



# Good News

Church's Office Phone (717)933-4723 Church's Office Fax (717) 933-9223 [www.LittleSwatara.org](http://www.LittleSwatara.org)

**Pastor's Note.....**  
Page 1

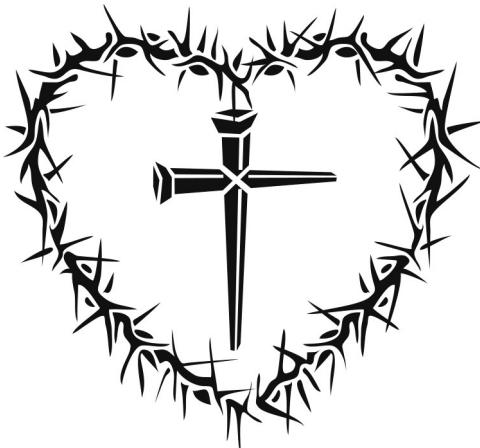
**Birthdays & Condolences...**  
Page 2

**Help Wanted & Information Updates...**  
Page 3-8

**Camp Swatara....**  
Page 9

**Preschool News...**  
Page 10-11

**Calendar.....**  
Page 12



## **"I So Love it!!!"**

There's so much joy in the new year, I'm so lovin' it from ear to ear.  
 This snow has me filled with glee. It's such a sight to see.  
 The splendor of our king brings this new year in with a ring.  
 The pews have people in them known by love.  
 It's so amazing like a mourning dove.  
 The singing of every saint.  
 It's enough to make our hearts faint.  
 God's word reminds us of such power and it's overflowing like a shower.  
 We can see the loving acts.  
 They're at an all time max.  
 I love it more than words can say. Keep that fire burning each and every day.  
 Those turning points are the key.  
 Be open to what you see.  
 Thank you Lord for being in our midst.  
 It's such love, it's filled with bliss.  
 This month let's keep in mind.  
 God is great. God is kind.  
 Blessings :-)  
 Pastor Matt Christ



Robert Lingle	1	Rebecca L. Emerich	9	Jennifer Speraw	19
Rick Brandt	1	Tucker J. Howell	12	Kevin Stupp	19
Suzanne Miller	2	Kenneth Duell	13	Sharon L. Wise	20
Gail L. Malsbury	3	Lois Frantz	13	Derek Yenser	20
Sandra Keeney	5	Trevor M. Fessler	14	Jonathon Yenser	20
Annie Umberger	5	Cheryl Gates	15	Jeffrey Donkel	21
Randall Keeney	6	Jodylynn C. Mill	15	Nancy Miller	22
Ashley Jones	7	David T. Martin	15	Wendy Ziegler	22
Matthew S. Bohn	9	Ian J. Hetrick	16	Kyle Yenser	24
		Travis A. Gensemer	16	Violet Frantz	25
		Keith Brandt	17	Todd B. Bashore	25
		Gary Bashore	18	Rufus R. Merkey, Jr.	28
		Sandra Dreibelbis	18	Doris Hershey	28
		Mark C. Forry	18		

## 2026 Organization Officers

Moderator - John Wise  
 Asst. Moderator - Todd Rebman  
 Church Clerk - Dianne High  
 Treasurer - Jamie Wise  
 Financial Secretary - Jean Myers

## 2026 Committee Chairs

Stewardship & Property - Richard Yenser  
 Christian Education - Ashley Koch  
 Missions & Evangelism - Denise Bohn  
 Spiritual Nurture Ministry - Gary Bashore  
 Music and Worship - Allen Rebman

## PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

**Tuesday–Wednesday–Thursday**  
**10:00 am - 12:30 pm**

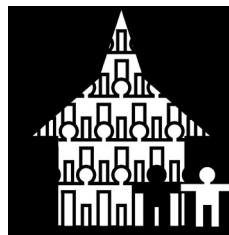
**Thank you** to everyone who contributed to this month's Newsletter. The deadline for the next edition is the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Open to all. Feel free to share Little Swatara Church related events, thoughts, pictures of past events, articles summarizing past and future events, or anything else.

