

MISSIONS AND SERVICE COMMISSION NEWS:



Christmas Family Gift Tree – A table is available starting TODAY in the narthex for the Christmas Family Gift Tree program to benefit families in the Urbana Food Bank. Please return gifts by SUNDAY, Dec. 10. Please read the back of your tag for complete instructions, tape the tag to the outside of the gift, put gifts in the coat room and mark your name off please that your gift has been delivered. Sponsored by the Missions and Service Comm.



Please remember Food Bank donations are always welcomed. A large container is located in the coat room.



Baby Shower for Jesus ...

In the Christian Year, Epiphany begins on January 6. Epiphany means “manifestation” or “appearance” and refers to three manifestations of Christ’s lordship, the most familiar being the recognition of Jesus by the wise men (the epiphany to the Gentiles). The Gospel of Matthew records the wise men (or Magi) coming to Herod, asking “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” Upon finding Jesus, they offered gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

You may have come across the tongue in cheek version of how things might have been different, had the Magi been women -- they would have asked for directions; they would have arrived on time; they would have helped deliver the baby; they would have cleaned the stable; they would have made a casserole; and they would have brought practical gifts. That’s all well and good, but it is only in jest. We know there was huge significance to the gifts the Magi did bring, and that they traveled at great cost and sacrifice to seek out the King, arriving in God’s-ordained time.

However, as we approach Epiphany this year and we recall the gifts the Magi brought to the young Jesus, let’s consider ... what might we do to remember their gifts, and more importantly, to honor Jesus, who came to us as a baby? The Missions & Service Commission is sponsoring a **Baby Shower for Jesus** – an opportunity to offer some “practical gifts.” Everyone is invited to bring typical baby shower gifts – diapers (especially the larger sizes), baby wipes, wash cloths, baby clothes, blankets, bottles, etc. – to the worship service **January 7** and to place them beneath the Christmas tree at the front. **Please do not wrap your gifts.** If you have difficulty with the steps, surely someone will assist you with your gifts.

Gifts will continue to be collected during the month of January, and can be placed in the coat room. At the end of the month, our baby shower gifts for Jesus will be donated to Care Net Pregnancy Center of Frederick – an opportunity to assist mothers who have chosen life for their unborn babies, and a tangible remembrance of the One who came as an infant, to bring us all eternal life.

Fahrney-Keedy News:

Fahrney-Keedy Holiday Festival–Fri., Dec. 8 from 4–6:30 pm. Donations of gift baskets are needed for the festival to support Pastoral Care Ministries at Fahrney-Keedy. The Silent Auction begins Nov. 23. Also accepting wreaths, homemade crafts, gift cards, jewelry, event tickets or other gift items. Donations can be dropped off in the lobby by Nov. 20 from 8 am – 8 pm. Contact Chaplain Twyla @ 301-671-5008 with questions.



Fahrney-Keedy Sr. Living Community is planning a Christmas Remembrance luminaria display for Fri., Dec. 8 @ 5 pm. If you would like to contribute a luminaria, please pick up a form located on the program table.

Consider these alternatives for gift-giving this year....



 Shop **SERRV's** unique and handcrafted fair trade items from around the world. Fill your home and kitchen with authentic décor, handmade dishware, and stunning handcrafted baskets. Adorn yourself with gorgeous fair trade jewelry, scarves, and bags. Indulge in delicious Divine Chocolate and fair trade snacks and gourmet coffee. Give special fair trade gifts that improve the lives of artisans and farmers worldwide. Shop on-line @ www.serrv.org or visit the store @ 500 Main Street, New Windsor, Md. 21776. Hours: Thurs., Fri. & Sat. from 10 am – 5 pm.



Consider a monetary gift to assist the **Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministry** (camping and retreat) program. You can mail your gift to 16869 Taylors Landing Road, Sharpsburg, Md. 21782



Support the **Emergency Disaster Fund** to benefit victims of various disasters by sending your donation to Emergency Disaster Fund, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin IL 60120. Your contributions to **Brethren Disaster Ministries** will also support rebuilding homes and lives around the world. You may also choose to make a donation to the Bush Creek Disaster Ministries volunteers. You may do so by making your check payable to Bush Creek Church of the Brethren and indicate "Disaster Ministries – Missions and Service" on your check.

Meat Canning – consider a donation within the Bush Creek congregation to support the Meat Canning ministry to feed the hungry around the globe. Make checks payable to Bush Creek Church – mark "meat canning". Please see additional information included in Missions and Service news.



*Continuing the work of Jesus.
Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

Global Mission and Service, Congregational Life Ministries, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Brethren Volunteer Service, the Office of Ministry, and many other Church of the Brethren core ministries are supported by donations. They are grounded in core Brethren values like service, peace-building, faith formation, discipleship, and continuing the work of Jesus... peacefully, simply, and together.

If you believe in the ministries of the **Church of the Brethren**, consider a gift to support their important work today—at home and around the world. Visit www.brethren.org or mail your donation to: Church of the Brethren General Offices, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120. If you prefer to donate by phone, call the Finance Office at 800-323-8039 ext. 300