



SMITHVILLE BRETHREN CHURCH

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



December

Forward Look

Issue 12

www.smithville.church

December 2024

JOY

Now the God of hope fill you with all JOY and peace in believing.
ROMANS 15:13, KJV



2024 CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

This year we have the opportunity to come alongside another Brethren church, Smoky Row Brethren, which is located in Columbus, Ohio. As we have gotten to know the story of Smoky Row, we believe we can be of some help to them with their specific challenges. This year’s Christmas Challenge will go to address some needs they have currently as we help them discover what the next season of ministry will be. So add up what you spend on Christmas, designate that amount for the Christmas Challenge, and it will be used to bless this Brethren church. We ask that you would regularly be praying for Smoky Row. The top priority at this time is to assist in relocating Pastor Cory Smith and his family to safe housing located in closer proximity to the church. Thank you!

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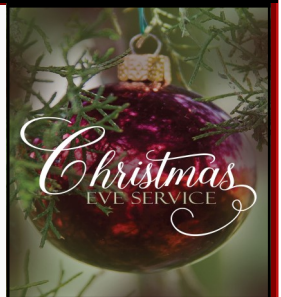


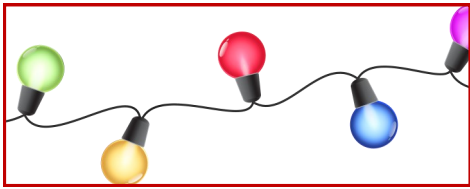
Smithville Brethren Church
Christmas Carol Celebration
DECEMBER 8, 2024 @ 2:00 pm
Light Refreshments to follow in Upper Hall



Christmas Eve Service—Tuesday, December 24, 7 p.m.

Please join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior with carols, special music, a children’s story, and a message. We invite you to make this special service a part of your Christmas celebration with family and friends.





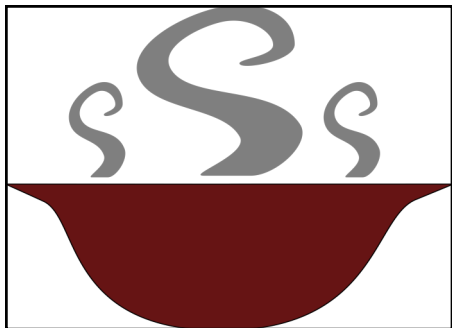
Ladies Christmas Lights Drive

**Thursday, January 2, 2025
Meet at the church at 6 p.m.**

Rest, Recharge & Enjoy the lights of Christmas together with friends on a local evening van tour.

Sip hot chocolate or coffee and enjoy the lights of the season!

Cost will be \$15 to \$20 per person; a silent donor would like to assist with the cost if that allows you to go along. Sign up at the Information table.



Combined Worship Service and All-Church Soup & Sandwich Lunch Sunday, January 11th

Sunday School at 9:30, Worship Service at 10:30, and meal to follow. Watch for a sign-up sheet on the Information table to let us know how many will be coming and what you will bring to share.

A Note from Your Librarian

December is here, what a WONDERFUL time of the year!! And what a good time to read a CHRISTMAS Book!!! Here are a few for you to check out of the library:

1. **“A Quilt for Christmas” by Melody Carlson**
“Cuddle up with this cozy story of giving and forgiving - and a little bit of romance.”
2. **“A Royal Christmas” by Melody Carlson**
“Adelaide Smith is too busy for fairy tales.”
3. **“A Christmas Haven” by Cindy Woodsmall**
“In a desire to grow her budding party-planning business, Ivy plans to leave behind her Old Order Amish community and enter the modern world as an Englisher.”
4. **“O Little Town” by Amanda Wen, Janyre Tromp, and Deborah Raney**
“In this charming collection of Novellas, join three generations of residents from Mapleview, Michigan, who are longing for love-and finding it-during the most wonderful season of the year.”
5. **“Amish Christmas Kinner” by Lenora Worth, Rachel J. Good, and Kelly Long**
“This trio of heartwarming, inspirational Amish holiday stories captures the gift of family and the childlike joy of Christmas.”
5. **“An Amish Christmas Star”** Three stories in one book.
“Buggies, Trains, and Automobiles” by Shelley Shepard Gray
“Star of Wonder” by Charlotte Hubbard
“Starlight Everlasting” by Rosalind Lauer

Look for these new books on the library back wall.

