

*Greensburg Church of the Brethren*  
*March 2026*



*Hosanna to the Son of David!*  
*“Blessed is he who comes*  
*in the name of the Lord!”*  
*“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”*  
*Matthew 21:9*

## Preparing Our Hearts

Now that we have entered the Lenten season, our focus moves towards April 2, Maundy Thursday, when we gather to remember the night our Lord shared a final meal with His disciples before being taken to the cross. Around that table, in an upper room in Jerusalem, Jesus Christ took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said, "This is my body." He then took the cup and said, "This is my blood of the covenant."

The Lord's Table is not just a time for remembrance. It is an invitation to come. The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin "mandatum," meaning "command." On that night, Jesus gave a new commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you." Before offering the bread and cup, He knelt to wash His disciples' feet — even the feet of the one who would betray Him. The table, therefore, is inseparable from humility, service, forgiveness, and love.

For those of you who may be apprehensive about kneeling and washing someone's feet, for those who feel they just cannot come to our Love Feast service because they do not want to touch someone else's feet, all I can tell you is I was there at one point in my life. I had no intention of washing someone's feet and I stayed away from the Love Feast services. In 2013 God told me I had to go, so I went, and when I knelt down to wash another man's feet, the most humble feeling came over me. It changed all my thoughts about the Love Feast service. It made me feel how unworthy I really am and that also brought me closer to God.

As we prepare to come to the Lord's Table this year, Scripture invites us to examine our hearts (1 Corinthians 11). Preparation is not about achieving perfection; it is about honesty. We come acknowledging our need for grace. We lay down pride, confess sin, and release bitterness. We ask the Spirit to search our hearts and renew us.

Three Simple Steps To Help Us Prepare:

1. Reflect with Gratitude

Take time to remember Christ's sacrifice. Read the account of the Last Supper. Sit quietly with the weight and wonder of His love.

2. All For One

The table is a place of unity. We come as one body.

3. Renew Your Commitment

The bread and cup remind us that we belong to Christ. Come ready to recommit your heart to following Him in humble obedience and faithful love.

When we gather on Maundy Thursday, we do not come as spectators. We come as participants — receiving grace, remembering sacrifice, and renewing our covenant with the Lord and with one another.

May we approach the table with reverence and joy. May our hearts be tender, our spirits open, and our love for one another deepened.

"Come Ready, Come Prepared to the Lord's Table."

God Bless,  
Pastor Stephen

### Sunday morning news

9:30 - 10:30 Adult Sunday School class - "The Chosen" - season 5  
10:00-10:30 A Deacon and/or the Pastor will be available in the chapel every Sunday a.m.  
!0:30 The worship service will be live-streamed every Sunday to the Fellowship Hall

# GOD USED THE GREATEST JOURNEY DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM TO CHANGE A THIEF AND BULLY INTO AN EVANGELIST



Living in a country steeped in false religions, Phirun's\* faith in Jesus Christ is tested. But the teenager does not let that stop her joy from being complete. Not that long ago—without God in her life—she lied, stole, and persistently bullied others. The change in her life began when she attended the lessons of The Greatest Journey—the Samaritan's Purse follow-up discipleship program for shoebox recipients.



Phirun heard about the 12-lesson discipleship course from her aunt, who attends the church where the classes meet. Wanting to know more about Jesus, Phirun started coming to classes out of curiosity.

"It's been a joy to be able to learn about the Lord and, in my daily life be able to praise Him," Phirun said. "I find myself singing worship songs, and when I have trouble sleeping, I feel more at peace now than I did before. Especially when I look into the sky, I feel as though I'm able to really see God and His beauty."

"Before The Greatest Journey, I was a bad person. I would steal, I would lie, I would actually go around and bully people and hurt people very badly," Phirun said. "And since coming here and learning about God, it's changed my heart and the way that I treat people and the way that I respond to people. I've seen my life changed for the better, and I want to be a better person, and I want to follow God."

One of the key components of The Greatest Journey is learning how to share the Gospel, and the lessons inspired and motivated Phirun to boldly proclaim Jesus to her family and friends.

