

February 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



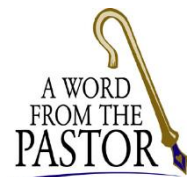
**Commissions Meeting,
Monday, February 3
at 7:00 pm**

**"Soup"er Bowl Sunday
February 9
after 2nd Worship Service**



**Deacons Meeting,
Thursday, February 20
at 7:00 pm**

All items for the March newsletter and calendar must be submitted by end of day on **Monday, February 17**. *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,

I noticed that, in several convalescent homes, the New Year celebration had hardly ended until the Valentine Day hearts were being displayed to lift residents' hearts in love. If God is love, a proclamation that is written on the front of our Free Spring pulpit, and we are born in the image of God, then love is what we are to primarily be about.

Webster's first definition for **love** is: *a strong tender affection; deep devotion...*

In Deuteronomy we hear the call to love God, not in some simple emotional warmth, but with deep devotion. How devoted should we be and how much love should we show? ***"The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might."***

Just how important is this? ***"Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise."***

I think that means to have a strong affection and deep devotion toward one another. This isn't reserved just for our spouse or children, our wider family or church, our political party or community, or just our state or nation. I truly believe that our love and devotion to God leads us to be active in love through service to others.

Much of the current rhetoric in our nation is vindictive, divisive, and unloving. While we want justice, prosperity, and security, we cannot ignore the call to love God first and completely; nor can we ignore the call of Christ.

As we celebrate Service Sunday on February 2, which is also Lottie Holsinger's birthday, may we remember that **love** is truly revealed more in actions than just in words. Let us serve our risen Lord Jesus by lovingly serving others, in His name.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Terry

Scriptures and Messages for February

February 2

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

"What Is Love?"

February 9

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

"The Basics Are Essential"

February 16

1 Corinthians 1:12-20

"How Can You Deny This?"

February 23

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 *"What I Am Saying...Is This:"*



Christian
Education

Christian Education Commission

In November, we concluded the Fall Supper & Study at Pastor Terry's cabin. We used Max Lucado's **Help Is Here: Finding Fresh Strength and Purpose in the Power of the Holy Spirit**. The study reminded us, that in this stressful time, the Holy Spirit is among us and has many roles that provide us with help when we need it. It was very well-received by the group that attended the study.

In December, we put together Goodie Bags for the children for Christmas. Jr/Sr High Youth received a devotional book on the book of John from YM360 Ministries, along with a bracelet and mints. The pre-school to elementary school children received **His Name is Jesus** story book, activity book, craft, glow in the dark bracelet, candle glow stick, and Advent countdown activity sheet. The children under 3 were given **On Christmas Morn** board book and ornament. All goodie bags included a tube of mini-M&M's.

As we move into Spring, we're looking at having another movie night. VBS will be around the corner and the committee will be searching for a curriculum. We'll be looking at options for a Spring Supper & Study. Any ideas related to any of these areas are always appreciated. Just reach out to anyone on Christian Ed.

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

Witness Commission

February Food Pantry Delivery by:

Judy Burns



December Food Pantry items collected were: 80 boxes of tissues, 140 diapers, and assorted grocery items, which were delivered by Judy Hoffman. Toilet paper will be collected until the end of February and will be delivered by Judy Burns.

We will be collecting Clean-Up Bucket items and donations until the end of February. March starts the collection of Hygiene Kits. Gallon bags with a list of items needed will be available in the CWS chest in the narthex.

Meat canning will be held at the Chief Logan Firehouse in Lewistown February 10-13. Volunteers are needed. Donations are appreciated. We have been asked to provide 3 gallons of vegetable soup. So far, 6 quarts have been signed up for, but 6 quarts are still needed! There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex. Soup will be delivered by Sharon Ritzman.

Thank you to all who donate time and materials. YOU make the Witness outreach successful!

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

Free Spring Library News

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

Defend and Protect Series by Lynn H. Blackburn

Under Fire – USSS Special Agent Zane Thacker has landed his dream assignment protecting the president of the United States. When the president plans a fundraiser at the exclusive estate of a political supporter in Raleigh, Zane is thrilled to be working again with Special Agent Tessa Reed, his best friend – and the woman he desperately wishes could be more. (This is the third book in the series; the other books are Unknown Threat and Malicious Intent.)

