

April 2024



Free Spring Church of the Brethren
670 Free Spring Church Road
Mifflintown, PA 17059

Free Spring Fountain



The water I give will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life. – John 4:14



Free Spring Church of the Brethren

670 Free Spring Church Road
Mifflintown, PA 17059
(717) 463-3192
FreeSpringCOB@yahoo.com
Terry Smith, Pastor
Eugene Jones, Moderator
Lona Henry, Church Secretary

Office Hours:

Thursdays

10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Sunday Services:

Early Worship – 8:30 am

Sunday School – 9:30 am

Worship Service – 10:30



Spring Supper & Study
Wednesdays, Beginning April 3
6:00 pm

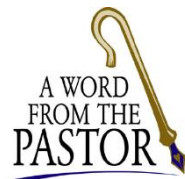


Church Clean-Up and
Adopt-A-Highway Pick-Up
Saturday, April 6
8:00 am

Spring Church Council Meeting
Thursday, April 18
7:00 pm



All items for the May newsletter and calendar must be in the Free Spring Church office by **Monday, April 22**. If we do not receive these items by then, we **WILL NOT** be able to put them in the newsletter.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
 Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Don't you wonder what His assessment of the world's warring madness must be? There is a rise of nationalism, the "us first and nobody second" mentality that has grown around the world. It infects the culture of many countries, including our own, and it filters down into the mindset of communities, individuals, perhaps even the church.

In the **Joyful Noiseletter**, Anglican Bishop David Francoer wrote, *"Unless you have been living in a sensory deprivation tank for the last three years, you know that our nation and the world truly needs prayer. Holy Scripture reveals that God desires His people to pray for His will to be done! We invite you to join us in this endeavor of prayer...not just for any old thing, but for God to drive out the darkness and oppression in our land and transform it with His perfect will and merciful love!"*

The editor of that same publication, Cal Samra, asks, *"Where did all the peacemakers go?"* He laments the prayer experiences that he had in various worship services in different denominations. There were no prayers for peace in Russia-Ukraine, in the Holy Land, or in America...Sarma asks, *"Are there so few peacemakers in our society that we've forgotten who they are and how they think and behave?"* He observes that, *"Our feuding and uncompromising political leaders still haven't learned the lesson that violence and wars only plant the seeds for more violence and wars in future generations."*

Abraham Lincoln realized that our nation was in need of healing after the American Civil War. Historian John Avalon observed that in the last six weeks of his life, Lincoln excelled as a peacemaker. Avalon extols the final paragraph in Lincoln's second inaugural address as a model for peace in our times, as well: *"With malice toward none, with charity for all; with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations."*

Go in peace, for you cannot go...where God is not.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Terry

**April Deacons of the Month:
 J. Allen & Ruth Zendt**

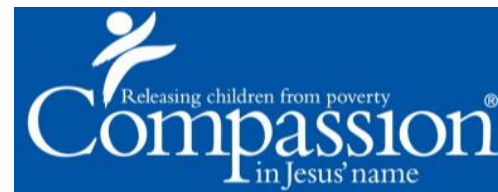
Scriptures and Messages for April

- April 7
 1 John 1:1-2:2 *"We Have an Advocate with God"*
- April 14
 1 John 3:1-7 *"Let No One Deceive You"*
- April 21
 1 John 3:16-24 *"Love in Truth and Action"*
- April 28
 1 John 4:7-21 *"God Is Love. What Are We?"*



**Spring Council Meeting
 Thursday April 18
 at 7:00 pm**

It is very important for everyone to try to attend.



AND DO NOT FORGET TO DO GOOD AND TO SHARE WITH OTHERS, FOR WITH SUCH SACRIFICES, GOD IS PLEASED.

– Hebrews 13:16 (NIV)

Compassion Sunday is April 28. What a great day to be a child advocate!! An estimated 356 million children live in extreme poverty. *"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."* – Matthew 25:40.

Please pray for these children. The cost for sponsoring a child is \$43 per month and you can do your monthly or yearly donation payment online! Specific children to sponsor will be available on April 28.

