

March 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



Exec Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm
Church Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
Monday, March 4

**Lenten Tea Study details and
Community Lenten Services Schedule
inside this newsletter!**



**Easter Sunrise Service
Sunday, March 31
6:30 am**

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

March is a month of change. New life begins to spring from the earth even as winter refuses to completely give up. We "spring forward" on our time-keepers and miss out on an hour of sleep on March 10. There may be some who miss the adjustment and show up late for "early" church. A few years ago, one of my children went the whole day on Sunday without realizing that the time had moved to Daylight Saving mode, and they were late for work on Monday!

We get out of sync, and we get behind when we aren't connected to what keeps us on track. Lent has a way of moving us in the right direction if we pay more attention to God's instruction. He is always trying to put us on "Live-right-saving" mode. There is no living right without the living Spirit of Jesus leading us. Our human nature is inclined to whisper in our ear, "You can get this right on your own."

Lent is a time of strengthening our connection with our Savior. We cannot save ourselves, and God makes it clear that "Our ways are not His ways." As we celebrate this season of Easter, we should consider if our way should be evaluated in light of the example of Jesus Christ. I believe that the Kyle Idleman book, **When Your Way Isn't Working**, is an excellent opportunity to explore our "connectedness" to Jesus Christ. The last Lenten service topic on Good Friday is the *True Vine*, and our April Bible Study will use Idleman's book, which is centered on John 15 and the True Vine.

One pastor wrote, "Are you feeling discouraged or exhausted and don't know why? Kyle offers questions that help his readers understand what is off and the only way that works." I pray that our celebration of Easter will find all of us better connected to "the only way that works." May the resurrection power fill your lives with joy!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Terry



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

Scriptures and Messages for March

March 3

John 2:13-22

"I Will Raise It Up"

March 10

John 3:14-21

"This Is the Judgment"

March 17

John 12: 20-33

"What Should I Say"

March 24

Mark 11:1-11

"The Critical Entry"

March 31

Mark 16:1-8

"There You Will See Him"

Lenten Tea Bible Study

**Saturday Mornings thru March 16
at 8:00 am**

in the old fellowship hall

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. **Warren Peachey** will be our speaker and **Jennifer Fornwalt** will provide special music. Please plan to attend!

The service will be followed by breakfast in the fellowship hall. Please bring a dish to share for the breakfast.



Free Spring Library News

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

Sisters of the Rockies Series by Misty M. Beller

Rocky Mountain Rendezvous – Juniper and her sisters travel west to find the Blackfoot Piegan woman their late father credits with saving his life. Riley became a trapper in the Rocky Mountains to find peace and quiet, but he feels compelled to help the sisters on their mission. When it becomes clear they're now under pursuit, the questions mount as danger closes in. (This is the first book in the series.)

Fragile Designs by Colleen Coble

Carly Harris is trying to adjust to life as a single mom after the unsolved murder of her husband. When her grandmother suggests renovating the family home into a bed-and-breakfast, Carly discovers family secrets in the attic, including a treasure possibly worth millions of dollars. She reaches out to her next-door-neighbor, who is also a police officer, for advice, but Lucas Bennett gets more than he bargained for as burglars, and even assassins, all turn out to be after what they think Carly has.

Lake City Heroes Series by Lynette Eason

Double Take – Lainie Jackson survived her fiancé's murder plot and her attacker is dead – isn't he? Now, with the help of former Army Ranger James Holton, it's time to find out if the past has come back to haunt her – or if the recent attempts on her life come from a new threat. (This is the first book in the series.)

Missing in Alaska Series by Elizabeth Goddard

Shadows at Dusk – Detective Trevor West is determined to find the sister who went missing in Alaska over a year ago. Bush pilot Carrie James is determined to track down the person who murdered her closest friend. When the two join forces and skillsets to solve these mysteries, they'll discover they are connected in ways they never imagined. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is: Cold Light of Day.)

Waters of Time Series by Jody Hedlund

Stay With Me – As a private investigator, Sybil Huxham has seen her fair share of bizarre occurrences. But nothing in her career has been more perplexing than the miracles she's witnessed as a result of people drinking ancient holy water. When she discovers more of the rare holy water, she experiences strange overlaps with a nobleman in the Middle Ages who is languishing in a dungeon, accused of treason and condemned to die. To



save his life, she finally crosses to the past completely. Nicholas Worth has never met a woman quite like Sybil, and as the two run for their lives into the Weald, they find refuge among a community of outlaws. With both of their reputations on the line, they have little choice but to marry. As they get to know each other, an undeniable attraction develops. But danger and disease chase after them, drawing ever closer. Will they be able to escape the threats? And will Sybil choose to stay with Nicholas in the past, or will she be ripped apart from him forever? (This is the third book in the series; the other books are Come Back to Me and Never Leave Me.)

