

March 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



Ladies Lenten Teas
Saturday mornings
9:00 am

Online Community Lenten Services
Schedule and Website Information inside



Monday, March 1
Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm
Church Board Meeting, 7:00 pm

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

Why are we to beware the ides of March? In Ancient Rome, the ides of March came on March 15 and it was traditionally the deadline for settling debts. It has been made famous by William Shakespeare when the soothsayer warned Julius Caesar to "Beware the ides of March". Caesar ignored the warning and was assassinated on March 15, 44 BC.

This year, the day before the ides of March is the day for our clocks to spring forward as we celebrate another hour of daylight in the evening, and our bodies adjust to the time change. Beware of the earlier start as you may find yourself being late if you forget to make the adjustment.

Sometimes adjustments are expected but other times we are hit with unexpected circumstances. One year ago, we had to begin making major adjustments and we are still working through the pandemic health, economic, and spiritual challenges.

It may be good to take to heart John-Roger and Peter McWilliams advice: "Being content, satisfied and joyful no matter *what* happens is a radical concept – but it's also basic rule of adult life. Without this rule – to at least *aspire* to – we live in a land of Victims and Victors, of endless finger-pointing and name-calling...If you want to fulfill your Dream, look more for 'What's next?' than 'Who's wrong?'"

As Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we should confidently look forward as we approach the Spring Equinox. Flowers begin to bloom and so will we as more opportunities return to celebrate the normal rhythm of life. There may be weeks or months to wait, but it will be good to see big smiles and give warm hugs to those whom we greet in Christian love.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Terry

Scriptures and Messages for March

March 7

John 2:13-22 "What Sign Can You Show?"

March 14

John 3:14-21 "Those Who Do What Is True"

March 21

John 12:20-33 "What Should I Say?"

March 28

Mark 11:1-11, Psalm 31:9-16 "From Palms to Passion"

Nurture Commission News



Thank you everyone who donated items for the 5 care packages that were assembled for our college students. Emily Lukens, Hope Laudenslager, Abbie Laudenslager, Becky Poorman and Erin Bell were given the supplies and we hope they are useful to these students.

Meals were taken to the Tyler Ritzman family after the birth of their son, Maverick.

Saturday, February 20 began the start of our Lenten Teas this year. Although it was announced that the Teas were canceled, Jen Sparks took it upon herself to see that this important event was conducted. THANK YOU, Jen!

Marian Book is our March Birthday of the Month. Her birthday is on March 5. Please remember her with your cards and prayers.

Anonymous individuals have been making and delivering an occasional meal to some of our members who have been unable to attend church. This is not something arranged by the Nurture Commission, but is still a nurturing thing to do and is much appreciated. Keep up the good work!

LOOKING FORWARD:

Our Spring Council Meeting will be held Thursday, April 15 at 7:00 pm. It is very important for everyone to try to make it.

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



March Birthday of the Month

Our Birthday of the month for March is Marian Book, whose birthday is on March 5. Please remember her with your prayers and cards.

**March Deacons of the Month:
Ron & Dee Bell**

Witness Commission



March Food Pantry Needs: Diapers

March!!!! It's here already!! Time keeps moving on, even if we are not ready for it yet.

As we look back on our Witness areas of giving, we want to highlight the giving that is going to our Juniata County Food Pantry.

The donations given are measured by pounds and if we are giving paper products, the weights will be lower. During October and December our donations measured 11 pounds. That does not sound like much but you also need to look at the money given through Give Me 5! to see the impact our church has in its contributions to the Pantry. Last year that amounted to over \$5,000!

The Food Pantry receives food from the Central PA Food Bank, but not household staples, so this is the reason we ask for donations of other items. I encourage anyone to give a day and volunteer at the Food Pantry – you will see how important the household items are to supplying those in need some of these essential items. Thank you to all who have given tissues during January and February and to Lucille Saner for delivering them to the Food Pantry. For the months of March and April we will be collecting diapers.

Our Outreach during January goes out to our local Fire Companies, Belleville Meat Canning, which you have seen, was a success. Also, during January contributions were sent to Days for Girls, and Golden Years Ministry.

February's support goes to Children's Aid Society and to the SO PA Meat Canning.

We've had only 1 bucket donated to fill for Clean-Up Buckets. I urge you, when out and about, stop at Tractor Supply, Lowes, or Home Depot (to name a few) and pick up a bucket and lid for this project. Last year many buckets were filled and taken to New Windsor – let's top last year's total!!

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



Sunday School Classes Updates

During February, the Seekers SS class will be studying the book of Titus and starting 2 Timothy. This class meets in the front left-hand side of the sanctuary.

The Explorers class is currently starting a video series about Lent hosted by Max Lucado. This class meets in the (new) fellowship hall and masks are recommended.



Juniata County Food Pantry March Update

Thank you for your faithful support in 2020, especially with the pandemic. We were able to reach 588 families (858 individuals) struggling with hunger in Juniata County and provide them with nutritious, life-giving food and hope! What a wonderful blessing and example of the Lord's command to "feed my sheep!"

In January, 2021, the Food Pantry served 211 families – 518 of your neighbors! If you could help by donating diapers this month, we would be very grateful.

