

## Christmas Choral Program

**Sunday, December 18th, 6:00 pm**

Enjoy an evening of song celebrating Christ's birth by our Adult Choir, Glory Ringers and Joyful Noise Choir. Refreshments and cookies will be served after the service in the fellowship hall.

## Longest Night Service

**Wednesday, December 21st, 5:30 pm**

All who experience pain and loneliness during the holiday season are welcome to this service of hope. Join us in the sharing of scripture, prayer and music to acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn and struggle.

## Young Adult Brunch

**Sunday, December 18th, SS Hour**

All young adults are invited to a Christmas brunch during the Sunday School hour in the fellowship hall.

## Christmas Eve Service

**Saturday, December 24th, 6:30 pm**

Join us for a time of celebrating the birth of Jesus through Scriptures, singing, candlelighting and a meditation by Pastor Tim Bentch

## Holiday Sunday Services

**Sunday, December 25th, 10:30 am**

Please join Souderton Mennonite Church for worship together on Christmas morning. There will be no Sunday School following the service.



**Sunday, January 1st, 10:30 am**

Start off the new year by worshipping with the family of SMC. There will be no Sunday School following the service.

- ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧
- ✧ With winter weather approaching, please be ✧  
✧ aware that SMC follows the Souderton ✧  
✧ School District schedule for inclement ✧  
✧ weather. ✧
- ✧ • If schools are closed, there will be NO ✧  
✧ church activities and the office may be ✧  
✧ closed. ✧
  - ✧ • If schools dismiss early, there will be NO ✧  
✧ evening activities. ✧
  - ✧ • If schools have a delayed opening, there ✧  
✧ WILL be evening activities at SMC. ✧
- ✧ Cancellations will be reported on our ✧  
✧ **website** at [www.soudertonmennonite.org](http://www.soudertonmennonite.org), ✧  
✧ sent out by **email**, reported on **1440 AM**, ✧  
✧ WNPV, posted on **Facebook** or on our ✧  
✧ automated phone message at **215-723-3088**. ✧
- ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧ ✧

# The Chestnut Corner



## Eastern District & Franconia Mennonite Conference Assembly

By Sarah Freeman



**PLANT. WATER. GROW.**

*1 Corinthians 3:8-9*

If you have never been to Conference Assembly (held each November), I encourage you to consider it next fall. There is free food, free childcare, and a chance to hear what is happening in nearby Mennonite churches.

Nate Stuckey, from Princeton Theological Seminary, spoke on the theme verses for the weekend, 1 Corinthians 3:8-9. *"The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building."* He said, "Now is a difficult time to be a leader in the church.... I have a hunch, just a hunch, that we need each other.... The planter and waterer are of equal importance and one purpose. ... Without the other, each is useless."

As believers we decide to plant and water seeds to grow God's Kingdom and the Church. Do we plant seeds by sharing His love? Do we water seeds by nurturing Christ-like qualities or the fruits of the spirit in people? We have influence over how we work together as co-laborers, between ourselves and collectively with God. But ultimately, the act of something growing is up to the Lord.

That can be freeing in a sense, can it not? We are not responsible for the growth. It's not about us. It is not about if I have the perfect words for how I will present the Gospel to my neighbors. Our youth pastor, Josh Jefferson, touched on this in his workshop about taking youth ministry to the margins of our society—to those with a different income level, different mental or physical abilities, and those struggling with addiction. In another Conference Assembly workshop we discussed how simple it can be. Speak words of blessing, spend time together over a meal, pray for God to heal sickness (Luke 10). If God is doing the growing, and we are planting and watering, we cannot fail! But we must respond to opportunities to do so.



Several churches shared short video clip testimonies of how they've responded to planting and watering opportunities. Plains Mennonite Church noticed the large number of families in their area who have children with autism, and they started an autism support group. West Swamp Mennonite Church responded to needs of the homeless in Quakertown by collaborating with community members and other churches to run a shelter. Ripple and Whitehall Mennonite Church teamed up to start a community garden in Allentown. I wonder, what could our planting and watering opportunities look like for us here in Souderton?