

February 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



**Commissions Meeting,
Monday, February 5
at 7:00 pm**

Community Lenten Services
Starting with Ash Wednesday Service
February 14 at 7:00 pm
Details inside!



**Deacons Meeting,
Thursday, February 15
at 7:00 pm**

All items for the March newsletter and calendar must be in the Free Spring Church office by **Monday, February 19**. 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,

I wonder if my sense of humor and my faith would be intact if I were faced with the personal and political rough spots that Abraham Lincoln had to deal with. Professor John Morreall notes that, "He was President during the worst years this country has ever seen...Lincoln's family life was also a recipe for sadness. His wife...suffered frequent migraine headaches, depression, and physical illnesses. Her hot temper and mood swings often made her hard to live with."

Lincoln lost two sons, ages three and eleven, to disease. Morreall says, "What saved Lincoln from despair amid all this tragedy was his sense of humor, especially his love of funny stories. At cabinet meetings during the Civil War, he regularly picked up a humorous book and read passages aloud. When his cabinet officers objected, he said, 'Gentlemen, why don't you laugh? With the fearful strain that is upon me night and day, if I did not laugh I should die, and you need this medicine as much as I do.'"

God sends us "good medicine" in so many forms besides the ones in pill bottles. The month of February brings us to a celebration of romantic and familial love. It just so happens that Valentine's Day falls on Ash Wednesday this year. We celebrate with hearts, flowers, candy; and cards. We also celebrate with communion on Ash Wednesday. (Lest I forget, we celebrate the day before with donut mania!)

So it is that we celebrate love in the secular sense and in the divine sense as we begin the season of Lent. We begin the six-week journey toward Easter and the new growth of spring. For some folks, that means giving up certain food or activities, presumably to focus more on godly pursuits. One publication suggests something else in **"What to give up for Lent"**:

- Give up complaining...focus on gratitude.*
- Give up worry...trust God.*
- Give up anger...be more patient.*
- Give up bitterness...turn to forgiveness.*
- Give up discouragement...be full of hope.*
- Give up gossiping...control your tongue.*
- Give up pessimism...become an optimist.*
- Give up hatred...return good for evil.*
- Give up harsh judgments...think kindly thoughts.*
- Give up sin...turn to virtue.*

Give up gloom...enjoy the beauty that is all around you.

Brothers and Sisters, may you add to the beauty that is around you by being a blessing to all whom you meet.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Terry

Scriptures and Messages for February

February 4

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

"Make Full Use of Freedom"

February 11

2 Corinthians 4:5-12

"Clay Jars and Stanley Mugs"

1st Sunday in Lent, February 18

Psalms 25:4-10

"Lead Me in Your Truth"

2nd Sunday in Lent, February 25

Mark 8:31-38

"Facing the Truth of Jesus"

(Free Spring hosts the evening Lenten service)

**February Deacons of the Month:
Eric & Ginger Alexander**



Christian
Education

Christian Education Commission

Thank you to those who have completed their Child Protection Clearances. Reminder that this would include those who participate in VBS and any other youth-related events. See the December newsletter, December bulletins, or Shari for the instructions to complete yours as soon as possible if you haven't already done so.

We are still trying to hand out Children's Christmas Treats. These goodie bags included the following: children under 2 years old were given In a Stable board book and a plush lamb keychain; Pre-School and Elementary children were given Love Came Down story book, a cup, an activity book, and a tube of Mini M&M's; and Jr/Sr High youth were given Just Breath devotional and bracelet, and a tube of Mini M&M's.

We're planning another movie night Saturday, February 24, at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. The movie to be shown is still being worked out at this time. Watch bulletins for info.

VBS planning will start soon and details will be shared once everything is finalized.

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

Free Spring Library News

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

The Librarian of Saint-Malo by Mario Escobar

As war with Germany rages, Jocelyn focuses on encouraging the people of her coastal French village with literature. In letters to a famous author, she describes the Nazi occupation of Saint-Malo as they transform the town into a fortress and ruthlessly purge its libraries. Will Jocelyn sacrifice all while caring for the people she loves?

Missing in Alaska Series by Elizabeth Goddard

Cold Light of Day – Police Chief Autumn Long is fighting to keep her job in the quiet Alaska town of Shadow Gap when an unexpected string of criminal activity leaves her with a wounded officer, unexplained murders, and even an attack on her own father. Despite her mistrust of outsiders, she turns to Grier Brenner, a newcomer who seems to have the skills and training Autumn needs to face this threat to her community. (This is the first book in the series.)

Waters of Time Series by Jody Hedlund

Never Leave Me – Ellen Creighton has decided to live out her remaining days at the estate of her longtime friend, Harrison Burlington. Harrison cares deeply for Ellen, but as a wheelchair-bound paraplegic, he's never allowed himself to get serious in a relationship. However, he's desperately trying to save her by finding the holy water that is believed to heal any disease. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is Come Back to Me.)

