

HOLLIDAYSBURG CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

November 2018 Flock Flyer

Pastor—Marlys Hershberger Editor—Daisy Decker

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So Long, Farewell...

As we paraphrase lyrics from
The Sound of Music . . .

*There's a sad sort of clanging from the clock on the wall
and the chimes on the organ too.*

*And up in the classrooms and nursery are absurd church
people popping out to say
God speed. . . God speed. . . God speed.*

*Regretfully they tell us, God speed. . .
God speed. . . but firmly they compel us,
God speed. . . God speed. . . to say goodbye...
God speed. . . to you!*

*So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, good night.
We hate to go and leave this pretty sight...*



On November 15, 2018, Pastor Marlys Hershberger's 15-year tenure at Hollidaysburg Church of the Brethren will come to an end. During this time, she has touched so many of us with her service, faith, humor, and friendship.

Marlys' last opportunity to preach is Sunday, November 11, 2018. Following morning worship and in lieu of Sunday school, there will be a celebration service followed by a catered luncheon at 12:00 noon (reservations required). You are encouraged to bring cards and notes, etc. to express your gratitude and appreciation for Marlys' presence among us. Monetary donations toward her gift may be given to Karen Biddle. Help us make this a special day to demonstrate our love and thankfulness for Pastor Marlys.

It has been an incredible 15 years! Her journey with us began as an Interim with her father, Rev. Lowell Witkovsky, followed by Ordination, and then her full-time pastorate. As a wife, daughter, sister, mother, and grandmother, she honed in on many attributes of being a pastor such as budgeting, preaching, teaching, peace-making, tackling projects, and so much more. She taught us to take joy in our church and the surrounding community, to listen more and to talk less, to reach out to those in need—much more than we could have ever imagined learning. We've learned that our hearts have an endless capacity to love. She taught us, by her example, to serve selflessly. Through Wednesday evening Bible Study, Choir, Leadership Team, Youth programming, Children's programming, and Lunch Connection, she has challenged us to remember that "being church" is not about the building, but living into the fullness of Christ, being open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, and caring for all of God's children.

(Cont. on page 2)

Marlys will always hold a special place on our faith journey and in our hearts. We are grateful to have had her as a pastor who welcomes, invites and honors all faiths, nurturing everyone to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ and each other. She has given the faith community a gift in this season of her service by welcoming all to our congregation.

Just as the Apostle Paul prayed for the people of Ephesus, we pray for Pastor Marlys: *“We have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason we do not cease to give thanks for you as we remember you in our prayers. . . .”* (Ephesians 1:15-16)

We are full of gratitude, continually thankful for Marlys’s mentorship within our congregation, her service to the district and to the denomination. May our Lord and Savior continue to lead Marlys in exciting ways, to care for her, and to bless her as she advocates for change, healing and peace. God Speed, Pastor Marlys!

HOCB Welcomes Interim Pastor

We are excited to welcome Interim Pastor Connie Maclay!

Connie begins her ministry among us on Sunday, November 18. Connie and her husband Robert live in McVeytown.

Connie has been a teacher and pastor, most recently serving the Beech Run Church of the Brethren. She presently serves as chair of Middle PA District’s Coordinating Team.

We will learn more about this wonderful woman in the coming weeks.

A Few HCOB Events. . .

Choir practice continues on Wednesday evenings at 7:45 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Kids’ Night for children in Grades K-5 on Friday, **November 16 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** This is a time for snacks, games and Bible stories. **RSVP to Beth Neely (312-7211) or the church office by Wednesday, Nov. 14 if you are able to attend.**



Lunch Connection—Join Earla Reffner for Lunch Connection, an opportunity to gather with senior adults and other interested people. Those gathered eat together and join in a time of devotional sharing and prayer. Our next **Lunch Connection is on Friday, November 16, at 11:30 a.m. at The Dream (back area, main level).** Reservations are helpful, please call the church office by Wednesday, Nov. 14.

Youth News For the Whole Congregation To Know. . . —submitted by Rita Murphy

“Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.” Deut. 6:6

We celebrate **Youth Sunday today, November 4** with the theme **“Keep These Words.”** We hope to honor all the words Pastor Marlys has shared with us over the years.

Join in a time of **Mission and Movies** on Wednesday, November 21 with youth from First United Methodist Church. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at American Rescue Workers to serve others, then enjoy lunch and leisure time at their church watching movies. Feel free to bring friends. RSVP by Sunday, November 18.

Advent season will be here before we know it! Anyone in the congregation wanting to send cards to fellow worshippers is asked to pay 10 cents per card. Youth, plan to distribute Christmas cards each Sunday in advent.



