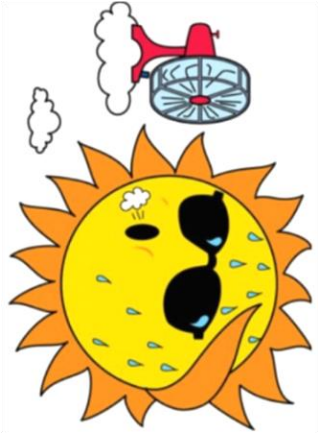


August 2021



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:

Thursdays

10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Sunday Services:

Early Worship – 8:30 am

Sunday School – 9:30 am

Worship Service – 10:30



Commissions Meeting
Tuesday, August 2
at 7:00 pm



Saturday, August 14
5:30 pm

Meals-On-Wheels Desserts
Tuesday, August 17



All items for the September newsletter and calendar must be in the Free Spring Church office by **Monday, August 23**. 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,

Welcome to August as people once again face the pandemic resurgence. We tend to focus on what is happening in our own nation as if we alone hold the answer to what is a global challenge. We can become far too inwardly focused personally and as a church.

Years ago, Albert Edward Day wrote *The Captivating Presence*. Here is a compelling excerpt: **"I came to a new understanding why Jesus passed up the religious establishment of His day, the economically secure, the socially prestigious, and sought out the poor, the outcast, the sinner, the broken, the sick, the lonely. He felt, as we so often do not feel, their sorrow. He was acquainted, as we too seldom are, with their grief. On Calvary He died of a broken heart. But that heart was broken long before Black Friday, by the desolation of the common people. In all their afflictions He was afflicted."**

"Most of the time, we are not. We seem to have quite a different conception of life. We avoid as much as possible the unpleasant. We shun the suffering of others. We shrink from any burdens except those which life itself inescapably thrusts upon us. We seek arduously the wealth and power that will enable to secure ourselves against the possibility of being involved with another's affliction. Lazarus sometimes makes his way to our doorstep. We toss him a coin and go on our way. We give our charities but we do not give ourselves. We build our charitable institutions but we do not build ourselves into other's lives."

As our young people prepare to return to school in a few weeks, I pray that they learn from us how to build strong, caring relationships. Might they see the "Lazarus classmate" who stands alone and needs a friend? Who will provide that example of compassion and service for them to follow?

Have a blessed month of August, and be a blessing to others.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Terry

August Deacons of the Month:

Ron & Dee Bell

Scriptures and Messages for August

August 1

Special Speaker, Ron Gordon

1 Peter 5:7

"He Cares for You"

August 8

Special Speaker, Rodney Pry

John 6:35, 41-51

"Jesus, the Bread of Life"

August 15

"Understand What the Will of the Lord Is"

Ephesians 5:15-20

August 22

"Be Strong in the Lord"

Ephesians 6:10-20

August 29

"Be Doers of the Word"

James 1:17-27



Christian Education Commission

VBS with **Adventure Explorers** was held July 5-7, averaging 15 children. The children reviewed "The 10's" – 10 Commandments, 10 Lepers, and 10 Plagues. The final evening was held at Pastor Terry's cabin with a scavenger hunt and unexpected downpour. Thank you to the VBS Committee: Karissa Graybill, Amber Heimbach, Becca Walters, Gretchen Wray, and Brandy Zendt for planning a wonderful time for the children. Thanks to Ron Gordon for taking pictures and videos to share with the congregation. Also, thanks to the chain saw brigade clearing the driveway at Terry's cabin to get parents and children in and out after the storm.

Looking to the fall, we're hoping to plan a movie night, restarting the Junior Church program, and completing Max Lucado's Life Lesson from Philippians for the Fall Breakfast and Bible Study. If anyone is interested in teaching Junior Church for either service, please reach out to Shari either by email or phone.

The August 15 Christian Ed Meeting at 8:00 am in the fellowship hall is another way to get involved with ideas or concerns for Sunday School or Junior Church. Please feel free to join us.

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

Free Spring Library News

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

Amish Hawaiian Series by Wanda E. Brunstetter



The Blended Quilt – Sadie's life is bustling with activity. She's simultaneously working on a self-published book, sewing a unique Amish- and Hawaiian-influenced quilt, and being courted by Wyman Kauffman. But lately her path to marriage has stalled. Wyman seems jealous of the time Sadie gives to her own pursuits. Are they really meant for one another? (This is the third book in the series; the other books are The Hawaiian Quilt and The Hawaiian Discovery.)

Danger Never Sleeps Series by Lynette Eason

Active Defense – As a former field surgeon in Afghanistan, Heather Fontaine is used to life-or-death situations. She just didn't expect them to follow her home. When she returns from a party to find that someone has broken into her house – and threatened her friends – she assumes it is the stalker who has been following her and creeping her out. She hopes to find safety and peace of mind by leaving the city and hiding out in a small town. But trouble has followed her even there. (This is the third book in the series; the other books are Collateral Damage and Acceptable Risk.)