Everywhere to Hide by Siri Mitchell

Recent law school graduate Whitney Garrison works two jobs and studies for the bar exam while grappling with a neurological condition that prevents her from distinguishing one face from another. But after she witnesses a murder, the killer seems able to anticipate her every move. Whom should Whitney believe when she can't even trust herself?

The Tapestry of Grace by Kim Vogel Sawyer

Alexandertol's schoolteacher, Augusta Dyck, is glad for some meaningful work to occupy her time. She helps quiet, reserved, widower Konrad Rempel and his young twin sons. Konrad, however, is adamant that he doesn't want help. His boys are mischievous but good-hearted. And though Konrad may be struggling, he doesn't want anyone else



sticking their nose in and telling him what his sons need. Or what he needs. For her part, the charity's founder, Martina Krahn, is relieved to have a reason to spend time outside her unhappy home. It even occurs to her that she may, through her work, encounter a boy in need of a family and so find a son for her husband since they have no children of their own. Augusta, Konrad, and Martina each have deep needs and desires, and each imagines how they should be met: by reaching out or by being left alone.

Songs for a Sunday by Heather Norman Smith

Travel this winding road with two sets of sisters, two generations apart! In 1963, Annie must sacrifice her dreams for her younger sister's indiscretion. In present day, Missy's journey to self-discovery forces her out of her younger sister's shadow, but she soon discovers her grandmother's 60-year-old secret. Will Missy conceal the deception or reveal the truth?

The following is a nonfiction book.

Welcome to our Table by Heidi Z. Hochstetler

The author shares a collection of Ruth's recipes and family memories from the home of J. Allen & Ruth Zendt, her parents. It is interspersed with pictures and reminiscences shared by family members, children, and grandchildren.

~ Kathy Bowman, Librarian



Church Secretary on Vacation

We will be taking a vacation to celebrate our granddaughter's graduation from February 23 through March 7. Therefore, the bulletins for Sunday, February 25 and March 3 and the March newsletter will be printed on **Wednesday, February 21**. Please ensure any items needed to be included in these bulletins or newsletter are submitted to me **no later than Monday, February 19!** Thank you for your attention to this!!

~ Lona Henry, Church Secretary

Lenten Tea Bible Study

Saturday mornings
February 3 thru March 16
at 8:00 am



The Characters of Easter: the Villains, Heroes, Cowards, and Crooks
Who Witnessed History's Biggest Miracle by Daniel Darling

Meet the unlikely collection of fearful fishermen, marginalized women, feeble politicians, and bystanders who witnessed the miracle of Christ's death and resurrection! Offering a fresh approach to the Lenten season, Darling transports you to first-century Palestine to walk in the shoes of Peter, Mary Magdalene, Pontius Pilate, Judas, and others.

Please sign up and take a book from the table in the narthex.



Easter Sunrise Service Sunday, March 31 at 6:30 am in the sanctuary

Easter Sunrise Service will be held at 6:30 am in the Free Spring Church sanctuary, followed by breakfast in the fellowship hall. **Warren Peachey** will be our speaker, **Jennifer Fornwalt** will provide special music. Please plan to attend!

Nativity Display In the Fellowship Hall Until Saturday, February 10

The nativities are on display again this year in the fellowship hall until Saturday, February 10. The displays are available to view Sundays and by appointment by contacting Rosalita Leonard.

If any questions, see Rosalita.



END OF YEAR
**GIVING
STATEMENTS**

2023 Giving Statements have been mailed except for one. I do not have record of anyone for the #44 envelopes. If your 2023 envelope cartridge was #44, please let me know ASAP so I can be sure you get your Giving Statement prior to January 31. Thank you!

~Lona Henry, Church Secretary

Meat Canning Offerings



An envelope will be provided in the bulletin each week up to **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.

Also, A sign-up sheet is in the narthex to volunteer to make beef vegetable soup for Meat Canning. Please help out if you can!

Love
one another
as I have loved you.

Juniata County Food Pantry February Update

We are so grateful for the support of our local churches as we strive together to follow the Lord's commandment to "share our bread with the hungry" (Isaiah 58:7). With your help we have reached over 500 families, more than 1,400 folks in need, with food and other supplies in 2023. Please continue to lift your voices in prayer and your hands in service as we share in this ministry to the Lord's beloved people.

In December 2023, the Food Pantry served 253 families – 711 of your neighbors! We were able to provide 316 households with a Christmas Meal. We thank River Church for sending volunteers for the month of December.

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: jcftp122017@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



Nurture Commission News



Lenten Teas begin this month! The study will be on Saturday mornings at 8:00 am from February 3 through March 16. Dee Bell will be leading the study on The Characters of Easter: The Villains, Heroes, Cowards and Crooks Who Witnessed History's Biggest Miracle by Daniel Darling. Be sure to sign up and take a book from the table in the narthex.

