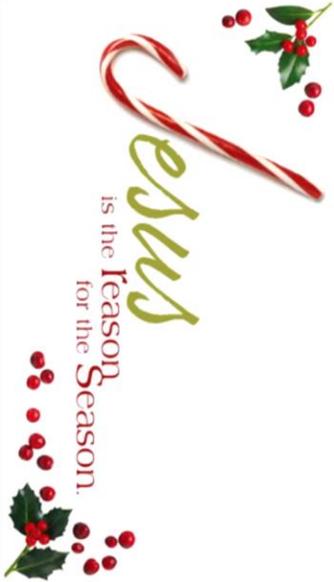


December 2021



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



Truck Stop Ministry Cookie Packing

Saturday, December 4

8:00 am

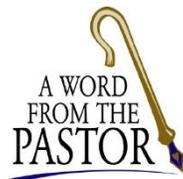
Meals-on-Wheels Desserts
December 21



*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service*

10:00 pm

All items for the January newsletter and calendar must be in the Free Spring Church office by **Monday, December 20**. 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,

Praise the Lord! Free Spring is close to two-thirds filled on the roster for the BDM mission trip to Bayboro, NC (February 20-26). That reminds me that I must request prayer for a speedy recovery from December 1 back surgery so that I am 100 percent able to work in two and a half months. I hereby promise to stay off roofs and ladders. Well, maybe just roofs, but the doctor will give me my cautions and I won't fight his orders.

God has given us our orders as well. He has given us His word and He wanted to make sure that there was no misunderstanding, so He sent Jesus to make perfectly clear what His promises and expectations are. We celebrate the humble beginnings of our Savior and the way that it was common men and women who were most involved in His earthly appearance. Joseph and Mary were not members of the privileged elite and neither were the rural shepherds who were called to pay their respects to the newborn King of kings.

We talk about preparing our hearts and minds for the Christmas incarnation but people in our culture talk more about the worldly issues of our day. I can't help but see what is lying on my desk – the *Voice of the Martyrs* plea to "Care for Christians Driven from Their Homes – This Christmas." *"Many members of our persecuted Christian family have been driven from their homes because of their faith in Christ. As you celebrate Christ's birth this Christmas, you can show you care for our persecuted brothers and sisters and help provide for their unique needs."* This is another prayer request – find at least one way to help a family or an individual to know the love of Jesus by giving more than just your prayers.

Thank you for all the support that you have given through the Christmas Shoe Box gifts, the Angel-Christmas tree, candy-making to support Children's Aid Society, Bethesda Mission, the local Food Pantry, and the Truck Stop cookie making project. Many of you support the Salvation Army, Meals-on-Wheels, Coats for Kids, and Toys for Tots among other worthwhile charities.

May you and your family know both the joy of giving and receiving during this Christmas Season.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Terry

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

Scriptures and Messages for December

December 5

Guest Speaker *Michael Kelso* from the *Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry*

December 12

Guest Speaker *Eric Chase* from *Children's Aid Society*

December 19

Luke 1:34-55

"God Keeps Promises"

December 26

John 1:1-14

"In the Beginning"

Calling Out Deacons December 12



We will be calling out 3 Deacon units during the early and late services on December 12, 2021.

A Deacon unit is described as a couple or a single person. Deacon units must be members of the church body. All church members are eligible to participate in the calling out process. Church members are designated by an asterisk in the Church Directory. Deacons whose terms are expiring this year are Warren & Connie Wagner, Allen & Ruth Zendt, and Ron & Dee Bell and all are eligible to be called out again.



Ongoing Prayer Needs:

Harry Bashore

Finley (Rich & Becca Walter's friend's son)

Joan Fulkroad

Minnie Minick

Jeremy Phillips

Joe Ritzman

Jack & Vicki Weller

Mervin Yoder

Jack Libby

Rick & Audrey Peters

Ellie Ritzman

Lester Stroup

Todd Wert

Ongoing Prayer List to be Updated!

On the first Sunday in January those listed above in ***bold italics*** on the **Ongoing Prayer Needs** list will be purged and updated so that only those who still need to be on this list will remain.

If you know of any individuals on this list who you know needs to continue to be listed, please put their name(s) in my mailbox, or you may send me an e-mail, during the month of December. Please note that persons may be added to the ongoing list at any time.

Thank you!

