



BRETHREN HIGHLIGHTS

Lancaster Church of the Brethren

January 2017

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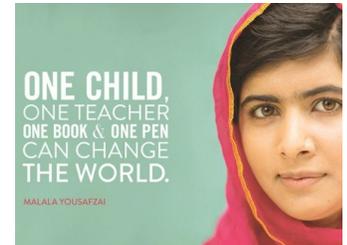
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Sunday School Options

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE RESUMES JANUARY 18

Each Wednesday evening, beginning **January 18** and continuing for **twelve weeks through April 5**, we will gather in the FLC at 5:00 p.m. for a tasty supper prepared by our volunteer staff. After the meal, we can participate in various activities - including interesting classes taking place 6:15 - 7:15 p.m. in rooms 162-163.

On **January 18 and 25**, the class will feature a viewing and discussion of the film *He Named Me Malala*, which chronicles the story of **Malala Yousafzai**, a 15-year-old Pakistani girl who in 2012 was shot in the head by the Taliban because of her outspoken advocacy of education for girls. After heroically surviving this assassination attempt, she continued her courageous campaign for the freedom and education of girls worldwide and in 2013 became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. This unforgettably vivid film is about real people, who appear as themselves, rather than portrayed by professional actors.



Beginning **February 1** the class will feature presenters from various service agencies supported by our congregation – including the Samaritan Center, On Earth Peace, the New Community Project, Bethany Theological Seminary, and the Church of the Brethren National Office.

Wednesday evenings are truly alive at the Lancaster Church of the Brethren. We hope you will come and join in the fun and fellowship.

Suzanne Schaudel, meal coordinator
Chuck Denlinger and Bev Angle, class steering committee

STARLIGHT TEA EPIPHANY CONCERT ON JANUARY 8!

On **Sunday, January 8, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**, our annual Starlight Tea Epiphany Concert returns as one of the most-beloved traditions at Lancaster Church of the Brethren! Each year, the Chancel Choir, the Carillon Bell Choir, soloists and instrumentalists join to take one more look at the music of Advent, Christmas and beyond. Organist Margaret Marsch is featured as well, highlighting both her artistry and LCOB's superb organ.

This year's concert features Marc-Antoine Charpentier's *Midnight Mass for Christmas*. This stunning Baroque masterpiece, accompanied by strings, flutes and harpsichord, uses the traditional Mass text set to French Noël tunes. The Carillon Bell Choir will ring two settings of beloved carols, and will also join the Chancel Choir in *Christmas Bells With Joy are Ringing* by Hal H. Hopson. The Chancel Choir and instrumentalists will also perform several carols and anthems by composers such as John Rutter, Mack Wilberg, Bob Chilcott, Jay Rouse and more.

The concert will conclude with a beautiful anthem by Alisa Bair, a fine composer who grew up in our congregation! Her setting of *In Thee Is Gladness* is a wonderful way to ring in the New Year!

Following the concert, join us for the Starlight Tea, featuring home-made cookies by the chefs of our congregation! Admission is free, and the joy is contagious - **bring all your friends!**



Find us on:
facebook

@ Lancaster Church of the
Brethren

Email: lancob@comcast.net

Web: www.lancob.org

SERVING THIS JANUARY

GREETERS

7:40 a.m. Mary & Jerry Thompson
 8:40 a.m. Sue & John Groff
 8:40 a.m. Wanda & Frank Fox
 9:50 a.m. Carlene & Scott Hufford
 9:50 a.m. Barb & Russ Morrow
 10:15 a.m. Lorraine & Don Dotterer



USHERS

CHAPEL SERVICE 8:00 a.m.
 Warren Evans & John Graham

SANCTUARY SERVICE 10:15 a.m.

Mike Hess* David Creighton Steve Holsinger
 John Lines Sue Lines Robert Mackey
 Jeff Putt Shirley Stauffer
**Head Usher*

CHURCH LIBRARY

Staffed Sunday 9:45—10:15 a.m.



