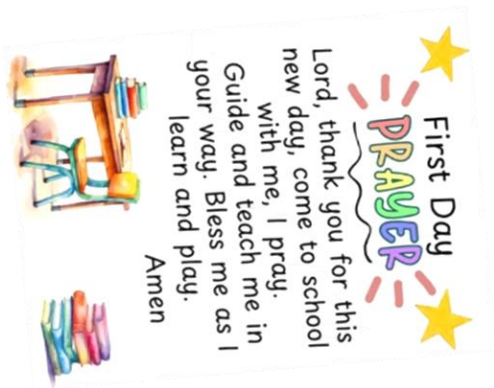


August 2025



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



Monday, August 4
Executive Committee at 6:30 pm
Commissions at 7:00 pm

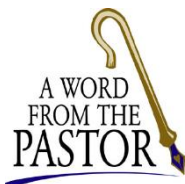


Meals-On-Wheels Desserts
Tuesday, August 19

Sunday, August 31
5th Sunday Combined Service at 9:00 am
Refreshments at 10:15 am
(NO Early Service)



All items for the September newsletter and calendar must be submitted by end of day on **Monday, August 25**. *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 was reviewing past newsletters, the August 2015 printing of the Pastor's Letter seemed to be worth sharing again. Ravi Zacharias has been found to have fallen short of his teaching since then, but that does not take away from the truth of what he said in his book. It may be good to remember this when we mourn fallen leaders closer to home, and as we confess our own sins before God.

When August arrives, I always begin thinking more earnestly about the coming school year, and it's coming earlier than ever this year, August 18. There's nothing like a challenging book to sharpen your wits and bolster your faith as you look forward to another academic year. I just finished Ravi Zacharias' book, Why Jesus?

Zacharias continues his battle against the current tendency to make everything relative to circumstances and not be bound by any absolute truths. He challenges the "new spirituality" that encourages you to find your own consciousness by blending spiritual viewpoints from a multitude of sources. It would appear to be the "I'm okay, you're okay" philosophy all over again, but with a different packaging. There is an additional twist as applied by many religious and political leaders over time. The god you are answerable to is you.

In the new spirituality one is continually seeking for the truth because truth is constantly changing. I remember a similar trend when I was in college. Many subscribed to the mantra of "What is truth for you isn't necessarily truth for me." The impulse is to define everything on your own terms, and you become your own spiritual leader. Many would ignore that Jesus linked anger with murder, and lust with adultery.

Modern spiritualists try to distance themselves from sin by redefining and watering down long accepted truths of the Christian faith to make it more acceptable to the masses. They want to offend no one unless they profess a belief in absolute truths as expressed by Jesus.

Jesus calls us to accept what He taught and live out His command to love God with all that we are and love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves. We are to seek to serve before we are served and seek the lost before we lose ourselves in the pursuit of pleasure.

As we prepare to send students off to another year of schooling, may we go back to reeducating ourselves on the truths that God has given us in His Word and the life of Jesus? Let's reset our moral compasses on the true north of Jesus Christ and allow Him to guide this church forward in His kingdom work.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Terry



Scriptures and Messages for August

August 3

Luke 12:13-21

"Guard Against Greed"

August 10

Guest Speaker – Warren Peachey

Fellowship Meal immediately following second service.

August 17

Luke 12:49-56

"No Peace On Earth"

August 24

Jeremiah 1:4-10

"Before You Were Born"

August 31

Hebrews 13:1-9, 15-16

"Do Good...And Share"



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; some are part of a series.

Newpointe 911 Series by Terri Blackstock

Private Justice – A serial killer is stalking the small town of Newpointe, Louisiana, and fireman Mark Branning is worried sick! His rocky marriage with Allie has led to a separation, but with a psychopath now on the loose, he realizes just how much he still loves her – especially when he discovers that Allie is next on the killer's list! (This is the first book in the series.)

Hidden Bay Series by Elizabeth Goddard

Perilous Tides – Forensic artist Jo Cattrel must leave her safe haven at a storm-watching lodge if she wants to learn the truth about her mother's death. With help from former Green Beret Cole Mercer, she will uncover shocking secrets. But as they search for answers, the past rushes in like a dangerous tide to sweep them away before the truth can be revealed. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is Storm Warning.)

Summer Harbor Series by Denise Hunter

The Goodbye Bride – When Lucy Lovett hits her head and can't remember how it happened, she calls the one man she loves...Zac Callahan. But why is Zac being so cold? And how did she end up in Portland, Maine? Zac hasn't the faintest idea. He hasn't seen Lucy since she disappeared weeks before their wedding. Should he help her? And if he does, will she be his...or say goodbye forever? (This is the second book in the series; the first book is Falling Like Snowflakes.)

The Filling Station by Vanessa Miller

Margaret and Evelyn Justice grew up in the prosperous Greenwood District of Tulsa known as Black Wall Street. But life changes after the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre inflicts unspeakable loss. They flee along Route 66 and find refuge at the Threatt Filling Station. Will they garner strength to rebuild Greenwood and honor the legacy of those lost?