Email:[secretary@littleswatara.org](mailto:secretary@littleswatara.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

2	Groundhog Day
3	7:00 PM Leadership Team meeting
7	1:00 PM 50+ Club mtg / FH
9	7:00 PM Every Member Council Meeting
10	11:30 AM Widows Luncheon / Ctry Fare
14	Valentine's Day
15	Anointing Service Food Pantry Collection Potluck Sunday/FH
18	Ash Wednesday Newsletter Deadline
20	8:00 AM Feed Them / kitchen 3:00 PM Bethel Food Pantry
24	Ministry Team Minutes due 9:00 AM Women's Fellowship meeting
28	7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast /cafe 1:00–3:00 PM Preschool Art Show/FH

## Information Updates from Little Swatara



**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

### **Membership Classes**

As spring is soon upon us, perhaps you've thought of being baptized and would have interest in joining our church family as a member. Please see Pastor Matt or relay to anyone in leadership or a deacon of your desires. This can be membership transfer as well as reaffirmation of faith.

**Need a boost?** If you would like to receive a weekly Bible encouragement text from Pastor Matt. Please text him at 717-675-3946



**Spiritual  
Renewal**

**Don't miss out! Write it down!  
Renewal Services are in March  
Put it on your calendar!**

We start off Sunday, March 15th thru Wednesday, March 18th. This year our speaker is Pastor Walter Heisey

More information to come



**Sunday, February 15th**  
following the  
10:30 AM service



### **A Prayer for Ash Wednesday**

Lord of the winds,  
I cry to thee,  
I that am dust,  
and blown about  
by every gust  
I fly to thee.

Lord of the waters,  
unto thee I call.  
I that am weed  
upon the waters borne,  
and by the waters torn,  
tossed by the waters,  
at thy feet I fall.

—Mary Coleridge (1861-1907)

**Answer: C** (See John 3:16 & 1 Corinthians 13)

## Sunday School's Origins

Sunday school began in England as early as 1751. Better known is Robert Raikes' work in Gloucester 30 years later. Concerned about poor children who worked in factories six days a week and often turned to crime, he offered classes on the only day kids were free. Soon various organizations offered a loose network of such Sunday schools, which taught basic reading and writing, using the Bible as a text.

Ten years later, Samuel Slater started the first U.S. Sunday school in his Rhode Island textile mills. By the mid-1800s, Sunday school attendance was an almost-universal childhood experience. As society became more secular and public education was mandated by the 1870s, Sunday schools focused on spiritual practices: prayers, hymns, catechism knowledge and Scripture memorization.

Well into the 20th century, Sunday school served as the church's main outreach tool. Many adults fondly remember their teachers and lessons, and Sunday school continues to play a significant part in faith development.



March 21,  
2026

### SAVE THE DATE

## ANE District Women's Spring Fellowship

Lancaster Church of the Brethren

**Speaker:** Ann Van Hine

**Theme:** Stillness in a Chaotic World  
(Psalm 46:10)

Come enjoy music, lunch,  
sessions on being &  
becoming, Q&A, and  
fellowship!



### Save the Date Sunday at Camp

This year, we will be having our annual Sunday at Camp Swatara on .....

July 19, 2026

Past years have been in June but scheduling conflicts have us picking July instead. We have sites along the tree line across from the Fellowship Hall in the 70's reserved along with 4 cabins. Please call Family Camp and reserve your spot.

On Sunday, July 19th, please worship with us at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall that morning instead of at the church since we will be at camp.

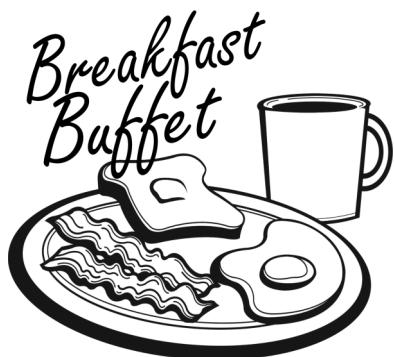
Any questions please reach out to any member of the Leadership Team.

"No matter what sin we have committed, no matter how terrible it may be, God loves us."

—Billy Graham

## What We'd Like to Hear in Church

- Hey, it's my turn to sit in the front pew!
- I was so enthralled, I never noticed your sermon ran longer than usual.
- I'll volunteer to be the permanent junior high Sunday school teacher.
- I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before.
- Because we're all here, let's start the worship service early.
- Pastor, we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas.
- Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual Call Slate.



**Saturday, March 21, 2026**

**7:00 AM–10:00 AM**

Little Swatara COB  
Fellowship Hall

(Snow Date–March 28th)

"Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud."

—Maya Angelou



We have chow-chow available for purchase. Chow-Chow is an easy gift for any occasion. Quarts & pints are available. See any member of the Women's Fellowship if you are interested.

Quarts \$9.00 Pints \$5.00

## WIDOWS



## LUNCHEON

The next Widows luncheon

**Tuesday, Feb. 10th**

**11:30 A.M.**

The Country Fare Restaurant  
Myerstown, PA

"There is no remedy for love  
but to love more."