ACOLYTES

Week 1: Maria Ramirez
 Week 2: Brooke Smith
 Week 3: Luke Wenger
 Week 4: Sadie Bowser
 Week 5: Jack Smith



VAN INFORMATION

Lin Moyer
 606-9418



ATTENDANCE

November 20—288
 November 27—329
 December 4—299
 December 11—322

DIRECTORY CHANGES

2017 Church Directory coming soon to
 a LCOB mailbox near you!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Gibson Alvino Charles Denlinger Del Akech Del Phillip Deng James Kongor Chol Mading Deng Deng Kudior Bol Jacob Kongor	9 Logan Reynolds	22 Ervin Martin Jessica Dunbar
2 Donald Dotterer Seth Dunbar	10 Alaina Bridgeman Shirley Gish Stauffer Grant Martin Brian Shotzberger	23 Wanda Fox Sarah Shearer Ron Yunginger
3 Andrew Lefever	12 Grant Husted Diana Lohr Wayne Stauffer	25 Melissa Heck 26 Craig Husted 27 John Byers
4 MaryAnn Breneman Madeleine Miller Carly Deihm	14 Bob Finkbiner Mike Snyder	28 Norma Hollinger Bob Frick
6 Paul Herr Theresa Herr Shawn Smith Elvin Heck	15 Terry Shearer Nia Smith	30 Gloria Denlinger Glenn Shultz Shirley (Clyde) Wenger
	16 Barry Wilson	31 Eric Keepers
	17 Ryan Brubaker David Ebersole	

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

THE IMMEASURABLE GIFT

The festivities we have just enjoyed during the month of December should remind us that Jesus is the reason for the season. While the gifts, the gatherings, and the celebrations will all come to pass, God's Gift to humanity will remain with each one of us for eternity.

Humanity has witnessed man's wickedness, since Adam and Eve's disobedience to God's instructions (Gen. 3), when they were residing in the Garden of Eden. Though every human being was created in God's image (Gen. 1:27), humans' sinful nature has led our minds to be guided by darkness, ingratitude, emptiness, and a purpose-less life. These characteristics, in essence, have produced the chaotic world in which we live today. This darkness has created insecurity, idolatry, and an egotistical self-serving attitude in most of us humans.

Since the beginning of creation, in His mercifulness, God had a plan for the Salvation of man. From the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:15), all the way to that miraculous event, when Moses led Israel's people across the Red Sea to deliver them away from Egypt's Pharaoh (Exodus 13:17-20), God was preparing the way for Jesus' coming to earth as our Savior.

Numerous prophets in the Old Testament had predicted the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem by the Virgin Mary. One of the prophets, Isaiah in chapter 9 verse 6 says, ***"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father,***

the Prince of Peace."

Through the years, the Christmas season has impacted humanity in such profound ways that transcendental transformations have taken place in the hearts of most human beings. The Christmas season creates an atmosphere where people's hearts are changed.

Christmas is a time when people experience joy, peace, and a desire of reconciliation with our Savior as well as with others. Many random acts of kindness take place during this season. One example of how the joy of Christmas can change the hearts of people is when:

"On December 24, 1914, British and German soldiers facing each other across *No Man's Land* in the trenches of World War I confounded their superiors by leaving their trenches and walking out to meet and greet their enemies in the spirit of Christmas brotherhood. Not only did the soldiers shake hands and converse, but they even exchanged presents and they sang carols together!" (Wikipedia Encyclopedia)

Ultimately, the most precious gift of all is the gift of Jesus' birth. God sent His son to be born to a Virgin. He humbled Himself by becoming human. We need to be humble as He was humble. God's Gift to mankind is everlasting. In Him we find solace. That is the Gift from God, the immeasurable Gift. Through Him we received forgiveness of our sins and salvation of our souls by grace. Let us embrace God's Gift as we enter the New Year - 2017!

Pastor Alix Sable



CRAIG SMITH RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

YOU'RE INVITED!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

You are invited to a drop-in celebration for Craig and Vicki Smith as we (*the Atlantic Northeast District*) thank them for their years of service to the Atlantic Northeast District. **Join us at the Hempfield Church of the Brethren on Sunday, January 15, 2017 from 12:00-3:30 p.m.**

There will be food and refreshments and time for conversation to bless them in the next steps of their life. We are so grateful for Craig and Vicki's faithfulness and hope that you can be a part of sharing in this together.



