

September 2023



*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



**Teacher Recognition**  
**Sunday, September 17**

**Meals-On-Wheels Desserts**  
**Tuesday, September 19**



**Deacons Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 21**  
**7:00 pm**

All items for the October newsletter and calendar must be in the Free Spring Church office by **Monday, September 25**. If we do not receive these items by then, we WILL NOT be able to put them in the newsletter.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
 Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
 As I think about Labor Day celebrations, I am reminded that all our labor is a gift from the Lord that is intended, in its use, to bring glory to the Lord. Matthew ends his gospel with Jesus proclaiming the Great Commission. In our culture this seems to have become the “great omission”.

David Platt has a way of jogging my mind, so I turn to his book Radical once in a while to engage his wisdom. He reminds us that, “God’s heart is for the world. So, when we say we have a heart for the United States, we are admitting that we have a meager 5 percent of God’s heart.”

“Certainly, there are great needs here. But must we insist on dividing the ‘Great Commission’ into an either/or proposition? Who told us that we had to choose what to have a heart for – shouldn’t every Christian’s heart be ultimately consumed with how we can make God’s glory known in all the world?”

September is the month when our Church Board makes the final plans for the 2024 Budget to be presented to the congregation. In October, we meet to consider that budget at the Church Council meeting. A lot of thought is put into how we can best support the needs of our ministry here within the congregation and within our community, as well as nationally and internationally. Help us by examining our current budget and asking questions when you don’t understand what our congregation is supporting.

May we all keep in mind that we are to make God’s glory known in all the world.

In Christ’s Love,  
*Pastor Terry*

### Scriptures and Messages for September

	<b><u>September 3</u></b>	
Romans 12:9-21		<i>"Live in Harmony"</i>
	<b><u>September 10</u></b>	
Romans 13:8-14		<i>"You Know What Time It Is"</i>
	<b><u>September 17</u></b>	
Romans 14:1-12; 15:5-6		<i>"Accountable to God"</i>
	<b><u>September 24</u></b>	
Matthew 20:1-16		<i>"I Choose to Give"</i>

### Free Spring Library News

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

If I Were You by Lynn Austin

Friends before World War II, Audrey Clarkson and Eve Dawson became separated. The two find each other again in the United States, but will Audrey ever be able to forgive Eve for her deception?

The Secret Keepers of Old Depot Grocery by Amanda Cox

For decades, three generations of women of Old Depot Grocery have been keeping secrets from each other. When Sarah returns home with hopes of running the store, the long-buried past will be brought into the light and threaten not only to destroy the family business but sever the family ties.

In the Shadow of the River by Ann H. Gabhart

Jacci Reed loves her life on the Ohio River in 1896 as part of the Kingston showboat family but shadows of her past, and the death of her mother, linger in her memory. With the help of the showboat owners’ son, can she find answers before those shadows overtake her and threaten her life?

Broker of Lies by Steven James

When Travis Brock, a high-level Pentagon redactor with an eidetic memory, finds a clue to solving the tragic arson that took his wife from him, he risks everything to find the truth – and chances losing himself in the process. With a terror attack looming on the horizon and a pair of assassins on his tail, Brock drops off the grid and joins forces with a disavowed Homeland Security operative. Together they race to stop the attack before Brock is neutralized by the people he trusts the most.

Fragments of Fear by Carrie Stuart Parks

Evelyn McTavish is struggling to put her life back together after the suicide of her fiancé. She receives a call that her dog is about to be destroyed at the pound – except she doesn’t own a dog. She recognizes the dog as one owned by archaeologist John Coyote – but why does the microchip have her name and address? When she returns the dog, she finds Coyote’s murdered body. Now Evelyn is a target – but of who? And why? Undercover FBI agent Sawyer Price becomes vested in keeping her safe.

*Pictures of the Heart* Series by Tracie Peterson

Finding Us – While taking photos at an exposition in Seattle, camera girl



Eleanor Bennett meets a handsome stranger, Bill Reed, who recognizes the subjects in one of her portraits as a missing woman and her child. As they hunt for the truth, Eleanor and Bill will have to band together to face the danger that follows. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is Remember Me.)

