



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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“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”
Acts 1:8

April, May, June 2026

From the Pastor’s Desk

Family. For most people, it’s a word that brings to mind picnics, quiet talks, laughter, and sometimes tears. And even though almost all families have their occasional drama and maybe even dysfunction, “family” is a word that means something to us.

Our “church” family should also mean something to us. Bloodlines may not relate us, but we are related to each other, nonetheless, through Jesus. And as with most relationships, there may be disagreements, or we may get annoyed with each other from time to time, but we pray for each other, and we share our joys and our concerns on Sunday mornings. We call, send cards, and write messages to “check” on each other. Meals are delivered, and visits are made. And when the time comes, we show up for

each other at the graveside gathering or funeral/memorial service. Why is supporting our church family so important? Why do we do these things for people that we only see mostly in our Sunday school class or in the Sunday morning service? We’re certainly not obligated to do these things for anyone.... or are we? In **Matthew 12:47–50**, we can read Jesus’s view on this; “*And someone said to Him, ‘Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You.’ But He answered the one who was telling Him and said, ‘Who is My mother and who are My brothers?’ And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, ‘Behold, My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother.*” We might think as we read this passage that Jesus is being dismissive in His actions toward His mother and brothers. However, I believe that He was taking the opportunity to

Sunday Mornings

Sunday School 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM



convey an important truth to His followers - that spiritual relationships within the family of God assume greater importance than earthly family ties, even as important as our families are to us. Every week, we may be sitting next to or close to people that we say we “know”, but maybe we don’t *really* know. The reality is this - if they share new birth in Jesus, they have, through Him, become our dearest relatives - isn’t that something *strange but wonderful* to think about?! We will be spending eternity with all those who belong to the Body of Christ! The Holy Spirit that lives within each of us supernaturally enables us to have empathy for others – but especially for those who are our spiritual brothers and sisters. That is why we send the cards and the meals, “check” on each other, and keep each other in prayer. This is what a family does for each other. I have often said that the people here at East Cocalico are generous people – they try to give when they see a need. But I challenge you to go beyond the obvious and get to *really know* those around you in a deeper way. Mend the misunderstandings, lift each other up, and study the Word together. Learn each other’s joys and struggles, and be a *presence* in each other’s lives by being available to just sit and *listen*. Recapture as many of the principles and dynamics of the early church as you can. As you strive to be a closer “family”, God will bless you for going out of your way to do so. But just as importantly, so will those whose lives you touch.

Blessings,

Pastor Cyndy

Game Day

Saturday, March 28

A Fun Time Was Had By All!



More Game Day Pics



Q1 2026 Mission Project

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our mission project for Q1 2026, which was food collection for Peter's Porch in Denver, PA. Peter's Porch is a food pantry ministry that has several locations in Lancaster County, including Faith United Evangelical Church in Denver. In addition to the collected items, we donated \$550 in cash to the ministry.

Q2 2026 Mission Project

Good Samaritan Services is our mission project for Q2 2026. Good Sam, as they call themselves, serves individuals and families who are experiencing a housing crisis. They have an Ephrata location. There are many items that are required to operate a center. A list of needed items can be found in the rear of the sanctuary or you can go on-line to their website to see the list. Collections will take place through June.

Ladies Sharing Lunch - June 29

Ladies, the next lunch is Monday, June 29, at noon at Udder Choice Restaurant. Bonnie Greiner will be joining us for another story. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship!



35th Anniversary Celebration Saturday, July 18

On Saturday, July 18, we will have our 35th Anniversary celebration. The afternoon will start with a family-style, down meal for all of our church family, prepared and served by Kim & Bill Porter and Dennis Trostle from 1:00-2:00 PM. At 3:30 the doors will open to neighbors and friends from the community. At 4:00 we will be entertained with music from The Chestnuts, a group of men from the local area who sing a wide variety of music. Mark your calendars now.

