



Announcements & Upcoming Events

DECEMBER 15-22, 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 15

— **Discovery Class**, Dave Reist will be speaking about his book “And they left me off at \$1500”, rm 102

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

— **Young Adults**, Parlor

— **Chalkboard Chat**, rm 110

— **Sip N’ Chat**, Memorial Lobby

NEW ZOOM OPTION

Lunch Bunch

All are welcome! Contact Suzanne Taylor with questions.

- **December 15**—Centerville Diner 2
- **December 22**—Lucky Ducks

2024 Advent Devotionals

The 2024 Advent Devotionals “Sing Gloria!” by Laura Stone from Brethren Press and the 2024 Advent theme devotional “Words for the Beginning” by A Sanctified Art are avail-

able for FREE in the back of the sanctuary. Please contact the church office with any questions.

Jr/Sr High Youth Christmas Party

Sun, Dec 15 @ 5 pm, room 108. Youth are invited to the

annual Christmas Party for food, fun, and games! There will be a White Elephant gift exchange so plan to bring along a new, used, funny or serious gift to exchange! Click or scan the QR code to RSVP.



Newsletter Articles

January-February 2025 Newsletter articles are due to the church office on **Mon, Dec 16**. Please submit all articles to [info@etowncob.org](#).

The Longest Night Service

Sat, Dec 21 @ 6 pm, Etown CoB sanctuary. The Winter Solstice is the longest night of the year. With the shortest amount of daylight, this day, close to Christmas, is a good reminder that there are those who struggle to find the light in this season of joy. For anyone who has suffered loss or grief, or for whom Christmastime is challenging or complicated. This simple service provides space for those who enter this season with sorrows or burdens, a time to light candles, to reflect on the light that shines in the darkness, and to find hope that endures through times of struggle.

Highlights...

2024 Advent Devotionals Available Now!

Baptisms—Dec 15

Jr/Sr High Youth Christmas Party—Dec 15

Newsletter Articles—Dec 16

The Longest Night Service—Dec 21

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—Dec 24

Church Board Retreat—Jan 4

LGBTQIA Book Club—Feb 27

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 will be available Dec 15 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.

Church Board Retreat

Sat, Jan 4 @ 8 am, Etown CoB fellowship hall. All Church Board members are encouraged to attend this informative event. The

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

Topics vary. Contact [JulieAnn Keith](#) or [Chris Bucher](#) with questions.

WINTER BREAK

Yoga

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

DECEMBER MTG CANCELLED

3rd Thursday @ 7 pm, 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

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

Immigration Support Group

Wed, Dec 18 @ 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.

Board Retreat Packet will be emailed a week prior and paper copies will be available at the meeting.

LGBTQIA Book Club

Thurs, Feb 27 @ 6:30 pm, parlor. At this meeting, 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 on Feb 27th. Click or scan the QR code to purchase the book.

Jr/Sr High Youth Events

- **Dec 15**—Christmas Party
- **TBA**—Snow Tubing
- **TBA**—Camp Swatara Retreat
- **June 20-22**—National Youth Junior High Conference
- **July 18-23, 2026**—National Youth Conference

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN Christian Citizenship Seminar

April 5-9, Washington DC. The theme for this year is Faith for Change. Christian Citizenship Seminar (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 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.



2025 BRETHREN DISASTER MINISTRY TRIP

May 17-24, location is to be determined. Save the Date! Only 15 spots are available. Those who are interested in joining please contact Deb and Dale Ziegler.

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.

SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY MINISTRY CENTER (SVMC)

Continuing Education

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

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, where you also can download an application form. Application deadline is **February 28, 2025**. 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.



Worship Attendance

Sunday, December 8

In-Person: 196 Livestream: 53

Gifts Given

Cash, Checks & Square— December 3-9

General Fund: \$ 11,679.50
Designated Gifts: \$ 1,694.74
CROP: \$36.00
Tenant R & S: \$7,476.83

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.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Lunch & Learn w/Jean-Paul Benowitz—Feb 26
- 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

Awards Received



Brandon Hollinger, Kurt DeGoede, Teresa Luber, and Naomi Kraenbring ran among hundreds of other runners and walkers at the Santa Run 5K in Manheim on December 7. Teresa won the award as the second-place female runner overall, and Kurt was the top male runner in his age group.

Please join us in praying for the
Hatfield CoB
congregation for the week of
December 15th.

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 15

Faith Formation Hour @ 9:30 am
Worship & Baptisms @ 10:30 am,
sanctuary & livestream
Lunch Bunch @ 11:45 am, Centerville
Diner 2
Jr/Sr High Youth Christmas Party @
5 pm, rm 108

Monday, December 16

Yoga @ 6:30 pm, rm 101
Wednesday, December 18
Quilters @ 9:30 am, rm 230
Immigration Support Committee Mtg
@ 7 pm, Zoom 3
Nurture Commission Mtg @ 7 pm,
Pastor Jason's Study & Zoom 2

Thursday, December 19

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

Friday, December 20

Prism @ 6:30 pm, rm 108

Saturday, December 21

The Longest Night Service @ 6 pm,
sanctuary & livestream

Sunday, December 22

Faith Formation Hour @ 9:30 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

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