

A Letter from Pastor Brendan

"Raising Up Fully Committed Followers of Jesus Christ."

Mike Savage, pastor of Ginghamburg United Methodist Church in Ohio, published a book in preparation for Christmas titled, "**It's Not Your Birthday**". Now that's an arresting thought as we approach this Christmas season. Christmas can bring confusion for many people tracing back into our early childhood – Presents, Baby Jesus, Santa, Frosty, Presents, Amazing Decorations, Special Worship, Commercialism, Angels, Carols, Presents. As people of faith, in every year and for every generation, we need to be intentional in sorting through the clutter of the season and embrace the message that is truly spectacular – moving from a season focused on me, to a season focused on Jesus.

A couple years ago, I came across a question to ask for Christmas. It has stuck with me. It was posed as an alternative to asking children, "What do you want for Christmas?" The question is, "**What can we do this Christmas that would really make Jesus happy?**" What might that be? Maybe buy a gift for a child at the Mechanicsburg Children's Home; bake cookies and deliver them to the fire station; give a gift to your teacher; worship together; begin the practice of prayer before meals, at bedtime, or before school; call grandma and grandpa and sing them a Christmas song. I am amazed at the array of opportunities Chapel provides to help all of us grasp more clearly what is spectacular about Christmas: the Son of God coming to earth to show us, empower us, and invite us to begin living in a new way – life with Jesus Christ at the center. May God bless you with a particularly meaningful and heart-warming Christmas Season this year!

Merry Christmas!!



Rev. Brendan Hock

Christmas Calendar of Events

December 1:

Birthday Party for Jesus
9-10 AM | Parish Hall
Ages 0-6th Grade

December 2:

Kids & Choir Christmas Caroling
12:30 PM | Meet in Fellowship Hall

December 5:

Legacy Builders Christmas Party
1-3 PM | Parish Hall

December 16:

Chapel Family Christmas Program
6:30 PM | Sanctuary

December 20:

Youth Caroling Party
6:30 PM | Meet in Youth Room
(Lower Level)

December 24:

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
6 PM - Family Service
8 PM - Traditional Service

Location: Sanctuary

WORSHIP UPDATE

Matt Logan - Worship Leader

Happy December! As you're probably expecting, we'll incorporate Christmas and Advent themed songs into worship in the coming weeks. These songs will be a mix of Christmas songs you recognize, some you may not, and maybe even a mix of the two! We'll also sing some other "non-Christmas" songs in worship, as we continue to focus our eyes on the coming Messiah. Songs like "Give Me Jesus" and "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" aren't technically Christmas songs, but certainly fit the expectant theme of Advent. The first verse of "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" tells us:

*O soul, my soul, are you weary and troubled
No night, so dark, that our eyes cannot see
There's light so bright, as we look to our
Savior life more abundant and free...*

As we study in our current sermon series throughout Advent, I'd encourage you to pray over these words... pray that His glory and grace light up our world as we begin to celebrate His entrance into our world!

matt@chapelchurch.org
717.244.6375 x 109

Jen Clubb - Director of Music Ministry

**It's time for our Christmas Concert...
Let's share the sounds of the season!**

This year we are looking for volunteers who would like to perform at the Christmas Concert on **Sunday December 16th at 6:30**. Solos, small groups, etc. Singers, instruments, Christmas readings, something to help share the meaning of the season.

If you are interested, please sign up on the sheet located in the hallway under the TV or contact Jen Clubb at clubbjmusic@gmail.com or 717-578-5990.

Have you been thinking about joining choir, but the practice time just doesn't fit your schedule. You're in luck! We've changed our practice time. **Chapel choir will now be practicing every Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 PM.** We hope you are now able to join us. *If you have any questions or concerns about the choir, please contact me.*

Prayer Square Inspirational Story

"I went to the hospital to visit some people. One lady just turned 90 - I went to church with her for 30 years. When I left, I gave a prayer square to her daughter & one for her. Her daughter was so touched.

Then, I went to visit another person. When I left, I gave him a prayer square & told him it was already prayed over. He & his wife loved it. He held it and exclaimed, "It has a cross in it!" :-)

A gal who is only in her late 30's was told her cancer is back. I hugged her and tried to say comforting words. She looked at me and said, "I still have that little square you gave me a while back."

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Chris Schaeberle, Director of Children's Ministry, 717.244.6375 x 108 | childrensministry@chapelchurch.org

December Theme

Undercover Christmas – Make Others Your Mission

Our Sunday School theme for the month of December is **Compassion: Making Others Your Mission**. God's compassion for the people He created led to the greatest act of love the world has ever seen. God sent His only Son to make us right with Him. We reflect that compassion when we care about others and show them how much God loves them.

