

April 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



Adopt-A-Highway Pick-Up
Saturday, April 3
8:00 am



Easter Sunrise Service
Sunday, April 4
6:30 am

Congregational Council Meeting
Thursday, April 15
7:00 pm



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

Remember that you may have had too much coffee if you walk five miles on your treadmill before you discover that it isn't plugged in, or if you help your dog chase its tail, or if you are grinding your coffee beans in your mouth or if you can type 70 words a minute...with your feet.

Seriously, Pastor Terry, don't you have something more in tune with Easter, Spring, and Communion? Yes, I do.

E. Paul Hovey included this Easter gift in The Treasury of Special Days and Occasions:

"The simplest meaning of Easter is that we are living in a world in which God has the last word. On Friday night it appeared as if evil were the master of life. The holiest and most lovable One who had ever lived was dead and in His tomb – crucified by the order of a tyrant without either scruples or regrets. He who had raised the highest hopes among men had died by the most shameful means. A cross, two nails, a jeering mob of debauched souls, and a quick thrust of a spear had ended it all.

Those hours when His voice was stilled and His hands were quiet were the blackest through which the race has ever lived. If Caesar could put an end to Jesus then no man could ever dare aspire or hope again. Hope, in such a world, could be nothing more than a mockery.

Then came Easter morning and the glorious word: 'He is Risen!' And evil's triumph was at an end. Since that hour when Mary in the garden first discovered the staggering act of victory, no man whose heart was pure and whose labors were honest, has ever had reason to fear or despair if he believes in the resurrection. It is the assurance to all the godly that their faith is not in vain."

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, no coffee should make your heart beat faster than that Easter word.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Terry

Scriptures and Messages for April

Easter Sunday, April 4

Mark 16:1-8 "There You Will See Him"

April 11

John 20:19-31 "So That You May Have Life"

April 18

1 John 3:1-7 "Let No One Deceive You!"

April 25

Psalms 23 "I Fear No Evil"

Free Spring Library News

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

Amish Greenhouse Mystery Series
by Wanda E. Brunstetter



The Mockingbird's Song – Sylvia has been nearly paralyzed with grief and anxiety since the tragic death of her husband, father, and brother in a traffic accident. She tries to help in the family's greenhouse while caring for her two young children but she prefers not to have to deal with customers. Her mother's own grief causes her to hover over her children and grandchildren and Sylvia seeks a diversion. She takes up birdwatching and soon meets an Amish man who teaches her about local birds. But Sylvia's mother doesn't trust Dennis Weaver and as the relationship sours, mysterious attacks on the greenhouse start up again. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is The Crow's Call.)

The Edge of Belonging by Amanda Cox

Returning to her hometown, Ivy Rose discovers her late grandmother left behind clues to the truth about Ivy's adoption – but a key piece of information is missing. Twenty-four years earlier, homeless Harvey James finds an abandoned newborn. When Good Samaritans offer him help, will Harvey keep the baby secret – or risk losing the only person he's ever loved?

Baxter Family Series by Karen Kingsbury

Two Weeks – Cole Blake, son of Landon and Ashley Baxter Blake, is months away from going off to college to kickstart the great plan he has been dreaming about for years – a career in medicine. But as he starts his final semester of school, he meets Elise, a mysterious new girl who captures his attention – and heart – from day one. Elise has her heart set on mending her wild ways and becoming the good girl she used to be but not long after the semester starts, she discovers she's pregnant. Eighteen and alone, she shares her secret with Cole. Undaunted by the news, and in love for the first time in his life, Cole is determined to support Elise – even if it means skipping college so he can marry her and raise another man's baby. (This is the sixth book in the series; the other books are: A Baxter Family Christmas, Love Story, In This Moment, To the Moon and Back, and When We Were Young.)

The Sowing Season by Katie Powner

After he's forced to sell the family farm he's labored on his whole life, 63-year-old Gerrit Laninga doesn't know what to do with himself. He

sacrificed everything for the land – his time, his health, his family – with nothing to show for it but bitterness, regret, and two grown children who want nothing to do with him. Fifteen-year-old Rae Walters has growing doubts and fears about The Plan – the detailed blueprint for high school that will help her follow in her lawyer father's footsteps. She's always been committed to The Plan, but now that the pressure to succeed is building, what was supposed to unite her family in purpose, may end up tearing it apart.

