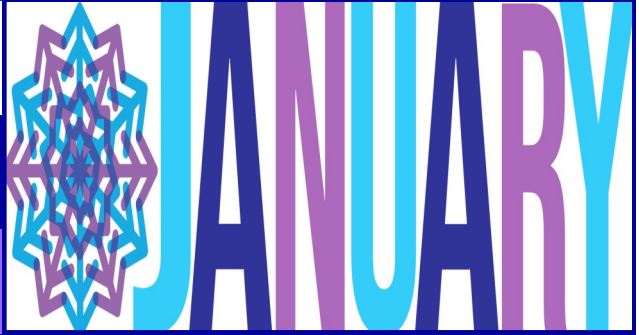




**SMITHVILLE  
BRETHREN CHURCH**

*“Introducing people to Christ - together becoming completely committed Christians.”*



# Forward Look

Issue 1

[www.smithville.church](http://www.smithville.church)

January 2025

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## FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR ...

### INVESTING IN YOUR FAMILY JANUARY 2025

Families don't grow strong until parents invest precious time in them. In *New Man* Gary Oliver writes about a difficult decision made by professional baseball player Tim Burke concerning his family:

*From the time Burke can first remember, his dream was to be a professional baseball player. Through years of sacrifice and hard work, he achieved that goal.*

*While a successful pitcher for the Montreal Expos, he and his wife wanted to start a family but discovered they were unable to have children. After much prayer, they decided to adopt four special-needs international children. This led to one of the most difficult decisions of Tim's life.*

*He discovered that his life on the road conflicted with his ability to be a quality husband and dad. Over time it became clear that he couldn't do a good job at both. After more prayer and soul-searching, he made what many considered an unbelievable decision: he decided to give up professional baseball.*

*When he left the stadium for the last time, reporters wanted to know why he was retiring. "Baseball is going to do just fine without me," he said. "It's not going to miss a beat. But I'm the only father my children have. I'm the only husband my wife has. And they need me a lot more than baseball does." (750 Engaging Illustrations, p. 166)*

"Invest" is an active term meant to convey effort and intentionality. What investments should a parent make?

#### Invest in spiritual direction

Parents are the first captains of a child's life. Before a child can make decisions for themselves, parents are tasked with making them. Third graders have no idea the importance of an education, so it is up to parents to insist that homework gets completed. Too many Christian parents have abdicated their role in spiritual direction. Most children would rather chase a ball than attend church. If a parent lets their child decide on church attendance, they betray they don't really think God is important. Pursuing God requires just as much sacrifice as soccer, but with far more benefits.

#### Invest in life direction

God blessed me with two parents who thought it their responsibility to prepare me for life. Maybe it was because both were teachers by profession, but I benefited greatly. Someday, your children will have to do almost every task you are currently doing - will they know how? Chances are, if you don't take the time to explain how to cook, clean, do laundry, care for the yard, do simple car repairs, etc., no one will teach them.

#### Invest in relational direction

Your children will model their marriage after yours. Your children will model their friendships after yours. Your children will model their parenting after yours. You are raising your grandchildren's parents - how would you like your grandchildren's home to be? You can model now or try to meddle later. My money is modeling now will work much better than meddling later.

Until next month,  
Pastor Scott





**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX MINISTRY**

Thank you again for your generosity in 2024. Just a reminder that Operation Christmas Child collection goes all year with featured items every month. Note that any item can be donated at any time, especially as you come across good sales. This is just a guideline. Donations can be placed in the box under the OCC table in the entryway.

