

Westernport Church of the Brethren

Submitted By: Pastor Allie Crowe

The happenings at Westernport COB have been fruitful! What a wonderful lenten season in the life of the church. Over the past two months, we have had a successful rummage sale, which was more about providing for our community than generating funds. ¼ of the proceeds that came in were given to two different outreaches: Tri-Towns Food Pantry (local) and New Hope Care Ministries in Uganda.



In building a relationship with New Hope Care Ministries Uganda, Isiko and Brian, two of the leaders, are now working with Elgin connections to hope and dream of establishing a Church of the Brethren in Jinja, Uganda.

Our Community Easter Egg Hunt was on Saturday, April 12. It was the coldest hunt we have had, but the amount of folks that came were plentiful! God was working in the background and allowing us to love on the community. Holy Week was filled with emotion and new perspectives. Our Maundy Thursday service had 17 in attendance. We had a small Seder meal incorporating foods like Brisket, Honey Chicken, Charoset, Potato Kugel, Green Beans, and Matzo. We utilized a Passover song as dialogue called the Dayenu. The Dayenu was extended and written to incorporate Christ-following items.

If you are interested in reading through it, the link is below!

[Dayenu \(With Christ-following addition\)](#)

Good Friday consisted of 2 services: 2 PM and 7 PM. The services incorporated scripture, commentary, and silent clips from *The Passion of the Christ*. The voice of Satan was among us as he talked about the bag of tricks he uses to try and manipulate us away from our relationship with God. Music and times of prayer and reflection were offered with two individuals coming to the front for prayer. Between both services we had 24 people.

Easter Son-Rise service was at 7 am. We had visitors for this service, which is always a blessing. This worship service focused on the women at the tomb. Music from the Gaither Vocal Band was incorporated, along with other short easter videos. Our regular worship was beautiful with hymns, special music and a message about the resurrection and the dedication to Jesus's body by Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea. Between both services we had 75 people.

West Marva Ministry Training Program

Submitted By: Pastor Allie Crowe

Our next class is on May 3. Classes are taught at the Westernport Church of the Brethren from 9 AM to 4 PM. Jennifer Kreighbaum will teach it. If you are needing CEU's, it is always allowed to come and sit through a class. I will communicate your attendance with the proper channels.

The class is New Testament Survey. The objectives of the course are:

- a. Be able to identify each of the books of the New Testament in terms of their authorship, audience, origin in life of the early Church, basic themes, and overall purpose.
- b. Be able to describe the formation of the New Testament canon and its authority for the Church's faith and life.
- c. Be able to identify some of the basic features of Jesus' ministry and message and to compare the different portraits of Jesus in the four gospels.
- d. Be able to take a selected text of the New Testament and create a lesson from the selected text.

If you are interested in the course materials, whether you wish to attend, or want additional resources for your libraries, the links are below.

Thomas Lee & Tom Hudson, *Step by Step through the New Testament, Member Guide*

- Available on Amazon (paperback only)

<https://a.co/d/ezsBMpK>

Norman L. Geisler, *A Popular Survey of the New Testament*

-Available on Amazon: paperback, hardcover, kindle, audio

<https://a.co/d/b5QEyVk>

A Message from the Moderator

Submitted by: Pastor Allie Crowe

We are not of this world. This teaching comes to us through Jesus the Christ. In the Gospel according to John, Jesus prays for himself, his disciples, and all believers. Throughout his time of prayer, he reminds himself and others that we are not of this world just as Christ is not of this world. What does this mean for us?

We live in the world. We are not meant to live by the world. The world is the devil's playground. True, the world was created by God and is a product of his almighty power. When Satan decided he wanted to be equal to God, he was banished from God's heavenly realm and thus he roams the earth. The worldly views that manipulate our desires and distract us from our relationship with God are of the world, not of God. Jesus spoke about the way the dark prince uses his bag of tricks to entice our hearts. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 says, "Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first*, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." The bold area speaks of an ultimate rebellion of those who choose to turn away from God. The significant departure is not that of the rapture, but that of the those who choose to turn away from the teachings of Christ of their own accord. The man of sin walks among us, trying to minimize the army of believers that keep the ministry and legacy of Christ alive. When Christ was betrayed in the garden, the man of sin laughed. When Christ was tried and was handed over to be flogged and crucified, the son of perdition laughed. When Christ died on the cross and was placed in the tomb, the dark prince celebrated because he thought he had won.

When Christ resurrected on the third day, the understanding of the new beginning took place. Although we live in this world, we are not to be of it. We live in the world, but we are not to act of the world. When the world demonstrates selfishness, we are to be selfless. When the world presents as entitled, we are to be humble. When the world yearns for material things, we are called to demonstrate contentment and simplicity. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to lead a life apart from the temptations of the dark prince that dangle before us each day. The world's desires and priorities are not the ones we are guided by according to the will of God. We are called to walk in the world demonstrating the values that carry out the new covenant established by the resurrected Savior, Jesus Christ.

Your status in this world will not follow you after you are called home to the Father. You can't take anything with you when you leave the earthly realm. The question becomes: What is the legacy you want to leave behind? Do you want to continue Jesus Christ's ministry? If you answered yes, then we must be the face of resisting the temptations of the world, make time for our spiritual growth, and imitate the life Christ taught and demonstrated while on earth.