

September 2020



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
Charles Eldredge, Moderator
Lona Henry, Church Secretary

Office Hours:
Thursday
5:30 – 7:00 pm

Sunday Services:
Early Worship – 8:30 am
Sunday School – 9:30 am
Worship Service – 10:30



Executive Committee, 6:30 pm
Church Board, 7:00 pm
Monday, September 14

Meals-On-Wheels Desserts
Tuesday, September 15



Free Spring B&B Returns!
Starting Saturday, September 26
at 7:30 am

All items for the October newsletter and calendar must be in the Free Spring Church office by **Monday, September 21**. 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,

Can you imagine being thrown in prison just because you wanted to have a Christian wedding? The latest issue of *The Voice of the Martyrs* arrived this morning. Today (8/25/20) marks twenty-five years and twenty-five days since I began as pastor at Free Spring, and I believe that persecution of Christians around the world has grown worse. Being a follower of Christ in India has become much more difficult in the past few decades. Hindu governmental law has taken a page right out of the playbook of Islamic theocracies.

States throughout India are adopting anti-conversion laws meant to protect the country's Hindu identity. May 30, 2018 was supposed to be the wedding day for Rabish and Summandi, but after they informed the officials in their village that they would be married as Christians, they began hearing outsiders were planning to kill them on their wedding day. When they went to the police to inform them of the plot, the couple was arrested! The next day their pastor and two others from their church went to the police station to get the couple released, but they, too, were arrested!

It wasn't until six weeks later that they were anonymously bailed out. They finally married quietly in court on October 4 and had a small church ceremony on November 9...They told their mothers about their wedding but not their fathers. More of their story is in the September issue of *The Voice of the Martyrs*.

Within little more than a month there are several weddings coming up. I don't think we have to worry about any of the couples being arrested by the police, and I don't believe that any of them will have to move to a new city to escape persecution. Even with all the "life disrupted" circumstances, we have so much to be thankful for.

Continue to pray for students in all settings and those who will try to teach them smelling of hand sanitizer and Clorox® wipes. Some students (and teachers) have difficulty staying focused under normal conditions, but we have to encourage them to do their best. Whatever all of us do, may it be our best effort for the glory of God.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Terry

**September Deacons of the Month:
Mark & Becky Zeigler**

Scriptures and Messages for September

September 6

Romans 13:8-14

"Now Is the Moment"

September 13

Romans 14:1-12

"Go the Extra Mile"

September 20

Matthew 20:1-16

"Are You Envious Because...?"

September 27

Psalms 25:1-9

"The Possibility of Healing"

Weekly Bulletin and Monthly Newsletters Online!!

You may obtain a paper copy of the weekly bulletin from the table in the narthex, or if you prefer, you now can follow along with an electronic copy of the bulletin online! The website for the bulletin is at

<https://www.cob-net.org/church/freespring/bulletin.pdf>. Or you can go to the main page at <https://www.cob-net.org/church/freespring> and click on **Documents** and then select **Bulletin** or check out the other items while you're there!

Note: If the newest document doesn't appear right away, you may need clear the browsers local cache depending on the search engine:

Chrome: hold the CTRL key while reloading

FireFox: press CTRL+Shift+Delete keys

MicroSoft Edge: press CTRL+Shift+Delete keys

You can also access the monthly **Newsletter** and **Calendar** online from the main page under the **Documents** list. **NEW:** Ron Gordon has added a link under **Newsletter** called **Archive**, which will enable you to look at the previous/archived newsletters if you would ever like to look back for something! Thank you, Ron!



Free Spring Book Club

The next Free Spring Book Club discussion group will meet on **Monday, September 21 at 1:00 pm**. We will be discussing All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr.

Free Spring Library News

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

Amish Hawaiian Series

by Wanda E. Brunstetter & Jean Brunstetter



The Hawaiian Discovery – Traveling from her Indiana Amish community to Hawaii, Ellen knows she must be strong for her troubled friend, Mandy. What she doesn't expect is romance! When she meets farmhand Reuben, they feel an instant attraction – but her faith stands between them. Will a surprising discovery lead to love – or does Ellen's destiny lie back home? (This is the second book in the series; the first book is: The Hawaiian Quilt.)

