

September 2025



"Every child comes with
the message that God is not
yet discouraged of man."
-Rabindranath Tagore

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



Church Family Photo Sessions
Friday, September 5, 5-8 pm
Saturday, September 6, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm



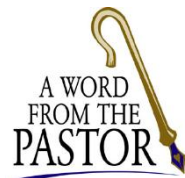
Teacher Recognition
Sunday, September 14

Meals-On-Wheels Desserts
Tuesday, September 16



Adopt-A-Highway Trash Pick-Up
Saturday, September 27
at 8:00 am
(or evenings the week of)

All items for the October newsletter and calendar must be submitted by
end of day on **Monday, September 22**. **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,

Labor Day is upon us! It seems like yesterday was July 4th and the day before was Memorial Day. Children and young adults are back to school and our District Church Conference is only weeks away. Please be in prayer for Eric Reamer as he prepares to lead the meeting in Hanover as our District Moderator for 2025.

I am excited about the new Bible Study that we will be doing in October! Kyle Idleman's book, Every Thought Captive: How renewing your mind can change your life, will challenge you to confront those thought patterns that do not serve you well. One Scripture from the Good News Translation of Proverbs advises, ***"Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts. Never say anything that isn't true. Have nothing to do with lies and misleading words."***

That Biblical advice is challenged daily by the "wisdom" of the current culture. The truth is often attacked as "fake news". Have we trained our minds to filter what we see and hear through God's Word, and have our thoughts been patterned to align with the way that Jesus taught? It is no secret that there is a great effort to influence your thinking about what you will eat, how you will dress, where you will go, when you will make the best economic decisions.

There is a battle for your mind, and Romans 12:2 gives us this direction, ***"Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."*** Idleman says this isn't a study on the power of positive thinking – or how you have the power to change your life – but about learning how God made your brain.

Brothers and Sisters, we have a choice to make, and God calls us to submit to the truth of His Word and the example of our Savior, Jesus Christ. May this be a wonderful September to remember.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Terry

Scriptures and Messages for September

September 7

Luke 14:25-33 *"Maintaining a Safe Distance?"*

September 14

Guest Speaker – Chris Elliot

September 21

Psalms 14 *"Wisdom of God or Wisdom of Humankind?"*

September 28

Luke 16:19-31 *"They Should Listen to Them"*

Free Spring Library News

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

Newpointe 911 Series by Terri Blackstock

Shadow of Doubt – When police officer Stan Shepherd is rushed to the hospital complaining of gastric pains, his horrified friends and family find out that he has been poisoned with arsenic. The situation is especially traumatic for Stan's wife, Celia, whose first husband died after being given arsenic. Although she was acquitted of that crime, local police decide that there is no way two husbands being poisoned in the same way was a coincidence, and Celia is arrested. The number of people who believe in her dwindles. Trying to prove her innocence, Celia finds herself turning more and more to her faith in God to get through her troubles. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is Private Justice.)

Lake City Heroes Series by Lynette Eason

Final Approach – Air Marshal Kristine Duncan is supposed to be on vacation when an unhinged hijacker seizes control of her plane. Of course, this doesn't stop her from intervening! In Final Approach, she faces a terrifying hostage situation in midair – but that's just the start of the turbulent journey she'll soon share with FBI agent Andrew Ross. (This is the fourth book in the series; the other books are Double Take, Target Acquired, and Serial Burn.)

National Parks Summers Series by Suzanne Woods Fisher

Capture the Moment – A photograph of a legendary grizzly could earn Kate national attention – but capturing it requires park ranger Grant Cooper's tracking expertise. When unexpected danger surfaces, will they survive the wild? (This is the first book in the series.)

Summer Harbor Series by Denise Hunter

Just a Kiss – Riley Callahan went off to join the army after Paige, the love of his life fell for his brother. He returns an amputee and finds they have broken up and his parents have asked Paige to care for him. He feels she deserves more of a man than he is now. He is moody, has nightmares, and is very independent. She sees his softer side and feelings begin to stir. Will he let her in? Can she really be falling for another Callahan brother? (This is the third book in the series; the other books are: Falling Like Snowflakes and The Goodbye Bride.)

The Girl from the Hidden Forest by Hannah Linder

Eliza Ellis has stayed hidden in Balfour Forest for as long as she can remember – safe from the cruel world outside. That is, until a handsome



stranger named Felton Northwood invades her quiet forest and steals her away. Why does he tell such lies? As danger mounts and lethal attempts are made on her life, Eliza and Felton must work together to uncover the identity of a killer who has stayed silent for fourteen years. When she finally uncovers the horrendous memories trapped in her mind, will divulging the truth cost her the man she loves – and both of their lives?