January	Winter Accessories	Scarves, gloves, mittens, hats, socks
February	Fashion Accessories	Watches, jewelry, sunglasses, and hair accessories
March	Quality Handcrafted Items	Knitted/crocheted items, wooden toys, tote bags, clothing, drawstring bags, purses, etc.
April	Stuffies, Dolls and Accessories	Stuffed animals, dolls; be sure they are small enough to tuck in a box with other items
May	Hygiene Items (no liquids)	Bar soap in original packaging, washcloths, hairbrushes, combs, solid deodorant, toothbrushes, etc.
June	Quality Toys, Wow Gifts	Soccer ball with pump, dolls, jump ropes, musical instruments, fishing gear, tools, sewing supplies, binoculars, etc.
July	Clothing (must be new)	Socks, shoes, shorts, pants, shirts, dresses, underwear, etc.
August	School Supplies (no liquids)	Pencils, crayons, pens, markers, paper, ruler, glue sticks, stickers, coloring books, pencil pouches, scissors, etc.
September	Games	Puzzles, playing cards, handheld/travel games, jacks, marbles, flexible frisbee, tic-tac-toe, etc.
October	Greetings	Letters, photos, and drawings to include in shoeboxes
November	Give	Monetary donations for shipping boxes (\$10 each)
December	Pray	Pray for the journey of each shoebox and the children who will receive them.

# A Note from Your Librarian

Welcome to a new year! I just finally got used to writing 2024 on my checks—now I have to remember another year has passed. My time is flying!

Are you ready for some new reading material in the library? I have some new books to share with you, so start this New Year with a resolution to read more books this year!

1. **Lowcountry Lost** by T. I. Lowe  
 “From the author of the breakout Southern fiction bestseller *Under the Magnolias* comes a story of loss and abandonment, forgiveness, and the beauty of undying love.”
2. **Sisters of Fortune** by Anna Lee Hube  
 “Based on the true story of three sisters who traveled on the RMS *Titanic*, this sweeping and richly detailed saga weaves authentic historical anecdotes and figures into a vivid, emotionally powerful novel about longing for independence and love.”
3. **A Healing Touch** by Suzanne Woods Fisher  
 “A captivating tale of compassion, resilience, and the bonds of love and friendship.”

Look for these and more on the back wall of the library.

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

God bless you all in this new year 2025!

Your Librarian,  
Rachel Krabill

**Quote: “The bad news is time flies. The good news is you’re the pilot.” Michael Altschuler**

## JANUARY Anniversaries

**January 10**  
Don & LaVerne  
Zimmerly  
65th anniversary

**January 11**  
Scott & Susan Boyes  
39th anniversary

**January 17**  
Jim & Pat McGinnis  
55th anniversary

**ELEMENT 412 EVENTS**  
**(6TH-12TH GRADE)**

**~ESCAPE ROOM SBC~**

**Sunday, January 12th Soup & Sandwich Lunch-3:30 p.m.**

No cost; friends are welcome! Lunch provided.

**~Breakfast with Levi & Anna~**

**Saturday, January 25th 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.**

This is a bonus opportunity; come if you can, no need to RSVP.

Levi and Anna will host breakfast once a month.

Their address is 1534 Jones Avenue, Wooster OH 44691.

**~GLOW TUBING~**

**Friday, January 31st 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

**Meet at the church, dinner will be served.**

You must sign up on the church website, [smithville.church](http://smithville.church).

Tickets are \$32 each. Each student must have a signed

Snow Trails form on file, preferably completed prior to drop-off the day of the event. The form is available on the church website as part of the sign-up process.

Contact Pastor Scott with questions at 937-206-6986.

**FRIENDS' CLUB**  
**(AGE 5-5TH GRADE)**

**~ROLLER SKATING AT ACRES OF FUN~**

**Sunday, January 26 2-4 p.m.**

**Families are welcome to attend!**

**Drop off and pick up at Acres of Fun in Wooster.**

**No snacks provided; students are welcome to bring money for the concession stand.**

**In case of inclement weather, this event will be cancelled.**

**If you have questions or your student needs a ride, please contact Jessie Dravenstott at 330-936-0141.**



# Thank You!

## To the Smithville Brethren Family,

Our family feels so blessed to be a part of Smithville Brethren. Over the years we have been here, we have experienced many highs and lows, and through it all, you have been faithful to our Lord. God has used and continues to use this body of believers to bless our community and the work.

We appreciate your partnership in ministry and your generosity in giving our family a Christmas gift. We look forward to continuing to bless others as the Lord leads.

