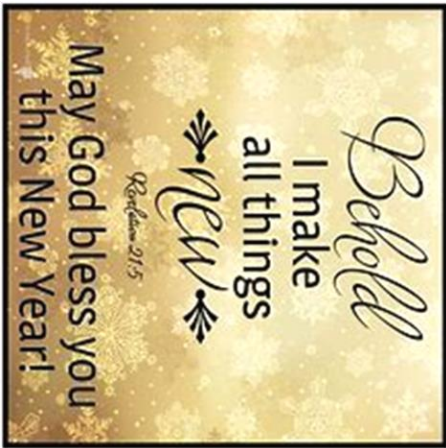


January 2021



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



Bread & Cup Communion January 3



Music & Worship Meeting
Tuesday, January 12
7:00 pm

Meals-On-Wheels Desserts Tuesday, January 19



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

One year ago, there was no mention of the C19 virus in our newsletter. I believe that 2022 may see no mention of it again. May auld acquaintance with this pandemic be gone but not completely forgotten. Some lessons in life will be repeated far too soon when our memories are too dismissive of challenging events.

I believe that 2021 will be a better year, and that we will be in recovery mode for a while. Cleland B. McAfee, whom I have quoted before, reminds us that a "Happy New Year" means much more than a perpetual life filled with smiles and laughter:

"God make your year a happy one – not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain, but by strengthening you to bear it if it comes.

Not by making your path easy, but by making you sturdy enough to tread any path.

Not by taking hardships from you, but by taking all cowardice and fear from your heart as you need hardships.

Not by granting you unbroken sunshine, but by keeping your face bright even in the shadows.

Not by making your life always pleasant, but by showing you where man and his cause need you most and by making you zealous to be there and help.

Not by keeping you from battle, but by bringing you off every field more than conqueror through Christ 'Who loves you.'"

I continue to look forward to the Sunday when we worship together in our sanctuary without the concerns about the virus in anyone's mind.

May the love of our Savior Jesus fill your heart with joy in the midst of all that this New Year holds. Thank you for your prayers and support as we serve Jesus together in 2021.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Terry



Deacons Called Out

I wish to thank all who participated in the calling out of Deacons on December 6. You have chosen to recall Mark & Becky Zeigler and Cindy Lucas.

I would like to thank them for having served as Deacons previously and being willing to continue to serve in that capacity.

~ Ron Bell, Church Board Chairperson

Scriptures and Messages for January

January 3

Matthew 2:1-12

"Overwhelmed with Sorrow or Joy"

January 10

Genesis 1:1-5

"Order out of Chaos"

January 17

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

"Lord, You Know Me"

January 24

Mark 1:14-20

"Go Immediately"

January 31

Mark 1:21-28

"He Commands... They Obey"



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

Ray & Bev Oberlin

Northridge Center Personal Care, Room 5

99 Northridge Drive

McAlisterville, PA 17049

(717) 463-2249

(717) 348-1686 (Ray's cell)

(717) 994-8807 (Bev's cell)

Denton Ritzman

North Ridge Center Personal Care

Room 17

69 Cottage Road

99 North Ridge Drive

McAlisterville, PA 17049

Don Speece

2193 Shin Hollow Road

Westfield, PA 16950



Free Spring Library News

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

Natchez Park Rangers Series by Patricia Bradley

Standoff – Brooke Danvers wants to learn the truth about her father's suspicious death, but she'll need the help of Luke Fereday, a National Park Ranger, and her ex-boyfriend. Keeping Brooke safe will take all of Luke's skills and falling in love with her will only complicate matters. (This is the first book in the series.)

The Harbinger Series by Jonathan Cahn

The Harbinger II: the Return – As in the first book, the main characters are Nouriel, Ana Goren, and the mysterious figure known as the prophet. The new revelations start on an island in the waters of New England and end at the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is The Harbinger.)

The Stone Wall by Beverly Lewis

Anna is eager to begin a new chapter in her life as a Lancaster County tour guide in the picturesque area where her Plain grandmother once stayed. Anna wishes she could talk with her grandmother about those long-ago days but the elderly woman suffers from Alzheimer's, and beyond a vague hint about an old stone wall, much about that time is a mystery. Thankfully, Martin Nolt, a handsome Mennonite, takes the young Beachy Amish woman under his wing for her training, familiarizing her with the many local highlights – including Peaceful Meadows Horse Retreat, which serves children with special needs. The retreat's mission so inspires Anna that she returns to volunteer, and she quickly strikes up a friendship with Gabe Allgyer, the young Amish widower who manages it.

