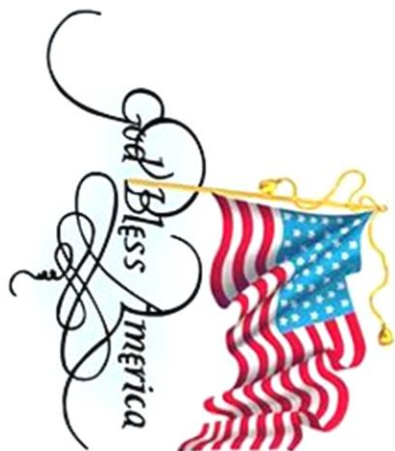


July 2025



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



Meetings on Monday, July 7

Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm

Church Board Meeting, 7:00 pm

Music & Worship Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 8 at 7:00 pm



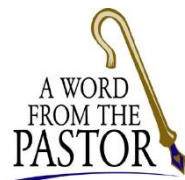
DISTRICT-WIDE PICNIC

Sunday, July 27, 2025

Little Buffalo Park

at 4:30 pm

All items for the August newsletter and calendar must be submitted by
end of day on **Monday, July 21**. *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,

As I prepare to go to North Carolina for our Annual Conference, the thought often enters my mind that it would be better to spend my time on Disaster Response than sitting in some of those upcoming business sessions. The historic disaster that was experienced by the people in western North Carolina and other states was as Andy Hamilton says, "both frightening and faith-building." He wrote an excellent article for the April issue of **Messenger**, entitled, *When Our Rivers Overflow*.

I would share just one paragraph that reminds us of the importance of caring for our neighbors near and far:

*"After the flood, I found myself in a vulnerable place. My family suffered some loss, but not nearly as much as our neighbors. We set out to help them in any way that we could. Yet we, too, were in need. Here in this space of vulnerability and loss, I was reminded how fragile life is. It was also here that I rediscovered the generosity of God's love. It was not about things, but presence. While my mind was still focused on self-preservation and the well-being of my immediate family, I began receiving emails and phone calls from around the country asking how we were coping and how they could help. In that space, the things of this world that divide us were washed away. **Caring for our neighbors, their survival and recovery, became our priority.** Suddenly the ties that bind us became apparent as the offers of mutual aid were extended."*

I have emphasized that next to last line because it shouldn't take a disaster to heighten our awareness, but that is our human nature. I pray that you are not too busy to help when you see the need near and far, and I also pray that you are not too proud to accept help when you are in need.

Go in peace, and serve in peace,

Pastor Terry



July Deacons of the Month:
Ron & Dee Bell

Scriptures and Messages for July

July 6

Guest Speaker – Warren Peachey

July 13

Luke 10:25-37

"Who Isn't My Neighbor?"

July 20

Colossians 1:15-28

"Securely Established"

July 27

Luke 11:1-13

"Persistence in Prayer"



DISTRICT-WIDE PICNIC

When: Sunday, July 27, 2025

Where: Little Buffalo Park

Time: 4:30 pm

Meat will be provided, just bring a side dish for sharing. Brother Chris Eliot will have vespers.

Attention Free Spring Members and Regular Attenders!

Ron Gordon will be taking studio photographs of Free Spring families and individuals during the following sessions: Friday evening, September 5, 5:00-8:00 pm and Saturday, September 6, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Mark your calendars to save these dates! Photo sessions will be held in the "Seekers" Sunday School classroom. Please enter by the front doors.

There is no cost to the church or members. Appointments are unnecessary, just walk in. A free 5x7 print will be placed in your church mailbox and an updated page for the church's photo Directory. A digital copy will also be e-mailed to you for custom printing at Walmart, Beward Pharmacy, or Schlegel's Groceries. Passport photos are also available, sized to federal government required dimensions.



Free Spring Library News

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

Gossamer Falls Series by Lynn H. Blackburn

Break my Fall – Dr. Meredith Quinn always planned to return to Gossamer Falls to practice dentistry and offer clinics to underserved areas. However, these areas are known for drug trafficking, and Police Chief Grayson Ward suspects local law enforcement is turning a blind eye. Grayson, having closed off his heart after too many losses, finds himself vulnerable when Meredith enters his life. To keep her safe, he must keep her close, making it impossible for him to retreat emotionally. Will she help him emerge from isolation, or will she leave him shattered? (This is the second book in the series; the first book is Never Fall Again.)