"Especially with all the altars that we have, I know there is a demonic presence in them, and I know that it has a bad effect. And so, my prayer is that my community and my family will be able to believe in Jesus as soon as possible and be able to know the true God here in this country," Phirun said.

She now celebrates gathering with believers for church services each week.

"I really enjoy Sundays because it's a day that I feel like God has given us to be able to come worship Him, honor Him, and be in His presence," Phirun said. "And I'm just very grateful because there have been some seasons where I wasn't allowed to come. And so, I'm very thankful now that I get to be here."

Phirun's favorite Bible story is the feeding of the 5,000 because it shows the way that the Lord has compassion on people.



"Jesus is my Lord and Savior who is always with me," Phirun said. "Let me bring the Bible to you and help share it with you so that you can experience it for yourself."

Please pray for millions of participants in The Greatest Journey around the world to come to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and boldly share their faith with their friends, family, and community.

# What's Going On at GBGCOB?



"Snack Cake Sunday" - Please remember the need for snack cakes on the third Sunday of each month. Instead of angel food cakes, we are now asking for packaged "snack cakes", i.e., Little Debbie, Tasty Cakes, etc. This makes distribution much easier.

The Men's Fellowship will meet on Thursday evening, March 19th at Panera Bread near Greengate Center at 6:30 p.m. All men are welcome!

Women's Fellowship  
Wednesday, March 4, 2026  
Applebees Restaurant, at noon,  
Rt 30 by Westmoreland Mall  
ALL women are welcome to join us  
for good food and great fellowship.  
We'd love to see you there!  
Please bring something for the Blessing  
Box to bless others...

**VBS dates: June 8-12, 6 - 8 p.m.**  
**Teachers and helpers are needed!**  
**Please attend the planning meeting**  
**on March 15 after worship.**

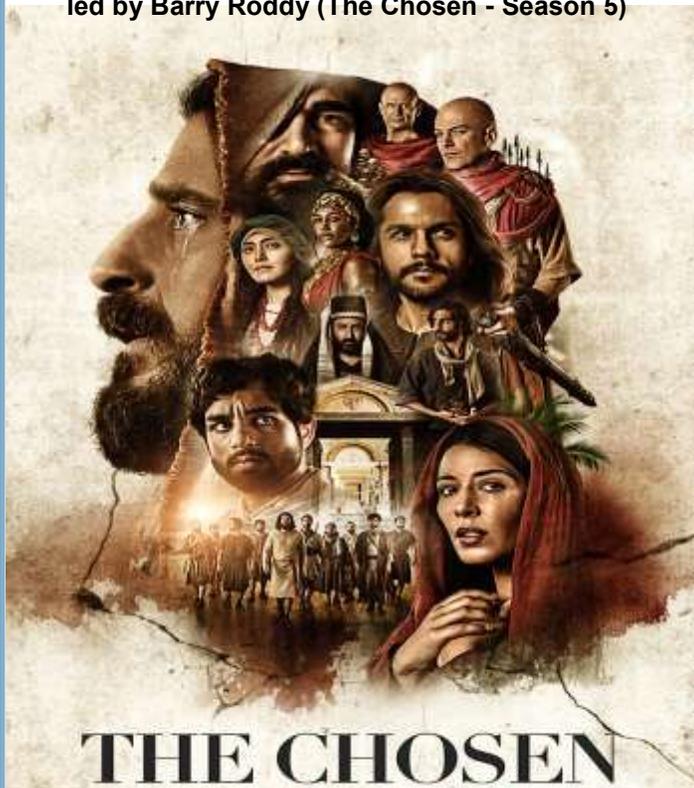
**Soup  
& Sub  
Sale**

March 21  
9 a.m.



Women's  
Faith & Friendship Dinner  
Thursday, March 19, 6:30  
at the Boulevard  
All women are welcome!

