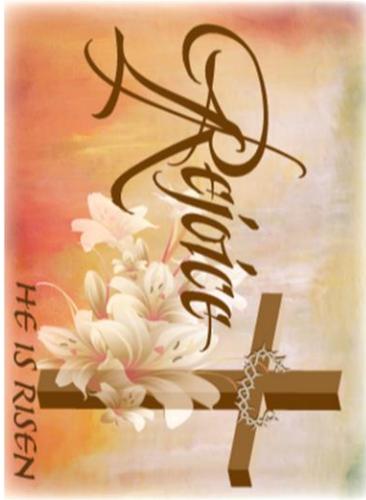


April 2022



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



Adopt-A-Highway Pick-Up
Saturday, April 2
8:00 am

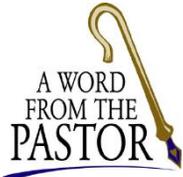


Easter Sunrise Service
Sunday, April 17
6:30 am

Spring Church Council Meeting
Thursday, April 21
7:00 pm



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

How quickly our thoughts skip from one prayer concern or joy to another. Even as we are continuing to collect Lenten service offerings for the resettlement of Afghan refugees, the even greater, ever-growing refugee situation in the Ukraine looms larger. We returned from helping to repair storm damage from over three years ago down in North Carolina, and this week we see tornados ripping through the South.

Spring break vacationers pack the beaches, and young people return to their sometimes-destructive behavior in the spirit of "letting off steam" from the pressures of student life. There are numerable older people who have never gotten over that youthful indiscretion as well. We all look for ways to cope with the stresses of living even as we see a strain of Covid increasing in Europe and elsewhere.

The Good News of Easter and the resurrection are almost drowned out by the bombardment of discouraging news. You and I need the resolve of our Savior. He endured the betrayal, desertion, harsh trials, torture, and crucifixion. He suffered and died for us, and was resurrected to show us that death does not have the final word in our lives. Physical death is sorrowful in this life, but joy is multiplied in eternal life.

The Good News is that we are blessed by God to multiply those blessings and bring the joy of Jesus into the hearts of others. We should be amazed at what God is doing and be inspired to be part of His work in the name of Jesus Christ. Looking forward to Saturday morning Bible studies in May, we will be looking into Warren Wiersbe's Minor Prophets, Restoring an Attitude of Wonder and Worship. Wiersbe says in his introduction, "*Too many saints have lost their sense of wonder. The Minor Prophets shout at us to awaken us and invite us to open our eyes and be amazed at what God is doing in this world.*"

So many times, our focus seems to be only what human beings have done in or to our world. Wiersbe reminds us that God is at work and ultimately in control of all things.

Have a blessed Easter, and be a blessing to others.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Terry

**April Deacons of the Month:
Allen & Ruth Zendt**

Scriptures and Messages for April

	<u>April 3</u>	
John 12:1-8		<i>"Six Days before..."</i>
	<u>April 10</u>	
Luke 19:28-40		<i>"Blessed Is the King"</i>
	<u>April 17</u>	
John 20:1-18		<i>"Because He Lives"</i>
	<u>April 24</u>	
John 20:19-31		<i>"Life in His Name"</i>



The Memorial Service for Bill Houdeshel is planned for April 1 at 1:00 pm at Browns United Methodist Church.

Lenten Teas

Lenten Teas will be held on **Saturday mornings at 8:00 am through April 9**. This year they will be led by Jen Sparks. Refreshments are usually provided by the participants.



Easter Sunrise Service Sunday, April 17 6:30 am

Please plan to join us in the sanctuary for our **EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE** at 6:30 am on

Easter Sunday, April 17.

Eric McConnell, from Newport, will be bringing the Easter message and Addison Eby will provide special music. Eric has been a member at First Baptist Church at Mifflintown for 20 years and has served as deacon and on various outreach projects. He currently teaches the high school students every Sunday.

A breakfast will follow the service.

Free Spring Library News

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

Natchez Trace Park Rangers Series
by Patricia Bradley



Crosshairs – When ISB Ranger Ainsley Beaumont returns to her hometown of Natchez, Mississippi to investigate the murder of a teenage girl, she doesn't suspect she'll become the murderer's next target. Can a former FBI sniper – and Ainsley's former flame – overcome his past mistakes on the job in order to protect her? (This is the third book in the series; the other books are Standoff and Obsession.)

Maple Falls Romance Series by Kathleen Fuller

Much Ado About a Latte – A coffee war is brewing in Maple Falls where Anita and Tanner are serving up plenty of steam to keep the town buzzing. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is Hooked on You.)

The Deadly Secrets Series by Kathy Harris

Deadly Connection – Will they uncover the secrets between them before it becomes deadly? After fending off a would-be abductor, 27-year-old singer-songwriter Hannah Cassidy hides behind a car in the half-empty parking lot behind Pancake Pantry in Nashville. From there, she watches in horror as her attacker grabs another woman and pushes her into a nearby car. Within seconds, the vehicle speeds away. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is Deadly Commitment.)

