

January 2024



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 am



Bread & Cup Communion
January 7



Music & Worship Meeting
Tuesday, January 9
7:00 pm

Meals-On-Wheels Desserts
Tuesday, January 16



All items for the February newsletter and calendar must be in the Free Spring Church office by **Monday, January 22**. 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,

As we enter this New Year, there is much in the world that is cause for concern, whether that be within our nation and the stress of political wrangling, economic uncertainty, and church division, or in madness of war around the globe. Almost unnoticed, the civil war in Sudan between Muslim factions has caught Christians in the crossfire. The atrocities committed by Muslim generals are softening the hearts of many Muslims toward the gospel.

This song was written by a man whose home was bombed, and was sung by a Christian worker who said, "Everyone is fighting, killing his brother. I feel like this really is a season in time where the church can (help) people to see God and the love of Jesus."

"Even in war, we can sing.

***Even if death is our destiny,
the difficulties will be easy for us,
because Jesus remains our hope.***

This is our peace, true peace."

I would share this prayer that I found in **DAILY PRAYERS FOR MEN:**

Lord,

I am surrounded by the proof of your love and support. How often in my life have I worried about things that have not come to pass? How often has your guidance led me safely through another time when I was certain I would fail? I will try not to worry and know that you are there with me always. Amen.

As we celebrate Bread & Cup Communion on the first Sunday of the New Year, let's share the peace that passes all of our understanding, the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. May that peace bless you and your family throughout 2024.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Terry

Scriptures and Messages for January

Mark 1:4-11 and Acts 19:1-7	<u>January 7</u>	<i>"Believe in the One"</i>
1 Samuel 3:1-20	<u>January 14</u>	<i>"To Listen and to Respond"</i>
Mark 1:14-20	<u>January 21</u>	<i>"What Will He Make of Me?"</i>
Mark 1:21-28	<u>January 28</u>	<i>"All Were Amazed!"</i>

Free Spring Library News

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

He Should Have Told the Bees by Amanda Cox

Beekeeper Beckett Walsh was living her dream, working alongside her father on their small farm, until his unexpected death thrusts a new part-owner into her world. Callie Peterson threatens not only her livelihood, but her beliefs about the goodness of the man she'd always perceived to be her kind and faithful father.

The Wings of Poppy Pendleton by Melanie Dobson

1907 – On her fifth birthday, Poppy Pendleton vanishes from the family's Thousand Islands castle and her father's found dead. 1992 – Chloe, living near the Pendleton ruins, has no interest in the local mystery, until little Emma arrives with a scrapbook connecting her to Poppy's family. When a reporter begins asking questions, will the haunting truth save Emma's life?

The Swiss Nurse by Mario Escobar

When Germany invades Poland, an avalanche of humanity sweeps into France. In the cascade of crises that follow, Isabel and Elisabeth learn the cost, and the unexpected joy, of sacrifice. Elisabeth Eidenbenz left Switzerland in 1937 to aid children orphaned during the Spanish Civil War. Now, her work has led her to France, where she's determined to provide expectant mothers and their unborn children a refuge amid one of the worst humanitarian crises of the twentieth century. Based on the true stories of refugees, and the woman who risked everything to save them, The Swiss Nurse shares a message of love and strength amid one of history's often overlooked conflicts.

Undaunted Courage Series by Irene Hannon

Into the Fire – When arson investigator Bri Tucker inherits unfinished business from her predecessor, she must convince ATF Special Agent Marc Davis to help her find the missing link, and track down a serial arsonist who will stop at nothing – including murder – to carry out a nefarious plan. (This is the first book in the series.)

Waters of Time Series by Jody Hedlund

Come Back to Me – Scientist Marian Creighton was skeptical of her father's lifelong research of ancient holy water – until she ingests some of it and finds herself transported back to the Middle Ages. With the help of an emotionally wounded nobleman, can she make her way back home?