Youth, let Rita Murphy know if you would like to be part of the **Christmas Program on Sunday, Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m.**

Join us for enriching and challenging thoughts in **Sunday School.**

May Christ’s message of love and hope be found in us.

Women's Fellowship News

Blessings of the Fall season surround us each day! We will share our blessings by serving the Saturday free lunch meal, referred to as **Love Feast, at the Simpson Temple United Parish** (a Methodist and Lutheran joined church) at 2212 Sixth Avenue Altoona, **Saturday, Nov. 10**. Our menu will feature chili, bread, coleslaw, dessert and drinks. **Please sign-up, a sheet is on the narthex table for donations and help. Many hands will be needed to help cook, serve, and clean.**



Women's Fellowship is always looking for new friends and new ideas. Feel free to join us in serving our brothers and sisters in Christ.

October Congregational Forum & Leadership Team Meeting Highlights

On October 28, Congregational Forum consisted of about 63 people meeting to care for the business of our congregation. Members of Leadership Team presented ministry team reports, as well as financial and statistical reports. Handouts are available from the church office.

- Present membership count is 180 members, including 2 baptisms, 3 transfers of membership, and 2 deaths since Oct. 30, 2017.
- Average weekly worship attendance is 96 since Oct. 30, 2017; average Sunday School attendance is 36.
- Attendance at special services: Christmas Eve—155, Spring Love Feast—38, Easter Sunrise—61, Easter 9:30 worship—148, Fall Love Feast—53.
- As of September 30, 2018 we were averaging \$3,912.84/week income (offering & other income). As of that date we were \$3,345 ahead of budget. *Thank you for your generosity and service to the Lord! Please continue to help us meet our ministry goals and expand our church work, including building repairs and upgrades.*
- We approved the slate of for the next term of leadership. See page 6 for names.
- A 2019 budget of \$199,356.70 was approved.
- Dex Meadows presented the Core Team's report. Core Team gathered and assessed information from many small group meetings in the past year. With Consultant Stan Dueck, the team identified four key result areas to be addressed for continued good health and for the increase of engagement and effective ministry: 1) leadership, 2) facility accessibility, 3) spiritual development, 4) mission/service. An Accessibility Task Force is already at work to address the desires for an elevator and upgraded restrooms.
- Leadership Team has hired Patti Jimenez to begin on Jan. 1, 2019 as Coordinator of Children's Ministry with money from the Program Expansion Fund. More details will be shared in the coming months.
- New landscaping for the front of the building was approved for Spring 2019.

Pastoral Search Team Update

—submitted by Bonnie Imler

This is just an overview of the search process and some of the responsibilities of the Search Committee. The first step is for the committee to complete the Congregational Profile. The profile is a packet of questions about the local community and congregation. Some of the answers are statistical in nature, and others ask about the likes/dislikes, wants/needs of the congregation. We are currently close to completing this profile. Once the profile has been submitted, it will be matched with pastoral profiles (a similar packet that pastors, looking for placement, complete). Profiles of potential candidates will be presented to the Search Committee. Interviews are scheduled with potential candidates and the Search Committee. Once the Search Committee has selected a front runner, negotiations are made on ministry expectations and the financial package. If everything is agreeable, the candidate is presented to the congregation. There will be a meet and greet opportunity and a sermon preached by the candidate. A congregational vote will then take place. This is a highly confidential process. Often pastors begin "looking" for another church before they have informed their current congregation. Search Committee members will be reporting on the process, but not specifically on individuals being considered.

Pastor's Page

How fortunate I am to have been a pastor in this congregation! This congregation is made up of wonderful, unique individuals who come together to seek and serve God in with a Brethren flair – peacefully, simply, together – centered on Word and Spirit. You complement each other well and gracefully create a vibrant community of faith that helps us all navigate our living. You are a delight and you have greatly blessed me on my own life's journey!

I have chosen to retire now from full-time ministry for a multitude of reasons. For one, I wish to devote more time to my husband Terry, worshipping and working again in the same church, and to our extended family. I think, too, that as you and I come to fifteen years of ministry together, you all will benefit from the fresh inspiration and leadership of other ministers as I also refresh and regroup in my personal and spiritual life.

We shall abide by ministerial and congregational ethics and, so, I will refrain from contact with you members and friends of Hollidaysburg Church of the Brethren for a year. This lessens dilemmas and grief that occur as we all move into new rhythms of living and as we create a space for new, healthy pastoral-congregational relationships to be established and flourish. Please do let me know of births and deaths and other significant milestones in your congregational life, but we will live with a distinctive separation for this coming year.

