

WCOTB Newsletter

Wyomissing Church of the Brethren – July 2020



Pastor Jan's Corner

I still refer to “home” as the place where I was born and grew into young adulthood before venturing away to places I would, as a child, have never dreamed possible. Nostalgia sets in each time I “return” to that geographic space of “home” and I find myself looking for excuses to “linger” there, just a bit longer. I’m sure each of us has a space in our memory or a real physical place where we like to linger...a soul home that feels welcoming, soothing, a respite for us in changing and uncertain times.

On those days when we yearn for the ground under our feet to feel like home again (wherever that connotation takes you), we are reminded through the richness of the bible stories, that *God has established a dwelling, a home among us*. While our physical homes may come and go, change over time, or morph into something new, *God continually dwells with us, God lingers with us* through all of our daily routines, movements and interactions with others.

I like that. God *lingers* with us, providing salve for the soul, grounding us in “home” every single day.

*Our Lord, in all generations
you have been our home.
2 You have always been God—
long before the birth
of the mountains,
even before you created
the earth and the world. Psalm 90:1-2*

Last call for Staycation or “joy” pictures!

July 1 is the deadline for sending photos of what you have been doing while sheltering at home. Please send photos of what has brought your joy. Cooking, hiking, woodworking, pets...whatever has kept you sane and happy!

Please send all photos to Nancy Dotter by July 1. Nancy.dotter@gmail.com



Together in Church again.....with some differences

We will not plan on having in-person worship services until the “Green Phase” as designated by the state government at the very earliest. We have a **TENTATIVE** re-opening date of **Sunday, July 19, 2020** - if we are in Green and it is safe to worship together again. We will still be following safety guidelines and some things will need to be completed before this happens as is outlined below.

Pre-arrival things to consider

- If you are sick or think you might be, stay home!
- Bring your mask
- Wash your hands
- Go to the bathroom
- Prepare to practice social distancing
- Bring Only water in a sealable container if needed. Water fountains are going to be unavailable initially
- Remember that there will be no nursery services or children’s Sunday School

While in the Building

1. Mask wearing will be required. Please wear masks properly covering the mouth and nose and keep it on throughout the entire service (disposable masks will be provided if a person does not have one).
2. Ushers will assist in directing and dismissing to maintain Social Distancing
 - a. Pews will be marked off with locations where families can sit.
 - b. Entering and exiting in an orderly fashion to keep everyone’s distance.

3. No congregational or choral singing will take place (even with masks).
4. No greeting will take place (except for people assisting those who enter).
5. All hymnals and fellowship folders will be removed from pews.
 - a. all things needed for service will be Projected
6. Offering will not be “taken” but can be placed in a basket as a person enters or exits.
7. For your safety when Communion is served elements will be provided for each person in prepackaged items. You may bring your own personal “Bread and Wine”
8. Please know that when we do open up for worship, we ask that people only come if they feel comfortable doing so. We will either live-stream the service or at least continue to upload video of a portion of the services by Sunday afternoon so that those who remain at home may still join in worship.
9. Restrooms will be available near Fellowship Hall. Good advice to use a paper towel to open the restroom door before depositing it in the trash can.
10. We will be recording who enters in case we find out that they have been exposed to a person with COVID-19.

Please note that this plan is subject to change as more information becomes available and changes are happening with respect to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

A Note from Worship Team

Pastor Jan, the Leadership Team and the Worship Team are working hard to ensure that our services will be meaningful, fulfilling and spiritually uplifting. We have been blessed with a wonderful, caring congregation. We are looking forward to reopening the building and continuing to reach out to those who can't come to us. We will be challenged to do new things in new ways. Worshiping differently means that we have the opportunity to explore new and exciting ways to grow our congregation spiritually. We will be open to following that wild child, the Holy Spirit, to where ever it takes us.





News from the Stews....

During the COVID 19 shutdown we have been busy sanitizing, scrubbing, shampooing, polishing vacuuming and otherwise cleaning the church and everything in it. Darlene Dunn has dedicated an enormous amount of time and effort to this project.

Your Leadership Team has suggested we refrain *from taking food and drink into the sanctuary* going forward. The pews and carpet have been scrubbed and shampooed. We would like to keep them that way if possible.