Or will she be trapped in the past forever? (This is the first book in the series,)

Facing the Enemy by Diann Mills

When the long-awaited reunion between Risa and her brother Trenton ends in tragedy, Risa is riddled with guilt, unable to cope with the responsibility she feels over his death. On leave from the FBI, Risa returns to her former career as an English teacher at a local college, only to see her past and present collide when one of her students, Carson Mercury, turns in an assignment that reads like an eyewitness account of her brother's murder, along with details never revealed publicly.

This is Where it Ends by Cindy K. Sproles

Widow Minerva Jenkins has lived alone in her small mountain home for 40 years, where she has guarded her husband's deathbed request. When a young reporter comes calling and inquires about a rumored box of gold on her property, an unlikely friendship forms. Will she go to her grave with her husband's secret, or will the weight of it be the death of her?

~ Kathy Bowman, Librarian

Bread & Cup Communion
Sunday, January 7



Chicken Pickin' Party!
Tuesday, January 9
10:00 am

Please mark your 2024 calendar!! We need volunteers to debone chickens on Tuesday, January 9, at 10:00 am. Please let me know if you can help with this important project!
~ Sharon Ritzman

January Deacons of the Month:
Ron & Dee Bell

Nurture Commission News



A special thanks to everyone who helped with the planning of the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, performed special music, and participated in the program.

Our Birthday person for the month of January is Eric Alexander. His birthday is on Tuesday, January 30. Please remember him with your cards, wishes, and prayers.

Greeters for the month of January are Brent & Darlene Leach for first service and Art & Dina Zug for second service. Worship Leader is Dina Zug for second worship service, and Deacons are Ron & Dee Bell.

Music & Worship is set to meet on Tuesday, January 9, at 7:00 pm. **All are welcome** to join and contribute new ideas for the upcoming special services.

~ Jessica Eby (Chair), Karen Logan, Carla Renson, and Nancy Shadel



January Birthday of the Month

Our Birthday of the month for January is Eric Alexander, whose birthday is Tuesday, January 30. Please remember him with your prayers and cards.

2024 Church Directory

It's that time of year again! Enclosed in this newsletter is a form for updating or adding your information in the 2024 Free Spring Church Directory along with additional details. You do not need to be a member to be included in the Directory.



Fill out your Family Profile For the Church Directory Update!

The following is a **tentative** schedule which will be used for completing the 2024 Directory:

Sunday, January 7 – a FINAL DRAFT copy of the Directory will be placed in the narthex for review.

Tuesday, January 9 – **FINAL DEADLINE before printing**

Wednesday, January 10 and Thursday, January 11 – Directories will be printed and church mailboxes will be updated.

Please place your completed form in my mailbox as soon as possible. Thank you all for your help!
~ Lona Henry, Church Secretary

Witness Commission January Food Pantry Delivery by:



If you haven't heard about it already, we packed 407 bags of Christmas Cookies for Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry. Wow!!!! We would like to thank all of our cookie bakers and all who came that morning to help. It was a very blessed event!!! There was a voicemail at the church from a truck driver named Arnaldo Orlandi. When Lona returned his call he told her, *"I've been driving truck here in the United States for two years now, after moving here from Brazil. I received one of your bags of cookies and wanted you to know how blessed I was by this. Thank you so much for making my Christmas that much brighter."*

A special thanks to all who donated to Bethesda Mission. A picture of the table-full of items can be seen on the church's web page and on the church's Facebook page. Notes from December's report from Bethesda: The Men's Mission received a much-needed face lift. The failing façade was restored and the parking lot repaved and painted. The Mission provides long-term shelter for around 100 individuals at a time. The Women's Mission officially opened last August. This has allowed them to increase capacity. They are working hard to get women off the streets or out of abusive homes and into the long-term recovery program. The original Community Center has been torn down and they are looking forward to a new building in its place. This Center will include classrooms, meeting space, and kitchen, and will be able to increase the outreach to families, teens, and children throughout Harrisburg. A few more facts: No money comes from government. 73% comes from private donations, 5% from church donations, 3% from special events, 5% from businesses, 7% from foundations, and 7% from planned giving. They have a website that has much more information at bethesdamission.org

Pennsylvania Adult and Teen Challenge has a commitment to help men and women receive the need to overcome substance abuse and return to their community healthy. During the year they received over 27,000 calls for help, provided 120 scholarships, over 240 decisions for Christ, 2,600 people were served, and \$360,000 in scholarship dollars was used.