I have asked you before to look up at the ceiling of our sanctuary and consider how it is shaped like the bottom of a boat. It's interesting that one of the early metaphors that came to characterize the church was that of a ship. There are Christian drawings in the Roman catacombs of ships. Very early Christian writers compare the church to a ship or boat. St. Hippolytus, who died in the early 200's, said,



“The world is a sea in which the Church, like a ship, is beaten by the waves, but not submerged.” In most churches the place where the congregation sits is called the nave, which comes from the Latin word for “ship” - navis.

I heartily encourage you to continue to gather often in the nave of Hollidaysburg Church of the Brethren. We navigate upon the chaos of the world, the sea, that sometimes shakes our inner calm. There are all kinds of difficulties that rattle us. But Christ's presence enters the boat with us and says, “Peace! Be still!” Jesus Christ is with us. We need not fear! The church will not be submerged or defeated when we open ourselves to God, releasing fear and anxiety and selfish ways, and allow God's healing peace to move in and through us. We need this boat—the church.

And then travel out into the world, be it in this same boat or in unique little “launches.” For we are called to share the love and grace we experience in Christ with *all* the world. God's Spirit goes with us. And this world becomes a better place. Oh, how marvelous! Praise God.

Pastor Marlys

A note from Marlys regarding ACCESSIBILITY: *I regret leaving before our congregation has a working elevator. What a glorious day that will be! It has troubled me for many years that access to the fellowship hall is unavailable to many handicapped people. The chair lift is a good help, but it is aging and it has always been inadequate for many with disabilities. I am excited by the work of the Accessibility Team which is meeting with 2 architects to explore options. Consider contributing to the Accessibility Fund. Invest in our church ministries!*

Calling all young people!



The Children and Youth Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. All children from nursery age through high school are welcome to join in the program. Please let Beth Neely or Rita Murphy know your interest. Many different roles are needed to help make the program a joyous celebration of the birth of our Savior.

Big News!

Our church family will have a float in the upcoming Holidaysburg Winterfest Parade on Sunday, November 18 at 2:00 p.m.



We will have a trailer with some people riding, as well as some people walking alongside distributing an advertisement for our Live Nativity. Watch for a sign-up sheet. ***Join together to encourage our community to celebrate the birth of our Saviour!***

Brethren Disaster Ministries responds to Hurricane Michael, other needs

Staff from Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) and its Children's Disaster Services (CDS) program carefully monitored Hurricane Michael as it made landfall as a strong Category 4 storm along the Florida panhandle on Oct. 10 before moving inland.

CDS deployed a project manager to Florida five days after landfall to meet with Red Cross and emergency shelter staff to establish locations where CDS teams could best serve children in the area. As of Oct. 16, two teams had arrived in Panama City, Fla., and began working at two large shelters in one of the areas hardest hit by Michael.

"Facing no power, no cell phones, and limited resources, these teams were eager to step in and go to help all the families affected despite the challenges ahead," CDS director Lisa Crouch said.

Meanwhile, the CDS response to Hurricane Florence in North Carolina wrapped up on Oct. 11 with a total of 550 children contacts over the course of 24 days despite challenges posed by secondary flooding, which affected the teams' mobility in getting to shelters. Thirty-two volunteers served over the course of the response.

Crouch shared a note that a family posted to the CDS Facebook page, which said, "The children and parents REALLY needed you. Thank you for what you do!"

Other BDM work continues in the region, with teams currently working again in both North and South Carolina. The teams are helping with clean-up and debris removal from Florence and still repairing homes damaged by Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

Some Brethren communities have also been affected. Virginia District executive David Shumate wrote this week that the remnants of Michael had "been much more devastating to our area than Florence." The Red Hill Church of the Brethren in Roanoke, Va., had water damage to both the church and parsonage, he said, and the parsonage garage was washed away and destroyed. The Clearbrook area south of Roanoke suffered severe flash flooding and landslides, Shumate added.

BDM will continue to assess needs in all the affected areas. Volunteers are currently being sought for projects in the Carolinas, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. Those wishing to support BDM work financially can donate to the denomination's Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF). A number of congregations and districts are already doing special offerings.



Photo by Sue Kimpston—Children's Disaster Services volunteer Margie Williams with a child in Florida as part of the Hurricane Michael response. —from Church of the Brethren *Newsline*, October 19, 2018

Advent Season at HCOB

The Lord is our Righteousness

ADVENT – EPIPHANY 2018-2019

Advent is a time for us to remember where Jesus enters God's story/our story, to remember when it means to live righteously, and to look to the future as we seek God's plan for us as faithful individuals and faithful communities.



