

Winter 2024



CENTER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN, LOUISVILLE

Center Church News



Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 28
Love Feast/Communion
7:00 pm



Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday, March 31
Sunrise Service 7:30am
Breakfast
Kids Easter Egg Hunt
Easter Celebration
Worship 9:30 am



WORSHIP SCHEDULE for LENT

Area Lenten Services
Each Sunday at 7:00 pm

Feb. 18: East Nimishillen
Speaker: Andrew Wenger
2650 Nimishillen Church St NE
Canton, Ohio

Feb. 25: Mount Pleasant
Speaker: Mark Kell
4152 Mount Pleasant Rd NW,
Canton, Ohio

March 3: Springfield
Speaker: Carolyn Kuryn
3500 Albrecht Avenue,
Akron, Ohio

March 10: Center
Speaker: Cindy Peel
2811 Ravenna Avenue NE
Louisville, Ohio

March 17: Hartville
Festival of Choirs
353 Crestmont Ave SW,
Hartville, Ohio

Welcome Ladies

Working in tandem with Christ
Oppportunity to help others
Making new friends
Evidence of the strength of women in the church
New ways to learn the Bible
Sisters in Christ

Fun crafts to share
Everyone is welcome, bring a guest
Learning how to use the Bible in everyday lives
Listen how other women use their faith during times of trials
Open Hearts
Worshiping Together
Sharing in meals together
Helping Others
Inspirational
Prayer



Join us for Women's Fellowship second Thursday of each month at 6 pm

From Pastor Mark



Walking with Christ is a daily challenge. Not because it is notably difficult but because He is graciously, truthfully challenging us to think differently, to be conformed further and further into His image. This road has many twists and turns. The question is, will we be closer to the Lord at the end of the year than we are now? Will your convictions in his truth be strengthened, your bond be tighter, and your walk be more holy at year's end? In the "in-between" will we be found faithfully doing his will?

In the Gospel of John, Jesus said early on, "the wind blows where it pleases and you do not know where it comes from or where it goes, so it everyone who is lead by the Spirit" John 3:8. Are you willing be lead this year? Are we willing to be 100% lead by God, whether it is comfortable or not?

In God's Love, Pastor Mark Kell

Food For Thought

Thoughts From Ephesians

In Ephesians 6, there are some excellent guidelines for all mankind. Children are instructed to obey their parents and honor them. Likewise, parents are not provoke the children to rath but bring them up in training and admonition of the Lord.

It further states the bondservant to be obedient to masters which Paul says makes the servant more valuable and encourages a strong work ethic (according to my Bible sidebar). Also not with just eye service but doing work with the heart as to God. Again, this is not one sided. The master is not to threaten, knowing HIS Master in heaven shows the same love & grace to him.

Finally, we are given armor to put on. Truth, righteousness, peace, salvation, sword of the spirit, prayer & supplication in the spirit, and as Paul states, asking to be able to speak boldly as he and we are ambassadors for the Lord. Now, you, as Center's fellowship, read this chapter of Ephesians for yourself to see if I missed something

Your Board Chair, *Charlene Oliver*



The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, Easter and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a chrysalis, so Jesus' lifeless body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ's resurrection — and ours.

Congregational Celebration Carry In Meal Sunday, March 3, 11:00am

Join us for a relaxed time of fellowship. Bring your favorite cover dish to share. The Church Board will share quick updates as well as a vote on our church's representatives to Annual and District Conference.

Sharing From The Heart

"Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light: and what you hear in the ear, preach on the rooftops." Matthew 10:27

Last week I was working around the Homestead (aka farmhouse) with my tractor. I was trying to move a pile of dirt and tractor would not move. Much to my dismay, I realized a pin has come out of the backhoe attachment and it was dragging on the ground. I spent well over an hour trying to get it back on with no success. I had to give up as darkness had come over me, in more ways than one. That night, as I laid in bed, a thought occurred to me that I might need to disconnect the one point still connecting backhoe to tractor in order to allow it to be slipped back onto tractor. So next morning I went back at it, disconnected the last connecting point, and within 15 minutes I had been able to get it back in place. I canceled my shout out to Dave for help and gave out a shout out to Jesus, "thank you Jesus".

