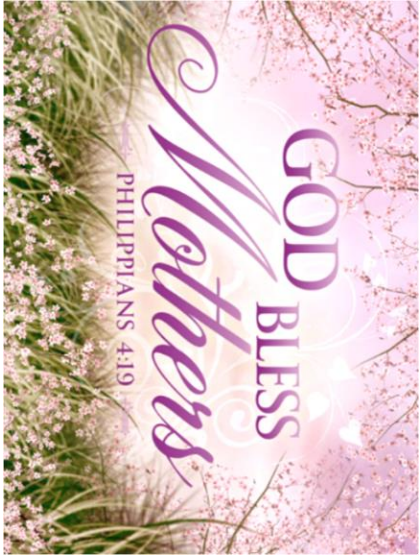


May 2024



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



Monday, May 6
Executive Committee, 6:30 pm
Church Board, 7:00 pm

Mother's Day Service
May 12



Deacons Meeting
Thursday, May 16
6:00 pm

All items for the June newsletter and calendar must be in the Free Spring Church office by **Monday, May 20**. 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,

Twenty years ago, May was a very busy month. Every Saturday had an event from Dinner-for-Eight to May Day, and Mother-Daughter brunch to the District Minister's dinner at the Brethren home. I was doing pre-marriage counseling with a couple who has a daughter graduating this year and was called to prepare a funeral service for Bill Holderman.

This was also the year that I was serving as District Moderator for Southern Pennsylvania, and there were meetings for the program and arrangements committee, as well as nominating committee. Elizabethtown College invited us to meet for District Conference at their campus in September which meant extra preparations for 2004.

Juniata Mennonite School advisors also took the eighth and ninth grade classes to Pittsburgh for two days and to the Lumina Center another day. The building committee was meeting regularly as the project for the new sanctuary and fellowship hall neared completion. Praise the Lord that it was completed for the last Sunday in May, and our daughter's wedding the following Saturday. In between, I managed to smash my mouth, bust teeth, and put a hole in my lip moving the large speakers in the old sanctuary.

It's hard to believe that we have been blessed to be in our "new" worship and fellowship center since 2004. We have been blessed to share many joys and many sorrows within this beautiful setting. How wonderful it is to be able to comfort those who suffer pain and loss, and to celebrate with those who embark upon married life, welcome new life, and commit lives to Jesus. Let's celebrate this anniversary month of May with joy.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Terry

Scriptures and Messages for May

Youth Sunday, May 5

1 John 5:1-6 *"Who Conquers the World?"*

Mother's Day, May 12

1 John 5:9-13 *"The Testimony of God"*

Pentecost Sunday, May 19

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 *"You Are to Testify"*

Sunday, May 26

Isaiah 6:1-8 *"Whom Shall I Send?"*

Free Spring Library News

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

A Million Little Choices by Tamera Alexander

One house. Two women. Two centuries. Claire finds herself in a crumbling relationship living in a house she never desired. Charlotte is trapped in an abusive marriage trying to protect her unborn child and enslaved members of the household. Can both women discover the long-hidden secrets with power to restore – and will they make a needed change?

One Final Target by Janice Cantore

Every police officer knows it's dangerous to serve a warrant – but *no one* expects an IED to detonate, killing four officers in one deadly explosion. Now it's up to the lone survivor, Sergeant Jodie King, to solve the case. But she's hampered by trauma. And brand-new detective Sam Gresham fears Jodie may actually be the intended target!?

Katharine Wright Mystery Series by Amanda Flower

To Slip the Bonds of Earth – While not as famous as her older siblings Wilbur and Orville, the celebrated inventors of flight, Katharine Wright is equally inventive – especially when it comes to solving crimes – in *USA Today* bestselling author Amanda Flower's radiant new historical mystery series inspired by the real sister of the Wright Brothers. (This is the first book in the series.)

Hope Harbor Series by Irene Hannon

Sandcastle Inn – Vienna Price never intended to return for more than a passing visit to Oregon and all the bad memories she'd left behind. But when your career tanks, home is where you go to nurse your wounds and chart a new course. Only temporarily, of course – because as much as she loves her quirky mom, anything more than a short stay would drive them both crazy. A trip to Oregon isn't in Matt Quinn's plans either, until a perfectly timed appeal for help arrives from his sister. What better place to decompress after a shattering loss than a quiet, seaside town named Hope Harbor? But R&R isn't on the agenda when he arrives to find his sister's new enterprise on life support. (The other books in the series are in order: Hope Harbor, Sea Rose Lane, Sandpiper Cove, Pelican Point, Driftwood Bay, Starfish Pier, Blackberry Beach, Sea Glass Cottage, and Windswept Way.)