Hope Deferred by Linda Byler

David Stolfus and Anna Fisher have been best friends as long as they can remember. Sure, it was a bit unusual in the Amish community for a boy and a girl to be so close, but nobody questions it with David and Anna – it has just always been that way. They live on neighboring farms in Lancaster County, they walk to school together (with all their siblings) every day, and when David learns to drive a pony, Anna is the first one to ride with him. Their lives are intertwined, the way the borders of their properties are joined by the Pequea Creek.

Deadly Reunions Series by Lynette Eason

When a Heart Stops – Spunky and outgoing, nothing much bothers medical examiner Serena Hopkins, except for the thought of falling in love again. But when a serial killer is picking off her former classmates, Serena's life becomes intertwined with her old high school crush, FBI agent Dominic Allen. Is the secret she's keeping putting her next on the killer's hit list? Can she trust Dominic with the truth before it's too late? (This is the second book in the series; the first book is When the Smoke Clears.)

Kaely Quinn, Profiler Series by Nancy Mehl

Dead End – When a body is discovered in a field in Iowa, the police uncover fourteen additional corpses ranging from 20 years old to recent. The remains point to a serial killer with an MO the authorities have seen before – Ed Oliphant, a man who has been in prison for over 20 years...and is Special Agent Kaely Quinn's father. After several failed interview attempts to discover if Ed has been training someone to be a copycat killer, the police turn to Kaely in St. Louis. (This is the third book in the series; the other books are Mind Games and Fire Storm.)

A Long Time Comin' by Robin W. Pearson

Just because Beatrice Agnew finds out she's dying doesn't mean she

can't keep her mouth shut about the truth. If any of her children have questions about their daddy and the choices she made after he abandoned them, they'd best take it up with Jesus. There's no room in Granny B's house for regrets or hand-holding or so she thinks.

Homeland Heroes Series by Susan Sleeman

Seconds to Live – When cybercriminals hack into the US Marshals' Witness Protection database and auction off witnesses' personal details to the highest bidders, the RED Team led by FBI Agent Sean Nichols begins a high-stakes chase to find the hacker. But before he can even get started, the first witness is targeted and barely escapes with her life. Sean believes Phantom, an obsessed hacker who previously outwitted the top minds in the field, is behind the attack, and Sean needs this witness's help, as she's the person who has come closest to discovering Phantom's identity. (This is the first book in the series.)

The Englisch Daughter by Cindy Woodsmall & Erin Woodsmall

Jemima is happy being an Old Order Amish wife and mother, but she longs to own a food truck business. Just as she's about to realize her dream, Roy tells her their savings are gone! How? Why? When Jemima discovers that Roy's hiding a child with another woman, she's shattered. Can she forgive him – and love his daughter?

~ Kathy Bowman, Librarian



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Special Collection

Church World Service School Kits

- 1 pair of blunt-end metal scissors (rounded tip)
- 3 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (no loose-leaf or filler paper)
- 1 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- 1 hand-held pencil sharpener
- 1 large eraser
- 6 new pencils with erasers
- 1 box of 24 crayons (*only* 24)
- 1 12"x14" to 14"x17" finished size cotton/lightweight canvas bag with cloth handles (please, no reusable shopping bags or backpacks)

*Pack all items inside the cloth bag.



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

Dottie Powell
Rm 406
69 Cottage Ln
Mifflin, PA 17058

Don Speece
2193 Shin Hollow Rd
Westfield, PA 16950

Denton Ritzman
North Ridge Center, Rm 17
99 North Ridge Dr
McAlisterville, PA 17049
(Note: this is an address change)

Helen Willow
Ohesson Manor Nursing
Home #411
276 Green Ave Ext
Lewistown, PA 17044

Witness Commission

September Food Pantry Needs: Laundry Detergent (30 load size)



We don't have a final count of baby wipes sent to the Food Pantry, but we thank all who graciously provided. Warren Wagner has said the families coming into the Food Pantry has increased. Let's see how many bottles of Laundry detergent (30 load size) we can collect through the end of the month.