Hidden Justice Series by Cara Putnam

Imperfect Justice – To the world it seems obvious: Kaylene Adams killed her daughter and then herself. Attorney Emilie Wesley knows a different story: Kaylene would never hurt anyone and was looking for a way out of a controlling, abusive relationship. Her death shakes Emilie's belief that she can make a difference for women in violent marriages and self-doubt plagues her as she struggles to continue her work in the wake of the tragedy. Reid Billings thought he knew his sister, right up until he learned how she died. Then he discovers a letter from Kaylene begging him to fight for custody of her daughters if anything should happen to her. No attorney in her right mind would support an uncle instead of a father in a custody case, but Kaylene's letter claims Emilie Wesley will help him. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is Beyond Justice.)

Red River of the North Series by Lauraine Snelling

A New Day Rising – After her husband disappears, Ingeborg Bjorklund struggles to keep their farmstead running, but the kind help of his cousin Haaken and brother Roald complicate her feelings. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is An Untamed Land.)

Global Search and Rescue Series by Susan May Warren

The Price of Valor – Former Navy SEAL Hamilton Jones thought that the love of his life was dead. But when a girl claiming to be his daughter shows up with a dire message from his wife, Ham knows he will stop at nothing to find her and bring her home. (This is the third book in the series, the other books are: The Way of the Brave and The Heart of a Hero.)

~ Kathy Bowman, Librarian

**April Deacons of the Month:
Evelyn Benner and Cindy Lucas**

Nurture Commission News



Lenten teas have been a great success considering we had originally canceled them. A big thank you to Jen Sparks for making them happen.

Easter Sunrise Service will be on Sunday, April 4 at 6:30 am. The speaker will be Ed Weaver and Erin Bell will be providing special music. Sharon Ritzman will be the pianist and Pastor Terry and Wanda will be serving as greeters. Light refreshments will be provided after the service.

Camp Eder has sent out their calendar of available camps for 2021. The information is posted on the Witness bulletin board. Camperships are partially funded for children who attend Free Spring COB. Contact someone on the Nurture Commission or Becca Walters if you are sending a child to camp.

Please keep all our church family in your prayers and consider reaching out with cards and phone calls to those that can't attend at this time. They will certainly appreciate knowing they are not forgotten. Thank you to all who make and deliver meals. Thank you to those who send cards and make phone calls and all of you praying for our church family.

Our April Birthday of the Month is Hudson Soccio who celebrates his birthday on the April 25. Please remember him with your prayers and cards.

LOOKING FORWARD:

Tuesday, April 13 – Music & Worship Committee meeting at 7:00 pm

Thursday, April 15 – Congregational Council Meeting at 7:00 pm

Please mark this on your calendar and plan to attend!

Ladies' Spring Banquet is yet to be scheduled. Watch for an upcoming announcement for this.

Sunday, May 9 – Mothers will be honored during worship service

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



April Birthday of the Month

Our Birthday of the month for April is Hudson Soccio, whose birthday is on April 25. Please remember him with your prayers and cards.

Witness Commission

April Food Pantry Delivery by: Ruth Zendt



Thank you all for your continued support of the Juniata County Food Pantry. Lucille Saner delivered 6 lbs of food items and 55 lbs of shampoo and paper goods. That was a great donation from our church! As you see in the bulletin for the month of March and April, we are collecting diapers and I see there are a number of them on the tables both in the fellowship hall and upstairs inside the door. Since we are moving the early service to the sanctuary beginning Palm Sunday, a table in the front will again be placed for Food Pantry donations.

Brother Ron Bell is serving on the Children's Aid Society Executive Board. Congratulations to Ron for his service. On June 26, they will be having a virtual Auction. They are celebrating 30 years of providing care at the Lehman Center in York. For more information you can visit www.auctria.com/auction/CASAnnualAuction. Bidding ends June 29 at 9:00 pm.