Join us during Advent and Epiphany as we explore the themes:

1st Sunday of Advent, Dec. 2 – “Watching and Waiting”

2nd Sunday of Advent, Dec. 9 – “Proclaiming”

3rd Sunday of Advent, Dec. 16 – “Rejoicing in God's Justice”

4th Sunday of Advent, Dec. 23 – “Blessing and Restoration”

Christmas Eve Service, Dec. 24

First Sunday after Christmas, Dec. 30 – “Love Revealed”

Epiphany, Sun., Jan. 6, 2019 – “Light”

Sunday morning worship begins at 9:30 AM, followed by Sunday School for all ages at 10:30 AM.

—submitted by Earla Reffner

Heritage Fair Update and Camp Blue Diamond Camp Dates

Heritage Fair fundraising total to date is \$23,000. These funds will be divided between Camp Blue Diamond and Middle PA District. HCOB sent a check for \$260 from *His Coffee House* proceeds. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this event.



Summer Camp 2019 — This past summer 454 children, youth and adults attended summer camp, a slightly larger group than the past few years! Campers grew in faith and understanding, made new friends, were challenged by new experiences, and had fun! **The 2019 Summer Schedule is available**, and 107 children and youth pre-registered in June and July. Early Bird Registration takes place in January and February; online registration will be available

at campbluediamond.org. Register in January and February and get the lower ‘Early Bird Discount’ rate. Details about each camp, dates, fees and photos can be found at campbluediamond.org.

2019 Leadership Team and Other Leadership Positions

Leadership Team Chair/Asst. Moderator	Tom Neely	1 yr remaining
Moderator/Assistant Leadership Chair	Brian Bert	2-yr term
Leadership Team Chairs:		
Christian Education Team	Lori Campbell	1 yr remaining
Mission & Evangelism Team	Shirley Merritts	1 yr remaining
Property Team	Gary Drenning	1 yr remaining
Worship & Music Team	Earla Reffner	2-yr term
Administration Team	Lisa Myers	2-yr term
Hospitality & Fellowship Team	Allen Geist	2-yr term
Gifts Discernment Team	Bonnie Imler	2-yr term
	Dean Brubaker	1 yr remaining
Annual Conference Delegate	Rita Murphy	1-yr term
District Conference Delegates	Beckie Zeek	2-yr term
	Connie Bert	1 yr remaining
Appointments:		
Treasurer	Rita Murphy	1 yr remaining
Financial Secretary	Jeff Imler	1 yr remaining
Church Clerk	Peggy Stiffler	1 yr remaining

Hollidaysburg Church of the Brethren Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to order red poinsettias (6-inch pot) to share with the church, please complete this form. Place this form in an envelope along with **\$7.00 each**, and return it in the offering plate (or mail it to the church office) by **Sunday, December 9**. You may take your poinsettias home after the Christmas Eve service. Make check payable to: Hollidaysburg Church of the Brethren with *poinsettias* noted in the memo section.



NAME: _____

In honor _____ In memory _____

In honor _____ In memory _____

In honor _____ In memory _____

TOTAL: _____

Tiger Pack Program

HCOB Representative: Connie Bert

Items being collected for November are: **16-18 oz. jars of peanut butter; 20 oz. plastic jars of jelly; canned chicken and canned tuna.** Donated items may be placed on the shelves in the Corinthians Sunday School classroom (by the mailboxes).



American Rescue Workers

HCOB Representative: Dean Brubaker



The American Rescue Workers of Hollidaysburg offers the blessing of giving in this Christmas season. If you are willing to help **brighten the Christmas of those less fortunate** in our area, please sign up to purchase a gift for a child. Our church has adopted 5 children—3 boys and 2 girls. **Please return your labeled (child's name and number), unwrapped gifts to the church by Sunday, November 25.** A small table is in the back of the sanctuary with sign-up sheets and information.

Current Food Pantry Needs:

Boxed Noodles, Boxed Rice, Hamburger Helper, Cereal

(Fresh items are not needed at this time.)



