



Announcements & Upcoming Events

DECEMBER 1-8, 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

Faith Formation Hour

Every Sunday from 9:15-10:15 am

- **Children & Youth Faith Formation**—Ages 0—12th grade
- **Adult Faith Formation December 1**
 - **Discovery Class**, Isaac Kraenbring, Reduce! Reuse! Recycle? Exploring the Complexities of the Plastic Recycling World, rm 102
 - **Bible Exploration** with David Leiter, rm 106
 - **Young Adults**, Parlor
 - **Chalkboard Chat**, rm 110
 - **Sip N' Chat**, Memorial Lobby

Lunch Bunch

All are welcome! Contact Suzanne Taylor with questions.

- **December 1**—Mangia Mangia
- **December 8**—Amato's Pizza

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 available for FREE in the back of the sanctuary.

Please contact the church office with any questions.

SERRV Sale

Sun, Dec 1 & 8, memorial lobby. Karen Ungemach will have a SERRV table available with items to purchase for the holiday season.

Reception of New Members

Sun, Dec 8 during worship. If you have participated in an Inquirers Class and are interested in being received as a new member by reaffirmation of faith, letter of transfer or by baptism, please contact the church office or speak with a pastor by **Sunday, Dec 1**.

Candlelight Christmas Concert

Fri, Dec 13 @ 7:30 pm, Etown CoB sanctuary. Come and enjoy Susquehanna Chorale's Annual Candlelight Christmas Concert. Seating is limited so pre-purchase your tickets by clicking or scanning the QR code before **3 pm on Dec 13**. Ticket purchases will also be available at the door.



Seekers Christmas Party

Fri, Dec 13 @ 6 pm, at the home of David and Lisa Clemens, 345 Ridge Rd, Etown. For ages +/- 40-80. Potluck, BYOB, White Elephant Gift Exchange, laughter, music and Christmas fun. Ugly Christmas Sweaters welcome. Hosted by Kurt Sollenberger and Lisa Clemens.

Christmas Memories

Sat, Dec 14 @ 6:30 pm, Etown CoB fellowship hall. Join us as we focus this

Highlights...

2024 Advent Devotionals Available Now!

SERRV Items Sale—Dec 1 & 8

Reception of New Members—Dec 8

Candlelight Christmas Concert—Dec 13

Christmas Memories—Dec 14

Newsletter Articles—Dec 16

The Longest Night Service—Dec 21

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—Dec 24

Church Board Retreat—Jan 4

year on Christmas past, present and future. Please bring along cookies to share and your favorite Christmas ornament, favorite Christmas game, and favorite Christmas card. All are welcome to an evening of sharing our Christmas stories, traditions and refreshments. Sponsored by Prime Time.

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

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, Dec 3 @ 8 am, Garman's 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, Dec 5 @ 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

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.

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.

Church Board Retreat

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

Jr/Sr High Youth Events

- **Dec 1**—1st Sunday Hangout
- **Dec 2**—Service Project, Washington DC, RSVP to Pastor Jason
- **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

aged to attend this informative event. The Board Retreat Packet will be emailed a week prior and paper copies will be available at the meeting.

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 opens December 3 at noon CT. 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.



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



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.

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.

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.



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.

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

Medicare Seminar

Thurs, Dec 5, @ 6:30 pm,
Everence, 960 E. Main St., Mount



Joy. Join Everence for an educational evening of learning about transitioning to Medicare and enjoying hot chocolate and cookies. Bring all your Medicare questions, and we'll be happy to answer them. Click or scan the QR code for details and registration. Learn more at everence.com/medicarepa or contact Everence at centralpenn@everence.com or 717-653-6662.

TED & COMPANY

Just Give 'Em the News

Sat, Dec 7 @ 7:30 pm,
West Art, 800 Buchanan Ave,
Lancaster PA. In this original,



delightfully askew, musical look at the first Christmas, Jeff Raught and Ted Swartz weave original songs inspired piano playing, and comedic theater around a new look at familiar Christmas Stories. Finding the humor and humanity in biblical stories has long been a hallmark of Ted & Company. Kick off your holiday season with a healthy dose of comedy and great theater. All ticket sales go to Meals on Wheels Lancaster. We hope you will join us. For additional information call Ted 540-421-3462 or Jeff 717-715-7245. Click or scan the QR code for more details and to purchase tickets.

Worship Attendance

Sunday, November 24

In-Person: 231 Livestream: 42

Gifts Given

**Cash, Checks & Square—
November 19-25**

General Fund: \$15,057

Designated Gifts: \$552

Holiday Celebration: \$3,280

CROP: \$104.60

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

Tues, Dec 3 @ 7 pm, Elizabethtown Masonic Village will be hosting Ridgeway Brass featuring Greg Bidgood Enders playing tuba. The concert will take place in the Masonic Village auditorium. Free and open to the public.

Please join us in praying for the
Little Swatara CoB
congregation for the week of
December 1st.

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 1

Faith Formation Hour @ 9:30 am

Worship @ 10:30 am, sanctuary & livestream

Lunch Bunch @ 11:45 am, Mangia Mangia

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

Monday, December 2

Jr/Sr High Youth DC Service Project Day Trip @ 7:15 am, Washington DC

Witness Commission Mtg @ 6 pm, Zoom

Christian Ed Commission Mtg @ 7 pm, Pastor Jason's Study

Racial Justice Working Group @ 7 pm, Zoom

Resources Commission Mtg @ 7 pm, rm 108

Tuesday, December 3

Men's Coffee & Conversation @ 8 am, the home of Barry and Sandy Garman

Yoga @ 6:30 pm, rm 101

Wednesday, December 4

Quilters @ 9:30 am, rm 230

Choir Practice @ 7 pm, choir rm

Thursday, December 5

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

Chair Yoga @ 10:30 am, rm 101

Memorial Bell Rehearsal @ 6:15 pm, sanctuary

Friday, December 6

Prism @ 6:30 pm, rm 108

Sunday, December 8

Faith Formation Hour @ 9:30 am

Worship & Reception of New Members @ 10:30 am, sanctuary & livestream

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

Monday, December 9

Church Board Mtg @ 6:45 pm, rm 102 & Zoom

Tuesday, December 10

Yoga @ 6:30 pm, rm 101