Colorado Cowboys Series by Jody Hedlund

The Heart of a Cowboy – Traveling the Santa Fe Trail on a botanical exploration, Linnea Newberry longs to be taken seriously by the other members of the expedition. When she is rescued from an accident by Flynn McQuaid, her grandfather hires him to act as Linnea's bodyguard, and Flynn soon finds himself in the greatest danger of all – falling for a woman he's determined not to love. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is A Cowboy for Keeps.)

The Treasures of Nome Series by Tracie Peterson & Kimberley

Woodhouse

Endless Mercy – Madysen Powell has always been a forgiving person but when her supposedly dead father shows up in Nome, Alaska, her gift for forgiveness is tested. With the recent loss of her mother, she searches for answers, leaning on Granny Beaufort, a neighbor in town who listens with a kind heart. Still, Madysen is restless and dreams of performing her

music around the world. The arrival of a traveling show could prove just the chance she needs and the manager promises more than she ever dreamed. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is Forever Hidden.)

McAlister Family Series by Carrie Turansky

No Journey Too Far – The McAlister siblings have been searching for their missing sister since they were taken to Canada as British Home Children in 1909. After serving in WWI, Garth returns to Canada to his sweetheart, Emma, and to look for Grace. When Emma is accused of a crime, can Garth prove her innocence – and find his sister. (This is the second book in the series; the first book is No Ocean Too Wide.)

The Amish Inn Novels Series by Beth Wiseman

A Season of Change – Sisters Esther and Lizzie have a new employee, Rose Petersheim, to help them tend to The Peony Inn. Though witty and outspoken, Rose's nervous chattering makes her the best match for someone calm and good at listening. Someone like Benjamin, the handyman who recently moved to town. When Esther receives an anonymous love letter and flowers, Rose's love life is no longer the only one capturing the sisters' attention. They discover that their grumpy renter, Gus, has a secret of his own that could bring about a difficult change in all their lives. (This is the third book in the series; the other books are A Picture of Love and An Unlikely Match.)

The following is a picture book

Maria's Kit of Comfort by Kathy Fry-Miller and David Doudt

A children's story about the Kit of Comfort – a childcare center in a suitcase. The Kit of Comfort assists Children's Disaster Service volunteers in caring for young children who have experienced trauma following natural disasters such as a flood, hurricane, wildfire, or tornado. Volunteers arrive at disaster sites with a Kit of Comfort full of carefully selected toys that promote healing through creative, expressive play.

~ Kathy Bowman, Librarian

Spring Council Meeting
Thursday April 21
at 7:00 pm

It is very important for everyone to try to attend.



Nurture Commission News



Lenten Services are virtual this year and beginning with Ash Wednesday and will conclude with the Good Friday service on April 15. Lenten Devotionals have been placed in the narthex.

Lenten Teas are being held on Saturday mornings at 8:00 am through April 9. This year they are led by Jen Sparks. Refreshments are provided by the participants.

Easter Sunrise Service will be held on April 17 at 6:30 am with breakfast afterwards. The guest speaker will be Eric McConnell from Newport.

Attention Ladies: The 2022 District Women's Spring Luncheon will be held Saturday April 23 at Hanover Church of The Brethren, 601 Wilson Ave, Hanover, PA 17331. The guest speaker will be Leah Hileman. The cost is \$10 per person. Please place your name on the sign-up sheet by April 3.

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

The Worship Leader for second worship service in April is Warren Wagner and Greeter is Anna Belle Gordon.

Our Spring Church Council Meeting will be held Thursday April 21, at 7:00 pm. It is very important for everyone to try to attend.

The Nurture Commission will be looking into transportation needs for those members who are unable to drive to the second church service. Please contact Dave Moist if you would like to be considered for this service. If we have interest, we will bring it up at our next meeting.

~ Jessica Eby, Ron Gordon, David Moist (Chair), 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 Hudson with your prayers and cards.

Sew Buds Needs Your Help!!

The Sew Buds needs more volunteers! Bring your lunch and plan to meet with us on Thursday, April 14 in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 am – 2:00 pm for some fun and fellowship. All you need is to know how to tie a knot and we **really** need your help!! Questions? See Barbara Shepler. Thank you!



Witness Commission April Food Pantry Delivery by: Ruth Zendt

We will continue to collect items for Church World Service Hygiene Kits through the month of April. The items are listed in this newsletter and are to be placed in a gallon-size zip-lock bag, which have been provided for your convenience on the table in the narthex.

Thank you to those who baked and those who came out to pack Easter cookies for Truck Stop Ministry on Saturday March 19 following the Lenten Tea. These will be much appreciated!

~ Jen Sparks, Warren Wagner, Becca Walters, and Dina Zug (Chair)

Church World Service Hygiene Kits (to be collected March – April)

- 1 hand towel (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 wide-tooth comb removed from the package
- 1 finger nail or toe nail clipper removed from the package
- 1 bath-size bar of soap in the wrapper
- 1 toothbrush in the package
- 10 standard size Band-Aids®



All items need to fit inside a one-gallon plastic zipper closure bag.



