

Greensburg Church of the Brethren

July 2026



O Lord, we come before You today with grateful hearts, thanking You for the land we call home. We celebrate the 250-year history of our country! Now we lift our nation into Your hands, asking for Your divine guidance and direction for the years to come.

May we be a people who honor You, seeking truth and working together for a better future. We place our nation in Your care.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Pastor's Reflection

"The Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, 'Here I am.'" Samuel 3:4

Here we are in the month of July 2026 already! I'm not just talking about reaching July of this year—I'm reflecting back to July 1, 2019, when I became Pastor of the Greensburg Church of the Brethren. My, how times really flies!

Throughout most of 2016, I never had a thought about ministry, and certainly nothing at all about standing in the pulpit delivering messages every Sunday. My plan was to finish my work as a production manager and then move on into retirement. Things started to change when I gave my testimony in 2016 to the church and Pastor Harrison said afterwards, "You need to go into the ministry." I told him I'd think about it, but I wasn't serious. Something changed in me in December of 2016 after having a talk with Pastor Harrison, and I decided I'd pursue the path of the ministry.

Taking the classes at Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center helped in some ways, but they don't fully prepare you to become out as a polished pastor. Surprisingly. when I got the call to be the Pastor at the Greensburg Church of the Brethren, I came in with unrealistic expectations, not of the people, but of myself. I thought I could handle everything and take care of every situation. Afterall, I had been doing that for 25 years on the manufacturing floor in charge of many people! I knew how to get things done! I thought I could walk into the ministry and it would be easy. I felt if God had called me and prepared me right, he wouldn't put me in this position if I wasn't ready, if I wasn't good. That was my pride showing through. I realized quickly, well, maybe not real quickly because I can be stubborn at times, that God doesn't make you perfect to take the role that he wants you to take. There is still that process He takes us through—molding us, correcting us, and making us better every day.

As I compare where I was on July 1, 2019, with where I am today, I think I have changed for the better in many areas, though I am still a work in progress. I want to thank you all for being there with me and for me through the last seven years. I do feel right now that I have grown and I'm in a good place with God. I also believe the church is in a good place with God, as well. It doesn't mean that we are all perfect, but if we are faithful, we will continue to grow and help build God's Kingdom together, united in Christ.

So, I want to tell you I love each and every one of you! I'm hopeful for another five to seven years together, and look forward to seeing where God takes us.

God Bless,
Pastor Stephen

Pastor Stephen will be away from June 27 - July 4 for the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference. If you need any pastoral services, please call the Deacons, unless it is an emergency. He will return in time for services on July 5.



Calling all prayer and yarn enthusiasts!

One year ago, I lost my mother at the age of 96. Despite her age, she continued to be a devoted prayer warrior and crafter. She knitted and crocheted prayer shawls for those going through difficult times.

I would like to continue this mission. If you or someone you know knits or crochets and would like to make some prayer shawls, there are patterns, yarn and tools I can give to you. Also, if you or someone you know needs some comfort, we can get you one. We will pray over the prayer shawls before they are gifted.

God bless,
Wendy Muir



Outreach and Community Service through Music

The choir is dedicated to sharing their gifts and bringing glory to God by visiting local nursing homes to bless the residents there.



Golden Heights Nursing Home

Community Picnic Update

Don't forget the Community Picnic Planning meeting on **Tuesday, July 7th at 6:30!**

Michelle Lohr and Diane Swartz will be managing the basket raffle for the picnic and are asking for basket donations. If you or someone you know could donate a basket, please let one of them know. Thank you!



Sunday Morning Opportunities:

- 9:30 Sunday School for children; Adult Sunday School--"Ephesians" - Begins 7/12 (Nedrow/Struzzi)
- 10:00-10:30 A Deacon and/or the Pastor will be available in the chapel every Sunday a.m.
- 10:30 The worship service will be live-streamed every Sunday to the Fellowship Hall

What's Going On at GBGCOB?



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

Women's Fellowship
Wednesday, July 1, 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...

The July date for the
Men's Fellowship
gathering at Panera Bread
near Greengate Center
will be announced later.



Women's
Faith & Friendship Dinner
will be held at the
Boulevard on
July 21 at 6:30 p.m. on
your calendars now!



The GBGCOB 2026 VBS went very well. Many thanks to all those who participated by making snacks, doing crafts, teaching, and helping in all other ways. A special thanks to Michelle Sipes for her leadership again this year!

An appreciation dinner with picnic foods for all those who helped with VBS will be held on **Friday, July 10, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.**



The most recent copy of Our Daily Bread (June - August, 2026) is still available on the table next to the mailboxes at the back of the sanctuary. Please feel free to take a copy of this devotional home to read.

Service on the Lawn

***“Services on the
Lawn” are held
every Wednesday
evening at 7 p.m.
Please come and
invite your friends
and neighbors!***

*The Adult Sunday School
class will be starting a new
session soon on the book of
Ephesians. Carole Nedrow
and Dale Struzzi will be facilitating
this class every Sunday morning at
9:30 a.m. The start-up date will be
announced after the books arrive!*



*Plan to make this a regular part of
your Sunday morning time spent
with God and your community of
faith!*



Can You Help?

The Community Closet at the Greensburg Free Methodist Church has clothing of all sizes available to those in need. It makes a difference in the lives of local children and families. They are open every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the public, and have partnered with the Westmoreland County Children's Bureau and a lot of other agencies in Westmoreland County.