We had a few people who volunteered to be Prayer/Affirmation Mentors for school-age children. If you're interested in having your child encouraged and prayed over for the year, please e-mail your child's name to me at jessicaleby7@gmail.com so that I can assign a Mentor to your child. It's helpful if you provide what grade they are currently in, if they have hobbies, play sports, an instrument, etc. so that the Mentor is able to connect with them more personally. If you did not complete a Time & Talent Survey and are interested in becoming a Mentor for a child of our church, please e-mail me as well.

Our birthday of the month is Dina Zug, who celebrates her birthday on February 24. Please remember her with your prayers and cards.

Please keep in mind that Nurture Commission arranges meals, provides transportation, helps with household chores, etc. for anyone in our congregation who has recently had surgery, an accident, or had a new baby and would like some assistance. Please contact Jessica Eby at (717) 348-3076 or jessicaleby7@gmail.com if you or someone you know needs any of these services.

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



February Birthday of the Month

Our Birthday of the month for February is Dina Zug, whose birthday is on Saturday, February 24. Please remember her with your prayers and cards.

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>



Church Mailboxes have been updated and 2024 Directories have been placed in mailboxes. Extra copies have been placed on the table in the narthex.

Witness Commission

February Food Pantry Delivery by: Judy Burns



During the month of February, we are continuing to collect items for CWS Clean-Up Buckets. The items needed to complete a bucket are listed in the bulletin and in the directory. If you choose to donate monetarily, please mark your offering envelopes for CWS. Thank you.

In February, we will continue to collect toilet paper for the Food Pantry. There were 37 containers of detergent and some food items donated. We thank you for the continued support of our Food Pantry. Also, thank you to Judy Hoffman for delivering the items.

The Annual Meat Canning will be underway February 5-8 at the Chief Logan Fire Company. Thank you to all who donated during January to this project. We have been asked to supply beef vegetable soup for the canteen. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex for this. The canteen is being run by a different volunteer and any help would be appreciated.

We have not received any volunteers asking for a date to travel to New Windsor. If you would like to schedule a work-day, please contact one of the Commission members.

The Christmas cards being donated are overwhelming! Thank you! Thank you! They will be put to good use, either for cookie bags, or donated to St Jude's Ranch for Children. We are also collecting other types of greeting cards to be used for the Truck Stop cookies during the Easter season. If you are cleaning out, please consider donating them for this project.

In the December letter from Keystone Family Alliance, they are looking for more foster families in our area. They work with Care Community groups to educate them about their needs. Currently there are four Care Communities, that serve four foster families, caring for fourteen children. Our donation to this program supported these communities.

Child Evangelism Fellowship served over 400 children in Juniata, Mifflin, and Perry counties, giving them the opportunity to hear the Gospel of Jesus during Good News Clubs. They are asking for prayers for summer missionaries to serve the Chapter and would love to see Clubs started in unreached areas of Perry County. If there are any teens who would like more information, please contact the Witness Commission.

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

2024 Meat Canning Project

2024 is the 50th year for the Meat Canning Project locally. Did you know that 10% of all of the meat canned, remains local? This year we will be canning 34,000 pounds of chicken!

Dates: February 5 – 8

Times:

- Monday – Wednesday 6:00 am – 8:00 pm
- Thursday 6:00 am – 12:00 pm

Where: Chief Logan Firehouse

1800 Glenwood Ave Lewistown, PA 17044

How you can help: We are looking for volunteers (groups preferred but not required) to help with all steps of the process:

Grinding Meat → Filling Cans → Cleaning Cans → Labeling/Boxing Cans

Volunteers can be scheduled for a little or as much time as you would like. (1 hour, 2 hours, all day)

Who to Contact: Jonathan Coldren – Canning Coordinator

Call or Text: 717-250-6840

Unable to donate your time, but looking to help? We are also accepting monetary donations.

Send checks to: PO Box 76 Belleville, PA 17004



792,407 Total Cans
with the help of
28,000 Volunteers

**TOGETHER
WE
CAN**

2024 COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

Sponsored By:
The McAlisterville Ministerium

Theme
Who Is Jesus, Anyway ?

Feb 14	Introduction	Trinity Lutheran	Graham Fowler
		<i>The Ash Wednesday Service includes the sacrament of Holy Communion</i>	
Feb 18	Bread of Life	East Salem Comm.	Dave Gingrich
Feb 25	Light of the World	Free Spring COB	Karen Ward
Mar 3	Sheep Gate	Browns Church	Terry Smith
Mar 10	Good Shepherd	Lost Creek Menno	Lowell Kratzer
Mar 17	Resurrection	Pine Grove UMC	Doug Mellott
Mar 24	Way, Truth, Life	Delaware Menno	Chad Weaver
Mar 29	True Vine	Lost Creek Pres.	Jodi Strawser

All services begin at 7:00 p.m.

Services will also be recorded and shared on:
www.facebook.com/McAlistervilleMin

The Offering will be divided between
Delaware & Fayette Fire Companies
Central World Kitchen

Checks can be made out to: McAlisterville Ministerium