The Long Road Home Series by Linda Byler

All in Good Time – As May settles into family life, she has so much to be grateful for. Yes, there are plenty of challenges as she continues to heal from the demons of her past, but her loving husband and sweet children are the greatest earthly gift she could ask for. And having Oba in their home is almost more precious than she could have imagined...at least, if it weren't for his ongoing anger and hardness of heart. And will Oba's heart ever soften enough to find love, or will he always face loneliness and despair? (This is the third book in the series; the other books are Banished and A Beacon of Light.)

Amish Candy Shop Mysteries Series by Amanda Flower

Toxic Toffee – Bailey King is in New York wrapping up a six-week shoot on her first cable TV show, *Bailey's Amish Sweets*, when she gets a call from her Ohio town's resident busybody. With Easter around the corner, Bailey's been recruited to create a giant toffee bunny for the weeklong springtime festival that will also feature live white rabbits. But back home in Harvest, death becomes the main attraction when Stephen Raber keels over from an apparent heart attack – with Bailey and Raber's pet bunny as witnesses. (This is the fourth book in the series; the other books are Assaulted Caramel, Lethal Licorice, and Premeditated Peppermint.)

A Shanahan Match Series by Jody Hedlund

Saved by the Matchmaker – After her annulment is finalized, Enya Shanahan finds herself caught in a web of scandal and obligation while carrying a secret that threatens to shatter her family's reputation. Determined to find a suitable marriage for Enya, her father turns to a wily matchmaker to save them from their circumstances. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is Calling on the Matchmaker.)

Pictures of the Heart Series by Tracie Peterson

Knowing You – Budding artist May Parker is captivated by the Japanese



exhibits at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition and longs to know more about her mother's heritage – which her mother refuses to speak of because of the heartache she left behind in Japan. Wanting to experience more of the exhibits, May works as a Camera Girl – but her curiosity leads her into danger when a suit of samurai armor becomes the target of an elusive art forger. (This is the third book in the series; the other books are Remember Me and Finding Us.)

The Matchmakers Series by Jen Turano

Meeting Her Match – Miss Camilla Pierpont, a renowned matchmaker and influential member of the New York Four Hundred, has vowed never to marry after suffering a devastating heartbreak during her debut years ago. However, when she is nearly abducted along the Hudson River, she finds herself rescued by an annoyingly outspoken, albeit fascinating, gentleman who challenges her in a manner she wasn't expecting. (This is the third book in the series; the other books are A Match in the Making and To Spark a Match.)

Gone to the Dogs Mysteries Series by Kathleen Y'Barbo

The Bark of Zorro – Strange happenings are afoot in Brenham, Texas, as dogs start showing up at the Lone Star Veterinary Clinic with a Z spray-painted on them. The cops blame pranksters, while pet owners are blaming each other. Receptionist Cassidy Carter uses her social media expertise to try to get the culprit caught on camera, but Texas game warden, Jason Cameron, thinks online media attention is the last thing this case needs. It's bad enough he's currently being followed around by reality TV cameras. When Cassidy's post goes viral, more dogs are found painted and her new home gets marked with a big Z, too. How could her good intentions have backfired so badly? (This is the fourth book in the series; the other books are Off the Chain by Janice Thompson, Dog Days of Summer by Kathleen Y'Barbo, and Barking Up the Wrong Tree by Janice Thompson.)

~ Kathy Bowman, Librarian

Nativity Display in the Old Fellowship Hall until Saturday, February 8

The nativities are set up downstairs in the old fellowship hall. Please sign the register if you look at them. An open house will be held February 1 and 8, at 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, but you may go in at any time. Bring your friends and family. This is child friendly!

This is probably the last year that they will **all** be displayed.





Showers of Love Needed

Donna Pontius has baked 4 cakes each month for Meals-On-Wheels and was always taking care of others. She is going through a very rough time physically right now. Her daughter Missy has set up a PO Box and is asking for as many people as possible to shower her with some love and encouragement.

The address is:

DONNA PONTIUS
C/O MELISSA GIGLIOTTI
PO BOX 191
PORT ROYAL PA 17082

Missy said it's very important to use the C/O on it!
Please, send her a card whether you know her or not!