– Lona Henry, Church Secretary

Free Spring Library News

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

Chasing Shadows by Lynn Austin

Lena de Vries lives on her Dutch farm with her husband, Pieter, and their children. Her eldest, Ans, longs for something more and gets a job in Leiden, where she meets Miriam Jacobs who relocated there from Westerbork, a Jewish refugee camp. Ans is not worried about the threat of Hitler because the Netherlands are neutral, until 1939 when the Nazis invade and throw the three women's lives into dangerous turmoil. Ans starts working for the Resistance, though she must keep it from her boyfriend, a cop who wants to lay low until the war is over. Soon Lena is driven by her Christian faith to hide Jews and deserters on the farm while Ans ferries information, avoiding Nazi patrols. Miriam must hide separately from her husband and infant in order to survive.

Capital Intrigue Series by Rachel Dylan

Power Play – When State Department attorney Vivian Steele witnesses two ambassadors collapse as if poisoned at a diplomatic dinner in Washington, DC, she is recruited to be a member of a joint FBI task force assigned to investigate. But she soon finds her by-the-book ways clashing with a special agent in the Diplomatic Security Service, Jacob Cruz. A former Navy SEAL and in charge of the event's security, Jacob takes the attack personally and is driven to act quickly, even ahead of the rules and regulations. (This is the third book in the series; the other books are End Game and Backlash.)

Christmas in Sugarcreek by Shelley Shepard Gray

Obedient daughter Judith Graber feels overlooked and underappreciated working at her family's store this holiday season. That is, until her father hires Ben Knox. Two years ago, Ben left Sugarcreek under a cloud of shame and rumors. Now he's back and working beside Judith. Will Christmas bring new beginnings – an unlikely pair?

Peace: a Crittenden County Christmas Novel by Shelley Shepard Grace

After a year of secrets and scandal, will this Amish community finally find peace under the bright promise of Christmas?

U.S. Marshals Series by Lisa Harris

The Escape – US Marshals Madison James and Jonas Quinn are thrust into a high-profile case when they are called on to transport two prisoners



across the country on a private plane. But when the plane experiences engine trouble enroute from the Pacific Northwest to Colorado, the pilots crash-land the aircraft deep in the heart of the sprawling Salmon-Challis National Forest. (This is the first book in the series.)

Woman in Shadow by Carrie Stuart Parks

Darby Graham thinks she's on a much-needed vacation in remote Idaho to relax. But before she even arrives at the ranch, an earthquake strikes. Then a barn on the edge of town is engulfed in flames and strange problems at the ranch begin to escalate – and Darby finds herself immersed in a chilling mystery.

What Momma Left Behind by Cindy K. Sproles

Worie Dressar is 17 years old when influenza and typhoid ravage her Appalachian Mountain community in 1877, leaving behind a growing number of orphaned children with no way to care for themselves. Worie's mother has been secretly feeding a number of these little ones on Sourwood Mountain. But when she dies suddenly, Worie is left to figure out why and how she was caring for them.

~ Kathy Bowman, Librarian



Christian Education Commission

Goody-bags will be distributed to the children during the month of December. Bags will include candy from our Candy-Making in November, M&Ms, Advent devotionals for teens, Advent coloring activities, Christmas Story storybooks, and a star craft for younger children. We thank the Grandmas in advance for help with delivery to those not attending regularly.

We're also considering holding off on a Junior Church schedule for next year as there are still not that many younger children attending either service. We will continue to watch and see what happens in the coming year. For those who marked a willingness to teach or help with Junior Church on the Time & Talent Surveys, we will reach out to you if we see that we may start back up. Thank you to the congregation for your support of Children's Christian Education; please continue to pray we can start this program back up on a regular basis.

Again, anyone with any ideas or concerns for Christian Ed, please reach out to any member of our Committee. Thank you!

~Dee Bell, Shari Book, Mary Zeigler, and Allen Zendt

Nurture Commission News



Thank you to all of you for praying for our church family. And thank you to those who make and deliver meals, those who visit others, those who send cards and make phone calls, and to those providing transportation to people when needed.

Please be in prayer for all the members of the Church Board. We all need God's guidance when we make decisions concerning the church as well as in all our daily lives. Members of the Nurture Commission for 2022 will be Jess Eby, Ron Gordon, David Moist (chair), and Art Zug. Thank you to these individuals for their service.

Pulpit supply for December 5 will be Michael Kelso from the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry. And on December 12, Eric Chase from Children's Aid Society will be delivering the message. Remember to pray for Pastor Terry as he undergoes back surgery and healing afterward. I'm sure Wanda will need our prayers too!

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.

Our birthday of the month for December is Joyce Eichman who celebrates her birthday on the 31st of the month. Please remember Joyce with your cards and prayers for her special day.