Fields of Fire by Ryan Steck

A platoon of tough, young marines learn to survive, and to prevail, but fail to understand why they are fighting in the jungles of Vietnam.

~ Kathy Bowman, Librarian

### Nurture Commission News

Our Birthday person for the month of September is Amanda Zug. Her birthday is Saturday, September 2. Please remember her with your cards, wishes and prayers.



September greeters for the first worship service are Fina and Karen Williams, and Allen & Ruth Zendt for the second worship service. Worship Leader is Allen Zendt. Deacons are Allen and Ruth Zendt.

~ Jessica Eby, Ron Gordon, David Moist (Chair), and Art Zug



### September Birthday of the Month

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

prayers and cards.

***Melda Ritchie will be 99 years old on September 6. Please send cards and extra prayers for her to the address below:***

***Melda Ritchie  
3761 Mountain Road  
McAlisterville, PA 17049***



Free Spring Movie Night

September 16, 2023

at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall

A gripping reminder of the power of forgiveness, "I Can Only Imagine" beautifully illustrates that no one is ever too far from God's love – or from an eternal home in Heaven.

Bring a snack to share if you would like.



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

Evelyn Benner  
Brookline Continuing Care  
Retirement Community  
2 Manor Blvd, Rm 310  
Mifflintown, PA 17059

Wayne & Dot Benson  
389 Raccoon Valley Road  
Millerstown, PA 17062  
(717) 589-3419

Dianne Goshorn  
274 Pine Drive  
Mifflintown, PA 17059  
(717) 436-9447  
(717) 348-9485 (cell)

Bev Oberlin  
North Ridge Center  
Personal Care, Rm 5  
99 North Ridge Drive  
McAlisterville, PA 17049  
(717) 463-2249  
(717) 994-8807 (cell)

Melda Ritchie  
3761 Mountain Road  
McAlisterville, PA 17049

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





## Christian Education Commission

As mentioned in August's newsletter, Child Protection Clearances need to be updated for insurance purposes. Anyone working with children and youth during Sunday School, Junior Church, VBS, or any other church sponsored youth event, must have clearances. Please go to the following web sites and follow the directions within each site. The first one is a police records check for volunteers. The second one is the PA Child Welfare clearance application; it will take about 14 days to process and is good for 5 years. Both are free as long as you follow the volunteer routes.

1. <https://epatch.pa.gov/home>
2. <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home/>

Once you've completed these forms, please print the documents and give to Shari Book or send them via email to [sharibook56@hotmail.com](mailto:sharibook56@hotmail.com) so the records may be kept on file at the church. If you have already completed clearances for your work place or other youth involvement (sports or youth clubs), feel free to provide these. If you have any questions, please see Rich Walters or Shari. Additionally, per church/district policy we may need more later or will have to provide training meetings to keep current. This is being reviewed and we will update everyone as soon as possible.

A Movie Night at Free Spring will be held Saturday, September 16. Please see the article in the bulletins and this newsletter for details.

On Sunday, September 17, we will have Teacher Recognition. Please take the time to thank the following individuals for taking time to teach and help further Christian Education:

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

The Explorers – **Dee Bell and Warren Wagner**

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

The Seekers Class – **Ron Gordon, Rodney Pry, and Allen Zendt**  
Junior Church – **Amber Heimbach and Wanda Smith**

We are looking at another Max Lucado study for the Fall Bible Study to be held in October. Since the Supper & Study in the Spring went so well, we're going to use the same format with a potluck supper at 6:30 pm and study at 7:00 pm, Wednesday evenings starting on October 4. We'll see how many weeks we'll need to schedule once we receive the books and DVD, which are not available until mid-September. The Study, which is called **God Never Give Up on You**, is about encouragement for those of us who mean well but don't always succeed. It will follow Jacob and how God lovingly led the prodigal patriarch despite his failings. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the narthex in September and updates about the Study and the dates will be announced in the bulletins.

