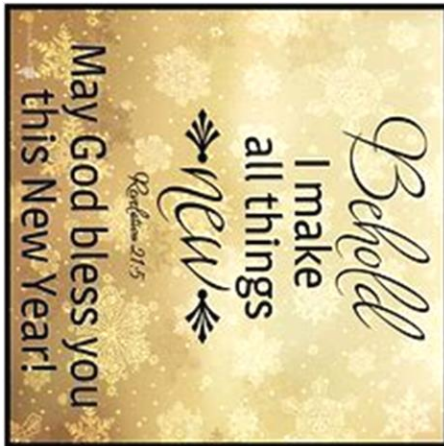


January 2025



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



Bread & Cup Communion *January 5*

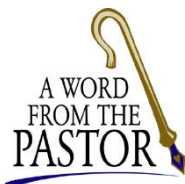


Music & Worship Meeting *Tuesday, January 14* *7:00 pm*

Meals-On-Wheels Desserts Tuesday, January 21



All items for the February newsletter and calendar must be submitted by
end of day on **Monday, January 20**. *If we do not receive your submission
by then, we CANNOT guarantee it will be placed in the newsletter.*



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

News flash for the New Year: the fashionable color for the New Year is *Moonstone Grey* according to the Today Show fashionista. I feel so "with it" in my gray RBS hooded sweatshirt this morning. Now I just have to find a baseball cap that matches.

So much of what drives our culture has to do with finding something new – new clothes, new furniture, new vehicles, new cell phones, new foods and flavors. I'm sure that you have something else that you would like to add to the "new wish list".

Jesus wanted to make all things new. He brought an upside-down view of what really matters to a world hungry for change. Jesus showed who God really is, and God is not an idol of material prosperity, physical beauty, or intellectual cunning. Those are the gods of a worldly creation, and they are as old as the mind of humanity.

Jesus wants to make all things new, but sometimes we are so focused on the pursuit of our careers, our comfort, and our cuisine, that we forget the new things that Jesus inspires. It's not that vocation, rest, and nutrition are not important. It's not that God has ever downplayed their necessity, but far more important is the renewal of our hearts and minds.

As we watch ***The Chosen***, we can see how Jesus worked to change the hearts and minds of those who followed him. Rough fishermen, tax collectors, women of "ill repute", and zealots were drawn to Him and engaged in the work of God's kingdom. It meant that they had to divest themselves of jobs and relationships that weren't necessarily bad, though some certainly were, but they were not for the better.

Perhaps that is the challenge that comes with each New Year: What does our Savior offer that is better for our heart and mind than what we pursued in 2024? May God bless you with an enthusiasm for life in Christ as we enter the New Year of 2025.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Terry



January Deacons of the Month:
Eric & Ginger Alexander

Scriptures and Messages for January

January 5

Matthew 2:1-12

"Who Lights up Your Life?"

January 12

Isaiah 43:1-7

"Precious in God's Sight"

January 19

John 2:1-11

"What Concern Is That to You?"

January 26

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

"A Still More Excellent Way"



Bread & Cup Communion
Sunday, January 5

2025 Offering Envelopes have been placed in the narthex. When taking a cartridge, please be sure to write your name on the paper slip included with each cartridge and place it in the designated box to ensure a proper giving statement is provided to you at the end of the year.



Please do not use the new 2025 offering envelopes until on or after January 1, 2025! If you have any unused **2024** offering envelopes left over after December 31, 2024, please place them in my mailbox so they may be recycled by having the dates and numbers masked and envelopes used for special offerings throughout the year.

Thank you!

~ Lona Henry, Church Secretary



Thank you to all who made ornaments for the Christmas Angel Tree parents. A total of 43 families each received 12-13 ornaments!

We may now begin making ornaments for distribution again next year. ~ Stitcharity

Free Spring Library News

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

Pearl River Series by Patricia Bradley

Deadly Revenge – After returning home to Pearl Springs, Jenna Hart didn't expect her new job as deputy to bring her in contact again with FBI Agent Max Anderson. They team up to stop a killer on a path of revenge – only to have the tables turned on them when the hunted becomes the hunter. (This is the third book in the series; the other books are Counter Attack and Fatal Witness.)

I Think I Was Murdered by Colleen Coble & Rick Acker

At the pinnacle of her career, Katrina's world combusted – her husband Jason died, her CEO was indicted, and the feds commandeered her office. Using the ultra-sophisticated AI chatbot, she talks to Jason daily. When AI Jason says, "I think I was murdered", she elicits her friend Seb's help. Why is staying alive more difficult than either of them dreamed?