How the Light Gets In by Jolina Petersheim

When Ruth Neufeld's husband and father-in-law are killed working for a relief organization overseas, she travels to Wisconsin with her young daughters and mother-in-law Mabel to bury her husband. She hopes the Mennonite community will be a quiet place to grieve and piece together next steps. Ruth and her family are welcomed by Elam, her husband's cousin, who invites them to stay at his cranberry farm through the harvest. Sifting through fields of berries and memories of a marriage that was broken long before her husband died, Ruth finds solace in the beauty of the land and healing through hard work and budding friendship. She also encounters the possibility of new love with Elam, whose gentle encouragement awakens hopes and dreams she thought she'd lost forever.



Hidden Justice Series by Clara Putnam

Beyond Justice – Attorney Hayden McCarthy is given a wrongful death case against the government. Her goal has been to become the youngest partner at the law firm. She would like a relationship with Andrew Wesley, however his father is a congressman. The timing of this government case is not good. Now someone unknown is out to kill the case or her. How will justice prevail if she closes the case? (This is the first book in the series.)

Red River of the North by Lauraine Snelling

An Untamed Land – The promise of free land lures Roald and Ingeborg Bjorklund from their beloved home high above the fjords of Norway and after three long years of scrimping and saving to buy tickets for their passage to America, they finally arrive at the docks of New York City. This new land promises a rich heritage for their children, and here they hope to build a good life. (This is the first book in the series.)

The Time of Jacob's Trouble by Donna VanLiere

A typical day at the rehabilitation center turns into a nightmare for Emma Grady when her favorite physical therapy patient vanishes in front of her, along with several colleagues. Fear turns to chaos as Emma begins the frantic race from Brooklyn to Queens, anxious to discover if her boyfriend is safe. Subways are closed, graves are open, and countless people have inexplicably disappeared. Mayhem erupts as terror grips the residents of New York City. Was this a terrorist attack? An alien abduction? Or has evil been unleashed? What else could make so many vanish in a moment? And not just in New York, but all over the globe. With so many people missing, Emma wonders if this is the predicted end of the world and begins a desperate search to discover the answers.

~ Kathy Bowman, Librarian



Weekly Bulletin and Monthly Newsletters Online!!

Be sure to check out the church's website at:

www.cob-net.org/church/freespring

At the homepage, click on **Documents** to find the weekly bulletin, monthly newsletter, calendar, Directory Address Update form, Time & Talent form, and more!

Note: If the newest document doesn't appear right away, you may need to clear the browser's 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



Cards and Prayers Requested

On behalf of my daughter, Stacey, I want to thank those of you who sent her cards of encouragement, birthday and Christmas cards. She was certainly uplifted by your kindness. Continue to keep her in your prayers for her surgery on December 29.

Mark and I are leaving on December 27 and driving to Florida, so I would also covet your prayers for traveling mercies.

Thanks again for being such a supportive church family.

~Kathy Bowman

Witness Commission



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We pray that the new year is filled with Peace, Love, Kindness, and Health for all of you!

We want to welcome Becca Walters as a new member to the Witness Commission.

Our congregation is just a wonderful testament for our service and outreach in both the community and in the world. Check the budget and see where all our offerings are helping in this community and beyond.

As we reorganize the volunteers that have answered with their Time & Talent Surveys, we want to thank those who have served faithfully in all the areas that Witness covers. We are still looking for a contact person for Relay-for-Life. If you feel led to volunteer for this, please let someone from Witness know that you would help in this spot.

Other spots we would like someone to fill is Brethren Home Representative, and 2¢ Club Offering promoter.

Truck Stop Cookie Packing went very well. We had about 8 volunteers that helped put together 203 bags of cookies! Cindy Lucas also assembled 50 bags of dog treats that went along with the cookies. Jim Eichman delivered them and said that the chaplain was very happy to see all the cookie bags.

The Food Pantry donations are outstanding! Thank you for all your donations which go towards helping those in need throughout our community. For January and February, the donations requested will be facial tissues. There is a table in the fellowship hall and one will again be set up in the sanctuary for those attending late service.

~ Jen Sparks, Warren Wagner, Becca Walters, and Dina Zug

Nurture Commission News



The new year begins by celebrating our Lord's sacrifice for us by coming together for Bread & Cup Communion during the worship service on Sunday, January 3.

A special thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate Christmas at Free Spring: the Christmas Decorating Committee, Advent Candle-Lighting Participants, Christmas Eve Program participants and attendees.

Our Birthday of the Month is Lois Zendt, who celebrates her birthday on January 18. Please remember her with your prayers and cards.

Do you need firewood? The "Chainsaw Ministry" is ready to help. Please let Pastor Terry know of any need.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: the 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 help. Please contact Mark Zeigler at mzeigler59@yahoo.com or 717-463-2309 if you or someone you know needs any of these services.

We once again would like to let our college students know we support them and are thinking about them this year. During the month of January, there will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex for items that are needed to fill the College bags. If you have a college student (or are a college student) let Mark Zeigler know before the end of January.