6-Keith Eldred	15-Kathi Furlong
7-Stevie Delozier	18-Tina Beatty
8-Harry Spaeth	18-Andy Spaeth
9-Adrianna Snyder	21-Aiden Hershberger
9-Aubrey Steele	23-Michael Meadows
10-Trevor Eastburn	24-Rose Bishop
10-Cameron Faust	24-Pat Hoffman
11-Wanda Carey	28-Kyle Brewer
11-Jay Hinish	30-Jaylene Hoover
11-Damian Kelly	
12-Gavin Wright	
13-Janelle Meadows	
14-Karen Brown	



11-Ron & Janell Byrnes
12-Mark & Kristy Yingling
16-Josh & Carolee Hajnosz
17-Jeff & Bonnie Imler
25-Robert & Linda Rhodes
27-Mark & Dorothy Liller



Statistics and Finances

Date	Worship Attendance	Sunday Offering
30-Sept	90	\$4,109.00
7-Oct	81	\$3,537.91
14-Oct	98	\$5,596.01
21-Oct	105	\$2,887.05
28-Oct	96	\$3,769.31
4-Nov	November Flock Flyer	

In His Service for October

Greeters	Allen & Angel Geist
Newcomer Greeter	Mike & Lori Campbell
Flock Leaders	Dex & Susan Meadows
Deacons On Call	Tom & Beth Neely
Head Usher	Bob & Doug Rhodes
Acolyte	4-Kaden Wagner 11-Kalissa Geist 18-Alison Geist 25-Kalissa Geist



*Congratulations to Alyssa and Brian Bert!
Nolan James Bert
was born on Wednesday, October 24, 2018,
weighing 7 lbs. 11 oz.
Proud grandparents are
Joel and Connie Bert.*

Mission & Evangelism Team shares that 2 clean-up buckets, 4 hygiene kits and 9 school kits have been completed. Items will be sent to Church World Service for distribution. Thank you for your donations.



Community Thanksgiving Service
on Wednesday, November 21, 7:00 p.m. at
Zion Lutheran Church in Hollidaysburg.

November 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 10:00 District Women's Brunch 6:15 Film Festival
4 Youth Sunday	5	6	7 7:45 Choir	8 7:00 Leadership Team Mtg.	9	10 11:30 Simpson Temple Love Feast 3:00-5:00 Compelling Vision at Memorial COB
11 Pastor Marlys' Last Sunday & Retirement Luncheon (reservations required)	12	13	14 6:30 Bible Study 7:45 Choir	15 Pastor Marlys' Last Day	16 11:30 Lunch Connection 6:30-8:00 Kids' Night	17
18 Donut Sunday 6:30 Deacon Mtg.	19	20 6:30 Hospitality & Fellowship mtg.	21 7:00 Community Thanksgiving Service at Zion Lutheran	22 	23	24
25	26	27	28 6:30 Bible Study 7:45 Choir	29	30	

Others Using Our Building

Blair Concert Chorale Children's Choir—Mondays, 4:30-5:30 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)
Music Recital—Sunday, November 18 from 1:00-3:30 p.m. (Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall)
Center for Child Justice—Tuesday, November 20 from 9:00-4:00 (Fellowship Hall/Kitchen)
MOMs Club—Wednesday, November 21, 10:30 a.m. (Nursery)

Holiday Hospitality—Beth Lewis, CEO of 1517 Media, blogged about a favorite holiday tradition: inviting over people who'd otherwise be alone. Her grandchildren prepared hand-made place cards, wrapped small gifts for the guests and helped cook the meal. Then one year, Thanksgiving happened to coincide with a cross-country move for Grandma and Grandpa. Chaos and stress almost buried the tradition — until Lewis's 9-year-old granddaughter asked nonchalantly, "Who's joining us for dinner this year?" Lewis writes: "In the busyness of moving, it hadn't even occurred to me. But, for her, it is simply what our family does!" So they extended some invitations, ate on paper plates among moving boxes and had a joyous time. Lewis was proud of her granddaughter for the reminder that hospitality is a value worth practicing and modeling — and even turning into a holiday tradition!



—From *Newsletter Newsletter*, Nov. 2018.

Hollidaysburg Church of the Brethren
1028 Penn Street, P.O. Box 84
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Address Service Requested

NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

Dusty's Corner
submitted by Doug Rhodes

“In a time of crisis
we all have the potential
to morph up to a new level
and do things we never
thought possible.”

—Stuart Wilde

**Compelling
Vision
Discussions**

**Compelling Vision for
the Church of the
Brethren**—We in Mid-
dle PA District began
our part in our denomi-
nation's **Compelling**

Vision discussion at District Conference. We are all
invited to participate in one of two opportunities for
our voices to be heard: **Saturday, November 10,
2018 at Memorial COB in Martinsburg** from 3:00-
5:00 p.m. and **Sunday, November 11, 2018 at Mait-
land COB in Lewistown** from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

You will find information explaining the Compelling
Vision work on a yellow paper on the long narthex
table.

