

News & Events

Nov 20-Dec 4, 2024

LEAD CONFERENCE AT ECOB

In December of 2021, as a congregation, we discerned values we hold core to who we are. Those values, Christ-centered Living, Compassionate Engagement, Spirit-Driven Ministry, Outward Focused, Family Oriented, and Biblical Hospitality, have been the cornerstones of everything we do.

This past weekend, men and women from all over the world came to ECOB for a leadership conference designed to train, encourage, and challenge participants to grow deeper in their faith. Titled L.E.A.D. (Listen, Equip, Adapt, Disciple), workshops taught participants, mainly pastors and church board members about congregational change, running an effective church board, understanding your core values, and so much more. The main speaker, Rev. Dr. Dennis Robert Edwards lead the almost 150 people on a journey in understanding the great necessity for strong, humble leadership.



While the conference leaders were amazing and taught so much, ECOB taught a lot as well. Biblical Hospitality, one of our core values was on full display. With dozens of people welcoming, assisting, and caring for each person at the conference, participants felt welcomed and comfortable. From our Front Line Team to our Kitchen Classics; from our staff to our band and AV teams, and all those in between – the awareness of something special happening right before our eyes was truly inspirational. One participant shared, “The hospitality shown by [ECOB] inspired our congregation to look at ways in which we can be more active in serving others who enter our space.” Another person shared, “It seemed as though all the people at [ECOB] are on the same page when it came to caring for others.”

Thank you ECOB, on behalf of the Church of the Brethren in the US and beyond, for the way you cared for a group you have never met, shared the love of Jesus with them, and as our core value of Biblical Hospitality shares, “demonstrate(d) the characteristics of a servant by being radically welcoming...” ECOB, you have lived out God’s calling in your life as a congregation of faith, and for that, many were blessed, encouraged, and inspired.

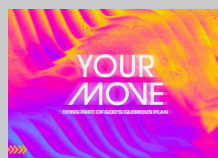
Sunday, Nov 24

Title: Just Don’t Know

Scripture: [John 20:24–29](#);
[2 Corinthians 5:11–21](#)

Focus: Thomas’s vulnerability with doubt allowed him to have a life-changing encounter with God.
Pastor Ryan Burkholder, speaking

Sermon Series:



Study Guide [HERE](#)
starting pg 7.

Sunday, Dec 1

Title: Renewed Strength

Scripture: [Isaiah 40:30–31](#)

Focus: When we are struggling and waiting, we may become weary, but we can find strength in God.

Pastor Rob Eshelman, speaking

Contact: [Carol Bowman](#)
Updated as of Nov 20, 2024
Vivian Garman,
outpatient surgery Nov 18

MANY THANKS for the cards, texts, prayers and hugs after my mother's death. The support and prayers were felt every day. God Bless, Bonnie & Jim

CONGRATULATIONS to Sam & Jennie (Young) Cable on the birth of Bennett Michael, born Nov 17th.

CONGRATULATIONS to Isiah & Lauren (Schlegel) Eckert on the birth of Elora Rose, born Nov 19th.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

An Advent Devotional from Lebanon Church of the Brethren will be available Nov 24 and Dec 1 at the Welcome Desk. The title is "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace".

ALL IN

Sunday, Dec 1 | 9:45-10:30am Pastor Brian's Office
On the first Sunday of each month, we will challenge one another to be "all in" for Christ. A short devotional and then intentional time of sharing and reflection will occur at each meeting.

CHRISTMAS CHEER BAGS

These bags are given to those in our church family who we want to bless with some extra Christmas cheer. Pick up the list of names by the Welcome Desk. Place your cards in the bags located on the shelves in the Community Room between Sunday, Dec 1st and Dec 15th by 9:30 am.

If you can deliver any of these bags, sign the sheet on the shelf in the Community Room to deliver Dec 15th.



Contact: [Stacey Coldiron](#)

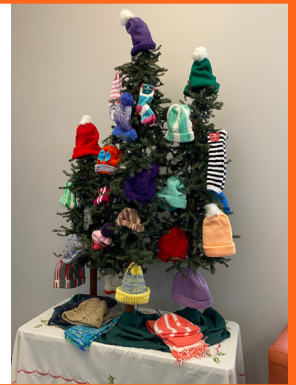
EPHRATA THANKSGIVING DINNER

Thursday, Nov 28 | 11 am - 3 pm
@Ephrata Business Center

All are welcome to attend or to help serve over 1,700 meals this Thanksgiving Day. Get more information to share or sign-up to volunteer [HERE](#)

MITTEN TREE

Donate winter hats, scarves, socks, and gloves to be hung at the Whistle Stop and City Gate in downtown Ephrata between Thanksgiving and Christmas for those in need. Place your donations in the bin by the Welcome Desk in the Community Room through December 29.



