



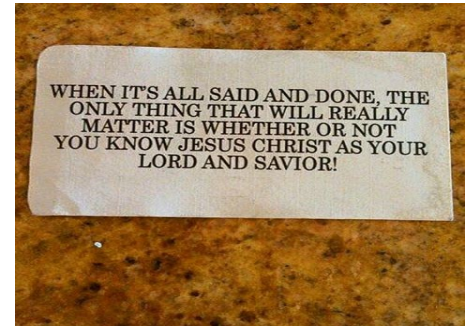
THE CONNECTION

OCTOBER—DECEMBER 2026

A newsletter connecting our students in 6th—12th grade and their parents with our ministry.

Totally Useless information

- *Toy Story* helped sell the Etch-a-Sketch.
- Four out of five children recognize the McDonald's logo at three years old.
- Barbie and Ken broke up in 2004.
- Your stomach produces a new layer of mucus every two weeks so that it doesn't digest itself.
- There are 293 ways to make a change for a dollar.



EMBRACE GOD'S CHANGE

Throughout Scripture, we see countless examples of God using change to accomplish His purposes. Abraham was called to leave everything familiar and journey to an unknown land, Genesis 12:1-4. Moses led the Israelites out of slavery into the wilderness—a place of profound transformation, Exodus 3:10-12. Even Jesus' ministry was a catalyst for radical change, calling people to repentance and new life in Him. The Bible reminds us that while God Himself is unchanging, Malachi 3:6, He often uses change to shape us into the people He created us to be. Philippians 1:6 offers this reassurance: *"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."* Every shift we experience—whether joyful or painful—is part of God's greater plan to refine us and draw us closer to Him. Change is not random or meaningless; it is a tool in the hands of a loving Creator. Growth and change are inseparable. Just as a caterpillar must undergo transformation to become a butterfly, we too must embrace change to step into the fullness of what God has prepared for us. Paul captures this beautifully in 2 Corinthians 5:17: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"* This process of becoming a "new creation" is not instantaneous—it's an ongoing journey that requires surrender and trust.

Here's why change is essential for spiritual growth:

- **It Deepens Our Faith:** Change often pushes us out of our comfort zones, requiring us to rely on God more fully. Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us to *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."* Faith grows strongest when tested by uncertainty.
- **It Refines Our Character:** Life's changes—whether they bring joy or hardship—are opportunities for God to shape our character. Romans 5:3-4 teaches that *"suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."* Each challenge refines us into vessels that better reflect His glory.
- **It Aligns Us with God's Will:** Sometimes change redirects us from our own plans toward God's perfect will. Romans 12:2 urges us to *"be transformed by the renewing of your mind"* so that we can discern His good and pleasing purposes.

Embrace God's change, don't avoid it.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Each month, we'll be having a way to serve, We need to put our faith in action. Watch for them and participate.
James 2:17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

ANYE (Almost New Year's Eve) PARTY

December 28-29

It's an all-night party. We will meet here at 6:30 and travel to a church in Chambersburg for a special time together to include worship, a speaker, and games. Then we travel to the Sports Emporium in Carlisle there will be Lazer tag, go carts, games, pizza and soda. You will receive a \$5 card for games; you can bring money if you want extra. When we leave there, we go to ABC Lanes in Mechanicsburg for bowling fun. We arrive back here at 6:15am. Cost is \$50 plus money for snacks at bowling alley.

HERITAGE HILLS VISIT

DECEMBER 6

12:45-3:15PM

LUNCH AFTER CHURCH IF YOU ARE GOING

GREENCASTLE HERITAGE CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 4 and 11, 5:00—9:00

Come help hand out cookies and cocoa, represent our church, meet people and spread the joy of Christmas. Sign up in information Hallway.



NITRO CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 16

Lots of Jesus

Lots of fun and games

Lots of food

**Bring a wrapped gift for exchange, under \$5
Great time to bring a friend.**



PAINT EXPERIENCE

December 5 at 1:00pm

Come get your paint on and support our mission trip to Lithuania.
Cost and more details to come.

FOR THE PARENTS

We have a lot of events and some of them have costs involved. I know for families of Nitro youth with more than one student, this can add up fast. In an effort to make these events available to as many as possible, we offer some help. For families with multiple students going to events; the first will be full cost, additional family members are half price. This policy will not apply to mission trips and there are some other exceptions. Does not apply to those using money from student accounts. Don't let money prevent your student from participating, if paying is a concern, please talk to me.

In the event that Greencastle or Tuscarora School district cancels school or has an early dismissal due to weather, Nitro Youth will be cancelled.

We will also need new annual permission slips and insurance info sheets completed for each student.

MOVIE NIGHT

December 18

WATCH FOR DETAILS

DESTINATION UNKNOWN

November 15

Leave after church -4:00

Only Chip knows where we will go and what we will do. Come ready for a fun afternoon. Great opportunity to bring a friend. Please sign up
Lunch Provided

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24

Noon and 6:30pm

Come celebrate the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Same service at two times.



NO YOUTH GROUP

OCT 7, NOV 25, DEC 23, 30

OTHER HAPPENINGS

October 17

Spaghetti Dinner

October 18

"Into The World"

November 7

Thankfest

November 14

Church Shoebox Party

February 5-7, 2027

Winter Slam

Please use the sign up sheets.

Watch for changes to the calendar

Chip Stottlemeyer

Cell: 717-372-4964 Office: 717- 597-3869

Email: chip@welcometoebenezer.com

Church web site: welcometoebenezer.com

We are on Facebook and Instagram