As many of you have seen in the bulletins or in the e-mail version, we are preparing School Kits for CWS. The items needed to make a complete Kit are listed but you may also donate individual items for the bags if you choose. No bag is needed as we have a great sewer who has provided bags!

We are hoping to do a work day at New Windsor this fall but are waiting to hear if they are still limiting access because of the virus.

Meals-On-Wheels Dessert months are here! Thank you to those faithful bakers who provide items each 3rd Tuesday of the month from now through January!

Since Relay-for-Life has changed their date, we sent our donation from the Cheese Balls and other donation proceeds directly to the organization this year. We will hope to be able to attend the event next year.

The next 2¢ Club Offering will be collected on Sunday, October 4. Do we have that spare change to bring that Sunday?

So many activities we usually have over the last several months have been cancelled or changed from their normal format. The Witness Commission would like to thank all who have helped make the activities we have been able to have a wonderful success. God Bless Each and Every One!!

~ Connie Hesford, Jen Sparks, Warren Wagner and Dina Zug



Christian Education Commission

In August we reached out to Sunday School teachers and parents to see what their thoughts were about starting Sunday School back up in October. Reactions were mixed as expected. Even at Board level, the idea has been to see what happens once school starts. Additionally, for the adult classes, the teachers' reactions have been mixed. At this time, the Adult classes offering may not be four different classes as in the past; it may be comprised of one class with the meeting place to be determined.

The Explorers (fellowship hall) class started meeting at the School House picnic tables on August 23, with masks optional. We'd like more feedback from the congregation, for those who attended Sunday School in the past, about starting back up. Please email Shari at sharibook56@hotmail.com. We will keep everyone informed about future plans.

Children's Day was scheduled for September 13, but since we are not planning any social events, we are putting together a goodie bag/care package for Preschool through High School age children of the church. If you'd like to contribute, feel free to mark offering envelopes (SS Goodie Bag). Anything not covered by contributions will be pulled from Christian Ed Budget for Sunday School Materials since we are not currently purchasing materials while not having classes. Bags will be handed out or delivered sometime in the month of September.

Additionally, Teacher Recognition Sunday had been scheduled for Sunday, September 20. Therefore, we'd like to say **THANK YOU!** here to the following for their services provided prior to the pandemic for Sunday School and Junior Church:

Eric Alexander	Connie Hesford	Michelle Rickenbaugh
Ginger Alexander	Leslie Laudenslager	Sharon Ritzman
Dee Bell	Karen Logan	Nancy Shadel
Erin Bell	Kim Marshall	Terry Smith
Shari Book	Renee Marshal	Wanda Smith
Kathy Bowman	Jane Niemond	Warren Wagner
Jessica Eby	Bev Oberlin	Mark Zeigler
Paula Frymoyer	Becky Poorman	Dina Zug
Amber Heimbach	Rodney Pry	

~Dee Bell, Shari Book, Dara Reinford, and Mary Zeigler





September Birthday of the Month

Our Birthday of the month is Landon Hayes, who celebrates his birthday on September 17. Please remember him with your prayers and cards.

Nurture Commission News

OUR BIRTHDAY OF THE MONTH IS Landon Hayes, who celebrates his birthday on September 17. Please remember him with your prayers and cards.



The Time & Talent Surveys are being updated and will be distributed soon. Please look over them carefully and consider where God is leading you to help in the church. There are some additions to the Nurture section of the survey, so please read the list carefully for way you might be willing to help. We would be glad to explain any item you do not understand. Keep in mind it takes a lot of working hands to do God's work.

PARENTS: Tentatively, please make an extra effort to bring your children to church on Sunday, September 13 for our Children's Day. Wanda and Dara have lots of fun activities planned for the children.

