

Monocacy Church of the Brethren

Rocky Ridge Congregation

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Volume 16 Issue 1 January 2023

Gaining Happiness

A headline posed the question, “What Makes People Happy?” The article explained that psychologists now know it’s not great riches that make for happiness but friends and forgiveness. The experts reported that materialism, the gaining of “things” - whether that’s the newest cell phone, expensive clothes, or a luxury car—is actually toxic for happiness.

In contrast, studies with thousands of people showed that the happiest people are those who surround themselves with family and friends, don’t care about keeping up with the Joneses, lose themselves in daily activities and other people and most important, forgive easily. God told us these truths a long time ago in his Word: *What do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?* (Matthew 16:26). For a man or woman to gain all the world’s riches and lose his or her own soul is pointless and tragic.

Putting these truths into practice, especially at Christmas, can make a difference in all our lives. When we invited a Chinese student who was attending a local university but had never been in an American home to join us in celebrating Christmas, we found that our traditions bloomed with new meaning. We also learned that taking groceries to a needy family and participating in the Angel Tree ministry (Prison Fellowship’s outreach to children of prisoners) brought the biggest blessing when our kids got to help pick out the food, toys, and gifts, because we were all involved in making someone else happy.

Looking at things from God’s perspective, in what ways could you pursue happiness during the holidays and all throughout the year.

First Timothy 1:14 tells us just how generous God was to first-century believers and now to us. “Oh, how generous our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus.” Do you want to experience Christ’s love? When you confess your sins, acknowledge Jesus as God’s Son, and believe in him, he will forgive your sins and you will be saved. That is the greatest gift you can receive.

This is adapted from the One Year Women’s Friendship Devotional by Cheri Fuller and Sandra P. Aldrich

Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren 2023 Disaster Response Auction

The 42nd Annual Disaster Response Auction will be held on **May 6, 2023** at 9:00 a.m. at the Carroll County Agricultural Center in Westminster, Maryland.



Photo by Jenni Dorsch-Messner

In 2022, \$73,000 was given to the Emergency Disaster Fund of the Church of the Brethren to help victims recover from many disasters all around our world.

During 2022 the Emergency Disaster Fund supported these efforts:

- Winter Tornado Relief
- Ukraine War and Refugee Crisis
- Haiti Earthquake Response
- Tennessee Flooding Response
- Rwanda Church of the Brethren
- Florida Hurricane Response
- South Sudan Mission
- Church of the Brethren in the Congo
- Kentucky Tornado Response
- Nigeria Flood Response
- Uvalde, Texas, School Shooting Response
- Syrian Refugee and Economic Crisis in Lebanon
- Uganda Flood and Landslide Relief
- Puerto Rico Hurricane Response
- L'Arche International—Displaced Ukrainians with Disabilities
- Honduras Hurricanes Response
- Venezuela Flood and Landslide Relief
- National Youth Conference School Kit Service Project

Thank you for your support of our Disaster Response Program!

On the back of this page are many ways you can help make the Auction a success.



Put May 6th on your calendar!

Come to the auction and invite your friends ...together we can make a difference to many people near or far recovering from disasters.

You can support Disaster Response in various ways:

- Prayer
- Donate as a Patron, Supporter or Sustainer for as little as \$10 and get your name printed with your church in the Auction booklet.
- Purchase church, business, or personal ad space in the Auction booklet Full page (\$160 black/\$200 color), Half Page (\$85 black/\$105 color), Third Page (\$60 black/\$75 color) and Eighth Page (\$25 black/\$35 color). Check with your church office for info.
- Make quilts, comforters and wall hangings or other handcrafts to sell.
- Donate special items such as high quality woodwork, paintings and artwork. Antiques, furniture and collectibles also are a valuable donation.
- Encourage your church group or children's Sunday School class to collect items to make special gift baskets, school bags full of new books, etc. to auction off. Get creative!
- Contribute a gift certificate from your business for the auction.
- Donate quality auction items (value of \$10 or more) such as craft items, food, baked goods, flower and vegetable plants, trees and shrubs for booth sales.
- Groups and individuals can sponsor special events such as plays, dinners, and musical presentations to raise and provide monetary gifts to the auction.
- Volunteer to help at the Auction.