Free Spring Library News

The following are fiction books; some are part of a series.

Sisters of the Rockies Series by Misty M. Beller

Rocky Mountain Promise – When Lorelai Collins rescues a rare white orphaned buffalo calf, she unwittingly brings people to her Rocky Mountain ranch. When the attention turns threatening, she approaches the mysterious new trading post owner with a proposition, but they are soon faced with a greater threat – one that will test their limits and the love growing between them. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is: Rocky Mountain Rendezvous.)

Waters of Time Series by Jody Hedlund

Wait for Me – Dawson Huxham blames himself for his sister's death...until he briefly crosses time and discovers she's alive in the Middle Ages. Hoping to reconnect with her, he searches for the holy water that will help him visit the past for a longer duration. But he realizes he's not the only one looking for the miraculous water. Terrorists are threatening him and watching his every move. (This is the fourth book in the series; the other books are: Come Back to Me, Never Leave Me, and Stay With Me.)

What a Wave Must Be by Angela Hunt

Seventeen-year-old Maddie's world is shattered by her beloved father's unexpected betrayal and passing. When Maddie's mother sends her to live with her grandparents Susan and Frank, unexpected twists throw their lives into fresh turmoil – testing the very fabric of their faith. Can Susan help Maddie find hope, healing, and love despite unimaginable loss?

Appalachian Song by Michelle Shocklee

Bertie Jenkins has spent forty years serving as a midwife for her community in the Great Smoky Mountains of East Tennessee. Out of all the mothers she's tended, none affects her more than the young teenager who shows up on her doorstep, injured, afraid, and expecting one warm June day in 1943. As Bertie and her four sisters tenderly nurture Songbird back to health, the bond between the childless midwife and the motherless teen grows strong. But soon Songbird is forced to make a heartbreaking decision that will tear this little family apart.

Intertwined by Jennifer Slattery

Abandoned by her husband for another woman, Tammy Kuhn, an organ procurement coordinator, often finds herself in tense and bitter



moments. After an altercation with a doctor, she is fighting to keep her job and her sanity when one late night she encounters her old flame, Nick. She walks right into his moment of facing an unthinkable tragedy. Because they both have learned to find eternal purposes in every event and encounter, it doesn't take long to discover that their lives are intertwined, but the ICU is no place for romance...or is it? This could be where life begins again.

Texas Ever After Series by Karen Witemeyer

Fairest of the Heart – Penelope Snow becomes a personal maid for a famous actress whose troupe is leaving Chicago to tour the West. She hides her figure beneath shapeless dresses and keeps her head down. But she still manages to attract the wrong attention, leaving her prospects in tatters – and her jealous mistress plotting her demise. After his brother lost his life over a woman, Texas Ranger Titus Kingsley has learned to expect the worst from women and is rarely disappointed. So when a young lady found in suspicious circumstances takes up residence with the seven old drovers living at his grandfather's ranch, Titus is determined to keep a close eye on her. (This is the first book in the series.)

Alaskan Cyber Hunters Series by Kimberly Woodhouse

26 Below – In her new role as Emergency Operations Center director for Fairbanks, Alaska, Darcie Phillips prevents disasters. But none of her training can prepare her for the terror that's coming. As a cybersecurity specialist, Jason Myers is determined to ferret out any threats to the town he now calls home – and that includes his reckless brother and his ecoterrorist friends. When an old woman's wild prediction – widespread destruction as soon as the Fairbanks temperature falls to 26 below – hits national headlines, neither Darcie nor Jason sees a real risk to anything but tourism. (This is the first book in the series.)

~ Kathy Bowman, Librarian

Chicken Pickin' Party!
Wednesday, April 10
10:00 am



If you can help pick chicken off the bone on Wednesday, April 10, at 10:00 am, please let Sharon Ritzman know. This will help prepare the chicken for the Meals-on-Wheels cooks to use for meals.