Tupelo Grove Series by Colleen Coble

Where Secrets Lie – College professor Savannah Webster is ready to give her ex-husband, Hez, another chance, and she believes he's finally ready for them to face their many past trials as a team. But when Savannah finds evidence that points to Hez's old demons resurfacing, the fragile trust they've built begins to crumble. And it's not just their relationship hanging in the balance – the survival of the university Savannah's family poured their lives into is also under threat. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is: What We Hide.)

Hidden Bay Series by Elizabeth Goddard

Storm Warning – Haunted by a past she can't remember, Remi Grant takes a job at an isolated storm-watching lodge on the rocky Washington coast. Former military pilot Hawk Beckett arrives to clear his head after a personal mission cost him his job. But danger lurks at the lodge – and the final and fiercest storm has yet to come. (This is the first book in the series.)

Summer Harbor Series by Denise Hunter

Falling Like Snowflakes – Eden Martelli is on the run with her five-year-old son from the people she thought would protect them. Her car breaks down and leaves her stranded in Summer Harbor Maine with hardly any money. She must find work. Beau Callahan is a former sheriff's deputy who is working full-time on the family's Christmas tree farm after the death of his parents. At the same time his aunt suffers a fall that will need someone to stay with her, Eden shows up looking for work. His years in law enforcement have him sensing that Eden, or "Kate" as she calls herself, is hiding something. Will Beau understand, when her past catches up with



her? (This is the first book in the series.)

Erin Delaney Mysteries Series by Nancy Mehl

Shattered Sanctuary – After tragedy upended ex-police officer and bestselling author Erin Delaney's life, she finds solace in a cabin nestled in the Smoky Mountains. One night her newfound peace is shattered by cries in the night. Teaming up with the handsome local police chief, Erin is thrust into stopping a merciless serial killer while confronting the ghosts of her past. (This is the first book in the series.)

Hope of Cheyenne Series by Tracie Peterson

A Constant Love – After a vicious winter in Cheyenne, Wyoming, claims the lives of their loved ones, Charlotte Aldrich and Micah Hamilton are trying to bring their ranches -- and their hearts -- back to life. But as love grows, the secrets they're keeping may pull them apart forever, and they must rely on faith to forge a future built on love, healing, and hope. (This is the first book in the series.)

Blue Sky Hill Series by Lisa Wingate

A Month of Summer – Rebecca Macklin returns home when her aging father is found wandering the streets alone and his wife becomes ill. When Hanna Beth Parker hears of her estranged stepdaughter's arrival, she realizes that the last person she'd ever ask for help is the only one she can count on. A story of betrayal – and forgiveness.

~ Kathy Bowman, Librarian



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

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

Barbara Shepler
118 The Bridges
92 Village Drive
Mifflintown, PA 17059

Melda Ritchie
3761 Mountain Road
McAlisterville, PA 17049

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



CWS Kids Kit (formerly known as School Kits) July and August

During July and August, we will be collecting CWS Kids Kits. Please note: the list has changed for this year. Bags and an updated list (also listed below) are in the CWS Chest in the narthex.



SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- ☐ 12 colored pencils
 - ☐ Two-pocket folder
 - ☐ Glue stick
 - ☐ Blunt-tip scissors (packaging removed)
 - ☐ 70-page wide spiral-bound notebook
 - ☐ 30-cm/12" ruler
 - ☐ Hand-held pencil sharpener (packaging removed)
 - ☐ Large eraser
 - ☐ Six new, unsharpened pencils (bundled with a rubber band)
 - ☐ Box of 24 crayons
 - ☐ 12"x14" to 14"x17" cotton or lightweight canvas bag with handles (solid color or kid-friendly fabric, no logos)
- Optional: Handmade or store-bought pencil pouch

Witness Commission



500 halves of chicken were cooked and 256 quarts of ice cream was churned for our Annual Free Spring Chicken BBQ! THANK YOU to ALL who made this year's barbecue a success! There were 6 halves left over and 47 quarts of ice cream yet to be sold as of June 23.

The Food Pantry item for July is laundry detergent (25-30 oz). Smaller sizes are preferred, but all sizes are welcomed. The Food Pantry item for June was dish detergent. Thank you to Cindy Lucas for delivering the items collected through June. Also, thank you to Leah Ritzman and Sharon Ritzman for volunteering at the Food Pantry on the last Saturday in May.

Heartbeat baby bottles were collected and handed in to be tallied. The total amount collected will be provided by Heartbeat soon.

An additional 4 CWS Clean-Up Buckets were assembled with donations, bringing the total now to 21. During July and August, we will be collecting CWS Kids Kits (formerly known as School Kits). The item list has also changed this year. An updated list is elsewhere in this newsletter and copies of the list have been placed, along with cloth bags, in the CWS Chest in the narthex. Thank you, Free Springers, for making the Witness Commission a success!