The Hope of Cheyenne Series by Tracie Peterson

Designed with Love – After being widowed on her wedding day, Emma Johnson moves to Cheyenne with her sister-in-law to start over. When her deceased husband's brother travels with her to help her get established, she finds herself drawn to him. But is he only after his brother's inheritance, or does he truly care for her in return? (This is the second book in the series; the first book is A Constant Love.)



Appalachian Series by Cindy K. Sproles

Mercy's Rain – Mercy Roller knows her name is a lie. She's *never* known grace from her abusive father, "The Pastor", who holds an entire congregation in a stranglehold of fear. Taking justice into her own hands, she flees the Appalachian community in which she was raised – but when she encounters another radically different pastor, will her soul find healing? (This is the first book in the series.)

Guilty Until Innocent Series by Robert Whitlow

Twenty-five years after a drug-induced tragedy, Joe is serving life in prison – and thriving. Leading a ministry behind bars, he's content with his life, until new evidence suggests he might have been wrongly incarcerated. When aspiring lawyer Ryan takes the reopened case, death threats pour in. Is it wise to pursue justice with innocent lives at stake?

~ Kathy Bowman, Librarian



Witness Commission August Food Pantry Delivery by: Carla Renson



The Heartbeat Baby Bottle Project was a huge success! Your generous contribution of \$1,372.11 will help support women and children by helping to provide diapers, wipes, formula, clothing, books, literature, furniture, counseling supplies, pregnancy tests, maternity clothes, student manuals, and incentives for the abstinence program, in addition to so many more services.

The Food Pantry item we're collecting for July/August is laundry detergent. The table is starting to fill! Let's help our neighbors in need.

CWS Kids Kits will also be collected during July/August. Cloth bags, along with an updated supply list, are in the CWS chest in the narthex. Thank you to Barry & Judy Hoffman for delivering the CWS Clean-Up Buckets and Hygiene Kits.

Meals-On-Wheels Desserts start again in August and will continue thru January. Free Spring provides desserts on the 3rd Tuesday of each of these months. Thank you to Mary Zeigler, the bakers, and the ones who deliver.

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

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)

August Deacons of the Month: Kathy Bowman and Cindy Lucas



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



Nurture Commission News

Our Birthday of the Month is Lucille Saner, who will turn 80 on Thursday, August 7. Please remember her with your cards and prayers. (Sorry Lucille, for giving your age!)

We welcome Warren Peachey once again to fill in for Pastor Terry (who will be on a family vacation) on Sunday, August 10 for both services. A fellowship meal is planned for 11:45, immediately after the second worship service. Please bring a dish to share and get to know Warren a little better.

We are looking for your recipes to share in the newsletter each month. Please place them in Nancy Shadel's mailbox. We realize we have many good cooks in our congregation and were hoping you would each share at least one recipe with us.

August 31 is a "5th Sunday" and would normally be a Meet-in-the-Middle event, but instead, we'd like to have a combined service again at 9:00 am, followed by brunch at 10:15 am. Please bring a dish to share while we fellowship with all members of our early and late services.

It's that time of year again when each Commission will be working on their budgets for next year and we need your input if you have suggestions for changes in our programs.

Also, the Nominating Committee will be calling members to fill positions for next year. Please prayerfully consider how you may serve your church.

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

August Birthday of the Month

Our Birthday of the month for August is Lucille Saner, whose birthday is on Thursday, August 7. Please remember her with your prayers and cards.



Operation Christmas Shoebox Collection for August: Hats and Gloves

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

Medical Equipment Available for Loan at Free Spring

When you take something from the closet, just sign on the clipboard what you took, the date, your name, and then the date you return it.



ITEMS AVAILABLE	
3 bedside commodes	1 rollator (walker with 4 wheels and seat)
1 commode stabilizer	1 wheelchair
2 pair of metal crutches	1 walker with no wheels
1 shower chair with arms	1 walker with 2 wheels
1 shower bench chair	1 walker with basket
4 bed pans, 1 hat	1 knee support walker
3 grabbers	1 wheelchair tray
	3 canes

Check out the display in the old fellowship hall during July 2025. Any questions? Ask Sharon.

Please do not remove the wheelchairs at the front door of the church and the one in the fellowship hall. They need to remain there in case they are needed.



Sunday School Classes

The Seekers Class, which meets in the upstairs adult classroom, is studying the book of Acts. Our teachers are Ron Gordon, Rodney Pry, and Allen Zendt. With their leadership, along with the insightful contributions from class members, it is a lively and active learning experience focusing on scripture. You are welcome to join us any Sunday.

The Explorers Class, which meets in the fellowship hall for fellowship and study, is studying Experiencing the Heart of Jesus by Max Lucado. Come join us any Sunday as we study and discuss how knowing Jesus changes everything.

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!)



Prayer changes...



Hebrews 4:14-16

Southern Penna. District
Church of the Brethren

2025 DISTRICT
CONFERENCE

Southern Pennsylvania District

Church of the Brethren

2025 District Conference

September 19 & 20

Hanover Church of the Brethren

**Additional information and Registration Forms
are on the table in the narthex.**