Christian Education Commission

The Spring Supper & Study will be Wednesdays starting April 3, at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall with a potluck supper followed by the study at 6:30 pm. We will be using Kyle Idleman's **When Your Way Isn't Working: Finding Purpose and Contentment through Deep Connection with Jesus**. Here's the overview from the website:



In some of His final words to His closest friends, Jesus didn't suggest a five-year plan for success or a checklist of things to do. Instead, He offered a metaphor about what the good life really looks like: "I am the vine. You are the branches. Abide in Me." In other words, "No matter what happens next, the most important thing is to stay connected to Me."

In When Your Way Isn't Working, pastor and bestselling author Kyle Idleman offers a unique exploration of John 15 for all of us who are going through the motions and feel frustrated. Idleman reminds us that it's connection, not production, that leads to a fruitful life – relationships, not circumstances, that bring joy. He offers his distinctive, Biblical perspective on how to:

- Find greater rest, depth, and connection in your life
- Embrace freedom from the pressures of performance and production
- Recognize what you can't do makes room for what God can do
- Step out of isolation even when it feels scary
- Discover the top distractions that keep you from connecting to God – and how to counter them

In the end, the fruit of your life won't have to do with what you accomplished but with whom you stayed connected. Because no matter what happens next in this uncertain world, what matters most, lasts the longest, and brings the greatest joy is staying connected to the God who never leaves you.

A sign-up sheet is in the narthex and the books are there as well. This will be about a 5-week study with a DVD series. We will meet Wednesdays, April 3, 10, 17, 24 and May 1, all at 6:00 pm for Supper and 6:30 pm for Study. The schedule may change depending on how the series goes or if something else comes up.

~ Shari Book (Chair), Jim Eichman, Alan Naylor, and Mary Zeigler



The next worship service will be held at North Ridge on **Sunday, April 14**. If you can help, please let Sharon know.

Nurture Commission News



Our birthday for the month of April is Darlene Leach, who celebrates her birthday on Monday, April 22. Please remember her with your prayers and cards.

The Lenten Teas study finished up on Saturday, March 16. A big 'THANK YOU' to Dee Bell for leading the study on The Characters of Easter: The Villains, Heroes, Cowards and Crooks Who Witnessed History's Biggest Miracle by Daniel Darling. Each Saturday morning was enjoyed by 12 to 16 participants.

Bread & Cup Communion took place on Palm Sunday, March 24.

We welcomed John and Becky Schlegel as new members on Sunday, March 24.

Our Easter Sunrise Service was Sunday, March 31 at 6:30 am. Our guest speaker was Warren Peachey with Jennifer Fornwalt providing special music. A potluck breakfast was enjoyed in the fellowship hall directly after the service.

The Ladies Spring Banquet is being planned by Angela Bryner and Sandra Wert. If you wish to volunteer your time with assisting on planning and/or setting up, please reach out to them directly. The date is TBA.

Please feel free to attend the next Music & Worship Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 9 at 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall. New ideas would be welcomed!

~ Jessica Eby (Chair), Karen Logan, Carla Renson, and Nancy Shadel



April Birthday of the Month

Our Birthday of the month for April is Darlene Leach, whose birthday is on Monday, April 22. Please remember her with your prayers and cards.

Church Spring Clean-Up Day and Adopt-A-Highway Clean-Up Saturday, April 6 at 8:00 am We need your help!



Ladies (and Gentlemen, if you also like to clean!), in addition to the outside work planned on this date, please come on April 6 at 8:00 am (**rain or shine**) to clean, wash dishes, and organize the church kitchen.

We will have a make-up day for the outside work around the church on Saturday, April 13 should we get rained out.



Witness Commission

April will be a busy month, but aren't all months? This is especially true for those who are retired. That is what everyone shares, anyway.

On April 9, Heartbeat will be having a Harshbarger fundraiser at both locations. Coupons are available in this newsletter, and extra coupons are available in the narthex. They want to thank everyone for the support, and they are always in need of maternity clothing, baby formula, baby wipes, diapers, and Giant or Weis gift cards. Jenny Taylor is the new board member; she is a physician's assistant at a local emergency department. What a good place to have a member from at Heartbeat!

