

News & Events

Dec 19, 2024 - Jan 1, 2025

ECOB 125TH ANNIVERSARY ARTICLE - By Dawn Hall

It's been an exciting year of celebrating 125 years, ECOB family! I have been attending ECOB since I was born, and this has been my church home for 49 years now. My faith has been inspired here, grown here, stretched here, challenged here, nurtured here and I have been allowed many opportunities to share my love of Jesus through my life experiences: both heartbreaking and awe-inspiring. The support and love we received during my late husband Keith's cancer journey, and after his passing, fills my heart with abundant gratitude. Our faithful friends at ECOB who carried us each and every day, make this truly a community with friends for life.

There are many memories that come to mind when I think back on how ECOB has impacted my faith and discipleship. From Sunday School lessons with flannelgraph stories (if you know you know), cherub choir and Psalty musicals, Youth Club, work camps, and memorable weeks at Camp Swatara making gimp bracelets. And who could forget, if you missed too many Sundays in a row, you would get a call from Rev. Christ Arndt, my Pappy, checking in on you. And when you are his granddaughter, and he knows you are ok, well...that call was a bit "uncomfortable".

Over the years, I have enjoyed participating in a variety of opportunities to serve and play a small part in the positive impact we are having on our community and neighborhoods. Seeing the smiles on the familie's faces while serving, is a gift that is immeasurable. It is a beautiful ripple effect of the love of Jesus that we are all called to share.

Our family now represents 5 generations calling ECOB home and that truly is a testament to the huge impact our church has had on my life, the generations before, and the ones still to come.

SUNDAY, DEC 22

5:00 pm Community Christmas Service

@Ephrata Whistle Stop Plaza
(Heaters & Hand Warmers provided)

Available live on [Facebook](#).

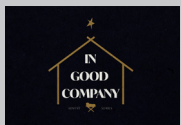
TUESDAY, DEC 24

5:00 pm Contemporary

7:00 pm Classic

@ECOB Sanctuary
Available on [Facebook](#), [Vimeo](#), and [YouTube](#).

Candle lighting, cookies and hot chocolate at all services. Outdoor Community Service will also have pizza.



Sunday, Dec 22

Series: In Good Company

Title: Mary – Struggle and Blessings

Scripture: Luke [1:30–33, 46–48](#); [Matthew 1:18–25](#)

Focus: We place our faith in God's love and promise when we are lonely and questioning.

Study Guide [HERE](#).

Michelle Nolt, speaking

Sunday, Dec 29

Series: Be Present: Wake Up to God's Work

Title: The Present of Presence

Scripture: [Matthew 13:1–23](#); [Luke 9:46–48](#)

Focus: Distractions can cause us to miss out on what God is doing in the present moment.

Cody Heagy, speaking



Contact: [Carol Bowman](#)
Updated as of Dec 18, 2024
Connie Fritz, outpatient surgery 12.23.24

SYMPATHY to Lew Bowman and family on the death of Erla Mae (Weist) Bowman, who passed away Dec 15th.

SOULED OUT PRAYER TIME

Wednesday, Jan 8 | 6-6:30 pm
@Pastor Brian's Office
Join Pastor Brian to be in prayer for our congregation.

ALL IN (ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP)

Sunday, Jan 5 | 9:45-10:30am
Pastor Brian's Office
All In is a new way of doing life together.



Contact: [Stacey Coldiron](#)

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 on the tree or in the basket in the Community Room through December 29.



TRUSTEE WORK DAY

Saturday, Jan 11
8 am-12 pm
@ECOB
All are welcome to join the Trustees to help with work needed around the church building.



ECOB STAFF/OFFICE UPDATES

Holiday Office Closing - The church office will be closed for the holidays beginning Dec 24th at 12 pm through Jan 1st. 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.

Nick Cage Resignation - Our AV Support person, Nick Cage, has resigned from his position, effective Dec 31. His hopes are to be able to spend more time with his growing family – and we are excited for this next part of the journey for all of them. We will not be hiring a replacement at this time.

As a result of this no longer being a budgeted position, please consider the new opportunities to serve as a volunteer in the Audio/Visual Ministry. All positions can be trained for and are an important part of our weekly worship experience. For more information, contact [Dean Sensenig](#).