Bottled water will still be permitted. We know a lot of you like to keep hydrated. The ushers will be reminding those of us who perhaps are not aware of the new policy as they help to seat us keeping social distancing in mind. Signs will be posted at the entrances to the Sanctuary.

We are looking forward to returning to church and worshiping together as the Body of Christ.

Your Stewardship Team, Don Solinger & Lee Seifrit, Co-Chairs.

Soup Kitchen

*For our meal at New Journey on **Monday, July 20**, we will make and deliver 200 sandwiches meal bags like before. The church will need to buy supplies. We are asking our Church Family to support this effort with a financial contribution. Please send your contribution to the Church Office marked New Journey meals.*

Thank you



Camp on Wheels and VBS 2020 at WCOTB- July 31- August 7

Friday, July 31 from 6-8pm on the church lawn or Fellowship Hall if there is inclement weather, Camp Swatara will send 1-3 representatives to facilitate activities with the children. We have chosen the following activities: group activities with valuable life lessons such as respect, patience, etc; nature specimens such as bearhide, turtle shell, snake skin fun; Science experiments; fun summer camp classic games; and nature craft. There will be a snack and water for all participants with minimal contact. Pictures will be taken in order to prepare a slide show for the congregation for ***Sunday, August 9.***

Children MUST REGISTER by Monday, July 27, in order to give final count to Camp so adequate supplies can be secured. We are asking that a parent or guardian accompany each group of children in order to have more success with social distancing etc. We need a minimum of 10 registrations and maximum of 25 so that we can maintain social distance from family groups and maintain control of the group during activities. Masks will be required by all and there will be 2 hand washing stations and hand sanitizer available. Family groups will be together but 6 feet distance from other children or family groups.

This event will serve as the kickoff for VBS which will be by Zoom with the children on Monday, August 3, Wednesday August 5, and Friday, August 7 from 6-7:30PM . Our program will be about 3 parables of Jesus with related activities and games, using favorite songs from previous VBS years. Children will be given boxes with materials, stories, activities, and information for participation. Boxes will be distributed to those attending on July 31. If children can't attend on the 31st but would like to do VBS, boxes will be available to be picked up at the church or could be dropped off at the home if needed. We are hoping parents will send us pictures of their children doing the VBS activities in order to have a presentation to the congregation on ***Sunday, August 9.*** Children will also be encouraged to bring completed VBS projects for display. Our mission project will be preparing Hygiene kits to be taken to New Windsor for distribution. Items will be collected at church when we resume services and a list of items is below.

A registration can be found on Pg. 7. Please register as soon as possible! Thank you

Camp on Wheels and VBS 2020 at WCOTB Registration Form

____ I will be attending Camp on the Go on Friday, July 31, 2020, from 6-8 pm. I understand that an adult will need to stay with me at this event.

____ I would like a box of materials and supplies in order to attend Zoom VBS on August 3, 5, and 7 from 6-7:30 PM. Meeting numbers and passwords will be sent to you.

____ I give my permission to have photos of my child included in a slide show for church use.

Please print the information below.

Child's Name _____ Gender _____

Age _____ Date of Birth _____ Grade completed _____

Names of Parents _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Parents' Telephone-(home or cell) _____

Home email address _____

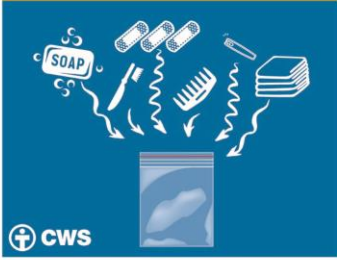
Home church _____

Parent's signature _____

If I am not able to attend the event on July 31 with my child, _____ will be responsible for my child. His/her relationship to my child is _____.
This adult also has my permission to seek medical treatment for my child in my absence.

If you have any questions about Camp on the Go or VBS, please contact either the church office 610-374-8451, Sue Blatt 610-780-2323 or Vicki Clements

LITTLE PACKAGES. BIG IMPACT.



**HYGIENE
KITS**

Materials for a Hygiene Kit

Hand towel 15-16in by 28-32in.

Washcloth

Wide tooth comb

Fingernail clipper

Bath soap bar

Toothbrush in original package & 10 Band-Aids

All of these items will be placed in a Gallon Ziploc bag. Please place your donated items in the box labeled for VBS Hygiene Kits in the church lobby under the bulletin board. Cash is also accepted to buy items to complete kits and to pay \$2.00 processing fee per kit. Please place in an envelope marked for VBS Hygiene kits or designate on check made payable to WCOTB. Thank you for your help with our mission project.