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

## Witness Commission



Mark your calendars for the Brethren Disaster Relief Auction!!!! It will be held September 22 and 23 at the Lebanon Valley Expo. We had several auction baskets last year and I would like to see more this year. If you have never been to the event, it is awesome to check out the quilts that will be auctioned, but even better to partake in the food that is everywhere! Some theme basket ideas...gardening, children anything, baby items, collectables, sports theme, John Deere or Farmall theme items...just to name a few! Place everything in a basket, preregister the basket (if you need assistance with this, talk to Ron Bell or Dina Zug), register the cost of the items (so the auctioneer has an idea of the value), cover the basket with clear wrap and leave it at the church no later than the morning of Friday, September 22, and those who are going will deliver them to the auction for you.

The annual fundraising Walk-a-Thon for Child Evangelism Fellowship will be held Saturday, September 16, from 9:00-11:00 am, at the Walker Township Park. Child Evangelism does all the Release Time for school children in Mifflin and Juniata County.

We received a "Thank You" from Compassion International for hosting Compassion Sunday. To date, over 1,000 churches across the U.S. helped to end poverty in over 4,000 children's lives around the world! Those who are being introduced to a new sponsor through Compassion Sunday will be given the assurance that their most immediate needs will be met and they will be encouraged to discover their God-given talents and dream about how they can be used for God's glory – both today and in the future.

Children's Aid Society will hold its Annual Corporation Meeting in conjunction with the Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren of the Southern District on September 16, at 10:15 am, at Chambersburg Church of the Brethren.

Volunteer opportunities are available at Crossroads Pregnancy Center in Mifflintown. They are seeking women to join as a client advocate to meet with clients coming to the office. Please pray for the positions to be filled.

Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry's Fall Fund Raising Banquet will be held on October 7 at New Fairview. Tickets are \$17.00 and must be purchased by September 15; no tickets will be sold at the door. Heaven 4 Shore will be the entertainment for the evening. Ticket information is on the bulletin board in the narthex. The Chaplains at the Truck Stop are there to listen, comfort, give spiritual guidance, and be a reminder of God's saving love to all who walk through the door, regardless of how they look, speak, smell, believe, or dress differently. God reminds us that He allows His sun to rise and rain to fall on the just and the unjust. Their hope is that all who they minister to see the light and love of Jesus in their words, thoughts, and actions.

~ Jen Sparks, Warren Wagner, Becca Walters, and Dina Zug (Chair)

**Time & Talent Surveys** were made available on the table in the narthex last Sunday. Paper copies are still available if you haven't completed yours as yet.

Or if you prefer, you may complete and submit your Time & Talent Survey online through the link on the church's website. Just go to [cob-net.org/church/freespring/](https://cob-net.org/church/freespring/) and click on the Menu button, then click on the Documents link, and you will find a link to the Time & Talent Surveys for each of the Commissions. Many thanks to Ron Gordon for creating and making an electronic submission version available!

Please prayerfully consider how you might serve our church with your time and talents. Completed Surveys should be placed in the box on the table in the narthex. Thank you!



## Sunday School Classes

The Seekers class, which meets in the upstairs adult classroom (formerly the Encouragers classroom), are studying Noah. You are welcome to join us. You will learn a lot! Teachers are Ron Gordon, Rodney Pry, and Allen Zendt.

The Explorers Sunday School Class has begun a study on the book of Proverbs.



### TO EACH MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN IN THE SOUTHERN PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT:

You, as a member of **CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, INC.** are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of the members of Children's Aid Society, Inc., scheduled in conjunction with the annual conference of the Church of the Brethren of the Southern District of Pennsylvania will be held on September 16th, 2023, 10:15 AM at:

### Chambersburg Church of The Brethren

260 S 4th St, Chambersburg, PA 17201

for the purpose(s) of receiving the annual report of Children's Aid Society, electing three (3) directors for a three-year term to the Children's Aid Society Board of Directors, and acting upon such other business as may come before the meeting.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS



## 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!)

## 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 or one of the designated "Brethren Disaster Ministries" offering envelopes which have been placed on the table in the narthex.



**September Deacons of the Month:  
J. Allen & Ruth Zendt**