



## 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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July, August, September 2025

### From the Pastor's Desk

"Show me your  
ways, O Lord,  
teach me your  
paths; guide me  
in your truth  
and teach me,  
for you are God  
my Savior, and  
my hope is in you  
all day long."  
Psalm 25:4-5

I had an interesting thought the other day..."What is our responsibility in how we manage ourselves if someone argues or disagrees strongly with us?" I don't mean the little squabbles that are inevitable in our day-to-day lives. No, I'm talking about full-on battles that lead to people glaring at each other as they walk by, talking about others behind their backs, and people who just plain avoid each other at all costs. As Christians, how are we supposed to handle situations when it comes to dealing with others when they refuse to "see it my way"?

Disagreeing with others isn't necessarily a bad thing. It's only when we let our emotions take the place of rational thinking and a heart for God that we start to run into trouble. I hope that the following points may remind all of us how to keep our disagreements in perspective.

My first thought would be to look to the Bible, as it is our guide for living.

Within its pages, we can see examples of how really trying to understand someone can actually deepen empathy and understanding. By navigating disagreements with a Christ-centered perspective instead of our own, we can often gain a deeper understanding of another person's thoughts, feelings, and needs. This involves actively *listening* as the person talks instead of, as we all tend to do, preparing a "defense" in our head for when they stop talking. **Romans 12:10** tells us to "*Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.*"

My second thought would be to embrace an attitude of humbleness. This one is a little tougher, but it *doesn't* mean that you have to roll over and let someone steamroller you! It simply means acknowledging to another that you are willing to listen graciously to what they have to say and then graciously (and in a normal tone of voice) share your thoughts. It often helps the situation to start with "You go first and after you are done talking, I'll share my thoughts as well." As we see in **Phil. 2:3-4** "*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not*

### Sunday Mornings

Sunday School 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM



*looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."*

If you don't seem to be getting anywhere with either of these attempts, then sometimes it is best, for your own mental health and to save the friendship/relationship, to "agree to disagree".

So, my final thought is this; If you know that a certain topic will start fireworks, then avoid it, no matter what the temptation might be to bring it up or engage in talking about it. **2 Tim. 2:23** advises; *"Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels."*

I couldn't have said it better myself.

Have a wonderful summer!

*Pastor Cyndy*

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## *April Mission Project Update*

Our mission project for April was collecting pet food and other pet supplies to donate to Pet Pantry of Lancaster County. Pet Pantry was very thankful for all that was donated. The photo to the right shows the items that you provided.



Thoughts on July 4th, from the Billy Graham Evangelist Association.....

"July 4th commemorates the day in 1776 that our nation declared itself to be an independent nation, and no longer a colony of England. On that date, a number of our leading citizens signed what is known as the Declaration of Independence, stating our determination to become a free country. Although it is not a religious holiday like Easter or Christmas, for many Americans it is a time to reflect on God's goodness to us as a nation. Molded into the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia (which proclaimed our independence) are these words from the Bible: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" (Leviticus 25:10, KJV). Our legal system reflects our Judeo-Christian roots. The ancient words of the Psalmist are still true: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12)."

# July Mission Project

For the month of July we will be collecting items for residents of Clare House, which is a transitional housing program for mothers and children who are facing homelessness. Please consider the list of items below to donate.

Chlorox Toilet Bowl Cleaner "Fresh Scent"

Bounty "Select-A-Size" Paper Towels and "Regular" Paper Towels

Lysol Air Sanitizer Spray

"MICROBAN" Brand Disinfectant Sanitizing Spray

Unscented Small Garbage Bags (7.5 liter) for Bathroom, Home, and Office

Cotton Swabs Large Packs

Arm & Hammer Laundry Detergent "Clean Burst" Scent (Large Bottle)

Tide Simply Liquid Laundry Detergent "Free & Sensitive" Scent

Downy Fabric Softener "Cool Cotton" Scent 10 oz. Bottle

Amazon Gift Card for any amount

Toddler "Pull-Ups" 2T-3T and/or 3T-4T

Toothpaste specified for "Kids"

Adult Toothpaste

"Child" Toothbrushes

Adult Toothbrushes

"Wet Ones" Antibacterial Hand Wipes "Fresh Scent"

Wet Wipes for "Baby and Children"

Deodorant "Fresh Scent" or Unscented is best

Shampoo and Conditioner (Small Bottles)

Dove Soap Unscented 4 Pack

Disposable Plastic Razors

Small Toiletry bags for carrying toothbrushes, comb, toothpaste, soap, etc.

## Additional Items for Clare House

Plastic Shower Caps

Dental Floss

Wide Tooth Comb with Handle



# August Event

Our church picnic will be held on **Saturday, August 16, from 4-7 PM** at Brubaker Park. We will be in Beaver Lodge. Our menu will be pulled pork and rolls. Please bring a side and a dessert to share. We will provide plates, place settings and drinks.

Benches and picnic tables are there for our use, but bring lawn chairs, if desired. Come out for a fun afternoon!



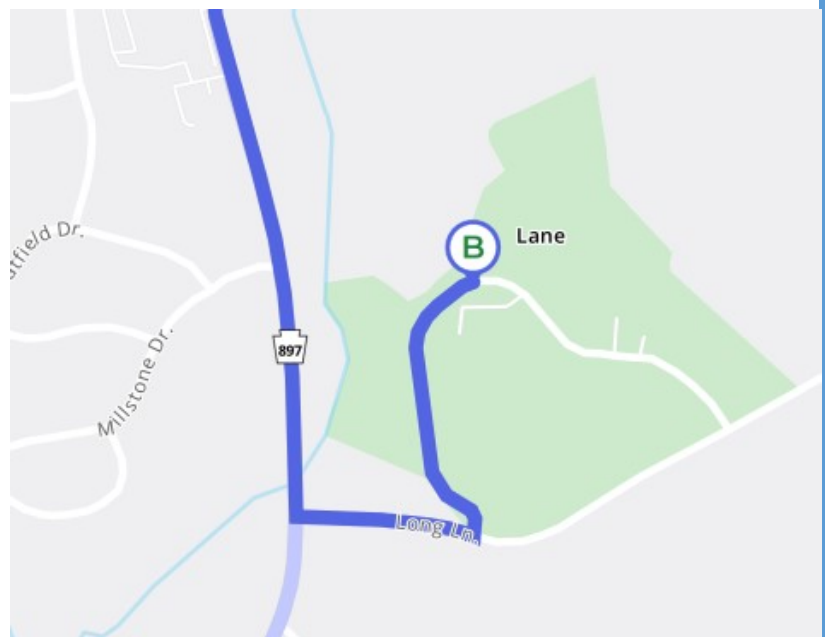
**Saturday, August 16, 4-7 PM**

### Directions to Brubaker Park

1. Take 272 to 897 at Weavers Markets.
2. At the light, turn right onto Rt. 897S.
3. Go approx. 4.7 miles. You will pass Weaver's store in Fivepointville.
4. Turn left onto Long Lane.
5. Go for 0.1 mile and turn left onto Brubaker Lane.
6. Go approximately 0.2 mile to the park. Look for Beaver Lodge.

Please note that if you get to Terre Hill you have passed Long Lane and need to turn around.

Fivepointville



Terre Hill