



Announcements & Upcoming Events

DECEMBER 22-29, 2024

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

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 22

- **Discovery Class**, Gérard Depayre
- Sharing about the European Union, rm 102

- **Bible Exploration**
with David Leiter, rm 106

NEW ZOOM OPTION

- **Young Adults**, Parlor
- **Chalkboard Chat**, rm 110
- **Sip N' Chat**, Memorial Lobby

Lunch Bunch

All are welcome! Contact Suzanne Taylor with questions.

- **December 22**—Lucky Ducks
- **December 29**—TJ Rockwell's

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tues, Dec 24 @ 7 pm, sanctuary & livestream. All are welcome to join in this traditional candlelight service. Bring cookies



to share after the service in fellowship hall for conversation and fellowship. Candles are available for those who would like to participate via livestream. Drop by the church office any time to pick up a candle and holder or pick one up on your way out after the Sunday morning service at the back of the sanctuary. Please return the candle and holder at your convenience to the church office.

Learn More About Prism

Fri, Dec 27 @ 6 pm, fellowship hall. Join us for a family-friendly pizza party from 6-8 pm, featuring games, and fellowship, open to all youth and adults interested in learning more about Prism—whether as attendees or volunteers!

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.



Highlights...

- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—
Dec 24
- Prism Pizza Party—Dec 27
- 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

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

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

HOLIDAY BREAK

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

**DECEMBER MTG
CANCELLED**

Group

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

[Baer](#) with questions.

Prism Youth Group

1st/3rd 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

TBD @ 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.

Benowitz will speak on “Race, Ethnicity, and Gender in the History of Elizabethtown College.” As the college recognizes its Quas-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



Jr/Sr High Youth Events

- TBA—Snow Tubing
- TBA—Camp Swatara Retreat
- **June 20-22**—National Youth Junior High Conference
- **July 18-23, 2026**—National Youth Conference

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.

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 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.

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. Registration 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.

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.

HISTORIC ROCK FORD

Yuletide Tours

Dec 27-29, Hand Mansion, Historic Rock Ford, Lancaster. The candlelit Hand Mansion will be bedecked in its holiday grandeur complete with period dance demonstrations, open hearth cooking and live traditional music. Yuletide Tours of the Hand Mansion are self-guided. Please note that the Mansion does have steps, and no public restroom facilities are available inside the Mansion. A portable restroom unit is located in the main parking lot. Click or scan the QR code for details and to purchase tickets or call 717-392-7223 with any questions.

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.

Worship Attendance

Sunday, December 15

In-Person: 181 Livestream: 54

Gifts Given

Cash, Checks & Square— December 10-16

General Fund: \$25,843.32
Designated Gifts: \$4,499.40
CROP: \$133.00

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. Application deadline is **Feb 28**. Previous Everence scholarship recipients may apply again.

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
Light of the Gospel Fellowship (NJ)
CoB congregation for the week of
December 22nd.

Church Office Holidays:

Dec 24 & 25—Christmas Break

Dec 31—Closing at 12:30 pm - New Year's Eve

Jan 1—Closed - New Year's Day

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 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 | 717-367-1000 ext. 2

Naomi Kraenbring | pastornaomi@etowncob.org | 717-367-1000 ext. 3

Liz Bidgood Enders | pastorliz@etowncob.org | 717-367-1000 ext. 5

Support Staff:

Kim Glass, Music Coordinator/Accompanist | kim@etowncob.org | 717-367-1000 ext. 4

Rachel Bucher Swank, Music Coordinator | rachel@etowncob.org | 717-367-1000 ext. 4

Ron Bellamy, Memorial Bells Director | ringinron@gmail.com

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

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

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

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 22

Faith Formation Hour @ 9:15 am

Worship @ 10:30 am, sanctuary & livestream

Lunch Bunch @ 11:45 am, Lucky Ducks

Tuesday, December 24

Church Office CLOSED

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 7 pm

Wednesday, December 25

Church Office CLOSED

Friday, December 27

Prism Event @ 6 pm, fellowship hall

Saturday, December 28

Knitting/Fiber Arts Group @ 10 am, Home of Becky & Jeff Eisenbise

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

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