Regency Wallflowers Series by Carolyn Miller

Dusk's Darkest Shores – Mary Bloomfield has no illusions. Her chances for matrimony have long since passed her by. Still, her circumstances are pleasant enough, especially now that she has found purpose in assisting her father with his medical practice in England's beautiful Lake District. Even without love, it's a peaceful life. (This is the first book in the series.)

Appalachian Series by Cindy K. Sproles

Liar's Winter – Lochiel Ogle was born with a red-wine birthmark – and it put her life in jeopardy from the moment she entered the world. Mountain folks called it "the mark of the devil", and for all the evil that has plagued her nineteen-year existence, Lochiel is ready to believe that is true. And the evil surely took control of the mind of the boy who stole her as an infant, bringing her home for his mother to raise. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is: Mercy's Rain.)

~ Kathy Bowman, Librarian



Hearing God's Call



**Time & Talent Surveys
to be distributed on
Sunday, September 28**

We all have been blessed with a gift from the Spirit to serve our church in many ways. Please prayerfully consider your gifts and complete the Time & Talent Survey as soon as possible so that we may know where you are willing to serve with your time and talent in 2026.

Hardcopies of the Time & Talent Surveys will be distributed on **Sunday, September 28**. Please place completed hardcopies in Barry Hoffman's mailbox. The deadline for completing the Survey is October 19.

Witness Commission

September Food Pantry item is shampoo or body wash. 53 bottles of laundry detergent were on the table last Sunday. Thank you to Carla Reason for delivering them to the Food Pantry.



Bethesda Mission collection starts in September and continues thru October. A list of items needed are included in the bulletin and newsletter.

Thank you to Rosalita and Linda Leonard for conducting worship service at Brookline on Sunday, August 10. Thanks to Tom & Sandra Wert for being available for worship services at North Ridge on August 3. However, North Ridge had double-booked and we allowed the other larger group to do the service that Sunday. A worship group is needed for the service at North Ridge on Sunday, October 19. Please contact Sharon Ritzman if you're able to help.

Adopt-A-Highway Trash Pick-Up will be conducted on Saturday, September 27 starting at 8:00 am. Jennifer Fornwalt will be organizing the event. Please come out to keep our road beautiful.

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



Please be advised that the first of my two carpal tunnel surgeries is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10. Therefore, I will be doing the Sunday, September 14 bulletins on **Tuesday, September 9**. Please have any information/announcements given to me no later than Monday, September 8. I would also appreciate you all keeping my medical staff and me in your prayers for a successful surgery with a quick recovery. Thank you!

~ Lona Henry, Church Secretary

**September Deacons of the Month:
Warren & Connie Wagner**

Juniata County Food Pantry September Update September is National Hunger Action Month



What a blessing is all the healthy fresh produce pouring into the Food Pantry! Thank you for sharing the Lord's bounty with your neighbors in need! We also appreciate your support for our summer backpack program as we helped over 145 children spend their summer having fun instead of going hungry.

In July 2025, the Food Pantry served 296 families in need – 775 individuals. A special thank you to Aldersgate United Methodist Church for providing volunteers for the month.

We are seeing an increase in need from the community and new volunteers are always being sought. If you feel called, openings are available on Tuesday afternoons or on Saturday mornings. Please consider becoming a volunteer. The experience alone is so rewarding.

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



Operation Christmas Shoebox Collection for September: Donations to Help Pay for Shipping Shoeboxes

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!)



Christian Education Commission

We will be recognizing our Sunday School, Junior Church, and Bible School teachers on Sunday, September 14. The teachers we greatly appreciate and thank are as follows:

Junior/Senior High with Upper Elementary: **Eric & Ginger Alexander and Wanda Smith**

The Explorers – **Dee Bell and Warren Wagner (and Linda Leonard for subbing when Dee was away)**

Pairs & Spares Classes – **Pastor Terry Smith**

The Seekers Class – **Ron Gordon, Rodney Pry, and Allen Zendt**

Junior Church – **Amber Heimbach and Wanda Smith**

Vacation Bible School Committee – **Amber Heimbach, Rachel Naylor, Emily Wagner, and Brandy Zendt**

Thank you for all you do!!