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. on Sundays  
led by Barry Roddy (The Chosen - Season 5)

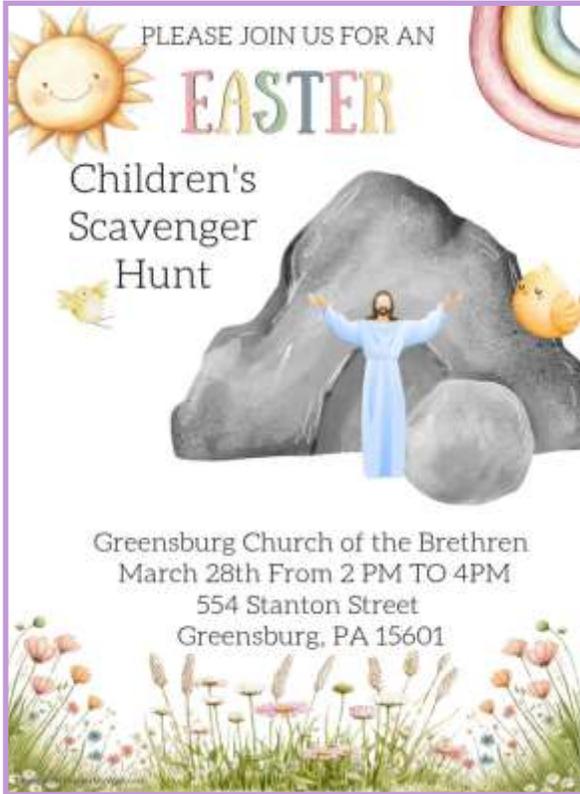


Jeffrey L. Prycl passed away on  
February 11, 2026. We offer  
our sincere condolences to his  
wife, Rose Prycl. Please keep  
her and the rest of the family in  
your prayers.

with deepest  
*Sympathy*

Do you know someone who is graduat-  
ing from high school or college this May/  
June or graduated this past December?  
We want to honor them on graduation Sunday  
on June 14th. Please let the Christian Education  
Team by May 13.

# Getting Ready for Easter



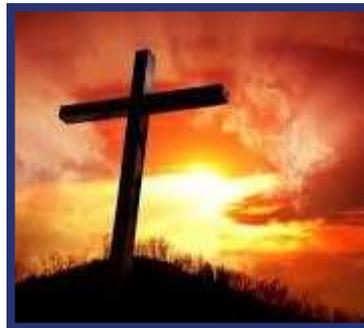
PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN  
**EASTER**  
Children's  
Scavenger  
Hunt

Greensburg Church of the Brethren  
March 28th From 2 PM TO 4PM  
554 Stanton Street  
Greensburg, PA 15601

The poster features a smiling sun, a rainbow, a large grey stone with a figure of Jesus in a blue robe standing behind it, and a field of colorful flowers at the bottom.

## Love Feast Service

On Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 7 p.m., we will be remembering the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples as we participate in communion and the practice of foot washing. Please plan to attend this very special service, an important part of our Church of the Brethren identity, and our personal re-

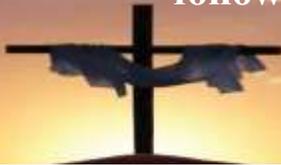


## **Good Friday, April 3rd:**

Prayer Session  
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Movie Night  
"The Passion of Christ"  
6:30 p.m.

Join us for our Easter outdoor Son Rise Service  
~7 a.m. on April 5th~  
followed by a breakfast!



Come on out for Bible Study on Wednesday nights at 6:30 during Lent as we prepare for our Love Feast (Maundy Thursday), Good Friday, and Easter. We will meet on March 4, 11, and 18.



## ***It's Time to Order Easter Flowers!***

Please make a check payable to "Women's Fellowship" and give to **Carole Giron** by **MARCH 8th.**

Please **DO NOT** put orders or money in the offering plate.

You may take your flowers home following the Easter Worship Service.

**Easter Lily Single stem, \$10.00**

**6-1/2" Mums - \$10.00 *Pink and Purple***

**6-1/2" Tulips - \$10.00 *Red, Yellow, Pink, Bi-color***



## **Honored Member of the Month - Cathy Parfitt**

Our special person of the month is Cathy Parfitt. Cathy is the wife of our pastor, Pastor Stephen. She has been a member of our congregation all of her life, having grown up in Southwest Greensburg. She remembers walking to church as a child, attending with her cousin Doug McCann. One of Cathy's favorite hymns is "Because He Lives," and her favorite Bible verse is John 3:16. She has seen many things change in our church over the years but the biggest change she has seen most recently has been that people are trusting God to take care of them, and getting closer to Him in the process.