Juniata County Food Pantry Update

Happy New Year! We are so thankful for all who shared their abundance with the Food Pantry during November and December. With your help we were able to provide over 600 Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for neighbors who would have gone without. We distributed items for 246 Thanksgiving meals and 358 Christmas meals to our community.

In October 2024, the Food Pantry served 303 families – 815 individuals! Thank you, Bunkertown Brethren in Christ Church, for volunteering in October.

In November 2024, the Food Pantry served 304 families – 819 individuals! We thank St. Stephen's Lutheran Church for sending volunteers for the month of November.

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



Nurture Commission News



Thank You to all those who said "yes" when asked to serve in any capacity for our church. Please check the new 2025 Directory for the committees or positions you signed up for and mark your calendars at home for a reminder. We are still looking for persons who may be interested in helping to organize a Winter Banquet, Ladies Spring Luncheon, Men's Event, or to help with Children's Day, Christmas Decorating, and the Children's Christmas Program and Party (job descriptions can be provided!).

Don't forget – February 9 is our "Soup"er Bowl Luncheon after the second worship service. Those whose last name start with A-L, please bring a dessert and M-Z, please bring sandwiches. The Deacons will provide soups. This started as a way to support our Food Pantry, and if you want to give beyond our regular collections, you could bring additional items that day.

Dee Bell has been asked to facilitate our Ladies' Lenten Teas and the topic of our discussion book is embracing the uncertainties of life. The sign-up sheet and books will be in the narthex on Sunday, February 9. The Teas will start Saturday, March 8 at 9:00 am with refreshments followed by discussion. The refreshments are to be provided by the participants, and Mary Zeigler has agreed to coordinate this so that everyone does not need to bring something each week. The book we will be using is Embracing the Uncertain by Magrey deVega. Uncertainty surrounds us in the form of natural disasters, shifting politics, wars among nations and in our personal lives. Many of us prefer stability and a predictable future to an unknown fate. We are wired to want to control our destiny. The reality is that in our fast-changing, unpredictable world there are few guarantees in life. It's those who are willing to embrace uncertainty and make the risky decision to follow Jesus despite the many "unknowns" who will reap the greatest rewards. Embracing the Uncertain invites readers this Lent to engage and wrestle with life's uncertainties, not ignore them. The first six chapters focus on six post-Transfiguration, pre-Passion stories in the Gospels. Each of these stories are signposts in the gospel narrative, pointing down at a world filled with uncertainty, but pointing us forward to a cross that can show us how to follow Jesus with courage, hope, and obedience. **DATES ARE SATURDAYS, MARCH 8 THRU APRIL 12.**

A rosebud was placed on the altar table in celebration of the birth of Heidi Lynn Zug, daughter of Joe and Kristina Zug and sister Brie (Gabriella). **CONGRATULATIONS!!**

Items for the College goodie boxes will be packed and sent in February to our college students: Levi Laudenslager, Sam Laudenslager, and Amelia Smith. If you would like to send them a word of encouragement, please have your cards in the collection box by February 9 so we can send them with the boxes. Thank you.

BIRTHDAY OF THE MONTH: Warren Wagner celebrates his birthday on Wednesday, February 19. Please remember him with your cards and prayers.

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

February Birthday of the Month

Our Birthday of the Month for February is Warren Wagner, whose birthday is Wednesday, February 19. Please remember him with your prayers and cards.



Church Mailboxes have been updated and 2025 Directories have been placed in mailboxes. Extra copies have been placed on the table in the narthex.

Reserving the Church or Fellowship Hall REMINDER!



In preparing the 2025 Directory, I noticed some reservations that were placed on the calendar hanging on the office door which were not reported to me for ensuring they are placed on the electronic copies to ensure the reservation was made properly and to avoid double-booking.

Members of Free Spring – if you wish to reserve the church or fellowship hall for any reason, you may either check the calendar on the office door first and if the date you want is available, write your reservation in and notify Lona by phone, note, or e-mail, or you may ask Lona to check the date for you and have her reserve the date if available. Please be sure to include whether you are reserving the church, fellowship hall, or both, and include the start and end time (include set-up and clean-up times) in order to prevent any overlaps!

