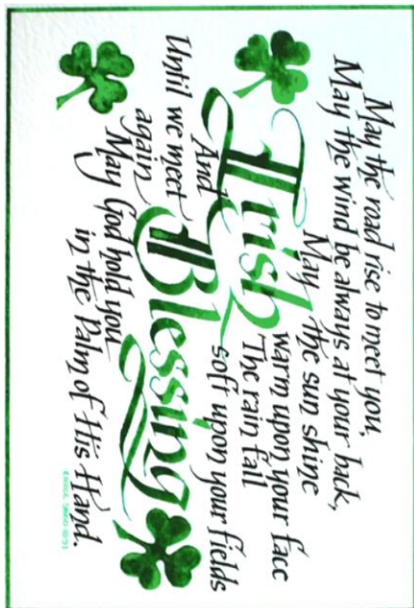


March 2025



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



Exec Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm

Church Board Meeting, 7:00 pm

Monday, March 3

**Lenten Teas, Prayer Breakfasts,
and Services Schedules inside!**



Service at Northridge

Sunday, March 16

2:00 pm

All items for the April newsletter and calendar must be submitted by end of day on **Monday, March 24**. *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,

Are we "Standing on the Promises" or "standing with the pessimists?"

Kenneth Osbeck says, "All of us have times in life when a crisis or problem seems larger than we can possibly bear and we become very fearful. Often, however, the Lord has to get our attention through such an adversity to cause us once more to rely solely on His promises."

Russell Kelso Carter was an unusually talented and versatile person. In his 79-year lifetime he was an athlete, minister, sheep rancher, professor, textbook publisher, and, in his later years, a practicing physician. His composing skills included "Standing on the Promises." Osbeck declares, "How different are the promises of God! They are 'yea and amen', the only assurances on which we can securely stand."

Bible scholars point out that the phrase "fear not" appears 365 times in the Bible. Still, many people resort to pessimism instead of hope. They complain on a regular basis and the worst of the lot can make up a cloud on a clear day. Lent is a time when we can move toward Easter with great hope. We know where the story is headed as Jesus resolutely journeys toward the cross and His victory over death. We know that our Savior lives, and so will we.

Perhaps we can admit our grumbling about how things are at times, and take our complaining attitude God in prayer. Day 74 of Daily Prayers for Men offers this prayer:

"My Beloved Father,

I must confess to You that I do not pursue everything in my life without complaint. I gripe to people at work or at home about what I am being asked to do. I know that this is wrong behavior, because what are complaints but ego and selfishness? Give me the insight to understand the difference between speaking my mind (which can change things for the better) and complaining (which changes things for the worse). Amen."

Perhaps this isn't your disposition, but I am sure that there are other attitudes that may need cleaning up in Lent. Let's get a good start to our spiritual spring cleaning, whatever dust needs swept from our hearts and minds.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Terry

**March Deacons of the Month:
Kathy Bowman and Cindy Lucas**

Scriptures and Messages for March

March 2

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

"With Great Boldness"

March 9

Romans 10:8b-13

"How Generous Is God?"

March 16

Philippians 3:17-4:1

"Standing on What Matters"

March 23

Luke 13:1-9

"Unless You Repent"

March 30

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

"For Our Sake"



2025 Meat Canning Update

As you know, the canning project was held February 10-14; we finished up on Friday.

We canned 26,241 cans of meat: 13,326 cans of pork and 12,915 cans of chicken. Our local distribution will be 107 cases of meat to hand out to our area groups. We have 67 pork and 40 chicken. I will say that the pork was nice to handle and to clean up.

We haven't received enough monies to pay for everything at this time. The meat is paid for. The meat is in Ephrata going thru 30-day incubation. We plan to distribute the meat in late March. Thank you for your participation.

Rick Esh

NOTE: Free Spring donated 3 gallons of soup for the meal on Thursday. Thanks to Judy Hoffman, Nancy Shadel, and Jenn Sparks!

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. Ron Gordon will be speaker but we still need a pianist and worship leader. If you can help in either one of these positions, please let Sharon Ritzman know.



Free Spring Library News

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

Lake City Heroes Series by Lynette Eason

Serial Burn – Ever since Fire Marshal Jesslyn McCormick lost her family in a fire, she's been looking for the arsonist, for a reason, for relief from the guilt of surviving. In a twisty tale of revenge, forgiveness, and justice, Jesslyn and FBI Special Agent Nathan Carlisle team up to find the answers – if they can keep her alive long enough to ask the questions. (This is the third book in the series; the other books are Double Take and Target Acquired.)