Probably her favorite memory was when Steve and she got married and her son walked her down the aisle. She also has so many good memories of attending church, Sunday School, VBS, picnics, etc. Cathy is very thankful to God for always being there for her in all her struggles. We are so glad for Cathy's involvement in our church. She blesses us in the choir, at Joyful Celebration, and as part of Women's Fellowship among other activities.

### **Thought for the Month**

God's Hand is always extended to those who are looking for a way out.

## **News and Notes from the Worship Team**

February was a little quiet for the Worship Committee. We were unable to do our outreach to the nursing homes due to illness and bad weather. We are planning to fill March with some dates. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate with us.

For the Valentine's Day service, Louie, Jr., and his back-up singers (haha) sang "Jesus Loves Me." How sweet! We appreciate his sharing with us. If anyone else would like to share a special piece in worship, please speak to us.

The youth will be participating in the Palm Sunday service. Hopefully, you and yours will be able to come to worship during this season. We have the Love Feast on April 2nd, Good Friday prayer time on April 3 (1 p.m. - 3 p.m.), a Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. (with a great breakfast afterwards!) and an Easter celebration on April 5th.

I pray the daffodils will be blooming soon and spring will shine upon us. In this time of Lent, I pray we can turn our thoughts to Jesus and glorify Him.

God bless,  
Joy and Chuck



# SPOT LIGHT

Jim Blair

## THE DEACON BOARD

The Deacons have numerous responsibilities. There is a minimum of one Deacon for every 10 active members. Deacons provide certain of their members to serve on the Gifts Discernment Team, The Leadership Team and the Ministry Advisory Team. They assist the Pastor during baptismal services. Among some of their other responsibilities are the physical arrangements for Love Feast and Communion and assisting the Pastor with anointing services. They are also to be available to settle differences among themselves in preserving the integrity of the church. Moreover, their efforts are to be carried out in harmony with Matthew 18:15-22 and Corinthians 13. The term of office is one year, but limited to 5 consecutive terms. Deacons are confirmed at the Congregational Forum from ballots prepared by the Deacon body and added to the agenda by the Leadership Team. Deacons that served in 2025 were Shirley Baker, Chairperson, Carole Nedrow, Vice Chairperson, Gail McNamara, Secretary, Darlene Ackerman, Tom McNamara, Stacey Bossart, Lori Sabo, Chuck Sphon, Joy Sphon, Dale Struzzi and David Hibbard.

## Deacons Report

We held the “Jesus Loves You” luncheon on Sunday, February 15. The food was good and the fellowship was amazing. We played a game and the “Left/Right” game winners received a gift.

We are available for prayer in the chapel on Sunday mornings between 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. We are available any time. Feel free to call on the Deacons of the month or anyone who is a part of the Deacon Board.

We held a Prayer Vigil for Lori Sabo on Saturday, February 21. Prayer works. We had a great turnout. God is GOOD....

Speaking of prayer, let's make a concerted effort to pray for our church, each other and our pastor throughout 2026. Each month, we will pray for Pastor Stephen with a specific focus.

For **March**, please pray for our Pastor's heart to be like Mary, as he anchors his life sitting at Jesus' feet and hearing what he says to Him (based on Luke 10:39). And may we, too, follow this example in our own lives.

Dale Struzzi

P.S. Copies of the March - April “Our Daily Bread” are available to help focus our devotions.

Greensburg Church of the Brethren  
554 Stanton Street  
Greensburg, PA 15601-4074

Address Service Requested

A graphic with a dark background. On the left, there is a glass of red wine and a piece of bread. The text is in white and light grey.

**COMMUNION**  
AT HOME

Please call Pastor Stephen if you'd like home communion.

A graphic with a light yellow background. It features a row of colorful silhouettes of people with their arms raised in celebration. The text is in black.

**Joyful Celebration**

**EVERY MONDAY, 5 PM**