Keep Reading!

Your Librarian,
Rachel Krabill

Quote: “He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.” Roy L. Smith



December 2
Walter & Eileen Vincent
57th anniversary

December 17
Steve & Pat Patt
47th anniversary

December 28
Jeff & Kim Chittenden
39th anniversary

December 14
Dan & Denise Snyder
39th anniversary

December 23
Versil & Ida James
63rd anniversary

December 28
Dan & Judy Hostettler
49th anniversary

December 26
John & Patti Steiner
48th anniversary



ELEMENT 412 EVENTS
(6TH-12TH GRADE)

~All-Nighter/Annual Christmas Party~
 Friday, December 6 @ 5:30 p.m.
 to Saturday, December 7 @ 8 a.m.

Sign up on the church website so we can feed you. Bring your sleeping bag and a themed gift for Snoops, if you wish to participate.
 See Pastor Scott for more details.



FRIENDS' CLUB & ELEMENT 412

Sunday, December 15 @ 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Wear your favorite Christmas sweater and your brightly colored hats and mittens! We will eat dinner in the LFH first (sign up on the church website), then venture out to bless some special people in our church family by sharing Christmas songs and carols.

Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la!

Adult drivers are needed; reach out to Pastor Scott at 937-206-6986 or Jessie Dravenstott at 330-936-0141. You must have a current background and MVR check on file in the church office.

SMITHVILLE BRETHERN CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Attention all of you high school seniors and college freshmen at Smithville Brethren! As you think about furthering your education in 2025, don't forget about the church scholarship fund. Thanks to generous donors, the fund is full and ready to go to work for you.

Scholarship amounts this year were \$2,000 for full-time students, and \$1,500 for part-time students taking a minimum of 8 credit hours.

Eligibility requirements are:

- High school senior or first-year college student applying to or attending a four-year accredited college or university, two-year community college or vocational/trade schools.
- Good character and active involvement at Smithville Brethren Church as evidenced by regular church and Sunday School attendance and participation in youth activities
- Minimum B average in core subjects

Watch for more information in next month's Forward Look!





From the Associate Pastor... Kingdom Wealth Series December 2024

What I Would Have Done Differently

Christmas is just around the corner. You have only about three weeks to finish the Christmas cards, decorations, and shopping. Hope your stocking and the space under your tree have a thoughtful present or two for you. Perhaps one of the following thoughts might be a treasured gift in the coming years for you. Here's a (partial) list of some things I would do differently if I knew then what I know now.

- It's never too early to plan for later life. I waited until I was in my thirties to get serious about saving for retirement. Retirement looks good because God has been very good. But it would have been easier to start earlier. Put some money away for the man or woman in the mirror. They'll thank you later.
- Spend a little more now to save a lot more later. The cheapest option is often the most expensive as it may not last or be worth keeping. You may not have the extra money now – I know I often didn't. If so, buy less but with an eye for quality. Clothing, cars, and computers all come to mind. A little more at first, but worth having it last.
- Money or time spent with your wife is not an expense, it's an investment. Same goes for husbands, but women generally don't struggle as much in this area. Men, buying a bouquet of flowers when you need to apologize isn't over-kill, it's avoid-the-kill. Cards, candy, lunch, or a date are ALWAYS cheaper than a divorce or couple's therapy.
- You can give your kids money when they're young or when they're old, but they'll probably be wiser when they're older. Too many parents hand their kids everything when they're young – that's why their kids don't have anything when they're older. Unless you plan on always paying their way, let them begin doing so in their late teens. Let their first car be their worst car (safe but lacking luxury), give them a set amount for college or a wedding (let them comparison shop), and if they don't like what you'd buy them (clothes, shoes, furniture, sports equipment), let them pay the difference. Don't be a parent whose children lack a budget. If you do, you'll raise an adult tempted to not have one either.
- Pay God first and yourself second. Let everyone else have your leftovers. Tithing begins with the very first dollar earned. Give regardless of income and age. My parents handed their children money to put in the plate before the children earned any of their own. Was much easier to begin substituting our own money later. And habits learned when young are harder to break. Same goes for saving money. The first goes into the offering; the second into the bank.
- When single, you determine your finances more than anyone or anything else. And who you marry will then determine your finances more than anyone or anything else after the wedding. Engaged couples should spend more time on the marriage than the wedding. Marriage does not fix financial problems; it accelerates them. Those not being responsible with their own money will be less responsible when accessing other people's money. The number one reason given for divorce is money, or the lack thereof. No one has any business entering a relationship with another human who cannot handle their money responsibly. Anyone who can't control their spending is asking someone else to control the finances through controlling them. I've never known that to be a winning dynamic.

