

News & Events

Dec 21-Jan 3, 2023

ECOB CELEBRATES 125 YEARS OF MINISTRY IN 2024

The Ephrata Church of the Brethren was founded in 1899. Since then, thousands of faithful disciples have called ECOB their home faith community. In 2024, we will be celebrating the wonderful ministry, kingdom impact, and life transformation that God has done in and through our congregation. Throughout the year, there will be three major things to watch for. First, each month, there will be an article here from a member about how ECOB encouraged and developed their faith journey. Second, we will have a one-time-only birthday calendar including many pictures from over the years. Finally, we have an amazing weekend planned April 26-28, filled with a worship/ice cream party on Friday night, all church picnic on Saturday evening, and special worship services on Sunday. Stay tuned for these, and other ways, that you can celebrate this wonderful milestone. Let's praise God for our history and let's press on into the future as we Live the Legacy left for us!



CHRISTMAS EVE @ECOB SUN, DEC 24, 2023

10:00 am One Worship @ECOB Sanctuary
(No Life Groups or ECOBKIDS offerings)
Don't miss a special treat from the ECOB staff!
3:00 pm Family Service @ECOB Sanctuary
Kids/Youth drama & music (Rehearsal @ 1pm)

5:00 pm Community Service

Outdoors @Ephrata Whistle Stop Downtown
Weather permitting. Heaters provided.

7:00 pm Classic Service @ECOB Sanctuary

All evening services include candlelighting, cookies, & cocoa. Share the [Facebook event](#) to invite others!

Sunday, Dec 24

Series: Advent: The Light Has Come

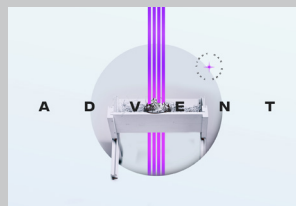
Title: Cannot Stop God

Scripture: [Luke 2:1-21](#)

Focus: God can go beyond the limiting expectations we place on him.

Pastor Ryan, speaking

Sermon Series



(Study Guide [HERE](#))

Sunday, Dec 31

Series: Advent: The Light Has Come

Title: He's Coming Back

Scripture: [Hebrews 9:28](#)

Focus: Jesus will return to claim his own. We should endeavor to claim him as our Messiah and live more like him each day.

Cody Heagy, speaking

connect.

Contact: [Carol Bowman](#)
Updates as of Dec 20, 2023

CARE:

Amy Church, surgery 12.15.23, now at home
Cindy Zimmerman, surgery 12.15.23, now at home

CINDY OUT OF THE OFFICE

Cindy Zimmerman, our Coordinator of Operations, will be on medical leave until further notice. When she is back "online" we will be sure to communicate that to the congregation. If you need to reserve the facility, please email her at cindy@ecob.church and she will respond once she returns. If it is a scheduling emergency, please contact Pastor [Brian](#).

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSING

The ECOB Office will be closed December 25 and will re-open on Jan 2. Staff will still be working during this time and can be contacted but the front desk will be closed between the holidays and all church doors will be locked.

FINANCIAL UPDATE (11/30/2023):

First of all, thank you for your faithfulness to our Lord and to ECOB as it relates to your giving to HIS Kingdom. November was a strong month, enabling us to cut into the Fiscal Year deficit by over \$20,000. Praise the Lord! Our Giving is still running below budget by -7.6%, however, our expenses are also running below budget by -2.5%. A summary report is available upon request.

Blessings,

- Rich Bealer, Treasurer

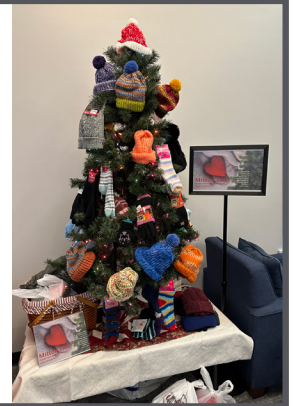


radiate.

Contact: [Stacey Coldiron](#)

MITTEN TREE

Sundays, Dec 3-31 |
@ECOB Community Room
We collect warm hats, gloves, scarves and socks to hang from the trees in the Whistle Stop Plaza for those who may need a warm item this winter. If you would like to help hang items downtown, please contact Peg Schannauer at pschannauer@gmail.com.



CITY GATE LUNCH

Saturday, Jan 20 | 9:30 am-1:30 pm
Food prep is for all ages. For serving downtown you must be 13 or older. Sign ups will be in the Community Room on January 7th and 14th. Contact [Stacey](#) with any questions.

VICTORY SUNDAY

Sunday, Jan 7 | All Services
Victory Sunday is when we will celebrate the ways God moved at ECOB in 2023! A report will be shared that Sunday highlighting the impact of some of our ministries. Join us in praising God for all He has done in and through us!



Click [HERE](#) to Register!

ECOB PRESENTS THE **2023**
MISSIONS BANQUET
SAT, JAN 6 @ 6:00 PM

ALL ARE WELCOME, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO SERVE, SUPPORT, OR WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT OUR LOCAL, NATIONAL AND GLOBAL MISSIONS AT ECOB.

- AUTHENTIC AFGHAN CUISINE
- SPECIAL AWARDS
- GAMES
- VIDEO MONTAGE
- GUEST SPEAKER

RSVP BY DEC 30 HERE:



ECOBKIDS



kids through grade 4

Contact: [Michelle Nolt](#), Coordinator
Parents: Check in by Kid's Entrance **PRIOR** to Service

SUNDAY MORNING LIFE GROUPS

9:45-10:35 am

Class 1: Preschool walking-PreK | Class 2: grades K-4

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Infant-2 & Preschool Care during 10:45 Service
Kids Church (K-4 grade) - kids attend beginning of 10:45 Service with family then are dismissed before the sermon.