Food Pantry donation for January and February will be toilet paper.

Is there interest in going to New Windsor during the month of January? If you would like to schedule a workday, please let Dina know so a date can be arranged!

~ Barry Hoffman, Becca Walters, Fina Williams, and Dina Zug (Chair)

The next nursing home service is at Brookline on **Sunday, January 14 at 2:00 and 3:00 pm**. Please let Sharon Ritzman know as soon as possible if you can help with this worship service.



Nativity Display Assistance Needed! Transport Assistance January 14, 15, & 16 Unpacking Party, January 16 at 7:00 pm

The nativities are even later this year so that the fellowship hall is available for others early in the month. This year I am asking for help since several of you have offered previously. I'll need folks with trucks or vans on January 14, 15, or 16. There are at least 3 loads. Then we'll meet at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, January 16 for an unpacking party. Although you are welcome to help arrange them, it will also be tremendously helpful to even just get them out of the boxes. I will need some men to hang things on the folding screens. Thank you to any who can help.

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

Evelyn Benner
Brookline Continuing Care
Retirement Community
2 Manor Blvd, Rm 225A
Mifflintown, PA 17059
(717) 436-1348

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

Wayne Benson
Stonebridge Health &
Rehabilitation Center
102 Chandra Drive
Duncannon PA 17020

Dianne Goshorn
Brookline Continuing Care
& Retirement Village
2 Manor Blvd, Rm 305
Mifflintown, PA 17059
(717) 348-9485 (cell)

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

Melda Ritchie
3761 Mountain Road
McAlisterville, PA 17049

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



2024 Offering Envelopes have been placed in the narthex. When taking a cartridge, please be sure to write your name on the paper slip included with each cartridge and place it in the designated box to ensure a proper giving statement is provided to you at the end of the year.



Please do not use the new 2024 offering envelopes until on or after January 1, 2024! If you have any unused **2023** offering envelopes left over after December 31, 2023, please place them in my mailbox so they may be recycled by having the dates and numbers masked and envelopes used for special offerings throughout the year.

Thank you!

~ Lona Henry, Church Secretary



Sunday School Classes

The Seekers Class, which meets in the upstairs adult classroom, is studying The New Testament Book of Matthew focusing on one chapter each week. 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 Sunday School Class has begun a study on the book of Proverbs.

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!)



Thank you for all your support throughout the year – the phone calls, the visits, the cards and all the many other acts of kindness. I truly feel blessed by my church family.
~ Bev Oberlin

Meat Canning Offerings

An envelope will be provided in the bulletin each week throughout the month of January and up to and including Sunday, February 4 for donations designated to the Meat Canning project. The Meat Canning is scheduled to take place at Chief Logan Fire Company, February 5-8. Please see Art Zug if you'd like to volunteer to help.

Please place unused envelopes in Lona's mailbox or on the table in the narthex so that they may be reused.



Christmas Card Donations

After enjoying those beautiful Christmas cards, please don't throw them away! Place them in the box in the narthex that is labeled for this purpose. They will be used to decorate the cookie bags for next year's Truck Stop Cookie Ministry. Thank you for helping with this worthwhile project.



CWS Emergency Clean-Up Buckets

January and February are the months Free Spring collects supplies for CWS Emergency Clean-Up Buckets.

A list of the supplies needed to complete one Bucket is in the Directory. Items may be placed in or beside the CWS chest in the narthex.

You may choose to bring in completed buckets, donate items for the buckets, or make a monetary donation to the Witness Commission to enable bucket items to be purchased. Thank you!