Cornered: Three Romantic Suspense Novellas

by Lynette Eason, Lynn H. Blackburn, and Natalie Walters

Prepare for triple the thrills in these nail-biting page-turners! In *In the Dark*, an accountant uncovers cryptic clues following a co-worker's "accidental" death. In *Downfall*, Detective Donovan Bledsoe's ex-girlfriend is endangered while employed at an exclusive resort. And when Lahela Young becomes the target of *Perilous Obsession*, she turns to former police officer Briggs Turner.

Undaunted Courage Series by Irene Hannon

Over the Edge – As the sole witness to a murder, Lindsey Barnes is already on edge. Now she's being targeted by someone who wants to discredit her testimony. Or is she? Police detective Jack Tucker must determine if it's true, and if so, who's behind the campaign to destroy her credibility – and perhaps her life. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is Into the Fire.)

Love on the Santa Fe Series by Tracie Peterson

Under the Starry Skies – When an accident leaves Cassandra Barton incapacitated, she spends her time compiling a book of stories about the men working on the Santa Fe Railroad. But worry grows as revolutionaries set out to destroy the railroad. As the danger intensifies, Cassie and her longtime friend Brandon must rely on their faith to overcome the obstacles that stand in the way. (This is the third book in the series; the other books are Along the Rio Grande and Beyond the Desert Sands.)

Echoes of the Past Series by Liz Tolsma

What I Promise You – Hannah Elfenbein, a young, pregnant Jewish woman, is arrested in 1942 and sent to the Camp de Rivesaltes transit camp in Southwest France. Drawn to helping other young women escape,



she seeks refuge for herself and others at a maternity hospital. But nothing is simple in occupied France, and she finds herself doing the unimaginable to save one precious life. Eighty years later, Caitlyn Laurant takes a break from training to be a missionary nurse in Spain to visit nearby France, hoping to find her grandfather's birthplace. But what she uncovers are secrets long buried by WWII atrocities. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is What I Would Tell You.)

Sky King Ranch Series by Susan May Warren

Sundown – Former Delta Operative Colt Kingston knows when someone is lying. He may not know the truth, but he sure doesn't trust Tae, the woman who is caring for his ailing father at Sky King Ranch. Behind those beautiful blue eyes, he can tell there is a troubled – and smart – woman. A few of her stories prove true – he's found the crashed plane and the dead body inside. Still, her story of survival seems too incredible to believe...until the thugs she claims to be hunting her show up and threaten Sky King Ranch. Now Tae must disappear, along with her secrets. (This is the third book in the series; the other books are Sunrise and Sunburst.)

Texas Ever After Series by Karen Witemeyer

Cloaked in Beauty – Letty Hood has spent the last fifteen years of her life hidden away with her grandmother in the backwoods of east Texas to escape the deadly schemes of an uncle who wants her dead. Now, with her twenty-first birthday on the horizon, she is forced to accept the escort of a stranger and return to Houston in secret so she can claim a birthright that will make her one of the wealthiest women in Texas – if she lives long enough to inherit. Pinkerton agent Philip Carmichael has one duty: get the Radcliffe heiress home alive. (This is the third book in the series; the other books are Fairest of the Heart and If the Boot Fits.)

~ Kathy Bowman, Librarian



Christian Education Commission

We'll be having Movie Night on April 5 with ***Finding Normal***. More details are elsewhere in this newsletter!

We're looking for ideas for our Spring Supper & Study. The Study will start after Easter, either on April 23 or April 30 and could be a 4-to-6-week study depending on the study that is chosen. If you have an idea for this study, please share it with Shari.

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

Nurture Commission News



There was a great turnout for our "Soup"er Bowl Fellowship luncheon on Sunday, February 9. Thank you to the Deacons for the soup and also thank you to everyone for the sandwiches and desserts. Hope your favorite team won!

If you are interested in attending our Ladies Lenten Tea Bible Study, which will be held on Saturday mornings, March 8 thru April 12, starting at 8:00 am, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex and pick up a book. Read the first chapter prior to Saturday, March 8. We hope to see you there! (Come early for refreshments!)

The Community Lenten Services are scheduled and our church will host on Sunday, March 30, at 7:00 pm. If you would like to sing with our choir for this service, please contact Linda Leonard. Also, we may be singing for our Easter service on April 20 if enough people are available. Pastor Terry will be speaking on Sunday, March 23 at Lost Creek Mennonite Church. The Theme this year is *The Parables of the Last Week*. The messages this year will focus on the events that happened the week before Easter Sunday.