A Piece of the Moon by Chris Fabry

Led by divine revelation, eccentric millionaire Gideon Quidley hides a fortune in the West Virginia hills using Bible verses as clues. Soon, treasure hunters arrive, and local radio DJs TD and Waite keep them updated. When a friend goes missing, TD must join the hunt himself. Will he discover where true riches lie?

Three Sisters Island Series by Suzanne Woods Fisher

On a Summer Tide – Cam's full-throttle life skids to a stop when her father buys a remote island off the coast of Maine. Paul Grayson has a dream to breathe new life into the island – a dream that includes reuniting his estranged daughters. Certain Dad has lost his mind, the three sisters rush to the island. To Cam's surprise, the slow pace of island life appeals to her, along with the locals – and one in particular. Seth Walker, the scruffy island schoolteacher harbors more than a few surprises. (This is the first book in the series.)

Hope Harbor Novel Series by Irene Hannon

Blackberry Beach – Katherine Parker is on the cusp of having everything she ever wanted – fame, money, and acclaim. So why isn't she happy?

In search of answers, she comes incognito to Hope Harbor on the Oregon coast for some R&R. Maybe in her secluded rental house overlooking the serene Pacific she'll be able to calm the storm inside. (This is the seventh book in the series; the other books include Hope Harbor, Sea Rose, Sandpiper Cove, Pelican Point, Driftwood Bay and Starfish Pier.)

Homeland Heroes Series by Susan Sleeman

Hours to Kill – Just as Homeland Security Agent Addison Leigh reaches the pinnacle of her cyber investigation into a firearms smuggling ring, she's attacked and left for dead. Her estranged husband, ICE Agent Mack Jordan, is notified that she's at the hospital in a coma. He may have let his past military trauma ruin their short marriage, but she never gave up on their relationship, and he remains her next of kin. (This is the third book in the series; the other books are Seconds to Live and Minutes to Kill.)

Red River of the North Series by Lauraine Snelling

Tender Mercies – Mary Martha MacCallister comes to Blessing from Missouri to visit her brother. She volunteers to help at the schoolhouse while she is visiting and the prospering citizens are soon under thrall of her southern charm. Through her work, she meets Pastor John Solberg and they find much in common. However, her visit is cut short when she receives a summons to return home and care for her ailing mother, but she says she'll stay in touch, no matter what. (This is the fifth book in the series; the other books are An Untamed Land, A New Day Rising, A Land to Call Home, and The Reaper's Song.)

~ Kathy Bowman, Librarian



Give Me Five! Offerings

In the past few years, we've been sending our Give Me Five! offerings to the Juniata County Food Pantry. We've sent a total of \$2,365 to the pantry so far this year.

Recently, the Food Pantry has been having fewer clients, and shelves have been well-stocked. The church board voted at the last meeting to begin sending our Give Me Five! offerings to Bethesda Mission. If you use one of the Give Me Five! envelopes provided with your bulletin or if you write, Give Me Five! on your offering envelope, it will go to Bethesda. If you wish to give an offering specifically to the Food Pantry, you may still do so; just be sure to designate it as Food Pantry on your offering envelope. Thank you!

Nurture Commission News



No July newsletter item was submitted. Therefore, the following newsletter item will include information from June and July.

A Men's Fellowship event was held June 26 at 1:30 pm and a picnic for all took place at 4:30 pm. Thank you to the Reinford family for making their shooting range available for our Men's event. Also, thanks to Pastor Terry for the use of his cabin for the picnic.

MP3 players and compatible speakers have been put into use for four individuals who are unable to attend services at this time. More of these devices will be made available if the need arises.

Four meals were delivered to members of the congregation. Thank you to those who prepared the meals and delivered them.

Thanks to all who helped prepare and serve the funeral meal for the Renson family.

Please keep all our church family in your prayers and consider reaching out with cards and phone calls to those who can't attend at this time. They will certainly appreciate knowing they are not forgotten.

Thank you to all of you 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 birthday of the month for August will be Aden Poorman whose birthday is on August 16. Please remember Aden with cards and prayers for his special day.

LOOKING FORWARD:

August 1 – special speaker will be Ron Gordon

August 8 – special speaker will be Rodney Pry

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

Witness Commission



August Food Pantry Delivery by: Carla Renson

Welcome to the Month of August! The summer is just flying by and we hope all of you have enjoyed all our HOT days?

The profit from the Annual Chicken BBQ was \$2,080.00. The board decided to round it up to \$3000 and give it to the Daris Ciecierski family.

We would like to hear any comments you may have on doing the meals next year with the Chicken BBQ. Please see anyone on the commission if you have any comments or suggestions concerning the BBQ.

Remember August 1 is 2nd Club Offering. Please bring your spare change!

August also starts our participation in Meals-on-Wheels Desserts.

Community Fellowship Night is scheduled for August 14 at 5:30 pm. Please come out for an evening of fellowship and bring a dish to share. Hot dogs are provided.