Brethren Disaster Ministries newsletter is on the bulletin board in the hallway. It shows rebuilding updates from Dawson Springs, Kentucky, Eastern Kentucky, and Detroit.

District Women's Spring Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, April 20, at West Shore COB. There are registration brochures in the narthex. Please join us on that date for an uplifting morning!

There are two events at Camp Eder. Men's Outdoorsman Day on Saturday, April 6, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm, with a clay shoot and fishing by expert guidance of Matt Ilko, Nevin Funk, and Seth Brickner. Register by calling (717) 642-8256. Also, the Camp Gold Outing will be held Friday, May 10 at Carroll Valley Golf Course, at Liberty Mountain. Registration is at 7:00 am with lunch at the camp at 1:00 pm.

Compassion Sunday is April 28. Details on this are in your newsletter. Please note that you can do your monthly or yearly donation payment online!

~ Barry Hoffman, Becca Walters, Fina Williams, and Dina Zug (Chair)

Church World Service Hygiene Kits (to be collected thru April)

- One hand towel (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package
- One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from the package
- One bath-size bar of soap in the wrapper
- One toothbrush in the package
- Ten standard size Band-Aids®



All items need to fit inside a one-gallon plastic zipper closure bag

Juniata County Food Pantry April Update

In February 2024, the Food Pantry served 238 families – 620 of your neighbors! A big thank you to Matamoras UMC for volunteering on Saturdays in February.

Join our family! We are always looking for a few good volunteers!

Our vestibule is open 24 hours a day to receive non-perishable donations. Donations of cash, checks or gift cards may be deposited in the vestibule's mail slot.

Contact Person: Glenda Fultz, Executive Director

Phone: (717) 436-9718 (answering machine)

E-mail: jcftp122017@gmail.com

Address: PO Box 44, Mifflintown, PA 17059

Location: 114 N Main St, Mifflintown, PA 17059

Hours: Tuesday, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon, and 1:00-5:00 pm

Saturday, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

Visit our Website: www.jcfoodpantry.com



Meat Canning Project 2024

April 1, 2, 3, and 4

At Christian Aid Ministries

2412 Division Highway, Ephrata

Sponsored by Southern PA District and

Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren.



Volunteer needs:

- ❖ Help with canning and labeling (two shifts each day: 7:15 am – Noon and 9:00 am – 2:00 pm)
- ❖ Sign-up early to secure your preferred day and time
- ❖ Volunteers are also needed to provide an early morning snack and a lunch for volunteers

Contact your District Office to volunteer at (717) 778-2254 or (717) 778-2264

Southern District COB is asking for monetary donations from our two districts. There is a small fund balance from the previous year, but it is insufficient to make the 2024 canning event totally funded. If you are so led to donate, please add it with your offering envelope. Thank you!



Ukraine Relief Offerings

If you're so led, we encourage you to continue contributing to this effort. Check contributions should be made payable to **Free Spring COB** and write "for Ukraine" on the memo line. This will allow us to deposit the check and forward your contributions to the Brethren Disaster Ministries. If using your offering envelope, indicate the amount that it is to go to BRETHREN DISASTER MINISTRIES. You may also use a regular envelope or one of the designated "Brethren Disaster Ministries" offering envelopes which have been placed on the table in the narthex.

Attention Ladies!

If you're able to share your time and talent, we are looking for volunteers to help with the planning and preparation for this year's Ladies Spring Banquet here at Free Spring. The date is still TBD.

Please reach out to Angela Bryner or Sandra Wert if you are willing to help out with this event.



Belita Mitchell, retired pastor and the denomination's first Black female moderator, passed away on Saturday, February 10, 2024 at her home in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

The first African-American woman to be ordained in the Church of the Brethren, Mitchell was called as the 2007 Annual Conference Moderator. She served as pastor to Church of the Brethren congregations at Imperial Heights (California) and Harrisburg First (Pennsylvania). Along with her husband, Don, she was recognized in 2017 by the denomination's Intercultural Ministries as a significant leader in efforts to make the Church of the Brethren an intercultural church, and in 2022, she was the preacher for the final worship service at Annual Conference in Omaha.