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



Free Spring Medical Equipment Loaners

Did you ever need a pair of crutches, a cane, or a wheel chair for just a few days? You might not have known that Free Spring has a closet full of medical equipment under the stairs in the old fellowship hall – wheelchairs, shower chairs, commode stabilizer, bedside commodes, metal crutches, canes, walkers, grabbers, etc.. This equipment is there to be borrowed by any Free Springer, or your family, or friends.

Check out the display of equipment in the fellowship hall during July. At the end of July, they will be placed back in the closet. You may borrow this equipment at any time. Just choose what you need and sign it out on the clipboard. Keep it as long as you need it, and then cross your name off when you return it. From the memorial money for Joe Ritzman (who borrowed some of the Free Spring equipment), two hundred dollars was used to fill in any gaps of equipment. If you have any questions, ask Sharon Ritzman.

The wheelchairs, which are near the upstairs entrance and in the fellowship hall, are to remain there for use during the Sunday school and worship hours.



Operation Christmas Shoebox Collection for July:

Pens, Pencils, or Pencil Sharpeners

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

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!)



Nurture Commission News



We welcome Warren Peachey on Sunday, July 6 as he comes to fill in for Pastor Terry who will be attending Annual Conference in Greensboro, NC. Please pray for Peace and Unity at the Conference, July 2-6

Thank you to Drew Wagner for sharing his talent at the piano on Father's Day. It was beautiful.

Thank you to Art Zug for organizing the Father / Son / Daughter Event at the Reinford Pond on June 28.

Also, we especially thank Art, Jen Sparks, and everyone who grilled hot dogs and hamburgers and made the fries on June 28 at our Annual Free Spring Church Picnic.

Our birthday of the month for July is Faith Watts, whose birthday is on Thursday, July 24. Her current address is 807 W 9th St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Please add this address to your directory. Faith does not get home often, so I'm sure she would love to hear from us. Thank You!

Please remember our high school graduates, Katelyn Fornwalt and Kaylynn Wray, in your prayers as they prepare for the next phase of their lives.

Thank you to the Worship & Music Committee for honoring our fathers on June 15. The Committee's next meeting will be Tuesday, July 8, at 7:00 pm. You are invited and encouraged to attend if you have any suggestions for music or the service itself, or for our Thanksgiving Eve and Christmas Eve services.

If you will, please provide us feedback regarding the combined service held on Sunday, June 29. We will continue to have combined services until the end of this year on Meet-in-the-Middle Sundays, held on the 5th Sundays of the month.

Thank you to Karen Logan for the worship display for Father's Day.

It has been suggested that, since we have so many good cooks in our congregation, we feature a recipe of the month in the newsletter. If you would like to submit recipes, please carefully copy them and place them in Nancy Shadel's mailbox for review and possible publication.

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



July Birthday of the Month

Our Birthday of the month for July is Faith Watts, whose birthday is on Thursday, July 24. Her current address is 807 W 9th St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Please add this address to your directory. Faith does not get home often, so I'm sure she would love to hear from us. Please remember her with your prayers and cards.



Christian Education Commission

Our **True North** VBS was held June 9-11 with an average of 9 children attending each evening. The children were guided on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. As kids trekked the tundra, they explored how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing them toward Jesus, our VBS showed the children that He is a faithful friend we can always trust when we wander, feel alone or feel powerless, or need hope or need help. He's our True North and can wash us clean of our sins! Again, we thank Ron Gordon for coming out and taking pictures and videos of the children as they participated in the Bible stories with Terry and Wanda, and in the activities, crafts, and games each night. We also thank him for sharing the video with the congregation the following weekend to see what fun the kids had. Also, a BIG THANK YOU to our VBS Committee – Amber Heimbach, Rachel Naylor, Emily Wagner, and Brandy Zendt – for their time and efforts in putting together a wonderful VBS. If you see them, please extend *your* Thank You to them as well.

Just around the corner, we will have Teacher Recognition on Sunday, September 14, and we will start putting together a Fall Bible Study for September/October.

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

Looking for something?

An envelope was placed in my mailbox with a tiny clipping of what appears to be a very old piece of paper that likely served as a label and was typewritten with the words **This doorplate is from Adolph Hitler's Berchtesgaden Home, in the Bavaria Alps in Southern Germany. 1945**

No note was included in the envelope, and the label was so small I almost missed seeing it was in the envelope! If this belongs to you, please let me know. Thank you!

~ Lona Henry, Church Secretary