Juniper Community Missions is one of our Outreach Ministries in Haiti. They continue to plant churches and are nearing completion of Maranatha Church of Ka Chandel. They are also expanding the Belval church by doubling the size as it was filled to capacity with people. Praise the Lord!

The Hares for Haiti project has continued to grow with the request from a new church to be a part of the program. They will begin training members this month. The effectiveness of this program makes it a much-requested program. It is truly a sustainable opportunity for change. They have also planted fruit trees at the ministry center that are growing and are beginning to bear fruit.

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



August Birthday of the Month

Our Birthday of the month for August is Aden Poorman, whose birthday is on August 16. Please remember him with your prayers and cards.

REMINDER:

Church Office Hours are
Thursdays, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Effective August 5



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 **MENU** to find the weekly bulletin, monthly newsletter, calendar, Directory address update form, Time & Talent form, and much 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

Please remember our shut-ins with your prayers and cards. Please note: Bev is back at North Ridge!!

Ray & Bev Oberlin
North Ridge Center
Personal Care, Rm 5
99 North Ridge Drive
McAlisterville, PA 17049
(717) 463-2249
(717) 348-1686 (Ray's cell)

Denton Ritzman
North Ridge Center
Personal Care, Rm 17
99 North Ridge Drive
McAlisterville, PA 17049



AN UPDATE FROM THE BDRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

We would like to start this note with a big THANK YOU for your prayers, presence, gifts, and service as it relates to the BDRA Auction. It was and IS through your commitment, dedication, and years of hard work that we have been able to raise over 17 million dollars which has been used to address the basic needs of those suffering from natural disasters such as floods, tornadoes, earthquakes and fires. Last year BDM provided over \$440,000 in grants and allocations to "Global Pandemic Relief" which is a testament to the timeliness and importance of our work.

Although Covid 19 prevented us from holding an in-person auction in 2020, your generosity enabled us to provide direct disaster relief funds of \$200,000 to Brethren Disaster Ministries and to fund \$30,000 of support to the disaster response teams from the Atlantic Northeast and Southern Pennsylvania Districts of the Church of the Brethren.

Looking back at the past few years, we have worked to increase auction attendance by providing experiences and activities more in line with today's social climate with varying degrees of success. Even so, it is increasingly clear that components of the auction have a limited lifecycle based on today's social norms, focus on technology, and internet shopping practices.

The Car and Tractor Show and the 5K and Fun Run activities will not be held this year. Country Treasures, Share-A-Meal, and the Candy stand will also not be present. Artisan Alley will move to the West Hall, a much more desirable location. The Executive Committee is extremely thankful that our prayers were answered as new chairpersons have volunteered for the Baked Goods Committee. Baked goods have been a staple of the auction.

However, all of your favorite activities will be there: The theme basket and quilt auctions schedule and locations have been slightly modified. We do not anticipate a North Hall (Main) auction on Friday night due to declining attendance. But main auction items will begin immediately following the quilt auction on Saturday morning. Children's activities, pavilion breakfast, chicken barbeque and the other activities you have come to expect will happen. Please pay close attention to the auction schedule that will be on the website and also on the auction brochure.

We have decided to not publish the traditional auction booklet and the bulletin inserts. In their place the churches will be mailed a fold-out brochure which will contain all of the essential information you will need to preview the auction and be able to come and enjoy it in person. These brochures will also be distributed around the local area.

Remember the dates: September 24-25, 2021 at the Lebanon Expo Center. Also, please keep checking the auction website for updates, registration forms and donations at www.BrethrenAuction.org.

Respectfully,
The BDRA Executive Committee



Sunday School Classes Updates

The Seekers Sunday School Class is currently meeting in the upstairs Adult Sunday School room and is studying the book of Acts. Please join us at 9:30 am each Sunday for stimulating discussion and teaching! Ron Gordon, Allen Zendt, and Sharon Ritzman are currently teaching. We will be studying Acts chapter 5 on August 1 and continuing with one chapter each Sunday.

The Sunday school class which meets in the fellowship hall will be starting a new study – Last Words, seven sayings from the heart of Christ on the cross, written by Robert J. Nash. Christ's final words on earth are full of forgiveness, hope, and compassion. Last Words explores a fresh perspective on the obedience of the cross, revealing the heart of God who sent His Son to die. Find new meaning in the power and hope of His death. We plan to start the study on Sunday, July 31. Study books will be available starting July 24.

ATTENTION! Free Spring members and regular attenders!

Ron Gordon will be taking studio photographs of Free Spring families and individuals during the following sessions, so mark your calendars to save these dates: Friday evening, **September 10**, 6:00 to 9:00 pm and Saturday, **September 11**, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

There is no cost to the church or the family. Appointments are unnecessary. Just walk in!

Please do not wear green colors as they will conflict with a removable green background. Custom printing will be your responsibility at Walmart or CVS. Digital photos suitable for framing will be emailed to you. Photo releases will also be available to avoid copyright infringement.

See you then in the fellowship hall!!!