REMINDER, DEC 31 IS A 5TH SUNDAY WITH NO KIDS CHURCH BUT A SPECIAL TIME FOR KIDS IN WORSHIP.



ECOBYOUTH



students in grades 5-12

Contact: [Chris Reinford](#), Youth and YA Director

SUNDAY MORNING LIFE GROUPS

9:45-10:35am (Teacher must be present before students go downstairs)

Class 1: grades 5-8 | Class 2: grades 9-12

UPCOMING ECOBYOUTH EVENTS

Sun, Jan 7 - SNL (IM/MS/HS), 6-8pm @ECOB

Tues, Jan 9 - Engage (IM/MS), 6:30-8pm @ECOB

Sun, Jan 14 - HS SNL, 6-8pm @ECOB

Sun, Jan 21 - HS SNL, 6-8pm @ECOB

Tues, Jan 23 - Engage (IM/MS), 6:30-8pm @ECOB

Sun, Jan 28 - Snow Tubing (IM/MS/HS), 1-8pm

Sign-up [HERE!](#)

Sat, Feb 10 - Engage Event (IM), 12-3pm @ECOB

Sun, Feb 11 - HS SNL, 6-8pm @ECOB

Fri-Sun, Feb 16-18 - Winter Retreat (MS/HS) Sign-up [HERE!](#)

ECOBKIDS TOT LOT TUESDAYS

1st & 3rd Tuesdays
9:30-10:30 am
@ECOB Community Room
201 Crescent Ave, Ephrata

Free play for babies and preschoolers with an adult present. Coffee and conversation for the adults. Enter building from back parking lot. Open to the community!

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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

ECOBYOUNGADULTS

Contact: [Chris Reinford](#), Youth and YA Director

ECOBYOUNGADULTS RETREAT

Fri-Sat, Jan 5-6 | More Info [HERE](#)



SUNDAY MORNING LIFE GROUP

Join us in Room 101 for this intergenerational Life Group on Sunday mornings!

ECOBYOUNGADULTS WOMEN'S LIFE GROUP

2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7:00 pm

Focus: The Chosen Series

Contact [Brigetta](#) for info and each location in the Ephrata/Lititz area

MONTHLY EVENTS

Wednesday, Jan 17 - Trivia Night
@ORD, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Presented by:
ECOBKIDS & ECOBYOUTH

LIGHTS of Christmas PROGRAM

THE BIRTH OF JESUS BRIGHTENS OUR WORLD

Family Christmas Eve Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24
3:00 PM

WATCH OUR CHRISTMAS DRAMA, SING CHRISTMAS CAROLS, AND ENJOY SOME COOKIES AND COCOA!

CAMP SWATARA
2024 [Calendar](#) of Events

CAMP WOODCREST
[Winter Camps](#) Dec 29th





ECOBMEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFASTS

Saturday, Jan 6 & Feb 3
7:00 am

[@Gus's Keystone Family Restaurant](#)

RSVP to ryan@ecob.church

PRIME TIME OLDER ADULT BREAKFAST @GUS'S

Wednesday, Feb 14 | 8:30 am

[@Gus's Keystone Family Restaurant](#)

Register by Feb 12 with Sam Frankhouser (safh@ptd.net or 717-669-5720)

ECOBWOMEN'S BREAKFAST & OUTREACH

Saturday, Jan 13 | 9:00 am
@ECOB

Join us for a delicious breakfast and for fellowship.

We will be collecting items for Journey Bags. Learn more [HERE!](#)

For planning purposes, please RSVP by Sunday, January 7th

[HERE](#) or at the Welcome Desk.

Any questions - contact Carol@ecob.church

ECOBWOMEN'S GAME NIGHT

Monday, Jan 15 | 6:30 pm
@ECOB

Join us for a fun time of playing games and connection! Bring a friend. Bring your favorite game.

Refreshments provided!

No RSVP necessary



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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

FEATURING GUEST SPEAKER:

2024 MEN'S CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, JAN 20, 2024
8AM-3PM @ECOB
201 CRESCENT AVE
EPHRATA, PA 17522

Click [HERE](#) to Register!

GUEST SPEAKER, FOOD, GIVEAWAYS, AND OTHER MANLY THINGS!

OPEN FOR ALL GUYS IN GRADES 6 AND UP.



MICHAEL FRANZESE

FORMER MOB BOSS FOR THE COLOMBO CRIME FAMILY IN NEW YORK

REGISTER NOW AT THE QR CODE OR AT WWW.ECOB.CHURCH.
FOR GROUP OR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE,
CONTACT RYAN@ECOB.CHURCH OR 717-201-0211.

grow.live.



ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT (ANE)

JOB OPENING CHANGE IN DISTRICT CONFERENCE DATE IN 2024

Due to a calendar change for Elizabethtown College, please note Conference will now be October 11 and 12, 2024.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN FAITHX 2024 SCHEDULE

Join FaithX (formerly Work Camps) during Summer 2024 to serve, grow in faith, make friends, and experience something new!

Registration for FaithX Summer 2024 opens on January 10, 2024 at 7:00 pm (eastern time), and closes on April 1, 2024.

More info and registration [HERE](#).

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN CORNER



TITHE.LY

Innovative church giving

Download the Tithe.ly app—a safe and easy way to give any time. (select “Ephrata Church of the Brethren”) OR give through the [ECOB website](#).

Sunday Services (in-person and online): 8:30 am Classic | 10:45 am Contemporary
Office hours: Mon - Fri 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

201 Crescent Ave. Ephrata, PA 17522 | 717-733-1229
Website: www.ecob.church | Email: info@ecob.church
Facebook: [ephratacob](https://www.facebook.com/ephratacob) | Instagram: [ephratacob](https://www.instagram.com/ephratacob)