Just Once by Karen Kingsbury

A WWII tale, Irvel Ellis is facing a heart-wrenching dilemma – she's dating Sam but discovers she's in love with his brother, Hank. As she agonizes over options, Pearl Harbor is attacked, Sam is drafted, and Hank soon enlists. Will Irvel lose everything, or will love find a way?

Ryland + St. Clair Series by Nancy Mehl

Cold Threat – Twenty years ago, several people were murdered in Des Moines and the only evidence left behind was a snowman ornament hanging on a tree on their front lawns. With a suspect behind bars, the killings have come to an end – or so everyone thought. But now crimes with a similar MO are happening in a small Iowa town, and a local detective believes the killer is back and ready to strike again. With little time on the clock before they have another murder on their hands, private investigators River Ryland and Tony St. Clair must work alongside Tony's father to find evidence that will uncover an evil that has survived for far too long. As the danger mounts and the suspect closes in, it will take all they have to catch a killer – before he catches one of them. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is: Cold Pursuit.)

~ Kathy Bowman, Librarian

Church World Service Hygiene Kits (to be collected March – April)

- One hand towel (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package
- One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from the package
- One bath-size bar of soap in the wrapper
- One toothbrush in the package
- Ten standard size Band-Aids®



All items need to fit inside a one-gallon plastic zipper closure bag



Christian Education Commission

The Spring Supper & Study will begin in April! We will be using Kyle Idleman's **When Your Way Isn't Working: Finding Purpose and Contentment through Deep Connection with Jesus**. Here's the overview from the website:

"In some of His final words to His closest friends, Jesus didn't suggest a five-year plan for success or a checklist of things to do. Instead, He offered a metaphor about what the good life really looks like: 'I am the vine. You are the branches. Abide in Me.' In other words, 'No matter what happens next, the most important thing is to stay connected to Me.'

In When Your Way Isn't Working, pastor and bestselling author Kyle Idleman offers a unique exploration of John 15 for all of us who are going through the motions and feel frustrated. Idleman reminds us that it's connection, not production, that leads to a fruitful life – relationships, not circumstances, that bring joy. He offers his distinctive, biblical perspective on how to:

- Find greater rest, depth, and connection in your life
- Embrace freedom from the pressures of performance and production
- Recognize what you can't do makes room for what God can do
- Step out of isolation even when it feels scary
- Discover the top distractions that keep you from connecting to God – and how to counter them

In the end, the fruit of your life won't have to do with what you accomplished, but with whom you stayed connected. Because no matter what happens next in this uncertain world, what matters most, lasts the longest, and brings the greatest joy is staying connected to the God who never leaves you."

Books are ordered and a sign-up sheet will be placed in the narthex once the books arrive. This will be an approximately 5-week study with a DVD series. We will meet Wednesday evenings, April 3, 10, 17, 24 and May 1, all at 6:00 pm for a potluck Supper and 6:30 pm for Study. The schedule may change depending on how the series goes or if something else comes up.

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



March Birthday of the Month

Our Birthday of the month for March is Jennifer Fornwalt, whose birthday is on Saturday, March 9. Please remember her with your prayers and cards.

Nurture Commission News



Congratulations to Brandon & Jessie Dressler on the dedication of their daughter, Riley Ilene, during the early service on Sunday, February 18.

Thanks to all who volunteered their time and voices to participate in our choir for our Lenten Service on Sunday, February 25!

Our birthday for the month of March is Jennifer Fornwalt, who celebrates her birthday on Saturday, March 9. Please remember her with your prayers and cards.

Our Lenten Tea study is continuing Saturdays through March 16 at 8:00 am. THANK YOU to Dee Bell for leading the study on The Characters of Easter: The Villains, Heroes, Cowards and Crooks Who Witnessed History's Biggest Miracle by Daniel Darling.

Bread & Cup Communion will take place on Palm Sunday, March 24.