Christian
Education

Christian Education Commission

The VBS Committee has met and decided on the dates of June 20-22 for VBS. They are still trying to find and decide on a curriculum. Additionally, we decided Breakfast & Bible Study will be held Saturday mornings May 7, 14, 21, and 28. We are still trying to choose the study. Keep watch in the bulletins and newsletter for updates for both of these events and possible VBS supply needs.

~ Dee Bell, Shari Book (Chair), Mary Zeigler, and Allen Zendt

Special Offering

Offerings for Ukraine Relief

If you'd like to give extra offerings toward the relief effort in Ukraine, you may do so by using your offering envelope or a regular envelope (if you do not use an offering envelope) and indicate that it is to go to BRETHREN DISASTER MINISTRIES. Or, you may use one of the designated "Brethren Disaster Ministries" offering envelopes which have been placed on the table in the narthex. Thank you!

Gerald Harold Book was born via C-section at 1:11 am on March 22 to Fred and Ashlee Book. He was 10 lbs 2 oz and 23 in long.

Shortly after, he was life-flighted to Danville due to a small hole in his right lung. For now, he is just undergoing observation in the NIC ward out there. Prayers would be greatly appreciated for both him and Ashlee as the C-section wasn't planned, along with being separated.



Choir Needed for Palm Sunday Special Music

If we have enough participation for a choir, we are planning special music for the second service on Palm Sunday! If you are interested in singing with us, please contact Connie Wagner. Second practice will be at **7:00 pm on Wednesday, April 6**. Hope to see you there!



Trivia Challenge
Palm Sunday, April 10
during Sunday School Hour
Read Luke Chapters 19 thru 24!
If any question, please see Ginger Alexander.



Nursing Home Services will be held as follows:

Brookline
at 2:00 & 3:00 pm
April 10
June 5
September 12
November 13

Northridge
at 2:00 pm
July 10
August 14
October 16

Please let Sharon Ritzman know if you can help with any of the services listed above. We need a speaker, worship leader and pianist.



District Women's Spring Luncheon Saturday, April 23 9:00 am At Hanover COB

The 2022 District Women's Spring Luncheon will be held Saturday, April 23 at Hanover Church of The Brethren, 601 Wilson Ave, Hanover, PA 17331. The theme is "God is Doing a New Thing!" from Isaiah 43:18-19 with guest speaker Leah J. Hileman. Sponsored by SOPA District COB Nurture Commission. The cost is \$10 per person. More details and registration information may be found at <https://www.cob-net.org/church/sopa/women.htm>. Please plan to attend! Please place your name on the sign-up sheet **no later than Sunday, April 3**.

I wish to thank everyone for their kind acts of concern during the illness and death of my son, Jerry.

The cards, calls, prayers, food, transportation, and many other acts are so very much appreciated. My whole family thanks the loving congregation at Free Spring. God is good. ~ Nancy Leach





2022 COMMUNITY LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES

<https://www.facebook.com/McAlistervilleMin/>
All videos premier at 7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday, March 2

"What Have We Done?"

by Graham Fowler of Lost Creek / McCoysville Presbyterian
This service will include the Rite of the Ashes.

Sunday, March 6

"Will God Show Up?"

by David McElwee of East Salem / Otterbein UMC

Sunday, March 13

"Where Is God Leading?"

by Perry Munro of Pine Grove / McAlisterville UMC

Sunday, March 20

"Are We There Yet?"

by Kevin Brophy of Browns / St Johns UMC

Sunday, March 27

"What Am I Watching?"

by Dave Gingrich of Delaware Mennonite

Sunday, April 3

"What's In My Heart?"

by Karen Ward of Trinity Lutheran

Sunday, April 10

"How Can I Get Clean?"

by Jodi Strawser of Pass the Salt Ministries

Good Friday, April 15

"What Will Nourish My Faith?"

by Terry Smith of Free Spring Church of the Brethren



Port Royal Men's Prayer Breakfasts

Seven area churches are participating in the Port Royal Ministerium's Annual Men's Prayer Breakfasts, which will be held at **7:00 am** every Saturday during Lent at the Port Royal Community Building.

The events are open to all men. There is a charge of \$5.00 per person for the breakfast. This covers the cost of the breakfast, which is provided by the Friendship Fire Company Auxiliary. If you have questions, please see George King. Hope to see many of you men there.

The following speakers are scheduled:

April 2 – Garrick Paden, youth pastor at Cedar Grove Brethren in Christ

April 9 – Sam Leister of Messiah Lutheran Church

April 16 – Rev Don Walters of Thompsontown Methodist Church

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

Evelyn Benner
Brookline Manor
2 Manor Blvd
Mifflintown, PA 17059

Wayne & Dot Benson
389 Raccoon Valley Road
Millerstown, PA 17062
(717) 589-3419

Ray & Bev Oberlin
North Ridge Center
Personal Care, Rm 5
99 North Ridge Drive
McAlisterville, PA 17049
(717) 463-2249
(717) 994-8807 (Bev's cell)

Melda Ritchie
3761 Mountain Road
McAlisterville, PA 17049

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



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!

Click on the "Updates To Our Site" link under MENU to see what has been updated and when!