For the Fall Supper & Study, we'll use Kyle Idleman's **Every Thought Captive**, where we will discover the biblical, neurological, and emotional keys to transforming destructive patterns of thinking into a renewed mind – one thought at a time. Whether we wrestle with anxiety, harmful thoughts about ourselves, or mental spirals that hold us back from spiritual growth and healthy relationships, many of us wish we could control our thoughts rather than let them control us. As the senior pastor of one of the largest churches in America, bestselling author Kyle Idleman has seen the power of right thinking transform lives, including his own. In **Every Thought Captive**, Kyle points us to the tools we need to get our thoughts into submission so we can live a fuller and more joy-filled life. If you feel frustrated and discouraged in your battle to take control of your thoughts, this biblically rich, practical book will help you:

- Learn to identify the five thinking patterns that sabotage your life and relationship with God.
- Encourage your brain's neural network to develop new ways of thinking that are consistent with your values.
- Start getting "unstuck" immediately as you implement simple but profound practices like "Win the Morning" and "Say It Out Loud".
- Understand what transformed thinking looks like in the unique context of your life.

What you think about creates your attitudes, governs your emotions, determines your behavior, shapes your relationships, and ultimately defines your life. But armed with God's wisdom and fresh truth about brain health, you can take control over your thoughts and embrace the full and flourishing life you long for.

We'll start the study on Wednesday, October 1 with 5 sessions that will continue each Wednesday, October 8-29. We'll start with a potluck Supper at 6:00 pm (so bring a covered dish to share), followed by the Study at 6:30 pm. Books will be available in the narthex at the beginning September once they are delivered. A sign-up sheet will also be placed on the table in the narthex, as well.

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

Nurture Commission News

Thank you to Warren Peachey for filling in for Pastor Terry while he was on vacation on Sunday, August 10. Also, thank you to those who brought food for our fellowship meal.

Our birthday of the month is Amanda Zug, whose birthday is on Tuesday, September 2. Please remember her with your prayers and cards.

Time & Talent Surveys will be distributed on Sunday, September 28. Please put your name at the top of each page. We ask that you prayerfully complete your Time & Talent and place it in Barry Hoffman's mailbox. Your offerings include not only money, but your time and talents to help the church prosper. Just one thing you contribute is very helpful. If you have any questions regarding the programs, banquets, and positions under Nurture, please contact any member. The church needs everyone to participate.

Our children are back to school and need our prayers and support. Below is an example of a prayer to invite God to watch over them and guide them:

Heavenly Father, we ask as our children go back to school that You would protect and guide them. Help them to have friends who will encourage and support them. We pray for the teachers and school staff, that you would give them strength and patience. Help them be models of YOUR love and grace and allow the students grow to their full potential. May the students and teachers remember that they cannot go where God is not! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Nominating Committee is working on our slate for our Fall Congregational Meeting. Please don't automatically say "NO". We need to have people to do the work of the church and YOU are the CHURCH. Thank you for your consideration!!

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



September Birthday of the Month

Our Birthday of the month for September is Amanda Zug, whose birthday is on September 2. Please remember her with your prayers and cards.

We are in need of a worship group for the service at North Ridge on Sunday, October 19. If you can help in any way, please let Sharon know.



Camp Eder Needs You!

When: Saturday, October 18, 2025, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Where: Camp Eder

(914 Mount Hope Rd, Fairfield, PA 17320)

Silent Auctions: 10:00-10:45 am and 11:00-11:45 am

Live Auction: 12:00 noon

Turkey & Pork Lunch: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Food Court: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Our 47th Annual Fall Fest is Camp Eder's biggest fundraiser of the year. The proceeds go to our Camp's monthly expenses, summer camps, programs throughout the year and most importantly camp scholarships (for those children whose families cannot afford to send them to camp to hear God's Word.)

Fall Fest is quickly approaching and we need your help to make it a success. Your attendance at and donations to the Auction are two of the best ways to help raise \$\$ for the Camp. We will again be accepting donations for gently used or new items as well as Theme Basket donations to be sold at the silent and/or live auction (registration forms and Basket Theme suggestions are on the table in the narthex). If you are a designer of furniture, art work, quilts, wood products, etc., or know someone who is, please consider donating one of your creations. Please drop off all donations at Camp Eder before Thursday, October 16. If you need to have any items picked up, please call me.

We will also be accepting new or gently used items (household pieces, antiques, things you think are in "selling shape") as we have in the past, for the silent and live auctions. No junk please! If you have any questions about acceptable items – please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you so much for being a part of our annual auction which supports the kids and groups that use Camp Eder to grow their LOVE and FAITH in God.

If you have any auction questions or comments; please call, text or email me.

Sincerely,

Deona Schmittle, 2025 Auction Coordinator
(717) 451-3797 or e-mail tdandtrio@yahoo.com





Donations Needed for Bethesda Mission

Will be collected September and October

Help us meet the needs in our area throughout the holiday season and stock our shelves for the upcoming winter!