Love,  
Art, Jennifer, and family

## To Our SBC Family,

Words don't and can't describe our profound gratitude to the Lord for opening a door of ministry among you. The Lord is at work in and through you, and we feel fortunate to play some small part in all He is doing. Along the way we have been blessed by friendships, prayer warriors, and many thoughtful gestures. The Christmas gift was so generous—thank you! We are grateful for the gift, but even more so for the givers and the One who has brought us together!

Blessings!  
Scott and Wendy

## Dear SBC Church Family,

Words cannot express how thankful we are for every one of you. Your support, words of encouragement, cards and the delicious meal were very much appreciated. We are thankful to know that Dad is with Mom again. No more pain or suffering. Even though we will miss him here on earth, we rest in the assurance that we will see him and our other loved ones again someday. Thank you also to Pastor Art for being their after Dad passed.

Thank you sincerely for sharing our sorrow.  
Rich & Cindy Cline Family  
Jeremy & Lori Cline Family

## Element 412 and Friends' Club,

We want to thank the youth (and many drivers and leaders) for the lovely caroling at our house on December 15th. We enjoyed the singing, the fun,

and the prayers. It reminded us of when we used to take the youth caroling when our boys were in youth group at Smithville Brethren long ago! Back then we didn't realize how much it meant to folks to be remembered, but now we understand from the other end of the age spectrum and appreciate our youth and leaders even more!

In God's love,  
Jim & Pat McGinnis

## Smithville Brethren Church,

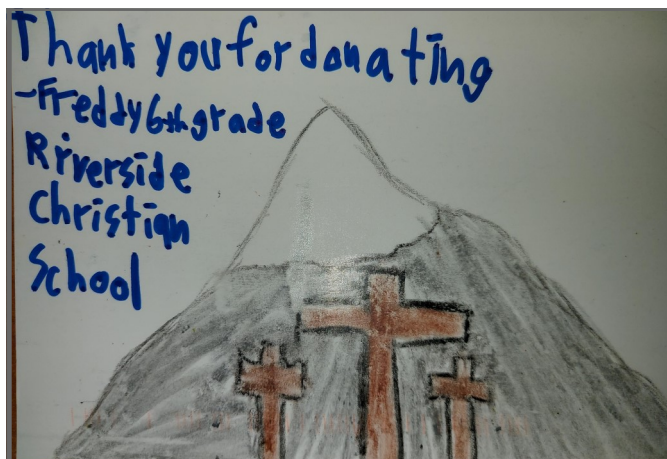
Thank you so much for letting us use your wonderful facility for our Foreign Language Club event.

Gracias, Danke, and Merci,  
Senora Howie, Frau Riechenbach, and  
Students

## Dear Church Family at SBC,

Just want to express my sincere love and appreciation to all of you for your love showed in so many ways during the past year. Your cards, notes, visits and words of encouragement have been so very helpful during these months as I moved to my new home in OrrVilla. May God reward you for all your kindness, visits, being my taxi . . . and so many other ways you have shown Christian love to me. May you all be blessed during this holiday season as we celebrate Jesus, our only Lord and Savior! Praise His Holy Name!

With love and appreciation,  
Marilyn Aspinall





# JANUARY

## Birthdays

**December 3**

January 2  
Linda Mong

**January 5**

Connie Stutzman  
Robert Coleman  
Nancy King

**January 7**

Craig Zimmerly  
Kelly White

**January 9**

Don E. Dravenstott

**January 11**

Wanda Glasgo  
Barbara Byler  
Pat Kilmer

**January 14**

Scott Fetter

**January 18**

Sara Beichler

**January 19**

Ruth Bachman  
Tony Grimm  
Charlotte Chenevey

**January 20**

Sarah Meech  
Nolan Bozsik

**January 22**

Keith Hamsher

**January 23**

Joe Zemancik

**January 24**

Anthony Gray  
Alan McFalls

**January 25**

Nancy Peplowski

**January 26**

Eli Burns  
Sadie Riggenbach

**January 27**

Jimmie Harris

**January 30**

Dale Ru Lon  
Christie Roe  
Levi Sprowls

**January 31**

Ann Planisek



## THIS AND THAT



**The January Ladies Luncheon** will be held on Wednesday, January 15th at 11:30 a.m. at The Barn Restaurant. No need to RSVP. We order off the menu, and each pays their own way. If you have any questions or need a ride, please reach out to Louise Liebhart at 330-347-8544. In case of inclement weather, Louise will cancel if the roads are bad; a text message chain has been organized for this purpose.