This morning I was reading a favorite devotional book, *My Utmost for his Highest* by Oswald Chambers, and today's (Feb 14th) devotional has the above scripture and it reminded me of my previous dilemma. Oswald states, "Sometimes God puts us through the experience and the discipline of darkness to teach us to hear and obey him.....darkness is the time to lis-



Our Stories

ten.... just listen and obey." While I am inclined to think that my trouble getting the backhoe back on tractor was attributed more to forgetting an important step in the process, Chambers' words made me think about how we often have one stubborn thought or idea that is preventing us from becoming totally connected to God.

At the First Sunday breakfast I shared how one belief I have had for years that was preventing me from a closer connection to God. The question of whether this certain practice was a sin or not was presented to me by someone else. As a result, it caused me to pray about it and search God's word on the question. It was not the first time I struggled with the question, I've done that for years. But it was the first time I listened for God to speak to me. Chambers tells us "After a time of darkness, we should experience a mixture of delight and humiliation...we should experience delight for hearing God speak, but mostly humiliation for having taken so long to hear him!" God speaks to us continuously, but are we listening.

Seeking strength in God's Word
...Sandy Humphrey



Witnessing To Our Community

Blessing Bags Are Available. Pick up one or a couple of bags to keep in your car to share when you meet someone who is in need of some care and warmth.

The Witness Team invite you to join them beginning Sunday, March 10, for a **special Evangelism Adult Sunday School Classes** for the month of March (and possibly April) led by Adam Wright of the Made For This Ministry. Adam will use the study curriculum "The Way Of The Master" by Kirk Kameron and Ray Comfort. Join us Sundays after morning worship.

The **Blessing Box** outside the church is in need of non-perishable foods, specifically canned meat.

Louisville Summer Lunches for Kids: Planning Team meeting took place to discuss the new year. Same format with increased volunteers for purchasing items and distribution days. Adjusted food offerings slightly and encouraged better quality food. Watch for additional details.

Saturday, March 23, the team will visit Nursing Homes to share Easter Baskets (Led by Women's Fellowship)



March's 5th Sunday Offering donations will go to help a little girl undergoing cancer treatments.



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Contributions for the
newsletter are always
welcome. Next Deadline,
May 1 (For Summer Issue)

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Weekly Schedule

Sun. 8:30 am ~ Prayer Time
Sun. 9:30 am ~ Worship
Junior Church (1st and 3rd Sundays)
Sun. 10:45 am ~ Bible Study
Tuesday Workers ~ Mornings
Wed. 6:30 pm ~ Bible Study
Thurs. 7:00 pm ~ Choir Rehearsal
Sat. 5:30 pm ~ Prayer & Worship

**Women's Fellowship
2nd Thursdays 6:00 pm**



**Men's Breakfast
1st & 3rd Saturdays 8:00 am**



Saturday Night, March 9

God-Shaped Hole

Have you ever neared the completion of a jigsaw puzzle, only to discover that a piece or two is missing? That's an apt visual for what it's like to live without God. Blaise Pascal, a 17th-century philosopher, observed: "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ."



Centuries earlier, St. Augustine proclaimed "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee." And in the Old Testament, the writer of Ecclesiastes expounded on the meaninglessness of earthly striving and material pursuits. Only God's Spirit can fill our emptiness and satisfy our eternal longings.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full," says Jesus in John 10:10 (NIV). He alone provides the solution for emptiness. What comfort to be filled with — and to find our fulfillment in — our Savior!



World Day of Prayer (March 1) is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. The theme is "I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love," based on Ephesians 4:1-7. This program calls us to bear with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression.



Annual Chili Supper and Auction Saturday, February 24, 2024

Supper—Serving 4:30-6:30 pm
*3 Different Chili Styles: Regular,
Vegetable, and Gluten Free*
Dine in or Carry-Out Available
Donations accepted for meal.



Bake Sale of delicious goodies.

Live Auction of craft
and bake goods at 6 pm.



Proceeds will go toward Louisville The Summer Lunch Program which shares groceries for kids' lunches during summer break.