Our birthday of the month for March is Kim Lucas, husband of Cindy Lucas. Kim celebrates his birthday on Wednesday, March 5. Please remember him with your cards and prayers.

Music & Worship Committee met and discussed special music, Sunrise Service, and Lenten Service at Free Spring, and the possibility of a choir for both services. A questionnaire regarding your experiences during the worship service has been placed in each mailbox. Please complete the questionnaire and give us your opinions and suggestions on how we can improve your worship. Return completed questionnaires as soon as possible and place them in Nancy Shadel's mailbox. Thank you!

Our Meet-in-the-Middle Sunday will be held this month on March 30.

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



March Birthday of the Month

Our Birthday of the month for March is Kim Lucas (husband of Cindy Lucas), whose birthday is on Wednesday, March 5. Please remember him with your prayers and cards.



Witness Commission

As of mid-February, 280 rolls of toilet paper have been collected for the Food Pantry. Let's try to fill Judy Burn's vehicle! Thank you, Judy, for delivering the items to the Food Pantry. The March / April Food Pantry item is paper towels and are to be delivered by Connie Wagner.

Thank you to Peggie Layman for a generous donation, and to all who donated items and funds for the Clean-Up Buckets. We are looking forward to filling 17 buckets!

Thank you to Judy Hoffman, Nancy Shadel, and Jenn Sparks for making 3 gallons of vegetable soup for the meat canning workers. Thank you to Sharon Ritzman for delivering the soup.

Hygiene Kits will be collected in March / April. Gallon bags with a list of items needed to complete a Kit are in the CWS chest in the narthex.

Worship Service will be held at Northridge on Sunday, March 16, at 2:00 pm. A speaker, pianist and worship leader are needed. Please consider volunteering to bring the Word of God to the residents. Contact Sharon Ritzman to commit to this mission.

We need YOU for a successful Witness outreach!

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

Church World Service Hygiene Kits (to be collected March – April)

Please note this is an revised Kit list!

- One washcloth
- One fingernail or toenail clipper (packaging removed)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- One bath-size bar of soap (in original packaging)
- One travel-size deodorant (3.4 oz or less, non-aerosol)
- One travel-size lotion (3.4 oz or less, fragrance-free, NEW only)
- One travel-size shampoo (3.4 oz or less, NEW only)
- One travel-size toothpaste (3.4 oz or less, expiration date of 1 year)
- One sturdy wide-tooth comb (6" minimum teeth, packaging removed)

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



Operation Christmas Shoebox Collection for March: Band-Aids

Please place your donation in the bin just outside the double doors in the narthex.

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



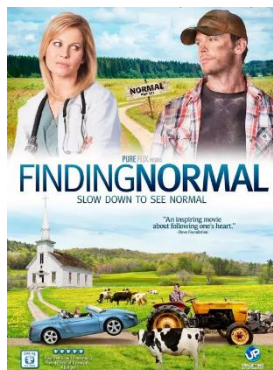
Dot Benson
389 Raccoon Valley Road
Millerstown, PA 17062
(223) 362-2002

Barbara Shepler
c/o Brookline Manor
2 Manor Blvd, Room #304
Mifflintown, PA 17059

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

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

Melda Ritchie
3761 Mountain Road
McAlisterville, PA 17049



Free Spring Movie Night
Saturday, April 5
6:00 pm in the fellowship hall
Movie: Finding Normal

Bring a snack to share if you would like!

The only thing standing between Dr. Lisa Leland (Candace Cameron Bure) and the wedding of her dreams in the Hamptons is a 2600-mile drive from Los Angeles to Long Island. However, a run-in with the law in the country town of Normal, North Carolina leaves Dr. Leland with a choice – jail or community service. Sentenced to three days as the town's doctor, Lisa has her world turned upside down by a man she would never expect. Quickly, Lisa finds that there's a lot more to Normal than she could have imagined.

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.



UPDATES AND CHANGES

We are making updates/changes to be put on an insert for the 2025 Directory. Please look over the Directory to see if you notice anything that needs to be updated/changed.

Updates/changes we have so far include the following:

Auditor (page 1)
Sharon Ritzman

Nominating Committee (page 1)
Add: Cindy Lucas, 2026

Schoolhouse Committee (page 3)
Dan Elsasser, 2027
Sharon Ritzman, 2027

Free Spring Church of the Brethren Family Directory (page 19):

Witzell, David & *Rosemary – change:
Remove: (717) 463-3800 home phone
Add: (717) 994-1600 (Rosemary's cell)

Zendt, J. Allen & Ruth – change:
(717) 247-1841 (Ruth's cell)

If you have updates/changes, please place a note in Lona's mailbox or send her an e-mail. Thank you!