The Southern Pennsylvania District Conference, which had been scheduled for September 19, 2020, is now canceled for this year.

LOOKING FORWARD (these are based on whether or not church opens up):

October 6 – Free Spring will once again host Love Feast in our fellowship Hall.

October 13 – Music & Worship meeting at 7:00 pm

October 15 – Congregational Meeting at 7:00 pm

~ Erin Bell, Darlene Leach, Mark Zeigler, and Art Zug



90th Birthday Card Shower

Monday, September 21

Sharon and Sam Ritzman's friend, Minnie Minick, will be celebrating her 90th Birthday on Monday, September 21. Her friends have planned a card shower for her. If you'd like to participating in making her birthday a special day, please mail a card to her at:

Minnie Minick

187 Jam House Road

Mifflin, PA 17058

Free Spring B&B Returns! Starting Saturday, September 26

at 7:30 am

The Free Spring B&B (Breakfast and Bible study) will begin on Saturday, September 26 at 7:30 am and on the following dates: October 3, October 17, October 24, and October 31 if needed to complete the study.

The studies will begin at 7:30 am and you are asked to bring your own breakfast. Social distancing recommendations will be in effect for the studies.

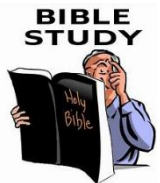
The topic of study is the book Radical by David Platt. Books will be placed on the table in the narthex.

The following is an excerpt:

"It is easy for American Christians to forget how Jesus said His followers would actually live, what their new lifestyle would actually look like. They would, He said, leave behind security, money, convenience, even family for Him. They would abandon everything for the gospel. They would take up their crosses daily...BUT WHO DO YOU KNOW WHO LIVES LIKE THAT? DO YOU?"

In Radical, David Platt challenges you to consider with an open heart how we have manipulated the gospel to fit our cultural preferences. He shows what Jesus said about being His disciple – then invites you to believe and obey what you have heard.

This book is packed with Biblical substance! Come and see...Come and learn...



Early Morning Service: 8:30 am
 Sunday School: 9:30 am
 Worship Service: 10:30 am



September 2020

**Food Pantry Needs:
 Laundry Detergent
 (30 Load Size)**



Pastor: Terry Smith
 Moderator: Charles Eldredge
 Church Office: (717) 463-3192

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September Anniversaries 1 - Jafed & Macey Wagner ('18) 10 - Doug & Beth Speece ('88) 11 - Randy & Denny Long ('04) 14 - Wyatt & Jenna Wagner ('19) 18 - Shawn & Lisa Tharp ('04) 21 - Jacob & Allison Alexander ('19) 25 - Thomas & Sandra Wert ('65) 29 - Ed & Doris Watts ('84)		1	2		4	5
6 Nursery-Dara Reinford Give Me 5! Offering	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12
13 Nursery-Karissa Graybill Children's Day Mission Offering	14 Exec Comm, 6:30 pm Church Board, 7:00 pm	15 Meals-On-Wheels Desserts	16	17 Deacons Meeting, 7:00 pm	18	19
20 Nursery-Shari Book Teacher Recognition Sunday	21 FS Book Club, 1:00 pm Newsletter Deadline!	22	23 	24	25	26 B&B Study begins, 7:30 am
27 Nursery-Kim and Renee Marshall Youth Nickel Offering	28	29	30			



September Birthdays

1 - Frederick Book
 1 - Matthew Wray
 2 - Jane Niemond
 4 - Elli Ritzman
 8 - Nick Hess
 10 - Elliot Davis

10 - Jesse Watts
 11 - Joe Stoops
 13 - Matt Witzel
 14 - Gloria Fowler
 14 - Matt Lauver

14 - Daniel Zeigler
 15 - Leon Davis
 17 - Landon Hayes
 17 - Connie Wagner
 21 - Carl Miller

22 - Ellison Ritzman
 23 - Ayden Weller
 26 - Audrey Helmuth
 27 - Mary Jane Dressler
 28 - Madeline Davis

