricane Florence rebuilding and paused at the end of April 2021. This site is scheduled to reopen at the end of October 2021 through April 2022. Volunteer housing is in Pamlico County at the Mt. Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church in Bayboro, N.C. There are multiple local work partners with which BDM plans to work, the primary one being the Pamlico County Disaster Relief Coalition.

Hurricane Florence made landfall in North Carolina on Sept. 14, 2018, bringing a record-breaking storm surge of 9 to 13 feet and devastating rainfall of 20 to 30 inches in some areas along the coast of the Carolinas. The slow-

moving storm proved to be the wettest tropical cyclone in Carolinas history. Thirty-four counties in North Carolina received a FEMA declaration for Individual Assistance, with a total of 34,713 people applying for assistance with FEMA.

BDM has moved to the area to continue the rebuilding work over two years after the storm. Volunteer housing is in Pamlico County at the Mt. Zion Original Free Will Baptist Church in Bayboro, N.C. There are multiple local work partners with which BDM plans to work, the primary one being the Pamlico County Disaster Relief Coalition.