You can text, email, or call me if you have a question about the event on July 31, or any of the VBS Zoom sessions or church service on August 9. This is not exactly the program we envisioned doing this summer, but due to circumstances, we believe it is the best for all involved. Thank you for your cooperation and encouragement with your children. 610-780-2323 or nugloch@aol.com Sue Blatt



Deacons of the Week

July 5 – Darlene Dunn & Doris Krick

484-755-2041 702-468-3332

July 12 – Dan & Sandy Biss

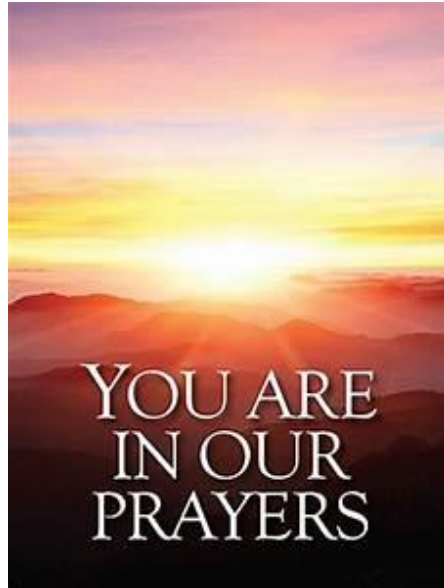
610-678-4768

July 19 – Doug & Brenda Bechtel

610-777-8050

July 26 – Ted & Mary Jo Noble

610-693-3450



Please keep these people in your prayers:

Brenda Bechtel

Flossie Sharar

Doris Yenser

Regina Zimmerman

Remember our Homebound Members

Nancy Custo, Berks Heim, B108-1, PO Box 1495, Reading 19603

Tom Evans, Amity Place, 139 Old Swede Road, Douglassville, PA 19518

Joan Hornberger, 4 Conestoga Drive #336, Lititz 17543

Linda Kauffman, Country Meadows, Rm. 302, 1802 Tulpehocken Road,
Wyomissing 19610

Betty Powell, 2118 Fairview Street, West Lawn 19609



Thank you to everyone who donated toward making Family Promise a success. The meals and groceries were very much appreciated by the family. Our next Family Promise week is scheduled for November 29 – December 6.



Church Office Information

Friday, June 26 – Sunday, July 5, Barbie will be on vacation.

The office will be covered from 9 am to 12 noon.

Monday, July 6 – Sunday, July 12, Pastor Jan will be on vacation.

Monday – Thursday, 8:15 am to 3:30 pm; Friday 8:15 am – 12 noon.

You may leave a message on the answering machine after hours.

Wyomissing Church Comes to the Rescue— Demolishes Kitchen

On January 6, 2020, a team from the Wyomissing Church of the Brethren came to the assistance of Brethren Community Ministries. Brethren Community Ministries (“BCM”) is the non-profit arm of the Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren, formed to carry out the community ministry activities of the church. BCM engages in numerous community development and welfare activities, including Friday food distribution, non-violence training for teens (Agape-Satyagraha) and computer classes.

BCM also owns a building in the south Allison Hill neighborhood (one of Harrisburg’s poorest areas and where Harrisburg First is located) that contains 6 residential apartments, usually leased to low-income, minority people. The apartments are seemingly in constant need of repairs and refurbishment. The complete project was the replacement of kitchen cabinets, counters and sink in one of the units. The cabinets were literally falling off the walls and one of the countertops had collapsed. In order to minimize costs, we hoped to get the old kitchen removed without costs. Dan Biss, Ted Noble, Glenn Pfautz, Scott King, and Ray Dotter (members of self-proclaimed “GRMRG,” or Grumpy Retired Men’s Repair Group) came to the rescue in January. They handily ripped out the kitchen and helped dispose of the debris. They worked so efficiently that they had time to perform some other small repair jobs in another unit. And they offered to return when another project worthy of their attention popped up. The project was finished up several days later. What a change! And the kitchen is not just more attractive, it’s much safer now as well.

Pictures of the kitchen before and after plus some of our Grumpies are posted on the church bulletin board.

- article taken from the Atlantic Northeast District July/August newsletter