Formula of Deception by Carrie Stuart Parks

An artist hiding from an escaped killer uncovers one of World War II's most dangerous secrets – a secret that desperate men will do anything to keep hidden...or steal.

The Matchmakers Series by Jen Turano

To Spark a Match – Miss Adelaide Duveen has resigned herself to the notion that she's destined to remain a spinster forever – a rather dismal prospect, but one that will allow her to concentrate on her darling cats and books. However, when she inadvertently stumbles upon Mr. Gideon Abbott engaged in a clandestine activity during a dinner party, Adelaide finds herself thrust into a world of intrigue that resembles the plots in the spy novels she devours. Former intelligence agent Gideon Abbott feels responsible for Adelaide after society threatens to banish her because of the distraction she caused to save his case. Hoping to return the favor, he turns to a good friend – and one of high society's leaders – to take Adelaide in hand and turn her fashionable. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is A Match in the Making.)

Alaskan Cyber Hunters Series by Kimberley Woodhouse

70 North – The Cyber Solutions team has managed to stay one step ahead of the madman who has killed so many, stopping him before reaching his ultimate goals, they matched wits with the killer and won in the end. Can they do it again? (This is the third book in the series; the other books are



26 Below and 8 Down.)

The following are nonfiction books.

The Josiah Manifesto by Jonathan Cahn

The Josiah Manifesto opens up the stunning mysteries that lie behind the dramatic events of recent times that have changed our world – and the message hidden within them with regard to what lies ahead.

The Return of the Gods by Jonathan Cahn

The author takes the reader on a journey from an ancient parable, the ancient inscriptions in Sumer, Assyria, and Babylonia that become the puzzle pieces behind what is taking place in our world to this day, specifically in America.

~ Kathy Bowman, Librarian



Operation Christmas Shoebox Collection for January: Toothbrushes or Combs

Please place your donation in the bin up front under the Bethesda Mission table.

Meat Canning Offerings

An envelope will be provided in the bulletin each week throughout the month of January and up to and including Sunday, February 9, for donations designated to the Meat Canning project. The Meat Canning is scheduled to take place at Chief Logan Fire Company, February 10-14. Please see Art Zug if you'd like to volunteer to help.

Please place unused envelopes in Lona's mailbox or on the table in the narthex so that they may be reused.



The next nursing home worship services are scheduled at **Brookline, January 12, at 2:00 and 3:00 pm**. A speaker, pianist and worship leader are needed for these services. Please contact Sharon Ritzman as soon as possible if you can help.

Thanks to Tom & Sandy Wert and Sharon Ritzman for agreeing to be part of the Worship Team at **Northridge, on January 19, at 2:00 pm**.

Nurture Commission News



Thank you to Music & Worship for a lovely Thanksgiving Eve service. We were blessed with music and goodies. A warm thank you to all who were involved with decorating the church and making it so festive.

Thank you also to all those responsible for our inspirational Christmas Eve service. We greatly enjoyed our special music the third Sunday.

Happy Birthday to Gregg Corman, our January Birthday of the month. Please remember him on January 11.

Upcoming events to mark your calendar:

Month of January – College Care package collection will be this month. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

January 5 – Bread & Cup Communion during worship service

January 14 – Music & Worship Meeting at 7:00 pm

Don't forget our Soup-er Bowl Party coming up on February 9. This year, last names beginning with A-L are to make desserts, and M-Z are to bring sandwiches. We look forward to a Soup-er time!

~ Erin Bell, Karen Logan (Co-Chair), Carla Renson, and
Nancy Shadel (Co-Chair)



January Birthday of the Month

Our Birthday of the month for January is Gregg Corman, whose birthday is on January 11. Please remember him with your prayers and cards.



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!)



Witness Commission



Food pantry item this month is toilet paper. There was a good response for tissues in December. The count is forthcoming. Thank you to Judy Hoffman for delivering them.

The Carlisle Truck Stop cookie ministry was a huge success! 347 bags of cookies were packed on December 7. Cindy Lucas made and packed 50 canine treat bags. Barry & Judy Hoffman delivered them to Carlisle. Thank you to all who baked, packed and delivered.

82 cheeseballs were made on Friday, December 13. The proceeds will be benefiting Relay-for-Life. Thanks to all who donated ingredients and made and purchased the cheeseballs.

A speaker, pianist and worship leader is needed for the 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm worship services at Brookline on Sunday, January 12. Please contact Sharon Ritzman as soon as possible if you can help. Thanks to Tom & Sandy Wert and Sharon Ritzman for being part of the worship team at North Ridge, scheduled for Sunday, January 19.