LOOKING FORWARD:

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service at 10:00 pm

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



December Birthday of the Month

Our Birthday of the month for December is Joyce Eichman, whose birthday is on December 31. Please remember her with your prayers and cards.



Witness Commission



December Food Pantry Delivery by: Michelle Rickenbaugh

Merry Christmas to all of you and I know we are all looking forward to a Happy New Year!

We are looking forward to packing Christmas Cookies for Truck Stop Ministry on Saturday, December 4 at 8:00 am. We hope everyone is planning on what special cookies they will be making. Please get your aprons on and bring your cookies on Saturday or have them to the church by then.

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



Free Spring Church's Website

Our website has a wealth of information that is available to you at any time! In addition to being able to access the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletters (including archived newsletters), there are photos from various activities, the history of our church, forms for updating your Directory information, numerous resources, and so much more. Check it out by visiting <https://cob-net.org/church/freespring/> and click on the MENU button in the top right of the page!

NEW – click on the "SITE MAP" link at the bottom of the main page or the "Updates To Our Site" link under MENU to see what has been updated and when!

Cookie Packing for Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, Inc Saturday, December 4 at 8:00 am

Please get your aprons on and start baking! We'll be packing cookies for the Truck Stop Ministry next **Saturday, December 4**. Please have your cookies at the church fellowship hall no later than **8:00 am**.

We hope to have lots of help to bag them up. It's always fun to see all the different kinds of cookies people bake. We hope to see you there for a nice morning of work and fellowship!





Fill out your
Family Profile
For the Church
Directory Update!

2022 Church Directory

It's that time of year again!
Enclosed in this newsletter is the form
for updating or adding your information
in the 2022 Free Spring Church

Directory. You do not need to be a member to be included in the Directory.

For those who were included in last year's Directory, please take a moment to review that information and use the form to make any changes needed or write your name and "no changes" on the form.

This form may also be used to request a mailbox here at the church (for those who do not already have one). The form also includes an option for indicating if you'd like to "go green" and have the monthly newsletter e-mailed to you rather than receiving a hardcopy!

Please do not submit the form more than once unless you need to correct your first submission; in which case, please notate that on the form when submitting again. Also, please use a separate form for others not in your household. You may obtain a form from the December newsletter or online on the church website. Also, extra paper forms are on the table in the narthex.

The following is a tentative schedule which will be used for completing the 2022 Directory:

Sunday, December 5 and Sunday, December 12 – addresses, birthdays, and anniversaries will be 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, December 19 and Sunday, December 26 – a full DRAFT copy of the Directory will be placed in the narthex for review.

Sunday, January 2 and Sunday, January 9 – a FINAL DRAFT copy of the Directory will be placed in the narthex for review.

Tuesday, January 11 – FINAL DEADLINE before printing

Wednesday, January 12 and Thursday, January 13 – mailboxes will be updated and 2022 Church Directories will be printed and placed in church mailboxes; extra copies will be available in the narthex.

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

~ Lona Henry, Church Secretary



2021 CHEESE BALLS

To Benefit Relay-for-Life

Our Free Spring Cheeseballs are delicious for snacking anytime or for holiday parties. They make great gifts (just add a pack of crackers!) at only \$9 for a one-pound cheese ball!

Order yours starting November 1 by signing up in the church narthex. Also, please sign up to donate cream cheese or make a \$ donation toward the sharp cheese (the sign-up sheet for that is also in the narthex). We also ask you to sign up if you are able to help make the cheeseballs on **Friday, December 10.**

For those who order cheeseballs, you may pick them up on the following Sundays: December 12, 19, or 26.

Questions? Ask Sharon Ritzman.



Sunday School Classes

The Seekers Sunday School Class is currently meeting in the upstairs Adult Sunday School room. Please join us at 9:30 am each Sunday for stimulating discussion and teaching! Ron Gordon and Allen Zendt are currently teaching.

The Sunday school class which meets in the fellowship hall has started 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.

2022 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.



NOTE: *will the person who took cartridge #59 please provide your name to Lona as their name was not written on the slip of paper provided to ensure a proper giving statement will be provided at the end of the year. Thank you!*

Please **do not** use the new 2022 offering envelopes until **on or after January 1, 2022!** And, if you have any unused 2021 offering envelopes left over after December 31, 2021, please place them in my mailbox so they may be recycled by having the dates and numbers masked and envelopes used for special offerings throughout the year.

Thank you!

~ Lona Henry, Church Secretary