



I PRESS ON TOWARD

THE GOAL

FOR THE PRIZE OF

THE UPWARD CALL

OF GOD IN

CHRIST JESUS.

PHILIPPIANS 3:14, ESV

First Church of the Brethren

730 Church Street, Eden, NC April 6, 2022

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



EDEN, NC

Doug Diamond – Pastor

The church is unique. It was created by God to accomplish a multitude of things in this world. We are called to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the sick and broken. So much of what we are called to do is for the benefit of those who are not even a part of the church. We are called to be outward focused. I believe we live that out in a lot that we do. From the food giveaways that we did early on in my time here to the project that is concluding on the day that I write this with the Samaritan House to the Recovery Ministry that we are exploring (still need help with that, by the way). We are pretty good at focusing on the needs of the community and the world.

But that is not 100% of what the church exists for. The church also exists for the equipping and building up of its members. We come together so that we are more prepared when we are apart. I had a woman at a previous church that told me that the only way she made it through her week was knowing that Sunday was coming and that at church she would be refilled. When the doors of the church were closed for two years, we missed something. We missed fellowship, we missed encouragement, we missed each other. The meeting together of the saints is important.

And we have the blessing of being part of a larger body. We are not just Eden First Church. We are Eden First Church of the Brethren. We have a wider body that makes us even

stronger. We have a national and even international family, we have a district family and even have a group of churches nearby that consider us as part of that family – even if it’s that kind of crazy cousin that you only see on holidays and weddings and funerals.

I say all that for a reason. For the past 4 Sundays, our congregation has participated in Lenten Services with our sister churches just north of the border. I use the word “participated” very liberally, though, because really, we haven’t. I have been very disappointed, even hurt by my congregation’s failure to take part in these services. Apart from Acela and I, there was not one of these services where there was more than one additional couple in attendance. Only Julie and Lynn and John and Judy. I can hear people saying, “but they were so far away.” The furthest service was not more than 45 minutes from the church here. Most all of us run to Danville or Greensboro or Burlington without giving it much of a thought.

This Sunday evening is the final in the series here at our church. I hope that you will take this opportunity seriously and join together with family to worship and celebrate our Lord, Jesus Christ. Rant over and I still love you!

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the

Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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Pray Without Ceasing

Eugene Barton, Lucy Bradford, Carolyn Combs,
Melissa Dalton, JT Hale, Barbara Janney, Tania Martin,
Salem Nelson, Marie Priddy, Aaron Roach, Jutta
Shelton, Roger Shockley, Patsy Underwood, Leon &
Gail Walker, Danny Whitley

Thinking of You

Mary Burroughs

District Prayer Request

Pray for the nation and people of Ukraine whose nationhood and lives are being changed, endangered, or lost by acts of violence, hatred and war. Let us pray that all nations and people will come to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, the Prince of Peace



Although we are in church for in person worship if you would like to worship from home you can find a live stream of Sunday Worship service on YouTube. Find us on YouTube as Eden NC Church of the Brethren and catch up on the weekly sermons.

The Witness Commission will be collecting food for the Rockingham County Food Drive during the month of April.

This drive benefits 8 local agencies including Cooperative Christian Ministries, Hands of God and the Salvation Army Food Pantries in Eden and Reidsville. Please help them meet their goal of 50,000 pounds of food. Any nonperishable food will be accepted, but **recommendations for the week of April 10th are: paper/styrofoam sectional plates, cups, plastic utensils, napkins, toiletry items.**

There are boxes by the church entrances for you to place the items you wish to donate.

Thank you for all your donations!

Held in God's love

We would like to think that once we turn our lives over to Christ, everything will run smoothly. When such is not the case, we might question whether our faith is strong enough or what we are doing wrong. The fact is, we live in a broken world, and sufferings come upon all people.

In the words of 14th-century mystic Julian of Norwich: "If there is anywhere on earth a lover of God who is always kept safe, I know nothing of it, for it was not shown to me. But this was shown: that in falling and rising again we are always kept in that same precious love."

We might take comfort in the fact that our struggles are not so different from those experienced seven centuries ago. We are "normal," after all! But the greatest assurance is that no matter what we face in life, Jesus walks with us, the Holy Spirit strengthens us, and "we are always kept in [God's] precious love."

Upcoming Birthdays

April 7: Hailey Roach

April 10: Diane Burgess

Griffin Houchins

Happy Anniversary

Lemmie & Melinda Joyce

Joe & Velna Richardson