**Please Note: There will be no Primetime meal in January and February.**

**2025 Flower Chart**—If you would like to donate flowers in 2025 for the 9:00 a.m. worship service, the sign-up chart is located near the welcome center. Cost is \$40; checks should be payable to Smithville Brethren Church with “flowers” on the memo line and placed in the offering. If you donate online, you are able to designate an amount for flowers. Thank you!

**Craft Day** is scheduled for Saturday, January 18th from 9 to 4 in the UFH. Shake off those January blues; join us for crafting, fellowship, and a carry-in meal. Bring a dish to share. RSVP to Dee Sillman by Wednesday, January 15th at 330-466-2287.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR: The Chili Cook Off will be on Saturday, February 22nd at 6 p.m. More details to come. Dust off your chili pot and tweak your favorite recipe to come up with a prizewinning entry!**



## EXCITING NEWS ABOUT THE CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR 2025!



Thanks to another generous donation, 2025 scholarship award amounts have been increased from \$2,000 to **\$3,000** for full-time students, and from \$1,000 to **\$2,000** for part-time students taking a minimum of 8 credit hours. The fund is also in a position to award **multiple scholarships** this year.

More news - you can apply for **any college year - freshman through senior!** The only restriction is that recipients will be limited to a total of two awards over the course of their college career.

We hope to have a number of applicants meeting the following requirements:

- Good character and active involvement at Smithville Brethren Church as evidenced by regular church and Sunday School attendance and participation in youth activities.
- High school senior applying to qualifying institutions, or college student presently attending a qualifying institution. Qualifying institutions are four-year accredited colleges and universities, two-year community colleges and vocational/trade schools.
- Attainment of a minimum B average in core subjects

If you are interested in applying, please pick up an application form in the church office or at the Information table. The form lists other items that must be submitted with the application. **Applications must be received by February 15th** and will be kept confidential. Awards will be announced by March 1st.

# January 2025

			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Ladies Christmas Lights Drive Meet at the church at 6 p.m.	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:00 T Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 11:30 C Worship Service	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30 Time of Prayer 7:30 Choir Practice	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Combined Worship Svc Soup & Sandwich Lunch to follow Element 412 Escape Room SBC Lunch at church-3:30	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:00 CE Board Meeting	<b>15</b> 11:30 Ladies Luncheon @ The Barn Restaurant 6:30 Time of Prayer 7:30 Choir Practice	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Craft Day UFH 9-4
<b>19</b> 9:00 T Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 11:30 C Worship Service	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:30 Time of Prayer 7:30 Choir Practice	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Element 412 Bonus Opportunity Breakfast w/ Levi & Anna 9:30-11 a.m.
<b>26</b> 9:00 T Worship Service 10:15 Sunday School 11:30 C Worship Service 2:00 Friends' Club @ Acres of Fun	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 6:30 Time of Prayer 7:30 Choir Practice	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Element 412 Glow Tubing 5:30-10 p.m.	