Commission Chairpersons – please note that you are responsible for notifying Lona and placing new activities outside of the regular service times on the calendar *that were not included in the Church Directory!*

Non-members of Free Spring – if you wish to reserve the church or fellowship hall for any reason, please reach out to Warren Wagner or Pastor Terry for approval. Thank you.



"Soup"er Bowl Sunday

February 9 after 2nd Worship Service

This year, last names beginning with A-L are to make desserts, and M-Z are to bring sandwiches. The Deacons will be providing the soup! We look forward to a Soup-er time!



2025 Meat Canning Donations will be taken up through Sunday, February 9

Donations may be made using the envelope that is provided in your bulletin (please place unused envelopes in Lona's mailbox so they may be re-used).

ALSO: Free Spring has been asked to donate three gallons of vegetable soup on February 13 for the meat canning. Donations are still needed! There is a sign-up sheet for this on the table in the narthex.



Used Christmas Card Donations

If you would like to donate your Christmas Cards this year, they will be sent to St Jude's Ranch for Children, there will be a box placed in the narthex. NOTE: they cannot accept Hallmark, Disney, or American Greeting cards due to copyright laws.

We will also be collecting any spring, birthday, note, and thank you cards, etc. for use in the spring cookie-packing for Carlisle Truckstop Ministry.



Due to the rising cost of postage, the **2024 Giving Statements have been placed in mailboxes at the church this year**, except for one. I do not have record of anyone for the #16 envelope. If your 2024 envelope cartridge was #16, please let me know ASAP so I can be sure you get your Giving Statement prior to January 31.

I will check mailboxes at the end of January and anyone who has not picked up their giving statement prior to January 30 will be removed from your mailbox, receive postage, and placed in the US mail. Thank you!

~Lona Henry, Church Secretary

Central Pa World Hunger Association 2025 Meat Canning Project

2025 is the 50th year for the Meat Canning Project locally. Did you know that 10% of all of the meat canned, remains local? This year we will be canning 20,000 pounds of chicken and 20,000 pounds of pork!

Dates: February 10-13 for canning and February 14 for cleanup

Times:

- Monday – Thursday 6:30 am – 8:00 pm
- Friday 7:00 am – 2:00 pm

Where: Chief Logan Firehouse, 1800 Glenwood Ave Lewistown, PA 17044

How you can help: We are looking for volunteers (groups preferred but not required) to help with all steps of the process:

Grinding Meat → Filling Cans → Cleaning Cans → Labeling/Boxing Cans

Volunteers may be scheduled for a little or as much time as you would like. (1 hour, 2 hours, all day, etc.)

Who to Contact:

Sylvanus Peachey – Canning Coordinator – Call: 717-935-2511
Jessie Diem – Assistant Coordinator – Call or Text: 717-348-9577

Unable to donate your time, but looking to help? We are also accepting monetary donations. Approximate cost for the project this year is \$100,000.

Mail checks to: Central PA World Hunger Association
PO Box 76
Belleville, PA 17004



792,407 Total Cans
with the help of
28,000 Volunteers

TOGETHER
WE
CAN

CWS Emergency Clean-Up Buckets

Free Spring will collect supplies for CWS Emergency Clean-Up Buckets through the end of February.



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.



END OF YEAR

GIVING STATEMENTS

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~Lona Henry, Church Secretary



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.

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!)



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

Dot Benson
389 Raccoon Valley Road
Millerstown, PA 17062
(223) 362-2002

Lottie Holsinger
4845 Arch Rock Road
Mifflintown, PA 17059
(717) 436-8495

Melda Ritchie
3761 Mountain Road
McAlisterville, PA 17049

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



UPCOMING EVENTS



North Ridge Worship Service March 16 at 2:00 pm

Participants are needed for the Worship Service at North Ridge on Sunday, March 16 at 2:00 pm. Needed are a speaker, pianist, worship leader, and special music. If you can help in any of these positions, please let Sharon Ritzman know.

Thank you to Sharon Ritzman, Tom and Sandy Wert for being part of the Worship Team at North Ridge on January 19.

Easter Sunrise Service Sunday, April 20 at 6:30 am in the sanctuary

Start your Easter off right! Come to Easter Sunrise service at 6:30 am on Easter morning, April 20. Faith Watts will be the speaker, and Jenn Fornwalt will be special music.

