

Happy New Year!

Memorial Church of the Brethren

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...and a **Happy New Year!** By the time you read this, we may well be on the other side of Christmas or nearly so (though hopefully Christmas is not just a fading memory by then), and approaching the great unknown, better known as the year two-thousand eighteen. So, here we are, poised to cross over the threshold of the doorway into the next stage of our lives. Think of it! Really! How do you visualize this moment?

A new year is a time to consider "first things": so you might imagine those first babies born, those first flubs writing 2017 on your checks instead of 2018, that first crisis between resolutions made and the challenge of keeping them, the first payment on a new deductible, and as always, choices about first priorities.

Or, you might picture the year 2018 as...

...a slate blackboard wiped clean of last year's mistakes or missteps, on which to record this year's lessons,
...a book full of blank pages awaiting the writing of the next chapters of the story of your life on them,
...a vast and uncharted map of the black reaches of space stretching out before you, or
...a sunny and inviting smooth expanse of untouched sandy beach upon which to tramp some new direction (s).

Joshua 3 is a great account of God's people "on the brink," too. After wandering around the Sinai Peninsula 40 years, God's people finally wind up on the eastern shore of the Jordan River. There they wait for the green light to enter Canaan, the wonderful land of promise that had sadly been off-limits until the sinful, disobedient prior generation had been purged by time and death. The new generation had only heard and dreamed about a land all their own, the vision of a life spent in one place where they could finally put down roots, build houses, plant gardens, mow grass! Read the story and look for the life lessons for yourself.

You might want to consider the Regrets to be left behind, the Reliefs to be embraced, the Resolutions to be adopted, and the Requests to be made of the Lord, as a format for finding the future God promises.

May this journey of discovery and awareness be one of joy and fulfillment. Blessings, Pastor Eric

Mark Your Calendar

Jan 1st-Church Office Closed

Jan 9th-Worship Ministry Team Meeting at the church 4:00 pm

Leadership Team Meeting 7:00 pm

Jan 10th- Wednesday Night Meal and Activities Begin for 2018

Jan 16th- Deacon Meeting 6:30 pm

Jan 20th- Continental Breakfast / Facilities Presentation Meeting 9:30 am

IMPORTANT NOTICE

FACILITIES PRESENTATION BY

STIFFLER-MCGRAW

January 20th 9:30 am

Continental Breakfast

This is an important informational meeting at which time the architectural/engineering team will present their findings, and present two ministry options for your review.

2018 Offering Envelopes and Mailboxes

If you don't currently get offering envelopes or would like a church mailbox in the narthex, please contact the church office. We provide both of these to ALL people who are attending Memorial, whether they are members or not. Use of the envelopes is an important part of keeping our records straight. Please feel free to call us at 793-2422 if you have any questions.

Leadership Team Members and Where to Address Your Concerns or Questions

Leadership Chair:

Alan Musselman - 793-4093
Facilitates Leadership Team

Moderator:

Paul Longwell - 793-3135
Recruits Worship Leaders
Facilitates Forum Meetings

Church Clerk:

Rhonda Trexler - 793-9819
Charlene Lewis - 793-2646

Administration Ministry Team:

Carolyn Dean - 793-3407
Bob Greenleaf Jr - 793-4259
Facility Issues
Financial

Congregational Life Team:

Chuck and Jennifer Stapleton - 614-4373
Wednesday Evening Meals
Bus Trips / Special Activities
Soul Sisters / First Place 4 Health

Discipleship and Education:

Larissa Caporuscio - 793-2265
Heather Metzler - 414-5260
Children's Program / Youth Program
Curriculum for Sunday School
Kid's Club / Children's Choir
Vacation Bible School

Worship:

Ellie Sollenberger - 793-4217
Sue Stoudnour - 729-7722
Choir / Organist, Pianist, Song Leader
Chancel Committee / Special Church Services
Bell Choir / Praise Band
Special Music for Holidays and Summer
Seasonal Decorations / Remembrance Tree
Seasonal Flower Orders / Worship Leaders

Service and Evangelism:

Karen Lewis - 793-4766
Chris Knepp - 793-9879
Outreach Ministry / Greeters
Special Service Projects

January Birthdays

2nd-Brenda Forshey	Alexis Rhykerd
3rd-Josette Rhykerd	Paul Wagner
Tom Willey	14th-Kris Hoover
4th-Ryan Burket	Sydney Snyder
5th-Melissa Brumbaugh	Rhonda Trexler
Bridget McCready	15th-Alyssa Baker
6th- Zach Kopco	16th-Ron Kensinger
7th-Niki Harris	19th-Pat Hinish
9th-Kristen McCready	Katie Kensinger
10th-Marty Bush	20th-Jordan Lewis
Kent Wisler	23rd-Madison Harris
11th-Barb Bosar	26th-Philip Myers
Steve Fisher	Brandon Over
Aaron Kreider	28th-Audrey Querry
12th-Homer McCready	29th-Barb Greenleaf
13th-Eli Hershberger	31st- Xavier Maslowski
Jo Johnson	

January Anniversaries

Jan. 1st- Mike & Nancy Imes
Jan. 18th- Darrell & Patty Smith
Jan. 20th- Jerry & Lori Brumbaugh
Jan. 27th- Steve & LuAnn Fisher

Due to current Administrative Assistant changes, the **January Memo is Abbreviated**. Please note that it will return to its normal length in February. Therefore check with Leadership Team Members for any information that you need in the month of January.

Spiritual Life:

Nancy Imes - 793-2514
Janet Clouse - 793-2338
Visitation
Prayer Chain
Love Feast and Communion
Deacon Ministry