With Every Memory by Janine Rosche

After a tragic accident robs her of the last nine years of memories, Lori Mendenhall comes home to a family completely different than she



remembers. As her memory returns and past secrets resurface, it will take all of them to repair what's been broken and find a new future together.


Texas Ever After Series by Karen Witemeyer

If the Boot Fits – When Samantha Dearing's rancher father hosts a ball to find her a husband, she balks at the prospect of marrying a man not of her own choosing. After a mystery guest saves her brother's life and then disappears, leaving only his boot behind, her search for its owner leads to an ending more enchanting than she imagined. (This is the second book in the series, the first book is Fairest of Heart.)

Alaskan Cyber Hunters Series by Kimberley Woodhouse

8 Down – Investigator Carrie Kintz is new blood with the Alaska Bureau of Investigation in Anchorage. But with a serial killer on the loose, there's no easing into the job. It's sink or swim. The only clues to help law enforcement stop this madman are the taunts he drops into crossword puzzles across the country – always in the same 8 DOWN position. Carrie is desperate to prove her worth to the force and the community by catching the killer. But when she discovers signs that these deaths are just the tip of the iceberg in a frighteningly elaborate cyberattack, it's time to admit she needs help. (This is the second book in the series, the first book is 26 Below.)

~ Kathy Bowman, Librarian

Happy Mother's Day! 



Christian
Education

Christian Education Commission

Our study with Kyle Idleman's When Your Way Isn't Working has been going well, with an average attendance of 14. There are two more sessions left, but please, still feel free to join us! On May 1, we will meet in the fellowship hall as usual at 6:00 pm for supper and 6:30 pm for study. On May 8, we'll meet at Pastor Terry's cabin at the same times previously mentioned. Depending on the weather, we may dine at the pavilion.

Upcoming events include Graduate Recognition, Sunday, June 9 and Vacation Bible School, Monday, July 8 – Wednesday, July 10.

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



May is Food Pantry Volunteer Month

Free Spring is responsible for volunteers at the Juniata County Food Pantry for the Saturdays in the month of May. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you are able to help out. Your help is greatly appreciated.

May Deacons of the Month: Kathy Bowman and Cindy Lucas

Nurture Commission News

Our birthday for the month of May is Arlene Weiland, who celebrates her birthday on Thursday, May 16. Please remember her with your prayers and cards.

It was recently mentioned during April's Council Meeting that if you are willing to make food for funeral services, please inform Mary Zeigler.

We will be celebrating and honoring the ladies of the church for Mother's Day on Sunday, May 12.

The Free Spring Ladies' Spring Banquet will be held Saturday, June 1 at 12:30 pm. More details to come! Please watch for a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you plan to attend. Gentlemen, we'll be looking for volunteers to assist with this banquet as well.

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



May Birthday of the Month

Our Birthday of the month for May is Arlene Weiland, whose birthday is on Thursday, May 16. Please remember her with your prayers and cards.

Witness Commission

May Food Pantry Needs: Dish Detergent



April flowers bring May flowers? This spring it seems that March showers bring April flowers, then they get frosted!

Here are just a few highlights from our outreach programs.

For the last 12-15 years, the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry has relied on the banquets to provide a third of their annual operating budget. But banquet attendance has decreased over recent years and the banquets take a significant amount of time and funds, and they are at breakeven. As a result, they are suspending these banquets and will continue to need financial support. Newsletters will be 3-4 times a year with a donation envelope included. What impact does the Truck Stop Ministry make? This is an experience from Chaplain Dave:

"Let me share with you one special divine encounter I recently had. It involves a driver I have known for a number of years. He called me on a Wednesday (not my normal workday) and asked if I wanted to have breakfast with him. I, of course, said yes and we arranged to meet at the Sunnyside restaurant in Carlisle for an early morning breakfast. I arrived and waited for him to park his tractor. As he stepped down off his tractor, I noticed a significant difference in his gait and his mannerisms. As I watched him shuffle across the parking lot, I asked him if he was okay. He mumbled something and we walked into the restaurant. As we sat down at the table, I noticed that he was gasping for air. I said to him 'I need to get you to the emergency room now' but his reply was, 'Not 'till I have my eggs and grits.'

So, after breakfast I drove him to the emergency room where the ER staff immediately began processing him. It ended up that he had significant congestive heart failure (stage four), kidney failure and an extremely high sugar level from his diabetes. During the stabilization process of this driver by the medical staff, several of them commented to me, 'It's a good thing you got this driver in here because nine chances out of ten, he would have just crawled into his truck and passed away.'