They are asking our congregation (and others!) to collect new and gently used children's clothing. That would help get children ready for school. Let's collect items at the church from July 5—August 2, 2026. The donated items will then be picked up from participating congregations between August 2—31. Mrs. Mary Nelson will be coordinating the team who collects the clothing from each church.

Please contact Lena Ferrero at 724-388-0838 if you have any questions. She is serving as the GBGCOB contact for this project.

Honored Person of the Month—Vern Eichar

Vern was raised in Ruffsedale and grew up attending the Barron Run Church of God. When he met Diane Myers, he attended church with her at the Mt. Pleasant Church of the Brethren, and they were married there in 1967.

He became active within the District and met Reverend D'Amico who brought him to the Greensburg Church. He served on the District Home Board, the District Youth Choir, and in other ways within the District. Here at the Greensburg Church, Diane and he served as Deacons and in other capacities within the church until he retired and they moved to North Carolina where he was going to enjoy his retirement. Well, God had other plans and Vern started working for Carolina Builders, helping build homes along the North Carolina coast. When Diane became ill, they moved back to Greensburg where they came back to their church family. Diane has passed, but Vern is still continuing to work and serve God within our church.

He was recommissioned as a Deacon in May of this year and helps whenever and wherever needed.

His favorite hymn is "How Great Thou Art." He is enjoying meeting all of our congregation and getting reacquainted with some. We're glad you are back, Vern!

Thought for the Month

"If we don't have the strength to openly choose God, how will we have the strength to follow Him?"

News and Notes from the Worship Team

We started Service on the Lawn on May 27th with perfect weather. We meet every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. It's so satisfying to have so many turn out! We are over 40 seekers and growing! Pray that the weather is nice to us! Pastor Steve is attending the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference the first week of July, but we will still have service on the lawn. Come join us for scriptures, favorite songs and great fellowship.

On June 6th, the choir went to Golden Heights Nursing Home to perform (see pictures on page 2). Louie and Diane have a friend there. We have more dates coming up this month.

On June 21st we had communion in the sanctuary and all the fathers received a pen with scripture on it for Father's Day.

While Pastor Steve was at Annual Conference we were given the pleasure of having our secretary Ruth Fox give a wonderful sermon about her missionary experiences. Thank you, Ruth!

We'd like to thank the choir for being so willing to learn new music and for being so faithful! Thanks also go out to Amy Ramer for doing all the special events—Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Memorial Day.

Thanks to all who have stepped up to help keep our church clean and inviting. Thank you guys (you know who you are!) for cleaning and waxing the fellowship hall and kitchen!

Have a great summer and be safe!

God bless,
Joy and Chuck Sphon

Church of the Brethren Beliefs - Part III

“How Do We Live Out Our Faith?”

It is easy to talk about faith and never get around to doing anything. So the continuing call is to “walk the talk.” Alexander Mack, the leader of the earliest Brethren, insisted that they could be recognized “by the manner of their living.”

Being a disciple of Jesus Christ, then, affects everything that we say and do. Obedience—meaning obedience of Jesus—has been a key word among Brethren. What we do in the world is just as important as what we do in the church. Christ’s style of self-giving love is the example we are called to follow in all our relationships.

That belief shows itself in the giving nature of Brethren. We respond quickly to need. We send money and volunteers to disaster sites. We support soup kitchens, day-care centers, and homeless shelters in our communities. Thousands of people have served around the world through Brethren Volunteer Service. People often know the Brethren through our ministries of compassion.

We believe following Christ means following his example of serving others, healing the broken, and bringing new life and hope to the despairing. We take seriously Jesus’ call to love all people, including the “enemy.”

In fact, the Church of the Brethren is known as one of the Historic Peace Churches. Brethren have considered participation in war to be unacceptable for Christians and have based this understanding on the teachings of Jesus and on other New Testament texts.

In our concern for the well-being of neighbors near and far, Brethren have begun creative programs to enable the world’s poor to walk toward a better life. Heifer Project International (providing livestock for poor families) and SERRV International (supporting craft producers in developing countries), for example, were both begun by Brethren before they grew into ecumenical ministries.

“For the glory of God and my neighbors’ good” was a motto of an early Brethren leader, whose own successful printing operation was destroyed due to his opposition to the Revolutionary War. This two-part phrase, turning us both toward God in devotion and toward our neighbors in service, remain an appropriate summary of the church’s understanding of the nature of Christian faith.

Deacons’ Notes

We have been keeping busy with phone calls and visits. If you would like a visit, please contact the Deacons of the Month or one of the other Deacons. Their contact information is available on the reverse side of the monthly calendar found here in the newsletter.

We are available before church or after church if anyone is in need of prayer.

Coffee time has been going well, but we could use extra help on some Sundays. So please, if you would like to sponsor a Sunday or just do coffee time, there is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

There are other ways to serve, as well. Sign-up sheets are in the back for 1) grass cutting; 2) cleaning; 3) coffee time. Because we don’t have a custodian, please consider helping to take care of our church.

Praying for our Pastor: This month’s theme is PRAYing for Manna to feed God’s people. PRAY each time our Pastor preaches or teaches, that he will have something that has come from God’s heart, through his heart to the hearts of the people. Hebrews 4:12—“GOD IS ALIVE AND ACTIVE”!

Blessings,
Dale Struzzi, Deacon Chair

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