Music & Worship will meet on Tuesday, January 12 at 7:00 pm. Anyone who has an idea or concern regarding our worship service is invited to attend.

There are no plans to have "Soup"er Bowl Sunday or Lenten Teas this year. Many sacrifices have been made during the pandemic. We will continue to consider upcoming events while keeping an eye on necessary precautions.

~ Erin Bell, Ron Gordon, Mark Zeigler, and Art Zug



January Birthday of the Month

Our Birthday of the month is Lois Zendt, who celebrates her birthday on January 18. Please remember her with your prayers and cards.



NEEDS OF THE SAINTS FUNDS DISTRIBUTED

It was our great pleasure at the December board meeting to designate places to send help. Back in April, \$5,200 was donated to our Needs of the Saints fund and to be held in case any of our congregation members had financial needs that could not be met during the COVID-19 crisis. No one in the congregation indicated a need and the money had remained unused. The person who gave the money allowed the Board to choose individuals or agencies who could use help at this time. The distributions were made as follows:

- Bethesda Mission - \$350
- Juniata County Food Pantry - \$350
- Brethren Disaster Relief - \$500
- Brethren Press - \$500
- Juniata County Golden Years Ministry - \$500 (nursing home chaplain)
- PCAP - \$500
- Jocinda Rhinier - \$500 (a young mother, and her child, who just lost her husband in a tragic accident)
- Salvation Army - \$1,000
- Siennick Fund - \$1,000 (Habitat for Humanity is building a home for family members who are caring for six children whose father stabbed and killed their mother.)

The Needs of the Saints fund is in the Church Budget each year and is used for special needs of our congregation. When a situation arises – maybe the loss of a job, an illness or accident, a bill that can't be satisfied, etc. - you may contact one of the Deacons or Pastor Terry. This fund may be used to help in these special circumstances. Many people are reluctant to inquire about help, but you can be assured that all requests are kept confidential and are only known to the Deacons and the Pastor. Please remember it's available to help our church family.

2021 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. Thank you!

~ Lona Henry, Church Secretary



Fill out your
Family Profile
For the Church
Directory Update!

Enclosed in the newsletter or on the church's website at:

www.cob-net.org/church/freespring

under Documents is the form used for completing your information to be added or changed in the 2021 Free Spring Church Directory. You do not need to be a member to be included in the Directory. This form may also be used to indicate you wish to have a mailbox here at the church (for those who do not already have one) and if you'd like to "go green" and have the monthly newsletter e-mailed to you rather than receiving a hardcopy!

Please use a separate form for others not in your household. Extra forms are on the table in the narthex.

The following is a **change** to the original tentative schedule for completing the Directory:

December 27 – the lists for addresses, birthdays, and anniversaries were placed in the narthex for review. Any information in red on the address pages is for identifying those who have not provided any information. Changes may be made on these sheets or marked OK in place of a form if you prefer.

Sunday, January 10 – DRAFT copy of the Directory available

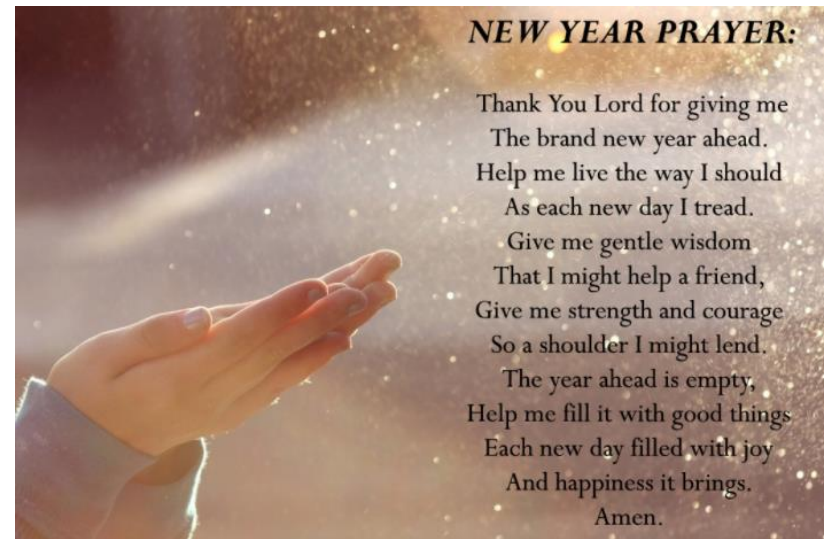
Sunday, January 17 – FINAL DRAFT copy of the Directory available

Monday, January 18 – FINAL DEADLINE before printing

Wednesday, January 20 – 2021 Church Directories will be placed in mailboxes and available in the narthex, and mailboxes will be updated.

Please place completed forms in my mailbox as soon as possible. Thank you all for your help!

~ Lona Henry, Church Secretary



NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And happiness it brings.
Amen.