PENN STATE ESSENCE OF JOY GOSPEL

CHOIR CONCERT ON JAN 27!

We are thrilled to be able to host the fabulous Gospel choir from Penn State, *Essence of Joy*, on **Friday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary! Under the direction of Dr. Tony Leach, this group has performed around the world and recorded five CD albums. The concert is free, with a free-will offering taken. Look for more details in January worship bulletins. Also, don't worry about cooking dinner that evening, **George Harmes will be serving dinner in the FLC starting at 4:30 p.m.** The cost of dinner is by donation.



YOUTH AUCTION PLANNED

On **Saturday, February 18**, we will be trying a new type of fundraiser to help defray the cost of summer activities and work camps. The February 18 event, which will be held in the Family Life Center, will be an “auction” - a type that you have probably never experienced.

In addition to handmade articles, some created by youth and other church members, experiences and services will also be on the auction block. For example, someone could bid on the services of a group of youth to spring clean their home. Or, an amateur chef in the congregation could come to your home and prepare a multi-course feast for you and your guests. You don't weave baskets or turn wooden bowls? No problem! Why not create a gift basket around a theme and contribute it to be auctioned?

Thank you for your consideration, generosity and participation in creating formative spiritual experiences for our youth. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Howes at 397-4751 ext. 105.



I'D LIKE TO HELP THE YOUTH AUCTION BY:

_____ Helping to run the auction (receiving and cataloging auction items, hospitality, set up, clean up).

_____ Donating an object to be auctioned. I'm planning to donate: _____

_____ Donating a service to be auctioned. I'm planning to donate: _____

_____ Donating an experience to be auctioned. I'm planning to donate: _____

Name: _____

Phone number or email: _____

Return completed form to mailbox #7.

YOUTH MINISTRY: BEGINNING W/ THE END IN VIEW

According to management guru Stephen Covey, the number one thing that makes for effectiveness is to begin with the end in view—that means to decide where you want to arrive and then devise a path to get there. For LCOB's youth ministry, that means that the effectiveness in leading adolescents to become followers of Jesus is only fully apparent *after* they graduate from high school and move to the next phase of their life.

A tragic statistic is that 50% of teenagers who were *active* in a youth group during high school do not attend church consistently after high school graduation. Here at LCOB, we aren't just providing activities and experiences for youth for a season, we are forming life-long followers of Jesus. A key component of that is helping youth become *spiritual self-feeders*.

A key difference between an infant and an adult is that an infant will perish without someone else to nourish him/her, whereas an adult has acquired the skills to feed himself/herself. The focus of the youth ministry program at LCOB is focused on helping youth becoming *spiritual self-feeders*. This is done through close reading/discerning of the Bible in community with oth-

er youth, applying it to their daily lives, and maturing in their relationship with Jesus. The goal is for LCOB youth to graduate from high school not dependent on a pastor or Sunday School teacher to tell them what the Bible says, but rather, to be able to feed themselves and even to become leaders of Bible studies in dorm rooms or congregational small groups.

YOUTH CALENDAR

January

16—MLK Day of Service – Location TBD

20-22—District Senior High Retreat – Camp Swatara

29—Soup and Salad—FLC following worship

February

17-18—District Junior High Lock In – Ephrata Rec Center

18—Auction - FLC

March

17-18—District Senior High Lock In - LCOB

April

23—Soup and Salad— FLC following worship

JANUARY WORSHIP SERIES: GIFTS TO SHARE

*Christ is born in us today! In order that he may appear
To the whole world through us.*

~ Thomas Merton

January brings us into the season of Epiphany. This sacred season pre-dates Christmas celebrations – in fact, the seasons used to be combined so that the church celebrated Jesus' birth and his work in the world at the same time. **Epiphany means to make "manifest" or to "show."** And so it is a time where the mystery of Immanuel's presence with us is revealed. And in our particular worship series, revealed to us AND the world. This Presence and its revealing are a gift. Since we, the church, must become the Body of Christ in this world, we do not simply *receive* the gift we *give* it – we offer it and ourselves to the world around us.

