

**Little Swatara Church- Pastor Matthew S. Christ**

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 Facebook: Matt Christ; Instagram & Snapchat: mdchrist99  
 OFFICE HOURS: TUE., WED. & THURS. 10:00 AM –12:30 PM

Church Office: 717-933-4723 OFFICE HOURS: Mon - Fri, 8:30 am -12 noon  
**Secretary**—Connie Davis Email: [secretary@littleswatara.org](mailto:secretary@littleswatara.org)  
**Treasurer**—Jamie Wise, 717-269-1569. Email: [treasurer@littleswatara.org](mailto:treasurer@littleswatara.org).  
**Newsletter Editor**: Connie Davis Email: [secretary@littleswatara.org](mailto:secretary@littleswatara.org)

**WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS**

**VIDEO PROJECTION** Mark Myers—CVLI#502613280; CCLI#157691

**CHURCH SIGN CHANGER:** Feb.—Diane Long March - Patricia Timmins April - Tony Fazio

**Wk. 2 March 8**

**Wk.3 March 15**

**Wk. 4 March 22**

<b>CHORISTER</b>	Praise Team	Allen Rebman	Praise Team
<b>WORSHIP LDR</b>	Praise Team	John Wise	Praise Team
<b>CHILD STORY</b>	Ashley Koch	Abby Christ	Savannah Metzler
<b>PIANIST</b>	Praise Team	Sarah Brubaker	Praise Team
<b>AUDIO</b>	Todd Rebman	Todd Rebman	Todd Rebman
<b>WORSHIP CTR</b>	Tanya Feathers	Sandra Keeney	Sandra Keeney
<b>USHERS</b>	Gerald & Jim Bowman Scott Bohn & J. Brubaker	Ken Duell / John High Jacob Koch/Dennis Umberger	Richard & Michelle Yenser Andrew & Chris Brubaker

**WORSHIP SERVICES 8:30 am & 10:30 am**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES 9:30 – 10:15 am**

**Children/Youth**

Preschool – Preschool Room, Sanctuary Level  
 Children’s (Grades K to 5 – Pine Room  
 (Fellowship Hall Level)  
 Youth (Grades 6 to 12) – Youth Room (Fellowship  
 Hall)

**Adults**

Young Adults – Oak Room (Fellowship  
 Hall Level)  
 Hymn Study – Fellowship Hall

**NOTICE:** We are currently running a Livestream ministry. If you cannot join us on Sunday morning in person, you can join us “online” by visiting our Facebook or YouTube page. Our 10:30 service is streamed every week.

**PLEASE BE ADVISED:** If you do not want you or your child to appear on this Social Media Stream, please contact the camera operator in the back of the sanctuary to make sure you are avoided.

These people  
 honor me  
 with their lips,  
 but their  
 hearts  
 are  
 far  
 from  
 me.

Matthew 15: 8



March 8, 2026

Volume LXXVI March 8, 2026 Number 10  
**LITTLE SWATARA CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**  
 31 Rehrersburg Rd, PO Box 437, Bethel, PA 19507  
 Church Web Page - [www.LittleSwatara.org/](http://www.LittleSwatara.org/) phone: 717-933-4723  
 FB: @LittleSwataraCoB \*\*\* Wi-Fi Guest/pw: brethren  
 Outreach: *The Gathering Place Café*, 8490 Lancaster Ave, Bethel  
 Contact: [gatheringplacecafe.com](http://gatheringplacecafe.com) / Phone: 717-933-5958  
 Café Hours: **Mon-Sat 6-10am**



**March 8, 2026**  
**8:30 AM Service**

*Prayer Concerns*

Let us remember the shut-ins and elderly not able to be with us today.

Brenda Kelly  
 Ralph Wanner  
 Drexel Hill



(Please contact the secretary if anyone should be added or removed from the Prayer List.)

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Marlene Blatt will be 91 yrs young on March 10th. Let's shower her with birthday wishes. There's a box on the table in the narthex or mail to:

PO Box 332,  
 Bethel, PA 19507

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Mary L Bashore's birthday is March 28th. Let's help her celebrate. Cards may be mailed to:

Myerstown Nursing & Rehab  
 7 W. Park Avenue  
 Myerstown, PA 17067

*Thank You !*

I would like to thank everyone for all the birthday cards and for all the good friends in the church. ~ Violet Frantz

**GIVING LAST SUNDAY**

General Fund	\$	6,611.50
Building	\$	120.00
Family Assistance	\$	
Maintenance	\$	547.50
Sunday School	\$	81.00
Feed Them	\$	150.00
Global Food Initiative	\$	375.00
Food Pantry	\$	126.00
Mission of the Month	\$	400.00
Messenger	\$	
Women's Fellowship	\$	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,411.00</b>

GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2026  
 \$ 347,035.00

**Last Sunday's Attendance**

Worship 17 + 70  
 Virtual Worship - 28  
 Sunday School - 38

**All Fellowship Meal**  
**March 15th**

following the 10:30 am worship service. The meal will be provided by the deacons. **Please bring a dessert to share.** We look forward to seeing you there!