—Henry David Thoreau



Cookbooks are a wonderful way to share favorite church recipes remembered from our potluck meals and bake sales. There are 2 editions available for sale. If you are interested, see any member of the Women's Fellowship. The new version (with the red cover) is \$5.00 and the older version (with the yellow cover) is \$3.00

## Bible Quiz

The New Testament uses several Greek words to describe love. Which of the following best represents the **selfless, sacrificial love** that God shows to humanity?



- A. Eros
- B. Phileo
- C. Agape

Answer on page 3



## February Mission of The Month Global Food Initiative

Global Food Initiative is the primary way the Church Brethren assists hungry people in developing food security. "Your support of the Global Food Initiative upholds the biblical command to lift the burden of the oppressed. Moreover it honors God, as stated in Proverbs 14:32, kindness shown to the poor is an act of worship".

Thank you for your support in January for the "We Care" packages. We will be sending packages to eight students!



## Lunch N' Learn @ Londonderry Village

Feb. 2nd, 2026 / 12:00 pm/ Fellowship Hall in the Snell Community Center on the Londonderry Village Campus / Reservations Required.

## "Herbal Remedies from Your Spice Cupboard" with Susanna Reppert

Susanna Reppert of The Rosemary House, Mechanicsburg, PA will speak with us about using your spice cupboard for herbal remedies for common complaints. Stuffy nose? Sage and Thyme to the rescue, Always cold?, cinnamon and ginger are warming. Many more hints and tips will be shared in this seeing, tasting, sniffing class.

### "Time"

Time is  
too slow for those who wait,  
too swift for those who fear,  
too long for those who grieve,  
too short for those who rejoice.  
But for those who love,  
time is eternity.

—Henry Van Dyke



The next Women's Fellowship meeting is  
**Tues., Feb. 24th @ 9AM**

- The large Commercial refrigerator in the kitchen can no longer be repaired. Women's Fellowship is willing to purchase a new one, but would appreciate any donations given towards the purchase because this is something everyone uses.
- We need someone to lead our Craft Committee. For more information, please contact any member of the Women's Fellowship
- We are no longer making scrapbooks, so we do not need any materials dropped off for that purpose. Thank you to anyone and everyone who helped us with this project in the past
- We respectfully request that no donated items be placed in the Ladies Aid Room. We will be happy to accept your donated items at the designated time.....a few days before the Tractor Show & Yard Sale.
- Our Breakfast Buffet will be on Saturday, March 21st, 7-10 AM. (Snow date is March 28th 7-10 AM)

## Bethel-Tulpehocken Public Library **Movie Night**

Thursday, February 5th at 6:00 pm

"Wicked for Good""

Rated PG

Thursday, February 26th at 6:00 pm

"Regretting You"

Rated PG-13

All ages welcome. PJs, blankets and stuffies encouraged. Refreshments provided

Please register online or via call/text at  
717-933-4060

## Reflections

by Arlene Rebman

(In an earlier Reflection, Jake Myer wrote his recollections of our 1977 Disaster Relief Trip to Johnstown. I asked Arlene Rebman and Pauline Seiler for their recollections of the same trip. After some discussion, Arlene wrote the following memories.)

Many of our disaster trips are to the south, but on this one we went to Johnstown, PA. It was not about re-building, but cleaning the mud that was left behind after a flood.

We left on a school bus driven by Bill Myer of the Mt. Zion Road Church. The people on the bus were from Little Swatara, Mt. Zion Road and Annville Churches of the Brethren.

We arrived at the church where we were spending the night. They had two large rooms with beds for the men and the women. We could relax and visit, having a good time. Arlene Hershey kept us laughing and having a good time by telling jokes and stories.

In the morning, the ladies of the church served us breakfast, before we left on the bus for our assignments. The women went to a home for the elderly and washed walls. One-time washing the walls did not clean them. We had to wash them three or four times. We worked there all day, except for our lunch break across the street. The men worked at digging the mud out of a basement of a house.

At the end of the day we went back to the church to wash and eat supper. The men were lucky. They could go across the street to take showers. There was a coal mine entrance and there were showers they could use. After supper we were off to bed.

Day 2- After breakfast the bus came and took the men to shovel more mud and took us to help clean up greenhouses. The water and mud went over all the greenhouses and destroyed all the plants. We spent the day removing mud. Someone brought lunch for us. When we were ready at the end of the day, the owner and his wife came. They couldn't thank us because they were crying. They could now plant their Christmas flowers. I think some of us also cried and were thankful that we could help and make a blessing for others even though we were dirty and tired.