The scriptures in this series speak passionately about who we are to become in this world – what gifts we have to share – gifts of love, presence, service, and reconciliation. These texts speak powerfully to a world that is wrestling with injustice, racism, intolerance, hatred, and violence. Slowly, but surely, Jesus reveals other ways of being and living in this world. It seems fitting that Martin Luther King, Jr. Day falls in the midst of this series. There are echoes of King's legacy in many of our texts. You will hear the call to love enemies more than once in this series. We need the repetition. Part of the gift we have received, and are called to share is revealed in our *becoming* a Body in whom Christ may appear to us and the whole world.

We hope this series is one of hope, but also a challenge. Discipleship is a radical commitment. We want you to feel encouraged to practice, practice, practice, practice risk-taking discipleship. We hope to experience the breath-taking mystery of God right alongside the concrete realities of our human predicament. There is also much in these scriptures about light and radiance. As the world and even the weather seem dark – may we find ways to notice and celebrate the brightness of Christ among us. May the Light guide us - and be our gift in this season!

--Pastor Cindy Lattimer

STOCKINGS HAVE BEEN FILLED...

Women's Fellowship filled 84 Christmas stockings for people living in group homes at Excentia. Excentia is a nonprofit serving adults with developmental needs. To everyone who supported this project, **THANK YOU!**

--Marilyn Hummel



THANKS FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

Many thanks to everyone who donated cookies and/or purchased some cookies at the Brethren Village Christmas Cookie Sale on Friday, December 2.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped set up and decorate the trees for Christmas on the Brethren Village Campus.

--Marilyn Hummel, LCOB's BV Key Person



LBC ~ 500TH ANNIVERSARY REFORMATION TOUR

The Lancaster Bible College (LBC) is sponsoring a 10-day Elegant Elbe Viking River Cruise to the Czech Republic and Germany on October 5-15, 2017, starting at \$5,745 per person. Inclusions are: 6-day cruise, 2 nights in Prague, 2 nights in Berlin, 8 guided tours, all onboard meals and beverages, all port charges, gratuities, roundtrip airfare, and all roundtrip transfers to and from airport, chamber music and Czech folkloric performance, lectures on Luther and the anniversary of the 500 Year Reformation, modern-day Czech Republic and the Elbe flood of 2002. Ship space is limited so reserve your space early! Further information and registration forms are located on the table in front of the mailboxes in the Gathering Place.



THANK YOU, LCOB...

This letter of thanks is long overdue but heartfelt just the same. Jackie and I have never felt more like we are "back home" again in our spiritual life than we were last spring. I had entered the hospital for what was to be routine gallbladder surgery, but returned through the emergency room the following day with serious complications. During my nearly weeklong stay at LGH I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support from our church of the Brethren family; the visits, cards and phone calls were most appreciated and uplifting.

Humbly yours,
Rod St. John

In deep gratitude, we thank all of our friends who have been offering prayers, sending cards and calling with healing, comforting messages since Joyce's two major surgeries on November 14. It seems that the road to recovery this time is slower and more difficult. But we hope to see you in church soon.

Thanks again. Prayers, faith, skilled Drs. and the support of friends and family are the keys to wellness.
Joyce Bohn

We would like to thank all of the church family for the many expressions of kindness, prayers, cards, visits, phone calls and meals, during Lynne's recovery after surgery and upon the death of her sister, Jean Thomas. Additional thanks to Calvin, Wednesday Morning Prayer Group & Deacons. We appreciate our caring congregation.

Lynn & Lynne Shively

UNDERSTANDING OUR AMERICAN MUSLIM NEIGHBORS

Led by George Pickens

March 25, 2017, 9:00 am - 5:00 p.m.

@ Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren

Islam is the fastest growing religion in the US, and this event is designed to introduce our American Muslim neighbors so that we might begin to love them as



Jesus commanded. Participants will visit some of our Muslim neighbors at a local mosque. The presenter, George Pickens, has been teaching Islam and Christian witness among Muslims for over 25 years, first in Africa where he spent 14 years, and currently at Messiah College, where he is Professor of Theology and Director of the Program in Peace and Conflict Studies. George is actively involved in building positive relations with Muslims in the Capital Region of central Pennsylvania, and he is a member of the Mechanicsburg (PA) Church of the Brethren and an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren.