**Welcome & News**

**Humor**

**Sharing & Prayer**

**Worship Songs**

- "There Will Be a Day"
- "Brighter Days"
- "God is in this story"
- "Make it well"

**Catch of the Day - "Heart Matters"**

**Scripture:** Ezekiel 36: 26 & Matthew 15:8-9

**Deep Dive**

1. Why would someone require heart surgery?
2. How might that translate to the Christian heart needing surgery?
3. Why does our heart change?
4. How is transforming in Christ different than other transformations?
5. How do we change our hearts for Christ?

**Kids Praise - "I'm in the Lord's Army"**

**Prayer**

*Every turning point brings us closer to the cross—  
 and the cross is where everything finally changes.*

*Little Swatara Church of the Brethren  
Transformed by Christ to Love and  
Serve Together*

**March 8, 2026**

**10:30 AM Worship Service**

**Prelude** "There is Joy in the Lord"  
"Honey in the Rock"

**Welcome and Announcements**

(What a joy to have you join us for worship today. Kindly sign & pass the register.)

**Lenten Reading** Patricia Timmins

**Opening Worship** "Thrive" *projected*  
"Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord" Hymnal Supp #37

**Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Worship Hymn** "Enough" *projected*

**Offertory Thought and Prayer**  
**Offertory Music** "Forever Reigns"

**Children's Moment**

**Worship Hymn** "Indescribable" *projected*

**Message** – "Life From the Roots"

**Scriptures** - Ezekiel 36: 26 & Matthew 15:8–9

**Closing Worship** "Build My Life" *Purple Hymnal #92*

**Sending**



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**"Challenge Question"**

What would it look like for God to soften my heart ?

**No 8:30 AM Service on Sunday, March 15th**

*due to Spiritual Renewal Services*



Easter Flowers

Easter flowers may be purchased to enhance the sanctuary for Easter. Variety of flowers and prices available. Order sheet located on table in Narthex or contact Pam Gerberich. Checks or cash accepted for payment. Checks should be made out to *Little Swatara COB*. **TODAY** is the last day to order !



**Spiritual Renewal Services  
with Pastor Walter Heisey**

March 15, 2026 at 10:30am and 7:00 pm  
March 16—18 at 7pm

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING  
MARCH 15th, 2026**

One Great Hour of Sharing reaches those near and far, sometimes changing the life of someone in distress in your own community, while at other times impacting the lives of those we may never meet, but who are in need of our compassion. Gifts through this special offering empower ministries such as:

Church of the Brethren Global Mission & Service  
Brethren Disaster Ministries  
Global Food Initiative, and many more!

Your gifts can be given in the same way as your regular church offering. Simply mark your gift as "One Great Hour of Sharing" or use the special envelope provided in your bulletin. All gifts may be returned to the church by **March 15th**

**Volunteers Needed to Help Pack "Tulpy Packs" !**

Help is needed to pack Tulpy Packs on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 9:30 AM at the Bethel Elementary School





**Saturday, March 21, 2026**

**7:00 AM—10:00 AM**

(Snow Date—March 28th)

*(We will need help in the kitchen and in various other ways. Please contact anyone in Women's Fellowship if you are able to help)*



We are seeking a dependable **Substitute Church Secretary** to provide temporary office support as needed. Duties include answering phones, basic correspondence, and administrative tasks. Office and computer skills preferred. Please contact Rich Yenser or a member of the Stewardship and Property Committee for more information.



We need someone to lead our craft committee. For more information, please contact any member of our Women's Fellowship.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 24, 2026 @ 9:00 AM

### Annual Conference

Lancaster COB is chartering a 56-seat motor coach to the 2026 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and invites others to join. Information is on the table in the back of the sanctuary or see Todd Rebman.



**LITTLE SWATARA CoB**  
**2026 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**JULY 13—17, 2026**

Please check your mailbox



### BIDS - 4 - KIDS Annual Auction

March 20 & 21, 2026  
Lebanon Expo Center

For more information visit: [TrueLifeYouth.com/auction](http://TrueLifeYouth.com/auction)

The March-April issue of the **Upper Room** has arrived and is on the table in the narthex.



March  
Mission of the Month  
**One Great Hour of Sharing**



### What's Happening in:

#### March

- 8 Daylight Savings starts
- 10 11:30 AM Widows Luncheon /Ctry Fare
- 11 8:45 AM Women's exercise class / FH   
10:00 AM Seated exercise class / FH
- 12 8:30 AM Quilting 
- 14 12:00 PM 50+ Club meeting / Mt. Aetna Fire Co.
- 15 10:30 AM (combined service - no 8:30 service) Spiritual Renewal  
& One Great Hour of Sharing  
All Fellowship Meal following 10:30 service  
7:00 PM Spiritual Renewal Service  
Food Pantry Collection
- 16-18 7:00 PM Spiritual Renewal Services
- 18 Newsletter Deadline  
8:45 AM Women's exercise class / FH   
10:00 AM Seated exercise class / FH
- 19 8:30 AM Quilting 
- 20 9:00 AM Feed Them / kitchen  
3:00 PM Bethel Food Pantry
- 21 7:00-10:00 AM Women's Fellowship Breakfast Buffet

#### **CHOIR PRACTICE SCHEDULE**

Praise Team / Wed. 7:15pm  
Jubilee Choir/Sanct/Thurs. 6:15 pm  
Senior Choir/Sanct/Thurs. 7:00 pm  
Bell Choir/Sanct/Thurs. 7:45 pm