



# Announcements & Upcoming Events

**DECEMBER 29-JANUARY 5, 2025**

## Worship Services

All are welcome to join us every Sunday @ 10:30 am in-person or via [livestream!](#)

- **Dec 1-Jan 5**—Advent and Christmas Series: Words for the Beginning
- **Jan 12-26**—Sermon Series: Star Words

Please visit [sanctifiedart.org](#) to learn more about the visuals and some worship elements used for this Advent season.

## Faith Formation Hour

Every Sunday from 9:15-10:15 am

- **Children & Youth Faith Formation**—Ages 0—12th grade
- **Adult Faith Formation December 29**  
— **Bible Exploration**  
with David Leiter, rm 106

## Lunch Bunch

All are welcome! Contact Suzanne Taylor with questions.

- **December 29**—TJ Rockwell's
- **January 5**—Mangia Mangia

## Church Board Retreat

**Sat, Jan 4 @ 8 am**, Etown CoB fellowship hall. All Church Board members are encouraged



to attend this informative event. Please **RSVP** by clicking or scanning the QR code. The Board Retreat Packet will be emailed a week prior and paper copies will be available at the meeting.



## NEW Middler Faith Formation Class!

The Christian Education Commission is excited to share that we will be starting a new “Middler” faith formation class for students currently in grades 5-8. This class will begin meeting in the library starting **Sun, Jan 5** during regular faith formation hour.

## Return of Family Dinner!

**Sun, Jan 26 @ 5 pm**, fellowship hall. This is a potluck meal for families with children of all ages, but anyone should feel welcome to come and join in this shared meal. This first “Family Dinner” of the year will be an opportunity for children to play and for families to connect with one another!

## Prime Time Lunch and Learn

**Wed, Feb 26 @ 12 pm**, Centerville Diner 2 in Mount Joy. Save the date! Jean-Paul Benowitz will speak on “Race, Ethnicity, and Gender in the History of Elizabethtown College.” As the college recognizes its Quas-

## Highlights...

- Church Board Retreat—Jan 4
- NEW Middler Faith Formation Class!—Jan 5
- Family Dinner—Jan 26
- Lunch & Learn w/ Jean-Paul Benowitz—Feb 26
- LGBTQIA Book Club—Feb 27

quicentennial (1899/1900 to 2024/2025), Benowitz will give his presentation featuring the biographies of key alumni representing racial and ethnic diversity who developed into local and national leaders. This presentation will feature important women leaders, faculty and administrators whose significant contributions built and advanced Elizabethtown College. More details coming soon!

## LGBTQIA Book Club

**Thurs, Feb 27 @ 6:30 pm**, parlor. The group will discuss the book *Tomorrow Will Be Different* by Sarah McBride. “A brave,



powerful memoir” (People Magazine) that will change the way we look at identity and equality in this country, from the activist elected as the first openly transgender member of Congress in U.S. history. If you would like to join in the discussion, read the intro through chapter 7 and be ready to discuss. Click or scan the QR code to purchase the book.

## WEEKLY/MONTHLY ONGOING EVENTS

Visit our online [events calendar](#) for locations and updates of each event.

### CROP Table

**Sundays**, under the church portico. Donations can be made at time of pick-up with cash or check made out to "Etown CoB" with "CROP" in the memo line or [online giving](#) select "CROP."

### Men's Coffee & Conversation

**Tues, Jan 7 @ 8 am**, Garmans' home. All men are invited for coffee and conversation. Questions or transportation, contact Barry Garman, Ben Hoffman, George Snavely or Jim Hoffer.

### Women's Bible Study

**BEGINS JAN 7TH**

**Tuesdays @ 10 am**, Zoom Topics vary. Contact [JulieAnn Keith](#) or [Chris Bucher](#) with questions.

### Yoga

**HOLIDAY BREAK**

**Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm**, rm 101. Contact [Peggy Shaffer](#) with questions.

### Quilters

**Wednesdays @ 9:30 am**, rm 230. Quilting Coordinator: Peg Over  
Contact the [church office](#) with questions.

### Memory Loss/Caregivers Support Group

**Thur, Jan 2 @ 9:30 am**, parlor & Zoom.  
Contact [Barb Sweigart](#) with questions.

### Chair Yoga

**Thursdays @ 10:30 am**, rm 101. Contact [Peggy Shaffer](#) with questions.

### Memorial Bell Rehearsal

**Thursdays @ 6:15 pm**, choir rm. Contact [Ron Bellamy](#) with questions.

### LGBTQ+ Working Group

**3rd Thursday @ 7pm**, Zoom. Contact [Rose Baer](#) with questions.

### Prism Youth Group

**Fridays @ 6:30 pm**, Youth Room 108. All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome! Gatherings are open to everyone—regardless of gender identity or church affiliation. Volunteers, click or scan QR code to sign up.



### Knitting/Fiber Arts Group

**Last Saturday @ 10 am**, Eisenbise home. All are welcome! Contact [Becky Eisenbise](#).  
Sponsored by the Nurture Commission.

