



## *The Sower*

*“Planting seeds of faith and fellowship in East Cocalico Township and beyond .*

The SOWER is a ministry of the East Cocalico Church of the Brethren  
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Web Site; [EastCocalicoChurch.org](http://EastCocalicoChurch.org)

Facebook: East Cocalico Church of the Brethren

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### **From the Pastor's Desk**

August 2020

What an amazing and often discouraging year this has turned out to be. In spite of everything, God is working out his plan. We have had to do many things differently over the past few months.

Beyond these changes, we have to ask what is happening to the church today? Why are so many small churches struggling or dying? How does the church need to respond to the culture and persons around us? These are questions we asked at our Church Board Retreat this January. Things have changed. The church will never be like it was before.

Galen Hackman will be speaking to our congregation in four sessions on Sunday, September 20 and 27. We will meet at the same time, 10:30, and have two teaching sessions on each of these Sundays. Plan on staying closer till noon on these days. We will have a short break between the sessions.

On September 20 the first session will be on WHAT THE CHURCH HAS BECOME in our culture today. We will look at the marginalization of the church in society. We will look at new ways of thinking about our mission in this culture. I

in the second session we will look at WHAT ARE THE MISCONCEPTIONS THAT WE HAVE ABOUT THE CHURCH TODAY. We will look at how the church can come back to its full potential.

On September 27 the first session will be on THE CHURCH IN MISSION. The theme is what should the church be doing in order to be effective today.

In the second session we will look at BEING A SENT PEOPLE. We will look at what does it mean to go out into the world and be effective as believers. We will look at how each member can be in mission for Christ.

Please be in prayer for these learning experiences. Pray that God will move us in His direction as we look forward to new guidance for our future. Please come with open hearts and minds.

Pastor Steve



# TEAM NEWS

## Fellowship Team

The Church Picnic will be held August 15 at the church, in the Grove and lower parking lot. Time is 4 pm to whenever. The picnic will be a little different this year. You need to supply your own food. The Fellowship Team will provide beverages, individual bags of chips and an ice cream novelty. Some tables and chairs will be set up for those who may find it easier to eat at a table. Wendy is looking for some games that are within the required guidelines. If you have any questions please give Wendy Hartl a call at 717-617-4673. The team hopes to see you there for a great evening of fellowship time.

## Missions Team



## **SAVE THE DATE - SEPTEMBER 12 9 am - 1 pm**

September 12th the Missions team is planning to hold the flea market that was cancelled in May. It will be from 9-1, with setup at 8 am. Several men are needed to help with moving tables outside. Spaces can be rented with or without tables, but Bj will need to know who needs a table. Spaces are \$10 each, and this will go to charity. The team is hoping for good weather, but will deal with it when the time comes. Since it will be held outside, it will conform to any new edicts that may be issued.

Please contact Bj Stoltzfus at 717-575-6392 or [bjstoltzfus@yahoo.com](mailto:bjstoltzfus@yahoo.com) if you want a space and/or a table.

## Other News

There are still some prints of Nancy Compton's painting "Spirit Poured Out" at \$40.00 each. If you are interested in purchasing any, please contact Connie Moyer.



To Our E.C.C.O.B. Family,

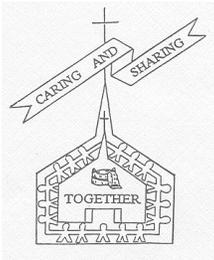
Thank you for the beautiful clock, the Moe's gift cad, the gift bag and plant for Roseauna, and for the craft totes for Madelyn and Olivia. We also want to thank everyone for the cards, gifts, well wishes, and even the "Covid" Fist pumps we received at the farewell service. We have truly been blessed by this congregation. We are forever grateful for our time at East Cocalico and will miss you all. East Cocalico will always be in our hearts.

I read a quote from a devotional that said, "A monument says 'This is how far I've come' but a footprint says 'This is where I was when I moved again.'" We are now walking on the road of my ministry and headed towards Swatara Hill. We leave behind footprints, having walked with all of you throughout this time. God has used our time at East Cocalico to prepare us for ministry beyond its doors and we bring along with us all of what we have experienced while learning and growing with all of you. The patience, kindness, love, and generosity my family has experienced at East Cocalico is a testament to what the church and this congregation can be at its best. May God continue to bless E.C.C.O,B.!

Love,

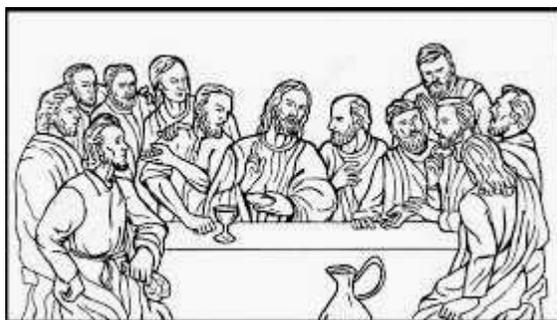
Jason, Roseauna, Madelyn, and Olivia





Vision statement vision.

We are called to be Christ-centered servants. We seek to share God's love by creating a caring atmosphere that reaches into our community. We are committed to extend the saving grace of Jesus Christ by providing Biblically-based experiences and fellowship opportunities for families and individuals of all ages. We endeavor to equip believers for ministry, mission and evangelism.



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