### Nursery/Jr Church Schedule

	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
9:00 Nursery Traditional Service	Wendy Fetter	<b>Combined Worship 10:30</b> Anna Sprowls Bridgett Collins		
10:15 Nursery Sunday School	Beth/April Pearce Sylvia King	<b>S.S. 9:30</b> Beth/April Pearce Sylvia King	Beth/April Pearce Sylvia King	Beth/April Pearce Sylvia King
11:30 Nursery Contemporary Service	Lori Cline Gwen Zimmerly		Wendy Fetter Bridgett Collins	
9:00 Jr. Church Traditional Service	Emily Chenevey Jessie Dravenstott	<b>Combined Worship</b> Debbie Rinehart Elizabeth Frantz Cassandra Gasser	Susan Dilyard Bridgett Collins	Susan Boyes Beth Pearce
11:30 Jr. Church Contemporary Service	Courtney Maibach Sabrina Brandenburg		Russ King Kayla Hartzler	Kim Chittenden Sarah Bozsik

### Ministry Statistics: Attendance & Giving

Date	Attendance			Weekly Giving
	Sunday School	9:00	11:30	
<b>December 1</b>	122	192	67	\$17,346.20
<b>December 8</b>	133	198	62	\$13,675.95
<b>December 15</b>	118	157	66	\$17,060.64
<b>December 22</b>	196	84	147	\$22,094.51
<b>December 29</b>	128	161	49	\$34,204.68

### Ministry Statistics: Designated Giving

Blanket Ministry	\$250	Library Fund	\$250
Breakaway	\$200	Music Committee Fund	\$250
Camp Bethany & Camp Bethany Capital	\$3,600	Primetime	\$320
Christmas Carol Celebration	\$5	Riverside Christian School	\$600
Christmas Challenge	\$37,706	SBC Capital Improvement	\$3,000
Element 412	\$1,050	Salt & Light Ministry	\$929
Flowers	\$156.05	Samaritan's Purse & OCC	\$180
Friends' Club	\$200	South Africa Mission	\$1,000
India Orphan Sponsor	\$1,000	Use of Building/Chairs	\$170
India Orphanage	\$1,000	Zimmerly Memorial	\$200

**Combined Worship Service and All-Church Soup & Sandwich Lunch**

**Sunday, January 12th**

Sunday School at 9:30  
Worship Service at 10:30  
Meal to follow

Sign up at the Information table to let us know how many will be coming and what you will bring to share. We look forward to seeing you there!



**ADDRESS CHANGE**

**Joyce Zimmerly  
Danbury Senior Living  
4245 Glen Dr. Apt 12  
Millersburg, OH 44654**

**PHONE NUMBER UPDATE**

**The Carr family has dropped their landline; you will no longer be able to reach them at 330-262-3358**

**PASTOR:** Rev. Art Carr - artcarr@earthlink.net  
**ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF CHILDREN & YOUTH:**  
Rev. Scott Fetter - sfetter500@msn.com  
**CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER:**  
Ted Peplowski - tpeplowski@aol.com



**WHITE AS SNOW**

Jesus, our Savior, came to earth to purify sinners.

*Directions: Figure out which path through the puzzle is correct. Choose one to try, starting at the first picture under the "Path" box. Follow each picture's directional cues to see if the words make sense when placed in order in the blanks below. If not, try a different path until you figure out the Bible verse.*



PATH 1	PATH 2	PATH 3	PATH 4	PATH 5	PATH 6
❄️ for	❄️ give	❄️ come	❄️ together	❄️ around	❄️ after
❄️ self	❄️ into	❄️ settle	❄️ eternal	❄️ thanks	❄️ forgive
❄️ God	❄️ LORD	❄️ says	❄️ without	❄️ Christ	❄️ warmth
❄️ love	❄️ sins	❄️ scarlet	❄️ other	❄️ light	❄️ praise
❄️ red	❄️ star	❄️ white	❄️ snow	❄️ winter	❄️ peace



" \_\_\_\_\_ now, let us \_\_\_\_\_ the matter," \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ . "Though your \_\_\_\_\_ are like \_\_\_\_\_ , they shall be as \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ ...."

ISAIAH 1:18, NIV

Answer: Path 3; come, settle, says, LORD, sins, scarlet, white, snow

**CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR:**  
Wendy Kaufman - sbrethren@earthlink.net  
**CHURCH/OFFICE PHONE:** 330-669-2267  
**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** 8:00 am - 12:00 pm Mon. - Fri.  
**CHURCH WEBSITE:** www.smithville.church