

News & Events

Apr 25-May 8, 2024

125th ANNIVERSARY ARTICLE By Michelle Nolt

With ECOB's 125th Anniversary this year, there's been a lot of reminiscing about heritage and history. But the time ECOB has had the most impact on my personal faith journey is right now. Let me explain. I didn't grow up in this church. In fact, I grew up Methodist. So when I started attending ECOB 18 years ago, a lot of the rituals or liturgy was lost on me. I mean, I was respectful. I attended things like Love Feast, but more out of obligation than desire. Let me tell you, as an outsider, there wasn't much to love about Love Feast. I mean, a ham and cheese sandwich and some canned fruit cup was hardly a "feast" and what's to love about touching a stranger's feet and then EATING afterwards? Also, I'm not very good at being calm, quiet and reverent. Fast forward to Love Feast 2023. It was all business as usual until a friend of mine, a very new, baby Christian, sought me out from across the Sanctuary and asked to wash my feet. Afterward, I remember her telling me that even though she didn't fully understand it, she knew Jesus had washed the disciples' feet, and she was just trying to be more like Jesus. I was attending Love Feast because it was what I was supposed to do. She was attending out of a deep desire to be more like Jesus. I had known Jesus for 49 years. She had known him for less than 1 year. But God used HER to teach ME. If I had to name the most pivotal moment in my walk with Christ, it would be that Love Feast. I could name a bunch of ways God has used the people He is bringing to ECOB to grow my understanding and faith this year. They are ways I never could have imagined. Of course I couldn't have imagined them, they are God's ways! As we reflect on the past 125 years of ECOB, in addition to fondly remembering our traditions and heritage, I'd encourage us all to look for the ways God is moving today. Because we just might be surprised how much more He has for us to learn and do!

ECOB 125th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Apr 26-28 is a huge weekend in the life of ECOB! We celebrate 125 years in ministry and service to Ephrata and surrounding communities. It all starts Friday night, Apr 26, with Worship at 7pm including a choir, praise band, speakers, and an ice cream social! In addition, before and after worship, there will be a Scavenger Hunt in the Heritage Room specifically designed for kids, youth, and adults - and yes, there are prizes! Friday, Apr 26 Worship Service Message
Title: Stones of Faithfulness
Scripture: Joshua 4:21-22
Focus: There have been moments throughout ECOB'S faith story that have impacted our lives. We have the opportunity to leave stones of faith for the future.
Pastor Brian, speaking

On Saturday, Apr 28, we will have a huge Family Picnic from 4-7pm in the Pavilion. There will be games for kids, lots of great food, and a wonderful time of fellowship. Bring your lawn chairs.

And finally, on Sunday morning, not only will we have the Heritage Room open again from 8am-1pm for the Scavenger Hunt, Pastor Paul Munday will be our guest speaker. It is going to be a wonderful weekend and we hope that you come to one or all of the events, as we celebrate all God has done.

Contact: [Carol Bowman](#)

Updated as of Apr 24, 2024

CARE:

Kya Burkholder, surgery 4.24.24, now at home

CONGRATULATIONS to Tim & Jenna Noble, on the birth of a baby boy, Alexander Jay, born April 14th! Provide a meal for them [HERE](#).

TRUSTEE WORK DAY

Saturday, May 11 | 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
@ECOB

Help the Trustees on mulching day. We'll start at 8am. Join us for any amount of time you can give. Bring rakes, wheelbarrow, shovels, etc. Contact [Alvin Oberholtzer](#) or [Tom Strubel](#) for details.

CONGREGATIONAL FORUM

Wednesday, May 8 | 7:00 pm
@ECOB Sanctuary

The Congregational Forum is ECOB's business session. Congregation members vote on various items and hear reports from committees, Pastor Brian, and Leadership Team Chair.

ECOB MEET AND GREET

Sunday, May 5 | 9:30- 10:30 am
@ECOB Community Room

If you are new to ECOB or you've been attending a while, we'd love to meet you (or get to know you better) and you'll have a chance to meet ECOB Staff, a few members of the Leadership Team and the Deacon chair. Tours of ECOB will also be available. Join us for 15/20 minutes following the 8:30 service (around 9:30 and you'll still have time to get to Life Group) OR at 10:15 before the 10:45 Worship Service. We hope you'll stop by for a casual time to get to know you!

Contact: [Stacey Coldiron](#)



MOUNTAINEERS' TABLE FOOD DRIVE

Sundays, May 5 & 12 | @ECOB

A list of specific items will be available in the second half of April to be collected. Sponsored by ECOBMISSIONS and ECOBPRIMETIME.



2nd Annual
**Graham's
Car & Truck Show**
sponsored by ECOBMEN'S Ministry

Sat, April 27 ● 10am to 1pm

\$10 per Car and Truck
\$5 per Motorcycle
free entry for spectators
proceeds benefit ECOBMISSIONS!

Food by Ephrata Lions Club
Milkshakes by ECOBYOUTH

ECOB STAFF NEWS

VOTE RESULTS ON CHRIS REINFORD'S ORDINATION

On Apr 21, ECOB members voted on Chris Reinford's Ordination. The vote results were 99.3% affirmative to move forward in the process. His Ordination Service is scheduled for Sunday, May 5 at both services.

STAFF RETREAT

This year's Staff Retreat will be taking place Apr 29 - May 3. The church staff will be away for their annual retreat. This is a time of rest, prayer, and team building. Please be in prayer for the staff during this time. The church office will be closed during this time but the phone messaging system will be checked daily.