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Cost is *\$55.00 (includes light breakfast, lunch, and 0.7 CEU's) *If **3 or more** register from the same congregation, cost is **\$35/person**. If possible, please register all from congregation at the same time. Registration will cap at 35 participants, so please register early. **Registration deadline: March 10, 2017.** The registration form is below. **Jamie Nace is interested in attending this so if you are as well, please contact her at 397-4751 ext. 106.**

Mail completed registration form and payment for *American Muslim Neighbors* to:

Susquehanna Valley
Ministry Center
One Alpha Drive
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Make checks payable to SVMC.

Questions?
Contact us at:
717-361-1450

REGISTRATION FORM	
Name	
Address	
E-mail	Phone
Congregation	District
Meat or vegetarian lunch?	Other dietary restrictions?
Where did you hear about this event?	



Church of the Brethren

A00035

Dear Lancaster Church of The Brethren family,

Thank you for your faithful support of the Church of the Brethren. Your gifts and prayers are making a difference through the ministries of your denomination.

As we reflect on 2016, we celebrate what we have accomplished together. With the generous support of congregations, the following initiatives of our Mission and Ministry have happened recently:

LCOB had 6 go on this workcamp

- The “*Nigerian Nehemiah workcamp*,” a joint effort of the Church of the Brethren and Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria, was held to build a church for displaced persons of Chibok.
- The Office of Ministry continued to provide support for the calling, training, placing, and nurturing of pastors and leaders.
- Brazilian church leader Alexandre Gonçalves traveled to Venezuela to share Brethren beliefs and practices with leaders who are interested in joining the Church of the Brethren.
- Congregational Life Ministries announced the 2017 Young Adult Steering Committee, and its members met to discuss and plan the upcoming Young Adult Conference.
- The Brethren Historical Library and Archives helped international scholars study the work of Dan West and humanitarian relief efforts during the Spanish Civil War and Brethren relief work in Belgium immediately following World War II.
- The Workcamp team announced the theme of “*Say hello*” and posted the schedule of the 2017 Workcamp season in preparation for a summer of service.

Thank you again for your partnership. We greatly appreciate your dedication. It is only with your support of our Mission and Ministry that the Church of the Brethren can share the love of God and the peace of Christ with those who need it most. Together we are continuing the work of Jesus.

With hope and gratitude,

David Steele
General Secretary

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

1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120 847-742-5100 800-323-8039 Fax: 847-742-6103

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

With winter comes the possibility of a major snowfall or extreme icy conditions on a Sunday morning. Please follow the inclement weather policy as listed:

- * **In the event of an accumulative snow**, there will only be services at 10:15 a.m. The 8:00 service and Sunday School will be cancelled.
- * **In a major snowstorm** or with extreme weather conditions, all church services will be cancelled. Notification and announcements will be on the **church website, Phone Prayer Line (397-1888), WGAL TV and on WJTL radio.**

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

January 2017

9:00 - 9:45 Sunday Mornings

*The following classes are open to everyone. All are invited.
Even though these groups are "ongoing," they are always looking for new members.*

The **Chapel Bible Study** Group meets in the chapel. In January they will focus on *Praise From and For God's Creation*, using the Brethren *Guide for Biblical Studies*.

January 1 – Praising God the Creator. *Psalms 33:1-9*, with readings from *Psalms, Romans & Micah*.

January 8 – All Creation Overflows with Praise. *Psalms 96*, with readings from *I Chronicles, Psalms, Isaiah, Romans & Revelation*.

January 15 – Praise God the Provider. *Psalms 65; 67:6-7*, with readings from *Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah & Acts*.

January 22 – Praise God the Creator. *Psalms 104*, with readings from *Psalms* and *Matthew*.

January 29 – All Creation Praises God. *Psalms 148*, with readings from *Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Luke & Deuteronomy*.