Please plan to attend our Easter Sunrise Service, Sunday, March 31, at 6:30 am. Our guest speaker will be Warren Peachey and Jennifer Fornwalt will provide special music. A potluck breakfast will be enjoyed in the fellowship hall directly after the service.

Our first Meet-in-the-Middle Sunday will also be on Easter Sunday, March 31. Remember, there will be no Sunday School, but please bring a snack to share as we fellowship together.

Children are needed for the Prayer/Affirmation Mentors program!

If you're interested in having your child encouraged and prayed over for the year, please email me at jessicaleby7@gmail.com so that I may 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 can connect with them. If you did not complete a Time & Talent Survey but are interested in becoming a Mentor for a child of our church, please e-mail me as well.

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



The next Nursing Home Worship Service will be held at North Ridge on **Sunday, April 14**. If you can help, please let Sharon know.

Witness Commission

We have received many "Thank You's" from our outreach giving! It is a joy to see the ways that our giving changes and encourages those who receive these gifts. For example:



The Food Pantry donations helped make it possible for 3,000 children, adults, and elderly in Juniata County with essential food and supplies. We had over 131 lbs of non-food donations and 96 lbs of food donations. During the month of March and April we will be collecting paper towels. Thank you to Judy Burns for delivering the collections for January and February!

DiscipleMakers, with their work on college campuses ministering to young men and women, respond to God's Word, not just for themselves, but by sharing with others. One example: "Can you bring an extra Bible when we meet Wednesday? It's for my friend, who I invited last week that I met in class. He said he wants to read the whole Bible because he's a little skeptical since he doesn't know what Christianity is about."

From Samaritan's Purse, over 11 million Christmas Shoeboxes are making the journey to children in over 100 countries. When they receive their gift, many will be enrolled in The Greatest Journey, the discipleship classes. Over the past 30 years, more than 50 million children have been reached through these discipleship lessons; this includes 25 million who have prayed to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry shares their "Thank you" as they demonstrate God's love to the truckers, travelers, and employees at the truck stops in the Carlisle area.

The River Church thanks us for the support of the Juniata County Golden Years Ministry. They ask us to pray for those living in Nursing Care Facilities.

Sat 7, what are they doing? This is Satellite Broadcasting and digital media to the Middle East and North Africa. It is available as a mobile app, making it easy for viewers to access programming and communicate directly with the Viewer Support Team through instant messaging. These isolated believers have no church to encourage them, and many live in constant danger. Jamil's story: working in a government department under the Taliban, they have been interviewing all staff to test them on Islam. When it was his turn, he prayed to God "Oh Lord, please help me, I have no one but You." When he entered the room, the Taliban didn't ask him a single question – only looked at his documents and let him go. Other employees who watched this were surprised that he was not asked questions, but he knew God was with him.

Thank you to all who gave to the CWS Clean-Up Buckets. During the months of March and April we will be collecting Hygiene Kits. Gallon bags will be on the table in the narthex for those who would like to make a Kit.

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

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 Community	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 Mennonite	Chris Mummau
Mar 29	True Vine	Lost Creek Presbyterian	Jodi Strawser

All services begin at 7:00 pm

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



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!)



**Southern PA District Church of the Brethren
2024**

District Women's Spring Luncheon

Deuteronomy 6:1-8

Matthew 11:28-30

A Commandment to Keep and a Choice to Make

Saturday, April 20, 2024

9:00 am

West Shore Church of the Brethren

6921 Wertzville Road, Enola, PA 17025

(717) 571-6288

westshorecob@pa.net

Registration forms with additional details regarding this event are on the table in the narthex.

Registration deadline is April 13, 2024.

No refunds after deadline date.



Linette Quinn is the new Administrative Assistant for the Southern Pennsylvania District Church of the Brethren

Attention Ladies!

If you're able to share your time and talent, we are looking for volunteers to help with the planning and preparation for this year's Ladies Spring Banquet here at Free Spring. The date is still TBD.

Please reach out to Angela Bryner or Sandra Wert if you are willing to help out with this event.



Thank you to Cindy and Jim for transporting my nativities and to Dina, Linda, Sharon, and Wanda for helping to unpack them. Also, thank you to all who surprised me with an additional 21 new hard plastic containers and bubble wrap for storage.

I have placed 13 nativity/cross items on the back window sill as they tie Christmas and Easter together.

~ Rosalita Leonard