Members of Little Swatara who went on the Disaster Relief Trip were: Lee & Arlene Rebman, Gerald and Pauline Seiler, Jake & Dixie Myer, Kenneth & Kathryn Wenger and Richard Frantz. If you know of anyone else, please let Richard know. We don't want to omit anyone. We took tools and equipment along- such as wheel barrows, shovels, rakes, a trash pump and hoses.

# Puzz~~le~~!

Love is a fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23. Identify another fruit that can make Valentine's Day — and every day — special. First, write a word that fits each clue below. Then unscramble the letters from the bold, vertical column to find another fruit of the Spirit.

Write it on the blanks below.

**LEAVE**

**CHAPEAU**

**TRANQUILITY**

**BECOME MATURE**

**RESPOND**

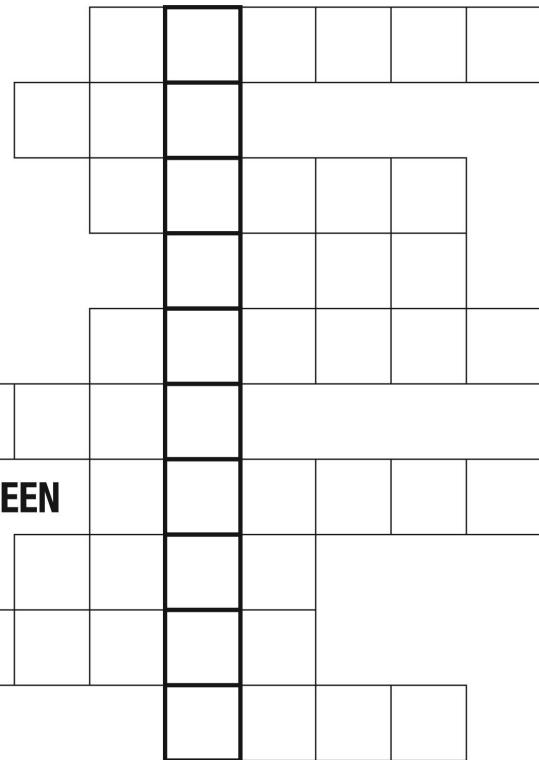
**SPHERE**

**OLD TESTAMENT QUEEN**

**DISCOVER**

**CONFIDENCE**

**ALWAYS**



Answer: depart, hat, peace, grow, answer, ball, Esther, find, trust, ever, gentleness



## News from Camp Swatara

### Registration will be opening February 2nd, 2026 at 10:00 AM

2026 Summer Camp Theme: Into the Wilderness, Matthew 4:4

<https://www.campswatara.org/resident>

Don't miss out on the \$25 Early Bird Discount which runs until March 31, 2026.

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### Maple Syrup Making 101

#### Thursday, March 12, 2026

This super sweet event is one you don't want to miss. Join us as we discover the entire syrup making process. By the time you leave, you'll have gotten a chance to 'tap' a maple tree, taste some maple sap, and watch the sap boil down to syrup. And..... there may or may not be pancakes involved. Grab your friends and come on out for this sweet day at Camp!

Info and Registration: [www.CampSwatara.org](http://www.CampSwatara.org)



### Trail Maintenance

#### Saturday, March 21, 2026

Join us to help maintain our trails and get the ready for the upcoming hiking season. Tools will be provided

For information and registration: call the Camp Office (717-933-8510).



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## Camp Swatara - Help Wanted

Begin your journey as part of the Camp Swatara staff community which includes leadership opportunities in communication, team-work, group dynamics, specific skill development, and being a mentor and role model. These contribute to strengthening you as a person, preparing and sharpening you for your future . . . AND, having a pocket of time to build into the lives of the campers who come to Camp Swatara.

We're hiring for the summer beginning at 14 years old and have positions in Counseling, Buildings & Grounds, Housekeeping, and Pool & Waterfront. Don't have a full summer to be with us - come serve for a week or two.

Staff & Volunteer Applications for 2026 are ready for you to APPLY!!

<https://www.campswatara.org/employment-opportunities>



## Little Swatara Preschool

### February 2026 Newsletter



Dear Little Swatara Preschool Family and Friends,

We are excited to start a brand new month, the month of LOVE! This month we will celebrate Valentine's Day and continue to learn about the most important love of all...God's love for each of us. The children and teachers are sharing ideas about how to show and receive love as we introduce songs and stories from the Bible about loving and caring for others.

I can hardly believe that we are already more than halfway through our school year! The children are learning and growing each week and it has been wonderful to see their curiosity and enthusiasm as they explore new skills and concepts. The teachers work hard to make learning fun and meaningful! Students are learning to recognize names, print and recognize letters, follow directions, and so much more. I hope you've seen their progress as well.