A celebration of life service will be held for Belita at First Church of the Brethren, 219 Hummel Street, Harrisburg on **Saturday, April 20**, with viewing at 10:00 am and service at 11:00 am. A luncheon will follow.



Truck Stop Ministry Cookie-Packing Change

The Truck Stop Ministry cookie baking and packing has been changed to **Saturday, May 18**. With the Easter celebration being early this year, there didn't seem to be a time we could schedule it. This date will be between Mother's Day and Memorial Day, which will be good for all who travel during that time of the year. Mark your calendars!

Please remember our shut-ins with your prayers and cards.

Evelyn Benner
Brookline Continuing Care
Retirement Community
2 Manor Blvd, Rm 225A
Mifflintown, PA 17059
(717) 436-1348

Dot Benson
389 Raccoon Valley Road
Millerstown, PA 17062
(717) 589-3419

Dianne Goshorn
Brookline Continuing Care
& Retirement Village
2 Manor Blvd, Rm 305
Mifflintown, PA 17059
(717) 348-9485 (cell)

Melda Ritchie
3761 Mountain Road
McAlisterville, PA 17049

Clair Varner
145 School Street, Apt 202
McAlisterville, PA 17049
(717) 635-0513 (cell)



Free Spring Church's Website

Check out our website for bulletins, newsletters, photos from various activities, the history of our church, forms for updating your Directory information, and so much more at <https://cob-net.org/church/freespring/> (Click on the "Updates To Our Site" link under MENU to see what has been updated and when!)



**Southern PA District Church of the Brethren
2024**

District Women's Spring Luncheon

Deuteronomy 6:1-8

Matthew 11:28-30

A Commandment to Keep and a Choice to Make

Saturday, April 20, 2024

9:00 am

West Shore Church of the Brethren

6921 Wertzville Road, Enola, PA 17025

(717) 571-6288

westshorecob@pa.net

Registration forms with additional details regarding this event are on the table in the narthex.

Registration deadline is April 13, 2024.

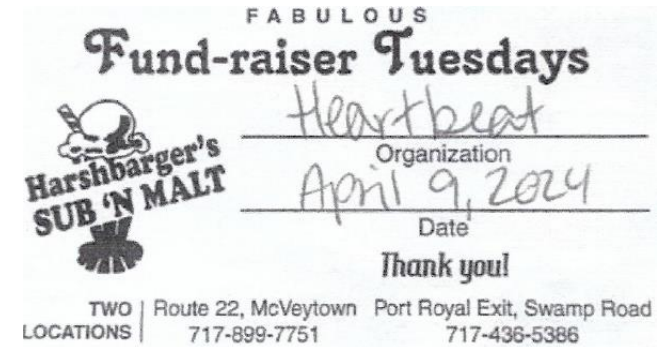
No refunds after deadline date.



**Heartbeat Community Services
Fundraiser at Harshbarger's
Tuesday, April 9**

Please plan to join us at Harshbarger's for Heartbeat's fundraising event! Just take the coupon below to either Harshbarger's location (Port Royal or McVeytown) and present it when paying for your order, and Harshbarger's will donate proceeds back to Heartbeat. The coupon is good for all of the following purchases: dining in, take-out orders, and gift cards!

Extra copies of the coupon are also available on the table in the narthex. Please share them with your friends and family who might also wish to participate in this fundraising event!



Sunday School Classes

The Seekers Class, which meets in the upstairs adult classroom, is studying The New Testament Book of Matthew focusing on one chapter each week. Our teachers are Ron Gordon, Rodney Pry, and Allen Zendt. With their leadership, along with the insightful contributions from class members, it is a lively and active learning experience focusing on scripture. You are welcome to join us any Sunday.

The Explorers Sunday School Class has begun a study on the book of Proverbs.