Jenn Dorsch-Messler Position Change - Jenn Dorsch-Messler is moving from Communications Support to Congregational Ministries Coordinator. This position supports staff to plan and implement the various ministries of ECOB; however, she will mainly be responsible for all communication that goes to the congregation and community. Her position title also comes with increased hours. If you have any questions about the details of this position or any questions/comments/concerns, please contact [Carol Bowman](#).

Pastor Brian – Back to School - Starting in January 2025, Pastor Brian is going back to school to receive his Doctor of Ministry in Leadership (DMIN). The Leadership Team and Personnel Team are fully supportive of this direction for Pastor Brian. He was accepted into several DMIN programs, and he settled on Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in Elkhart, Indiana. While AMBS may not have been his first choice, he felt the method of education, cost, online options, and the focus on Anabaptist studies is what finally pushed him that direction. If you have any questions/comments/concerns for Pastor [Brian](#), please seek him out. We look forward to the ways in which he will continue to grow as a disciple, pastor, and leader.



kids through grade 4



students in grades 5-12

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

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

SUNDAY MORNING LIFE GROUPS

9:45-10:35 am

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

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

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.

UPCOMING ECOBYOUTH EVENTS

Sun, Jan 5, 12, 19 & 26 - ECOBYOUTH

Engage (IM/MS) 5-6:30pm, Elevate (HS) 6-8pm

Sat, Feb 1 - ECOBKIDS & ECOBYOUTH Family Movie Night

Sun, Feb 2 & 16 - ECOBYOUTH

Engage (IM/MS) 5-6:30pm, Elevate (HS) 6-8pm

ECOBKIDS TOT LOT

Tuesdays, Jan 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.



CROSSOVER MINISTRIES EVENT: FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Friday, Jan 17 | 6-8 pm

@ECOB Community Room

ECOBKIDS, ECOBCC, and Mountaineers' Table families are invited to join us for a fun family game night. We will provide the pizza. You bring your favorite board or card game to share. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Register [HERE](#) by Jan 12. Contact [Michelle](#) Nolt for more info.

ECOB YOUNG ADULTS



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

CAFFEINATED CONVERSATIONS

Sunday, Jan 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.

MONTHLY EVENTS

Wed, Jan 15 - 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 21 & Jan 4 | 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 BREAKFAST

Wednesday, Feb 12 | 8:30 am
@Gus's Keystone Family Restaurant
Contact Sam Frankhouser to sign-up at safh@ptd.net or 717-669-5720.

live.

ECOBWOMEN BREAKFAST & OUTREACH

Saturday, Jan 11 | 9 am
@ECOB
Sign-up by Jan 5 at the Welcome Desk in the Community Room.
WOMEN'S GAME NIGHT
Tuesday, Jan 21 | 6:30 pm
@ECOB
More details [HERE](#).
Contact [Carol](#) for more info.

☩ MEN CONFERENCE 2025
BIBLICAL MANHOOD

Saturday, Jan 18, 2025
8 am-3 pm | @ECOB
Guest Speaker: Brian Francis Hume

Join us for breakfast followed by worship, guest speaker Brian Hume, activities, lunch by King's BBQ, giveaways, and more.

Register Here: 

 ephrata
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

ECOB FINANCIAL UPDATE:
November 2024 was a positive month with giving exceeding expenses by +\$9,372.48. Year-to-Date still shows a loss of - (\$6,531.55). Giving is running below budget by -4.0% and expenses are still running under budget by -0.9%. Continue to pray as we begin the "Reaching Beyond Ourselves" ministry. Any questions, please contact Rich Bealer, Treasurer.

OFFERING ENVELOPES are ready for pick-up in the Community Room. Contact [Cindy](#) for info.



ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT (ANE) 2024 YEAR-END STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The ANE District has created a video for a short report from Interim Finance Director, Kay Weaver. Watch the video [HERE](#).

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN (CoB) PLAYLIST: CHRISTMAS FAVORITES

When invited to share their favorite Christmas music, Church of the Brethren staff and volunteers responded enthusiastically. The playlist of their selections has over 50 songs. Find the Spotify and Youtube playlists [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)