PASTOR BRIAN SABBATH CELEBRATION

Sunday, May 12 | 9:30-10:45 am

The ECOB Leadership Team invites you to a special time between services as we celebrate Pastor Brian and wish him a blessed time of Sabbath rest until he returns in August. A Hospitality Station will be open for refreshments while we fellowship together and celebrate. A Love Offering Box will be available May 5 and 12 in the Community Room to share cards, notes, gift cards or cash/checks to bless Pastor Brian during his time of rest. For more info on this upcoming Sabbath read the recent [FAQs](#) that were shared by the Leadership Team.



kids through grade 4



students in grades 5-12

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.

ECOBKIDS TOT LOT

Tuesdays, May 7 & 21 | 9:30-10:30 am
@ECOB Community Room
Free play for babies and preschoolers with an adult
present. Coffee and Conversation for the adults.

PARENT & CHILD DEDICATION

Sunday, May 12 | During Worship @ECOB
Sign-up [HERE](#) by Apr 26.

GRADUATION SUNDAY

Sunday, June 2 | Both Services @ECOB
Our HS Graduates get a bible that ECOB members can
write notes in throughout May and College Graduates
receive a gift. These graduates will be recognized and
receive their bibles/gifts at both worship services. Sign-
up a Grad [HERE](#) and submit a picture by Wed, May 29.

MOVE UP SUNDAY

Sunday, June 9 | Both Services @ECOB
Our ECOBKIDS and ECOBYOUTH moving up are
celebrated during both worship services. These move
ups are PreK to K, 4th to 5th grade (entering into the
ECOB YOUTH ministry), and 8th to 9th grade (moving
from MS to HS). They will be asked to come up front to
be prayed for and receive their gift.

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

- Sat, Apr 27 - Car Show & Milkshakes, 10am-1pm, @ECOB
Sign-up [HERE](#) to serve.
- Sun, Apr 28 - SNL (IM/MS/HS), 6-8 pm @ECOB
- Sun, May 5 & 12 - HS SNL, 6-8 pm @ECOB
- Sun, Tues, May 14 - Engage (IM/MS), 6:30-8 pm @ECOB
- Sun, May 19 - SNL (IM/MS/HS), 6-8pm @ECOB
- Sat, May 25 - Engage Event (IM/MS), 11am-2pm @ECOB
- Fri-Sat, May-June 31-1 - HS Guys & Girls Outings
Sign-up [HERE](#) by Sun, May 5.
- Sun, Jun 2 - Graduation Sunday, Both Services
Sign your HS grad up [HERE](#) by Wed, May 29.



ECOB YOUNG ADULTS



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

CAFFEINATED CONVERSATIONS

Sunday, May 5
@Javateas Pavilion, 9:45-10:30 am



CAFFEINATED
Conversations
ECOB YOUNG ADULTS

SUNDAY MORNING LIFE GROUP

Join us in Room 101 for this intergenerational group.

WOMEN'S LIFE GROUP

2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7:00 pm
Focus: The Chosen Series | Ephrata/Lititz area
Contact [Brigetta](#) for info and each location.

MONTHLY EVENTS

Wed, May 15 - Trivia Night @ORD, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Sun, Jun 2 - Graduation Sunday, Both Services
College grads sign-up [HERE](#) by Wed, May 29.

CAMP SWATARA

2024 Camp [Calendar](#) of Events

CAMP WOODCREST

Father Son [Camp-out](#) 5/31-6/1

grow.



ECOBMEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFASTS

Saturday, May 4 & 18

7:00 am

@Gus's Keystone Family Restaurant

RSVP to ryan@ecob.church

ECOBMEN'S WORSHIP NIGHT

Tuesday, May 7

7:00 pm

@Javateas Pavilion

For info or questions, contact

ryan@ecob.church

ECOBPRIMETIME OLDER ADULT BREAKFAST

Wednesday, May 8 | 8:30 am

@Gus's Keystone Family Restaurant

Register by May 6 to Sam Frankhouser

(safh@ptd.net or 717-669-5720)

MOUNTAINEERS' TABLE FOOD DRIVE

Sundays, May 5 & 12 | @ECOB

A list of specific items will be available in the second half of April to be collected.

Sponsored by ECOBMISSIONS and ECOBPRIMETIME.

ECOBWOMEN'S EXPO/ MAKER'S MARKET

Saturday, May 11

9:00 am - 12:00 pm @ECOB

The ECOBWOMEN's Ministry will be hosting vendors selling various crafts and goods, most handmade or designed by our talented makers. This will be a great day to shop for Mother's Day Gifts!

For info or questions, contact

Carol Bowman at

carol@ecob.church.

live.

Sunday, Apr 28

Title: Off the Bench and Into the Game

Scripture: [1 Corinthians 12:12-27](#)

Focus: As Paul explains in this passage, in the body of Christ, everyone has a role, and no role is too small. Pastor Paul Munday, speaking

Sermon Series



Series Study Guide [HERE](#) or at Welcome Desk.

Sunday, May 5

Title: Staying for the Long Haul

Scripture: [Hebrews 10:19-25](#)

Focus: Rather than attending church on a come-and-go basis, we should strive to be connected to an authentic, godly community. Pastor Brian, speaking



ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT (ANE)

ANE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Friday & Saturday, Oct 11-12, 2024

@Elizabethtown College

Theme: Christ's Ambassadors:

Pursuing the Path of Reconciliation

Moderator, Kathy Brode

More Info [HERE](#).

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

L.E.A.D. (Listen – Equip – Adapt – Disciple) Conference

Nov. 15-17, 2024 @ECOB sponsored by the CoB Discipleship and Leadership Formation Dept. This will be a leadership development conference for congregational leaders such as pastors and church board members.

More info [HERE](#).



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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](#).

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN CORNER

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

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Website: www.ecob.church | Email: info@ecob.church
Facebook: [ephratacob](https://www.facebook.com/ephratacob) | Instagram: [ephratacob](https://www.instagram.com/ephratacob)