Week 1 – God did something about our greatest need. Jesus was God's gift to the world. We kick off the month with the greatest verse in all scripture... John 3:16.

Week 2 – God was about to rescue the world through Jesus, and Mary had an important role to play. We discover that God can use anyone to meet others' needs as we look at Luke 1:26-56.

Week 3 – The Savior of the world was born, and God's compassion for us was on full display. We learn God gave us the greatest gift as we study Luke 2:1-7.

Week 4 – Can we get as excited about Jesus as the shepherds did that first Christmas night? We ask ourselves this question as we read Luke 2:8-20 and discuss sharing the good news about Jesus.

Week 5 – This week we want to help kids connect their compassion to the source of compassion as we ponder love others because God loved you first. In 1 John 4:9-12 we learn that although no one has every seen God, when we show love to others, people see God through us.

Our Bible verse for the month is **John 3:16, "God loves the world so much he sent his only Son, Jesus. Those who believe in Him will never die, but have everlasting life."**

Tweens

Open to 4th-6th Graders

When: Friday, January 11
(*Snow date is January 18*)

Event: Game Night/Lock-In

Time: 5:30 PM

Join in on the fun of Game Night and stay for the lock-in Pizza will be served from 5:30-6:00 pm. You must pre-register for dinner with child's name and how many slices they would like. There will be a small charge of \$1 per slice.

More details will follow; but, save the date...you don't want to miss out on the fun!

Annual Mission Project

Our annual Christmas mission project this year will be for our HVAC system. While we know giving outside the church is important, we believe teaching the children to take care of God's house is as important. We want them to work together to help the church body with a real need, get them involved and help them celebrate in the end when the goal is accomplished. We will have them place their money in a special container and tally the amount at the end of December. Please take a few minutes to discuss this need with your children at home and get them excited to help take care of God's house!

CHAPEL STUDENT MINISTRY

Ian McKinnell, Director of Student & Young Adult Ministry, 717.244.6375 x 113 / ian@chapelchurch.org

CSM Schedule

- 2** Sunday School 9:15-10:15a
- 6** Youth Night 6:30-8p
- 9** Sunday School 9:15-10:15a
- 13** Youth Night 6:30-8p
- 16** Sunday School 9:15-10:15a
- 20** Christmas Caroling 6:30-8p
- 23** Sunday School 9:15-10:15a
- 27** No Youth Group
- 30** Sunday School 9:15-10:15a

Sunday School Plans

In December, we will be doing an **Advent study** leading up to Christmas time, as well as finishing off the combined study. We are actually 2 weeks behind because of Thanksgiving and snow, but I really think that this study is important so we will be finishing it. Feel free to discuss the information you've learned from this church-wide study with your youth!

We will also have a **"Special Night of Caroling"** throughout our community on **Thursday, December 20, 6:30 - 8 PM**. This is going to be a fun night of spreading the joy of Christ in our neighborhood. Don't miss it!

Volunteers Needed

We are still looking for volunteers for Youth ministry. We need people to teach, mentor, and just be present and build relationships with the youth.

This is such a huge time in the life of our young people here at Chapel. This is the time when a young Christian begins to make his or her faith their own and you can be a part of that!



ADULT MINISTRY

George Bradshaw, Director of Adult Ministry, 717.244.6375 x 107 / george@chapelchurch.org

Spring Women's Retreat

Save-the-dates - March 22-24, 2019

To all the ladies who have attended the retreat in the past or "sitting on the fence" for attending next year, please take note of the date of March 22-24, 2019 and circle on your 2019 calendar. If you're like me and haven't received a new calendar yet, do you have sticky notes all lined up on the last week of December? Add the above date and stay tuned for brochure and registration form just into the new year. It's more than a weekend...

Sunday School

We just completed our comprehensive church-wide study on "The Real God" by Chip Ingram. It was an amazing time of worship, as we learned about the way God wants us to see Him. As Chip Ingram states, "A church unified on the very character of God is a powerful force".

Many of our small groups are preparing lessons for the Advent Season. **If you are interested in joining a group and would like information about our various classes, please contact George Bradshaw at George@chapelchurch.org.**

If you would like to receive a link to join RightNow Media, please send an email to George and he will forward the information to you.

