



I will sing

of your love

and justice;

to you, LORD,

I will sing

praise.

Psalm 101:1, NIV

First Church of the Brethren
730 Church Street
Eden, NC 27288



Doug Diamond, Pastor
(304) 283-1042
diamond_doug@hotmail.com

When I moved into my office three months ago, I started digging around. You see, along with 5 or 6 totes of books and other items that I had brought along with me, there is stuff in the office that other pastors before me have left behind. There is the normal stuff, things like books, stationary and decorations. There were some old church documents and items that were probably from a VBS or something from years ago. But one item really piqued my curiosity. It was a rock. What made it so interesting was that it was a rock in a Ziploc bag. I asked Jessica about the rock and she just laughed and said that she had no idea what it might be. As time drudged on, I began to give life to the legend of this rock and was certain that there must be some deep meaning to it, why else would it be preserved in a Ziploc bag? The thought of what it might mean brought my mind to Joshua 4 when the people of Israel had crossed the Jordan on dry ground and Joshua directed a representative from each of the 12 tribes to select a rock from the river. They then placed them as a monument there on the bank so that when they passed by with their children, they could tell them what the Lord had done for them in this place.

I imagined that this rock must have some great significance that we could pass on to our children.

Finally this week, my great opportunity came to find out what this rock so carefully preserved in Ziploc bag might mean had come. I was having breakfast with a group of Brethren

pastors including Tom Auker. I assumed that Tom may know that answer to this ancient puzzle.

So I lugged that rock with me, Ziploc bag and all on a trek to far away Bassett, VA. (Ok, so the rock wasn't really that big, it fit in my pocket.)

I asked Tom if he remembered the rock, full of anticipation for what he was about to tell me. And he said "Yes, I remember that rock. I think it is a piece of coal. Mandy Silvers gave it to me, but I can't remember why."

In that moment, the legend died. Mandy, if you can shed some light on this mystery of the rock in the Ziploc bag, my door is open. Oh, and by the way, Tom kept the rock.

So Joshua chose one man from each tribe. Then he called the twelve men together and said to them, "Go out into the river where the Ark of the Lord your God is. Each of you bring back one rock, one for each tribe of Israel, and carry it on your shoulder. They will be a sign among you. In the future your children will ask you, 'What do these rocks mean?' Tell them the water stopped flowing in the Jordan when the Ark of the Agreement with the Lord crossed the river. These rocks will always remind the Israelites of this." Joshua 4:4-7

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Faithful and true

Faith of our fathers, living still,
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy
Whene'er we hear that glorious Word!

Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death.

—Frederick W. Faber

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

July 14, 2021

730 Church Street Eden, NC 27288

Office phone: (336) 627-7063 - Email: eden1stcob@gmail.com

Pray Without Ceasing

Sheila Barnes, Eugene Barton, Lucy Bradford, Katherine Bridges, Carolyn Combs, Melissa Dalton, Donnie Gilley, JT Hale, Barbara Janney, Gary Janney, Tania Martin, Salem Nelson, Marie Priddy, Aaron Roach, Jutta Shelton, Roger Shockley, Louise Tudor, Patsy Underwood, Gail Walker, Danny Whitley, Frankie Wilson

Thinking of You

Sarah Carter

District Prayer Request

Pray for Karen B. Cassell, who is scheduled to be installed as pastor of the Lynchburg Church of the Brethren today. Let us pray that we will support, encourage, and pray for those who undertake set-apart ministerial service.

Thank you for continuing to honor your commitment to the work of Jesus Christ through your tithes.

Would you rather send your tithes by PayPal?

You can find us listed as Ncbrethren.tithe@gmail.com



If you cannot attend regular Sunday service do not forget that you can watch a live stream of Sunday Worship service on YouTube. Find us on YouTube as Eden NC Church of the Brethren, where you can view the live stream each Sunday, or watch any of our recent sermons online.



The Witness Commission will continue collecting items for Hospice of Rockingham County during the month July. Please help them keep provide comfort to others by purchasing some items on their wish list. You may place the items just inside the door downstairs or in the container in the narthex. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, make your check payable to the church and put “hospice” on the memo line. You can place all monetary donations in the offering plate.

Thank you for all your help!



Calling all King's Club teachers, helpers, and any possible volunteers! All are invited to a brainstorming session and pizza dinner for the King's Club program. Join us Wednesday, July 21st at 6 pm to discuss the structure of the King's Club program as we try to prepare a possible start date of September 1st. RSVP by Tuesday, July 20.

Home and Family Life will be making fried apple pies on October 5th. The pies will cost \$3 each and orders will continue through September 12th. To order just complete the form in the narthex or contact a member of Home and Family Life to place an order!



“How we walk with the broken speaks louder than how we sit with the great.”

—Zig Ziglar

Upcoming Birthdays

July 20: Priya Watkins

July 21: Carl Chatham

July 23: Cathy Murray

