

November 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



Meals-On-Wheels Desserts Tuesday, November 19

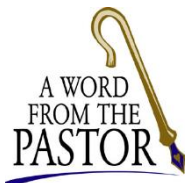


Thanksgiving Eve Service *Wednesday, November 27, 7:00 pm*

Blanket Fund Offerings in November



All items for the December newsletter and calendar must be in the Free Spring Church office by **Monday, November 25**. 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,

More than one family has a tradition of going around the dinner table and saying what each person is thankful for. One youngster confessed, *"I am thankful that we only do this once a year!"* Hopefully, that was only because of the forced parental directive to express thankfulness.

When I turned to the *Daily Prayers for Men*, and looked at the Thanksgiving devotional, I found the Scripture for the day is 2 Corinthians 4:15. Paul speaks of the gift of resurrection with Jesus:

"All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God."

I pray that this month of November finds us with thankful hearts as we celebrate the blessings of our gracious God, the bonds of family, and the uplifting relationships that fill the days of our lives. The author of the day's devotional shares this prayer of thanksgiving:

Lord, there is nothing I do not owe to Your generosity. Every day that I am not praising You is a wasted one. Everything I give up in Your name is not a loss but a gift in Your honor. All things that I do in this world should ultimately be for You and not for myself. Help me do all this and more for You. Amen.

We are blessed to have so many opportunities to help others and **"cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God."** Locally, we contribute to the Food Pantry, Bethesda Mission, Children's Aid Society, and other agencies. Nationally, we support Brethren Disaster Ministries and other relief organizations. Globally, our efforts are tuned in to the needs of refugees, world hunger, and support of growing churches.

May your family be blessed by being part of the outpouring of resources to meet the physical needs of those who are hurting, and part of the spiritual prayer war ***"reaching more and more people (so that it) may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God."***

Brothers and sisters in Christ, Wanda and I send Thanksgiving blessings to you and your family in this month of gratitude.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Terry



**November Deacons of the Month:
Ron & Dee Bell**

Scriptures and Messages for November

November 3

Ruth 1:1-18

"Grateful for Loyalty"

November 10

Mark 12:38-44

"Exceedingly Generous"

November 17

10:00 am combined service - Jeremy Goodling in concert & worship

Thanksgiving Sunday & All Saints Day, November 24

Hebrews 10:11-25

"Why We Have Confidence"



Wednesday, November 27

at 7:00 pm

Drew Saner will be providing special music, Mary Spade will be providing a testimony, and Tony Neimond will be the worship leader.

Blanket Fund Offerings in November

Blanket the world in love by giving money to buy CWS blankets to provide a blanket through CWS to people recovering from a disaster, living in a refugee camp, or homeless in our world.



Throughout the month of November an envelope will be provided in your bulletin for you to donate to this worthy cause. Please place unused envelopes in Lona's mailbox or on the table in the narthex.



Because Samantha will be in hospital for an extended amount of time, if you wish to send her a card, the address is: Penn State Children's Hospital

Attn: Samantha Houtz

Room P7466

600 University Drive

Hershey, PA 17033

Free Spring Library News

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

Finding You by Amy Clipston

Darcy's life appears perfect. But inside, she's falling apart – guilt-ridden over her fiancé's death, worried about her medical condition, and questioning whether locating her birth mother will open Pandora's box. When Darcy's Lexus breaks down, will mechanic Carter jumpstart her car – and her heart? And can this secret-laden couple conquer the past and embrace happily ever after?

Amish Candy Shop Mysteries Series by Amanda Flower

Lethal Licorice – Baily King is a chocolatier who plans to enter the annual Amish Confectionary Competition in memory of her late grandfather. When a not so friendly candy maker is found dead, Bailey becomes a suspect. Now she must clear her name and identify the killer. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is Assaulted Caramel.)

A Shanahan Match Series by Jody Hedlund

Calling on the Matchmaker – Haunted by the death of her sister, Finola Shanahan has resolved that she's not worthy of a family of her own and commits to spending her days caring for immigrants in the slums. Unwilling to consider marriage, Finola has perfected the ability to sabotage the relationships her parents arrange for her. At wit's end, her father calls upon the local Irish matchmaker, who pairs her with successful wagonmaker Riley Rafferty. After her usual tricks fail, Finola quickly realizes she can't outsmart or outwit the dashing, determined, and daring man. (This is the first book in the series.)

The Swindler's Daughter by Stephania H. McGee

A high-society lady, Lillian Doyle has lived her entire life with her widowed mother, believing her father died long ago. But when news arrives that her estranged father only recently passed away – in jail – Lillian is startled to find that the man has left a business and all of his possessions to her, making her a rather unusual heiress. When she goes to take possession of her father's house in a backwoods Georgia town, the dilapidated structure is already occupied by another woman who claims it was promised to her son, Jonah.