— Decide now how you can help!

If you have special items of high value to donate, email a photo to auctionbooklet@comcast.net by February 10th to have your item published in the booklet.
Then inform your Disaster Coordinator or call Jeff at 443-547-5958.

If you have regular items to donate
inform your church's Disaster Coordinator or call Jeff at 443-547-5958.

To place an ad or to donate as a patron in the booklet
see your pastor, your Disaster Coordinator or call Debbie at 847-714-4482.

These commitments are due February 10, 2023.

January

A YEAR OF PROMISES OF GOD

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Malachi 3:6	2 Psalm 103:8	3 Psalm 33:11	4 Genesis 1:27-28	5 Ephesians 1:4-5	6 Colossians 1:12-13	7 John 3:16
8 Galatians 4:6	9 Galatians 3:29	10 Ezekiel 36:26-27	11 Jeremiah 29:11	12 Philippians 2:13	13 Psalm 23:2	14 John 3:34
15 Psalm 37:24	16 Hebrews 13:20-21	17 Proverbs 3:11-12	18 2 Corinthians 12:9	19 Numbers 6:24	20 Jeremiah 29:13	21 Psalm 97:10
22 1 Peter 5:7	23 1 Corinthians 10:13	24 1 Corinthians 13:4-7	25 Psalm 84:1	26 Psalm 146:9	27 Psalm 116:6	28 Romans 8:37
29 1 Peter 5:4	30 Matthew 13:43	31 Joshua 23:14				

Happy Birthday and Anniversary!

Deidre Haller 1st

Harold Lutz 4th

Sidney Moser 11th

Mary Beth Swanson 11th

Joelle Hartman 15th

Wanda Stover 15th

Landon Armiger 19th

Mary Webb 20th

Russell Moser 20th

Hannah Free Goellner 23rd

Larry Free 25th

Keith Boone 25th

Josh Eyler 26th

Aaron Shorb 26th

Jeff Smith 29th

Terri Kelly Belanger 30th



Rick & Sharon Free 12th

Russell & Sidney Moser 12th

Scott & Donna Ritchie 17th

Michael & Pam Kilcoyne 18th



Thank you for your Service!



Elijah Moser
Air Force



Caleb Peters
Marine



Kyle Petrosky
Navy



Matthew Stephens
Marine



James Updegraff III
Marine



Joseph Speck
Navy



Isaiah Fannin
Marine



Jacob Fannin
Army



Bryce Estell
Marine



Ethan Pennington
Navy



Corporal Caleb Peters
(Deployment Address)
CLB-13 DET 1 Unit 89042
FPO AP 96610-4200



If you know anyone in the service and would like to add them to our Military page, please send me their name and a service picture. It is nice to have the names associated with a face.

We need to keep praying for our Nation and those who decided ON THEIR OWN to protect us!

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Boise, ID 83705

Military/National Guard

Tyler Ramey, Marines

Alex Nee

Travis Smith

Michael Hobbs

Robert Wolfe, Air Force

Sgt. Kara Stambaugh

Sgt. Alexander Stambaugh

Ariel Vanderhout

Mike Vanderhout

January's Preaching Schedule

1/1 Brother Dylan Rinehart

1/8 Pastor Sam Martz

1/15 Pastor Larry Dentler

1/22 Pastor Sam Martz

1/29 Brother Paul Schildt

Sign up sheet for Church Cleaning is on the Bulletin Board.

It's time to start thinking about those seniors that will be graduating High School or College.

Please let the Ladies Aid and Lisa aware if you have a graduating Senior in your mist!



I am sure the Food Bank was hit pretty hard in December.
Let's restock the shelves with soup!

Deadline: January 29, 2023

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas!

Thank you for thinking of me with your beautiful Christmas cards! I would like to wish you all a Happy healthy New Year!

Lisa

Check us out on the WEB you can hear the sermons here also

<http://www.monocacychurchofthebrethren.org/>

Check us out on Facebook Monocacy Church of the Brethren

If you have anything to put in the newsletter, please contact Lisa Reed 240-315-5331 or email mcobnewsletter@gmail.com