BLESSING TREE FOR MOUNTAINEERS' TABLE

Starting Sunday, Dec 1
@ECOB Community Room
Help us bless each child in our Mountaineers' Table program with a Christmas gift for them. Please sign out each tag you take on the papers provided by the tree.

CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP BY DONATION

Sunday, Nov 24 | All Morning
ECOB Community Room

Our 5th and 6th grade ECOBYOUTH will be making learning to make Chicken Noodle Soup during their ENGAGE event on Saturday, Nov 23. The soup will then be available by donation the following day in the Community Room while supplies last. The youth have chosen that the proceeds will go to support Children's Disaster Services.

ECOB SANCTUARY CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Friday, Nov 29 | 9 AM

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, Dec 8 | 6 pm

Bring a small gift to share, your flashlights and jingle bells! Contact [Dean](#) (717-314-4318) to RSVP.



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, Dec 3 & 17 | 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, Dec 8 | Both services
@ECOB
Parent and Child Dedication at both 8:30 and 10:45
services depending which service family attends.
Register [HERE](#) by Nov 24.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Sunday, Dec 15 | 6 PM @ECOB
ECOBKIDS and ECOBYOUTH perform a Christmas
drama. Cookies and hot chocolate after.

NEW ECOBKIDS SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

ECOBKIDS would like to provide a comfortable, safe
learning environment for children of varying abilities
and needs. We are searching for an adult who would
be willing to assist children of varying needs on
Sunday mornings and during special events. If you are
interested in serving in this way, or if you would like
more information, please contact [Michelle Nolt](#).

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, Nov 23 - Engage Event (IM), 12-3pm @ECOB
Making Chicken Corn noodle soup
Sun, Nov 24 - Sunday Nights @ECOB
Engage (IM/MS) 5-6:30pm, Elevate (HS) 6-8pm
Sun, Dec 1 - Sunday Nights @ECOB
Engage (IM/MS) 5-6:30pm, Elevate (HS) 6-8pm
Fri-Sat, Dec 6-7 - All Nighter with a Purpose (IM/MS/HS)
7pm-10pm (5-7 grade), 9pm-7am (8-12 grade) @ECOB
Sign up [HERE!](#) Donate with "Youth All-Nighter" in
the notes [HERE!](#)



ECOB YOUNG ADULTS

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

CAFFEINATED CONVERSATIONS

Sunday, Dec 1
@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.

MONTHLY EVENTS

Wed, Dec 18 - Trivia Night @ORD, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Open to all ages!

CAMP SWATARA
Host a Retreat Info [HERE](#)

CAMP WOODCREST
[Journey to Bethlehem](#)

grow.



ECOBMEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFASTS

Sat, Dec 7 & 21 | 7 am

@Gus's Keystone Family Restaurant

RSVP needed to ryan@ecob.church

ECOBMEN'S CONFERENCE: BIBLICAL MANHOOD

Sat, Jan 18 | 8 am - 3 pm

@ECOB

More info and registration [HERE](#).

ECOBPRIMETIME OLDER ADULT LUNCHEON

Wednesday, Dec 11 | 12-2 pm

@ECOB

RSVP to Linda by Thursday, Dec 5 at 717-733-4414, lindafah@ptd.net, or at church.

ECOBWOMEN BREAKFAST & OUTREACH

Saturday, Jan 11 | 9 am

@ECOB

More details to follow. Contact [Carol](#) for more information.

live.



INDOOR CHRISTMAS BAPTISM

Sunday, Dec 22 | Both Services

If you have interest in baptism or you already know you would like to be baptized, please fill out [this form](#) by Thursday, December 12th. A Pastor will then be in contact with you.

JERICHO OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES

Tuesdays, Nov 26 @ECOB

Supper @5:45, Classes @6:30-7:30

SESSION OFFERINGS AVAILABLE:

1. Growing Healthy Middle and High Schoolers Adults
2. Preteen and Teen Study: Glory for God
3. Difficult Conversations
5. Jericho Kids (for children ages birth-4th grade only)

Find more info on menus and study topics [HERE](#)

ELECTION RESULTS

In our recent Leadership Vote, our ECOB congregation approved the slate for 2025 with 99% approval. Cody Heagy and Tom Strubel were also affirmed with 100% approval.

HOLIDAY ECOB OFFICE CLOSING

The ECOB Office will be closed on Thursday, Nov 28 & Friday, Nov 29 for the Thanksgiving holiday.



ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT (ANE)

OPEN POSITION:

SVMC DIRECTOR

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center is now accepting applications for the position of Director.

More info [HERE](#).

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN (CoB)

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FROM BRETHREN PRESS

Looking for Christmas presents for your friends and loved ones? Shop the Brethren Press store for the readers on your shopping list!

Explore what is available [HERE](#).



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](#).

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

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)