Advent Worship Sermon Series

WAITING WITH EXPECTATION

December 2: *Deafening Silence*

December 9: *God Breaks Through*

December 16: *Love Came Down*

December 23: *Christmas Gift*

Rummage Sale - Save the Dates

May 2, 3, 4 of 2019

I've been asked many times "if" there's a rummage sale in 2019 (reminder: we do this every two years) and the answer is YES!!!!!! Please save the dates of the sale as well as the two weeks prior for set-up, collection, organization and pricing, all of which takes place in the Parish Building. If over the winter months you can save your unwanted, but perfectly useable items, for this sale, we would really appreciate it. **Details will be announced in the spring of 2019.**

-Jean Chubb

P.S. If you would enjoy helping with the planning and preparations, or have any questions, please call me @ 717-244-1089 or email at jrc2@comcast.net.

MINISTRY UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES

Bring a Turkey to Church Day

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

BRING YOUR TURKEY TO CHURCH DAY

The "Give A Meal Program" is a joint venture between the York County Food Bank and area school districts that seeks to provide holiday meals for families who cannot afford them. **Bring a turkey to any service on December 9th** to help the York County Food Bank provide 1,600 meals for your neighbors this holiday season! All turkeys will be collected by York County Food Bank after worship services on December 9th.

Homebound Christmas Gift Bags

G.E.M.S will again be delivering gift bags to the homebound. We are asking for donations to help fill the bags. A box will be placed in the donation area of the Education Wing. **Some ideas are: pocket tissues, blank note cards, an assortment of all occasions cards, postage stamps, socks, lip balm, or pocket size lotion/handsanitizer.** Basically, anything a homebound senior might find useful. All donations are greatly appreciated. If you would prefer to give cash, please give it to Mary Ann Hildebrand-Tierney, or Regena or Henry Reinoehl. **Any questions, please contact Mary Anne at 717.244.0007.**

2019 DIRECTORIES:

Please ensure the office is aware of any changes made to your contact information this past year. We will be printing directories towards the end of December. **You can notify us at meagan@chapelchurch.org, bertie@chapelchurch.org, or 717.244.6375.**

Chow Chow

Volunteers Needed:

The chow chow ministry is greatly in need of some new volunteers. Our older folks who helped are having health issues and are no longer able to help. **Next year, we will only be doing chow chow about 6 months out of the year.** It is a great ministry to help the church with the mortgage fund, and we make a tremendous profit at the picnic for the church as well as helping out other missions. **We usually do chow chow once a month - on the 2nd Monday of the month. We start around 6-6:30 washing vegetables, then the choppers start around 7-7:30, and we start canning around 8. Usually takes until 11-11:30.** Time-wise, it is not a big sacrifice for one morning a month to help out. From time to time, we do need to can pickles as they come in, as well as peppers and cauliflower during the summer months. We have a great time together and we fellowship and get to know each other more. **If you think you would be interested in joining, please contact Wib Forry or Dawn Snyder. Our numbers are in the directory.** Thanks for your consideration of this matter.

Place your order for the Holidays:

Pints are \$4.00 and Quarts are \$8.00. If you would like to order any chow chow, please call Wib Forry at 717-757-7035. Keep in mind to please return the jars because it helps to keep our costs down. We thank you for your continuing support of our ministry. We hope all of you have a very Blessed Holiday season!

MINISTRY UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES (CONTINUED)

Buy a Cookie Tray to Combat World Hunger

Buy a \$15 cookie tray and feed 375 starving children. **Seth, Connor, & Jamison Gingrich will be selling cookie trays in the church lobby on December 9th to support Cross International with "The Cookie Sale to Combat World Hunger".** The cookie trays make wonderful hostess gifts and affordable gifts for friends and colleagues.

The cookie trays are only \$15 each and have 24 cookies - 8 chocolate chip, 8 peanut butter, & 8 snickerdoodle, as well as some chocolates, and are beautifully gift wrapped. Last year's national sale provided food for 3.6 million children as part of a school feeding program in Haiti. Please make a note to buy a tray or two. See the bulletin insert for more information. **Questions? Contact Seth Gingrich at 717.542.4332 or gingrichseth@yahoo.com.**

A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR CHAPEL DAYCARE:

The daycare refrigerator has gone south for the winter. It now freezes the drinks and leaks water in the bottom. It is very old. Would someone want to consider giving our outstanding Christian Daycare Program a great Christmas gift? Just a normal-sized, household refrigerator is needed. If this is on your heart, **please contact Terry Bluett in person or at 717-428-0275.**

Cub Scouts News

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Joyful New Year!

In December, the Scouts have a wonderful opportunity to serve the greater community by working alongside other volunteers to sort toys donated to Toys for Tots at the Maryland Distribution Center as they did last year. In addition, the Pack will be holding their annual Holiday Pack Party to celebrate the holidays and distribute the awards for the adventures they have completed in the months of November and December. Finally, we will be ringing in the New Year at their annual Bowling Party on New Years Eve. We are excited to see what 2019 will bring to our Cub Scout Pack!