Merry Christmas and may you embrace Jesus, God's greatest gift!

Until next month,
Pastor Scott



December 3
Jane Williams
Scott Dunn

December 4
Benjamin Rennecker

December 6
Linda Ream
Wendy Fetter

December 8
Eileen Vincent
Cameron Carr
Colin Cline

December 9
Rich Cline
Barb Mast

December 10
Esther Creekmore

December 12
Scott Boyes

December 13
John Kaufman
Carter Beichler

December 17
Dee Sillman
Cecily Maibach

December 18
Kailyn Beichler

December 20
Bob Chittenden
Patti Steiner
Frank Lucci
Ben Maibach
Marvin Smith

December 21
Susan Boyes

December 22
James Cuixtla

December 23
Dick Norris

December 24
Rich King
Emma Zemancik
Lois Morrison

December 25
Scott Bachman

December 27
LaVerne Zimmerly
Mary Ellen Griffin

THIS AND THAT

The December Ladies Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 11th 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.

The December Primetime Meal will be on Monday, December 16th at noon. Sign up on the church website, smithville.church, or call the church office at 330-669-2267. Join us for great fellowship and amazing food. There are some new faces; let's make them feel welcome!

Christmas Food Distribution—Wednesday, December 18th
Again this year, we are partnering with Green Local Schools and the Central Fire District to distribute food to local families in need. The Thanksgiving distribution went very smoothly, thanks to the many volunteers who came to help! Thank you all! Again for Christmas, we will be sorting/organizing at 9 a.m. Distribution is from 2:30 to 4 and 6 to 7:30. Want to help? Look for the sign-up sheet at the Information table.

2025 Offering Envelopes—Pick up your 2025 offering envelopes from the table in the hallway outside of the sanctuary starting December 1st. If you haven't had envelopes in the past and would like them, please call the church office at 330-669-2267 or call/text Jeff Borah at 330-391-1813.

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!

Nursery/Jr Church Schedule

| | December 1 | December 8 | December 15 | December 22 | December 29 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 9:00 Nursery Traditional Service | April Pearce Erica Shaffer | Jennifer Carr Kelly/Ronan White | April Pearce Lisa/Nora Zemancik | | April Pearce |
| 10:15 Nursery Sunday School | Beth/April Pearce Sylvia King | Beth/April Pearce Sylvia King | Beth/April Pearce Sylvia King | Beth/April Pearce Sylvia King | Beth/April Pearce Sylvia King |
| 11:30 Nursery Contemporary Service | Bridgett Collins Ashley Burns | Julie Hostettler Melissa Underwood | Kayla Hartzler Sarah Bozsik | Cassandra Gasser Rochelle Shane | Gwen Zimmerly |
| 9:00 Jr. Church Traditional Service | Emily Chenevey Jessie Dravenstott | Debbie Rinehart Chin-Chin Frantz | Susan Dilyard Bridgett Collins | Susan Boyes April Pearce | Kim Chittenden Beth Pearce |
| 11:30 Jr. Church Contemporary Service | Russ King Sabrina Brandenburg | Chet Underwood Kayla Hartzler | Deb Cline Ashley Burns | Cindy Cline Kylie Hostettler | Russ King Cassandra Gasser |