There are a lot of exciting things planned for the month of February. We will have special classroom parties to celebrate Valentine's Day and the month will end with our annual Art Show. Please read on to learn more details about the upcoming weeks at Little Swatara Preschool.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's education, please reach out to me or their classroom teacher. Thank you for sharing your precious children with us each week. We love and cherish each one of them!

In His Love,

Miss Sara



*"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails..." 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7*

### Valentine's Day Class Celebrations



We LOVE to celebrate special days at Little Swatara Preschool. Each of our 4 classes will have a Valentine's Day celebration. A class roster will be sent home if your child would like to share a special Valentine with their classmates. Each child will make a Valentine holder in class. If you are willing to contribute an item to the celebrations, please see the snack sign-up sheet in your child's classroom hallway. Thank you for everything you do to make our celebrations at LSP so fun and exciting. Happy Valentine's Day! God loves you!

Class parties will be held on the following dates:

Preschool 1: February 13th

PreK 1 Class: February 12th

Preschool 2: February 12th

PreK 3 Class: February 12th



## ART SHOW INFORMATION



We are excited to invite our preschool families to drop in on Saturday, February 28th, between 1-3 in the church fellowship hall for our annual Art Show. There will be an exhibit of student art, crafts to complete and take home, and an art raffle for class projects/donated works of art. A snack will be provided for the children. In case of inclement weather, the snow date for the Art Show will be Saturday, March 14th. An invitation will be sent home with each child and we ask that you please RSVP via the sign up sheet in the classroom hallways so we are able to prepare enough crafts and goodies for all of the children in attendance. Siblings are welcome to participate in the crafts and enjoy snacks as well. We hope to see you there for a fun afternoon!

### Inclement Weather Reminder:



In case of inclement weather, we will follow Tulpehocken School District's policy for closing or delaying. If Tulpehocken is:

**CLOSED/VIRTUAL**, we are **CLOSED**.

**DELAYED 2 HOURS**, we will run a modified session. The morning session will run from 10-12, the afternoon session will run from 1-3, the PreK extended sessions will run from 10-3.

**DELAYED 3 HOURS**: we are **CLOSED**

We are scheduled to be in session on Monday, February 16th, President's Day. If your child will not be in attendance please notify their teacher. Thank you!

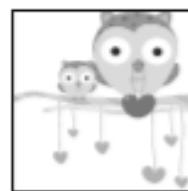
"I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man." - Abe Lincoln



Our Bible Verse for the month of February:

**Love each other.**

**John 15: 17**



*"Live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."* Ephesians 5:2



## Registration Information



Registration for next year begins February 16th for current preschool families. We will not open up registration to the public until March 1st. Please note the PreK classes are intended for children who will be enrolling in Kindergarten in 2027. Our goal is to accommodate your scheduling needs to the best of our abilities, so it is important you return your registration forms quickly. Please contact Miss Sara at: [sara.bryant@littleswatara.org](mailto:sara.bryant@littleswatara.org) or 717-933-4500 with any questions. Look for more info coming home with your child soon. We look forward to planning another exciting school year!

## February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 7:00pm LEADERSHIP TEAM Mtg	4 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH 8:45 am women's exercise class / FH 7:15pm Praise Team Practice	5 8:30am Quilting 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice	6	7 1:00pm 50+ club mtg/FH
8	9 7:00pm Every Member Council Meeting	10 11:30am Widows Luncheon/Ctry Fare	11 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH 8:45 am women's exercise class / FH 7:15pm Praise Team Practice	12 8:30am Quilting 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice	13	14
15 Food Pantry Collection 10:30am Anointing Service 12:00pm potlunch Sunday	16	17	18 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH 8:45 am women's exercise class / FH ASH WEDNESDAY Newsletter Deadline 7:15pm Praise Team Practice	19 8:30am Quilting 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice	20  8:00am Feed Them / Kitchen 3:00pm Bethel Food Pantry	21
22	23	24 Ministry Team Minutes Due 9:00am women's fellowship meeting / FH	25 10:00 AM Seated Exercise class / FH 8:45 am women's exercise class / FH 7:15pm Praise Team Practice	26 8:30am Quilting 12:00pm Home School Group / Renee Brown 1-4:30 pm 7:00pm Senior Choir Practice 7:45pm Bell Choir practice	27 Preschool Art Show - FH (set-up)	28 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast / Cafe 7:00am Preschool Art Show - FH (all day)