Pack 155 meets at Chapel Church on Monday nights at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We are open to both BOYS and GIRLS in grades K-5 and are a very family-oriented unit. We encourage participation in our program and activities by all members of the Scout's family. We have many opportunities for fun activities like camping, hiking, and visiting places like Lake Tobias and Maize Quest as well as service-oriented events like collecting food for our local food bank and helping to sort toys for Toys for Tots. You are welcome to come sit in on a meeting anytime to see what Cub Scouting is about - we can't wait to meet you!

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

HVAC Fund Update

As many of you know, we are in the midst of replacing our HVAC system in the Fellowship Hall, Narthex, Lounge, and Entry Areas of the church. Details for this process were presented at our annual family meeting on August 26.

Additional information can be found in the September & October newsletters. The cost for this replacement is \$84K. So far, we have already raised over \$67K towards our goal.

We hope to have the funds in place by the end of December. Thank you for prayerfully supporting this essential need.

The Gift of Stewardship

As we come to the end of the ministry year, we want to thank you for your participation in **Making Ministry Happen**. You are a vital part of Chapel and your faithfulness in mission, service, and giving makes a difference in all Chapel does for Christ and the World.

Looking forward to 2019, we as a Finance Team are prayerfully developing a ministry budget that will meet our Mission goals, as well as our Ministry and Facility needs. Unfortunately, we are currently **\$15k** behind in giving to the General Fund of our Church. This shortfall makes it difficult when planning for the new year. Our hope was to give our staff a cost-of-living increase in salary, and also budget some additional facility repair needs given to us by our Trustees.

As we move into the Christmas Season, please prayerfully consider what God is leading you to do in helping your Church end our year on a strong financial note. Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness.

(Full financial reports are always available by request in the church office).



Freely you have received,
freely give. Matthew 10:8, 10:11

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount: _____



Merry Christmas

Thank You!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to...

1	Thomas Brenner	13	Virginia Farrell
	Charlie Hess		Victoria Straley
	Karla McCleary	14	Jim Duff
4	Anthony Angel	15	Linnea Van Wicklen
	Rachael Lighty	17	Milly Sedgwick
	Gaye Ludwig	18	Donald Holtzapple
	Brittany Poff	19	Richard Poff
6	Jane Dehoff		Shannon Weir
	Ron Lighty	21	Izzy McWilliams
7	Steve Miller	22	Carol Blessing
	Nathan Taylor		Peggy Fry
	Wanda Weidman		Bertie Hess
8	Mae Emenheiser		Jared Lebron-Orwig
9	Jean Chubb	24	Joyce Null
	Jerry Henry	25	Muriel Slenker
	Judy Schappell	26	Mary Ann Tierney
10	Christine Sprenkel	27	Phyllis Fisher
11	Barry Little		Logan Leber
	Virginia Smeltzer	28	Chris Schaeberle
12	Karen Trebilcock	29	Benton Koons

Happy Anniversary to...

3	Toby & Kathy Shoff
7	Dan & Lana Cooley
13	Scott & Krysta Tyson
20	Timothy & Cheri Booth
27	Bill & Emilie McIntire

Thank you...

"I want to thank everyone who prayed, sent cards, & visited me while I'm recuperating. It is so appreciated! Keep praying as I continue healing." -Henry Reinoehl

"We would like to thank everyone for their cards, thoughts, prayers, & concerns during the death of my sister, Norma Thompson." -Ernie & Cindy Smeltzer

"We would like to thank the Chapel Church community for all your prayers, cards, assistance, & support over the past several weeks. The out-pouring of love was so comforting during this difficult time. Mommy loved her church family." -Laurie Reiger Family & Myndi Meyers Family (Norma Thompson's daughters)

"Thanks to the following people for helping to rake leaves at Chapel: Sarah & Joshua Smith; Clint, Caden, & Chase Snyder; Sam, Benton, & Regan Koons; Jen, Emma, & Joey Clubb. Many hands make lighter work. Thanks for your service to Chapel!"

Homebound Visitation Schedule

4	Terry Bluett
11	Gayle Wiemeyer
18	Mary Groupe
25	The Bradshaws
30	Sandy & Steve Stine

Chapel Church
A United Methodist Congregation
3050 Cape Horn Rd
Red Lion, PA 17356

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Raising Up Fully Committed
Followers of Jesus Christ

Go to our website to listen to the current
sermon series and catch up with
what's happening at Chapel!

chapelchurch.org