The 10th Annual Franklin County Golf Outing will be held June 24 at the Chambersburg Country Club, Scotland, PA. It showcases the CAS in the Franklin County area.

Camp Eder will be up and running this summer and their calendar of available camps is posted on the bulletin board. If you have a child interested in attending Camp Eder this summer, please check out the info on their camps.

Child Evangelism Fellowship is asking for prayers during the weeks in March and April for Released Time that has begun in several schools in Mifflin County. Pray that parents will be nudged by the Lord to sign their children up for Released Time. Pray for locations for the 5-Day Clubs this summer and volunteers to help with these two day camps.

Thank you for the buckets and lids donated for the CWS Clean-Up Buckets. The items are being collected to fill them. As of now, we have 17 to fill. We have also begun collecting Health Kits. The items are listed in the directory and are to be placed in a gallon-size zip-lock bag.

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



Phone Number Change

The Southern PA District Office phone number has changed. Please update your contact information to 717-778-2264. Thank you!



Christian Education

Christian Education Commission

The spring Breakfast & Bible Study begins Saturday, April 10 and will continue through Saturday, May 1 (or Saturday, May 8 if needed). Breakfast is at 7:30 am and study begins at 8:00 am. We are using the book Life Lessons from Philippians by Max Lucado.

KEY THEMES:

- By faith we have Christ in us because of the Spirit of God.
- Only Christ can bring salvation.
- Christian unity encourages our faith.

There is a signup sheet on the table in the narthex and one downstairs on the table in the fellowship hall. Books have been placed beside the sign-up sheets. Please mark the days/dates you will be attending in the spaces beside your name so we can prepare for how much food we'll need.

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

Address Correction

Please make the following correction in your Free Spring COB Directory:

A. Pearl Swartz
105 Fifth Street, Apt 101
Mifflintown, PA 17059



Prayer Requests

Prayer Request Chain Contact Change

Just a reminder that 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!



www.hopeshavencamp.org

info@hopeshavencamp.org

570-850-9443

Hope's Haven is a short-term Christian summer camp experience for children in Pennsylvania that have been in foster care. Our camp history and goals are listed on our website.

Camp is on! We have been diligently working toward creating a safe, fun, and Christ-filled camp. We have had positive feedback from parents/guardians that the children greatly missed camp last year and are looking forward to seeing everyone again.

We stay in contact with the campers through monthly newsletters, devotions, Christmas gifts, and birthday cards. We have had several campers who wrote letters back to us as well. They are our 'family' and we want them to know that camp is more than just 4 days. We want to minister to them all year long.

Camp Needs:

We are in need of Mentors, Guides, and Support staff for camp. Please consider joining us as we minister to these children. We believe that God will use all the difficulties this past year to prepare their hearts to hear of the hope they have through Jesus.

Applications and Ministry Descriptions are available on our website at www.hopeshavencamp.org. If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at info@hopeshavencamp.org.

Camp Dates: June 9-12 (Grades 4-7) and June 16-19 (Grades 8-12)

If God is leading you toward helping at Hope's Haven, please do not wait long to apply. We cannot have camp without staff in place, ready to show a Christ-like and loving example to children who are hurting.

"Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me." (Psalm 27:10)



Your Help is Needed

There is a donation box in the narthex for the collection of funds to purchase some basic needs for people living on the streets. These people are generally opioid addicts and lack the most basic of needs. This ministry will target addicts

living in the Kensington Avenue area of Philadelphia, PA.

If you feel led to help, please drop a dollar in the box and say a prayer for these souls. If you don't have a dollar to spare, please pray for them regardless. (*"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me.'"* Matthew 25:40)



Camp Eder

Christian Camp & Retreat Center

Camp Eder has sent out their calendar of available camps for 2021. The information is posted on the Witness Bulletin Board.

Camperships are partially funded for children who attend Free Spring COB. Contact someone on the Nurture Commission if you are sending a child to camp.



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 will be provided after the service.

One of the most beautiful things in the world I've ever seen or heard is people laughing, even when there seems to be so little reason for them to laugh.

~ D. L. Hughley