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



Lenten Teas

We will be meeting in the fellowship hall beginning Saturday, February 20 at 8:00 am and continuing through Lent. The book I have selected is Chosen written by Michelle McClain-Walters.



"Best-selling author Michelle McClain-Walters shows you the difference between the chosen, the many and the few as she equips you with insight and divine strategies to jump-start your destiny. Chosen will show you how to:

- Be strengthened to stay on God's chosen path.
- Expose and overcome the attacks, hindrances, and ungodly mindsets that threaten your life.
- Understand the inner workings of the chosen realm – where heaven meets earth and where the supernatural coexists with the natural.

Chose now to declare, 'I'm chosen!' and watch as the mysteries of heaven are opened to you."

I hope to see you then! ~Jen Sparks



Prayer Requests

Prayer Request Chain Contact Change

Starting February 7, all prayer requests should no longer go to Sharon Ritzman. Darlene Leach will be handling all prayer requests for starting the prayer chain on emails and phone and updates to the Ongoing and Immediate Prayer lists in the bulletins.

You may text or call Darlene at (717) 994-1504 or e-mail her at dleach42267@gmail.com with prayer requests. She will then call the pastor and Mary Jane Dressler to start the phone prayer chain and e-mail the prayer request to those on the email prayer chain.

An alternate contact if you are unable to reach Darlene is Amber Heimbach (717) 348-5259. Thank you for praying!

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
99 North Ridge Drive
McAlisterville, PA 17049

Don Speece
2193 Shin Hollow Road
Westfield, PA 16950



Easter Sunrise Service Sunday, April 4 6:30 am

Please plan to join us for our Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 am in the church sanctuary.

Speaker: Ed Weaver
Special Music: Erin Bell
Greeters: Pastor Terry & Wanda Smith
Pianist: Sharon Ritzman

Masks are required. Light refreshments afterward are still tentative.



2021 COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

Sponsored By: The McAlisterville Ministerium

Theme: Hungry for God

Explore some historic Christian truths and practices
that can deepen your hunger for God

- Feb 17 "Hungry for God" by Dave McElwee of East Salem / Otterbein UMC - This service will include the Rite of the Ashes
- Feb 21 "The Gospel According to Food" by Kevin Brophy of Brown's / St Johns UMC
- Feb 28 "The Practice of Fasting" by Jodi Strawser of Pass the Salt Ministries
- Mar 7 "When All You Can Eat Is Tears" by David Gingrich of Delaware Mennonite
- Mar 14 "The Practice of Lament" by Perry Munro of Pine Grove / McAlisterville UMC
- Mar 21 "Feed Your Faith" by Terry Smith of Free Spring Church of the Brethren
- Mar 28 "The Practice of Bible Engagement" by Graham Fowler of Lost Creek Presbyterian and Trinity Lutheran.
- Apr 2 A Good Friday Tenebrae Service including all our pastors and churches.

We will not gather together in-person for worship.
All services will be online and will premiere on the
McAlisterville Ministerium Facebook Page at 7:00 pm
www.facebook.com/McAlistervilleMin

If you don't have internet, you may listen to the sermon by calling (717) 200-3507 any time after the worship premier. We will not collect an offering this year. Instead, we invite you to support your local church or one of its missions.

Clean-Up Bucket Collections

thru February



Witness will be putting together Clean-Up Buckets through the month of February and this year we are asking for donations of buckets and lids. So far, we've had only 1 bucket donated to fill for Clean-Up Buckets. I urge you, when out and about, stop at Tractor Supply, Lowes, or Home Depot (to name a few) and pick up a bucket and lid for this project. Last year many buckets were filled and taken to New Windsor – let's top last year's total!!

The Commission will be using monies that have been donated and received from Weis gift card sales to purchase the items to fill the buckets. Thank you!
~Witness Commission



Prayer / Mentor Program

Parents of school-aged children: Would you like to have your child take part in the prayer/mentor program? If so, please send your child's information to Mark Zeigler by e-mail at mzeigler59@yahoo.com. The following information is requested - Name, Age, Birthday, Grade, Name of School, Hobbies/Interests and any additional information you would like to include.

Your child will be paired with a member of the congregation that will pray for your child throughout the year and may send cards or notes of encouragement.

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



One Great Hour
of Sharing

Let love flow

"Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty,
shade from the sun, shelter from
the wind, for the Compassionate
One guides them, takes them
to the best springs."
~Isaiah 49:10, *The Message*

Give to One Great Hour of Sharing

www.brethren.org/giveoffering



 Church of the Brethren
1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120

Let love flow

When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you support:

- ☉ Farmers participating in educational opportunities and working to establish food security.
- ☉ Volunteers preparing for a year of Christ-like service.
- ☉ Brethren pastors, leaders, and members sharing in meaningful conversations and events.
- ☉ Individuals encouraging people and rebuilding homes affected by disaster.

Thank you for your generosity and for letting love flow!



Your gifts do great things!

www.brethren.org/greatthings

Photos by Craig Thompson and Jeff Boshart



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*May the road rise to meet' you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
the rains soft' upon your fields, and
until we meet' again,
May God hold you in the hollow of
His hand.*