### Climate Crisis Action Committee

**Thurs, Jan 23 @ 7 pm**, Zoom. All are welcome! Contact [Damon Wagner Fields](#) for info.

### Immigration Support Group

**Wed, Jan 29 @ 7 pm**, Zoom. All are welcome! Contact [Damon Wagner Fields](#) for info.

### Racial Justice Working Group

**All are welcome!** Contact [JulieAnn Keith](#) for date and time and with any questions.

## Lenten Home Groups

This year during the Lenten season we will once again be offering "Lenten Home Groups" on Sunday afternoons/evenings. There will be four weeks of small in-home gatherings where folks will come together for a shared meal and conversation. Please consider whether you would be willing to open up your home, provide leadership, cook

a meal or participate in these "Lenten Home Groups." More information coming soon!

## CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

### Christian Citizenship Seminar (CCS)

**April 5-9**, Washington DC.  
The theme for this year is Faith for Change. CCS provides youth



## Jr/Sr High Youth Events

- **Jan 5**—1st Sunday Hangout
- **TBA**—Snow Tubing
- **TBA**—Camp Swatara Retreat
- **June 20-22**—National Youth Junior High Conference
- **July 18-23, 2026**—National Youth Conference

in high school and 1st year of college (or age equivalent) the chance to explore the relationship between faith and a particular political issue. Online registration is open. Registrations received and paid in full by **Dec 31** will receive a free t-shirt. **Cost is \$525**. Click or scan the QR code for details and registration or contact Becky Naugle at 847-429-4385 or [bullomnaugle@brethren.org](mailto:bullomnaugle@brethren.org).

## National Jr High Conference

**June 20-22**, Juniata College, PA. Gentleness, commanded in scripture and named as a "fruit of the Spirit," is not valued by the culture around us. How would our relationships with each other and with God change if gentleness guided us? What does it mean to "Let your gentleness be known?" Junior High youth (completed grades 6 - 8) and their adult advisors are invited to this weekend of faith formation, friendship, and fun! Registration opens early **January 2025**. Early bird discount for registration in January! Click or scan the QR code for details.



## FaithX Experiences Summer 2025

FaithX experiences are short-term service trips. Participants will serve in a variety of ministry and non-profit settings. Opportunities for Junior High through Older Adults is available. Registra-



tion opens **Wed, Jan 8** and closes **Tues, April 1**. Click or scan the QR code for schedule, details and registration or contact Marissa Witkovsky-Eldred at 847-429-4337 or [faithx@brethren.org](mailto:faithx@brethren.org).

## Tiny Retreat

A tiny retreat is a chance to take a break from the day and, just for a moment, lay down all you are carrying. Retreat to a sacred space of beauty, scripture, and meditation. Be blessed. Click or scan the QR code to sign up to receive email notifications for weekly Tiny Retreats.



## ETOWN COLLEGE

### Save the Date!

- **Thurs, Feb 6, @ 7 pm, Lefever Lecture** with guest speaker Vicki Sokolik on her topic of Why We Need to De-Criminalize Poverty.
- **Thurs, Apr 10 @ 7 pm, Ware Lecture** on Peacemaking with human rights activist and recipient of the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize, Nadia Murad.

## ECHOS

### Winter Items Needed

ECHOS is looking for mens and womens: hats, gloves (water-proof), warm socks, hand warmers, clothing M-2X, and underwear all sizes. Coats and boots should be donated to the Elizabethtown Clothing Barn during their hours of operation. Click or scan the QR code for details and drop-off hours. Contact ECHOS by phone at 717-361-0740. Contact the Elizabethtown Clothing Barn by phone at 717-689-3484.



## EVERENCE

### Scholarships Available

Everence Financial awards scholarships to college students every year. They will grant 45 college scholarships for the 2025-2026 school year, ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000. To be eligible, students, their parents or legal guardian must own or be using an Everence product — for example, having an Everence Federal Credit Union account. Find out more at [everence.com/scholarships](http://everence.com/scholarships). Application deadline is **Feb 28**. Previous Everence scholarship recipients may apply again.

## NEW COMMUNITY PROJECT

### 2025 Learning Tours

- Nepal—Jan 14-26
- Rwanda/DR Congo—Feb 10-21
- Borneo—May 12-20
- Ecuadorian Jungle—May 29-June 4
- Dineh Navajo Reservation, NM—June 20-26
- Denali/Kenai Fjords, Alaska—July 31-August 8



Click or scan the QR code for details or call 540-855-1199 with any questions.

## CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

### Learning Opportunities

**Partner With Us** meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Click on the title for details.

**Refugee Welcome Collective Lunch and Learn** meets several times a month.

Click on the title for details.

### Worship Attendance

#### Sunday, December 22

In-Person: 217      Livestream: 54

### Gifts Given

#### Cash, Checks & Square— December 17-23

General Fund: \$16,099.00

Designated Gifts: \$15,180

CROP: \$42.13

## SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY MINISTRY CENTER (SVMC)

### Continuing Education

Click [here](#) for details or contact Karen Hodges at [KarenHodges@svmccob.org](mailto:KarenHodges@svmccob.org) or call 717-361-1450. CEU's available.