FOOD SERVICES AND FOOD BANK NEEDS: #10 cans of vegetables, sugar, napkins, BBQ sauce, multipurpose cleaners, aprons, prepackaged disposable utensils, spices, toilet paper, paper towels, and tissues

Listed below are some other items that are currently needed:

MEN'S MISSION: 13- and 60-gallon trash bags, paper towels, body wash, white socks, underwear (large sizes), shorts (all sizes), jeans (sizes 30-34), shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash (alcohol-free), disposable razors, shaving cream, large-print Bibles (NIV, NASB, or ESV), shower shoes (flip flops or slides), washcloths and towels, umbrellas

WOMEN'S MISSION: aluminum foil, multi-vitamins, allergy medicine, Tylenol®, Vaseline®, non-alcohol mouthwash, liquid hand soap, lotion, hairspray, hair gel, conditioner, nail polish remover, window cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, Lysol®, Lysol Wipes®, air freshener spray, cleaning rags, dish towels, oven mitts, flashlights w/ batteries, AA batteries, Women's study or recovery Bibles, journals/notebooks, pens, alarm clocks, mop and bucket, tape, heating pad, yoga mats, Christian books, basic cookbooks, stamps, reader glasses/sunglasses, belts, bathrobes, bras (especially very large sizes), new underwear (S-5x), shower shoes (flip flops or slides), twin sheet sets, twin comforters, twin mattress covers, pillows and pillowcases, paper products (bowls, plates), napkins, cloth hand towels, Ziploc® bags (sandwich, gallon, larger), shorts and shirts (sizes 3x-5x)

COMMUNITY CENTER: school supplies, book bags, Nerf™ guns, ear phones, gift cards, dodge balls, remote control cars

MEDICAL CLINIC: Alka Seltzer® cold medicine, antibiotic cream (Neosporin®), antibiotic cream (Neosporin®), anti-fungal cream (athlete's foot cream), Cepacol® sore throat lozenges, cough drops (regular and sugar-free), Dayquil® cold medicine, eye drops, hand sanitizer (individual size), hydrocortisone cream, instant hot packs, lip balm, sinus congestion medicine

DENTAL CLINIC: hydrogen peroxide 1.5%-2% mouth rinse, Polident® adhesive for dentures, non-alcoholic mouthwash (travel size), dental pics, dental floss/flossers, denture cases, denture brushes, travel toothbrush holders

MOBILE MISSION: sweatshirts and sweatpants (M, L, XL), winter coats, blankets, jeans (waist size 32 thru 40), underwear (S thru XL), t-shirts, candles, Sterno®, deodorant (men and women), flashlights



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.

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)



Adopt-A-Highway Trash Pick-Up

Saturday, September 27

8:00 am

(or evenings the week of)

Food Pantry Items for September:
Shampoo or Body Wash



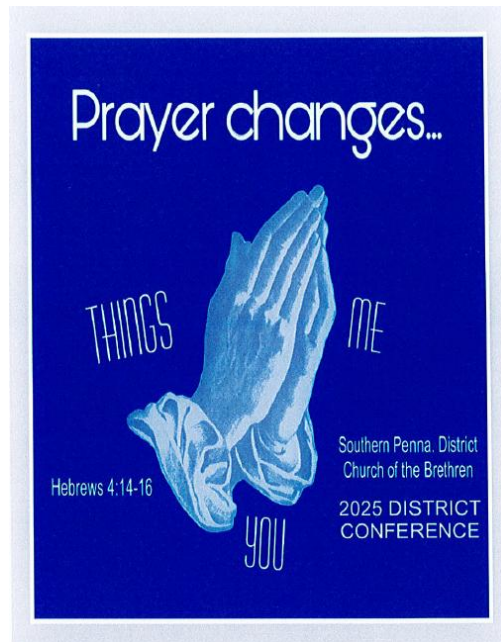
Food Pantry
Donations Needed



***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.



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

Southern Pennsylvania District
Church of the Brethren
2025 District Conference
September 19 & 20
Hanover Church of the Brethren



THE BRETHREN HOME FOUNDATION

2990 Carlisle Pike
New Oxford, PA 17350
(717) 624-2161

**To each Member of the Church of the Brethren
in the Southern District of Pennsylvania**

As a member of The Brethren Home Foundation, a Corporation, you are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of the members of The Brethren Home Foundation is to be held in conjunction with the Annual District Conference of the Church of the Brethren of the Southern District of Pennsylvania and will be held at:

**HANOVER
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
HANOVER, PENNSYLVANIA**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2025 AT 2:10-2:40 PM

for the purpose of receiving the Annual Report of The Brethren Home Foundation, including its affiliate, Cross Keys Village – The Brethren Home Community, and passing upon such other business as may come before the meeting.

**THE BRETHREN HOME FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Holly Miller, Secretary**