Tree of Life Series by Olivia Newport

When I Meet You – Meri's family has been producing doctors for so many generations that no one remembers why, so when she flunks out of medical school, she runs as far from her parents as she can get. In the



small mountain town of Canyon Mines, Colorado, she takes a job at the Inn at Hidden Run B&B. And waits. It's only a matter of time. What she doesn't count on is genealogist, Jillian Parisi-Duffy and her father, Nolan, having her back when it takes everything she has not to bolt again but to stay and face the truth that only unfolding her family's history will reveal. (This is the third book in the series; the other books are The Inn at Hidden Run and In the Cradle Lies.)

The Jewels of Kalispell

Series by Tracie Peterson & Kimberley Woodhouse

With Each Tomorrow – As the formation of Glacier National Park takes Eleanor Briggs and her conservationist father on a journey west to advocate for public lands, her heart carries the weight of a painful past. Since the death of her mother, she has spent her life traveling the country with her father and helping him with his work, but now he's considering settling down and writing a book, and she's not sure what that means for her future. Carter Brunswick faces trials of his own when the Great Northern Railway's departure threatens his family's livelihood and the entire town of Kalispell. In the visiting conservationist's daughter, Ellie, he finds a spirited woman who challenges his convictions in ways he never anticipated, and his own dreams for the future begin to change. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is The Heart's Choice.)

Gone to the Dogs Mysteries Series by Kathleen Y'Barbo

Dog Days of Summer – Trina Potter, Nashville country music star, buys a ranch near her hometown in Brenham, Texas to help her niece open a rescue facility for dogs. Her presence in town stirs up some old high school rivalries and romance. Finding property to buy is a challenge, convincing her mother to move there with her is daunting, and navigating a string of strange accidents is perplexing. Sometimes Trina feels like she's purchased her own three ring circus instead of a beautiful piece of land. But her first priority will be figuring out who wants Second Chance Ranch shut down before they even have the grand opening. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is Off the Chain by Janice Thompson.)

~ Kathy Bowman, Librarian

November Birthday of the Month

Our Birthday of the month for November is Nancy Shadel, whose birthday is on Friday, November 8. Please remember her with your prayers and cards.





Christian Education Commission

We're about to conclude our Fall Supper & Study with Max Lucado's **Help is Here**. Lucado reminds us that no matter what stress, chaos, or challenges come in our lives that God has a plan and provides help with the Holy Spirit as our teacher, comforter, intercessor – and the list goes on. Feel free to join us for our last session and fellowship, November 6 at Pastor Terry's cabin at 6:00 pm with a pot luck supper followed by the study at 6:30 pm. There are still books in the narthex that may be picked up, or see Shari if you'd still like one.

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

Nurture Commission News

Our birthday for the month of November is Nancy Shadel, who celebrates her birthday on **November 8**. Please remember her with your prayers and cards.

We will be having a special service on Sunday, November 17. Jeremy Goodling will be sharing his talents and providing special music. There will be only one service that Sunday, starting at 10:00 am, with no Sunday School. A fellowship meal will follow, so please plan to attend and bring a covered dish to share.

Please join us for our Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 27. We will be enjoying special music, a testimony, scripture, and devotional.

If anyone would like to help with decorating the church for the holidays, please see Jessica Eby or Wanda Smith.

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



Operation Christmas Shoebox

It's Christmas Shoebox time again! Packing a shoebox is easy; use toys, school supplies clothing items and/or hygiene supplies. What a great outreach to children around the world!

A table has been set up in the narthex with brochures and boxes. The church will cover the shipping cost, if you desire. If you would like to follow your box, you may register it online.

The deadline for the Shoebox collection is **Sunday, November 10**. Contact Mary Zeigler with any questions.

Witness Commission



Juniata County Golden Years Ministry report states that, during the period of October 23-24, Chaplain Gary Kraybill has recorded time spent with 6 Funerals, 123 Church Services at facilities, 35 sermons and updates promoting the ministry, 185 one-on-one visits, board meetings, and Ministerium meetings. He has encouraged more churches to get involved in providing church services at the nursing facilities. He was also excited to report he did 4 baptisms at Brookline. You may contact Gary if you have any questions.

News from Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry has provided dates to drop off cookies. Ours will be packed on Saturday, December 7, and our delivery day will be Monday, December 9. The newsletter also gives updates from the Chaplains. Since Covid, there has been a shift in the number of truckers visiting the Chapel. Though attendance at Sunday morning worship has remained consistent, there has been a change in seeing more homeless and those out of work looking for help. Please pray for the chaplain's discernment in helping these individuals find the help they need from local support agencies without compromising the established mission "to provide assistance to individuals who work at or use the truck stops, terminals, and distribution facilities in the greater Carlisle area."

As we finished our collection for Bethesda Mission at the end of October, we share highlights from their recent newsletter. Each month there are approximately 250 men, women, children, and teens who have entered the doors seeking answers to their struggles. One testimony follows: "one woman came to the Mission struggling to provide for her family. She was working third shift and living in a place infested by rats. After she lost her Section 8 housing voucher, she moved into her car. She has worked diligently on herself at the Mission. 'God put me here for a reason.'"