Looking forward to Meat Canning in February. We have been asked to donate vegetable soup that week on Thursday, February 13. 3 gallons of soup is requested. Please contact Sharon Ritzman if you can help to provide for this need.

January and February we will be collecting items for Clean-Up Buckets. You may donate an item on the list or donate financially. We will be assembling the Buckets at the end of February.

Thank you to everyone who contributes their time and resources! You make these Witness outreaches successful.

~ Angela Bryner, Jen Spark (Chair), Fina Williams, and Art Zug



2025 Meat Canning Planning Meeting Friday, January 3 at 7:00 pm

We are having our January Planning Meeting on Friday, January 3, at 7:00 pm, at the Burnham COB, Freedom Ave in Burnham.

If you would like to become more active and join our Meat Canning Committee; this would be a good time to attend this meeting. Come and see what it takes to have this project in our local area. This is going to be a big year as we're planning on 43,000 pounds of chicken to be canned in five days! Remember...Together We Can! Thank you.

Rick Esh, (717) 667-2643



Fill out your
Family Profile
For the Church
Directory Update!

2025 Church Directory

PLEASE NOTE: this week and next week a **COMPLETE FINAL DRAFT** of the 2025 Directory will be placed on the table in the narthex for your review.

Items in RED are where I've received no updates to names, addresses, dates, etc, and there is quite a few areas where information is still needed!! If you and your family were listed in last year's Directory and you haven't submitted a form this year, you may review the copy placed in the narthex and mark "OK" or make changes to the information on the page. Forms are also available in the December newsletter, on the table in the narthex, or online on the church's website for updating or adding your information or to request a mailbox. *Please use a separate form for others not in your household.*

You do not need to be a member to be included in the Directory or to have a mailbox at the church. This form also includes an option for indicating if you'd like to "go green" and have our monthly newsletter e-mailed to you rather than receiving a hardcopy! Please place completed forms in my mailbox as soon as possible.

Following is a **tentative** schedule which is planned for completing the 2025 Directory:

TODAY and Sunday, January 5 – a FINAL DRAFT copy of the Directory will be placed in the narthex for review.

Tuesday, January 7 – FINAL DEADLINE before printing

Wednesday, January 8 thru Friday, January 10 – Directories will be printed and church mailboxes will be updated.

Thank you all for your help!

~ Lona Henry, Church Secretary

Nativity Display at Free Spring

The nativity display will be moved this year to the former fellowship hall. Lots of help will be needed for transport and set-up the nativity sets, so there will be a sign-up sheet for those who are willing to help with this. The amount of help I receive will determine how many of the nativity sets will be displayed in the future.

The space in the former fellowship hall is smaller but it leaves the new fellowship hall available for members to use and we won't need to worry that it might suddenly be needed for a funeral meal!

Thank you!

~ Rosalita Leonard



CWS Emergency Clean-Up Buckets

January and February are the months Free Spring collects supplies for CWS Emergency Clean-Up Buckets.

A list of the supplies needed to complete one Bucket is below. Items may be placed in or beside the CWS chest in the narthex.

You may donate an item on the list or donate financially to enable bucket items to be purchased by Witness Commission. We will be assembling buckets at the end of February. Thank you!

- One 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid (If reused, please scrub clean. Do not use a bucket that has held chemicals of any kind. No screw lid. Advertisement on the outside is acceptable.)
- One 4-8 oz pump spray air freshener
- Five scouring pads (No stainless steel or pads with soap in them. Remove from packaging.)
- Seven sponges, including one large
- One scrub brush (with or without handle)
- 18 reusable, lightweight, multipurpose, dry, cleaning towels (No terrycloth, microfiber, or paper towels. Remove from packaging.)
- One 32-64 oz or two 25 oz bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-34 oz bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap
- One 12-40 oz bottle of liquid concentrate household cleaner that can be mixed with water (no spray bottles)
- One package of 36-50 clothespins
- One 50-100 ft clothesline (cotton or plastic line)
- Five dust masks (N95 particulate respirator dust masks preferred; no surgical masks)
- Two pairs heavy-duty, waterproof, dishwashing gloves (Latex-free, non-surgical. Durable for multiple-use. Remove from packaging.)
- One pair of work gloves (cotton with leather palm or all leather)
- 20-28 heavy-duty or contractor-type 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll (remove from packaging)
- One 6-9 oz bottle non-aerosol insect repellent (Pump spray bottles must have protective covers. Packs of 10-20 insect repellent wipes are also acceptable.)

All cleaning items must be new and all liquid items must be capped and securely tightened. Place all items into the bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment. Snap the lid on tight and seal with packing tape.