Teachers will be Al Cott, Bob Frick, and Calvin Wenger.

The **Sacred Parenting Class**, led by Linda Husted, meets in room 170. In January they will view and discuss the video, *Same Kind of Different as Me*, based on the book by Ron Hall & Denver Moore. This true story compares one man's experience with 20th Century slavery and homelessness with another's portrayal of his own complacency and wealth. From a burning plantation hut in Louisiana to an upscale NY art gallery, you will see the heart of God in this unexpected tale of the transforming power of love and friendship.

The **Thoughtful Life Class**, meets in rooms 162-163. The topics for January are listed below.

January 1 – Dave Ebersole will lead a discussion of the 4th and final Advent Series topic, *And his name will be called Prince of Peace*.

The rest of January will focus on the theme, *On Being God's Ministers of Healing and Reconciliation*.

These days, more than ever, most of us feel deep divisions of political and religious conviction within our nation, churches, families, friends and loved ones – which contribute to the anxieties surrounding our recent presidential election and its aftermath. For many it is a time of deep, sad darkness. Yet Christmas is about light so full of love that darkness cannot overcome it! Today God calls every Christian, every loving soul, to be a minister of healing and reconciliation wherever we encounter hatred, division, woundedness, fear and sadness. The following presenters will challenge us:

January 8 – Marian L. Shatto, Musician, Lay Theologian, Peace and Justice Activist, *Lititz Record* Newspaper Columnist and active member of Lititz Moravian Church.

January 15 (Martin Luther King Sunday) – Rev. Kevin Ressler, local Mennonite activist, Executive Director of Meals on Wheels of Lancaster

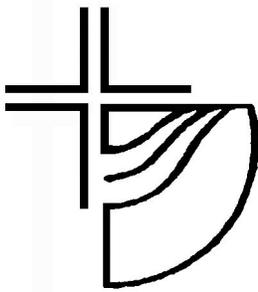
January 22 – Ben Lattimer, Chaplain

January 29 – John Snader, CEO of Brethren Village

Connections is a casual conversation group meeting in Room 200 for coffee. It is open to everyone interested in connecting with other people on a more personal level. Follow the Connections signs to Room 200 on the second floor. For details, contact Todd Bookman or Matt Kernicky.

The **Maranatha** meets in rooms 201-202. This ministry offers an adult Sunday School class in Spanish and English, taught by Arelis Sable. Further details are available from her.

Lancaster Church of the Brethren is a working, worshipping, learning Christian community, open and accepting without discrimination or force in matters of belief and practice.



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 (717)-397-4751 lancob@comcast.net
 www.lancob.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**LANCASTER CHURCH
 OF
 THE BRETHREN**

VISION STATEMENT

To be and make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.

MISSION STATEMENT

To be the heart, hands, feet, voice, and mind of Christ locally and globally.

GOALS

- Radical Hospitality
- Passionate Worship
- Intentional Faith Development
- Risk-Taking Mission and Service
- Extravagant Generosity

(Adopted by the Lancaster Church of the Brethren, 10/07)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
 Friday
 8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY
 WORSHIP SERVICES**

8:00 a.m. Chapel
 10:15 a.m. Family Life Center
 10:15 a.m. Sanctuary
 10:15 a.m. Maranatha

**WORSHIP FOR
 CHILDREN**

10:15 a.m. Praise Kidz
 (Age 4—3rd grade)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 a.m. Children & Adults

The deadline for submitting
 newsletter items is the 15th
 of the previous month.

Our Staff

Jeffrey B. Rill
 Senior Pastor
Cindy E. L. Lattimer
 Associate Pastor
J. Calvin Wenger
 Pastor of Caregiving
Alix Sable
 Associate Pastor
Michael Howes
 Pastor of Youth & Faith Development
Emery A. DeWitt
 Director of Music
Margaret Marsch
Jeanne Heck
 Organists
Jamie Nace
 Director of Children's Ministry
 Director of Children's Music
Tiffany L. Dickel
 Church Administrator
 Newsletter Editor
Linda Harnish
 Secretary
Troy Nace
 Custodian