Ministry Statistics: Attendance & Giving

| Date | Attendance | | | Weekly Giving |
|--------------------|---------------|------|-------|---------------|
| | Sunday School | 9:00 | 11:30 | |
| November 3 | 104 | 225 | — | \$26,194.03 |
| November 10 | 136 | 196 | 50 | \$12,301.37 |
| November 17 | 129 | 185 | 56 | \$12,773.65 |
| November 24 | 133 | 200 | 64 | \$12,045.01 |

Ministry Statistics: Designated Giving

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|----------|
| Breakaway | \$500 | Friends' Club | \$400 |
| Camp Bethany | \$1,800 | Hospitality | \$300 |
| Camp Bethany Scholarship Fund | \$2,000 | SBC Scholarship Fund | \$10,000 |
| Christmas Challenge | \$1,500 | Salt & Light Ministry | \$118 |
| Element 412 | \$450 | Samaritan's Purse—OCC | \$2,700 |
| Flowers | \$120 | Use of Church | \$116 |

Thank You!

Dear Church Family,
I want to thank you all for your prayers, visits, cards, meals, and phone calls during my recent hip replacement surgery. I am so blessed to have such a caring and loving church family. God is my Great Physician, and I feel his presence daily, as I heal. God Bless all of you for your faithful prayers.

In His Love,
Nely Harris

Dear Friends,
Thank you for your continued support of Samaritan's Purse. Your gifts and prayers help us provide food, fresh water, and shelter to victims of disasters, persecution, and famine in more than 110 nations. As we help in Jesus' name, our staff and volunteers share God's love and the hope of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with people in need.

We are so grateful for how your partnership equips us in this important work. Like Paul and Timothy in the New Testament, we "do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding" (Colossians 1:9).

God bless you.
Sincerely,
Franklin Graham
President, Samaritan's Purse
International Relief

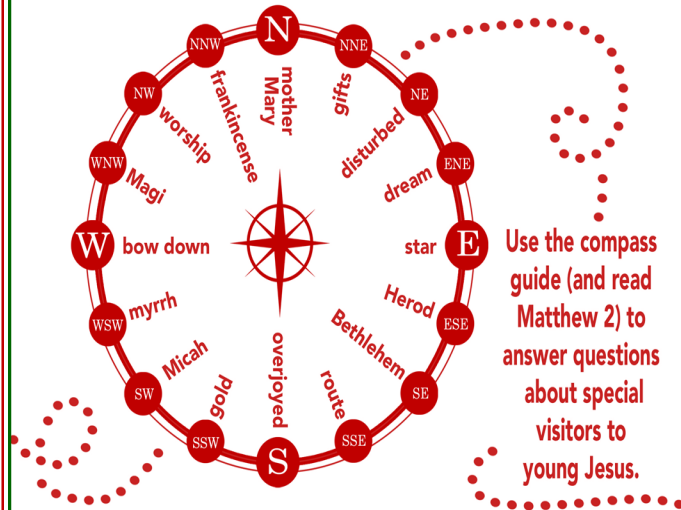
ADDRESS CHANGE

**Dale & Donna Ru Lon
1441 Holder Road
Clemmons NC 27012**

**Note that the zip code
is different than what
was sent out on the
prayer chain previously.
The new zip was
provided by the USPS.**



Puzzle!



Use the compass guide (and read Matthew 2) to answer questions about special visitors to young Jesus.

1. Who was king at the time of Jesus' birth? _____ (ESE)
2. Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? _____ (WNW)
3. How did King Herod feel about Jesus' birth? _____ (NE)
4. Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? _____ (SW)
5. In what city would Christ be born? _____ (SE)
6. King Herod lied to the wise men, telling them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? _____ (NW)
7. What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? _____ (E)
8. When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? _____ (S)
9. Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His _____ (N)
10. Before they worshiped the child, what did the Magi do? _____ (W)
11. Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus.
_____ (SSW) _____ (NNW) _____ (WSW)
12. These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as _____ (NNE)
13. What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A _____ (ENE)
14. The Magi had to return to their country by another _____ (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod; 2. Magi; 3. disturbed; 4. Micah; 5. Bethlehem; 6. worship; 7. star; 8. overjoyed; 9. mother Mary; 10. bow down; 11. gold; frankincense, myrrh; 12. gifts; 13. dream; 14. route

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

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