The driver ended up spending seven days in the hospital with the understanding that when he was discharged, his driving days were over. He had been driving for 38 years, the last 10 of which were with a company out of Oregon. The unfortunate thing about many of the drivers, and the trucking companies, is that the companies are more concerned about the loads in the truck than they are about the drivers. This driver had to get home to Florida to follow up with his local doctors on his medical situation. The company refused to provide a bus ticket, airplane ticket, or allow him to rent a car to get home. After much searching, we were able to find an airplane ticket to his home in Florida

for \$125. I took him to the airport, prayed with him and he got on his flight to get home to begin the healing process."

Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox update: 11,330,126 boxes were collected worldwide. 10,051,570 were from just the U.S. Our Juniata Valley Area collected 11,477 boxes and 125 of those were packed through the online app. We are still looking to have a bus go this November from Juniata County. If you are interested, please let Dina Zug know as this needs to be planned in August.

The PA Hunger Association Meat Canning Project in February canned 36,000 lb of chicken and produced 22,827 cans of chicken. 100 cases were distributed to local organizations. The rest will be sent to third world countries.

Promise Ranch Chicken BBQ Donor Banquet is Thursday, May 16, with a Ranch tour at 4:00 pm and meal at 5:30 pm. A flyer is on the bulletin board.

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

Juniata County Food Pantry May Update



In March 2024 the Food Pantry served 241 families – 614 of your neighbors! We thank Lower Tuscarora Presbyterian Church for sending volunteers for the month of March.

The Food Pantry's Summer Backpack Program will begin its 12th year starting in June. This program provides lunches throughout summer vacation to school students who normally receive free and reduced-price lunches at school. These students often face hunger in the summer months as their families struggle to provide the extra meals. Volunteers are needed to help with the Backpack Program! Call the Food Pantry at (717) 436-9718 to sign up.

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: jcfp122017@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



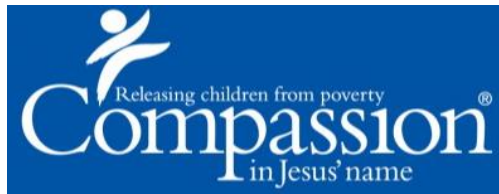
Truck Stop Ministry Cookie-Packing Change

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!



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.



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

— Hebrews 13:16 (NIV)

Sunday, May 5 is the last opportunity to pick a child to sponsor through the Compassion program. If you have shared photos or messages of currently sponsored children, you may pick them up.

Please remember our shut-ins with your prayers and cards. *indicates an update to address/phone.

Evelyn Benner
Brookline Continuing Care
Retirement Community
2 Manor Blvd, Rm 222
Mifflintown, PA 17059
*(223) 362-2002

Melda Ritchie
3761 Mountain Road
McAlisterville, PA 17049

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



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

Coming Soon!



Attention Ladies!
Free Spring Ladies Spring Luncheon
Saturday, June 1
at 12:30 pm

Additional details will be posted in the bulletin/newsletter later.

75th Annual
Women's Camp Retreat
Camp Eder ~ Fairfield, PA
June 3rd & 4th, 2024



With guest speaker Gretchen Sortzi. Brochures with additional details and registration forms are on the table in the narthex!

Early Morning Service: 8:30 am
 Sunday School: 9:30 am
 Worship Service: 10:30 am



May 2024

**Food Pantry Needs:
 Dish Detergent**



Remember -
 our fallen heros.
 They are the reason
 that we are free.

Pastor: Terry Smith
 Moderator: Eugene Jones
 Church Office: (717) 463-3192

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May Anniversaries			1	2	3	4
3 - Alan & Rachel Naylor ('08) 3 - Randy & Mary Speece ('85) 6 - Fina & Karen Williams ('78) 12 - Jay & Hope Shenk ('18)	15 - Alan & Tammy Jo Landis ('16) 20 - Ronald & Dee Bell ('67) 21 - Matthew & Gretchen Wray ('05)		Supper & Study in fellowship hall, 6:00 pm			
5 Give Me 5! Offering	6 Exec Committee, 6:30 pm Church Board, 7:00 pm	7	8 Supper & Study at Pastor Terry's cabin, 6:00 pm	9	10 	11
12 Mothers Honored during Service <i>Mother's Day</i>	13	14	15	16 Deacons Meeting, 6:00 pm	17	18 Truck Stop Ministry Cookie Packing, 8:30 am
19 Pentecost Offering	20 Newsletter Deadline!	21	22	23	24	25
26 Youth Nickel Offering	27 <i>Memorial Day</i>	28 	29	30	31	

May Birthdays

1 - Jeff Fry II
 5 - Jason Logan
 7 - Noah Heimbach
 7 - Grant Ritzman

7 - Fina Williams
 13 - Donald Bashore
 14 - Ashlee Book
 16 - Arlene Weiland

17 - Melody Logan
 22 - Cole Hess
 23 - Wayne Shadel
 29 - Owen Heimbach

30 - Derek Ritzman
 31 - Pat Weiland