A teen started attending the Community Center's programs a few years ago. Since then, he has been absolutely transformed. "I was a troublemaker. I've become a leader." His mother agrees, "He's maturing and leading by example. I've definitely seen change in a great way."

There is still time to fill a Shoebox. It is a great way to pass a blessing on to a child somewhere in the world. As we have helped with the packing in Baltimore in the past, it is so moving to stop the work several times during the day to lay hands on the boxes and pray over them. There is still room on the bus if you know any friends who may want to come along this year on **November 30**!

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





Bus Trip to Operation Christmas Shoebox Saturday, November 30

Juniata County will have a bus going to Operation Christmas Shoebox for repacking in the Baltimore area on Saturday, November 30. The bus will leave at 6:30 am from the Cedar Grove Church upper parking lot. The work shift would be from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. This trip includes a breakfast stop, and there would be food to purchase at the work site for lunch. We should get back early evening so we wouldn't have a dinner stop. Cost of the bus will be \$20 per person. Please contact Dina Zug if you would like to reserve your spot!



2024 CHEESE BALLS To Benefit Relay-for-Life

Our Free Spring Cheeseballs are delicious for snacking anytime or for holiday parties. They make great gifts (just add a pack of crackers!) at only \$10 for a one-pound cheese ball! They freeze well, so you can freeze them and enjoy them at a summer picnic!



- Order yours, starting **October 27**, by signing up in the church narthex.
- Please sign up to donate cream cheese or to make a \$ donation toward the sharp cheese (sign-up sheet for that is also in narthex).
- Please order early or by **December 1**.
- Also, sign up if you are able to help make the cheeseballs on **December 13 at 1:00 pm**.

You may pick up the cheeseballs December 13 after 3:00 pm, or any time after that.

Questions? Ask Sharon Ritzman



Fill out your
Family Profile
For the Church
Directory Update!

2025 Church Directory

It's that time of year again! Enclosed in this newsletter is the form for updating or adding your information in the 2025 Free Spring Church

Directory.

For those who were included in last year's Directory, please take a moment to review that information and use the form to make any changes needed or write your name and "no changes" on the form.

This form may also be used to request a mailbox here at the church (for those who do not already have one). The form also includes an option for indicating if you'd like to "go green" and have the monthly newsletter e-mailed to you rather than receiving a hardcopy!

Do not submit the form more than once unless you need to correct your first submission; in which case, please notate "corrected" on the form when submitting again. Also, please use a separate form for others not in your household. You may obtain a form from the December newsletter or online on the church website. Also, extra paper forms are on the table in the narthex. Please place your completed form in my mailbox as soon as possible.

A tentative schedule for completing the 2025 Directory will be provided soon. Watch your bulletins for details.

You do not need to be a member to be included in the Directory or mailbox at the church.

Thank you all for your help!

~ Lona Henry, Church Secretary

Christmas Angel Tree

This year we have eight children for the Angel Tree. The names and needs for each child are on the tags on the Tree. Please sign your name in the appropriate box on the chart for the item you wish to purchase. Remember that many like to participate in this program, so only take one or two tags.

The wrapped and labeled gift should be placed under the tree in the narthex. The tag from the tree must be taped on the package so we know which gift it is. These are removed before the families receive the gifts.

All gifts must be at the church by **Sunday, November 24**. They will need to be checked and bagged by the date of delivery, so it is crucial to be on schedule.

Thank you for your participation and cooperation. Any questions may be addressed by the Deacons.



Central PA World Hunger Association Kickoff Meal

Join us for a meal and fellowship to kick off our **50th** canning season.

When: Saturday, November 16, 2024
Time: 5:00 pm
Where: Locust Grove Mennonite Church
Address: 3358 West Main Street, Belleville, PA 17004
RSVP By: November 11th by calling

Jonathan Coldren Or Louise Byler
717-250-6840 814-386-0980

Guest Speaker

Ken Litwiller

MCC Canning and Truck Technical Coordinator

TOGETHER WE CAN



Jeremy Goodling will be Singing at
Free Spring Church of the Brethren
on Sunday, November 17
at 10:00 – 11:00 am

There will not be an Early Service or Sunday School. We will have a fellowship meal following the service and everyone is asked to bring a covered dish.



Juniata Valley

International Gifts Sale

November 14,15,16

Thursday evening 6 PM-8 PM

(sign up for a gift certificate to be used Friday or Saturday)

Fri. 9AM-7PM, Sat. 9AM-3PM

And Bake Sale Fri. & Sat.

Come explore our global village.
Become a part of the Fair Trade story!

Join us for all your holiday gift giving,
featuring jewelry, accessories, whimsical crafts,
holiday and home décor, fair trade coffees, chocolates, and more!

At Cedar Grove BIC Church
287 Deerville Road, Mifflintown, PA

www.JuniataInternationalGiftsSale.com
or follow us on Facebook