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!)





2025 COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

Sponsored By:
The McAlisterville Ministerium

Theme
The Parables of the Last Week

Lenten Tea Bible Study

Saturday Mornings
March 8 - April 12
at 8:00 am



Just turning on the news lets us know we are living in uncertain times. Economic instabilities, eruptions of violence, and natural catastrophes can alter the lives and landscapes of entire communities. Our individual lives are often just as unsteady: relationships can break, plans can falter, and confidence can fail.

Uncertainty can be uncomfortable. 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.

The Study starts at 8:00 am (instead of 8:00 am as incorrectly stated in the February newsletter). Please come early for refreshments! A sign-up sheet and books have been placed on the table in the narthex. Hope to see you there!



Port Royal Men's Prayer Breakfasts
Saturdays at 7:00 am
at Port Royal Community building, 4th Street

March 8 - Rev. Charles McKee from Mexico Full Gospel Church

March 15 - Rev. William McNeal from Brown's Global Methodist

March 22 - Rev. Chad Weaver from Lost Creek Mennonite Church

March 29 - Rev. Caleb Burd from South Baptist Church

April 5 - Rev. Nathanael Mowery from Oakland Mills Methodist Church

April 12 - Rev. Frank Swarts from New Beginnings Church

April 19 - Rev. Ron Shupe from River Church

Mar 5	Jesus' Authority	Trinity Lutheran	Ray Bailor
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*The Ash Wednesday Service includes
the sacrament of Holy Communion*

Mar 9	Two Sons	Lost Creek Pres.	Bill McNeal
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Mar 16	Wicked Tenants	Browns GMC	Karen Ward
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Mar 23	Wedding Feast	Lost Creek Menno	Terry Smith
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Mar 30	Ten Bridesmaids	Free Spring COB	Dave Gingrich
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Apr 6	Loaned Money	Otterbein GMC	Graham Fowler
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Apr 13	Final Judgment	Delaware Menno	Chad Weaver
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Apr 18	Final Sacrifice	Pine Grove UMC	Doug Mellott
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All services begin at 7:00 p.m.

The Offering will go to:
Mennonite Disaster Service
To rebuild homes both locally and nationally

Checks can be made out to: McAlisterville Ministerium



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

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

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



March 2025

Food Pantry Needs:
Paper Towels



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March Birthdays 1 - David Myers 4 - Rachel Naylor 9 - Jennifer Fornwalt 12 - Sam Laudenslager 21 - Brett Wagner 26 - Rosalita Leonard 2 - Tom Willow 4 - Anna Zendt 9 - Becca Walters 13 - Matthew Fornwalt 22 - Gerald Book 26 - Kaidyn Logan 3 - Sherry Bardell 5 - Kim Lucas 9 - Brandy Zendt 16 - Dee Bell 24 - Noah Walters 26 - Seth Weiland 3 - Cecilia Smith 6 - Cyrus Long 12 - Christopher Benner 17 - Jacob Lucas 25 - Lailei Ritzman 27 - Joslynn Zendt						1
2 Give Me 5! Offering	3 Exec Committee, 6:30 pm Church Board, 7:00 pm	4 	5 Ash Wednesday Service at Trinity Lutheran, 7:00 pm	6	7	8 Ladies Lenten Tea Bible Study, 8:00 am
9 Community Lenten Svc at Lost Creek Presbyterian, 7:00 pm <i>Daylight Savings Begins</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15 Ladies Lenten Tea Bible Study, 8:00 am
16 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Service at Northridge, 2:00 pm Community Lenten Svc at Brown's GMC, 7:00 pm	17  <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18	19	20  <i>First Day of Spring</i>	21	22 Ladies Lenten Tea Bible Study, 8:00 am
23 Youth Nickel Offering Community Lenten Svc at Lost Creek Mennonite, 7:00 pm	24 Newsletter Deadline!	25	26	27	28	29 Ladies Lenten Tea Bible Study, 8:00 am
30 Meet-in-the-Middle Sunday Community Lenten Svc at Free Spring COB, 7:00 pm	31	March Anniversaries 12 - Donald & Arletta Kauffman ('55) 21 - Derek & Dianne Ritzman ('98) 16 - Isaac & Abigail Campbell ('24) 23 - Mark & Becky Zeigler ('84) 20 - John & Lois Zendt ('76) 28 - Scott & Sherry Bardell ('81)				