## PARISH RESOURCE CENTER

### Learning Opportunities

PRC has a variety of topics of interest and with Etown CoB's membership our congregation qualifies for discounted pricing for all of their seminars and webinars. Click or scan the QR code for details and registration or call 717-299-1113.



## LOOKING AHEAD

- Ash Wednesday—Mar 5
- Lent Begins—Mar 9
- Christian Citizenship Seminar—Apr 5-9
- Palm Sunday—Apr 13
- Easter Sunday—Apr 20

Mark your calendars and watch for details and updates! You can find these events on the online events calendar.

# ETOWN COB COMMUNITY CORNER

## Welcome 2025

**Tues, Dec 31 @ 3-7 pm** at the Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Elizabethtown. This free event includes carols and organ music, a magician, crafts, bingo, a balloon artist, and visit with Susquehanna Service Dogs. Free food includes hot dogs, soup, s'mores, popcorn and hot chocolate. For a fee of \$12, chicken bbq meals are available.

## STAFF OUT OF OFFICE

Pastor Naomi—Dec 26-30

Please join us in praying for the  
**Myerstown CoB**  
congregation for the week of  
**December 29nd.**

### Church Office Holidays:

Dec 31—Closing at 12:30 pm - New Year's Eve  
Jan 1—Closed - New Year's Day  
Apr 18—Closed - Good Friday

Event **Packets** can be found under "Forms" on the church [website](#) or contact the Church Office for a printed copy. Regular Commission/Group meetings do not need to fill out an event packet.

If help is needed to register for any event please contact the Church Office at [info@etowncob.org](mailto:info@etowncob.org) or call 717-367-1000. Office hours are Mon-Fri, 8:30 am-4:30 pm. Subject to change for holidays, vacation time or inclement weather.

### Pastoral Team:

Jason Haldeman | [jason@etowncob.org](mailto:jason@etowncob.org) | 717-367-1000 ext. 2

Naomi Kraenbring | [pastornaomi@etowncob.org](mailto:pastornaomi@etowncob.org) | 717-367-1000 ext. 3

Liz Bidgood Enders | [pastorliz@etowncob.org](mailto:pastorliz@etowncob.org) | 717-367-1000 ext. 5

### Support Staff:

Kim Glass, Music Coordinator/Accompanist | [kim@etowncob.org](mailto:kim@etowncob.org) | 717-367-1000 ext. 4

Rachel Bucher Swank, Music Coordinator | [rachel@etowncob.org](mailto:rachel@etowncob.org) | 717-367-1000 ext. 4

Ron Bellamy, Memorial Bells Director | [ringinron@gmail.com](mailto:ringinron@gmail.com)

Crystal Crater, Office Administrator and Marketing & Communications Coordinator  
[crystal@etowncob.org](mailto:crystal@etowncob.org) | 717-367-1000 ext. 0 | Mon-Fri, 8:30 am—4:30 pm

Brooke Bish, Administrative Assistant  
[brooke@etowncob.org](mailto:brooke@etowncob.org) | 717-367-1000 ext. 1 | Mon-Fri, 9 am—2 pm

Amy Zimmerman, Facilities Manager  
[amy@etowncob.org](mailto:amy@etowncob.org) | 717-367-1000 ext. 6 | Mon-Fri, 8 am—3 pm

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, December 29

Bible Exploration Class @ 9:15 am

Worship @ 10:30 am, sanctuary & livestream

Lunch Bunch @ 11:45 am, TJ Rockwell's

### Monday, December 31

Church Office CLOSING @ 12:30 pm

### Wednesday, January 1

Church Office CLOSED

### Thursday, January 2

Memory Loss Support Grp @ 9:30 am, parlor & Zoom

Chair Yoga @ 10:30 am, rm 101

### Friday, January 3

Prism @ 6:30 pm, rm 108

### Saturday, January 4

Church Board Retreat @ 8 am, Fellowship Hall

### Sunday, January 5

Faith Formation Hour @ 9:15 am

Worship @ 10:30 am, sanctuary & livestream

Lunch Bunch @ 11:45 am, Mangia Mangia

Jr/Sr High Youth 1st Sunday Hangout @ 1 pm, rm 108

### Tuesday, January 7

Men's Coffee and Conversation @ 8 am, Barry and Sandy Garman's Home

Women's Bible Study @ 10 am, Zoom  
Yoga @ 6:30 pm, rm 101

### Wednesday, January 8

Quilters @ 9:30 am, rm 230

### Thursday, January 9

Chair Yoga @ 10:30 am, rm 101  
Memorial Bell Rehearsal @ 6:15 pm, choir rm

### Friday, January 10

Prime Time Mtg @ 2 pm, Zoom  
Prism @ 6:30 pm, rm 108

### Sunday, January 12

Faith Formation Hour @ 9:15 am  
Worship @ 10:30 am, sanctuary & livestream

Lunch Bunch @ 11:45 am, Amato's Pizza